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सत्यमेव जयते

Friday

4 December, 2015

13 Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

**RAJYA SABHA**

OFFICIAL REPORT

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[P.T.O.]

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## **RAJYA SABHA**

*Friday, the 4th December, 2015/13th Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)*

*The House met at eleven of the clock,*

**MR. CHAIRMAN** *in the Chair.*

### **OBITUARY REFERENCE**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy, a former Member of this House, on the 2nd of December, 2015, at the age of 84 years.

Born in September, 1931 in Sivaganga District of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Ramaswamy was educated at the Vivekananda College, Chennai and was conferred D.Litt. degree by several universities.

A noted industrialist, Dr. Ramaswamy was the Chairman and was on the Board of several renowned companies. He was also the President of South India Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 1971 and 1972. Dr. Ramaswamy was the Sheriff of Madras in 1971 and 1974 and also a Member of the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission and Madras Metropolitan Development Authority.

An educationist, Dr. Ramaswamy was the founder and Pro-Chancellor of the Annamalai University and established the Rajah Muthiah Medical College. He was President, Patron and Trustee of several religious, cultural and educational societies and trusts, including the Indian Cultural Research Trust.

A sports enthusiast, he was the President of the Indian Hockey Federation from 1974 to 1980 and various sports clubs and associations. He also served as Vice-President of the International Hockey Federation and the Asian Hockey Federation.

Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy represented the State of Karnataka in this House from 1st of July, 2004 to 30th of June, 2010.

In the passing away of Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian, a noted industrialist, educationist and a dedicated social worker.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

*(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

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#### **PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार): सर, हमने कार्य स्थगन प्रस्ताव दिया है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Papers, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*)

#### **Reports of the Law Commission of India**

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Law Commission of India:—

- (a) Two Hundred and Fifty-third Report on the Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts and Commercial Courts Bill, 2015 (January 2015). [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3221/16/15]
- (b) Two Hundred and Fifty-fourth Report on the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2013 (February 2015). [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3222/16/15]

...*(Interruptions)*...

#### **Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Ramvilas Paswan, I lay on the Table—

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs), under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

- (1) S.O. 2642 (E), dated the 28th September, 2015, publishing the Removal of (Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions) on Specified Foodstuffs (Second Amendment) Order, 2015.
- (2) S.O. 2857 (E), dated the 18th October, 2015, publishing the Removal of (Licensing requirements, Stock limits and Movement Restrictions) on Specified Foodstuffs (Amendment) Order, 2015.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3211/16/15]

- II. 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. 814 (E), dated the 29th October, 2015, publishing the Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Amendment Order, 2015, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3265/16/15]

- III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution), under sub-section (3) of Section 39 of the National Food Security Act, 2013:—

- (1) S.O. 636 (E), dated the 17th August, 2015, publishing the Food Security (Assistance to State Governments) Rules, 2015.
- (2) S.O. 649 (E), dated the 21st August, 2015, publishing the Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Rules, 2015.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3266/16/15]

...(Interruptions)...

**श्री अली अनवर अंसारी :** सर, हमने कार्य स्थगन प्रस्ताव दिया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... देश की सारी यूनिवर्सिटीज के छात्र 45 दिनों से यूजीसी कार्यालय पर "घेरा डालो, डेरा डालो" आन्दोलन चला रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उन पर 5 बार लाठीचार्ज हो चुका है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... हमने इस पर कार्य स्थगन प्रस्ताव दिया है, पहले इसको सुन लिया जाए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री के.सी. त्यागी (बिहार):** सर, यह एक महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है। यह देश के करोड़ों नौजवानों से जुड़ा हुआ सवाल है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**I. Report and Accounts (2014-15) of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited (HHEC), New Delhi and related papers**

**II. Report and Accounts (2014-15) of various institutes, councils and associations and related papers****III. MoU between the Government of India and HHEC**

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

I. 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) Fifty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited (HHEC), New Delhi, for the year 2014-15, 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 Corporation.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3331/16/15]

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

(i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh, for the year 2014-15, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3224/16/15]

(ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC), New Delhi, for the year 2014-15, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3348/16/15]

(iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association (ATIRA), Ahmedabad, Gujarat, for the year 2014-15, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3333/16/15]

(iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Northern India Textile Research



Association (NITRA), Ghaziabad, for the year 2014-15, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3334/16/15]

- III. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Textiles) and the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited (HHEC), for the year 2015-16. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3351/16/15]

**Report and Accounts (2014-15) of the National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, (NCARDBF), Navi Mumbai and related papers**

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मोहनभाई कल्याणजीभाई कुंदरिया) : महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ :-

- (a) Fifty-fifth Annual Report of the National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, (NCARDBF), Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, for the year 2014-15.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, (NCARDBF), Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, for the year 2014-15, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Federation.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3267/16/15]

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**MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA**

**The Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 2015**

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 2015, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd December, 2015."

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

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**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS**

SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA (Karnataka): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Eighth Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Corporate Social Responsibility in select Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs)' relating to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Department of Public Enterprises).

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**STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that the Government Business in the House during the week commencing Monday, the 7th December, 2015, will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
  2. Further consideration and passing of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2015, as passed by Lok Sabha.
  3. Further consideration and passing of the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Second Amendment) Bill, 2014, as passed by Lok Sabha and as reported by Select Committee of Rajya Sabha.
  4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Lok Sabha:-
    - a. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2015;
    - b. The Appropriation Acts (Repeal) Bill, 2015;
    - c. The Repealing and Amending (Third) Bill, 2015;
  5. Consideration and passing of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2013, as reported by Select Committee of Rajya Sabha.
  6. Consideration and passing of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2012.
-

**MATTER RAISED WITH PERMISSION**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, matter raised with the permission of the Chair.  
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I have a point of order.  
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR (Punjab): Sir, Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)... We have to raise important issues. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is the point of order? ...(Interruptions)... What is the point of order? ...(Interruptions)...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी: उपसभापति जी, आज डॉलर की कीमत 67 रुपए पर आ गई है।  
...(व्यवधान)...

सुश्री मायावती (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभापति जी, मैं आपका संरक्षण चाहती हूँ।  
...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभापति जी...(व्यवधान)...

सुश्री मायावती: माननीय उपसभापति जी, मैं आपका संरक्षण चाहती हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I allowed his point of order. You raise your point after that. ...(Interruptions)...

सुश्री मायावती: माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं एक अति महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे को लेकर आपका संरक्षण चाहती हूँ। जब से केन्द्र में बीजेपी के नेतृत्व में एनडीए की सरकार बनी है, तब से लेकर अब तक देश में सामाजिक और सांप्रदायिक सौहार्द का वातावरण लगातार बिगड़ रहा है। इससे भी ज्यादा दुख की बात यह है कि ऐसे लोगों के खिलाफ, जो देश में सामाजिक और सांप्रदायिक सौहार्द का वातावरण बिगाड़ रहे हैं, ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: आप नोटिस दीजिए।...(व्यवधान)... आप नोटिस दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...  
Kumari Mayawatiji, why don't you give a notice?

सुश्री मायावती: लेकिन इससे भी ज्यादा दुख की बात यह है मान्यवर, कि ऐसे लोगों के खिलाफ सरकार कार्रवाई करने के बजाय उनका मनोबल और बढ़ा रही है।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; I tell you ..(Interruptions).. How do you make a statement like this? You better give a notice. ..(Interruptions)..

सुश्री मायावती: उनके खिलाफ एक भी लफ्ज बोलने के लिए तैयार नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Either give a Zero Hour notice or a discussion notice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**सुश्री मायावती:** सर, कल श्री वी. के. सिंह के मामले में दलित प्रकरण को लेकर सरकार का जो रवैया हमें देखने को मिला था, वह अति दुखद है, अति चिंताजनक भी है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; give a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no; it cannot be allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*... It cannot be allowed, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, please, Kumari Mayawatiji ...*(Interruptions)*... Please give notice. How do you make the statement? ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no; without notice, you cannot make a statement like this. ...*(Interruptions)*... you cannot make a statement without notice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री वी. पी. सिंह बदनौर** (राजस्थान) : सर, पहले नोटिस होना चाहिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**सुश्री मायावती:** इनका दलित विरोधी रवैया इससे सही नजर आता है। हमारी पार्टी इसकी कड़े शब्दों में निंदा करती है। ...*(व्यवधान)* ...

**श्री उपसभापति:** यह रूल्स के विरुद्ध है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... मायावती जी, यह रूल्स के विरुद्ध है। सभी नियमों के विरुद्ध है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... No, no; it cannot be allowed ... *(Interruptions)*... It is against the rules. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**सुश्री मायावती:** मंदिर निर्माण को लेकर भी किस्म-किस्म के बयान आते हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**श्री उपसभापति:** आपने नोटिस नहीं दिया है। आप यह क्या कर रहे हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*... Behanji, please don't do that. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sister, please don't do that. ...*(Interruptions)*... Behanji, please don't do that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री वी. पी. सिंह बदनौर:** सर, यह रिकॉर्ड में न जाए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**सुश्री मायावती:** उपसभापति जी, मैं आपका संरक्षण चाहती हूँ। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't make a statement like this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Sir, I have a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, I allowed the point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Tiwari's point of order ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री प्रमोद तिवारी :** सर, आज डॉलर की कीमत 67 रुपये हो गई है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... डॉलर की कीमत 67 रुपये हो गई है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... सारा रिज़र्व खत्म हो चुका है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI (Bihar): Sir, what about my notice? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will call all of you. ...(Interruptions)...

**श्री प्रमोद तिवारी :** तब मोदी जी ने कहा था कि यह प्रधानमंत्री जी की आयु पर जाएगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मेरा सवाल यह है कि आज जब यह 67 रुपये हो गया है, तो क्या मोदी जी की सरकार यह इंतजार कर रही है कि इसको आडवाणी जी की आयु तक ले जाएंगे या जोशी जी की आयु तक ले जाएंगे? मैं आपका स्पष्टीकरण चाहता हूँ। मैं सरकार से यह सवाल पूछते हुए इसका जवाब चाहता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Naresh Agrawal. ...(Interruptions)... Shri Naresh Agrawal. ...(Interruptions)...

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल :** सर, मोहन भागवत जी ने यह बयान दिया है कि राम मन्दिर बनेगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**... श्रीमन्, रूलिंग पार्टी वाले यह जान-बूझकर कर रह रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... राम मन्दिर वाले मुद्दे पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट में सुनवाई चल रही है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की जजमेंट तक कुछ नहीं हो सकता, लेकिन मोहन भागवत जी बयान ...**(व्यवधान)**... और जिस तरह उन्होंने कहा कि कुरबानी के लिए तैयार रहो, इससे बहुत बुरा माहौल बना हुआ है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... ऐसे में सदन यह चाहता है कि बीजेपी को, प्रधानमंत्री को सदन में जवाब देना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)... Shri Ashwani Kumar. ...(Interruptions)... Shri Ashwani Kumar. ...(Interruptions)...

### **Rising communal tension in Punjab and its impact on National Communal Harmony**

**श्री अश्विनी कुमार (पंजाब) :** माननीय उपसभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से इस सदन के सामने पंजाब में बहुत ही गंभीर स्थिति के बारे में जिक्र करना चाहता हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**... पंजाब ने बहुत लम्बे समय तक आतंक का साया झेला है ...**(व्यवधान)**... और आज फिर पंजाब में बहुत ही गंभीर स्थिति पैदा हो गई है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... पंजाब में धर्म के नाम पर ...**(व्यवधान)**... पंजाब में फिर से धर्म के नाम पर माहौल बिगाड़ने का काम शुरू हो रहा है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आज पंजाब के नौजवान नंगी तलवारें लेकर धर्म के नाम पर लोगों को भयभीत करने में लगे हुए हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ashwani Kumar is speaking. ...(Interruptions)...

**श्री अश्विनी कुमार :** गुरु ग्रंथ साहेब की अवमानना का मुद्दा हुआ ...**(व्यवधान)**... और गुरु ग्रंथ साहेब की अवमानना के कारण आज यह स्थिति पैदा हो गई है कि इन्दिरा गाँधी के हत्यारों की तस्वीरें ...**(व्यवधान)**... हरमन्दिर साहेब परिसर में लगाई जा रही हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... दरबार साहेब में ...**(व्यवधान)**... पंजाब की जवानी नशे की भेंट चढ़ गई है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have called Mr. Ashwani Kumar. ...(Interruptions)... You sit down. ...(Interruptions)... I have called Mr. Ashwani Kumar. ...(Interruptions)... You sit down. ...(Interruptions)... You sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

**श्री अश्विनी कुमार :** आज पंजाब में 70 फीसदी नौजवान नशे से ग्रस्त हैं।...**(व्यवधान)**... पंजाब के किसान खुदकुशी कर रहे हैं।...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will call all of you. ...**(Interruptions)**... I will call. ...**(Interruptions)**... Sit down. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री अश्विनी कुमार :** पंजाब में फिर से आतंकी साये छा रहे हैं।...**(व्यवधान)**... हमने बहुत बड़ी कुरबानी दी है।...**(व्यवधान)**... बेअंत सिंह ने, राजीव गाँधी जी ने आतंकवाद के खिलाफ शहादत दी है।...**(व्यवधान)**... आज देश में फिर आतंकी साये न आएँ, इसलिए ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं आपके माध्यम से देश के लोगों को और इस सदन को बताना चाहता हूँ कि ये मुद्दे कितने महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे हैं।...**(व्यवधान)**... निहत्थे लोगों पर पंजाब की सरकार ने गोली चलाई।...**(व्यवधान)**... निहत्थे लोग घायल हुए ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति जी ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Kindly please give notice. ...**(Interruptions)**... I asked you to give notice. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री अश्विनी कुमार :** जोरा सिंह कमिशन बैठा है, 40 दिन बाद भी उसकी कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं आई है।...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभापति जी, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमने ...**(व्यवधान)**... आतंकवाद से बड़ा और कोई मुद्दा नहीं है।...**(व्यवधान)**... धर्म के नाम पर पंजाब की शांति को, पीस को खत्म करने की कोशिश को हम कामयाब नहीं होने देंगे। ...**(व्यवधान)**... माननीय उपसभापति जी, आप देश की भावनाओं को समझिए।...**(व्यवधान)**... हमें आतंकी ताकतों पर काबू पाना है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री पी.एल. पुनिया** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, मैं श्री अश्विनी कुमार जी के उल्लेख से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।...**(व्यवधान)**...

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

*The House then adjourned at fifteen minutes past eleven of the clock.*

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*

### REGARDING VARIOUS ISSUES

**सुश्री मायावती** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपका अति महत्वपूर्ण विषय की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहती हूँ।...**(व्यवधान)**... ऐसे बयान से जो सौहार्दपूर्ण वातावरण है, वह बिगड़ रहा है।...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will allow you; you ask them to go back. ...*(Interruptions)*... You ask them to go back. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am ready to listen, to you, but please ask them to go back ...*(Interruptions)*... मैं आपको सुनूंगा, लेकिन इनको वापस भेजिए।...**(व्यवधान)**... Ask them to go back.

**सुश्री मायावती** : महोदय, दलितों का जो अपमान किया गया है, उसको लेकर मैं आपका संरक्षण चाहती हूँ और सरकार से जवाब चाहती हूँ।...**(व्यवधान)**...

**अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी)** : महोदय, मायावती जी की जो चिंता है वह सही है। मैं उनकी भावनाओं का सम्मान करता हूँ। किसी भी रूप में, कभी भी, कोई भी दलितों का अपमान करे, हम उसके साथ नहीं हैं। जहां तक वी.के. सिंह जी का सवाल है, हमने बहुत स्पष्ट कहा है कि दलितों के सम्मान, दलितों की सुरक्षा, दलितों की समृद्धि के प्रति हम पूरी तरह से समर्पित हैं, पूरी तरह से ईमानदार हैं और किसी भी तरह से, कोई भी अगर उनका अपमान करता है तो हम उसके साथ नहीं हैं। वी.के. सिंह जी ने बार-बार इस बात को स्पष्ट किया है कि उन्होंने ऐसा कुछ नहीं कहा है, जो किसी भी दलित समाज के अपमान का कारण हो। अगर मायावती जी को यह लगता है, तो हम इस बात को स्वीकार करते हैं कि यह दद होना चाहिए, अगर कोई ऐसा कहता है तो, लेकिन अगर किसी ने उसके बारे में स्पष्टीकरण दे दिया है तो हमें लगता है कि इश्यू वहीं क्लोज हो जाता है।...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री उपसभापति** : मायावती जी, मैं आपको सुनने के लिए तैयार हूँ, इन लोगों को वापस भेजिए। Please ask them to go back to their seats. I am ready to listen to you. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not able to listen to you ...*(Interruptions)*... One of you speak. हां, बोलिए। ...*(Interruptions)*... कौन सा नोटिस? वह तो जीरो ऑवर में नहीं है। कल के लिए दे दो, इसमें नहीं है। I will not accept the notice like that. ...*(Interruptions)*... You can give a separate notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will not accept a notice like that. ...*(Interruptions)*... See, I am not accepting any notice. I can't accept a notice like that. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mayawatiji, please ask them to go back to their seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will listen to you. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will listen to each one of you. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am ready to give a chance to each one of you. You please go back. ...*(Interruptions)*... What is this?

**प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन्, मोहन भागवत ने यह बयान दिया है कि देश में, अयोध्या में राम मंदिर बनेगा और इसके लिए कुरबानी देने के लिए तैयार रहें, जब कि इससे संबंधित मामला सुप्रीम कोर्ट में विचाराधीन है। इस बयान के बाद देश में सांप्रदायिक माहौल, सांप्रदायिक उन्माद की स्थिति पैदा हो गई है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... देश में पूरी तरह से ...**(व्यवधान)**... बदले में बयान दिया हुआ है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, इस तरह से देश में जो तनाव की स्थिति पैदा की जा रही है, यह बहुत ही खतरनाक है। देश की एकता और अखंडता के लिए बहुत खतरनाक है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मामला न्यायालय में लंबित होने के बाद भी बेरोकटोक आरएसएस चीफ का बयान देना, यह दर्शाता है कि सरकार की \* के तहत ही यह सब किया जा रहा है, वरना देश में सांप्रदायिक तनाव पैदा करने के

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\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

अपराध के लिए आरएसएस चीफ के खिलाफ कार्रवाई होनी चाहिए थी। ...**(व्यवधान)**... वह नहीं हो रहा है, इसलिए हमने यह नोटिस दिया है कि सारी कार्यवाही बंद करके इस पर विचार होना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी:** सर, माननीय राम गोपाल यादव जी ने जो कहा है, इस संबंध में हम स्पष्ट करना चाहते हैं, हम देश को भी स्पष्ट करना चाहते हैं कि राम मंदिर के निर्माण का मुद्दा और उस मुद्दे का विवाद माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में विचाराधीन है और न्यायालय के निर्णय का हम सब सम्मान करते हैं, हम सबको इसका सम्मान करना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... जहां तक राम मंदिर के निर्माण के संकल्प की बात है, उस संकल्प को दोहराने का सबको अधिकार है और उस संकल्प को दोहराने का ...**(व्यवधान)**... लेकिन राम मंदिर निर्माण के संबंध में हमारा स्पष्ट मत है कि राम मंदिर का निर्माण न्यायालय के निर्णय के तहत होना चाहिए और न्यायालय के निर्णय का सबको सम्मान करना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu; Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu; Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir ...*(Interruptions)*... Respected Deputy Chairman, Sir, the House is not in order. ...*(Interruptions)*... I seek your protection. The House is not in order. ...*(Interruptions)*... I seek your protection, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. The House is not in order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned up to 1200 hours.

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

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

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**सुश्री मायावती:** माननीय सभापति जी, ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Leader of the Opposition. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप बोल चुकी हैं, आप भी बोल चुके हैं। Please sit down. आप बैठ जाइए, उनको सुन लीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Please go back to your places. ...*(Interruptions)*... प्लीज, बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... शरद जी, ...**(व्यवधान)**... भाई, आप लोग अपनी जगह जाइए, यहाँ मत बोलिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, इनके बाद हम लोगों को भी मौका दे दीजिएगा।...**(व्यवधान)**...



**श्री सभापति :** भाई, एक मिनट!...(व्यवधान)...आप लोग अपनी जगह जाइए, प्लीज।  
...(व्यवधान)...Please go back to your places. ...(Interruptions)... आप लोग वापस जाइए।  
...(व्यवधान)... Now, LoP.

**विपक्ष के नेता (श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद) :** माननीय चेयरमैन सर, क्वेश्चन ऑवर में यह मुद्दा उठाते हुए मुझे बहुत अच्छा नहीं लग रहा है, लेकिन यह बहुत ही गम्भीर विषय है। अभी हमने इस सदन में और उस सदन में भी काँस्टिट्यूशन पर चर्चा की और भारत के संविधान को बचाकर रखने, उस पर चलने के लिए हमने दोनों सदनों में रिजॉल्यूशन भी पारित किया। हमने काँस्टिट्यूशन को लागू करने के लिए दोबारा रीकमिटमेंट की, ताकि समाज के सभी वर्गों के साथ इंसाफ हो। विशेष रूप से, इस बात पर चर्चा हुई कि दलित, अल्पसंख्यक, गरीब, जो पीड़ित लोग हैं, उनके साथ न्याय हो। लेकिन, यह बात केवल इससे आगे नहीं बढ़ेगी कि हम केवल रिजॉल्यूशन लाएँ और उसे पास करें। मैं सरकार से, विशेष रूप से प्रधान मंत्री जी से निवेदन करूँगा कि अगर उन्होंने इसमें पहल की तो वह पहल केवल रिजॉल्यूशन को पारित करने की न हो, बल्कि उनको कुछ एक्शन लेना चाहिए। अगर वह एक्शन वे अपने घर से शुरू करें – हम कहते भी हैं कि खैरात भी अपने घर से ही शुरू होनी चाहिए। इसलिए सभी अपोजिशन पार्टिज़ कल भी, आज भी तथा इससे पहले भी सदन के अंदर और सदन के बाहर यह माँग कर रहे हैं। इस देश का जो पिछड़ा हुआ वर्ग है, वह आज़ादी से पहले भी पीड़ित था, शोषित था। अगर पीड़ित-दलित बच्चों की हत्या को एक मंत्री, जनरल वी.के. सिंह जी, बजाय उसको condemn करने के उन दलितों को \* के साथ compare करते हैं, तो मेरे ख्याल से यह पूरे देश के लिए और सदन के लिए बहुत बुरा है।...(व्यवधान)...

**†قائد حزب اختلاف (جناب غلام نبی آزاد) :** مانتے چیئرمین سر، کونشن آوور میں یہ مذہب اٹھاتے ہوئے مجھے بہت اچھا نہیں لگ رہا ہے، لیکن یہ بہت ہی گمبھیر وشنے ہے۔ ابھی ہم نے اس سدن میں اور اس سدن میں بھی کانسنٹی ٹیوشن پر چرچا کی اور بھارت کے سنودھان کو بچا کر رکھنے، اس پر چلنے کے لئے ہم نے دونوں سدنوں میں ریزولوشن بھی پارت کیا۔ ہم نے کانسنٹی ٹیوشن کو لاگو کرنے کے لئے دوبارہ ری-کمٹمینٹ کی، تاکہ سماج کے سبھی طبقوں کے ساتھ انصاف ہو۔ خاص طور سے، اس بات پر چرچا ہوئی کہ دلت، اقلیت، غریب جو پیڑت لوگ ہیں، ان کے ساتھ انصاف ہو۔ لیکن، یہ بات صرف اس سے آگے نہیں بڑھے گی کہ ہم صرف ریزولوشن لائیں اور اسے پاس کریں۔ میں سرکار سے، خاص طور سے پردھان منتری جی سے نویدن کروں گا کہ اگر انہوں نے اس میں پہل کی تو وہ پہل صرف ریزولوشن کو پارت کرنے کی نہ ہو، بلکہ ان کو کچھ ایکشن لانا چاہئے۔ اگر وہ ایکشن وہ اپنے گھر سے شروع کریں، ہم کہتے بھی ہیں کہ خیرات بھی اپنے گھر سے ہی شروع کرنی چاہئے۔ اسلئے سبھی اپوزیشن پارٹیز کل بھی، آج بھی اور اس سے پہلے بھی ہاؤس کے اندر اور ہاؤس کے باہر یہ مانگ کر رہے ہیں۔ اس دیش کا جو پچھڑا ہوا طبقہ ہے، وہ آزادی سے پہلے بھی متاثر تھا، شوشیت تھا۔ اگر پیڑت دلت بچوں کی ہتھیا کو ایک منتری، جنرل وی۔ کے۔ سنگھ جی، بجائے اس کو condemn کرنے کے ان دلتوں کو \* کے ساتھ compare کرتے ہیں، تو میرے خیال سے یہ پورے دیش کے لئے اور سدن کے لئے بہت برا ہے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

†Transliteration in Urdu Script.

**श्री सभापति :** आप लोग यह क्या कर रहे हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद :** इसलिए उस मंत्री को एक पल भी मंत्रिमंडल में नहीं होना चाहिए, बल्कि उसे पार्लियामेंट का मेम्बर भी नहीं होना चाहिए। इसलिए, मेरा सरकार से निवेदन है कि जनरल वी.के. सिंह को न सिर्फ मंत्रिमंडल से, बल्कि पार्लियामेंट से भी निष्कासित किया जाए।...(व्यवधान)...

شری غلام نبی آزاد: اس لئے اس مंत्री کو ایک پل بھی مंत्री منٹل میں نہیں ہونا چاہیے، بلکہ اسے پارلیمنٹ کا ممبر بھی نہیں ہونا چاہیے۔ اس لئے میرا سرکار سے نویدن ہے کہ جنرل وی. کے۔ سنگھ کو نہ صرف مंत्री منٹل سے بلکہ پارلیمنٹ سے بھی شکایت کیا جائے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

**श्री सभापति :** आप लोग यह क्या कर रहे हैं? What is going on? ...(Interruptions)... एक मिनट, मंत्री जी को सुन लीजिए।...(व्यवधान)....Silence please. ...(Interruptions)...

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी :** सभापति महोदय, अभी हमने लीडर ऑफ अपोज़िशन को सुना और उससे पहले मायावती जी ने अपनी बात कही। ...(व्यवधान)... महोदय, मैं इस सदन को बताना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी सरकार दलितों की सुरक्षा और उनकी समृद्धि के लिए ईमानदारी के साथ समर्पित है। ...(व्यवधान)...माननीय सभापति महोदय, ...(व्यवधान)... अगर कोई भी ऐसी बात, जो समाज के किसी भी वर्ग के खिलाफ हो या उनकी भावनाओं को ठेस पहुंचाती हो, तो हम उसके साथ नहीं हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... हम ऐसी चीज की निन्दा करते हैं, लेकिन वी.के. सिंह साहब ने ऐसी कोई बात नहीं कही है। ...(व्यवधान)...केवल बात का बतंगड़ बना दिया गया है। ...(व्यवधान)... उन्होंने बार-बार इस बात का स्पष्टीकरण दे दिया है कि उन्होंने कभी भी, किसी भी वक्त दलित समाज या किसी भी समाज की भावनाओं को ठेस नहीं पहुंचाई है। ...(व्यवधान)...इसलिए हमें लगता है कि इसे केवल राजनीतिक रंग दिया जा रहा है। ...(व्यवधान)... हमारा यह संकल्प है और यह केवल सियासी संकल्प नहीं है, बल्कि सच्चा संकल्प है और यह संवैधानिक संकल्प है कि देश के समाज के सभी वर्गों की ...(व्यवधान)... सुरक्षा होनी चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)... और सभी वर्गों की समृद्धि के लिए हमें आगे बढ़ना चाहिए।...(व्यवधान)... यह केवल हमारा ही संकल्प नहीं है, बल्कि सविधान का भी संकल्प है और हम उसी पर आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... ये लोग केवल political score करना चाहते हैं ...(व्यवधान)...पहले ...(व्यवधान)... competition चला, लेकिन अब कास्टिजम पर competition चल रहा है। ...(व्यवधान)... हमारा यह प्रयास रहा है कि कास्टिजम देश के विकास पर हावी नहीं हो। ...(व्यवधान)... थैंक यू। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Thank you, Naqvi ji. ...(Interruptions)... Please go back to your places. ...(Interruptions)... The House is adjourned till 1.00 pm.

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS****High-speed rail system on Mumbai-Ahmedabad route**

\*61. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken examination of the Japan International Cooperation Agency's final report on the feasibility study of the proposed high-speed rail system on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route;

(b) whether any follow up action has been taken on priority basis;

(c) whether Government has decided upon a future course of action for execution of this project, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways have examined the feasibility study of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed train project submitted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in July 2015.

(b) to (d) To take the project forward expeditiously, the project proposal has been submitted for consideration of an Empowered Committee on Innovative Collaborations under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. Further, JICA have also been requested to undertake supplementary studies regarding technical standards and regulations, legal and institutional framework, preliminary design for safety, plan for land value capture around stations, review of Final Location Survey and plan for human resource development.

**Electioneering system**

\*62. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite all measures and precautions, the electioneering process still has many loopholes to be plugged;

(b) if so, whether Government has made any attempt to study and collaborate with other countries having similar but better electioneering systems;

(c) if so, the measures Government proposes to adopt for improving our system;

(d) whether Government considers bringing in experts from other countries having in vogue better systems, in order to improve our electioneering system; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) to (e) Electioneering by candidates, political parties, civil society organisations and other stakeholders is an integral part of any electoral system and all these stakeholders are free to carry out their electioneering activities and programmes in the manner they deemed fit and appropriate, subject to the confines of law. In India, as per article 324 of the Constitution, 'the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State' is vested in the Election Commission.

Having successfully conducted several elections over the years to Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies in a free, fair and peaceful manner, the Election Commission has stated that there are no serious loopholes in the electioneering aspects in India. Moreover, there is a Model Code of Conduct which was adopted by the political parties themselves and the strict enforcement of that code by the Commission takes adequate care of any aberrations that might take place in the conduct of the election campaigns by the parties in power as well as those in opposition and all candidates. The very dynamic nature of issues associated with conduct of electioneering and elections, demand constant evaluation and appreciation of the relevant processes and making necessary modifications in the process as per the requirements of changing circumstances and time. The Commission has always been alive and alert in this regard and has taken several measures within the powers available to it under article 324 of the Constitution.

In this regard, the Commission constantly endeavors to bring in improved methods and electoral practices to make elections in India more inclusive and truly representative of the collective will of the Indian electorate. With this end in view, the Commission regularly interacts with other Election Management Bodies (EMBs) around the world, seeking to learn advanced and improved electoral systems and concepts from more mature democracies. The Commission has also formalized its relations with other EMBs by signing Memorandum of Understanding with 20 countries with a focus on sharing of knowledge, experience, expertise, and best electoral practices with them in the field of election management.

The Election Commission has further stated that it does not consider it necessary to bring in experts from other countries to improve our system. Keeping in view the track

record of successful conduct of free and fair elections in India, the Commission has not felt the need for conducting any study of the electioneering system of other countries.

However, electoral arena in the country is vast and complex and much more needs to be done to make the electioneering process further robust. With this end in view, the issue of Electoral Reforms in its entirety was referred to the Law Commission in January, 2013. The Commission submitted its 244th and 255th Reports containing recommendations on various aspects of the Electoral Reforms issue. The major recommendations, *inter alia*, include (a) measures for curbing misuse of money power in elections (b) disqualification on framing of charges with offences punishable with imprisonment for five years and more and also for filing of false affidavit, (c) banning of opinion polls (d) use of Totalizer for counting of votes (e) regulation of paid news and political advertisements (f) restricting the number of seats to one constituency (from existing two) from which a candidate can contest elections (g) disallowing independent candidates from contesting elections etc.

A Task Force has been constituted to examine the various recommendations contained in the Reports and outline the specific course of action to be taken to implement the recommendations.

#### **Status of enquiries in 2G spectrum allocation**

\*63. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the status and findings of various enquiries into the 2G spectrum allocation of 2008, the details thereof; and

(b) the action Government is contemplating in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The allotment of second generation (2G) telecom spectrum license was referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) on 12-10-2009 for further probe. The investigation by the CBI is being monitored by the Supreme Court also. Investigation by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the main offence in RC-DAI-2009-A-0045 has been completed. After completion of investigation, one charge sheet and two supplementary charge sheets have been filed in the Court of Special Judge, 2G Spectrum Cases, Patiala House Court, New Delhi. In this case, further investigation with regard to two issues is pending wherein Letter Rogatory (LRs)/Supplementary LR have been issued. Further, Interim Application (IA) No. 72/2014 in Civil Appeal No.

10660/2010, was filed on 10.3.2014 by the Centre for Public Interest Litigation & others, before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. In response to the aforesaid IA, the then Director, CBI had reviewed the matter and ordered to further investigate the case on the issue of roll out obligation / dual technology, in respect of Tata Telesevice Limited/ Tata Telesevice (Maharashtra) Limited. Said further investigation is also in progress.

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) is conducting investigations under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 and under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. 16 Show cause Notices (SCNs) for alleged violation of FEMA totalling ₹ 13974.33 crores have been issued against 16 companies.

Under PMLA, attachment of assets under section 5(1) of PMLA worth ₹ 223.55 crores has been carried out and a prosecution complaint has been filed before the Special Court of PMLA. The trial is at argument stage. In another case, attachment of assets under section 5(1) of PMLA worth ₹ 742.58 crores has been carried out and further proceeding in respect of attachment has been stayed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Further, Letters of Request in nine cases have been sent by ED to other countries, for investigation and collection of evidences, which are pending execution.

#### **Compensation for losses incurred by farmers**

†\*64. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the agricultural area affected by excessive and scarce rainfall this year, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the losses incurred in agricultural production due to excessive and scarce rainfall, separately, and the relief provided to farmers; and
- (c) the measures taken by Government to compensate the farmers for the losses incurred?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Details of cropped areas affected due to listed natural calamities including floods/ landslides/earthquake/ cloudburst/cyclonic storm and drought etc. during 2015-16 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) State Governments initiate necessary relief measures to farmers in the wake of drought from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) which is readily

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

available with them. Additional financial assistance to State Government, over and above SDRF, is sanctioned from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) on receipt of relief memorandum from State Governments and in accordance with extant norms and procedures.

In the month of February- March 2015 many States including Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Telangana were hit by hailstorm followed by unseasonal rainfall. Consequent to the Memoranda received from these States, Government of India has approved ₹ 71.534 crore to Himachal Pradesh, ₹ 369.09 crore to Haryana, ₹ 791.42 crore to Bihar, ₹ 2801.59 crore to Uttar Pradesh, ₹ 1447.73 crore to Rajasthan, ₹ 105.33 crore to Karnataka and ₹ 83.744 crore to Telangana from NDRF.

For losses suffered on account of shortfall in rain, the State Governments of Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana have submitted memoranda. An amount of ₹ 1540.20 crore has already been sanctioned for Karnataka. The proposals from other States are at various stages of processing / finalisation.

Besides others measures and provision of funds under SDRF and NDRF, the following interventions have been made in the wake of deficient rainfall:

- (i) Implementation of Diesel Subsidy Scheme for protective irrigation of crops;
- (ii) Enhancement of ceiling on seed subsidy to partially recompense the farmer for the additional expenditure incurred in resowing and/or purchasing appropriate varieties of seeds;
- (iii) Implementation of interventions on perennial horticulture crops under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH);
- (iv) Implementation of Additional Fodder Development Programme (AFDP) as a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Further, in order to protect farmers against crop failure due to natural calamities, pest & diseases and weather conditions, Government of India has recently introduced the National Crop Insurance Scheme (NCIP) with component schemes of Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS). In addition, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which was to be withdrawn after implementation of NCIP from Rabi 2013-14 has been extended further.

***Statement***

*State-wise details of cropped areas affected due to cyclonic storms/ flash flood/floods/ landslides/ cloudburst and drought etc. during 2015-16 (Provisional)*

(in lakh ha.)

Sl. No.	State	Crops area affected on account of cyclonic storms/ flash flood/floods/landslides/ cloudburst, etc.	Crops area affected on account of drought*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.10	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.14	-
3.	Assam	3.29	-
4.	Bihar	8.08	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	30.92
6.	Gujarat	2.59	-
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.43	-
8.	Karnataka	-	32.72
9.	Madhya Pradesh	-	27.77
10.	Maharashtra	-	53.10
11.	Manipur	0.39	-
12.	Nagaland	0.04	-
13.	Odisha	-	8.82
14.	Tamil Nadu	0.92	-
15.	Telangana	-	14.05
16.	Uttar Pradesh	-	21.97
17.	West Bengal	13.02	-
	TOTAL	32.00	189.35

\*as reported by State Government in Financial Memorandum for drought relief submitted to the Government of India.



**Promotion and development of nutritious varieties of rice**

\*65. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has chalked out any action plan to promote nutritious black rice "Chakhao" from North-East, having nutty flavour and vast potential of export, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the fresh steps taken by Government for promotion and development of a number of other little known nutritious varieties of rice from various regions of the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Black rice "Chakhao" varieties which are cultivated in North Eastern States are rich in minerals, antioxidants and glutinous in quality. However, these varieties are low yielding and their cultivation is confined to specific areas in these States. Research institutions of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities have initiated conservation of different rice varieties including black rice through ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) & Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA). Research work is being done to develop high yielding varieties and improving quality of black rice. Similarly, research is also being done to develop high yielding varieties of other little known nutritious rice in other States like Karnataka, Odisha and Uttarakhand. Government is implementing various programmes like Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Food Security Mission (NFSM) etc. which can be utilized by States to promote cultivation of black rice and other little known nutritious varieties of rice.

**MSP for crops of Rabi season 2016**

\*66. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced MSP for Rabi crops including pulses and wheat for Rabi season 2016, recently, if so, the details thereof, crop-wise;

(b) the basis and rationale on which such a meagre increase has been announced; and

(c) how Government would check large scale and unprecedented number of suicides by farmers without reasonable and profitable MSP for their farm produces?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of rabi crops of 2014-15 and 2015-16 season fixed by the Government are given in the Table below:

	(₹ Per quintal)	
Commodity	2014-15	2015-16
Wheat	1450	1525
Barley	1150	1225
Gram	3175	3425\$
Masur (Lentil)	3075	3325\$
Rapeseed/Mustard	3100	3350
Safflower	3050	3300

\$ : Bonus of ₹ 75 per quintal is payable over and above the MSP.

(b) Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments & other relevant factors. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, CACP considers a number of important factors which include, *inter alia*, cost of production, changes in input prices, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living, etc. The cost of production, *inter alia*, includes all paid out costs and imputed value of family labour.

The MSPs of rabi crops of 2015-16 season have been fixed as per the recommendation of CACP. In addition, a bonus of ₹ 75 per quintal over and above the MSP has been announced in respect of rabi pulses of 2015-16 season.

(c) The Government believes, that farmers welfare will improve if there is increase in net income from the farms. With this end in view, the approach is to reduce cost of cultivation, enable higher yield per unit and realize remunerative prices. Some of the important new initiatives in this context are:

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the exact nutrient level available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and save money. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.

- (ii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate urea use, enhance its availability to the crop and cut on cost. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured urea is now neem coated.
- (iii) Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promoting organic farming in the country. This will improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realise premium prices.
- (iv) The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is another innovative scheme to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.
- (v) The Government is also implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes - National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds & Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET); National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP); Unified National Agriculture Markets; and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- (vi) The Government undertakes procurement of wheat, paddy, other foodgrains and oilseeds under its MSP operations. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production. Losses, if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared by the Central Government and the concerned State Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States). Profit, if any, earned by the procuring agencies is retained by them.
- (vii) To mitigate the adverse impact of natural calamities viz. drought, hailstorm Central Government has provided assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) of ₹ 4465 crore in 2012-13, ₹ 2854 crore in 2013-14, ₹ 9018 crore in 2014-15 and ₹ 1540 crore during the current year. Funds under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) have been increased from ₹ 6700 crore in 2012-13 to ₹ 11079 crore in 2015-16. Statewise assistance under NDRF and funds in SDRF is given in the Statements I and II respectively.

***Statement-I****State-wise Central assistance approved under NDRF*

(₹ in Crore)

State	Calamity	Central Assistance		Approved under NDRF	
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Karnataka	Drought	526.06	226.57	200.85	1540.20
	Hailstorm	-	82.77	105.33	-
Maharashtra	Drought	778.09	-	1962.99	-
	Drought	1036.98	-	-	-
	Hailstorm	-	552.88	-	-
Kerala	Drought	62.61	-	-	-
	Drought	107.89	-	-	-
Gujarat	Drought	864.71	-	-	-
Rajasthan	Drought	320.64	-	-	-
	Hailstorm	-	-	1447.73	-
Andhra Pradesh	Drought	142.97	254.54	237.51	-
	Hailstorm	-	40.06	-	-
Tamil Nadu	Drought	624.69	-	-	-
Bihar	Drought	-	931.87	-	-
	Hailstorm	-	-	791.42	-
Madhya Pradesh	Hailstorm	-	494.95	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	Drought	-	-	777.34	-
	Hailstorm	-	270.55	2801.59	-
Haryana	Drought	-	-	168.87	-
	Hailstorm	-	-	369.09	-
Himachal Pradesh	Hailstorm	-	-	71.53	-
Telengana	Hailstorm	-	-	83.74	-
TOTAL		4464.64	2854.19	9017.99	1540.20

**Statement-II***State-wise Funds under SDRF*

	(₹ in crore)			
State	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Andhra Pradesh	560.99	589.04	618.49	440.00
Arunachal Pradesh	40.51	42.54	44.67	52.00
Assam	290.81	305.35	320.62	460.00
Bihar	368.77	387.21	406.57	469.00
Chhattisgarh	166.83	175.17	183.93	241.00
Goa	3.27	3.43	3.60	4.00
Gujarat	553.59	581.27	610.33	705.00
Haryana	212.68	223.31	234.48	308.00
Himachal Pradesh	144.17	151.38	158.95	236.00
Jammu and Kashmir	190.13	199.64	209.62	255.00
Jharkhand	286.04	300.34	315.36	364.00
Karnataka	177.46	186.33	195.65	276.00
Kerala	144.51	151.74	159.33	185.00
Madhya Pradesh	433.01	454.66	477.39	877.00
Maharashtra	488.06	512.46	538.08	1483.00
Manipur	7.96	8.36	8.78	19.00
Meghalaya	16.15	16.96	17.81	24.00
Mizoram	9.43	9.90	10.40	17.00
Nagaland	5.48	5.75	6.04	10.00
Odisha	431.72	453.31	475.98	747.00
Punjab	245.77	258.06	270.96	390.00
Rajasthan	662.22	695.33	730.10	1103.00
Sikkim	25.08	26.33	27.65	31.00
Tamil Nadu	323.61	339.79	356.78	679.00

State	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Telengana	-	-	-	274.00
Tripura	21.29	22.35	23.47	31.00
Uttar Pradesh	424.89	446.13	468.44	675.00
Uttarakhand	129.72	136.21	143.02	210.00
West Bengal	336.07	352.87	370.51	516.00
TOTAL	6700.22	7035.22	7387.01	11079.00

#### **Train service from Vasco-Da-Gama to Tirupati**

\*67. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to start a train service from Vasco-da-Gama to Tirupati or any other station near the Tirupati station;
- (b) if so, whether necessary formal decision has been taken to that effect;
- (c) the proposed route of this train and the stations that the train will halt at;
- (d) the proposed frequency of the train; and
- (e) by when the train services are expected to commence?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (e) Introduction of a new train service between Vasco-Da-Gama and Tirupati or stations near Tirupati is feasible and necessary formalities are being worked out for early implementation. However, at present, passengers of Vasco-Da-Gama desirous of travelling to Tirupati may reach the destination and *vice-versa* by availing changeover from Hubballi, Bengaluru/Yesvantpur or Chennai which are adequately connected with Vasco-Da-Gama and Tirupati.

#### **Train accidents at railway level crossings**

\*68. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 40 per cent of train accidents and 66 per cent of the fatalities occur at railway level crossings;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that around eighteen accidents on unmanned railway level crossings and three on manned ones, have been reported since April, 2015, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Railways to prevent accidents at both manned and unmanned railway level crossings?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir. The details of consequential train accidents at Manned Level Crossings (MLCs) and Unmanned Level Crossings (UMLCs) and number of persons killed in these accidents since 2010-11 to 2015-16 (upto November, 2015) are as under:

*Consequential train accidents at MLCs and UMLCs  
since 2010-11 to 2015-16 (upto 15th Nov.)*

Type of Accidents	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (up to 15.11.2015)
MLC	5 3.55%	7 5.34%	5 4.10%	4 3.39%	6 4.44%	5 7.25%
UMLC	48 34.04%	54 41.22%	53 43.44%	47 39.83%	50 37.04%	23 33.33%
Total consequential accidents	141	131	122	118	135	69

*Number of persons killed since 2010-11 to 2015-16 (upto 15th November, 2015)*

Type of Accident	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (up to 15.11.15)
MLC	7 1.84%	6 1.88%	18 8.78%	6 3.95%	31 10.62%	11 11.96%
UMLC	130 34.12%	204 63.95%	124 60.49%	98 64.47%	130 44.52%	44 47.83%
Total persons. killed in all accidents	381	319	265	152	292	9

(b) Since 1st April 2015 to 15th November, 2015, 23 consequential accidents have occurred at Unmanned Level Crossings(UMLCs) and 5 at Manned Level Crossings (MLCs).

(c) Some of the measures taken to prevent accidents at level crossings are as under:

- Progressive elimination of unmanned level crossings by (i) closing unmanned crossings having Nil/negligible Train Vehicle Units (TVUs), (ii) merger of unmanned level crossing with nearby unmanned/manned gates or Road Under Bridge or Road Over Bridge or Subway by construction of diversion road, (iii) provision of Subways/Road Under Bridges, and (iv) phased manning of unmanned level crossings which cannot be eliminated by the above means, based on the volume of rail road traffic (TVU), visibility conditions, etc.
- Construction of Road Over Bridges (ROBs)/Road Under Bridges (RUBs) at Manned Level Crossing Gates with Train Vehicle Units (TVUs) >1 lakh and Limited Height Subways to replace Manned Level Crossings. Interlocking and provision of phones at Manned Level Crossing Gates is also being done.
- Provision of basic infrastructure at unmanned level crossings, including appropriate visibility, width, gradient, level surface on either side from centre of the nearest track, whistle boards, road warning boards, surface of the approach road and speed breakers/rumble strips as per laid down standards.
- Social awareness campaigns to educate road users with the use of various print and electronic media for observance of safe practices prescribed in Motor Vehicle Act and Indian Railways Act and joint ambush checks along with civil police to counter misadventure in front of approaching trains.
- SMS-based campaigns to create awareness amongst road users.

#### **Suicide by farmers**

\*69. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an increase in farmers' suicides in the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise/UT-wise;
- (b) the major reasons for this increase in farmers' suicides across the country;
- (c) the steps Government is taking to alleviate the concerns of the farmers; and
- (d) whether Government is aware of media reports and experts' statements that releasing additional food stocks into the market during harvest season hurt the sales of the farmers' produce, if so, the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the National Crime Records Bureau



(NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs Report entitled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013, the total number of suicides under the profession 'Self employment - Farming/ Agriculture' is as under:

Year	No. of suicides
2011	14027
2012	13754
2013	11772

For the year 2014, the NCRB delineated for the first time the number of suicides under two sub-categories, namely, Self-employed Persons - farmers and agricultural labourers. The number of suicides with respect to these categories is as under:

Farmers	5650
Agricultural labourers	6710
TOTAL	12360

According to NCRB Report of 2014, the major causes of suicides by farmers were as under:

- (i) Bankruptcy or indebtedness
- (ii) Farming related issues e.g. Failure of crops, Distress due to natural calamities, inability to sell produce.
- (iii) Poverty
- (iv) Family problems
- (v) Illness
- (vi) Other causes

State-wise details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

There was an increase in the number of suicides in the year 2014 (taking both farmers and agricultural labourers together) as compared to 2013. There was an increase in suicide cases in Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

The NCRB Report for the year 2015 has not yet been published.

(c) The State Governments are primarily responsible for the development of the agriculture sector. The Government of India considers agriculture and allied sectors as highly critical for the welfare of the farmers and supplements the efforts of the States through appropriate policy support, schemes/programmes and budgetary support. The Govt. of India has taken several steps to revitalize the agriculture sector and improve the conditions of farming community on a sustained basis by increasing public investment, improving farm practices and focusing on rural infrastructure development, extension, marketing support, etc. Various programmes/ schemes for the development of agriculture sector are being implemented in a decentralized manner with a flexibility to the State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements. The focus of the Central Government is primarily to reduce the cost of cultivation, ensure remunerative returns to the farmers, facilitate access to enhanced credit and improve productivity of rainfed agriculture, which covers a vast area in the country. In this context, some specific schemes and initiatives recently rolled out are i) Soil Health Card to every farmer once in a cycle of 3 years; ii) Promotion of neem coated urea; iii) Promotion of organic farming under 'Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY); and iv) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) to bring more arable land under irrigation and improve water use efficiency. The Department is also promoting the use of Neem Coated Urea by making it mandatory for all the domestic manufacturers to produce 100% of urea as neem coated. This will result in savings and achieve cost reduction to the farmer.

While the above interventions will improve production environment by reducing cost of cultivation and achieving higher productivity, the Department is also implementing 'National Agriculture Market' (NAM) to create an integrated market which will improve marketing efficiency in the country and enable farmers to realize higher remunerative prices on their produce.

Other measures taken by the Government for the benefit of farmers include enhancement in Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of agricultural commodities, bonus of Rs. 200 per quintal over the MSP for pulses in Kharif 2015, increase in institutional credit flow to agriculture sector, post-harvest loan for six months to eliminate distress sale of agricultural produce by farmers, debt waiver/relief, interest subvention on crop loans, etc.

Eight (8) States namely, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have reported occurrence of drought on account of deficit rainfall in Kharif 2015. The Financial Memorandum seeking

Central assistance have been submitted by Karnataka for Rs. 3830.84 crore, Chhattisgarh for ₹ 6093.79 crore, Madhya Pradesh for ₹ 4821.64 crore, Maharashtra for ₹ 4002.82 crore, Odisha for ₹ 1687.56 crore, Uttar Pradesh for ₹ 2057.79 crore and Telangana for ₹ 1846.60 crore from NDRF.

Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) have visited the States of Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Reports have been submitted by the IMCTs of Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Report of Central Teams of Karnataka and Chhattisgarh were considered by the Sub-Committee of National Executive Committee (SC-NEC). Recommendation of SC-NEC was considered by HLC and an amount of ₹ 1540.20 crore has been approved for Karnataka from NDRF. Recommendation of SC-NEC in respect of Chhattisgarh has been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs for consideration of HLC. IMCT has been constituted and the team has visited the affected areas of Maharashtra from 19th to 22nd November, 2015. IMCT of Odisha and Uttar Pradesh have also been constituted to visit the affected areas. IMCT for Telangana is being constituted.

(d) No, Sir. As communicated by the Department of Food and Public Distribution in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the Government is not aware about such media reports. Under OMSS (Open Market Sale Scheme), the GOI, in addition to maintaining buffer stocks and for making a provision for meeting the requirement of the TPDS (Targeted Public Distribution System) and other Welfare Schemes, sells foodgrains, especially, wheat in the open market from time to time at predetermined prices to enhance the supply of wheat especially during the lean season and thereby moderate the open market wheat prices especially in the deficit regions. The sale is made by FCI through e-auction at various depots located in the country. The selling price under OMSS(D) is higher than Minimum Support Price (MSP).

#### **Statement**

##### *Number of suicides under Subhead Self Employed (Farming/ Agriculture)*

Sl. No.	State/ UT	2011	2012	2013	2014	
					Farmers	Labourers
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2206	2572	2014	160	472
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	11	37	0	3
3.	Assam	312	344	305	21	38

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Bihar	83	68	127	0	10
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	4	0	443	312
6.	Goa	1	1	1	0	0
7.	Gujarat	578	564	582	45	555
8.	Haryana	384	276	374	14	105
9.	Himachal Pradesh	46	29	33	32	31
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	10	18	12	25
11.	Jharkhand	94	119	142	0	4
12.	Karnataka	2100	1875	1403	321	447
13.	Kerala	830	1081	972	107	700
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1326	1172	1090	826	372
15.	Maharashtra	3337	3786	3146	2568	1436
16.	Manipur	0	0	1	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	22	10	5	0	2
18.	Mizoram	14	10	6	0	5
19.	Nagaland	2	9	2	0	0
20.	Odisha	144	146	150	5	97
21.	Punjab	98	75	83	24	40
22.	Rajasthan	268	270	292	0	373
23.	Sikkim	12	19	35	35	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	623	499	105	68	827
25.	Telangana	NA	NA	NA	898	449
26.	Tripura	20	18	56	0	32
27.	Uttar Pradesh	645	745	750	63	129
28.	Uttarakhand	25	14	15	0	0
29.	West Bengal	807	NR	0	0	230
TOTAL (STATES)		14004	13727	11744	5642	6694

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	5	8	0
31.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	13	6	15	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0
34.	NCT Delhi	10	21	8	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	16
TOTAL (UT)		23	27	28	8	16
GRAND TOTAL		14027	13754	11772	5650	6710
(All India)					12360	

Source : Report on 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India' for relevant years, National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs

#### Utilisation of package for enhancement of Railways in Bihar

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

(a) whether provision to enhance railway traffic is also included in the package given to Bihar by the Central Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to utilise the earmarked part of the Bihar package with additional resources for expansion of Railways in a backward State like Bihar, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Provision of 5 Doubling and 3 railway electrification projects at an anticipated cost of `8871 crores, as detailed below, have been included in the Package given to Bihar by the Central Government. These railway projects, which are required to decongest existing route & enhance throughput, have been included in Railway Budget 2015-16, subject to obtaining necessary approvals from NITI Aayog and CCEA.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

		(₹ in crores )
S.No.	Project	Cost
<b>Doubling projects</b>		
1.	Rampur Dumra-Tal-Rajendrapul Addl Bridge and doubling- 14 km length	938
2.	Hajipur-Bachwara- 72 kms	756
3.	Samastipur-Darbhanga 38 kms	399
4.	Kiul-Gaya 123 kms	1292
5.	3rd line between Dhanbad-Sonnagar (partly in Bihar)- 429 kms	4725
<b>Electrification projects</b>		
6.	Kiul-Tilaiya 87 kms	85
7.	Valmikinagar-Narkatiaganj-Sugauli-Muzaffarpur including Sugauli-Raxaul 240 kms	397
8.	Ammapali Halt-Kiul including Tinpahar-Rajmahal (Part of Bonidanga link cabin/Bonidanga-Barharwa-Sahibganj-Kiul section incl Tinpahar-Rajmahal) Length 247 kms	279
TOTAL		8871

Existing resources will be utilized for taking up above projects along with other ongoing projects.

#### **Rise in prices of pulses**

\*71. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while production of pulses had slipped down by 12 per cent in 2014-15 compared to previous year, the prices zoomed up by more than 100 per cent across the country;

(b) if so, the details of the production of pulses in 2013-14 and 2014-15 and variation in retail prices of pulses during the months of August-October 2015; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to intervene in the market to hold the prices of pulses along with the action taken against hoarders who were out to make a quick profit?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) As per the 4th Advance Estimates for 2014-15 released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare

(DAC&FW), the production of pulses fell to 17.20 million tonnes during 2014-15 as against 19.25 million tonnes during 2013-14 i.e. decline of 10.65%. The price trends over the year may be seen in the Table below:-

All-India Average Retail Prices		(₹/kg)	% Variation
Major Pulses	As on 30.11.2015	One Year ago (28.11.2014)	Over 1 year
Gram Dal	68.91	45.62	51.05
Tur/Arhar Dal	148.46	75.49	96.66
Urad Dal	139.25	75.96	83.32
Moong Dal	107.03	95.38	12.21
Masoor Dal	87.74	71.41	22.87

Source: State/UT Civil Supplies Deptts.

(b) The details of the production of pulses in 2013-14 and 2014-15 and variation in retail prices of pulses during the months of August-October 2015 are as follows:-

**(i) Production of pulses**

Year	2013-14	2014-15	% Change (2014-15 over 2013-14)
Area (Million hectare)	25.21	23.09	-8.41
Production (MMT)	19.25	17.20	-10.65

Source:- DAC&FW

**(ii) Variation in retail prices of pulses**

Monthly Average Retail Prices of Major pulses (₹/kg.)				
Major Pulses	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	% Variation (Oct-15 Over Aug-15)
Chana dal	61.09	63.78	68.05	11.39
Tur dal	105.13	119.95	143.78	36.76
Urad dal	100.88	107.54	129.42	28.29
Moong dal	98.36	99.71	107.2	8.99
Masoor dal	84.75	88.48	90.27	6.51

Source: State/UT Civil Supplies Deptts.

(c) Measures taken by the Government:

- Reduced import duties to zero for pulses, which was extended till 30.09.2016 for all pulses except Chickpeas and Lentils which will be reviewed during December, 2015.
- Import of 5000 MT of Tur was undertaken by the Government and allocated to States based on demand requests received from State Governments.
- Ban on export of pulses was imposed with effect from June 22, 2006. The period of validity of prohibition on exports of pulses, has now been extended until further orders exempt Kabuli Chana and organic pulses & Lentils up to a maximum of 10000 tonnes a year.
- 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.
- National Consultation Meeting of the Ministers of States/UTs in-charge of Consumer Affairs and Food held on 7th July, 2015, New Delhi also recommended sustained action against hoarding and black-marketing to control prices of essential food items including pulses.
- 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 Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
- Authorized States/UTs to impose stock limit on pulses and the same has been extended up to 30.9.2016.
- Intensive raids have also been conducted by the States/UTs to arrest the rising prices of pulses. As on 1.12.2015, total of 1.30 lakh tonnes of pulses have been seized in 14 States from 14134 raids.

#### **Direct transfer of food subsidy**

†\*72. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has prepared a time-bound plan to directly transfer food subsidy instead of foodgrains distribution, if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



(b) whether Government has carried out any survey to assess the choice of consumers regarding cash transfer and foodgrains distribution, if so, the details of the result thereof; and

(c) whether Government proposes to introduce food coupons, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) As per the 'Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Rules, 2015', which was notified on 21-08-2015, under the National Food Security Act, 2013, scheme of providing food subsidy in cash into the bank account of entitled households to enable them to purchase foodgrains from the open market, can be taken up in identified areas for which there is a written consent of the State Government/ UT Administration. This scheme is currently being implemented on a pilot basis in UTs of Chandigarh and Puducherry w.e.f. September, 2015 with their consent.

As regards introduction of food coupons in TPDS, there is no such proposal with the Government of India.

#### **Study to identify cyber threats from outside**

\*73. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether is a fact that cyber attacks have increased in the country in recent times, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to identify the cyber threats from outside the country, if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government intends to conduct such a study; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to protect cyberspace in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) With the proliferation of Information Technology and related services there is a rise in number of cyber security incidents in the country like elsewhere in the world. As per the information reported to and tracked by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), a total no. of 95996, 130338 and 91155 cyber security incidents were observed during the year 2013, 2014 and 2015 (till October) respectively. The types of cyber security incidents include

phishing, scanning/probing, website intrusions and defacements, spam, virus/malicious code, denial of service attacks, etc. These attacks have been observed to be directed from cyber space of different countries. Over a period, the nature and pattern of incidents have become more sophisticated and complex.

(b) and (c) The area of Information Technology (IT) is characterized by rapid developments and fast changing obsolescence. With every IT product introduced into the market, newer vulnerabilities are discovered, leaving scope for malicious actions. In tune with the dynamic nature of Information Technology and limited window of time available for an effective response, continuous efforts are required to be made to detect and prevent cyber attacks from outside the country by way of continuous threat assessment and near real-time situational awareness. Such timely information enables coordinated actions by the stakeholders to take appropriate proactive and preventive actions.

Concerted efforts are being made to harvest the requisite information from multiple sources. These include incidents reported to and tracked by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), technical measures, security cooperation arrangement with overseas Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) and leading security product and service vendors as well as agencies within the government. In addition, the study reports published by various agencies across the world are also studied to understand the historical data with respect to global threat landscape and threat predictions. As such, Government does not intend to conduct a separate study to identify cyber threats from outside the country.

(d) In order to enhance the cyber security posture of the country and protect cyber space, the following key actions have been taken:

- (i) Government has taken steps to put in place a Framework for Enhancing Cyber Security, with a multi-layered approach for ensuring defence-in-depth and clear demarcation of responsibilities among the stakeholder organizations in the country.
- (ii) Government has formulated Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism for implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.
- (iii) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats and countermeasures on regular basis. CERT-In has published guidelines for securing IT infrastructure, which

are available on its website ([www.certin.org.in](http://www.certin.org.in)). In order to detect variety of threats and imminent cyber attacks from outside the country, periodic scanning of cyber space is carried out.

- (iv) Operationalising the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) as per the provisions of Section 70A of the Information Technology Act 2000, for protection of Critical Information Infrastructure in the country. NCIIPC is providing tailored advisories on software/hardware vulnerabilities and alerts on cyber attacks are being issued regularly to Chief Information Security Officers of Critical Information Infrastructure organizations. In addition policy, audit and compliance reports of Critical Information Infrastructure organizations are being analysed.
- (v) Cyber security mock drills are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors.
- (vi) Efforts towards setting up of National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive and protective actions by individual entities.
- (vii) Efforts towards establishing Botnet cleaning and malware analysis centre to detect and clean infected systems in the country.

#### **Scam in Rail Neer supply**

\*74. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a serious scam has taken place in the Rail Neer being supplied by Railways in trains, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the details of steps being taken by Government to book the culprits and initiate action against them?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against two Railway officials and eight private caterers under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 regarding the supply of packaged drinking water other than the prescribed 'Rail Neer' in Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains in Northern Railway. The identified officials have been placed under suspension.

**Starting a direct train from Delhi to Tanakpur in Uttarakhand**

†\*75. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways will consider starting a direct train from Delhi to Tanakpur in Uttarakhand in future;

(b) if so, whether the Tanakpur-Ghat-Bageshwar railway line will be connected to this railway route;

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by Railways to remove the hurdles coming in the construction of above railway route, till date; and

(d) whether linking this part of the State with the railway route is not in the interest of the country and if not, the reasons for this delay?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Introduction of a direct train from Delhi to Tanakpur is operationally not feasible, at present, due to change of gauge, as Delhi is on broad gauge section while Tanakpur is on metre gauge section. Also, introduction of trains is an ongoing process over Indian Railways and is done keeping in view the operational feasibility, traffic demand, resource availability etc.

(b) to (d) On Delhi-Hapur-Moradabad-Bareilly-Pilibhit-Tanakpur route, there is already an existing broad gauge line upto Bhojipura. Further, gauge conversion of Bhojipura-Pilibhit-Tanakpur (101.79 Km) has been taken up. On this section, earthwork, blanketing, bridges work, ballast supply, S&T work, etc. are in different stages of progress. As regards rail connectivity from Tanakpur to Ghat-Bageshwar, a survey has been completed. As per survey report, the cost of construction of 155 Km long line has been assessed as ₹ 2791 crore with negative rate of return 1.16%. Railway is unable to take up the work due to its unremunerative nature, huge throwforward of ongoing projects and constraint of funds.

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**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS****Suicide by farmers**

641. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers committing suicide in the country in last one and half year (May, 2014 to October, 2015), State-wise;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) the steps taken by Government to ease the distress situation of farmers; and
- (c) the compensation paid to the family members of the victims, who committed suicide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):

(a) The State-wise figures of the number of farmers suicide as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs report entitled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' for the year 2014, under two sub-categories, namely, 'Self-employed Persons' farmers and agricultural labourers due to various causes is given in the Statement (*See below*). The NCRB Report for the year 2015 has not been published.

(b) The Government believes, that farmers welfare will improve if there is increase in net income from the farms. With this end in view, the approach is to reduce cost of cultivation, enable higher yield per unit and realize remunerative prices. Some of the important new initiatives in this context are:

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the exact nutrient level available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and save money. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate urea use, enhance its availability to the crop and cut on cost. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured urea is now neem coated.
- (iii) Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promoting organic farming in the country. This will improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realise premium prices.
- (iv) The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is another innovative scheme to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.
- (v) The Government is also implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes - National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development

of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds & Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET); National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP); Unified National Agriculture Markets; and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

- (vi) The Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production. Losses, if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared by the Central Government and the concerned State Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States). Profit, if any, earned by the procuring agencies is retained by them.

(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 including payment of compensation to the bereaved families of farmers affected by suicides.

#### ***Statement***

##### *Number of suicides under Subhead Self Employed (Farming/ Agriculture)*

Sl. No.	State/UT	2014	
		Farmers	Labourers
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	160	472
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	3
3.	Assam	21	38
4.	Bihar	0	10
5.	Chhattisgarh	443	312
6.	Goa	0	0
7.	Gujarat	45	555
8.	Haryana	14	105
9.	Himachal Pradesh	32	31
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	25

1	2	3	4
11.	Jharkhand	0	4
12.	Karnataka	321	447
13.	Kerala	107	700
14.	Madhya Pradesh	826	372
15.	Maharashtra	2568	1436
16.	Manipur	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	2
18.	Mizoram	0	5
19.	Nagaland	0	0
20.	Odisha	5	97
21.	Punjab	24	40
22.	Rajasthan	0	373
23.	Sikkim	35	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	68	827
25.	Telangana	898	449
26.	Tripura	0	32
27.	Uttar Pradesh	63	129
28.	Uttarakhand	0	0
29.	West Bengal	0	230
	TOTAL (STATES)	5642	6694
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8	0
31.	Chandigarh	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0
34.	NCT Delhi	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0
36.	Puducherry	0	16
	TOTAL (UT)	8	16
	GRAND TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	5650	6710
12360			

Source : Report on 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India' for relevant years, National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs

**Protection of cattle and other animals used for dairying and farming**

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

- (a) whether Government has any long term programme to rear and protect cattle and other animals used for dairying and farming, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) how many animals came under this programme during last three years; and
- (c) whether such animals are also outside the protection of Government, if so, the number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) In order to complement and supplement the efforts made by the State to promote rearing and protecting cattle and other animals used for dairying and farming, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries is implementing following schemes: (i) National Programme for Bovine Breeding & Dairy Development; (ii) National Dairy Plan-I; (iii) National Livestock Mission; (iv) Livestock Health (v) Central Cattle Breeding Farms; (vi) Central Herd Registration Scheme and (vii) Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institutes.

(b) and (c) Entire livestock population of the country is covered under aforementioned schemes. The extent of coverage of number of animals is dependent upon the availability of funds under each Scheme.

**Agricultural production in the country**

643. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that agricultural production in the country has gone down since inception of the present Government, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (b) the measures taken by Government to increase agricultural production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) Details of production of major agricultural crops since inception of the present Government, *i.e.*, during 2014-15 and 2015-16 *vis-à-vis* their production during 2013-14 and five years average (2009-10 to 2013-14) production are given in the Statement (*See below*).

It is observed that production of most of the agricultural crops during 2014-15 and



2015-16 has been generally lower than their production levels achieved during 2013-14, which was an excellent agricultural year. However, except for oilseeds and negligible drop in pulses, production of major agricultural crops during 2014-15 and 2015-16 has been higher than their five years average production. The decline in production of agricultural crops during 2014-15 and 2015-16 has been mainly on account of deficit/deficient rainfall during monsoon season impacting kharif production and unseasonal rains/hailstorms during February-March, 2015 affecting rabi production.

(b) In order to boost agricultural production in the country, the Government of India is implementing through State Governments, several Crop Development Schemes/Programmes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) etc.

Under these Schemes/Programmes, funds are provided to States for implementation of State-specific agricultural strategies including incentives to farmers for use of quality seeds, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), farm mechanization, etc. The States are also provided support for creation of agricultural infrastructure for optimal use of water and other natural resources.

To achieve higher productivity of agricultural crops, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is also conducting basic and strategic research relating to crop improvement, production and protection technologies suitable to different situations including development of location-specific varieties/hybrids and technologies.

#### **Statement**

*Production estimates of major agricultural crops during 2013-14 to 2015-16 vis-à-vis average production (2009-10 to 2013-14)*

(Million Tonnes)					
Crop	Season	2013-14	Average Production (2009-10 to 2013-14)	2014-15*	2015-16 <sup>s</sup>
1	2	3	4	5	6
Rice	Kharif	91.50	86.65	90.86	90.61
	Rabi	15.15	13.80	13.94	-
	TOTAL	106.65	100.45	104.80	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
Wheat	Rabi	95.85	90.38	88.94	-
Coarse Cereals	Kharif	31.20	30.07	29.82	27.88
	Rabi	12.09	10.39	11.93	-
	TOTAL	43.29	40.46	41.75	-
Total Pulses	Kharif	5.99	5.86	5.63	5.56
	Rabi	13.25	11.66	11.57	-
	TOTAL	19.25	17.52	17.20	-
Total Foodgrains	Kharif	128.69	122.57	126.31	124.05
	Rabi	136.35	126.24	126.38	-
	TOTAL	265.04	248.81	252.68	-
Groundnut	Kharif	8.06	5.37	5.08	5.11
	Rabi	1.66	1.64	1.48	-
	TOTAL	9.71	7.01	6.56	-
Rapeseed & Mustard	Rabi	7.88	7.46	6.31	-
Soyabean	Kharif	11.86	12.29	10.53	11.83
Total Nine Oilseeds	Kharif	22.61	20.35	18.33	19.89
	Rabi	10.14	9.82	8.35	-
	TOTAL	32.75	30.17	26.68	-
Cotton <sup>#</sup>	TOTAL	35.90	32.47	35.48	33.51
Jute & Mesta <sup>##</sup>	TOTAL	11.69	11.29	11.45	10.80
Sugarcane	TOTAL	352.14	337.81	359.33	341.43

\* 4th advance estimates

\$ First advance estimates for 2015-16 (covering only kharif crops)

# Million bales of 170 kgs. each

## Million bales of 180 kgs. each

**Scheme to promote dairy industry**

644. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is running any special scheme to promote dairy industry in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the State-wise/Union Territory-wise details of funds allotted for the purpose from the last three years to the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):

(a) and (b) The Department is implementing the following schemes to promote dairy industry in the country;

**(i) National Dairy Plan (Phase-I):**

The Government of India has approved National Dairy Plan Phase-I (NDP-I) with an outlay of Rs 2242 Crore for a period of eight years from 2011-12 to 2018-19 as a Central Sector Scheme for 18 major milk producing states. The Scheme is being implemented through National Dairy Development Board and the objectives of the National Dairy Plan, Phase I are:

- a. To help increase the productivity of milch animals and thereby increase milk production to meet the rapidly growing demand for milk.
- b. To help provide rural milk producers with greater access to the organized milk-processing sector.

State-wise/Union Territory-wise details of funds allotted (including End Implementing Agency Contribution) to the sub-projects approved under NDP-I during the last three years and current year is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

**(ii) Nation Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development:**

The new Scheme National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development (NPBB&DD) was approved during 2013-14 by merging four existing schemes *i.e.* Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP), Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production (SIQ&CMP), Assistance to Cooperatives and National Project for Cattle & Buffalo Breeding with the budget provision of ₹ 1800 crore for implementation during 12th Plan. The objective of the scheme is to enhance productivity of milch animals and create dairy infrastructure for improved procurement, processing and marketing.

State-wise/Union Territory- wise details of funds released under National Programme for Dairy Development component during the last three years and current year is given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

**(iii) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme.**

“Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS)” is implemented through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) across the country with an aim to generate self employment opportunities in the dairy sector, covering activities such as 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) farmers/beneficiaries for bankable projects through NABARD subject to the norms of the scheme. The budget provision during 12th plan is Rs 1400 crore. State-wise/Union Territory-wise details of back ended capital subsidy disbursed to establish dairy units through NABARD under this scheme during the last three years and current year is given in the Statement-III.

***Statement-I***

*State-wise/Union Territory-wise details of funds allotted (including EIA contribution) to the sub-projects approved under NDP-I during the last three years and current year are given in the table below:*

State	Total Approved Outlay (Amount in ₹ crore)				
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	40.16	0.00	2.41	54.78	97.35
Bihar	0.00	6.53	30.14	2.21	38.87
Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.10	6.10
Gujarat	154.56	160.26	74.88	29.51	419.20
Haryana	0.00	33.61	38.90	0.00	72.51
Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.93	9.93
Karnataka	110.45	31.02	51.20	8.94	201.61
Kerala	3.82	42.88	1.99	2.21	50.90
Madhya Pradesh	7.67	5.95	4.31	5.46	23.39

1	2	3	4	5	6
Maharashtra	18.51	74.19	25.93	6.88	125.52
Odisha	8.14	1.79	9.55	1.97	21.45
Punjab	48.35	6.99	45.42	30.98	131.75
Rajasthan	20.04	190.46	19.97	39.03	269.51
Tamil Nadu	45.74	0.00	38.13	3.47	87.34
Telangana	9.94	6.35	7.78	0.00	24.07
Uttar Pradesh	38.93	22.95	11.36	101.22	174.46
Uttarakhand	0.00	20.81	4.02	4.83	29.65
West Bengal	13.18	6.03	4.96	5.42	29.59
Centralised Import of Bulls	0.00	0.00	23.15	0.00	23.15
SUB TOTAL	519.50	609.83	394.07	312.96	1836.38
Project Management & Learning	13.23	6.39	5.33	5.39	30.33
TOTAL	532.73	616.22	399.40	318.35	1866.70

**Statement-II**

*State-wise/Union Territory-wise details of funds released under National Programme for Dairy Development component during the last three years and current year*

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	State	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1.	Assam	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4.49	1.59	0.00	3.50
3.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.00	0.00	0.94	0.00
5.	Bihar	20.52	4.53	3.00	8.34
6.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	6.49	1.50	2.04
7.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Sl. No.	State	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
10.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Goa	0.78	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Gujarat	2.80	0.00	1.19	0.00
13.	Haryana	0.00	1.57	0.00	0.00
14.	Himachal Pradesh	6.00	1.52	0.00	0.00
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.90	0.00	3.65	0.00
16.	Jharkhand	2.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Karnataka	2.49	0.00	2.00	4.46
18.	Kerala	6.37	13.09	25.24	1.06
19.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	11.92	0.00	3.05
21.	Maharashtra	2.03	0.00	1.38	0.00
22.	Manipur	4.18	3.21	2.58	0.00
23.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Mizoram	0.54	3.85	0.17	0.00
25.	Nagaland	1.01	0.60	1.90	0.00
26.	Odisha	0.86	3.07	3.07	10.67
27.	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Punjab	5.24	6.93	7.60	20.93
29.	Rajasthan	1.27	5.26	1.16	2.30
30.	Sikkim	4.29	4.97	1.99	1.13
31.	Tamil Nadu	10.77	1.15	15.01	2.00
32.	Telangana	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.92
33.	Tripura	1.19	0.00	6.42	0.00
34.	Uttar Pradesh	3.80	3.03	2.63	1.46
35.	Uttarakhand	1.07	0.00	8.00	0.00
36.	West Bengal	4.43	0.00	0.52	0.00
TOTAL		89.10	74.79	89.95	63.86

**Statement-III**

*State-wise/Union Territory-wise details of back ended capital subsidy disbursed to establish dairy units through NABARD under Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme during the last three years and current year*

Sl.No	State	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		(₹ in lakh)
		Units	Amount	Units	Amount	Units	Amount	Units	Amount	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<b>A. States other than N.E. States</b>										
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0.00	11	6.04	9	2.93	0	0.00	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	6002	1519.38	40679	11205.80	9108	2844.14	2607	989.83	
3.	Bihar	1658	530.14	5873	2282.99	2790	1186.98	0	0.00	
4.	Chhattisgarh	127	73.58	432	385.99	264	188.78	210	125.13	
5.	Delhi	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	
6.	Goa	0	0.00	1	4.29	6	15.26	0	0.00	
7.	Gujarat	4274	1298.01	11324	4886.90	3970	2310.13	64	46.81	
8.	Haryana	883	384.15	2706	1412.47	647	435.13	9	14.40	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1128	627.24	1874	1017.42	270	187.64	186	137.73	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1832	746.21	1423	660.54	572	281.03	52	28.77	
11.	Jharkhand	61	35.19	31	27.67	22	20.55	0	0.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12.	Karnataka	1689	458.58	7186	2977.79	2459	1086.14	46	38.95
13.	Kerala	1543	509.63	4965	1578.36	2583	954.56	82	39.17
14.	Madhya Pradesh	384	295.58	1367	1232.21	624	430.06	12	22.91
15.	Maharashtra	4642	1831.61	2753	1384.78	29	647.45	3551	1801.10
16.	Odisha	927	243.01	3273	938.44	524	192.15	0	0.00
17.	Punjab	704	585.82	1535	1236.84	1379	811.22	58	35.74
18.	Rajasthan	2708	1587.74	3907	2197.35	1165	690.08	37	39.58
19.	Tamil Nadu	2437	477.11	25868	4186.88	11915	2076.65	1678	332.90
20.	Telangana						515	181.62	
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1077	684.29	1267	782.00	567	314.11	58	43.25
22.	Uttaranchal	933	465.34	3104	1584.81	1432	655.98	345	159.13
23.	West Bengal	297	98.92	858	330.73	277	131.93	1	0.67
TOTAL (A)		33306	12451.53	120437	40320.30	40,612	15462.90	9511	4037.67



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	<b>B. N E States</b>								
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	5.00	11	17.48	9	15.69	59	113.90
2.	Assam	1317	1060.70	1616	1257.91	911	782.09	5	3.47
3.	Manipur	0	0.00	0	0.00	19	19.00	13	16.23
4.	Meghalaya	9	4.16	8	5.42	18	9.73	0	0.00
5.	Mizoram	28	37.84	99	61.74	225	202.99	10	4.07
6.	Nagaland	12	3.72	24	8.97	14	5.40	32	16.86
7.	Sikkim	4	5.00	29	11.42	64	64.69	42	36.70
8.	Tripura	65	15.95	60	32.31	103	39.16	240	100.19
	<b>TOTAL (B)</b>	<b>1438</b>	<b>1132.36</b>	<b>1847</b>	<b>1395.23816</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>1138.75</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>291.42</b>
	<b>G.Total (Total A+B)</b>	<b>34744</b>	<b>13583.89</b>	<b>122284</b>	<b>41715.54</b>	<b>41975</b>	<b>16601.65</b>	<b>9912</b>	<b>4329.09</b>

**Employment opportunities in agriculture sector**

†645. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE and FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has paid attention to employment opportunities in agriculture sector in the country;

(b) if so, the initiative taken by Government for this purpose; and

(c) whether Government is running any scheme to increase employment opportunities in agriculture sector, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):  
(a) to (c) As per Agricultural Statistics, 2014, published by Department of Economics & Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare in the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, the total number of agricultural workers account for 263 million comprising of 118.7 million of cultivators (45.1% of the total) and 144.3 million of agricultural labourers (54.9% of the total). This is a very high percentage of population engaged in agricultural sector. The attention of the Government as regards employment opportunities in the agriculture sector is now mainly on improving the productivity of labour through increased per unit yield of various field and plantation crops and skill development and transfer of appropriate technology. The Government is of the view that if there is increase in per unit yield through improved technology, package of practices, reduced cost of cultivation and removal of drudgery of labour, it will all contribute to higher quality of employment and productivity of labour in the agriculture sector. With this end in view, some of the important schemes/programmes/missions being implemented in the agricultural sector are:-

- (i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) on rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals and commercial crops (cotton, sugarcane and jute).
- (ii) Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI)
- (iii) Crop Diversification Programme (CDP)

The focus on transfer of scientific technology under all the three above schemes will lead to higher productivity and production of crops.

- (iv) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (v) National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)
- (vi) Soil Health Card Scheme (SHC)
- (vii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
- (viii) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)
- (ix) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

The above programmes that focus on horticulture crops, oil seeds, soil health card, organic farming, efficient use of water and strengthening of backward and forward linkages aim at strengthening the production environment of the agricultural sector from end to end and enhance productive employment opportunities in the sector.

The Government is also promoting creation of Integrated Agriculture Market in the country and when National Agriculture Market comes to be finally established, it will generate large number of productive employment in the marketing sector besides contributing to fair and transparent price discovery of the produce of the farmers.

The guidelines adopted under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) prescribe, that 60% of the works to be taken up in the district in terms of cost shall be for creation of productive assets linked to agriculture and allied activities through development of land, water and trees cover. This intervention also helps in employment generation in the agriculture and allied sectors.

In consonance with the Skill India Mission of the Government, the Ministry is also focusing on skill and knowledge development under the ongoing Mission and promote enterprise thereby.

Under the Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM), the National Institute of Agriculture Marketing (NIAM), Jaipur provides for two year post-graduate diploma in Agri-business Management with an aim to contribute to employment generation in the agri-business sector. The National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM) also conducts one year diploma in Plant Health Management.

The Department also promotes Capital Investment Subsidy (CIS) Scheme namely, Gramin Bhandaran Yojana (GBY) and Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading & Standardization (AMIGS). These schemes which have under implementation since 20.10.2014 have now been subsumed as Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI), a sub-scheme of ISAM. This sub-scheme is currently operational in North-Eastern States and for SC/ST categories across the country. The

scheme creates employment opportunities by promoting various types of agricultural marketing infrastructure including storage.

All these schemes have the potential of creating employment opportunities for skilled and unskilled rural population in the agricultural sector.

#### **Suicide by farmers**

†646. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise details of the suicides committed during the past five years by the farmers who could not repay their loans;
- (b) the major reasons for the same;
- (c) the details of the facilities provided by Government, State-wise and year-wise to compensate the families; and
- (d) the schemes proposed by Government for the betterment of the such indebted farmers in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):  
(a) and (b) The data on farmers' suicide owing to non-payment of their loans is not specifically available. However, as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs Report entitled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' for the years 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013, the total number of suicides under the profession 'Self employment - Farming/ Agriculture' and for the year 2014, under two sub-categories, namely, 'Self-employed Persons' farmers and agricultural labourers due to various causes is given in the Statement (*See* below).

According to NCRB Report of 2014, the major causes of suicides by farmers are as under:

- (i) Bankruptcy or indebtedness
- (ii) Farming related issues e.g. Failure of crops, Distress due to natural calamities, inability to sell produce.
- (iii) Poverty
- (iv) Family problems

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(v) Illness

(vi) Other causes

Further, NCRB reports that the total number of farmers' suicides for the year 2014, those on account of bankruptcy or indebtedness are 1163.

(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 including payment of compensation to the bereaved families of farmers affected by suicides.

(d) The Government believes that farmers' welfare will improve if there is increase in net income from the farms. With this end in view, the approach is to reduce cost of cultivation, enable higher yield per unit and realize remunerative prices. Some of the important new initiatives in this context are:

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the exact nutrient level available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and save money. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate urea use, enhance its availability to the crop and cut on cost. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured urea is now neem coated.
- (iii) Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promoting organic farming in the country. This will improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realise premium prices.
- (iv) The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is another innovative scheme to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.
- (v) The Government is also implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes - National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds & Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET); National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP); Unified National Agriculture Markets; and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

- (vi) The Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production. Losses, if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared by the Central Government and the concerned State Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States). Profit, if any, earned by the procuring agencies is retained by them.

**Statement***Number of suicides under Subhead Self Employed (Farming/ Agriculture)*

Sl. No.	State/ UT	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
						Farmers	Labourers
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2525	2206	2572	2014	160	472
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18	13	11	37	0	3
3.	Assam	369	312	344	305	21	38
4.	Bihar	95	83	68	127	0	10
5.	Chhattisgarh	1126	0	4	0	443	312
6.	Goa	15	1	1	1	0	0
7.	Gujarat	523	578	564	582	45	555
8.	Haryana	297	384	276	374	14	105
9.	Himachal Pradesh	61	46	29	33	32	31
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	18	14	10	18	12	25
11.	Jharkhand	173	94	119	142	0	4
12.	Karnataka	2585	2100	1875	1403	321	447
13.	Kerala	895	830	1081	972	107	700
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1237	1326	1172	1090	826	372
15.	Maharashtra	3141	3337	3786	3146	2568	1436

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Manipur	4	0	0	1	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	16	22	10	5	0	2
18.	Mizoram	5	14	10	6	0	5
19.	Nagaland	0	2	9	2	0	0
20.	Odisha	162	144	146	150	5	97
21.	Punjab	80	98	75	83	24	40
22.	Rajasthan	390	268	270	292	0	373
23.	Sikkim	19	12	19	35	35	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	541	623	499	105	68	827
25.	Telangana	NA	NA	NA	NA	898	449
26.	Tripura	58	20	18	56	0	32
27.	Uttar Pradesh	548	645	745	750	63	129
28.	Uttarakhand	39	25	14	15	0	0
29.	West Bengal	993	807	NR	0	0	230
	TOTAL (STATES)	15933	14004	13727	11744	5642	6694
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8	0	0	5	8	0
31.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	10	13	6	15	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	NCT Delhi	9	10	21	8	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	4	0	0	0	0	16
	TOTAL (UT)	31	23	27	28	8	16
	GRAND TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	15964	14027	13754	11772	5650	6710
						12360	

Source : Report on 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India' for relevant years, National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

### Issuing biometric identity cards to fishermen

647. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified 19,60,488 marine fishermen across the country for issuing biometric identity cards, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government has completed the process of issuing biometric identity cards to those identified fishermen, if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR.SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) A total of 21,48,686 marine fishers have been proposed by the Coastal State Governments and Union Territories for issuance of Biometric Identity Cards, of which biometric enrolment has been completed in respect of 15,50,240 fishers. Till the end of November, 2015, a total of 13,67,009 Biometric Identity Cards have been generated and 13,63,638 Biometric Identity Cards have been dispatched to the Coastal State Governments and Union Territories for distribution to the marine fishers. The State/UT-wise details in this regard are given in the Statement.

### Statement

*Details of data collection, production of Biometric Identity Cards (ID)  
to marine fishers till the end of November, 2015*

(figures in numbers)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Proposed Marine Fishers	Biometric Enrolment	Data finalized for Card Production	Quantity of card produced	Quantity of card dispatched
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Tamil Nadu	3,86,802	1,86,610	1,42,552	1,42,424	1,42,424
2.	Puducherry	35,578	29,959	28,096	27,991	27,991
3.	Karnataka	95,410	70,903	67,117	66,203	66,203
4.	Gujarat	1,50,015	1,41,144	1,33,885	1,33,173	1,33,173
5.	Daman and Diu	8,183	6727	5465	5400	5400
6.	West Bengal	2,88,353	1,78,805	1,71,290	1,71,290	1,70,836
7.	Kerala	2,65,957	2,01,649	1,74,158	1,74,158	1,73,886
8.	Lakshadweep	14,304	11,013	10,508	10,507	10,120
9.	Maharashtra	2,18,299	1,55,153	1,46,635	1,42,519	1,42,519



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Goa	19,676	10,131	9,286	9,280	9,182
11.	Andhra Pradesh	3,02,520	2,43,962	2,07,364	2,07,042	2,05,664
12.	Odisha	3,42,151	2,98,558	2,62,113	2,62,091	2,61,338
13.	Andaman and Nicobar	21,438	15,626	14,943	14,931	14,902
TOTAL		21,48,686	15,50,240	13,73,412	13,67,009	13,63,638

#### Suicide by farmers in Burdwan, West Bengal

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that in Burdwan district of West Bengal more than one hundred farmers have committed suicide in the last four years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken to stop such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):  
 (a) and (b) As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs Report entitled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013, the total number of suicides in West Bengal under the profession 'Self employment - Farming/ Agriculture' due to various causes is as under:

Year	No. of suicides
2011	807
2012	Not reported
2013	0

During the year 2014 the total number of suicides in West Bengal under the profession 'Self-employed Persons (Agriculture)' due to various causes is nil.

District-wise figures are not available in the NCRB Report.

(c) The Government believes, that farmers welfare will improve if there is increase in net income from the farms. With this end in view, the approach is to reduce cost of cultivation, enable higher yield per unit and realize remunerative prices. Some of the important new initiatives in this context are :

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the exact nutrient level available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and save money. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.

- (ii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate urea use, enhance its availability to the crop and cut on cost. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured urea is now neem coated.
- (iii) Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promoting organic farming in the country. This will improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realise premium prices.
- (iv) The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is another innovative scheme to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.
- (v) The Government is also implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes - National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds & Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET); National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP); Unified National Agriculture Markets; and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- (vi) The Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production. Losses, if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared by the Central Government and the concerned State Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States). Profit, if any, earned by the procuring agencies is retained by them.

#### **Suicide by farmers in West Bengal**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that farmers' suicides have increased in West Bengal during the last four years; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):  
(a) and (b) As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs

Report entitled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013, the total number of suicides in West Bengal under the profession 'Self employment-Farming/Agriculture' due to various causes are as under

Year	No. of suicides
2011	807
2012	Not reported
2013	0

During the year 2014 the total number of suicides in West Bengal under the profession 'Self-employed Persons (Agriculture)' due to various causes is nil.

**Compensation for damage to crops**

650. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of farmers who applied for Government compensation for crop damage, State-wise and year-wise, since 2010;
- (b) the number of farmers whose claims have been approved and the number of farmers who have been compensated;
- (c) the number of such applicants who suffered less than 50 per cent damage; and
- (d) the total amount of compensation given to farmers for crop damage since 2010, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):

(a) to (d) State Governments initiate necessary relief measures to farmers in the wake of drought and other 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.

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is concerned with coordination of relief measures necessitated by drought, hailstorm, pest attack, cold wave/frost. The details of financial assistance approved State-wise by the Government of India from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) from 2010-11 and onwards is given in the Statement (*See below*). Distribution of relief to the farmers is the responsibility of the State Governments.

**Statement**

*Assistance sought by the State Government and assistance approved from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for drought, hailstorm, cold wave/frost in 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16*

SI. No.	State	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
		Assistance sought	Assistance approved	Assistance sought	Assistance approved	Assistance sought	Assistance approved	Assistance sought	Assistance approved	Assistance sought	Assistance approved	Assistance sought	Assistance approved
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh			3006.41	706.15	1090.78	142.97	638.09	254.54	1532.00	237.51	-	-
2.	Bihar	2871.00	1459.54	*	-	-	-	12564.04	931.87	2041.10	791.42		
3.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6093.79	@
4.	Gujarat	643.80	277.30	-	-	7357.54	864.71	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Haryana			287.00	31.10	-	-	-	-	4829.25	168.87	-	-
6.	Karnataka	-	-	2605.99	186.68	7672.40	526.06	778.06	226.57	779.20	200.85	3830.84	1540.20
7.	Kerala	-	-	-	-	1996.07	62.61	-	-	1	-	-	-
8.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	532.78	107.89	5723.65	494.95	-	-	4220.39	#
9.	Maharashtra	5996.75	529.61	1073.15	574.71	3232.15	778.09	4475.76	552.88	6P13.28	1962.99	4002.82	#
						1801.32	1036.98						

(₹ in crores)

10.	Odisha	1576.80	376.55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1687.56	#
		1081.61	438.87										
11.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	1107.99	320.64	-	-	11885.45	1447.73	-	-	
12.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	19665.13	624.69	-	-	-	-	-	-	
13.	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	500.53	270.55	4819.49	777.34	2057.79	-	#
									7573.70	2801.59			
14.	Jharkhand	2871.00	855.30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
15.	West Bengal	1100.00	724.99	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
16.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	353.595	71.53	-	-	
17.	Telangana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	117.59	83.744	1846.60	-	#

@ proposal has been sent to MHA for HLC consideration

# Proposals are at various stages of processing.

**Production of foodgrains etc. by using bio-technology**

651. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India will be the leading country in 2020 in producing GM rice, wheat and vegetables by using bio-technology instead of conventional practices;
- (b) if so, the details of the move proposed towards this end; and
- (c) what could be the adverse effect on soil by resorting to bio-technology and in using the products through bio-technology means?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) As of now, Bt. Cotton is the only Genetically Modified crop approved for commercial cultivation by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for cultivation in ten states namely Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab. All proposals for GM crops have to undergo elaborate food and environmental safety assessment following regulatory guidelines and standard operating procedures under Environment Protection Act 1986 and Rules 1989. No GM crop is permitted for commercial release till bio-safety and environmental clearance is obtained, and this entire process takes a minimum of 7 to 10 years. Hence, at this stage it is not possible to predict that India will lead by 2020 in production of GM rice, wheat and vegetables by using Bio-technology instead of conventional practices.

- (c) There are no scientific reports of adverse effects on soil by use of bio-technology.

**Damage to paddy crop in Jharkhand**

652. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been widespread damage to paddy crop in Jharkhand due to deficient rains;
- (b) if so, whether Government of Jharkhand has submitted a report to Central Government in this regard;

- (c) if so, the estimate of financial loss projected by the State Government; and
- (d) the quantum of financial assistance sought by the Government of Jharkhand to compensate the farmers for their losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (d) During Kharif 2015, in view of the deficit rainfall, many States are facing drought situation and damage to the crops. In the eventuality of drought and other natural calamity State Governments are empowered to initiate necessary relief measures from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) which is readily available with them. Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) on receipt of drought relief memoranda from State Governments and in accordance with extant norms and procedures. However, no relief memorandum seeking financial assistance under NDRF has been received as yet from the State Government of Jharkhand.

#### **Decline in sowing of rabi crops**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a substantial drop in rabi crop sowing in Maharashtra and other parts of the country which is likely to adversely affect the production of foodgrains in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the remedial measures Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) The area coverage under rabi crops at all India level is 317.96 lakh hectare as on 27.11.2015 against 372.61 lakh hectare in corresponding week of last year, which is less by 14.66 %. The sowing of rabi crops is in progress. Therefore, it is too early to assess the production of rabi crops at this stage.

In Maharashtra, area sown under rabi crops as on 27.11.2015 and area sown in corresponding week last year is as under:

(Area :In lakh ha)

Crops	Area sown as on 27.11.2015	Area sown in corresponding week last year
Wheat	2.316	1.748
Pulses	11.127	6.403
Coarse cereals	23.881	15.949
Oilseeds	0.716	0.541
TOTAL	38.040	24.641

(c) In view of moisture stress conditions in many states for rabi crops sowing, advisories are being given to farmers for use of suitable seeds/crops & technologies.

#### **White fly attack on cotton crops**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that white fly attack on cotton crops in Punjab and other parts of the country has almost destroyed the cotton crops, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) the action Government has taken or proposes to take to provide relief to the cotton growers and also to protect cotton crops from white fly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) During Kharif, 2015 whitefly infestation was reported in cotton crop especially from the eight cotton growing districts of Fazilka, Bathinda, Mansa, Shri Muktsar Sahib, Sangrur, Barnala, Faridkot and Moga in Punjab. As per the figures provided by the Punjab State, 3.32 lakh hectare area of cotton was infested. In Haryana, special girdawari has been ordered to assess the losses due to whitefly infestation. No major losses on this account were reported from any other cotton growing State in the country.

(b) As per the information given by the State Govt. of Punjab a sum of Rs.643.58 crores have been released as compensation. Timely advisories were issued to the various State Governments including Punjab to manage the whitefly problem in Bt. Cotton. In addition, a list of pesticides recommended by CIB & RC (Central Insecticide Board & Registration Committee) to manage whitefly in the cotton was also provided to the State



Government. A special survey was conducted by the Central Team in association with State Department Officers in the affected areas in Punjab & Haryana States. Senior officers of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare visited the affected areas in Punjab and Haryana to provide all necessary assistance in taking effective corrective steps. In addition, a Joint Expert Group has been constituted by Punjab and Haryana Governments on white fly infestation.

**Implementation of Vidarbha Intensive Irrigation Development Programme**

655. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is implementing the Vidarbha Intensive Irrigation Development Programme;
- (b) if so, the amount allocated to this programme in 2014-15 and 2015-16; and
- (c) the funds disbursed so far to the State Government of Maharashtra for this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (c) Vidarbha Intensive Irrigation Development Programme (VIIDP) Scheme was introduced in 2012-13 with the aim to bring in more farming areas under the protective irrigation of 11 districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra State. The Scheme is being implemented as a Sub Scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY).

Year-wise details of Allocation, Released and Expenditure of the VIIDP Scheme are given in the Statement (*See below*).

**Statement**

*Year-wise details of Allocation, Released and Expenditure for the Vidarbha Intensive Irrigation Development Programme (VIIDP) Scheme.*

(₹ in crore)				
Sl.No.	Year	Allocation	Release	Expenditure
1.	2012-13	300.00	300.00	300.00
2.	2013-14	300.00	150.00	150.00
3.	2014-15	150.00	150.00	134.61
4.	2015-16	75.00	37.50	0.00
TOTAL		825.00	637.50	584.61

**Agreement with foreign countries in the field of agriculture**

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

(a) whether India has entered into any agreement/cooperation with a number of countries in the field of agriculture, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the United States of America (USA) has also evinced keen interest to extend cooperation in the agriculture sector and if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMOHANBHAIKALYANJIBHAIKUNDARIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has entered into 74 MoUs/Agreements with 63 countries in the field of agriculture. The areas for cooperation in these MoUs/Agreements *inter-alia* include enhancing investment in agriculture, cooperation in research and development, increasing productivity, post-harvest management, value addition/food processing, plant protection, animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries, enhancing trade, mutual exchange visits of scientist, mutual exchange of technical expertise, exchange of Germ-plasm, transfer of technology, setting up of centers of excellence in different fields to demonstrate new technologies etc.

(b) A MoU between Government of India and USA had been signed on 16.03.2010 for cooperation in various fields such as Science, Technology and Education; Weather Forecasting for Crop Management and Market Information; Farm-Market Linkages and Private Investment in Agriculture; Food Security Cooperation; and Nutrition.

**Damage to cotton crops**

†657. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total damage occurred to cotton crop in the country due to white fly insect, the State-wise details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that more than 25 per cent of cotton crop has been damaged by white fly in Haryana and Punjab;

(c) the effect of over-supply of cotton and falling price of yarn in global market on Indian cotton industry; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for their agricultural production in the country?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) As per the figures provided by the Punjab State, 3.32 lakh hectares area of cotton has been infested by Whitefly. In Haryana, special girdawari, has been ordered to assess the losses due to whitefly infestation. No major losses on this account were reported from any other cotton growing State in the country.

(c) India is the second largest producer of cotton in the world with a share of 24 percent of global production and also the second largest exporter with a share of 21 percent in global exports. India's exports of cotton has increased from 1.6 lakh tonnes in 2003-04 to 19.9 lakh tonnes in 2013-14 before declining to 10.9 lakh tonnes in 2014-15. The decline was mainly due to subdued demand from China which is a major export destination for Indian cotton. Both domestic and international prices have been ruling above MSP.

(d) The MSP ensures remunerative price to the farmers for their agricultural produce. The Government organizes purchase operations through its designated agencies i.e. Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) for undertaking procurement operations under Price Support Scheme (PSS) as and when the market prices fall below the MSPs fixed by the Government.

#### **Conservation of indigenous breeds of livestock**

658. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive plan for conserving the indigenous breeds of livestock viz. Murrah, ongole and Punganur, etc., which are superior in quality, resistant to diseases and able to withstand the vagaries of the local climate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (c) In order to complement and supplement the efforts made by the States for conserving indigenous breeds of livestock viz. Murrah, Ongole and Punganur Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries is implementing schemes having component for

development and conservation of indigenous breeds namely: (i) National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development; (ii) National Dairy Plan-I; (iii) Central Cattle Breeding Farms; (iv) Central Herd Registration Scheme and (v) Central Frozen Semen production and Training Institute. With a view to conserve and develop indigenous bovine breeds the Government has provided further focus on indigenous bovine breeds by way of a new initiative Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Under the National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development Scheme National Kamdhenu Breeding Centre (NKBC) has been initiated for establishment of two NKBC as a Centre of Excellence to develop and conserve Indigenous Breeds in a holistic and scientific manner.

**Employment opportunities in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry sectors**

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

(a) whether Agriculture and Animal Husbandry sectors have tremendous potentials to generate employment opportunities;

(b) if so, the details of employment generated in these sectors in each State during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period till date;

(c) whether Government intends to intensify its efforts in this direction during the remaining part of the Twelfth Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):  
(a) Yes, Sir. The Agriculture and Animal Husbandry sectors have potential to generate indirect employment through various schemes.

(b) to (d) As per Agricultural Statistics, 2014, published by Department of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the total number of agricultural workers account for 263 million comprising of 118.7 million of cultivators (45.1% of the total) and 144.3 million of agricultural labourers (54.9% of the total). This is a very high percentage of population engaged in agricultural sector. The attention of the Government as regards employment opportunities in the agriculture sector is now mainly on improving the productivity of labour through increased per unit yield of various field and plantation crops and skill development and transfer of appropriate technology. The Government is of the view, that if there is increase in per unit yield through improved technology,

package of practices, reduced cost of cultivation and removal of drudgery of labour, it will all contribute to higher quality of employment and productivity of labour in the agriculture sector. With this end in view, some of the important schemes / Programmes/ missions being implemented in the agriculture and animal husbandry sectors are:

(i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) on rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals and commercial crops (cotton, sugarcane and jute).

(ii) Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI)

(iii) Crop Diversification Programme (CDP)

The focus on transfer of scientific technology under all the three above schemes will lead to higher productivity and production of crops.

(iv) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)

(v) National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)

(vi) Soil Health Card Scheme (SHC)

(vii) Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

(viii) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

(ix) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

(x) Dairy entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS)

(xi) National Livestock Mission (NLM)

(xii) Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization

The above programmes that focus on horticulture crops, oil seeds, soil health card, organic farming, efficient use of water, strengthening of backward and forward linkages and dairy and livestock aim at strengthening the production environment of the agricultural as well as animal husbandry sector from end to end and enhance productive employment opportunities in the sector.

The Government is also promoting creation of Integrated Agriculture Market in the country and when National Agriculture Market comes to be finally established, it will generate large number of productive employment in the marketing sector besides contributing to fair and transparent price discovery of the produce of the farmers.

The guidelines adopted under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) prescribe, that 60% of the works to be taken up in the

district in terms of cost shall be for creation of productive assets linked to agriculture and allied activities through development of land, water and trees cover. This intervention also helps in employment generation in the agriculture and allied sectors.

In consonance with the Skill India Mission of the Government, the Ministry is also focusing on skill and knowledge development under the ongoing Missions and promote enterprise thereby.

Under the Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM), the National Institute of Agriculture Marketing (NIAM), Jaipur provides for two year post-graduate diploma in Agri-business Management with an aim to contribute to employment generation in the agri-business sector. The National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM) also conducts one year diploma in Plant Health Management.

The Department also promotes Capital Investment Subsidy (CIS) Scheme namely, Gramin Bhandaran Yojana (GBY) and Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading & Standardization (AMIGS). These schemes which were under implementation since 20.10.2014 have now been subsumed as Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI), a sub-scheme of ISAM. This sub-scheme is currently operational in North-Eastern States and for SC/ST categories across the country. The scheme creates employment opportunities by promoting various types of agricultural marketing infrastructure including storage.

All these schemes have the potential of creating employment opportunities for skilled and unskilled rural population in the agriculture and animal husbandry sectors.

#### **Pest infestation on cotton crops in Punjab and Haryana**

660. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a pest infestation destroyed much of the cotton crop in Punjab and Haryana, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government had taken any steps to prevent this calamity, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government is taking to ensure that such a situation doesn't arise in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND

FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir. During Kharif, 2015 whitefly infestation was reported in cotton crop especially from the eight cotton growing districts of Fazilka, Bathinda, Mansa, Shri Muktsar Sahib, Sangrur, Barnala, Faridkot and Moga in Punjab. As per the figures provided by the Punjab State, 3.32 lakh hectare area of cotton was infested. In Haryana, special girdwari has been ordered to assess the losses due to whitefly infestation.

(b) and (c) Timely advisories were issued to the various State Governments including Punjab to manage the whitefly problem in Bt. Cotton. In addition, a list of pesticides recommended by CIB & RC (Central Insecticide Board & Registration Committee) to manage whitefly in the cotton was also provided to the State Government. A special survey was conducted by the Central Team in association with State Department Officers in the affected areas in Punjab & Haryana States. Senior Officers of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare visited the affected areas in Punjab and Haryana to provide all necessary assistance in taking effective corrective steps. A Joint Expert Group has been constituted by Punjab and Haryana Governments to find out the reasons of heavy infestation of whitefly in cotton crop and also remedial measures for next crop season.

#### **Suicide by farmers in Karnataka**

661. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of farmers who committed suicide in Karnataka during last three months, month-wise;

(b) whether Government has assessed/ has been apprised by the State Government, the reasons for this alarming rise in farmers' suicide cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Central Government in this regard; and

(d) whether Government is considering to announce any immediate relief measures like special packages/debt waiver etc. for the debt ridden farmers of Karnataka, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):

(a) The Government of Karnataka has reported that the number of farmers' suicides in the State during the last three months are as under:

Month/Year	No. of suicides
August, 2015	217
September, 2015	143
October, 2015	206

(b) The Government of Karnataka has reported debt as the main reason for farmers' suicides. Other reasons reported by the State Government include social conditions, lack of self confidence etc.

(c) The Government of Karnataka has reported that it has taken the following measures:-

- (i) A sum of ₹ 5 lakh as relief is provided to each of the deceased families. This is the upward revision made effective from 1.4.2015 as against ₹ 1 lakh that was the norm earlier.
- (ii) The Children of the deceased will get free education including hostel facilities upto post graduation level.
- (iii) Decided to waive-off interest overdue on short, medium and long term loans borrowed for agriculture and allied activities from co-operative institutions.
- (iv) The recovery of installments due from 2015-16 on medium and long-term loans borrowed for agriculture and allied activities, has been postponed by one year.

The Government believes, that farmers welfare will improve if there is increase in net income from the farms. With this end in view, the approach is to reduce cost of cultivation, enable higher yield per unit and realize remunerative prices. Some of the important new initiatives in this context are :

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the exact nutrient level available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and save money. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate urea use, enhance its availability to the crop and cut on cost. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured urea is now neem coated.
- (iii) Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view



to promoting organic farming in the country. This will improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realise premium prices.

- (iv) The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is another innovative scheme to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.
- (v) The Government is also implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes - National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds & Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET); National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP); Unified National Agriculture Markets; and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- (vi) The Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production. Losses, if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared by the Central Government and the concerned State Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States). Profit, if any, earned by the procuring agencies is retained by them.
- (d) The Government believes that its comprehensive interventions address the concerns from production to marketing stages including enhanced credit availability which will take care of the situation.

#### **Apprehension of rise in price of foodgrains**

†662.SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken cognizance of the fact that owing to low production of sugarcane and foodgrains such as rice, because of natural reasons, there is possibility of rise in the prices of these commodities;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Industries Chamber ASSOCHAM has handed over to the Government a report which expresses a fear that the prices of foodgrains may rise; and

(c) if so, the plan Government contemplates to deal with this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (c) Despite unfavourable rainfall and weather conditions etc. during 2014-15 and 2015-16, the production of sugarcane in the country during 2014-15 has been marginally higher than that of 2013-14. However, it is estimated to decrease by about 5% in 2015-16 as compared to 2014-15.

Further, it is to be stated that production of sugar in the country during current sugar season 2015-16 is provisionally estimated at about 260 lakh tonnes. With the carryover stock of about 90 lakh tonnes, the availability of sugar would be sufficient to meet the domestic demand during the current sugar season 2015-16. As such, the prices of sugar in domestic market are expected to be within normal range.

Despite rainfall deficiency of 12% during 2014-15 and 14% during 2015-16, as per the latest available estimates for each year, the decline in foodgrain production has been only by 4.66% in 2014-15 as against 2013-14 and by 1.78% in 2015-16 (kharif) against 2014-15. Production of rice declined by 1.73% in 2014-15 against 2013-14 and is estimated to decline by 0.27% during 2015-16 as against 2014-15.

The ASSOCHAM report indicated rice requirement of 108 million tonnes during 2015-16. Taking into account the estimated production of Kharif rice of 90.61 million tonnes, likely production of rice during Rabi season and the current stock position of rice the total availability of rice in the country is likely to exceed the requirement of 108 million tonnes projected by ASSOCHAM. As such there is no likelihood of shortfall of rice in 2015-16.

#### **Rise in incidents of suicide by farmers**

663. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of farmers committing suicide has risen/ increased constantly since the inception of the present Government;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent suicide cases of farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):  
(a) and (b) It cannot be said so. This Government came into office on May 26, 2014. As seen from the NCRB report, 2014 the number of suicide under the category 'Self-employed Persons (Agriculture)' stand at 12360, including 5650 number of farmers and 6710 number of agriculture labourer. For the year 2013, NCRB reported 11772 number of suicide under the category 'Self employment - Farming/ Agriculture', but it did not sub-categories it into farmer and labourer. For the year 2015, the NCRB report is yet not available.

According to the NCRB Report of 2014, the major causes of suicides by farmers are as under:

- (i) Bankruptcy or indebtedness
- (ii) Farming related issues e.g. Failure of crops, Distress due to natural calamities, inability to sell produce.
- (iii) Poverty
- (iv) Family problems
- (v) Illness
- (vi) Other causes

(c) The Government believes, that farmers welfare will improve if there is increase in net income from the farms. With this end in view, the approach is to reduce cost of cultivation, enable higher yield per unit and realize remunerative prices. Some of the important new initiatives in this context are :

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the exact nutrient level available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and save money. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate urea use, enhance its availability to the crop and cut on cost. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured urea is now neem coated.
- (iii) Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promoting organic farming in the country. This will improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realise premium prices.

- (iv) The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is another innovative scheme to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.
- (v) The Government is also implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes - National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds & Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET); National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP); Unified National Agriculture Markets; and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- (vi) The Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production. Losses, if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared by the Central Government and the concerned State Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States). Profit, if any, earned by the procuring agencies is retained by them.

#### **Implementation of Soil Health Card programme**

664. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of soil samples collected, tested and number of Soil Health Cards issued till date against fixed targets, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government plans to increase infrastructure and capacity of soil testing laboratories, if so, details thereof and time-line therefor and if not, reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government plans to shift to evaluation of fields of individual farmers from the current grid system followed, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether Government envisages establishment of mobile testing facilities under Soil Health Card programme, if so, details thereof and time-line for implementation, if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):

(a) Under the Soil Health Card Scheme, as on 27.11.2015, 55.02 lakh soil samples collected, 31.43 lakh samples analyzed and 26.53 lakh Soil Health Cards issued to farmers. The State-wise details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Government has plan to increase infrastructure and capacity of soil testing laboratories. From 2014-15, and up to October, 2015, under the Soil Health Management, 103 Static, 77 Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories and strengthening of 269 number of existing laboratories sanctioned.

(c) As per Operational Guidelines of Soil Health Card Scheme, samples to be collected and tested in a grid of 2.5 hectare in irrigated area and 10 hectare in rainfed areas.

(d) Soil Testing Laboratories are established under Soil Health Management Scheme and from 2014-15, and upto October, 2015, 77 Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories sanctioned to various States.

**Statement**

*State-wise number of soil samples collected, tested and Soil Health Cards issued under Soil Health Card Scheme.*

Sl. No.	State	Target No. of samples 2015-16	No. of Samples Collected	Name of Samples tested	No. of SHC issued
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>I. South Zone</b>					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	400000	401782	401610	607518
2.	Karnataka	533000	0	0	0
3.	Kerala	63800	20000	9000	5064
4.	Tamil Nadu	426000	364576	239366	886692
5.	Telangana	584000	324561	238245	145746
<b>II. West Zone</b>					
6.	Gujarat	1366000	1198000	1012098	403000

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Madhya Pradesh	805000	391560	214626	164000
8.	Maharashtra	911000	768000	336000	63000
9.	Rajasthan	904000	484000	165000	126374
10.	Chhattisgarh	292588	100000	68553	43710
11.	Goa	25000	13993	210	0
III.	<b>North Zone</b>				
12.	Haryana	400000	173805	19064	19064
13.	Punjab	176000	130674	55700	44742
14.	Uttarakhand	67607	27433	21500	29242
15.	Uttar Pradesh	1800000	459237	14856	20370
16.	Himachal Pradesh	69635	43322	25314	5546
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	55106	13877	10894	6858
IV.	<b>East Zone</b>				
18.	Bihar	448000	234931	95709	12287
19.	Jharkhand	47850	22730	5747	3107
20.	Odisha	310000	96500	72077	53008
21.	West Bengal	310000	96240	32000	7200
V.	<b>NE Zone</b>				
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	9000	0	0	0
23.	Assam	180000	12126	3756	413
24.	Manipur	11000	3000	0	0
25.	Meghalaya	22000	16627	8371	3142
26.	Mizoram	9671	2000	2000	0
27.	Nagaland	11141	30000	20150	1800
28.	Sikkim	13000	65000	65000	0
29.	Tripura	10912	8388	6391	1921
	TOTAL	10261310	5502362	3143237	2653804

**Review of agriculture policy**

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

- (a) whether there has been a constant decline in the percentage of land under cultivation in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the decreasing trend till date;
- (c) whether Government would consider to review the Agriculture policy in order to float more lucrative schemes to attract farmers to their traditional profession of agriculture farming in the interest of the Nation and its population; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):

(a) and (b) Depending upon the rainfall situation, availability of water in reservoirs, irrigation facilities and shift of area to/from other competitive crops etc, there have been minor fluctuations in the total cultivated land in the country. As per Land Use Statistics, year wise details of cultivated land in the country during 2006-07 to 2012-13 (latest available) are as under :

(Million Hectares)	
All India	Cultivated land
2006-07	155.33
2007-08	155.66
2008-09	156.09
2009-10	155.18
2010-11	155.84
2011-12	155.49
2012-13	155.21

(c) and (d) As the National Policy for Farmers 2007 is 8 years old, this Department has initiated action to revisit the exiting policy.

**MSP for agricultural produces to encourage organic farming**

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

(a) whether any scheme to announce Minimum Support Price (MSP) of various cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits to encourage organic farming, is under Government's consideration so that farmers could get fair price for their produce; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):

(a) and (b) There is no separate Minimum Support Price for crops under organic farming. Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for twenty two (22) crops namely Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Arhar, Moong, Urad, Groundnut-in-shell, Soyabean, Sunflower, Sesamum, Nigerseed, Cotton, Wheat, Barley, Gram, Masur (Lentil), Rapeseed/Mustardseed, Safflower, Jute and Copra and Fair & Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), views of the State Governments, concerned Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors. Producers have the option to sell their produce to Government agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them.

Organic produce commands a higher price in the market in comparison to non-organic produce. Government is promoting organic farming in a cluster approach to bring down its costs, which is expected to increase return to the farmers, through Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PMKY) using traditional resources and organic products.

**Suicide by farmers owing to insufficient rains**

667. DR. PRADEEPKUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the incidents of suicide by farmers in the country owing to insufficient rains, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any request has been received from State Governments in this regard for release of financial assistance; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to prevent the farmers community from committing suicides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):

(a) and (b) Eight (8) States namely, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra,



Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have reported occurrence of drought on account of deficit rainfall in Kharif 2015. The Financial Memorandum seeking Central assistance have been submitted by Karnataka for ₹ 3830.84 crore, Chhattisgarh for ₹ 6093.79 crore, Madhya Pradesh for ₹ 4821.64 crore, Maharashtra for Rs. 4002.82 crore, Odisha for ₹1687.56 crore, Uttar Pradesh for ₹ 2057.79 crore and Telangana for ₹ 1846.60 crore from NDRF.

As regards suicides by farmers in these States, based on the reports received from them, the details including reasons are given in the Statement (*See* below). These figures are for the period beginning January, 2015.

(c) Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) have visited the States of Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Reports have been submitted by the IMCTs of Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Report of Central Teams of Karnataka and Chhattisgarh were considered by the Sub-Committee of National Executive Committee (SC-NEC). Recommendation of SC-NEC was considered by HLC and an amount of ₹ 1540.20 crore has been approved for Karnataka from NDRF. Recommendation of SC-NEC in respect of Chhattisgarh has been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs for consideration of HLC. IMCT has been constituted and the team has visited the affected areas of Maharashtra from 19th to 22nd November, 2015. IMCT of Odisha and Uttar Pradesh have also been constituted to visit the affected areas. IMCT for Telangana is being constituted.

Government believes, that farmers welfare will improve if there is increase in net income from the farms. With this end in view, the approach is to reduce cost of cultivation, enable higher yield per unit and realize remunerative prices. Some of the important new initiatives in this context are :

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the exact nutrient level available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and save money. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate urea use, enhance its availability to the crop and cut on cost. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured urea is now neem coated.
- (iii) Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promoting organic farming in the country. This will improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realise premium prices.

- (iv) The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is another innovative scheme to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.
- (v) The Government is also implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes - National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET); National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP); Unified National Agriculture Markets; and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- (vi) The Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Price Support Scheme on the request of State/ UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production. Losses, if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared by the Central Government and the concerned State Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States). Profit, if any, earned by the procuring agencies is retained by them.

***Statement***

*Number of suicides by farmers as reported by State Governments*

Sl. No.	State	2015	Reported on	Reasons
1.	Karnataka	107	22-07-2015	Burden of loan
2.	Chhattisgarh	Not Reported	-	-
3.	Madhya Pradesh	0	08-06-2015	-
4.	Maharashtra	725	30-09-2015	Agrarian reasons
5.	Odisha	0	20-07-2015	-
6.	Uttar Pradesh	0	16-07-2015	-
7.	Telangana	Not Reported	20-07-2015	-
8.	Andhra Pradesh	28	24-07-2015	Agrarian reasons

**Import of 'fake' dals**

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

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards the criticism of a noted environment activist that Government is importing 'fake' dals and is sending the signal to farmers that it is not worth growing pulses; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) India imports pulses to meet gap between domestic production and demand. Major pulses imported by India are peas, chickpeas (gram), moong/urad, lentils, pigeon pea (tur). Pulses in India are imported by private sector and not by Government. However, in order to meet growing demand, the Government imported 5,000 ton pigeon pea (tur), recently. The Government promotes production of pulses through National Food Security Mission & other programmes. Government also announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for pulses every year to support farmers.

**Production and import of pulses**

669. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of pulses in the country in the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively;

(b) the quantity of import of pulses in the years 2012, 2013 and 2014; and

(c) the shortfall of pulses in 2015 and the quantity of imports in metric tonnes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) The details of production of pulses in the country during 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 are as under:

Year	Production of Pulses (Million Tonnes)		
	Kharif	Rabi	Total
2013-14	5.99	13.25	19.25
2014-15*	5.63	11.57	17.20
2015-16#	5.56	-	5.56

\*4th advance estimates #1st advance estimates (kharif only)

(b) The details of import of pulses during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 are as under:-

Year	Quantity of pulses imported
	(Lakh tonnes)
2012-13	40.13
2013-14	31.77
2014-15	45.84

(c) Production of pulses in the country is generally lower than their requirement by 40-50 lakh tonnes. The quantity of pulses imported during 2015-16 (April-September) is 22.54 lakh tonnes.

**Problem of recurring drought situation in the country**

670. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names and the number of districts in various States, including Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand which are facing drought almost every year;

(b) whether Central Government has received any suggestions from these States to deal with the drought situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the response/assistance of the Central Government thereto; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to mitigate the problem of drought in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):

(a) During Kharif 2015, in view of the deficit rainfall, many States like Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh are facing drought situation. List of drought affected districts is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) State Governments initiate necessary relief measures for farmers in the wake of drought 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. The following State Governments have submitted Memoranda seeking financial assistance: ₹ 3830.84 crore by Karnataka, ₹ 6093.79 crore by Chhattisgarh, ₹ 4821.64 crore by Madhya Pradesh, ₹ 4002.82 crore by Maharashtra, ₹ 1687.56 crore by Odisha, ₹ 2057.79 crore by Uttar Pradesh and ₹ 1846.60 crore by Telangana from NDRF. Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) have visited the States of Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. An amount of ₹ 1540.20 crore has been approved for Karnataka from NDRF. The proposals from other States are at various stages of processing/finalization.

(d) Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities has prepared contingency plans for 600 districts for implementing location specific interventions to sustain agriculture production in the eventuality of any extreme climatic events.

Besides other measures and provisions of funds under SDRF as also NDRF, the following interventions have been made in the wake of deficient rainfall as per IMD forecast of below average monsoon:

- (i) Implementation of Diesel Subsidy Scheme for protective irrigation of crops;
- (ii) Enhancement of ceiling on seed subsidy to partially recompense the farmer for the additional expenditure incurred in resowing and/or purchasing appropriate varieties of seeds;
- (iii) Implementation of interventions on perennial horticulture crops under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH);
- (iv) Implementation of Additional Fodder Development Programme (AFDP) as a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

States have also been advised to ensure availability of short duration and drought tolerant varieties of seeds so as to be in a position to supply them to farmers in case such a need arises. All State Governments have also been advised to initiate advance remedial action e.g. constructing water harvesting structures under MGNREGA and other such schemes, promoting agronomic practices for moisture conservation, promoting cultivation of less water consuming crops and restoring irrigation infrastructure by desilting canals, energizing tube-wells, replacing/repairing faulty pumps, etc.

**Statement**

*State-wise details of districts declared drought  
affected during 2015-16*

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of drought affected districts	Name of districts
1.	Karnataka	27	Bangalore Rural, Ramanagara, Kolar, Chickballapur, Tumakuru, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Chamarajanagar, Mysuru, Mandya, Ballari, Koppal, Raichur, Kalaburgi, Yadgir, Bidar, Belagavi, Bagalkote, Vijapura, Gadag, Haveri, Dharwad, Shivamogga, Hassan, Kodagu, Uttara Kannada, Chikkamagaluru
2.	Chhattisgarh	25	Raipur, Gariband, Mahasamund, Dhamtari, Durg, Balod, Bemetara, Rajnandgaon, Kabirdham, Baster, Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Kanker, Dantewara, Sukma, Bijapur, Bilaspur, Mungeli, Janjgir Chamap, Korba, Balrampur, Surajpur, Koriya, Raigarh, Jashpur
3.	Madhya Pradesh	22	Katni, Shahdol, Umaria, Anuppur, Tikamgarh, Rewa, Jabalpur, Sidhi, Sagar, Damoh, Seoni, Sigroli, Sheopur, Chhatarpur, Bhind, Panna, Satna, Dindori, Shivpuri, Mandsaur, Morena, Jhabua
4.	Maharashtra	21	Nashik, Dhule, Nadurbar, Jalgaon, Ahmednagar, Pune, Satara, Sangli, Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed, Latur, Osmanabad, Nanded, Parbhani, Hingoli, Buldhana, Akola, Yeotmal, Nagpur, Gadchiroli
5.	Odisha	21	Angul, Bargarh, Balangir, Boudh, Cuttack, Jajpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Khordha, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Nayagarh, Nuapada, Puri, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Sundergarh

Sl.	Name of state	No. of drought affected districts	Name of districts
6.	Andhra Pradesh	7	Srikakulam, Prakasam, SPS Nellore, Chittoor, Kadapa, Ananthapuram, Kurnool  <b>(Memorandum seeking financial Assistance is yet to be received)</b>
7.	Uttar Pradesh	50	Sant Ravidas Nagar, Sonbhadra, Sultanpur, Mirzapur, Ballia, Sidhartha Nagar, Shajahanpur, Banda, Pratapgarh, Chandauli, Etawah, Basti, Baghpat, Jaunpur, Faizabad, Gonda, Kannauj, Barabanki, Sant Kabir Nagar, Jhansi, Jalaun, Gorakhpur, Hathras, Etah, Allahabad, Ghaziabad, Farukhabad, Mau, Unnao, Rampur, Hamirpur, Lalitpur, Chitrakoot, Kanpur Nagar, Lucknow, Deoria, Mainpuri, Maharajganj, Agra, Auraiya, Pilibhit, Amethi, Mahoba, Rai Bareilly, Kushi Nagar, Kanpur Dehat, Kaushambi, Fatehpur, Ambedkar Nagar and Balrampur
8.	Telangana	7	Mahabubnagar, Medak, Nizamabad, Ranga Reddy, Nalgonda, Karimnagar and Warangal  <b>(Interim Memorandum has been received)</b>

**Production technique to increase production in farms of small holdings**

671. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

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

- (a) the percentage of agricultural land in the country;
- (b) whether production technique based on machines can be beneficial for agricultural production in farms of small holdings; and
- (c) if so, Government's response thereto and the technique being suggested by scientists to farmers having small holdings for increase in production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA ):

(a) As per Land Use Statistics for 2012-13 (latest available) percentage of agricultural land to the total geographical land in the country is 55.35%.

(b) and (c) Machine-based farming is beneficial for small as well as medium and large farms. However, machinery is only one of the many inputs for agricultural production. Other inputs such as seed, fertilizer, water, pesticides etc. are also important.

For small farmers a number of hand tools, implements, machinery/equipment based on animal power/mechanical power have been developed/evaluated by Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE) and other Institutions. These items used in conjunction with other appropriate inputs and agronomic practices are helpful in increasing production/productivity on small farms.

#### **Controlling the prices of medicines**

672. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:

SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) the details of steps being taken by Government for controlling the prices of medicines and providing medicines at cheap/fair rate to the poor; and

(b) whether it is a fact that some medicines have been added and some removed by making changes at a large scale in the control list by Government for providing medicines at cheaper price, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) Pursuant to the announcement of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012, Government notified Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) on 15th May, 2013. All the medicines specified in the National List of Essential Medicines 2011 (NLEM) have been included in the Schedule I of DPCO, 2013 and brought under price control. Consequent to the price fixation of drugs under this order, the accessibility (to the drugs) of poor people has improved. Out of total 680 NLEM medicines (628 net medicines) under scheduled category of DPCO, 2013, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed the ceiling prices in respect of 530 medicines under provisions of the said order.



The details of reduction in prices of 530 scheduled formulations effected under DPCO, 2013 as compared to the highest price prevailing prior to the announcement of DPCO, 2013 are given as under:

*Reduction in price with respect maximum price as on 31.10.2015*

% reduction with respect to Maximum Price	No. of drugs
0 <=5%	80
5 <=10%	50
10<=15%	57
15<=20%	43
20<=25%	65
25<=30%	49
30<=35%	26
35<=40%	34
Above 40%	126
TOTAL	530

In addition, maximum retail price (MRP) has been capped in respect of 106 non scheduled medicines, out of which 84 are used for treatment of cardiovascular diseases and 22 for diabetes, under para 19 of DPCO, 2013. The reduction in prices effected as compared to the highest price prevailed prior price capping are as follows:

% reduction with respect	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

NPPA has also fixed the retail price of 247 'new drugs' under para 5 of DPCO, 2013.

NPPA regularly monitors the prices of scheduled and non scheduled formulations under provisions of DPCO, 2013. No person is authorized to sell any scheduled formulation (medicine) to a consumer at a price exceeding the ceiling price notified/approved by the NPPA/Government. In respect of non-scheduled formulations the annual price rise is limited to 10% of the previous year.

NPPA takes remedial steps for ensuring availability of drugs by impressing upon manufacturers to rush the stocks to the places of shortage.

Further, to check the adequate availability of essential medicines in the country, para 21 (1) of DPCO, 2013 provides for submission of quarterly return as stated in Form-III of the said order by the manufacturer/ importer/marketer of scheduled medicines and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients contained in scheduled formulations.

(b) No change in Schedule I to DPCO, 2013 has been made by the Government.

#### **Implementation of procurement policy for urea and manure**

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

(a) the time by which Government proposes to implement procurement policy for urea and manure;

(b) the details of the report of Government suggesting the hazards caused from urea consumption;

(c) the details of the total availability of manures in the country and the steps taken by Government to enhance its production;

(d) whether natural manure is cheaper than chemicals fertilizers and the steps taken by Government to popularize it; and

(e) the details of the production of natural manure as on date and how much Government will save by linking it to subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) There is no such policy. However, as per the extant policy provisions, the import of urea is done through three State Trading Enterprises (STEs) i.e. MMTC Ltd. (MMTC), State Trading Corporation

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(STC) and Indian Potash Limited (IPL), based on the demand projected by Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers' Welfare.

(b) No such report came to notice regarding hazards caused from urea consumption.

(c) Details of organic manure availability in the country (excluding green manures) is given in the Statement (*See* below). Steps taken by Government to enhance its production are as follows:

- (i) To improve the availability of manures in the country 100% assistance to State Government/Government agencies upto a maximum limit of ₹ 190.00 lakh/unit and 33% of cost limited to ₹ 63 lakh/unit for individuals/private agencies through NABARD as capital investment for 3000 TPA production capacity.
- (ii) For promotion of organic inputs on farmers' field (manure, vermin- compost, bio-fertilizers liquid/solid, waste compost, herbal extracts etc.) there is provision of financial assistance under Soil Health management component of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) @ 50% of cost subject to a limit of ₹ 5000/- per ha and ₹ 10,000 per beneficiary.
- (iii) There is a provision of financial assistance under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for setting up of vermi- compost units/ organic input production unit (size - 30ft x 8ft x 2.5ft) ₹ 1 lakh per unit for permanent structure and ₹ 16,000/- per unit for HDPE vermin-bed.

(d) No such cost comparison of chemical fertilizers and organic manure has been done. However, organic manure/compost are produced on-farm by the farmers using the available resources may be cost effective. Under NMSA, the National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF), Ghaziabad, is conducting various extension and publicity activities like Exhibitions, Radio Talks, TV Programmes, distribution of literature on organic inputs/ organic farming etc. to educate farmers. NCOF is also publishing Bio-Fertilizer News Letter as well as Organic Farming News Letter Bi-annually and Quarterly respectively. In addition, various books on production and use of bio-fertilizers have been published in various languages for distribution to the farming community. Radio jingle (Hindi) on promotion of organic agriculture broadcasted on 4 different FM Radio Stations at Delhi, Bangalore, Nagpur and Lucknow.

(e) The details of production of natural manure is given in the Statement (*See* below) Regarding saving by linking it to subsidy no data is available.

**Statement***Details of organic manure production and availability in the country  
(excluding green manures)*

Year	Rural compost	Urban compost	FYM	Vermi Compost	Other manures	Total manure production & availability
2009-10	804.49	618.96	1220.65	73.72	40.62	2758.44
2010-11	797.54	111.24	2234.44	114.16	131.82	3389.20
2011-12	939.85	140.86	1860.64	268.50	235.43	3245.28
2012-13	1039.35	143.04	2850.50	53.70	29.16	4115.76
2013-14	224.97	63.33	9647.8	582.27	24.27	10542.64
2014-15	225.88	64.22	1400.4	583.20	24.44	2298.14

The manure production is decreased from 2758.44 MT (2009-10) to 2298.14 MT (2014-15)

**Profit sharing mechanism of urea producers with Government**

674. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether urea producers have approached Government expressing their unhappiness about the present profit sharing mechanism with it with regard to selling excess ammonia produced by them, citing it to be uneconomical due to prevailing high prices of natural gas and current market price of ammonia, the details in this regard;

(b) whether Government would come forward to resolve this issue on priority, if so, the details thereof along with the specific time limit for resolution thereof; and

(c) how much excess ammonia has been sold by urea producers from 1st April, 2015 till date, unit-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) Yes, Sir. One urea manufacturer, i.e. Krishak Bharti Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) has made a representation in this regard.

(b) The preliminary examination of the representation reveals that it lacks detailed justification since sharing of net gain is essential as government is reimbursing normative

fixed cost for production of urea at re-assessed level and thus the gain arising out of any surplus ammonia generation should be shared with the Government.

(c) Unit-wise sale of ammonia by the urea manufacturer from April 2015 is given in the Statement.

**Statement**

*Actual Sale of Surplus Ammonia by Urea Manufacturing  
Units during 1.4.2015 to 23.11.2015*

Sl. No.	Name of Unit	Qty. (MT)
1	Indo Gulf	487
2	KRIBHCO	41846
3	CFCL I	5931
4	CFCL II	6246
5	KSFL	11686
6	NFL Bhatinda	2258
7	RCF Thal	52932
TOTAL		121385

**Profit making PSUs**

675. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all public sector undertakings under the Ministry are making profits;
- (b) if not, the details of the profit making and loss making PSUs under the Ministry; and
- (c) the steps taken for revival of loss making PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The details of profit making and loss making public sector undertakings (PSUs) under the Ministry are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of PSU	Profit /loss during the last three financial years		
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
<b>Fertilizers PSUs</b>				
1.	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF)	Profit	Profit	Profit
2.	FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Ltd. (FAGMIL)	Profit	Profit	Profit
3.	Projects & Development India Ltd. (PDIL)	Profit	Profit	Loss
4.	National Fertilizers Limited (NFL)	Loss	Loss	Profit
5.	Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Limited (BVFCL)	Loss	Loss	Profit
6.	The Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT)	Loss	Loss	Loss
7.	Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL)	Profit	Profit	Loss
8.	Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL)	Profit	Profit	Profit
9.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL)	Loss	Loss	Loss
<b>Chemicals and Petrochemical PSUs</b>				
10.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL)	Loss	Loss	Loss
11.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. (HIL)	Profit	Profit	Profit
12.	Hindustan Fluorocarbons Ltd. (HFL)	Profit	Loss	Loss
<b>Pharmaceutical PSUs</b>				
13.	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL)	Loss	Loss	Loss
14.	Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL)	Loss	Loss	Loss
15.	Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (RDPL)	Profit	Loss	Loss
16.	Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (KAPL)	Profit	Profit	Profit
17.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL)	Loss	Loss	Loss

(c) Steps taken by the Government for revival of loss making PSUs:

**Fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs):**

**(i) Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Limited:**

Government in May 2015 approved financial restructuring of BVFCL involving waiver of total cumulative interest on GoI loan and conversion of GoI loans of ₹ 594.71

crores to interest free loan. Government also approved waiver of loan of ₹ 21.96 crores taken for revamp of Namrup –I and recognition of capital expenditure of ₹ 79.62 crores incurred for revamp of Namrup-III for calculating the concession rate of urea under New Pricing Scheme (NPS)-III. This is likely to make net worth of the company positive during 2015-16.

The Government has also approved setting up a new brown field Ammonia-Urea Plant by phasing out the existing Namrup-II and III plants. This will result in the long term viability of the Company (BVFCL) and also efficient use of scarce natural resource i.e. Natural Gas.

**(ii) The Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Limited:**

FACT, which was a profit making organization, went into losses due to various reasons beyond the control of the organization. The earlier support by the Government of India helped in cleaning up the balance sheet and staying out of the purview of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Networth of the company became negative during 2012-13 and has further deteriorated to a level of (-) 857 crore by 31-03-2015.

In order to ensure the revival of FACT and help it sustain and grow over the years, short term, medium term and long term plans have been identified. Accordingly, a proposal for the Financial restructuring of FACT has been circulated for inter-ministerial consultations on 18.06.2015, which may result in turnaround of FACT and make FACT a profit making Company.

**(iii) Madras Fertilizers Limited :**

MFL started incurring losses in the year 2003-04 and declared Sick in 2009. Though the company has earned operating profit in the last two financial years, however, the net-worth of the company is still negative. In terms of Department of Public Enterprises guidelines on streamlining the mechanism for revival and restructuring of sick Central Public Sector Enterprises, Department of Fertilizers is considering engagement of an external expert agency which has the experience and expertise of the business environment operational issues, technology option and financial viability of the sector in which MFL is functioning to explore the possibility of revival of MFL.

**(iv) Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited:**

The Company was declared sick by the BIFR in 1992. The Government declared closure of all units namely Barauni, Haldia and Durgapur of HFCL in 2002. To bring

the company out from the purview of BIFR a proposal for the financial restructuring of HFCL and to revive Barauni unit through bidding route itself has been circulated for inter-ministerial consultations on 10.09.2015.

**Chemicals and Petrochemical PSUs:**

HOCL and HFL are sick PSUs and are registered with BIFR as sick companies. The details of which are as under:

**v. Hindustan Organic chemicals Ltd.:**

- (i) In 2001, the Government of India provided guarantee for ₹ 100 crore for raising resources from the capital market.
- (ii) Following rehabilitation package was approved for the company in March, 2006:
  - (a) Fund infusion of ₹ 250 crore (preferential shares)
  - (b) Non-cash transaction – Continuation of the Government guarantee for ₹ 100 crore (given in 2001) for 10 years and waiver of interest and penal interest.
- (iii) In February, 2007, the Government approved investment of ₹ 20 crore (preference shares) for restarting the Caustic Chlorine plant at Rasayani unit of the company.
- (iv) Government on 01.08.2013 approved the following revision of terms and conditions of the rehabilitation package of 2006:
  - (a) Postponement of the redemption of ₹ 270 crore preference shares
  - (b) Extension of Government guarantee of ₹100 crore for 5 more years
- (v) In July, 2014, Government further gave guarantee for ₹150 crore for issue of bonds by the company for meeting the working capital requirement, repayment for raw material suppliers, bank loans, employees' dues etc.
- (vi) In September, 2015, the Government paid annual interest of ₹ 10.57 crore on the ₹ 100 crore bonds and ₹ 14.04 crore on the ₹150 crores as the company failed to pay both the amounts due to lack of sufficient funds.

Further, in view of the continuing poor financial position of the company, a revival plan for HOCL has been approved by the company's Board of Directors. Based on the



information contained in the revival plan report, a revival/ restructuring plan for HOCL, is presently under consideration of the Ministry.

**(vi) Hindustan Fluorocarbons Ltd. (HFL):**

For revival and growth of HFL, the company has adopted the strategy to develop fluoro-specialty chemicals and switching over from single product to multi product facility to reduce dependency on PTFE (Poly Tetra Fluoro Ethylene). A Plan loan of Rs.16.80 crore was provided to HFL in 2014-15 for plant refurbishment schemes and new initiatives. This included ₹ 3.60 crore for development of modified PTFE, which has higher profit margins. In 2015-16, Plan loan provision of ₹ 5 crore has been kept in the Department's budget for the schemes / projects of HFL. Further, based on the revival plan for the company approved by its Board of Directors, a revival / restructuring plan for HFL is presently under consideration of the Ministry. The company is yet to submit many crucial supplementary information to the Ministry. These are very important for evaluating the proposal and propose the most appropriate action.

**(vii) Pharmaceutical PSUs:**

IDPL, BCPL and HAL have been declared sick by BIFR (Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction). The Draft Rehabilitation Scheme having Business plan and Roadmap for IDPL, BCPL and HAL is under active consideration of the Department.

**New centres of CIPET**

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

(a) the total number of centers of the Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology (CIPET) running in the country;

(b) whether Government has formulated any scheme to open new centers, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any scheme to open a centre of CIPET in the State of Rajasthan; and

(d) the number of students trained so far from CIPET and the status of the employment of trained students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) Central Institute of Plastic

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Engineering and Technology (CIPET) is operating from 27 centres across the Country which includes 5 High-learning Centres *viz.* Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Kochi, Lucknow with exclusive focus on high-end programs, 11 other learning centres *viz.* Amritsar, Aurangabad, Bhopal, Guwahati, Hajipur, Haldia, Hyderabad, Imphal, Jaipur, Murthal, Mysore with focus on Diploma/Post Graduate Programs, 02 R&D wings *viz.* Advanced Research School for Technology & Product Simulation (ARSTPS) at Chennai and Laboratory for Advanced Research in Polymeric Materials (LARPM) at Bhubaneswar, 3 specialized centres *viz.* Advanced Tooling & Plastics Product Development Centre (ATPDC) at Madurai, Advanced Plastics Processing Technology Centre (APPTC) at Balasore and Plastics Waste Management Centre (PWMC) at Guwahati, 5 Vocational Training Centre (VTC) at Bhubaneswar, Dharmapur, Baddi, Bhopal, Vijayawada and 1 Polymer Data Services Centre at IPFT-Gurgaon and

(b) Setting up of CIPET centres is a dynamic process based on the demand and growth of plastic industries and requisite infrastructural and financial support of the State Government. During 2015-16, the Government has approved setting up 5 Centres of CIPET at Dharmapur (Gujarat), Baddi (HP), Bhopal (MP), Vijayawada (AP) and Hyderabad /Medak (Telangana).

(c) CIPET has its centre in the State of Rajasthan at Jaipur since 2006.

(d) From 2002 to March, 2015 CIPET has trained 2, 70,614 students through its long-term, short-term, vocational and skill development training programmes. Out of these, around 80-85% of trained students are gainfully employed in various plastics and allied industries in India and abroad, around 10-13% of trained students prefer to take up higher studies whereas around 2% of students have taken up Entrepreneurship by starting their own plastic industries.

#### **Reducing import of urea**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of urea in the country has grown phenomenally;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to take or has taken so far any step to reduce the import of urea; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) Import of urea for direct agriculture use is made on Government account through State Trading Enterprises (STEs) namely MMTC Limited (MMTC), State Trading Corporation Limited (STC) and Indian Potash Limited (IPL). The quantum of import is decided based on the demand projection given by the States in each cropping season *vis-à-vis* assessed production of urea in the country. The import of urea during the last three years and the current year (upto Nov, 2015) is as below:-

	(Qty. in LMT)			
Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (upto Oct., 15)
Urea	80.44	70.88	87.49	51.90

(b) and (c) Government is always encouraging production of fertilizers in the country to achieve self-sufficiency. The Government has notified the New Investment Policy (NIP) 2008 and 2012 on 4th September, 2008 and 2nd January, 2013 respectively and Modified New Pricing Scheme (NPS)-III on 2nd April, 2014 to facilitate extra domestic production of urea and for fresh investment in urea sector to reduce India's import dependency. The NIP 2012 was further amended on 7th October, 2014.

The Government has also notified the New Urea Policy (NUP)-2015 for existing gas based urea manufacturing units on 25th May, 2015 with the twin objectives of maximizing indigenous urea production and promoting energy efficiency in urea production while rationalizing subsidy burden on the Government. It is expected to prepare the domestic urea sector to become globally competitive in terms of energy efficiency over a period of three years.

#### **Impact of weak monsoon over crop producing areas**

678. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is decreased agricultural production due to weak monsoon over crop producing areas of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to increase agricultural production by other sources of irrigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE ( SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA ):

(a) On account of delayed/deficient monsoon rainfall in many parts of the country during the last two consecutive years, the production of most of the crops has declined. Details of production of major agricultural crops during Kharif 2014-15 and 2015-16 *vis-à-vis* Kharif 2013-14 are given below:

Crops	Kharif Production (Million Tonnes)		
	2013-14	2014-15#	2015-16*
Rice	91.50	90.86	90.61
Coarse Cereals	31.20	29.82	27.88
Pulses	5.99	5.63	5.56
Foodgrains	128.69	126.31	124.05
Oilseeds	22.61	18.33	19.89
Sugarcane	352.14	359.33	341.43
Cotton@	35.90	35.48	33.51

\*: As per 1st Advance Estimates.

#: As per 4th Advance Estimates.

@: Million Bales of 170 kg each.

(b) To enhance water use efficiency in the agriculture sector by promoting appropriate technological interventions like drip and sprinkler irrigation technologies and encourage the farmers to use water saving and conservation technologies, the Government of India has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation since January 2006.

In June, 2010, the scheme was up-scaled to National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMMI), which continued till 2013-14. During 2014-15, the NMMI was subsumed under National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) and implemented as “On Farm Water Management” (OFMW).

From 1st April, 2015, Micro Irrigation component of OFMW has been subsumed under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna with Budget Estimate of Rs. 1000.00 crore for 2015-16.

#### **4G services by BSNL and MTNL**

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

(a) whether BSNL and MTNL plan to introduce 4G services in the country;

(b) the reasons for their lagging behind in unveiling 4G services when private players have already started the services; and

(c) whether there are any plans to tieup with private players, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have informed that presently there is no plan to start 4G services.

#### **Misuse of social media platforms**

680. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints regarding a prominent company abusing its net dominance in many instances related to business, economy and other political affairs, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has initiated any investigation against the said company in this regard;

(c) if so, the status thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken against the company; and

(d) the response of the Government towards the fact that misuse of social media platforms can also influence business, economy and other political affairs?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) One complaint was received in the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) regarding extra charging of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) calls made through some of the Over The Top (OTT) services (like WhatsApp, Skype, Viber etc.) by Airtel, from its customers.

Airtel had reported exclusion of VoIP from its internet/data packs or plans and applicability of standard data rates to it effective from 23.12.2014 which was subsequently withdrawn by it w.e.f. 26.12.2014.

In the direction of firming up the Government's view on the issue of Net Neutrality, DoT has received inputs from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) consultation process & DoT's internal committee report.

(d) In order to help Government Ministries/Departments in meaningful engagement with the citizen & other stakeholders through Social Media on various issues, Department of Electronics & IT (DeitY) has notified “Framework & Guidelines for use of Social Media for Government Organisations”.

#### **New initiatives by BSNL**

681. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL added 8 lakh new mobile subscribers in almost a month's time after the launch of free roaming service for its customers in June this year;

(b) whether the landline segment of BSNL has turned positive after the free night calling scheme was introduced;

(c) whether 1.52 lakh subscribers used Mobile Number Portability (MNP) to switch to BSNL while 1.20 lakh users ported out, leading to net addition of 30,000 users *via* MNP; and

(d) whether BSNL is also considering to come out with some sops for its mobile users soon, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Details of net addition/deletion of number of mobile subscribers in the network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) from June, 2015 to September, 2015 are given below:

Month	Wireless subscribers	
	Number of Mobile Subscribers	Net addition(+)/deletion(-)
June, 2015	77,356,707	-269,838
July, 2015	77,836,484	479,777
August, 2015	78,649,374	812,890
September, 2015	79,697,902	1,048,528

(b) After the free night calling scheme, BSNL has added 4,99,821 landline connections and 10,60,490 connections have been disconnected. However, revenues from landline have remained almost consistent. The details of revenues for past four months for landline is given below:

(₹ In crores)

Month	June, 2015	July, 2015	August, 2015	September, 2015
Revenue	386.44	385.30	390.50	387.15

(c) During the period from July to September 2015, 4,88,723 subscribers have ported-in and 4,10,970 subscribers have ported out resulting in net addition of 77, 253 subscribers.

(d) BSNL, being a commercial organization, introduces appropriate schemes within the regulatory provisions from time to time for the benefits of its customers and to increase its market share.

#### **Study on ill-effects of radiation from mobile towers**

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

(a) whether the Ministry has conducted any study on the ill effects of radiation from mobile towers, if so, the outcome thereof;

(b) whether in view of the said study, the Ministry proposes to request local authorities to de-seal the towers and give permission to telcos to operate these towers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to tackle the problem of call drops?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Sir, the World Health Organization (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 low level electromagnetic fields". Since the effects on human beings are to be studied over a long period of time, further studies are going on around the world.

In India, the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) under Department of Science and Technology (Government of India) has constituted an Expert Committee/ Task Force to evaluate Research & Development (R&D) proposals to study the possible impact of Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Radiation exposure from mobile tower and handset on life (humans, living organism, flora & fauna and environment) and related

initiatives. The Committee has short listed research proposals for further consideration, which are being supported for funding jointly by Department of Science and Technology and Department of Telecommunications (DoT). Nineteen research proposals, including those from All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), have been initiated in 2015.

(b) DoT has issued advisory guidelines to State Governments on 01.08.2013 for issue of clearance for installation of mobile towers. These guidelines, *inter alia*, state that telecom installations are lifeline installations and a critical infrastructure in mobile communication. In order to avoid disruption in mobile communication, an essential service, sealing of BTS towers / disconnection of electricity may not be resorted to without the consent of the respective Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cell of DoT in respect of the EMF related issues.

(c) Department has been reviewing the problem of call drop regularly and has addressed various State Governments for installation of mobile towers/in-building solutions in Government buildings. Department has also taken pro-active steps at various forums to allay the fear of radiation hazards due to telecom towers.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has also been closely monitoring the performance of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) against the benchmarks for parameters relating to call drop. Meetings have been held with TSPs to finalize action points for improving network conditions including measures for reducing call drops.

Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have undertaken various measures in this regard, which, *inter alia*, include the following:

- (i) Installation of new micro sites
- (ii) Installation of (Indoor building solutions) IBS
- (iii) Expansion of existing sites by adding additional hardware
- (iv) Resolution of access issue
- (v) Radio Network optimization including adjusting soft parameters/neighbor tuning etc.

TRAI has also notified “The Telecom Consumers Protection (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2015 (9 of 2015)” on 16th October 2015 (to be effective from 1st January 2016), from the point of view of compensating consumers for dropped calls.



**High speed internet facility in rural areas**

†683. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of States in the country equipped with internet services in rural areas;
- (b) the details of the initiatives taken by Government to increase availability of high speed internet facility in rural areas; and
- (c) the measures taken to ensure digital literacy among students and elderly people in rural areas, the current status of such efforts?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) As per information received from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), all the 22 telecom licensed service areas of the country are equipped with internet services in rural areas.

(b) To increase availability of high speed internet facilities in rural areas, following schemes have been undertaken by the Government :-

- (i) **National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN):** NOFN project has been planned in 2011 to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 Lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) utilizing existing fibres of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and RailTel and laying incremental fibre wherever necessary to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Blocks for providing broadband connectivity. Under this project, at least 100 Mbps bandwidth is to be provided in all the estimated 2,50,000 GPs for utilization by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis including Internet Service Providers. Under this project, upto 22.11.2015, 102604 kilometres of pipes and 73933 kilometres of optical fibre cables have been laid. Further, number of Gram Panchayats where OFC has been laid is 31634.
- (ii) **Rural Wireline Broadband Scheme:** The Rural Wireline Broadband Scheme envisages provision of wireline broadband connectivity to rural & remote areas by leveraging the existing rural exchanges infrastructure and copper wire-line network. This scheme has been implemented at pan-India level with the objective to make the rural and remote areas broadband enabled by facilitating the service providers in creating Broadband.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The speed of each of the broadband connections shall be at least 512 kbps always on, with the capability to deliver data, voice and video services in the fixed mode. The rural broadband connectivity covers Institutional Users, such as Gram Panchayats, Higher Secondary Schools and Public Health Centres, as well as Individual Users, located in the villages.

Under this scheme, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has provided a total of 6,56,345 broadband connections and has set up 15,671 kiosks in rural and remote areas upto 31st January 2015.

(c) Government of India has initiated two Schemes on Digital Literacy viz National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM) and Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA). The objective of the NDLM/DISHA Scheme is to provide digital literacy training to the masses. The digital literacy training enables the beneficiaries to use IT and related applications for their livelihood.

The Schemes aim to train 52.5 lakh persons at two levels of literacy across the Country. Out of this, 5 lakh candidates are to be trained by Industry, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other entities through their own resources/ under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and remaining 47.5 lakh candidates are to be supported by the Government. It has also been decided to include Aanganwadi workers, Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), Authorised Ration Dealers across the Country as trainees under the scheme.

So far, around 31.68 lakh candidates have been registered under NDLM/DISHA. A total of 22.63 lakh students have been trained. Approximately 5.30 lakh students have been successfully certified.

#### **Probe into 2G spectrum scam**

684. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigations made by various investigative agencies in the 2G spectrum scam are fully completed or nearing completion and whether charge sheet was filed against all the accused;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which investigations are likely to be completed;

(d) whether there has been any delay in conducting investigations on some of the accused and foreign companies and their owners involved in the scam; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons and reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The allotment of second generation (2G) telecom spectrum license was referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) on 12-10-2009 for further probe. The investigation by the CBI is being monitored by the Hon'ble Supreme Court also. CBI, in total, have registered three Regular cases bearing Nos. RC-DAI-2009-A-0045, RC-DAI-2011-A-0022, RC-DAI-2011-A-0024 and two Preliminary Enquiries (PE) Nos. PE-DAI-2011-A-0001 and PE-BDI-2010-E-0002 in this regard. On the basis the outcome of the PE-DAI-2011-A-0001, two regular cases no. RC-DAI-2011-A-0022 and RC-DAI-2011-A-0024 were registered by CBI. The enquiry in PE-BDI-2010-E-0002 has already been concluded and no major irregularity or criminality was *prima facie* revealed.

Investigation by CBI in the main offence in RC-DAI-2009-A-0045 has been completed. After completion of investigation, one charge sheet and two supplementary charge sheets have been filed in the Court of Special Judge, 2G Spectrum Cases, Patiala House Court, New Delhi. In this case, further investigation with regard to two issues is pending wherein LR/s/Supplementary LR were issued. Further, Interim Application (IA) No. 72/2014 in Civil Appeal No. 10660/2010 was filed on 10.3.2014 by the Centre for public Interest Litigation & others, before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. In response to the aforesaid IA, the then Director, CBI had reviewed the matter and ordered to further investigate the case on the issue of roll out obligation / dual technology, in respect of Tata Telesevice Limited/ Tata Telesevice (Maharashtra) Limited. Said further investigation is also in progress.

Investigation of case RC-DAI-2011-A-0024 was completed and charge sheet was filed on 21.12.2012, in the Court of Special Judge, 2G spectrum cases, Patiala House Court, New Delhi. However, the Ld. Special Judge *vide* order dated 15.10.2015 discharged all the accused persons.

Investigation of case RC-DAI-2011-A-0022 has also been completed and charge sheet has been filed on 29.08.2014, in the court of Ld. Special Judge 2G spectrum cases, against Shri Dayanidhi Maran, the then Minister of Communication and Information

Technology(MOC&IT ) and others. Further investigation on some issues is still underway.

Investigation in 2G Spectrum Scam by Directorate of Enforcement (ED) is not over. ED has taken action, as per Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 and still further actions are in process. Investigation is being carried out under PMLA and Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, *inter alia*, on the basis of execution reports of the Letters of Request, received from foreign countries. Response of some of the Letters of Request is still awaited. On the basis of ongoing investigation, further Letters of Request for investigation outside India may be contemplated.

(c) Further investigation is being conducted by CBI u/s 173(8) Cr.PC in RC.45(A)/2009 and RC.22(A)/2011-DLI and are likely to be completed soon.

The investigations are done expeditiously which in turn are also dependent upon the execution report after conduct of investigation by the Authorities of the foreign countries.

(d) and (e) Four Letters Rogatory (LR) and subsequently four supplementary LRs were sent to the competent authorities of Mauritius, Switzerland, France and the U.K. in R.C. 45(A)/2009 (Main 2G Spectrum Case). Four LRs were also sent to the competent authorities of the U.K., Bermuda, Mauritius and Malaysia in another case R.C. 22(A)/2011(Aircel-Maxis Case). The LRs were executed by respective countries (except Mauritius in RC-45(A)/2009) by following their legal procedures which took a considerable time. With regard to the LRs pending with Mauritian Authorities in RC-45(A)/2009, it is to mention that the clarifications sought by the said authorities have been sent by way of Supplementary LR dated 28.11.2013 and subsequent letter dated 09.09.2015 by CBI. The matter is being pursued through the High Commission of India at Mauritius from time to time telephonically and by sending Demi-Official (DO) letters. Latest DO letter in this matter was sent to the High Commission at Mauritius on 14.10.2015 requesting therein to expedite the execution of the pending LRs on top priority. However, the execution of the same is still awaited.

The investigations are done expeditiously which in turn are also dependent upon the treaties between the countries and India in such matters.

The 2G investigations are being monitored by the Hon'ble Supreme Court also.

#### **Schemes and projects under Digital India Programme**

685. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes and projects which have been included under Digital India programme recently launched by Government in the country;

(b) the state of progress in implementing the projects under this programme in various States of the country; and

(c) whether States are being provided with sufficient funds to implement the projects and laying of cables, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government of India is implementing the 'Digital India' programme with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Digital India is an umbrella programme that covers multiple Government Ministries and Departments and is being coordinated by DeitY.

Digital India aims to provide the much needed thrust to nine pillars of growth areas that is (i) Broadband Highways, (ii) Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity, (iii) Public Internet Access Programme, (iv) e-Governance – Reforming Government through Technology, (v) e-Kranti– Electronic delivery of services, (vi) Information for All, (vii) Electronics Manufacturing – Target NET ZERO Imports, (viii) IT for Jobs and (ix) Early Harvest Programmes.

Various projects/schemes are being implemented under above nine pillars covering the entire country *e.g.* MyGov, Digital Locker System, eHospital, National Scholarships Portal, Common Services Centres (CSCs), Mobile Seva, e-Office, m-Kisan, North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS) etc. These projects/schemes are operational and benefitting citizens.

(c) Yes, Sir.

#### **Creation of jobs under Digital India Programme**

686. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to create 4.5 lakh jobs through launching of Digital India programme;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and how many jobs have been created so far;

(c) the progress made in the field of electronic manufacturing in the country and whether our domestic industry is capable to provide electronic equipments under Digital India programme; and

(d) how many jobs have been added in electronic manufacturing sector during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under “Pillar 8: IT for Jobs” of Digital India programme, the Government of India is implementing schemes that aim to:

- train 1 crore students from smaller towns and villages for IT sector jobs over 5 years.
- set up BPOs in every north-eastern state to facilitate ICT enabled growth in these states.
- train 3 lakh service delivery agents as part of skill development to run viable businesses delivering IT services
- train 5 lakh rural workforce by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) to cater to their own needs.

Various projects/schemes are being implemented under Digital India programme to create jobs. The Government is implementing India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) for promotion of BPO/ITES operations of 48,300 seats (employment opportunities for 1,44,900 persons considering 3 shifts operations) across the country including small towns and rural areas, with an outlay of about ₹ 493 crore.

A scheme, namely North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS) has been notified 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 (15,000 persons considering 3 shifts operations).

(c) and (d) The promotion of electronics manufacturing is one of the pillars of the Digital India programme of the Government and Target Net Zero Imports is a striking demonstration of intent. In this regard, holistic, investor friendly and market driven initiatives towards creating conducive environment to attract investment have been taken.

- (i) The Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) has attracted 120 investment proposals taking the overall tally to 155 with investment of Rs. 1,12,937 crore. The Government has issued approval orders to 39 proposals involving investments of Rs. 10,669 crore whereas previously approvals were accorded to 10 proposals involving investment of Rs. 1369 crore. The M-SIPS has been made more investor friendly and extended for five years up-to July, 2020. Disbursement of incentives to applicants is going on.

- (ii) To support creation of world-class infrastructure, in-principle approval to 18 applications for setting up of Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) and final approvals to five clusters (two in Madhya Pradesh and one each in Rajasthan; Karnataka and Jharkhand) have been accorded. 1st installment of Grant has been released to three clusters.
- (iii) In order to promote R&D and creation of IPR in the area of Electronics System Design and Manufacturing, the policy on “Electronics Development Fund” has been approved. EDF is being housed with M/s. Canbank Venture Capital Fund Ltd.
- (iv) To promote indigenous manufacturing of Set Top Box (STB) for Cable / DTH TV, design and development of Indian Conditional Access System (CAS) is at final stages. There is huge indigenous requirement of STB on account of digitalization of broadcasting sector.
- (v) To curb inflow of sub standard and unsafe electronic products, in addition to existing 15 electronic products, 15 more electronic product categories have been notified in November 2014 under “Electronics and IT goods Order (Requirements for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2012 mandating compliance of notified goods to Indian Safety Standards. This Order has achieved 95% compliance involving over 3020 Registrations covering over 30,000 product models. Assistance is also provided for setting up / up-gradation of Electronic product testing/Quality Control Laboratories and four labs viz. CEC Chennai, CSIR Dhanbad, NRTC Parwanoo and MPSEDC Bhopal have been approved.
- (vi) Three Incubators for electronics start ups at Delhi-NCR; IIT-Patna and IITM-Kerala have been approved.
- (vii) The Government had introduced a differential excise duty dispensation for promoting indigenous manufacturing of mobile handsets in the Budget of 2015-16, *vide* Central Excise Notification No.12/2015 dated 31.03.2015. The aforesaid duty dispensation has resulted in spectacular interest in mobile handset manufacturing in the country. Most major brands (both foreign and Indian) have either set up their own manufacturing facilities or are in the process of doing so or have sub-contracted with an Electronic Manufacturing Services (EMS) company in India to manufacture their mobile handsets here.

**Refusal of telecom operators to pay penalty for call drops**

†687. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the telecom operators have refused to pay the penalty imposed for call drops;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor, how and by when Government will address the subscribers' problem of call drops; and
- (c) if not, how the telecom operators will pay penalty to the customers, the nature thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) TRAI has issued the 9th Amendment to the Telecom Consumers Protection Regulations on 16th October, 2015 mandating compensation to the consumers by the mobile service providers for call drops with effect from 01.01.2016. As the provisions relating to compensation would become effective only on 01.01.2016, the question of refusal of telecom operators, does not arise at this stage. The Department has been reviewing the Call Drop situation regularly.

(c) The Telecom Consumers Protection Regulations mandates that every originating service provider providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service shall, for each call drop within its network:—

- (i) credit the account of the calling consumer by one rupee, provided that such credit in the account of the calling consumer shall be limited to three dropped calls in a day (00:00:00 hours to 23:59:59 hrs);
- (ii) provide the calling consumer, through SMS/USSD message, within four hours of the occurrence of call drop, the details of amount credited in his account; and
- (iii) in case of post-paid consumers, provide the details of the credit in the next bill.

**Increase in revenue of BSNL**

688. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that BSNL aims to increase its revenue by almost 50 per cent to ₹ 42,000 crore in the next four years as part of Government's plan to turnaround the loss making firm by 2018-19;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



(b) whether it is also a fact that the Company's revenue stood at Rs. 28,000 crore during the last financial year; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that BSNL has prepared a detailed plan as per which BSNL should turn profitable in 2018-19, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Revenue of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the last financial year (2014-15) was Rs. 28,645 crores. Being a commercial organization, it is constant endeavor of BSNL to compete in the market, increase its revenue and make profits. BSNL expects to turn profitable in next four years or so for which BSNL is taking several steps like augmentation of mobile network as part of its Phase-VII Project to create additional capacity of 15 million lines, setting up Wi-fi hotspots on revenue share basis, introducing free night calling tariff plans for wireline, introduction of free national roaming on pan-India basis for mobile customers etc. to attract more customers. Government has also assigned new projects to BSNL such as Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region for provision of mobile services in uncovered villages in Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam at estimated project cost of ₹ 1975.38 crore, implementation of Transmission-Media Plan for North Eastern Region at an estimated cost of ₹ 295.97 crores, Implementation of providing mobile connectivity in 2199 identified locations in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas at an estimated cost of ₹ 3567.58 crores and implementation of Comprehensive Telecom Development plan for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands through augmentation of satellite connectivity/bandwidth at an estimated cost of ₹ 99.03 crores etc, which will support BSNL in additional revenue generation.

#### **Method of measuring call drop data**

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

(a) whether TRAI has now relented on its earlier stance of penalising telecom companies for call drops above accepted norms by inviting telecom companies for a conciliatory dialogue;

(b) whether telecom operators are of the view that the current method of measuring call drop data does not present a real picture; and

(c) whether TRAI has now agreed to consider changing the method of conducting drive tests for call drops, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) TRAI has issued the 9th Amendment to the Telecom Consumers Protection Regulations on 16th October 2015, mandating compensation to the consumers by the mobile service providers for call drops. TRAI has not made any change to this mandate which is to come into effect from 01.01.2016. After consultation with the TSPs and on examination of the representations received from them on the matter, it was clarified by the Authority through Press Release dated 12.11.2015 that

- (i) It is technically possible for the telecom service providers (TSPs) to implement the regulation.
- (ii) Sufficient time has been given by the Authority to the TSPs to make suitable provisions so as to comply with the regulation.

(b) and (c) The call drop rate for the network specified in the regulations, is for meeting the benchmark for Call Drop Rate parameter for the service area as a whole which is been reported to, as per the quality of service regulations. The TSPs have not asked for any change in this reporting or the measuring methodology in recent times.

As for the RF drive tests, it was clarified to TSPs (Telecom Service Providers) that TRAI is duty bound to protect the interest of consumers who has the right to know the quality of service offered by the service providers in their respective areas. Further, it is an accepted fact worldwide that the drive tests give a snapshot of the performance in the selected routes and it measures the performance of the network from a user point of view.

### **Digital India Programme**

690. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government had approved in 2006 a policy to provide at least one public run facility for internet access in every village;
- (b) whether Government has recently announced Digital India Plan Programme; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the rollout coverage plans?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. However, the

Government of India had approved “Common Services Centre (CSC)” scheme in September 2006, which aims to establish 100,000 ICT enabled front-end service delivery outlets, equitably spreading across rural India in the ratio of one CSC per six villages on public private partnership model.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has approved the ‘Digital India’ programme in August 2014 (formally launched on 1st July 2015) with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Digital India is an umbrella programme that covers multiple Government Ministries and Departments and is being coordinated by DeitY.

Digital India aims to provide the much needed thrust to nine pillars of growth areas that is (i) Broadband Highways, (ii) Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity, (iii) Public Internet Access Programme, (iv) e-Governance – Reforming Government through Technology, (v) e-Kranti– Electronic delivery of services, (vi) Information for All, (vii) Electronics Manufacturing – Target NET ZERO Imports, (viii) IT for Jobs and (ix) Early Harvest Programmes through various projects covering the entire country.

#### **Cyber war capability**

†691. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether our cyber war capability is of world class; and
- (b) the steps being taken by Government to tackle the problems which may arise due to cyber attack?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Government is aware of the nature of threats in Cyber Space. In tune with the dynamic nature of Information Technology, continuous efforts are required to be made to prevent and recover from cyber attacks. As such, like elsewhere in the world, protection of country’s Information Technology infrastructure in general and critical information infrastructure in particular, is a dynamic activity and a continuing process. In this direction, Government has taken steps to put in place a Framework for Enhancing Cyber Security, with a multi-layered approach for ensuring defence-in-depth and clear demarcation of responsibilities among the stakeholder organizations in the country.

Specific steps in this regard relate to actions such as periodic scanning of cyber

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

space and a close watch on critical infrastructure networks to detect variety of threats and imminent attacks; training of manpower engaged in operation of critical networks to protect their systems and networks; carrying out periodic security audits on sample basis; conducting mock cyber security drills involving critical sector organizations and providing a platform for the personnel of critical sector organizations to share their experience.

(b) In order to enhance the cyber security posture of the country and improve the ability to resist cyber attacks, the following key actions have been taken:

- (i) Government has formulated Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism for implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.
- (ii) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats and countermeasures on regular basis. CERT-In has published guidelines for securing IT infrastructure, which are available on its website ([www.cert-in.org.in](http://www.cert-in.org.in)). CERT-In also conducts regular training programme to make the network and system administrators aware about securing the IT infrastructure and mitigating cyber attacks.
- (iii) Operationalising the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) as per the provisions of Section 70A of the Information Technology Act 2000, for protection of Critical Information Infrastructure in the country. NCIIPC is providing tailored advisories on software/hardware vulnerabilities and alerts on cyber attacks are being issued regularly to Chief Information Security Officers of Critical Information Infrastructure organizations. In addition policy, audit and compliance reports of Critical Information Infrastructure organizations are being analysed.
- (iv) Cyber security mock drills are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors.
- (v) Efforts towards setting up of National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive and protective actions by individual entities.
- (vi) Efforts towards establishing Botnet cleaning and malware analysis centre to detect and clean infected systems in the country.

**Removal of unwanted MTNL poles**

692. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some residents of South Extension, Part-I, South Delhi have requested to remove MTNL poles having few or no wire link for delivery to residences;

(b) if so, the reasons for not removing such unwanted poles in the area; and

(c) whether MTNL/BSNL have any plans to remove ungainly poles in South Delhi, South Extension area in a time bound manner; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has reported that no request for removal of its poles in South Extension, Part-I, South Delhi area has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of above.

**Mobile Governance Programme**

693. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government is taking to implement the recently announced Mobile Governance Programme;

(b) the time-line and road-map for the same; and

(c) the specific elements of the Digital India campaign which are being used to transform the functioning of Government Departments and Governance services in order to make them more efficient?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY), Government of India has started the delivery of public services through mobile platform since July 2011. The following steps have been taken to implement Mobile Governance so far:

(i) DeitY has developed and notified the framework for Mobile Governance in February, 2012.

- (ii) DeitY is implementing Mobile Seva project as a one-stop solution to all the Central and State government departments and agencies across the nation for all their mobile services delivery needs.
- (iii) As on date, over 1973 Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments are using Mobile Seva for providing SMS based services and over 690.6 crore SMS notifications have been sent to citizens for various mobile based services.
- (iv) Citizens can now directly interact with Government Departments through SMS. As on date, over 583 public services have been made available to the citizens.
- (v) A Mobile Applications Store (m-AppStore) has been developed as part of Mobile Seva project and currently hosts over 659 mobile applications.

(c) The Government of India is implementing the “Digital India” programme with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and a knowledge economy. Under the Digital India programme, Government has proposed to implement e-Kranti which envisages provisioning of various e-Governance services in the country. The focus of the e- Kranti programme is to transform the e-Governance services by expanding the portfolio of Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) in e-Governance under various Government Departments, undertaking Government Process Reengineering (GPR), work flow automation, introducing latest technologies such as Cloud and mobile platform and focus on integration of services.

Various projects are being implemented under Digital India to transform the functioning of Government Departments and Governance services in order to make them more efficient *e.g.* MyGov, Digital Locker System, eHospital, National Scholarships Portal, Common Services Centres (CSCs), Mobile Seva etc.

#### **Making BSNL profitable**

694. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the remedial steps taken and new schemes introduced by Government to make BSNL profit-oriented and compete with other private telecom players;
- (b) whether BSNL proposes to offer VRS to its one lakh employees to trim its mounting losses and also to utilize the existing facilities for multi tasking activities of Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) whether the profit of BSNL was Rs. 10183 crore in 2004-05 and there is a continuous revenue loss for it during the last five years, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Government is conscious that the performance of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) needs improvement. BSNL has been unable to invest in expansion of their networks due to financial distress. In order to improve the financial condition and support BSNL in additional revenue generation, Government has assigned new projects to BSNL such as :

- Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region for provision of mobile services in uncovered villages in Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam at estimated project cost of Rs. 1975.38 crore and implementation of Transmission-Media Plan for North Eastern Region at an estimated cost of Rs.295.97 crore on 10.9.2014
- Implementation of providing mobile connectivity in 2199 identified locations in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 3567.58 crores on 4.6.2013
- Implementation of Comprehensive Telecom Development plan for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands through augmentation of satellite connectivity/bandwidth at an estimated cost of Rs. 120.49 crores on 7.11.2014.

BSNL is also taking several steps to enhance revenues through investments to strengthen its network to improve quality of service. These include:

- Augmentation of mobile network as part of its Phase-VII Project to create additional capacity of 15 million lines at an estimated cost of Rs. 5500 crores. This will result in addition of 14421 2G sites and 10605 3G sites across the country.
- For improving broadband services, BSNL has installed Google caching servers at 13 locations and done peering with Google at 3 locations for 110 GB capacity. Also Akamai caching servers were installed for 100 GB capacity. Also, BSNL has upgraded 47 Broadband Network Gateways (BNGs) in Broadband network for higher capacity.

- BSNL has entered into an agreement for setting up Wi-fi hotspots on revenue share basis to increase its revenue and providing better services to its customers.
- BSNL has introduced free night calling tariff plans for wireline customers to arrest decline in customer base and to acquire new wireline customers.
- Introduction of free national roaming on pan-India basis for mobile customers for retaining/increasing mobile customer base.
- All BSNL Broadband customers have been upgraded to 2 Mbps at no extra cost w.e.f. 1.10.2015.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The profit of BSNL was Rs 10,183 crore in 2004-05. There has been continuous decline in Revenue since 2005-06 and in 2013-14 BSNL incurred a loss of ₹ 7,020 crores. However, in 2014-15 the trend has reversed and there has been increase in revenues. The details of revenue earned by BSNL from 2004-05 to 2014-15 are given below:

Sl. No.	Financial year	Revenue (₹ in crores)
1.	2004-05	36,090
2.	2005-06	40,177
3.	2006-07	39,715
4.	2007-08	38,053
5.	2008-09	35,812
6.	2009-10	32,045
7.	2010-11	29,688
8.	2011-12	27,934
9.	2012-13	27,128
10.	2013-14	27,996
11.	2014-15	28,645



- BSNL income from services has increased by 4.16% in 2014-15 as compared to previous financial year.
- BSNL has reversed the trend of operating loss and earned operating profit of ₹ 672 crore in Financial Year 2014-15.

**Upgradation of post offices to save their extinction**

695. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of post offices has decreased considerably during the past 20 years, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government would consider upgrading the post offices into a multi-facility provider unit like ATM/ money transfer/foreign exchange etc. to attract more and more people, which in turn will make it economically viable and prevent its extinction?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The number of functional Post Offices has increased from 1,52,792 in the year 1994-95 to 1,54,939 in the year 2014-15 which shows that the use of Post Offices has increased in the country. The total number of Departmental Post Offices in the country, presently, is 25,514 which are providing multifarious services to the public. The Department has rolled out Core Banking Solution (CBS) in 9,583 Post Offices and ATMs have been installed at 125 locations; Debit cards have been issued to Post Office Savings Bank customers. Money remittance service to customers in India from around 195 countries on a real time basis is being operated in association with Western Union and Money Gram from 9,943 and 6,070 locations, respectively. Furthermore, the Department constantly reviews its products and services from the customers' perspective and diversifies its product portfolio in order to provide efficient and customer-oriented services. This has further enhanced the relevance of the post offices. In fact, facilities like electronic Money Order (eMO) service in 25,242 Post Offices, instant Money Order (iMO) service in 16,983 Post Offices and Mobile Money Transfer Service (MMTS) in 15,000 Post Offices are provided to the public. Besides, facilities like Postal Life Insurance/Rural Postal Life Insurance (PLI/RPLI), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) Payments, Cash on Delivery, e-Payment, Bill Mail Service, Indian Postal Orders, Speed Post, Business Post, Express Parcel, Business Parcel, Logistics Posts, Post Shoppe, Jan Surksha scheme are provided to attract more customers and make Post Offices economically viable. The revenue of the Department has also increased from

₹ 10,730.42 crores in 2013-14 to ₹11,635.98 crores in 2014-15. This is indicative of the fact that the Department is attracting more and more customers.

**Absence of BSNL mobile towers in rural areas of Uttarakhand**

†696. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is unrest among public due to absence of BSNL mobile towers in rural areas of Pithoragarh, Champawat, Bageshwar, Chamoli and Uttarkashi districts of Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, whether Government has received requests to install BSNL mobile towers in the above areas;

(c) if so, the details of action taken thereon;

(d) if not, whether Government considers it proper to provide mobile facility in above mentioned places; and

(e) if so, the reasons for delay in installing mobile towers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has reported that the requests received for installation of new Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) are examined and provided keeping in view the techno-commercial feasibility. Presently, BSNL has installed 64 BTSs in Pithoragarh, 28 in Champawat, 33 in Bageshwar, 49 in Chamoli and 46 BTSs in Uttarkashi to provide mobile services in these areas. Due to hilly terrain & non feasible areas, mobile services may not be available in all border areas. However, BSNL is taking action for installation of additional mobile towers on outposts of paramilitary forces (Central Armed Police Forces) in all border states including Uttarakhand which will further improve the coverage in these areas.

**Internet speed provisioned for cities and Panchayats under  
Digital India campaign**

†697. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the download/upload speed in mbps to be offered by Government for free wi-fi, broadband in order to connect 2500 cities and 2.5 lakh Panchayats under the 'Digital India' campaign in the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) the average speed presently offered under all types of internet data plans; and
- (c) whether it is being considered to reduce the same, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project was planned, in 2011, to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) utilizing existing fibres of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and Rail Tel and laying incremental fibre wherever necessary to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Blocks for providing broadband connectivity. Under this project, at least 100 Mbps bandwidth has to be provided in all the estimated 2,50,000 GPs for utilization by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis including Internet Service Providers.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is providing backhaul bandwidth up to 10 Mbps at Wi-Fi Hotspots. Download/ upload speed at any point of time at Wi-Fi Hotspots depends on the number of concurrent users at that particular time in that Wi-Fi hotspot coverage area.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), in their respective licensed service areas, are offering various broadband plans with speed ranging from 2 Mbps to 100 Mbps.

(b) Average speed offered under an internet data plan depends upon the speed specified under the respective data plan.

(c) There is no plan to reduce the broadband speed offered by BSNL and MTNL.

#### **Setting up and operationalization of CMS**

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

(a) the status of implementation of the Central Monitoring System (CMS) set up by Government for lawful interception and monitoring of communications;

(b) the details and salient features of the system, including the nodal agency implementing CMS;

(c) the total expenditure approved and incurred by Government for setting up of CMS;

(d) whether it is presently operational, if so, in which parts of country; and

(e) if not, the time-frame within which setting up and operationalization of CMS across the country is expected to be complete?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Sir, Government has decided to set up the Centralized Monitoring System (CMS) to automate the process of Lawful Interception & Monitoring of telecommunications. Technology development and Pilot trials have been completed.

(b) The execution of the CMS project has been entrusted with Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT). The envisaged salient features of CMS are as follows:

- (i) Electronic Provisioning of target number by a Government agency without any manual intervention from Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) on a secured network, thus enhancing the secrecy level and quick provisioning of target.
- (ii) Central and Regional Centres which will help Central and State level Law Enforcement Agencies in Interception and Monitoring in serious desirable cases of National Security and allied matters.
- (iii) Research and Development (R&D) in related fields for continuous up gradation of the CMS.

(c) Cabinet Committee on Security has approved the project of CMS with Government funding of ₹ 400 Crores out of which an expenditure of ₹ 213 crore (Approx.) been incurred.

(d) and (e) The Centralised Monitoring System is anticipated to be progressively operationalised from the end of the current financial year.

**Making Aadhar Card mandatory for Digital India Programme schemes**

699. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made Aadhaar Card mandatory for the schemes under Digital India Programme;

(b) if so, the details of all such schemes and benefits where this is mandatory;

(c) whether concern has been raised regarding storage of Aadhaar Card data;

(d) if so, the steps undertaken by government to ensure security of data under Aadhaar schemes; and

(e) whether the Ministry will pay to UIDAI for using Aadhaar information under the schemes of Digital India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A well-designed and robust data security system is in place. The architecture of Aadhaar eco-system has been designed to ensure data security, privacy, non-duplication, data integrity and related aspects. Additionally, security audits are also conducted. A multilayer approach is adopted in providing security measures with multiple formats being used at different steps from the point of collection to the ending stage. Further, UIDAI has been declared STQC ISO 27001:2013 certified and also been identified to be declared as “Critical Infrastructure” by National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) adding another layer of IT security assurance.

(e) At present, Services of UIDAI for using Aadhaar Information are being offered to the Ministry (DeitY) free of cost.

#### **Telephone facilities to village Panchayats**

†700. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone facilities have been provided to all the village Panchayats of all States, including Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the number of village Panchayats that have been provided telephone facilities in the last Five Year Plan; and

(c) the number of village Panchayats that are proposed to be provided with telephone facilities during the current Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Measures against call drops**

701. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that call drop cases have increased manifold in the last one year, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether TRAI has proposed certain measures against call drops and penal action against the companies, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the number of cases where companies have been penalized for call drops; and

(d) the details of stringent steps Government will take to protect the interest of consumers against call drops?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) For addressing Call Drop issues which have been a matter of concern in the recent times, TRAI has been closely monitoring the action plan of the service providers in this regard and regular interactions are held with service providers for addressing network problems.

(b) to (d) TRAI has issued the 9th Amendment to the Telecom Consumers Protection Regulations on 16th October, 2015 mandating compensation to the consumers by the mobile service providers for call drops with effect from 01.01.2016. As the provisions relating to compensation would become effective only on 01.01.2016, the question of refusal of telecom operators, does not arise at this stage. The Department has been reviewing the Call Drop situation regularly.

The Telecom Consumers Protection Regulations mandates that every originating service provider providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service shall, for each call drop within its network –

- (i) credit the account of the calling consumer by one rupee, provided that such credit in the account of the calling consumer shall be limited to three dropped calls in a day (00:00:00 hours to 23:59:59 hrs);
- (ii) provide the calling consumer, through SMS/USSD message, within four hours of the occurrence of call drop, the details of amount credited in his account; and
- (iii) in case of post-paid consumers, provide the details of the credit in the next bill.

Further Department is continuously reviewing the measures for improvement in call drops which *inter-alia* include optimization of network, addition of new Base Transceiver Stations (BTS), Right of Way issue, implementation of In-Building Solutions to protect the interest of consumers against call drop.

#### **Charging for spectrum beyond 4.4 MHz**

702. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is charging for spectrum beyond 4.4 MHz from new players; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) In accordance with current policy, the allocation of access spectrum is made in transparent manner through auction process. The annual spectrum usage charges are levied as per the rates prescribed by the Government from time to time.

#### **Protection for small vendors and traders**

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

(a) the measures taken by Government to control and monitor the sale of foodgrains, cereals, edible oils etc. by the multinational and big corporate companies in the country; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to protect the interest of lakhs of small vendors and small scale traders?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) There is no exclusive regulation to control and monitor retail trading including by the multi-national and big corporate companies. The sector is covered under various acts and regulations like the Shop and Establishment Act, Sales Tax Act, Essential Commodities Act, Food Safety and Standards Authority Act, Consumer Protection Act etc.

(b) One important reason for the decision taken to restrict Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to only single brand retailing is to protect the interest of domestic retailers specially small traders /shopkeepers.

**Steep rise in the prices of pulses**

704. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether prices of pulses have reached upto Rs 200 per kg in retail market in the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether during the current year, prices of pulses have shown the steepest rise in last ten years, if so, the details thereof for last five years and the current year;
- (c) the reasons for failure of Government to check the price rise; and
- (d) the details of the quantity of pulses imported from foreign countries during the current years, country-wise rate thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Of the 75 reporting centres only Varanasi and Puducherry reported prices of Tur reaching ₹ 200/- per kg during October, 2015. Prices were lower in all centres on other days.

(b) The details of the average retail prices of major pulses and their variation over the last five years are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The main reason for the increase in prices of pulses is a decline in production on account of adverse weather conditions. However, due to various measures taken by the Government including import of pulses, strict action against black-marketing and hoarding, intervention in market through Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) scheme, etc. the prices moderated after October.

(d) The requisite details are given in the Statement-II.

***Statement-I****Average retail prices of major pulses and their variation*

Major Pulses	Gram Dal	Tur Dal	Urad Dal	Moong Dal	Masoor Dal
<b>1. All-India Average Retail Prices (₹/kg)</b>					
As on Date					
1/12/2015	68.74	149.3	141.29	107.04	88.03
1/12/2014	44.5	74.76	75.08	95.47	71.11
29/11/2013	51.04	70.44	63.43	76.16	59.16



Major Pulses	Gram Dal	Tur Dal	Urad Dal	Moong Dal	Masoor Dalc
30/11/2012	66.21	69.35	60.48	72.67	53.49
1/12/2011	49.61	62.68	62.64	63.72	47.27
1/12/2010	35.02	61.07	64.62	64.98	47.6
<b>2. % Variation (Year-over-Year)</b>					
2015/2014	54.47	99.71	88.19	12.12	23.79
2014/2013	-12.81	6.13	18.37	25.35	20.20
2013/2012	-22.91	1.57	4.88	4.80	10.60
2012/2011	33.46	10.64	-3.45	14.05	13.16
2011/2010	41.66	2.64	-3.06	-1.94	-0.69

Source:- State/UT Civil Supplies Deptts.

### ***Statement-II***

#### *Import of Pulses: Country-wise and Rate during the current year*

Country	Qty. (TON)	Val. (INR)	Unit price per ton.(INR)
Afghanistan	442	25919168	58641
Argentina	15296	804992754	52628
Australia	223551	10135303771	45338
Benin	37	2422365	65469
Brazil	3199	119042580	37212
Canada	930638	33011464358	35472
China PRP	41300	2155075164	52181
Cote d' ivoire	115	8131930	70712
Djibouti	96	3904414	40671
Egypt ARP	327	11534433	35273
Ethiopia	26248	1087608363	41436
France	52252	1174078836	22470
Iran	1274	52513767	41220

Country	Qty. (TON)	Val. (INR)	Unit price per ton.(INR)
Kazakhstan	3537	123635866	34955
Kenya	17023	1168229011	68627
Kyrghyzstan	356	30321781	85174
Madagascar	1752	131262014	74921
Malawi	14077	852686955	60573
Malaysia	24	1868070	77836
Mexico	5079	217936717	42909
Moldova	202	4922506	24369
Mozambique	26782	1638718999	61187
Myanmar	552838	38514034248	69666
Pakistan IR	144	9096273	63169
Poland	66	6819780	103330
Russia	180640	5644577460	31248
South africa	45	1535677	34126
Sri Lanka DSR	43	3017756	70180
Sudan	13209	885430912	67032
Tanzania REP	37906	2416580476	63752
Thailand	191	15983541	83683
Turkey	743	30383943	40894
Uarab EMTS	24	1600819	66701
USA	68884	2687458410	39014
Uganda	1467	77570846	52877
Ukraine	16838	426240431	25314
Uzbekistan	444	26275981	59180
TOTAL	2237089	103508180375	46269

*Note:* Figures for 2015-16 (Apr to Sep) is Provisional.

(Source: DGCIS, MOCI)

**Rise in prices of pulses**

705. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the shortage of pulses in the country;
- (b) the reasons for rise in the prices of pulses in the country; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to ease the availability and controlling the prices of pulses in retail markets of the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The total domestic production of pulses ranges between 17-19 million tonnes as against the demand of around 21-23 million tonnes per annum. As a result, total import of pulses has been around 4 million tonnes per annum. During 2014-15, following a significant fall in the production and also higher imports, the estimated shortfall of pulses is still around 1.12 million MT as shown below-.

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	% Change (2014-15 over 2013-14)
Area (Million hectare)	23.6	25.21	23.09	-8.41
Production ( MMT)	18.34	19.25	17.2	-10.65
Imports (MMT)	3.84	3.53	4.58	29.75
Exports	0.20	0.34	0.22	-35.29
Total (MMT)	21.98	22.44	21.56	-3.92
Demand (MMT)	20.90	21.77	22.68	4.18
Surplus/Deficit (MMT)	1.08	0.67	-1.12	—

Source:-DAC&FW, DGCIS & Niti Ayog

(b) The main reason for the sharp increase in prices of pulses is a decline in production on account of adverse weather conditions. Other factors are rise in transportation costs, supply constraints and artificial shortage due to hoarding and black-marketing.

(c) The major steps taken to check prices and improve availability include

extension of zero import duty, export ban of pulses with exemptions, imposition of stock limit, suspension of future trading in Urad and Tur, import of pulses, strict action against black-marketing and hoarding, increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSP) to incentivize farmers, and decision to create a buffer stock, of Pulses through procurement by Government agencies.

**People eligible for subsidized food under NFSA**

706. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people eligible for subsidized food under NFSA in 2014-15 and 2015-16;
- (b) whether the data is according to the socio-economic and caste census available for eligible families; and
- (c) the number of people who got benefited under NFSA in 2014-15 and the amount of money Government spent for them?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) entitles upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population to receive foodgrains at subsidised prices of ₹ 3/2/1 per kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about 81.35 crore people of the country. In 2014-15, foodgrains under the Act were allocated for about 33.74 crore beneficiaries, based on their reported identification for coverage under the Act by 11 States/Union Territories (UTs). In 2015-16, 12 more States/UTs have joined NFSA and at present about 49.67 crore people are covered in these 23 States/UTs for receiving foodgrains at subsidized prices under the Act. Foodgrains allocation under existing TPDS is continuing in remaining 13 States/UTs.

Under NFSA, eligible households comprise of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and priority households. The Act provides that identification of AAY households is to be done in accordance with the guidelines applicable to the said scheme and the remaining households, *i.e.* priority households, are to be identified in accordance with such guidelines as State Governments may specify. AAY is an ongoing scheme and the AAY households are already identified in States/UTs. For identification of priority households, complete responsibility for evolving the criteria and their actual identification is with the State Governments. It is not linked to Socio-Economic and Caste Census

(SECC) under the Act. However, Few States have used SECC data for identification of eligible households.

Expenditure on subsidy involved in allocation of foodgrains under NFSA as well as existing TPDS is met out of budgetary allocation for food subsidy. During the year 2014-15, food subsidy of Rs. 1,13,171.2 crore was released.

#### **Distribution of wheat and rice through PDS**

707. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of rice and wheat produced in the country in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15;
- (b) the quantities of these grains procured for PDS during these years; and
- (c) how much of the procured quantities were distributed through PDS during these years?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The quantity of rice and wheat produced and procured in the country in 2012- 13, 2013-14 and 2014-15:

(in lakh tonnes)

Year	Rice		Wheat	
	Produced	Procured	Produced	Procured
2012-13	1052.4	340.44	935.1	381.48
2013-14	1066.5	318.45	958.5	250.92
2014-15*	1048.0	321.65	889.4	280.23

\* as per 4th Advance Estimates of Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare.

The quantities of foodgrains procured are utilized for Public Distribution System (PDS) as well as Other Welfare Scheme (OWS). Excess foodgrains under Central Pool procured are being sold through Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS).

- (c) The details of allocation and off take of wheat and rice under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 are given in the Statement.

**Statement***Allocation and Offtake of Rice and Wheat made during  
2012-13 TO 2014-15 under TPDS*

(in lakh tons)

Year	Allocation			Offtake		
	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
2012-13	271.40	233.28	504.68	252.27	196.48	448.76
2013-14	268.49	232.53	501.02	245.15	200.11	445.26
2014-15	304.20	215.92	520.12	255.92	189.94	445.86

*Allocation and offtake of rice & wheat of special ad-hoc additional allocations made for  
BPL families during 2012-13 To 2014-15 under TPDS*

(in lakh tons)

Year	Allocation			off take		
	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
2012-13*	45.58	25.63	71.21	37.24	18.02	55.26
2013-14	30.92	19.07	0.05	11.80	3.58	15.39
2014-15	27.81	2.04	29.85	19.75	1.71	21.47

\*Additional allocation for 2012-13 also includes additional allocation of 14,79,235 tons of rice and 6,42,002 tons of wheat made for the poorest/backward districts across the country.

**Establishment of irradiation plants**

708. DR. CHANDAN MITRA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating using large scale nuclear irradiation technology for increasing the shelf life of fruits and vegetables, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for establishing irradiation plants for the purpose alongside warehouses of Central Warehousing Corporation and Food Corporation of India, especially those situated around metro cities for the benefit of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Government has already issued generic approval *vide* notification no. G.S.R. 158 dated 26th June, 2012 [Atomic Energy (Radiation Processing of Food and Allied Products) Rule, 2012] for irradiation of food and allied products including fruits and vegetables. Irradiation technology has been established

and based on this technology already 15 commercial irradiation plants are operational in the country in Private, Semi Government and Co-operative Sector. Besides, 2 plants are operated by Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and one plant of DAE is operated on lease by a private entrepreneur. Most of these plants are capable for irradiation of fruits & vegetables for increasing shelf life.

(b) There is no proposal to establish irradiation plants alongside warehouses of Central Warehousing Corporation and Food Corporation of India as fruits and vegetables are not stored in these warehouses.

### **Raids to curb prices of foodgrains and pulses**

†709. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has resorted to large scale raiding in some States in order to curb the spiraling price rise of foodgrains and pulses, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action taken against the hoarders?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) As on date, foodgrains are not under stock limits. As regards pulses, the State Governments have been empowered to impose stock limits. As per the delegation of powers, the States and UTs are the enforcement agencies for the Essential Commodities Act 1955 and the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of essential Commodities Act, 1980. The raids are to be conducted by the State Governments/UTs against hoarders of any essential commodities covered under the Orders of Stock limits. The details of raids conducted on the wholesalers & retailers by some of the States during 2015 are given in the Statement-II (*See below*). The details of the raids conducted by the States on dealers of Pulses during 19.10.2015 till 01.12.2015 are given in the Statement-I.

### **Statement-I**

#### *Enforcement data under Essential Commodities Act, 1955*

(Pulses)

(Between 19.10.2015 to 01.12.2015)

Sl No.	State	Raids conducted, quantity seized and quantity disposed (MT)			
		Raids	Qty seized	Qty disposed	Balance
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Chhattisgarh	112	5447.93	2471.39	2976.54
2.	Haryana	1108	14.60	Nil	14.60

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Karnataka*	1351	25545.82	488.53	25057.30
4.	Madhya Pradesh	969	3373.60	1972.90	1400.70
5.	Maharashtra	5250	86709.39	19756.25	66953.14
6.	Telangana	1924	3152.38	Nil	3152.38
7.	Rajasthan	797	2643.77	261.61	2382.16
8.	Jharkhand	140	282.02	Nil	282.02
9.	Odisha	180	1410.26	1403.86	6.40
10.	Andhra Pradesh	1300	1361.52	352.50	1009.02
11.	Gujarat	203	53.01	Nil	53.01
12.	Himachal Pradesh	500	3.42	Nil	3.42
13.	NCT Delhi	01	81.29	8.13	73.16
14.	Bihar	299	360.41	Nil	360.41
TOTAL		14134	130439.40	26715.17	103724.26

\*The High Court of Karnataka on 23.11.2015 declared the Department of Food & Civil Supplies' seizure of pulses stored by traders as "illegal" and ordered the release of pulses, edible oils and oilseeds from them.

### ***Statement-II***

*Action taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 during 2015  
(Relating to offences under EC Act for other than violation of stock  
control orders/ for violation of stock control orders)*

(Updated as on 30.11.2015)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Raids Conducted	No. of Persons			Value of goods Confiscated (₹ in lakhs)
			Arrested	Prosecuted	Convicted	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	987	0	23	23	1056.51
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	1	-	-	0.01



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NR
4.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NR
5.	Chhattisgarh	56	0	0	0	5.04
6.	Delhi	18	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Goa	90	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Gujarat	6796	24	12	-	99.25
9.	Haryana	34	103	7	-	96.93
10.	Himachal Pradesh	24114	-	-	-	19.7
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
12.	Jharkhand	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
13.	Karnataka	509	107	0	3	14.73
14.	Kerala	957	28	9	1	4.09
15.	Madhya Pradesh	37679	-	111	6	92.46
16.	Maharashtra	478	592	204	2	523.89
17.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Meghalaya	41	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
19.	Mizoram	141	-	-	-	-
20.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Odisha	2111	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.02
22.	Punjab	5557	-	-	-	-
23.	Rajasthan	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
24.	Sikkim	51	-	-	-	-
25.	Tamil Nadu	29	41	41	0	0.09
26.	Tripura	111	NR	NR	NR	0.40
27.	Uttarakhand	5	5	4	-	1.8
28.	Uttar Pradesh	66	13	9	1	234.42
29.	West Bengal	607	146	44	-	90.28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	59	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
31.	Chandigarh	2	1	15	3	-
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
33.	Daman and Diu	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
34.	Lakshadweep	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
35.	Puducherry	607	0	2	-	0.63
36.	Telangana	2183	286	2	0	319.29
TOTAL		83294	1349	483	39	25559.54

#### **Rotting of foodgrains in FCI godowns**

710. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether large quantity of foodgrains are rotting in FCI godowns in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the position in the FCI godowns/yards in the State of West Bengal;
- (c) the efforts being made to off take these grains; and
- (d) how is the responsibility fixed for rotting of the foodgrains in FCI godowns?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No Sir. As on 01.11.2015, a quantity of 595.613 ton of damaged/non-issuable stock is lying with FCI, out of total stock of 246.56 lakh tons.

(b) The position of damaged foodgrains accrued in the godowns of FCI in West Bengal during 2015-16 (as on 01.11.2015) is as under:

Name of Depot	Quantity in Tons		Reason	for Damage
	Wheat	Rice	Total	
Malda/Mangalbari	0	3.71	3.71	Rail head damage
Purulia/Charrah	0	2	2	Transit damage
Purulia/Balarampur	0	0.40	0.40	Transit damage
TOTAL	0	6.11	6.11	

(c) The stock declared as damaged is disposed off through tender sale. The entire damaged stock accrued upto 2014-15 have been disposed off through tender sale.

(d) Action against the defaulters responsible for damage to foodgrains is taken by the respective competent authorities as per the provisions/instructions contained in FCI (Staff) regulation 1971 on case to case basis.

#### **Interest on borrowings paid by FCI**

711. DR. KANWAR DEEPSINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI has to pay 8000 crore every year as interest on the money it has borrowed from different sources, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the proposals to take FCI out of this situation?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Since there is gap between requirement projected by FCI and food subsidy actually allocated in the Budget, FCI has to borrow funds from different sources such as loan for Cash Credit Limit (CCL) and bonds and has to pay interest on these borrowings.

The details of interest expenditure during the last 5 years and estimated current year expenditure are as under:

Financial Year	Interest on borrowed money (₹ in crore)
2010-11 (Audited)	3,204.33
2011-12 (Audited)	5,227.16
2012-13 (Audited)	6,392.07
2013-14 (Audited)	7,190.72
2014-15 (Provisional)	8,244.31

Steady rise in interest expenditure of FCI is on account of increase in borrowings to finance the increased level of procurement operations.

(b) Several steps have been taken for ensuring sufficient funds with FCI. Some of these steps are providing more budget allocation, sanction of Cash Credit Limit (CCL), Ways and Means Advance, issue of bonds, etc.

**Digitization of Ration Card**

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

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that Government of West Bengal has been able to eliminate 70 lakh bogus ration cards through digitization of Ration Card system;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken steps to implement best practices learnt from West Bengal for better delivery in Public Distribution System (PDS) across other States;

(c) the extent of reduction of losses because of digitization of Ration Card system in West Bengal; and

(d) the amount allocated and utilized for end-to-end computerization of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during last three years in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Department of Food and Public Distribution is implementing a Plan Scheme on 'End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS Operations' during 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) at a total project cost of ₹ 884.07 crores. The cost is being shared on 90:10 basis with NE States and on 50:50 basis with other States/UTs. The component-I of the scheme comprises activities namely, digitization of ration card/beneficiary and other databases, computerization of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms etc. During the implementation of the project and as reported by the State Government of West Bengal during the last three years (*i.e.* April, 2012 to March, 2015) 81.73 lakh bogus ration cards have been eliminated. The "End-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations" Scheme has been built around the best practices and innovations/experiments carried out by different States/UTs and it is evolving all the times. All such best practices/innovations are shared with all the States/UTs through periodic seminars, Video Conferences, letters and departmental magazines etc. Elimination of bogus cards has reduced losses to the extent bogus ration cards have been eliminated.

(d) During the last three years a sum of ₹ 15,16,73,910/- has been allocated to State of West Bengal as Central share of funds and the same has been utilized by the State Government.

**Procurement of foodgrains**

†713. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agencies have failed to achieve the targets set for procurement of foodgrains due to farmers taking less interest in selling their produces;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the targets set and achieved in each of the last three years and current year; and

(c) the details of the price paid for the purchase of foodgrains during above period?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The target and the procurement of rice and wheat during the last three years and current year is as under:

(Figures in lakh MT)

KMS	Rice		RMS	Wheat	
	Estimated Target	Procurement		Estimated Target	Procurement
2012-13	401.85	340.44	2012-13	318.00	381.48
2013-14	364.19	318.40	2013-14	441.21	250.92
2014-15	351.50	321.65	2014-15	310.00	280.23
2015-16	300.00	133.73*	2015-16	300.00	280.88

(for Kharif crop only)

\*as on 26.11.2015

The target for procurement of foodgrains is fixed after discussion & taking into consideration the views of the State Governments well before start of each marketing season. As procurement always fluctuates based on the crop production & market situation in a particular season, actual procurement may be less or more than the target.

(c) The foodgrains are procured at Minimum Support Price (MSP) declared by the Government of India (GoI). The MSP declared by GoI for procurement of paddy and wheat for last three years and current years is as under :-

(Fig. in ₹ per qtl.)

KMS	Paddy Common	Paddy Grade 'A'	RMS	Wheat
2012-13	1250	1280	2012-13	1285
2013-14	1310	1345	2013-14	1350
2014-15	1360	1400	2014-15	1400
2015-16	1410	1450	2015-16	1450

**Import of vegetable oil**

†714.SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether import of vegetable oil is likely to fall during next year, if so, the quantum of vegetable oil imported during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the quantity of vegetable oil which is estimated to be imported during next year and its impact on the availability and price of vegetable oil in the country; and

(c) whether any corrective measures have been taken in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. The import of vegetable oil may not fall during next year. As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), the quantum of vegetable oils imported during last three years and current year are as follows:-

(Quantity in lakh tones)	
Year	Quantity of Vegetable Oil imported
2012-13	110.17
2013-14	104.68
2014-15	127.32
2015-16* (upto Sept.2015)	75.00

\*Figure for 2015-16 is provisional

(b) It is estimated that about 140-145 lakh tonnes of vegetable oil will be imported in the next year. With this import availability of vegetable oil will be sufficient to meet the demand at a reasonable price.

(c) In order to increase production of oilseeds and hence edible oil a National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) is being implemented in country since year-2014-15. NMOOP comprise of three Mini-Mission (MM) viz. MM-I (Oilseeds), MM-II (Oil Palm) and MM-III (Tree Born Oils). Under the mission, assistance are being provided

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to farmers for various components/ interventions in order to increase oilseed production. Further, in order to protect the interest of oilseed producing farmers and domestic edible oil industry, Government has raised the custom duty on crude edible oils and refined edible oils from 7.5% and 15% to 12.5% and 20% respectively for discouraging import of edible oil.

#### **Action on letters of Members of Parliament**

715. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALLYAWI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received from Members of Parliament by the Hon'ble Minister since August, 2014 till date;

(b) the number of letters on which interim and final reply has been sent to the Members of Parliament;

(c) the number of letters on which action has been taken and those on which action is still pending;

(d) the number of letters on which neither any reply has been sent to the Members nor any action has been taken, thereon, along with reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken to avoid the situation in part (d) above?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Total 799 letters have been received.

(b) and (c) Out of 799 letters, replies in respect of 680 letters (including 9 interim replies) have been sent. Out of the remaining 119 letters, action on 29 letters has been taken and 90 letters are pending.

(d) and (e) 90 letters. Inputs are called for from the agencies, State Governments and other Departments as well. Delay in getting inputs causes pendency. The action taken on letters are regularly reviewed at Senior Level and concerned agencies/State Governments/Departments are pursued for providing timely inputs. The Department has now started forwarding the letters electronically, *i.e.* by e-mail and also requesting the agencies to send the information electronically. This is expected to cut down the delay in correspondence considerably.

**Rise in prices of onion**

716. SHRI D. RAJA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether retail prices of onion had jumped to almost ₹ 80 per kg. in many cities in August and September this year nearly ₹ 50/- more than the average price a year ago, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether attention of Government has been drawn to an analysis made by NITI Aayog on this year's onion crisis stating that traders could have milked about ₹ 8000 crore from consumers in August September months by manipulating prices and Government failed to use price stabilisation instruments to deal with the crisis, if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) Of the total 75 price monitoring centres across the country, only Aizwal registered onion average price ₹ 86 per kg during September, 2015 as against ₹ 53 per kg a year ago.

(b) No such analysis has reportedly been done by NITI Aayog.

**Setting up of CCPA**

717. SHRI S. THANGAVELU : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to set up a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the proposed CCPA will have the power to inquire into violations of consumer rights, unfair trade practices and false or misleading advertisements, besides conducting search and seizure of documents, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) To carry out comprehensive amendments to the existing Consumer Protection Act, 1986 the Government has already introduced the Consumer Protection Bill 2015 in the Lok Sabha. The Bill seeks to establish a Central Consumer Protection Authority, the objectives of which, *inter alia*, are to ensure that no advertisement is made of any goods or services which is misleading or deceiving or contravenes the provisions of this Act and rules and regulations made under it; and to ensure that no person engages himself in unfair trade practices or takes part in the



publication of any advertisement which is false or misleading. The Central Authority can order withdrawal of advertisements found to be false or misleading and direct issuance of corrective advertisements, wherever necessary.

**Monitoring on MRP of products being sold in Market**

†718. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the parameter to determine the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of various products sold in the country;
- (b) whether any ceiling has been fixed on the profit earned in regard to the cost price and sale price;
- (c) whether Government regularly monitors the MRP of the products being sold in the market so that the consumers could be saved from being looted; and
- (d) if such a system or parameter does not exist then would Government consider taking steps in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Sir, the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of various products sold in the country is determined by the Manufactures/packers/importers themselves. The prices and profit margins are determined through competition in the market place. No ceiling has been fixed on the profit earned in regard to the cost price and sale price.

(c) and (d) No Sir. Government does not monitor the MRP of the products being sold in the market. However, the enforcement of Legal Metrology is done by the State Governments Legal Metrology Departments to ensure that the commodity is not sold at higher than MRP.

An Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. Govinda Rao, Director, National Institute of public Finance & Policy studied the problem and recommended that the solution to prevent exploitation of consumer lies in activating competition in the markets. The committee also noted that for goods covered under Schedule 4 of the Central Excise Act, there is an automatic disincentive to inflate the MRP because higher MRP would attract higher taxes.

The Government has accepted these recommendations of the committee.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Reforms in Consumer Commission**

719. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to clear a stricter consumer protection bill with provisions to make manufacturers and service providers liable for their products and services, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is also considering to make reforms in Consumer Commission, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) One of the main features of the Consumer Protection Bill, 2015 already introduced in the Lok Sabha, is inclusion of provisions relating to product liability as per which, where any personal injury, death, or property damage is caused to the consumer resulting from defects in the manufacture, construction, design, formula, preparation, assembly, testing, service, warning, instruction, marketing, packaging, or labelling of any product, the manufacturer or producer of such product shall be liable for the product in product liability action.

(b) The proposed Bill seeks to provide for several provisions aimed at simplifying the consumer dispute adjudication process in the consumer fora. These include, among others, enhancing the pecuniary jurisdiction of the Consumer Grievance Redressal Agencies, increasing minimum number of Members in the consumer courts to facilitate quick disposal of complaints, power to review their own orders by the State and District Commission, constitution of 'Circuit Bench' to facilitate quicker disposal of complaints, reforming the process for the appointment of the President and Members of the District Fora, enabling provisions for consumers to file complaints electronically and file complaints in consumer courts that have jurisdiction over the place of residence of the complainant, and deemed admissibility of complaints if the question of admissibility is not decided within the specified period of 21 days.

**Construction of new godowns**

720. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total capacity of Food Corporation of India to store grains, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government has any plan to construct new storage godowns in 2015-16, if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Total storage capacity available with FCI for storage of foodgrains as on 31st October, 2015 is 366.87 lakh MT. State-wise details of capacity is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Yes, Sir. New storage godowns are being constructed with Plan funds in Plan Scheme and also with the help of private investors in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

Under Plan Scheme, which is focussed on the North Eastern States, a capacity of 19170 MTs has been constructed in Assam in 2015-16 till 31.10.2015. Following state-wise capacities are under construction in the current year:-

Sl.No.	State	Capacity in MT
1.	Assam	30830
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9630
3.	Manipur	5000
4.	Nagaland	12920
5.	Tripura	5000
6.	Kerala	5000
TOTAL		68380

Under Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) scheme being implemented in PPP mode, the state-wise capacities completed and under construction in the current year are given in the Statement-II.

**Statement-I**

*State-wise monthly average storage capacity with FCI for the month of October, 2015.*

Zone	Sl. No.	Region/U.T.	Covered										Cap			Grand Stocks Utilization		
			FCI	Hired					Total Covered	Owned	Hired	Total	Total	Held	Utilization (%Age)			
				State	Govt.	CWC	SWC	PEG										
																PWS 2010	Pvt. Parties	Total Hired
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
East	1.	Bihar	3.66	0.03	0.78	1.03	0.45	0.00	0.32	2.61	6.27	1.00	0.00	1.00	7.27	3.85	53	
	2.	Jharkhand	0.67	0.05	0.07	0.26	1.13	0.00	0.06	1.57	2.24	0.05	0.00	0.05	2.29	1.90	83	
	3.	Odisha	3.12	0.00	0.71	1.64	0.09	0.00	0.00	2.44	5.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.56	4.71	85	
	4.	West Bengal	8.40	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.87	1.14	9.54	0.51	0.00	0.51	10.05	6.60	66	
	5.	Sikkim	0.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.07	64	
N.E.		TOTAL (E.ZONE)	15.95	0.09	1.83	2.93	1.67	0.00	1.25	7.77	23.72	1.56	0.00	1.56	25.28	17.13	68	
	6.	Assam	2.70	0.00	0.35	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.45	1.02	3.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.72	3.05	82	
	7.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.18	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.18	82	
	8.	Meghalaya	0.14	0.00	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.23	82	
	9.	Mizoram	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.16	64	

10.	Tripura	0.29	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.07	0.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.13	36
11.	Manipur	0.28	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	0.20	63
12.	Nagaland	0.20	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.31	94
	TOTAL (N.E.Z)	4.04	0.09	0.55	0.29	0.00	0.00	0.51	1.44	5.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.48	4.26	78
North 13.	Delhi	3.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.36	0.31	0.00	0.31	3.67	2.18	59
14.	Haryana	7.68	2.24	2.66	3.26	32.68	0.00	2.00	42.84	50.52	3.33	0.00	3.33	53.85	45.58	85
15.	Himachal Pradesh	0.19	0.05	0.07	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.49	0.37	76
16.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.03	0.15	0.00	0.00	1.10	0.00	0.03	1.28	2.31	0.10	0.00	0.10	2.41	1.88	78
17.	Punjab	22.24	0.14	6.03	32.92	40.81	0.00	3.27	83.17	105.41	7.31	0.09	7.40	112.81	65.83	58
18.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.04	67
19.	Rajasthan	7.06	0.00	2.62	5.61	1.43	0.24	1.53	11.43	18.49	1.85	0.00	1.85	20.34	17.64	87
20.	Uttar Pradesh	14.95	0.15	4.03	13.43	11.16	0.00	0.00	28.77	43.72	5.19	0.00	5.19	48.91	31.96	65
21.	Uttarakhand	0.66	0.16	0.40	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.98	1.64	0.21	0.00	0.21	1.85	1.44	78
	TOTAL (N.Z.)	57.17	2.89	15.87	55.64	87.36	0.24	6.83	168.83	226.00	18.30	0.09	18.39	244.39	166.92	68
South 22.	Andhra Pradesh	7.29	0.00	0.57	4.80	0.78	1.15	0.00	7.30	14.59	1.60	0.00	1.60	16.19	12.21	75
23.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.06	86

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	24.	Telangana	5.37	0.00	0.61	1.63	1.10	0.45	0.00	3.79	9.16	1.02	0.00	1.02	10.18	9.36	92
	25.	Kerala	5.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.05	5.34	0.21	0.00	0.21	5.55	4.62	83
	26.	Karnataka	3.81	0.00	0.25	1.20	0.89	0.00	1.00	3.34	7.15	1.36	0.00	1.36	8.51	7.46	88
	27.	Tamil Nadu	5.80	0.00	1.66	1.04	1.11	0.00	0.50	4.31	10.11	0.25	0.00	0.25	10.36	8.43	81
	28.	Pudducherry	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.49	0.93	0.06	0.00	0.06	0.99	0.82	83
		TOTAL (S.Z.)	28.07	0.00	3.09	8.86	4.23	1.60	1.50	19.28	47.35	4.50	0.00	4.50	51.85	42.96	83
West	29.	Gujarat	5.00	0.14	1.46	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.03	2.06	7.06	0.27	0.00	0.27	7.33	5.63	77
	30.	Maharashtra	8.85	0.00	1.52	2.55	5.40	0.15	0.83	10.45	19.30	1.02	0.00	1.02	20.32	14.56	72
	31.	Goa	0.15	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.18	90
	32.	Madhya Pradesh	3.37	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	3.42	0.36	0.00	0.36	3.78	1.75	46
	33.	Chhattisgarh	5.12	0.00	0.45	2.05	0.56	0.00	0.05	3.11	8.23	0.01	0.00	0.01	8.24	4.16	50
		TOTAL (W.Z.)	22.49	0.14	3.53	4.60	6.39	0.15	0.91	15.72	38.21	1.66	0.00	1.66	39.87	26.28	66
GRAND TOTAL			127.72	3.21	24.87	72.32	99.65	1.99	11.00	213.04	340.76	26.02	0.09	26.11	366.87	257.55	70

**Statement-II**

*State-wise storage capacities constructed and under construction  
under PEG Scheme in 2015-16*

Sl. No.	State	Capacity completed (MT)	Capacity under construction (MT)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	25,000
2.	Bihar	15,000	265,000
3.	Chhattisgarh	25,270	67,040
4.	Gujarat	0	0
5.	Haryana	0	16,680
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	340	101,000
8.	Jharkhand	13,000	30,000
9.	Karnataka	0	36,670
10.	Kerala	0	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	110,260	422,370
12.	Maharashtra	0	0
13.	Odisha	30,000	35,000
14.	Punjab	75,767	128,270
15.	Rajasthan	0	15,000
16.	Tamil Nadu	5,000	75,000
17.	Telengana	0	0
18.	Uttarakhand	0	0
19.	Uttar Pradesh	0	338,000
20.	West Bengal	65,270	43,010
TOTAL		339,907	1,598,040

**Lack of awareness about procurement agency**

721. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry accepts that lack of awareness or lack of access led to only six per cent of the farmers in India being able to sell their produce to a procurement agency according to NSSO data for 2012-13;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to increase awareness about Government procurement, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken to improve access, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Farmers are made aware of the procurement operations by way of advertisements like displaying banners, pamphlets, announcement for procurement and specification in print and electronic media. Some States have taken steps to pre-register farmers for ensuring procurement from them through a software system.

(c) Yes, Sir. The steps taken to improve access for the procurement amongst the farmers are given in the Statement.

***Statement******The steps taken to improve access for the procurement amongst the farmers***

1. Keeping in view the procurement potential areas, procurement centres for MSP operations are opened by Government agencies, both FCI and State Government, after mutual consultations.
2. Procurement centres are opened by respective State Government Agencies/ FCI taking into account the production, marketable surplus, convenience of farmers and availability of other logistics / infrastructure such as storage and transportation etc. Large number of temporary purchase centres in addition to the existing Mandis and depots/godowns are also established at key points for the convenience of the farmers.
3. The Government agencies also engage Co-operative Societies and Self Help Group which work as aggregators of produce from farmers and bring the produce to purchase centres being operated in particular locations/areas and



increase outreach of MSP operations to small and marginal farmers. These Co-operative Societies are in addition to the direct purchases from farmers.

4. Co-operative societies/Self Help Groups are engaged in many States like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Jharkhand and Rajasthan. Whereas, in some states like Punjab and Haryana, the Government of India has permitted the State Governments to engage Arhatiyas for procurement of foodgrains from the farmers on payment of commission. These steps have been taken by Government of India (GOI) so that Government agencies can procure maximum foodgrains directly from farmers by expanding out- reach of MSP benefit to farmers.

#### **Distribution of pulses through PDS**

722. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked State Governments to make cheaper lentils available to consumers, particularly the vulnerable sections, through the Public Distribution System, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has also asked State Governments to indicate their requirement of pulses for distribution through the PDS and control, the price rise; and

(c) if so, whether Government has received the requirements from State Governments, if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) Government has had sought requirement for distribution of the 5000 MT of Tur imported under the Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme. Based on the request received the allocation till now are Andhra Pradesh (1872 MT), Telangana (500 MT), Tamil Nadu (1000 MT), Uttar Pradesh (250 MT) and Odisha (300 MT) and 500 MT to Safal and Kendriya Bhandar for distribution through their outlets in Delhi.

#### **Gap in Demand and supply of pulses**

723. SHRI C.M. RAMESH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country needs 10 million tonnes of pulses as per ASSOCHAM, considering the deficit in rainfall coupled with shortage of production of pulses in the country; and

(b) if so, how the Ministry is planning to bridge the demand-supply gap of pulses in the country in 2015-16 in view of global supply constraints?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) As per ASSOCHAM's study, production of pulses during 2015-16 is likely to be 17 million tonnes as against 17.20 million tonne in 2014-15. It also suggested that 10.1 million tonnes of pulses will have to be imported to meet the rising demand.

(b) To bridge the demand-supply gap of pulses, the Government has enhanced Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of pulses to incentivize farmers to increase production and has also decided to create a buffer stock of pulses through procurement by Govt. agencies like FCI, NAFED and SFAC. This is in addition to other measures already taken like including extension of zero import duty on pulses, ban on export of pulses with exceptions, imposition of stock limit on pulses, suspension of future trading in Urad and Tur, action against black-marketing and hoarding, etc. would also facilitate in bridging the demand-supply gap.

#### **Improper storage of foodgrains**

†724. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

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

(a) the details of decaying of different foodgrains kept in the godowns of the country during the last five years;

(b) whether any action has been taken against any officials in this regard;

(c) whether Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has stated in its report-' The state of food insecurity in the world, 2015 that the number of persons facing hunger is higher in India than China; and

(d) if so, whether it is appropriate that on the one hand the foodgrains decay due to the improper storage and on the other hand, people starve?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Details of damage foodgrains accrued during the last five years and current year in the godowns of FCI is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Yes Sir, number of officers/officials against whom action taken for damage of foodgrains due to various reasons during the last five years and current year are as under:

Year	Number of officers/officials against whom action taken
2010-11	20
2011-12	19
2012-13	15
2013-14	50
2014-15	77
2015-16 (Till Oct, 2015)	24

(c) As per statistics provided in the report “The State of Food Insecurity in the World, 2015” the number of persons facing hunger in India is higher than china.

(d) It is not correct to say that on one hand foodgrains decay due to improper storage and on the other hand people starve. Central Pool foodgrains are stored in scientific godowns and scientific code of practices for safe storage of foodgrains are followed but inspite of all precautions some quantity may get damaged/become non-issuable during storage due to various reasons such as storage pest’s attack, leakages in godowns, exposure to rains, floods etc. The percentage of damaged foodgrains has reduced to only 0.01% of the total offtake under central pool during 2015-16 (upto 1.11.2015). National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 has been enacted to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. This helps in checking the hunger or starvation.

***Statement***

*Details of accrual of damaged foodgrains in FCI, off-take quantity excluding decentralised procuring (DCP) states & % damaged foodgrain W. R.T. Offtake foodgrain*

Year	Commodity	Accrued Quantity of Damaged foodgrains (in lakh tons)	Off-take quantity excluding DCP States (in lakh tons)	% Damaged foodgrains against off- take quantity
2010-11	Wheat	0.02	209.61	0.01
	Rice*	0.04	222.46	0.02
	TOTAL	0.06	432.07	0.01
2011-12	Wheat	0.02	219.95	0.01
	Rice	0.01	253.64	0.00
	TOTAL	0.03	473.59	0.01
2012-13	Wheat	0.02	299.17	0.01
	Rice	0.01	253.43	0.00
	TOTAL	0.03	552.60	0.01
2013-14	Wheat	0.13	281.79	0.05
	Rice	0.11	241.37	0.05
	TOTAL	0.25	523.16	0.05
2014-15	Wheat	0.07	241.35	0.03
	Rice	0.12	260.40	0.05
	TOTAL	0.19	501.75	0.04
2015-16 (As on 1.11.2015)	Wheat	0.01	130.91	0.01
	Rice	0.02	118.32	0.02
	TOTAL	0.03	249.23	0.01

Remarks: \* including 0.02 Lakh Tons damaged coarse grains.

**Rise in price of essential food items**

†725. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) the year-wise and month-wise rate of increase in the wholesale and retail prices of essential food items and pulses-oilseeds during the last two years;

(b) whether common man is under heavy financial burden due to inordinate increase in the prices of pulses;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to determine the reasons for rise in prices of pulses and failure of Government mechanism to check it;

(d) the organization working to control the rise in prices of essential food items; and

(e) the number of people held responsible for inflation and action taken against them during last two years?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The rate of increase of select essential commodities for the last two years is given in the Statement-IA - ID. (See below).

(b) and (c) Pulses is a major source of protein and higher prices has impacted the quantity of pulses consumption by the common man.

The upward trend in the price of pulses is due to decline in production on account of adverse weather conditions and also increase in demand. As per the 4th Advance Estimates for 2014-15, the production of pulses has come down to 17.20 million tonnes during 2014-15 as against 19.25 million tonnes during 2013-14 i.e. a decline of 10.65 per cent.

(d) Prices of essential commodities are regularly monitored by the Department of Consumer Affairs and is regularly reviewed at the highest levels such as Committee of Secretaries on Prices set up by the Cabinet Secretariat which recommends possible policy interventions for implementation.

(e) Government has enacted the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 and as these Acts are implemented by the State governments/UTs, they have been regularly advised to ensure effective implementation of these acts. The details of action taken during last two years are given in the Statement-II.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Statement-IA***Month-wise and year-wise rate of variation in Monthly Average Retail Prices 2013-14*

Commodity	Annual													
	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Nov-14/ Nov-13
Rice	1.9	-0.4	-0.7	0.8	0.5	-0.5	0.5	0.8	1.7	0.4	1.4	-0.8	-1.4	2.3
Wheat	0.7	1.8	1.2	-0.4	-0.7	-1.5	-1.2	-0.1	2.3	0.1	2.6	0.4	-0.2	4.3
Gram Dal	-0.8	-1.0	-1.7	-2.8	1.2	-0.2	-0.2	-2.4	-2.2	-0.6	0.1	0.2	-1.2	-10.4
Tur/Arhar	0.9	0.3	-0.6	-0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	-0.7	0.6	1.9	3.1	0.2	1.3	7.0
Urad Dal	3.7	0.7	1.5	1.2	1.1	2.1	2.7	3.1	2.2	4.5	3.4	-2.9	-0.8	20.2
Moong Dal	2.2	1.2	2.8	4.4	3.5	3.7	0.9	-2.2	-0.4	1.8	0.9	0.2	4.9	23.7
Masoor Dal	1.6	-1.4	1.1	0.0	2.1	3.7	3.5	1.0	1.3	2.3	2.1	0.9	1.8	19.8
Groundnut Oil (Packed)	-0.6	-0.5	-1.9	-1.2	1.2	-0.6	0.7	-3.0	2.7	-0.8	-1.1	-0.5	0.1	-4.9
Mustard Oil (Packed)	2.4	0.2	-0.3	-0.5	-0.2	0.2	-0.5	-0.8	0.3	-0.2	0.4	0.3	-0.1	-0.9
Vanaspati (Packed)	1.3	-0.6	-0.5	0.2	1.8	0.7	0.1	-0.5	1.2	0.4	-1.0	-0.4	-0.5	0.9
Soya Oil	1.1	0.2	-0.6	-0.8	0.7	0.3	-1.0	-0.3	0.7	-0.3	0.0	-0.3	-0.1	-1.5
(Packed)														
Sunflower Oil (Packed)	0.2	-1.2	-0.8	-1.1	0.8	-0.6	0.0	-1.3	1.2	-0.8	-1.1	-0.2	0.1	-4.8
Palm Oil (Packed)	1.9	-0.7	-0.5	-0.1	1.8	0.0	-0.8	-1.1	0.0	-1.7	-2.7	0.4	-0.9	-6.3

Potato	32.3	-14.4	-15.6	-15.7	4.6	13.1	12.7	5.9	12.1	11.1	5.9	2.9	1.8	18.9
Onion	-5.7	-38.4	-32.4	-17.8	-6.7	1.2	7.2	11.4	35.5	0.8	-5.6	-4.4	-0.2	-52.5
Tomato	34.1	-29.3	-34.4	-22.6	1.0	9.9	5.9	-2.1	95.7	42.1	-26.5	-18.1	-20.5	-45.0
Sugar	-0.8	-1.4	-0.4	-1.4	1.0	3.4	1.1	-0.2	1.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.7	-0.7	0.6
Milk	1.3	0.5	1.1	-0.2	1.1	2.0	0.3	0.7	1.4	1.3	-0.8	0.6	1.6	10.1

Source : State Civil Supplies Departments

### Statement-1B

Month-wise and year-wise rate of variation in Monthly Average Retail Prices 2014-15

Commodity	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Nov.15/Nov.14
Rice	-1.4	-1.0	-0.8	0.1	-0.8	0.5	-0.2	0.3	-0.2	-0.7	0.2	0.5	-0.1	-2.2
Wheat	-0.2	-1.0	0.8	3.8	-0.8	-0.5	-1.2	1.0	0.4	-0.6	0.9	1.9	1.8	6.5
Gram Dal	-1.2	-0.4	3.3	2.9	2.2	3.9	10.2	5.1	1.0	1.8	4.4	6.7	2.2	52.4
Tur/Arhar	1.3	0.7	2.0	2.4	3.5	4.3	7.8	3.7	3.2	6.8	14.1	19.9	6.0	102.9
Urad Dal	-0.8	0.7	2.2	1.5	0.6	4.2	10.0	6.6	1.6	2.0	6.6	20.3	9.9	87.9
Moong Dal	4.9	2.5	2.2	1.2	-0.1	1.2	1.9	-1.0	-2.2	-0.8	1.4	7.5	1.4	16.1
Masoor Dal	1.8	1.1	3.1	0.4	-1.1	0.9	4.9	3.8	1.9	3.0	4.4	2.0	-0.6	26.3
Groundnut (Packed) Oil	0.1	-0.7	0.8	0.7	-0.7	0.4	1.0	-0.3	0.1	0.7	1.7	0.4	-0.4	3.8

Annual

Commodity	Annual													
	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Nov.15/Nov.14
Mustard Oil (Packed)	-0.1	0.1	1.7	1.9	-1.7	0.1	0.5	1.3	1.2	0.4	1.9	1.8	5.8	16.1
Vanaspati (Packed)	-0.5	-0.5	0.6	0.9	-0.6	-0.5	-0.4	-1.0	-0.2	-0.7	-0.6	-0.4	-1.0	-4.5
Soya Oil (Packed)	-0.1	-0.6	1.1	0.5	0.2	0.0	-0.8	-1.0	-0.8	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	-1.7	-3.3
Sunflower Oil (Packed)	0.1	0.3	0.7	-0.2	-0.9	-0.4	0.0	-1.0	0.1	0.1	1.4	1.1	0.2	1.3
Palm Oil (Packed)	-0.9	-1.3	2.8	-1.4	0.5	-1.4	0.5	0.0	-1.0	-1.6	-1.1	-0.5	-2.4	-6.9
Potato	1.8	-19.0	-21.4	-7.6	-10.3	-9.4	-3.2	9.2	4.8	-0.2	0.6	6.2	4.9	-40.8
Onion	-0.2	-1.2	-2.3	0.7	-3.2	-8.8	0.3	12.6	15.1	56.8	20.7	-16.8	-18.5	43.3
Tomato	-20.5	-4.0	0.0	-9.5	-2.1	-0.3	25.8	0.0	12.7	-12.3	-0.2	12.6	36.1	61.5
Sugar	-0.7	-2.3	-2.4	-1.2	-2.1	-3.0	-1.4	-2.8	-3.2	-0.6	1.7	2.4	1.8	-12.7
Milk	1.6	0.3	1.2	-0.1	0.1	-0.4	0.9	0.6	0.6	-0.2	0.4	-0.4	-1.4	1.7

Source : State Civil Supplies Departments

**Statement-IC***Month-wise and year-wise rate of variation in Monthly Average Wholesale Prices 2013-14*

Commodity	Annual													
	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Nov-14/Nov-13
Rice	1.9	-0.1	-0.4	1.1	0.5	-0.1	0.4	0.0	1.4	0.1	1.6	-0.6	-1.0	2.9
Wheat	1.8	1.1	1.4	0.0	-0.6	-1.8	-1.4	0.3	1.6	-0.2	2.4	1.2	-0.2	3.7



Gram Dal	-1.2	-1.0	-2.0	-3.0	1.3	-0.1	0.2	-2.9	-2.2	-0.7	0.6	0.3	-1.3	-10.4
Tur/Arhar	1.2	0.2	-0.4	-0.1	0.3	0.7	0.3	-0.5	0.0	1.9	3.6	0.2	1.5	7.9
Urad Dal	4.0	1.3	1.0	1.3	0.9	1.7	3.4	3.3	2.2	4.5	4.1	-3.3	-0.8	21.3
Moong Dal	2.2	1.8	3.0	5.0	3.6	3.7	0.5	-2.2	-0.6	2.0	0.9	0.3	5.4	25.6
Masoor Dal	1.5	-1.3	1.0	0.6	2.1	3.5	3.2	1.4	1.1	2.2	2.2	1.5	1.9	21.3
Groundnut Oil (Packed)	-0.6	-0.5	-2.6	-0.1	0.8	-0.9	1.1	-2.6	3.0	-0.2	-1.6	-0.4	0.1	-4.0
Mustard Oil (Packed)	1.9	-0.3	-0.4	0.0	-0.4	-0.3	-1.0	-0.7	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.0	-1.7
Vanaspati (Packed)	0.5	-0.4	-0.5	0.6	2.0	0.2	0.6	-0.8	0.2	0.2	-0.9	-0.2	-0.4	0.6
Soya Oil (Packed)	0.9	0.5	-0.7	-1.0	0.9	0.1	-1.0	-0.3	0.2	-0.3	-0.8	-0.2	0.0	-2.7
Sunflower Oil (Packed)	-0.1	-1.1	-0.8	-1.1	0.3	-0.5	0.0	-1.1	0.2	-0.4	-1.9	-0.5	0.3	-6.4
Palm Oil (Packed)	1.7	-0.2	-1.3	0.4	1.1	-0.1	-0.8	-0.9	-0.5	-1.6	-3.0	0.0	-0.7	-7.5
Potato	37.9	-15.5	-19.5	-19.7	6.1	16.7	15.5	7.5	12.5	13.9	5.7	3.1	2.6	20.3
Onion	-7.7	-40.8	-35.9	-20.7	-6.9	0.4	8.1	14.9	42.6	0.2	-7.9	-4.6	-0.3	-56.2
Tomato	44.8	-31.2	-40.6	-25.7	1.0	13.6	5.6	-2.5	120.0	44.5	-28.4	-21.2	-22.3	-50.1
Sugar	-1.2	-1.3	-0.9	-1.6	1.4	4.2	0.8	-0.4	1.3	-0.6	-0.6	-0.9	-1.2	-0.1
Milk	1.4	-0.1	-0.5	-0.6	1.4	1.9	0.9	1.0	1.6	1.0	0.7	-0.1	0.7	8.1

Source : State Civil Supplies Departments

**Statement-I D**  
*Month-wise and Year-wise Rate of variation in Monthly Average Wholesale Prices 2014-15*

Commodity	Annual													
	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Nov-15/No v.14
Rice	-1.0	-1.4	-0.9	-0.1	-0.4	0.7	-0.5	0.5	-0.9	-0.6	0.7	0.3	0.3	-2.3
Wheat	-0.2	-1.2	0.7	3.7	-0.6	-0.3	-1.3	0.8	0.3	-0.4	0.6	2.2	1.9	6.4
Gram Dal	-1.3	-0.6	4.4	3.2	2.1	4.6	11.5	4.9	1.0	2.0	4.3	6.9	2.3	57.4
Tur/Arhar	1.5	0.5	2.0	2.8	3.7	4.5	7.8	4.1	3.1	6.9	14.0	19.9	5.1	103.4
Urad Dal	-0.8	0.6	2.8	1.8	0.7	4.2	10.7	6.7	1.6	2.2	6.0	20.2	10.3	90.1
Moong Dal	5.4	2.2	2.1	1.3	-0.6	0.9	1.8	-0.7	-2.2	-1.0	1.0	8.4	1.11	14.8
Masoor Dal	1.9	0.9	3.0	0.2	-1.4	1.2	5.9	4.0	2.2	3.2	4.7	0.1	-1.6	24.6
Groundnut Oil (Packed)	0.1	-0.4	1.2	1.1	-1.2	0.6	1.4	-0.4	0.2	0.5	1.1	1.1	-1.4	3.7
Mustard Oil (Packed)	0.0	-0.3	2.2	1.8	-0.9	0.1	0.6	1.5	1.3	0.4	1.6	2.6	4.4	16.1
Vanaspati (Packed)	-0.4	-1.3	0.6	1.1	-0.7	-0.1	-0.7	-0.5	-0.7	-0.8	-1.0	0.3	-1.4	-5.2
Soya Oil (Packed)	0.0	-1.1	1.0	0.5	-0.3	-0.1	-0.4	-0.6	-1.1	-0.9	-0.8	0.8	-1.9	-4.8
Sunflower Oil (Packed)	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.0	-0.1	0.2	-1.0	0.2	-0.1	1.5	1.1	-0.2	3.3
Palm Oil (Packed)	-0.7	-1.5	2.0	-0.8	0.1	-1.1	0.3	0.1	-0.8	-2.5	-1.7	0.9	-2.0	-6.8
Potato	2.6	-21.3	-25.7	-8.3	-9.1	-8.9	-4.1	11.3	4.1	-1.3	0.1	8.5	6.5	-43.8
Onion	-0.3	0.3	-2.8	1.7	-3.7	-9.7	0.3	15.2	17.9	63.7	22.2	-18.6	-20.7	51.6
Tomato	-22.3	-4.5	-0.2	-10.3	-2.7	0.1	32.1	0.0	12.8	-14.1	0.4	13.0	43.9	74.0
Sugar	-1.2	-2.7	-2.5	-1.4	-2.4	-2.8	-1.7	-3.4	-4.3	-0.3	2.6	3.2	1.7	-13.4
Milk	0.7	-0.6	-0.5	-0.3	0.9	1.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.5	-0.2	0.9	-1.5	-0.8	-0.6

Source : State Civil Supplies Departments

**Statement-II**

*Action taken under Essential Commodities Act, 1955  
during the years 2013-2015*

Item	2013	2014	2015 (as on 20.11.2015)
No. of raids conducted	220413	131868	83735
No. of persons arrested	8413	12017	1376
No. of persons prosecuted	6009	3185	500
No. of persons convicted	273	2074	573

Source: Reports received from State Govts./UTs.

**Sale of foodgrains below the purchasing rate**

†726. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

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

(a) the quantities of different substandard foodgrains sold at a rate less than purchase rate in the last five years, the foodgrain-wise details thereof;

(b) the rate of purchase of such foodgrains during these five years and at which rate they were sold owing to low quality, year-wise details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of foodgrains sold to the wine-manufacturing companies at a rate less than purchase rate during these years the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The details are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The foodgrains were purchased from the farmers as per MSP declared by the Government of India. A Statement showing the MSP of paddy, wheat and coarsegrains are given in the Statement-II (*See* below). The details of rate at which these foodgrains were sold owing to low quality, year-wise are given in the Statement-I itself.

(c) No damaged food grains stocks were sold to wine-manufacturing companies by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

***Statement-I***

*The details showing commodity-wise details of sale of different sub-standard/  
damage foodgrains by Food Corporation of India during last five years  
from audited accounts for the year 2010-11 to 2013-14 and provisional  
and unaudited account for the year 2014-15*

(Quantity in quintal )

(Average rate in ₹ /quintal)

Commodity	Quantity	Average Rate
<b>2010-11</b>		
Wheat (Indg.)N-I	16204.45	382.465
Wheat (Imp.) N-I	136.02	269.747
Rice N-I	69547.80	804.921
<b>2011-12</b>		
Wheat (Indg.)N-I	11509.17	371.723
Wheat (Imp.) N-I	54.27	371.752
Coarse Grain N-I	31.57	449.952
Rice N-I	2102.02	263.088
<b>2012-13</b>		
Wheat (Indg.)N-I	40539.66	478.133
Rice N-I	32032.89	555.295
Coarse Grain N-I	24271.28	1160.817
<b>2013-14</b>		
Wheat (Indg.)N-I	113574.52	627.780
Rice N-I	41133.86	560.238

**2014-15 (ProviSional and Un-Audited)**

Commodity	Quantity	Rate
Wheat (Indg.)N-I	62747.74	1136.294
Rice (Gr.A) N-I	76878.01	350.107
Rice (Comm.) N-I	105482.24	1087.999
Paddy (Comm.) N-I	111.89	105.404

N-I= Non issuable

**Statement-II***MSP of paddy, wheat and coarse grain for last five years*

(₹ per quintal)

Year	Common	Paddy Grade 'A'	Wheat	Jowar (Maldandi)	Jowar (Hybrid)	Bajra	Ragi	Maize	Barley
2010-11	1000	1030	1100	900	880	880	965	880	750
2011-12	1080	1110	Rs.1120/- (+Rs.50/-as bonus)	1000	980	980	1050	980	780
2012-13	1250	1280	1285	1520	1500	1175	1500	1175	980
2013-14	1310	1345	1350	1520	1500	1250	1500	1310	980
2014-15	1360	1400	1400	1550	1530	1250	1550	1310	1100

**Rise in prices of essential commodities**

727. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM:

SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

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

(a) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to curb the steep price-rise of essential commodities like pulses, vegetables, onion etc., if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the reasons for the price-rise of these commodities during the recent past?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The steps taken to contain the prices of essential commodities are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Rise in the prices of essential food items may be caused by several factors such as adverse weather conditions, rise in transportation costs, supply constraints and artificial shortages due to hoarding and black marketing.

***Statement***

*Steps taken by the Government to improve the availability and to contain prices of essential food items:*

- Minimum Export Price (MEP) for onion has been raised from USD 425 per M.T to USD 700 per MT w.e.f. 24.8.2015
- The stock limits in respect of onion has extended by one more year *i.e.* up to 2nd July 2016 under the Essential Commodities Act.
- Export of all pulses is banned except kabuli channa and up to 10,000MTs in organic pulses and lentils.
- Zero import duty on pulses has been extended till 30.9.2016 except for chana and lentils which will be reviewed during December 2015. Stock limits on pulses extended till 30.9.2016. Till now 5000 MT of tur dal has been imported.
- Export of edible oils in bulk is prohibited except coconut oil and other edible oil in branded consumer packs of up to 5kgs is permitted with a minimum export price of USD 900 per MT w.e.f. 6.2.2015.
- States have been advised to allow free movement of fruits and vegetables by delisting them from the APMC Act.
- A new Plan Scheme titled Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) has been implemented for regulating price volatility of agricultural commodities.
- States have been advised to exempt levy of market fee on fruits and vegetables and to allow establishment of “Kisan Mandis”/ Farmers markets where producers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) can directly market their produce to wholesalers, organized retailers and ordinary consumers.
- Advisory to State Governments issued to take strict 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. Under these acts as on 30.11.2015, 220413 number of raids were conducted, 8413 persons arrested and 6009 persons were prosecuted by States/UTs.

- Following a National Consultation Meeting held with States/UTs on 7th July, 2015, a six months joint action plan (July to December, 2015) has been agreed for implementation. This covers identification of vulnerable areas where supply shortages occur, ensure that stock out situation do not occur for items of common consumption and also review of APMC Act with reference to onion, potatoes and tomatoes to remove inter-State barriers to internal trade.

#### **Use of bio diesel**

728. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY:

DR. CHANDAN MITRA:

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

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards has set any standards for higher usages of bio-diesel in automobiles, locomotives, heavy engineering machines and generator to boost usage of green and clean energy, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken by Government in the matter in orders to facilitate increased use of cost effective bio-diesel across the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), through its relevant Sectional Committee has finalized the standard for higher usage of bio-diesel, which is currently under print.

(b) Government has issued notification on 10th August, 2015 to allow the sale of Bio-Diesel (B100) to bulk consumers like Railways, State Transport Corporations and other bulk consumers. Also, retailing of bio-diesel blended diesel by Oil Marketing Companies has started on World Biofuel Day, i.e., 10th August, 2015.

#### **Computerization of ration cards**

729. SHRIMATI SARAJINI HEMBRAM : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) in how many States the ration cards of the beneficiaries are computerized; and

(b) whether Government has set a target of computerization of PDS cards throughout the country in order to curb their duplication, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) For strengthening and improving TPDS operations, a Plan scheme on End-to-End computerization of TPDS operations was launched in October, 2012 under which States/UTs are to undertake activities *inter-alia*, digitalized beneficiaries/ration card database. This involves creating digitalized record of ration cards by way of manual data entry, scanning, comparing existing databases with other database such as SECC, EPIC, etc., leveraging Aadhaar/NPR database as the case may be. Its primary objective is to digitalize the ration cards in a standard format for achieving online ration cards management, deduplication etc. As per the timeline specified in the scheme, States/UTs had been requested to complete the work of digitalization of ration cards/beneficiaries database by March, 2013. As per the reports available with the Department, 29 States/UTs have digitalized their ration cards and rest of the States are in process of completing their beneficiary data digitization. However, implementation is uneven across the country due to delay in finalization of action plans by States/UTs, late submission of their proposals for financial assistance, practical problems faced during implementation etc.

#### **Steps to improve efficiency of PDS**

730. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

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

(a) whether Public Distribution System (PDS) is reaching the people sufficiently;

(b) if so, the details thereof, especially in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal during the last two years;

(c) the people who have been benefited under PDS under BPL category, during the last two years; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the efficiency of PDS, especially in remote areas?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Government of India has enacted the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) on 10.09.2013, which *inter-alia* provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50 % of the urban population of the country for receiving foodgrains at subsidized prices under Targeted



Public Distribution System (TPDS). Under the Act, the coverage under TPDS has been delinked from poverty estimates. As per the above coverage and based on 2011 census population, the number of persons eligible for subsidized foodgrains under TPDS in the country is estimated at about 81.35 crore. Based on the preparedness and identification of beneficiaries for coverage under the NFSA, reported by them, allocation of foodgrains to 23 States/UTs, including Bihar and West Bengal (7 districts) have started under the Act. About 50 crore beneficiaries have been covered in these 23 States/UTs. The number of beneficiaries under NFSA in Bihar and West Bengal are 8.57 crore and 1.59 crore respectively. NFSA has not started in Uttar Pradesh. In remaining 13 States/UTs including Uttar Pradesh and partially in West Bengal foodgrains allocation under existing TPDS is continuing.

(d) TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for allocation and distribution of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous endeavour. To improve functioning of TPDS to curb leakage / diversion of foodgrains, Government has been regularly issuing advisories and holding meetings, conferences, etc. wherein State/UT Governments are requested for review of lists of beneficiaries, improving offtake of allocated foodgrains, ensure timely availability of foodgrains at FPSs, greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, improving the viability of FPS operations, etc. The NFSA, 2013 also contains measures for reforms in TPDS, to be under taken progressively by the Central and State/UT Governments. These reforms *inter alia* including cash transfer, door-step delivery of foodgrains at the FPS, application of information and communication technology tools including end to end computerization, performs to public institutions/bodies in licensing of FPS, etc.

The NFSA also provides that while implementing the provisions of this Act and the schemes for meeting specified entitlements, the Central Government and the State Governments shall give special focus to the needs of the vulnerable groups, specially in remote areas and other areas which are difficult to access, hilly and tribal areas for ensuring their food security.

**Procurement of pulses**

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

- (a) whether Government is considering to start procuring pulses directly from farmers through NAFED and Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC);
- (b) if so, the details of the decision taken in this regard; and
- (c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to create buffer stock of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) NAFED, SFAC and FCI will procure of pulses (Tur and Urad) in the Kharif 2015 season at prevailing market rates from farm gate/Mandis for creation of buffer stocks. The COS meeting held on 19.10.2015 recommended building buffer stock of Pulses.

- (c) ₹ 50 crore and ₹ 40 crore has been released to FCI and NAFED respectively to start procurement of pulses in Kharif Marketing Season 2015-16. SFAC will undertake procurement from ₹ 9 crore PSF fund already available with them.

**Rise in prices of pulses**

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

- (a) whether prices of pulses rose up to 42 per cent in October as compared to the same period last year due to hoarding;
- (b) the action taken against hoarders and measures taken to bring down the prices of pulses; and
- (c) whether unscrupulous traders are selling Tur (Arhar) Dal at ₹ 200 per kg. in open market whereas Kendriya Bhandar is selling it at ₹ 120 per kg. for the benefit of the people of Delhi, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The requisite information is given in the following Table:

*All-India Monthly Average Retail Prices of Major Pulses (₹ /kg)*

Pulses	Oct-14	Oct-15	% Variation (October 2015 Over October 2014)
Gram dal	46.2	68.05	47.29
Tur dal	74.11	143.78	94.01
Urad dal	76.32	129.42	69.58
Moong dal	89.25	107.2	20.11
Masoor dal	69.81	90.27	29.31

The main reason for the increase in prices of pulses is a decline in production in 2014-15 on account of adverse weather conditions. Other factors such as supply constraints and artificial shortage due to hoarding and black-marketing also affected the prices.

(b) Intensive raids have also been conducted by the States/UTs to arrest the rising prices of pulses. As a result, as on 30.11.15, total of 1.34 lakh tonnes of pulses have been seized in 14 States/UTs from 14,080 raids. Action has also been initiated by State Governments to dispose off the seized pulses. Specific measures taken to control prices of pulses also include continuation of zero import duty on pulses; ban on export of pulses with some exemptions; import of pulses through Price Stabilisation Fund scheme; extension of stock limit on pulses up to 30.9.2016; retail sale of imported Tur at the rate of ₹ 120/- per kg by outlets of Kendriya Bhandar and Safal, etc.

(c) As reported by Delhi Government, the current ruling price of Tur dal is around ₹ 164/- per kg in the open market. As regards unscrupulous traders, the State/UT Governments are fully empowered to take action against them under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 & the Prevention of Black-marketing Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

**National food processing policy**

733. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to bring out National Food Processing Policy to reduce wastage of perishables and improve supply position thereof;

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

(c) the quantity of wastage of fruits due to their perishable nature and in terms of money during the last three years; and

(d) whether construction of cold storages and warehouses would be encouraged, both in private sector and through joint venture, for preservation of perishables and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has got quantitative assessment of harvest and post-harvest losses studied by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana. The study published in March 2015, reported that annual value of harvest and post-harvest losses of major agricultural produces at national level was of the order of ₹ 92,651 crore at 2014 wholesale prices. The study also revealed that most of the wastage occurring in fruits ranges from 6.70% to 15.88%. The value of the harvest and post harvest loss in major fruits was of the order of ₹ 16644 crore annually.

(d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure since 2008 for setting up of integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure facilities without any break from the farm gate to the consumer and for arresting post-harvest losses of perishable horticulture & non-horticulture produce. Under the scheme financial assistance is provided @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and @ 75% for NE region and difficult areas (North Eastern states, Sikkim, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) subject to a maximum grant-in-aid of ₹ 10 crore per project for setting up the Cold chain infrastructure. Integrated cold chain and preservation Infrastructure can be set up by individuals, groups of entrepreneurs, cooperative societies, Self Help Groups, Farmer Producer Organizations, NGOs, Central/ State PSUs, etc.

Further, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare is implementing a **“Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture”** for holistic development of Horticulture in the country including creation of post-harvest management infrastructure for better efficiency of supply chain to reduce losses of perishable horticulture produce. Post-harvest management component includes establishment of cold storages, primary/mobile processing units, pack houses, pre-cooling units, controlled

atmosphere storage, reefer vans and setting up of ripening chambers, etc. Under post-harvest component, credit linked back ended subsidy @ 35% of the project cost in general areas and @ 50% in case of hilly and scheduled areas is available.

#### **Schemes for promotion of FPIs in North-Eastern States**

734. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the details of schemes being implemented by Government in North-Eastern States for promotion of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) during the last year, scheme-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): For promotion and development of food processing sector in the country including North-Eastern States, Ministry is implementing various Central Sector Schemes, namely (1) Scheme for Infrastructure Development for Food Processing having components of Mega Food Park, Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition & Preservation Infrastructure and Modernization of Abattoirs (2) Scheme of Technology Up-gradation / Establishment / Modernization of Food Processing Industries (spill-over liabilities) (3) Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, Research & Development and Other Promotional Activities (4) Scheme for Human Resource Development (spill-over liabilities) and (5) Scheme of Strengthening of Institutions.

During the 12th Five Year Plan, Ministry also launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'National Mission on Food Processing' (NMFP) for implementation through the State Governments / Union Territories (UTs). The scheme was having the components of (i) Technology Up-gradation / Setting up / Modernization of Food Processing Units (ii) Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for Non-Horticulture Products (iii) Modernisation of Abattoirs (iv) Human Resource Development (v) Promotional Activities (vi) Creating Primary Processing Centers / Collection Centers in Rural Areas (vii) Modernisation of Meat Shops (viii) Reefer Vehicles and (ix) Food Park (Old Scheme). However, NMFP has been delinked from Central Government support w.e.f. 1.4.2015, except for UTs.

#### **Assistance to States for strengthening irrigation facilities**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India is an agricultural country and is committed to strengthen the farmers and in this regard it has been announced that each and every field of farmers will be provided water for irrigation;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the policy of the Central Government in this regard and the role of States in it; and

(d) whether Government proposes to provide financial support to States to strengthen them in the field of irrigation, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA ):  
(a) Yes, Sir. With the vision of providing end-to end solutions in irrigation supply chain, viz. water sources, distribution network and farm level applications, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been launched from 1st July, 2015.

(b) to (d) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been formulated amalgamating ongoing schemes viz. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation; Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) of Department of Land Resources; and On Farm Water Management (OFWM) component of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare. PMKSY is to be implemented in an area development approach, adopting decentralized state level planning and projectised execution, allowing the states to draw their irrigation development plans based on district/blocks plans with a horizon of 5 to 7 years. A sum of Rs.50,000 crore of central share has been provisioned for scheme for the next five years (2015-16 to 2019-20) and budget provision of Rs.5300 crore has been made for implementation of PMKSY during 2015-16.

#### **Telephone connectivity of villages**

736. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of villages in the country are yet to be connected with mobile telephones, if so, the details of such villages, State-wise;

(b) the details of mobile towers and telephone exchanges installed by Central Government in the country to provide telephone connectivity to the left out villages/areas during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the number of mobile towers and telephone exchanges presently working and likely to be installed in the country; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to connect the left out villages/areas with mobile telephones?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) It is estimated that there are about 55,669 villages in the country that do not have mobile coverage. State-wise details is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) 7,317 Mobile towers have been installed with the financial support of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) under the Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme in villages or cluster of villages having population of 2000 or more and not having mobile coverage. The infrastructure so created is capable of being shared by three service providers for provision of mobile services. 16,254 BTSs (Base Transceiver Stations) have been commissioned by Service Providers at these towers for provisioning of mobile services. The scheme was implemented during the period from June, 2007 to November, 2013. The state-wise details of towers installed under the scheme are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) 1,06,593 Cellular Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) and 34,925 Telephone Exchanges as on 31.10.2015 are working in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited's (BSNL) network. Further BSNL plans to add 3,151 more BTSs in its network during current financial year based on techno commercial viability.

(d) Government has approved a Comprehensive Telecom Development project with a cost of Rs.5338.18 crore to provide mobile connectivity to 8,621 uncovered villages in North Eastern States. Further, 2199 mobile towers are being set up in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States with a total cost of Rs.3567.58 crore. Mobile coverage to balance uncovered villages will be provided in a phased manner depending on availability of financial resources.

***Statement-I***

*State-wise list of Uncovered Villages*

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Total number of inhabited villages	No. of Uncovered Villages
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16335	3812
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5258	2886
3.	Assam	25372	2885
4.	Bihar	39073	2534
5.	Chhattisgarh	19567	4041
6.	Goa	320	65

1	2	3	4
7.	Gujarat	17843	1275
8.	Haryana	6642	2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	17882	2416
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	6337	460
11.	Jharkhand	29492	5949
12.	Karnataka	27397	0
13.	Kerala	1017	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	51929	5926
15.	Maharashtra	40959	4792
16.	Manipur	2515	610
17.	Meghalaya	6459	2389
18.	Mizoram	704	258
19.	Nagaland	1400	137
20.	Odisha	47675	10398
21.	Punjab	12168	91
22.	Rajasthan	43264	770
23.	Sikkim	425	23
24.	Tamil Nadu	15049	113
25.	Telangana	10347	1009
26.	Tripura	863	2
27.	Uttar Pradesh	97814	266
28.	Uttarakhand	15745	1876
29.	West Bengal	37469	487
30.	Andaman and Nicobar	684	190
31.	Puducherry		0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli		5
33.	Daman and Diu		1
34.	Lakshadweep		1
TOTAL		597608	55669



**Statement-II***State-wise status of mobile tower sites installed under USOF**Scheme of Shared Mobile Infrastructure*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total no. of sites commissioned
1.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	327
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	65
3.	Assam	87
4.	Bihar	453
5.	Chhattisgarh	553
6.	Gujarat	59
7.	Haryana	12
8.	Himachal Pradesh	258
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	81
10.	Jharkhand	273
11.	Karnataka	381
12.	Kerala	43
13.	Madhya Pradesh	933
14.	Maharashtra	956
15.	Manipur	69
16.	Meghalaya	107
17.	Mizoram	43
18.	Nagaland	50
19.	Odisha	434
20.	Punjab	14
21.	Rajasthan	403
22.	Sikkim	6
23.	Tamil Nadu	327
24.	Telangana	269
25.	Tripura	115
26.	Uttarakhand	184
27.	Uttar Pradesh	652
28.	West Bengal	163
TOTAL		7,317

**Electoral Photo Identity Cards**

737. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States in which 100 per cent Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) coverage has been achieved; and

(b) the reasons for not achieving 100 per cent EPIC coverage in other States and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) The details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The Election Commission has informed that it has been the endeavour of the Commission to achieve 100% coverage under the Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) Scheme, as far as practicable, in a time bound manner. However, in some States due to various reasons such as natural calamities, shifting of voters from one area to another, engagement of administrative machinery, which also attends to items of work other than election work, apathy of voters themselves, are some of the reasons for the uneven progress.

The Commission has further informed that other factors that contribute to the gap in issuance of EPIC are (1) persons who attain eligibility first time during registration every year; (2) due to death of electors but who are not deleted, and (3) intercity and intra city migration in major metropolitan towns. It has also come to the notice of the Commission that migrating electors in most cases do not mention their EPIC number, if any, issued at the place of residence. Therefore, though the name is included in the part of the roll where the elector shifts, the column of EPIC number remains blank and this adds numbers to the non-EPIC holder statistics. Another phenomenon noticed is that from certain area of the country, a lot of seasonal migration takes place of the unskilled persons and semi-permanent migration takes place of skilled persons but their names are not deleted from the voters list at the place of origin as the family members who reside there want their names to continue in their native places. As such persons are not available for photography, EPICs cannot be issued and the gap remains uncovered as EPIC campaign period may not coincide with the period of their visits to their homes.

**Statement***Status of Electoral Photo Roll and EPIC, 2015*

(at the time of final publication)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Total Number of General Electors, 2015	Total No. of EPIC issued	% of EPIC coverage
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37082855	37082855	100.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	763045	762962	99.99
3.	Assam	19460273	17166592	88.21
4.	Bihar	65793462	62958490	95.69
5.	Chhattisgarh	17921603	17450304	97.37
6.	Goa	1071707	1053414	98.29
7.	Gujarat	41072239	41068240	99.99
8.	Haryana	16694590	16694590	100.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4763726	4763724	100.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir ^	6933118	6207914	89.54
11.	Jharkhand	21255294	20790561	97.81
12.	Karnataka	47029094	46718098	99.34
13.	Kerala	24693188	24693188	100.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	48913240	48913240	100.00
15.	Maharashtra	83534880	77555334	92.84
16.	Manipur	1787344	1787344	100.00
17.	Meghalaya-	1613934	1613934	100.00
18.	Mizoram	713574	713574	100.00
19.	Nagaland	1174470	1158249	98.62

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Odisha	29856401	29156553	97.66
21.	Punjab	19691235	19691228	100.00
22.	Rajasthan	43434141	43341224	99.79
23.	Sikkim	377027	377027	100.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	56206547	56206547	100.00
25.	Telangana	28315120	28315120	100.00
26.	Tripura	2422764	2422764	100.00
27.	Uttarakhand	7248891	7248891	100.00
28.	Uttar Pradesh	140456554	140423006	99.98
29.	West Bengal	63735915	63735915	100.00
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	274761	260209	94.70
31.	Chandigarh	618554	618268	99.95
32.	Daman and Diu	112577	109977	97.69
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	207293	207293	100.00
34.	NCT of Delhi	13085251	13085251	100.00
35.	Lakshadweep	49948	49948	100.00
36.	Puducherry	908821	908752	99.99
TOTAL		849273436	835310580	98.36

#### **Abolition of death penalty**

738. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry agrees with the recommendation of the Law Commission, put forth in its 262nd report regarding abolition of death penalty for all crimes except terrorism-related offences and waging war against the State;

(b) if so, whether it is seeking to implement this recommendation, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) to (c) The recommendations of the Law Commission as and when received are forwarded to the concerned Ministry/Department for initiating the process of examination and thereafter implementation of the recommendations. The Law Commission's 262nd Report on abolition of death penalty for all crimes except terrorism-related offences and waging war against the State has been forwarded on 17.09.2015 to the concerned Ministry i.e. Ministry of Home Affairs in this case. The decision on acceptance of the recommendations as such or partial or with modifications, or on non- acceptance is generally taken after following due process, including consultation with all stake holders and taking into consideration the opinion of technical experts and public, if necessary.

#### **Free legal services**

739. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who have been provided free legal services by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) or State and District Authorities State-wise and year-wise, over last ten years;

(b) the number of people who applied for free legal services by NALSA/ State Authority/District Authority over the same period;

(c) the process of identifying eligible persons and providing free legal aid by the Government; and

(d) the details of any other measures taken by Government to ensure that each accused person has competent legal representation?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) The details showing the number of people who have been provided free legal services during the last ten years, year-wise and State-wise is given in the Statement-I (See below).

(b) The information relating to the number of applications for free legal services is not maintained by NALSA.

(c) and (d) The eligibility conditions for availing of free legal services are given in Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The details are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

The persons who are eligible to get free legal services under the said Act may approach Legal Services Authorities at the State/District levels and also Taluk Legal Services Committee or High Court or supreme court Legal services Committee in case his/her case is pending in the High Court or the Supreme Court for defending or contesting his/her case. All the eligible persons are provided free legal services through competent panel Advocates having minimum of three years practice under the NALSA (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010. The regulations also provide for a monitoring committee to be set up in each Legal Services Institution to monitor the quality of Legal Services provided. Recently, NALSA has conducted a Training of Trainers programme and has trained 116 Master trainers to train the panel Advocates for enhancing their lawyering skills.

Further, District Legal Services Authorities have appointed Advocates to represent the persons produced in custody in all Courts of Magistrates.

During trial, it is the duty of the trial Court to ensure that no accused person whether in custody or on bail remains unrepresented by counsel. All accused in custody and those on bail who do not have counsel are referred to the concerned Legal Services Institution for appointment of a counsel at State expense.

**Statement**

*The Number of persons benefited through legal aid and advice under legal services authorities Act, 1987 during the last ten years viz. 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 (Upto September, 2015)*

(Based on the information made available by State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs).)

Sl. No.	Name of the State Authority	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (upto September, 15)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3,007	2,377	2,628	2,659	3,256	3,745	4,336	4,536	4,123	2,708
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	39	114	-	-	15	7	3	23	57	133
3.	Assam	27,773	15,963	16,741	16,698	21,936	2,288	3,748	21,911	2,313	861
4.	Bihar	8,753	3,040	3,386	3,737	1,258	694	796	1,911	694	1,967
5.	Chhattisgarh	4,248	4,625	4,183	3,807	7,892	23,168	69,071	62,548	49,230	34,705
6.	Goa	402	367	551	469	592	581	677	812	1,034	813
7.	Gujarat	8,060	7,902	6,657	7,084	7,230	6,243	6,735	8,050	10,173	8,355
8.	Haryana	3,494	4,039	3,891	3,731	28,360	18,055	5,183	7,191	8,954	7,172
9.	Himachal Pradesh	268	330	330	564	796	887	1,245	1,359	1,551	1,305
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	974	663	892	644	404	560	555	1,120	4,927	1,956
11.	Jharkhand	340	219	904	1,708	2,373	1,786	1,374	1,576	3,445	3586

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12.	Karnataka	1,636	1,202	1,200	1,081	910	960	1,220	4,044	3,128	2,537
13.	Kerala	3,880	4,869	8,956	5,451	7,905	9,398	10,182	8,802	11,754	7,559
14.	Madhya Pradesh	67,486	56,297	73,504	69,336	103,932	84,223	68,779	45,645	23,606	21,578
15.	Maharashtra	105,808	100,956	150,312	182,521	260,414	840,005	1,018,024	730,307	290,010	5,299
16.	Manipur	-	2,304	-	-	9	-	1	16	67	66
17.	Meghalaya	36	76	72	79	51	238	384	561	1,064	1,686
18.	Mizoram	4,188	4,994	2,894	2,689	2,751	719	2,649	2,782	6,331	2,501
19.	Nagaland	-	143	-	295	750	1,420	1,745	1,579	2,523	2,168
20.	Odisha	2,556	2,476	2,544	2,769	3,260	2,936	3,287	4,422	3,960	2,538
21.	Punjab	4,240	3,584	3,466	3,766	3,735	4,288	6,838	11,397	14,203	8,716
22.	Rajasthan	7,123	4,020	4,838	3,767	4,962	3,454	5,220	5,860	6,748	5,785
23.	Sikkim	386	399	442	415	567	503	568	685	848	788
24.	Tamil Nadu	120,885	113,272	125,803	120,328	103,667	133,789	131,602	1,508,166	1,594,777	44,823
25.	Telangana *									1,508	1,601
26.	Tripura	831	875	846	1,034	843	615	785	1,475	2,154	1,848
27.	Uttar Pradesh	4,610	3,262	3,487	5,347	2,032	2,964	2,905	2,541	1,736	1,096
28.	Uttarakhand	736	320	4,069	1,112	296	269	448	598	730	851



29. West Bengal	6,389	6,304	5,321	4,900	5,311	6,576	7,720	5,706	7,310	5,429
30. Andaman and Nicobar	22	-	-	73	13	858	152	97	45	67
31. Chandigarh	370	642	534	489	347	565	595	721	963	944
32. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	2	10	2	-	2	961	971
33. Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	245	200	-
34. Delhi	11,768	12,946	8,890	10,406	12,814	15,976	20,056	31,681	43,869	25,104
35. Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
36. Puducherry	543	2,604	6,398	4,557	8,146	12,155	4,859	4,665	2,196	576
37. Supreme Court.	956	1,029	906	983	368	773	1,059	146		
Legal Services Committee										
	401,807	362,213	444,645	462,501	597,206	1,180,701	1,382,809	2,483,180	2,107,192	208,092

Note: \* Telangana came into being in June, 2014.

***Statement-II***

*The eligibility conditions of persons for availing of free legal services are detailed under Section 12 of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the following persons are entitled to free legal services irrespective of their economic or social status*

- (a) a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe;
- (b) a victim of trafficking in human beings or begar as referred to in article 23 of the Constitution;
- (c) a woman or a child;
- (d) a person with disability as defined in clause (i) of section 2 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (1 of 1996);
- (e) a person under circumstances of undeserved want such as being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster; or
- (f) an industrial workman; or
- (g) in custody, including custody in a protective home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, or in a Juvenile home within the meaning of clause (j) of section 2 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 (53 of 1986), or in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1987 (14 of 1987);
- (h) a person in receipt of annual income less than rupees one lakh (in some States Rs. 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.

**Recovery of outstanding amount from private telecom operators**

†740. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is unable to recover the outstanding amount from private telecom operators, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) if not, by when this outstanding amount will be recovered from them and names of the companies from which recoveries are to be made?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The private telecom operators are paying their quarterly license fee/ spectrum usage charges dues as per terms and conditions of the extant License Agreement. However, short payments pointed out by the Department after annual assessment of license fee/ spectrum usage charges are under litigation in various judicial fora.

(b) These amounts can be recovered only after final adjudication of the petitions etc. filed by private telecom operators as well as Government of India.

The names of the major private telecom service providers from which outstanding amount is recoverable is given in the Statement (*See below*).

***Statement***

*Names of the private telecom companies from which  
outstanding amount is recoverable*

Sl. No.	Name of the licensee
1.	M/s Aircel Limited
2.	M/s Aircel Cellular Ltd
3.	M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd
4.	Bharti Hexacom Ltd
5.	M/s Dishnet Wireless Ltd
6.	M/s Idea Cellular Ltd
7.	M/s Reliance Communications Ltd
8.	Reliance Telecom Ltd
9.	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd
10.	HFCL
11.	M/s Loop Mobile communications Ltd
12.	Vodafone India Ltd
13.	M/s Allianze Infratech Ltd
14.	M/s Etisalat DB Ltd

Sl. No.	Name of the licensee
15.	M/s S.Tel Pvt Ltd
16.	M/s Sistema Shyam Ltd
17.	M/s unitech Wireless Ltd
18.	M/s Videocon Telecom Ltd
19.	M/s Archana Telecom services Ltd
20.	M/s Datapro Information Technology Ltd

**Utilization of funds for infrastructure development**

741. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether judiciary and State Governments have failed to utilize up to 80 per cent of the funds allocated for development of infrastructure and new courtrooms in the last five years across the country;

(b) whether the funds meant for running of special morning and evening courts also reportedly remained unused so far; and

(c) if so, the details of the funds released so far and their actual utilization?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) to (c) Development of infrastructure facilities for Judiciary is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. However, in order to augment the resources of the State Governments, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary is being implemented under which central assistance is provided to the State Governments for the construction of court buildings and residential units for District and Subordinate Courts.

The details of Budget Estimates, Funds Sanctioned to the State Governments and Union Territories during the last five years and funds for which Utilisation Certificates have become due but not yet received have been indicated in the Statement (*See below*). The fund disbursement and utilisation under the Scheme has been by and large satisfactory.

An amount of ₹ 2500.00 crore was allocated during Thirteenth Finance Commission award period for operation of morning/evening courts/shift courts. Out of this, an amount of ₹ 850.49 crore was released and an amount of ₹ 237.93 crore was reported to be utilised during the award period *i.e.* upto 31.03.2015.

*Details of Budget Estimates, Funds Sanctioned to the State Governments and Union Territories during the last five years and funds for which Utilisation Certificates have become due but not yet received*

Sl. No.	State / UT	Budget Estimates 2010-11	Budget Estimates 2011-12	Budget Estimates 2012-13	Budget Estimates 2013-14	Budget Estimates 2014-15	Total Budget Estimates of last five years.	Total amount for which Utilisation Certificate due but not yet received.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>States other than NE States (A)</b>								
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	1888.00	6393.00	0.00	0.00	8281.00	4516.00
2.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	1524.00	0.00	4909.35	6433.35	90.65
3.	Chhattisgarh	400.00	2097.00	0.00	0.00	2176.60	4673.60	132.00
4.	Goa	0.00	172.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	172.00	125.87
5.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	9893.00	10000.00	10000.00	29893.00	0.00
6.	Haryana	1320.00	2138.00	0.00	3632.00	0.00	7090.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7.	Himachal Pradesh	547.00	0.00	0.00	806.00	0.00	1353.00	0.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	140.00	1035.00	2572.00	3428.00	3429.00	10604.00	0.00
9.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	1500.00	1693.00	3044.00	6237.00	0.00
10.	Karnataka	500.00	2961.00	7610.00	10384.00	16370.00	37825.00	0.00
11.	Kerala	606.00	1169.00	1499.00	0.00	0.00	3274.00	490.95
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1738.20	4403.00	2046.00	6141.00	6141.00	20469.20	0.00
13.	Maharashtra	1458.52	12915.00	5920.24	10000.00	9975.00	40268.76	0.00
14.	Odisha	723.00	2416.00	1534.00	0.00	0.00	4673.00	2247.18
15.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	7902.00	12000.00	9805.00	29707.00	0.00
16.	Rajasthan	70.00	1172.00	1042.00	0.00	0.00	2284.00	0.00
17.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	1953.00	7343.00	0.00	9296.00	5366.00
18.	Uttarakhand	688.20	0.00	829.76	2043.00	3559.05	7120.01	283.40
19.	Uttar Pradesh	2858.00	15659.00	9398.00	12530.00	12531.00	52976.00	0.00
20.	West Bengal	425.35	2518.00	0.00	0.00	2000.00	4943.35	0.00
TOTAL (A)		11474.27	50543.00	61616.00	80000.00	83940.00	287573.27	13252.05

**North East States (B)**

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	972.00	750.00	0.00	1000.00	2722.00	0.00
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2.	Assam	500.00	2890.00	2954.90	0.00	0.00	6344.90	2954.90
3.	Manipur	209.71	0.00	0.00	1500.00	2000.00	3709.71	0.00
4.	Meghalaya	200.00	0.00	0.00	1474.00	1709.00	3383.00	0.00
5.	Mizoram	155.00	0.00	704.78	812.56	1085.00	2757.34	0.00
6.	Nagaland	415.29	169.00	750.00	0.00	2016.00	3350.29	0.00
7.	Sikkim	220.00	0.00	549.50	2802.84	0.00	3572.34	1727.53
8.	Triptura	100.00	0.00	1495.60	2910.60	1550.00	6056.20	3460.72
TOTAL (B)		1800.00	4031.00	7204.78	9500.00	9360.00	31895.78	8143.15
<b>Union Territories (C)</b>								
1.	A&N Islands	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
2.	Chandigarh	400.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	900.00	1423.25
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
4.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	58.73
5.	Delhi	0.00	2250.00	2000.00	0.00	0.00	4250.00	0.00
6.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.76
7	Puducherry	600.00	1250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1850.00	344.22
TOTAL (C)		1000.00	5000.00	2000.00	0.00	0.00	8000.00	2337.96
GRAND TOTAL (A+B+C)		14274.27	59574.00	70820.78	89500.00	93300.00	327469.05	23733.16

**Setting up of commercial courts**

742. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up commercial courts for the expeditious disposal of commercial disputes, including disputes relating to foreign investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when they will be set up after consultation process with the stakeholders;

(c) whether Government has suggested any activities to the judiciary in order to attract investment in the country under Make in India programme by making litigation process smoother; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) and (b) For the expeditious disposal of commercial disputes, the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Ordinance, 2015, has been promulgated on 23rd October, 2015. The Ordinance, *inter-alia*, provides for constitution of Commercial Courts by the State Governments. The Ordinance also provides for constitution of Commercial Division in certain High Courts and Commercial Appellate Division in each High Court, by the concerned Chief Justice of such High Court.

(c) and (d) As provided in the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Ordinance, 2015, the Chief Justice of High Courts have been empowered to constitute Commercial Division in certain High Courts and Commercial Appellate Division in each High Courts and to nominate such Judges of High Court who have experience in dealing with commercial disputes, as Judges for such Division. The said Ordinance also empowers Commercial Courts and Commercial Division to decide certain Commercial disputes by following summary judgement procedure, stipulated therein.

**Ban on advertisements by Election Commission**

743. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether during the recently concluded elections in Bihar, the Election Commission had issued some directions banning certain advertisements, if so, the details thereof?



THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):  
The Election Commission has informed that during recently concluded general elections to Bihar Legislative Assembly, the Commission had issued several instructions to the Chief Electoral Officer, Bihar to ensure that such advertisements, which have the effect of vitiating peaceful and congenial atmosphere conducive to conduct of free and fair elections and are violative of Model Code of Conduct, Representation of People Act, 1951 and the relevant statutory provisions, are not published in print and electronic media till the completion of election process in the State.

**Alternative voting option for NRIs**

†744. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has finalised the system to cast vote through alternative voting option by Non-Resident Indian (NRI) voters, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) by when it is likely to be implemented/notified?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):  
(a) The Government is considering to allow the alternative options of voting to overseas electors in the form of (i) 'e-Postal Ballot System' which envisages making available blank postal ballot electronically to the NRI Voters and thereafter return of the same by normal post and (ii) 'proxy voting which would allow such voters to appoint a proxy after following certain formalities and exercise his franchise through the medium of the proxy so appointed.

(b) Since the proposal of amendment of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and 1951 require consideration and approval of both the Houses of the Parliament, no time frame can be indicated.

**Computerization of district level courts**

745. SHRIAMBETH RAJAN; Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Government has formulated any comprehensive plan for computerization of courts at the District level in the State of Uttar Pradesh, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): Yes, Sir. Under the eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project, the Government

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

had approved computerization of 14,249 District and Subordinate Courts in the country, including the State of Uttar Pradesh.

As on date, there are 1991 computerised District and Subordinate courts in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

**Introduction of postal ballot and proxy voting for internal migrant workers**

746. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has evaluated the introduction of postal ballot and proxy for voting by internal migrant workers and their families, if so, the details thereof and time-line for introduction of the same and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has evaluated the number of migrant workers who exercised the right to vote in the 2014 General elections, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the methods through which Government plans to make internal migrant workers aware of voting methods available to them and the time-line for undertaking the same?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The Election Commission has informed that in elections, the electors vote in the polling stations pertaining to the part of the electoral roll where they are enrolled. The Commission does not have details or figures of migrant workers in the country. Information about the number of migrant workers who voted in elections is not available.

(c) In view of the (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

**Control on hoarding by traders**

747. 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 been taking steps to control the prices of food items in the country and is making them available to the States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether in spite of the Centre's initiation some States are not coming forward to draw their share of food items from the Central Government, if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to control the hoardings by traders which is the main cause of increase in prices of food items?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes Sir. Details are given in the Statement-I to Statement-III (*See below*).

(b) Government of India makes allocation of foodgrains under TPDS wherein the responsibility for distribution of allocated foodgrains within the states rests with the concerned State Government. Some States/UTs have not been able to completely lift the foodgrains under TPDS as per details at Statement-II and III. The reasons for lower off take by the States/Union Territories (UTs) may be attributed to inability of States/UT Governments or their agencies to mobilise funds, shortage of sufficient intermediate storage capacity with the State Governments to store the foodgrains after lifting the same from FCI, lower demand from beneficiaries in view of higher production and retention of foodgrains, shifting in food consumption pattern due to increase in per capita income, etc. States take action against hoardings by trader. Statement of ATR during 2015 is as Statement-IV. The powers of Central Government under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 have been delegated to the State Governments *vide* order dated 9.6.1978.

(c) The details of Action taken by the States during 2015 under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 are given in the Statement-IV (*See below*).

The State Governments are fully empowered under the E.C. Act to regulate production, distribution, supply and prices of the food items being essential commodities in the respective States. The States are the implementing agencies to implement the EC Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black marketing & Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, to ensure adequate availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices, by exercising powers delegated to them. This is reviewed periodically at the National level. The Annual National Consultation meetings of the Ministers of Food & Consumer Affairs of States were held on 04.07.2014 and another on 07.07.2015.

#### ***Statement-I***

##### *Steps taken by the Government to improve the availability and to contain prices of essential food items*

1. Export of onion is restricted through Minimum Export Price (MEP) and presently the MEP is USD 700 per MT w.e.f. 24.8.2015. Import of onion is allowed at zero duty.
2. Imported 2000 MT of onion from Egypt and China through MMTC. As no demand

from the states was received, the onion is being disposed of through tendering in the open market.

3. Retail sale of onion was undertaken from the stock held by SFAC and NAFFED.
4. The stock limit in respect of onion has been extended up to 2nd July 2016.
5. Export of all pulses is banned except kabuli channa and up to 10,000 MTs in organic pulses and lentils.
6. Zero import duty on pulses extended till 30.9.2016 except for chana and lentils which will be reviewed during December 2015.
7. Imported 5000 MT of Tur from Malawi/Mozambique and allocated to States with a subsidy of ₹ 10 per Kg for retail sale to consumer.
8. Stock limit on pulses extended till 30.9.2016.
9. MSP raised for kharif pulses by ₹ 275 per qtl for Tur and Urad, and by ₹ 250 per qtl for Moong. MSP also raised for rabi pulses by ₹ 250 per qtl for Gram and Masoor.
10. Export of edible oils in bulk is prohibited except coconut oil, rice bran oil and organic edible oil and other edible oil in branded consumer packs of up to 5Kgs with a MEP of USD 900 per MT.
11. MSP increased in the range of ₹ 30 per qtl to ₹ 250 per qtl for various rabi and kharif oil seeds.
12. National Consultation Meeting of the Ministers of States/UTs in-charge of Consumer Affairs and Food held on 7th July, 2015 at New Delhi to keep prices of essential commodities, especially Pulses and onion under control.
13. Advisory to State Governments issued to take strict action against hoarding & black marketing and effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
14. Review meetings on price and availability situation have been held at the highest level including at the level of Finance Minister, CoS, IMC, PSFMC and Departmental level.
15. Measures taken to improve availability by incentivizing production through higher MSP.
16. A new Plan Scheme titled Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) has been implemented for regulating price volatility of agricultural commodities.

**Statement-II***(Offtake of Rice+Wheat for 2015-16 as against the allocation upto the month of October, 2015 under TPDS)*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	(Allocation)						(Offtake)						(Offtake)					
		BPL	AAV	APL	NFSA (Normal)	NFSA (fide over)	Total	BPL	AAV	APL	NFSA (Normal)	NFSA (fide over)	Total	BPL	AAV	APL	NFSA (Normal)	NFSA (fide over)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1.	Andhra Pradesh	357.917	222.586	720.013	0.000	0.000	1300.516	311.076	203.230	446.568	0.000	0.000	960.874	86.9	91.3	62.0	0	0	73.9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14.889	9.317	35.035	0.000	0.000	59.241	14.899	9.419	35.065	0.000	0.000	59.383	100.1	101.1	100.1	0	0	100.2
3.	Assam	277.214	172.487	650.965	0.000	0.000	1100.666	280.136	173.098	608.197	0.000	0.000	1061.431	101.1	100.4	93.4	0	0	96.4
4.	Bihar (NFSA)	0.000	0.000	0.000	2952.165	0.000	2952.165	0.000	0.000	0.000	2309.036	0.000	2309.036	0	0	0	78.2	0	78.2
5.	Chhattisgarh (NFSA)	0.000	0.000	0.000	807.366	0.000	807.366	0.000	0.000	0.000	807.366	0.000	807.366	0	0	0	100.0	0	100.0
6.	Delhi (NFSA)	0.000	0.000	0.000	236.146	0.646	236.792	0.000	0.000	0.000	241.919	0.196	242.115	0	0	0	102.4	30.3	102.2
7.	Goa	3.227	3.563	29.981	0.000	0.000	36.771	3.140	3.546	30.703	0.000	0.000	37.389	97.3	99.5	102.4	0	0	101.7
8.	Gujarat	329.091	190.337	696.885	0.000	0.000	1216.313	316.438	189.028	550.126	0.000	0.000	1055.592	96.2	99.3	78.9	0	0	86.8
9.	Haryana (NFSA)	0.000	0.000	0.000	463.750	0.000	463.750	0.000	0.000	0.000	455.626	0.000	455.626	0	0	0	98.2	0	98.2
10.	Himachal Pradesh (NFSA)	0.000	0.000	0.000	108.472	187.859	296.331	0.000	0.000	0.000	108.356	189.561	297.917	0	0	0	99.9	100.9	100.5
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	117.656	62.643	261.170	0.000	0.000	441.469	127.170	78.298	263.180	0.000	0.000	468.648	108.1	125.0	100.8	0	0	106.2
12.	Jharkhand (NFSA)	309.984	192.762	176.580	130.137	0.000	809.463	354.915	221.474	14.545	0.000	0.000	590.934	114.5	114.9	8.2	0	0	73.0
13.	Karnataka (NFSA)	0.000	0.000	0.000	1521.850	0.000	1521.850	0.000	0.000	0.000	1399.348	0.000	1399.348	0	0	0	92.0	0	92.0
14.	Kerala	234.703	145.985	478.380	0.000	0.000	859.068	235.466	146.427	462.508	0.000	0.000	844.401	100.3	100.3	96.7	0	0	98.3
15.	Madhya Pradesh (NFSA)	0.000	0.000	0.000	1961.561	0.000	1961.561	0.000	0.000	0.000	1698.950	0.000	1698.950	0	0	0	86.6	0	86.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16.	Maharashtra (NFSA)	0.000	0.000	0.000	2686.362	0.000	2686.362	0.000	0.000	0.000	2482.317	0.000	2482.317	0	0	0	92.4	0	92.4
17.	Manipur	25.088	15.589	59.045	0.000	0.000	99.722	24.741	15.262	52.764	0.000	0.000	92.767	98.6	97.9	89.4	0	0	93.0
18.	Meghalaya	27.636	17.199	65.170	0.000	0.000	110.005	27.428	17.133	61.214	0.000	0.000	105.775	99.2	99.6	93.9	0	0	96.2
19.	Mizoram	10.290	6.370	24.255	0.000	0.000	40.915	10.373	6.132	23.329	0.000	0.000	39.834	100.8	96.3	96.2	0	0	97.4
20.	Nagaland	18.732	11.648	43.631	0.000	0.000	74.011	20.149	12.544	47.240	0.000	0.000	79.933	107.6	107.7	108.3	0	0	108.0
21.	Odisha	682.568	307.169	288.855	0.000	0.000	1278.592	681.552	306.691	209.604	0.000	0.000	1197.847	99.9	99.8	72.6	0	0	93.7
22.	Punjab (NFSA)	0.000	0.000	0.000	507.570	0.000	507.570	0.000	0.000	0.000	132.139	0.000	132.139	0	0	0	26.0	0	26.0
23.	Rajasthan (NFSA)	0.000	0.000	0.000	1628.417	0.000	1628.417	0.000	0.000	0.000	1547.071	0.000	1547.071	0	0	0	95.0	0	95.0
24.	Sikkim	6.594	4.046	15.189	0.000	0.000	25.829	6.593	4.046	13.896	0.000	0.000	24.535	100.0	100.0	91.5	0	0	95.0
25.	Tamil Nadu	734.552	456.834	980.266	0.000	0.000	2171.652	755.829	508.897	753.155	0.000	0.000	2017.881	102.9	111.4	76.8	0	0	92.9
26.	Telengana (NFSA)	219.258	136.356	441.066	108.004	3.496	908.180	94.499	39.270	151.634	0.000	0.000	285.403	43.1	28.8	34.4	0	0	31.4
27.	Tripura (NFSA)	31.825	19.800	74.725	24.814	20.352	171.516	31.825	23.760	84.088	12.021	3.184	154.878	100.0	120.0	112.5	48	16	90.3
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1613.199	1003.156	1623.615	0.000	0.000	4239.970	1616.347	1002.855	1381.774	0.000	0.000	4000.976	100.2	100.0	85.1	0	0	94.4
29.	Uttarakhand (NFSA)	64.494	40.092	151.410	33.455	8.461	297.912	83.497	44.088	163.993	3.517	1.247	296.342	129.5	110.0	108.3	11	15	99.5
30.	West Bengal (NFSA)	854.120	273.797	628.092	376.341	0.000	2132.350	970.691	280.539	605.201	229.325	0.000	2085.756	113.6	102.5	96.4	61	0	97.8
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2.289	1.015	16.541	0.000	0.000	19.845	1.930	0.840	14.881	0.000	0.000	17.651	84.3	82.8	90.0	0	0	88.9
32.	Chandigarh (NFSA/DB T)	0.000	0.000	0.000	6.145	6.860	13.005	0.000	0.000	0.000	6.529	8.233	14.762	0	0	0	106.2	120.0	113.5
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.933	1.281	1.890	0.000	0.000	6.104	3.451	1.580	2.501	0.000	0.000	7.532	117.7	123.3	132.3	0	0	123.4
34.	Daman and Diu	0.609	0.371	2.317	0.000	0.000	3.297	0.139	0.058	0.229	0.000	0.000	0.426	22.8	15.6	9.9	0	0	12.9
35.	Lakshadweep (NFSA)	0.252	0.168	1.120	0.381	0.774	2.695	0.000	0.000	1.040	0.127	0.258	1.425	0.0	0.0	92.9	33	33	52.9
36.	Puducherry (NFSA/DBT)	10.782	6.774	12.600	0.000	0.000	30.156	1.119	2.600	0.807	0.000	0.000	4.526	10.4	38.4	6.4	0	0	15.0
TOTAL		5949.902	3301.345	7478.796	13552.936	228.448	30511.427	5973.403	3790.815	5978.242	11433.647	202.679	26878.786	100.4	99.7	79.9	84.4	88.7	88.1

**Statement-III**

*Offtake of foodgrains (Rice+ Wheat) against the allocation made on 10.4.2015 and 19.10.2015 to additional BPL families upto October, 2015*

		(Quantity in thousand tons)										
Sl. No.	States/ UTs	Rice			Wheat			Rice+Wheat				
		Allocation 6 Months	Offtake	6 Months	Allocation 6 Months	Offtake	6 Months	Allocation 6 Months	Offtake	6 Months		
											Offtake	(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	95.396	63.213	66.3	10.598	4.688	44.2	105.994	67.901		64.1	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.507	2.795	79.7	0.924	0.338	36.6	4.431	3.133		70.7	
3.	Assam	82.131	69.165	84.2	0.000	0.000	0.000	82.131	69.165		84.2	
4.	Goa	1.932	0.276	14.3	0.217	0.025	11.5	2.149	0.301		14.0	
5.	Gujarat	26.957	23.067	85.6	67.872	55.183	81.3	94.829	78.249		82.5	
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	22.26	9.772	43.9	10.661	3.003	28.2	32.921	12.775		38.8	
7.	Jharkhand	82.614	64.575	78.2	9.180	0.000	0.0	91.794	64.575		70.3	
8.	Kerala	49.574	42.490	85.7	19.943	17.120	85.8	69.517	59.610		85.7	
9.	Manipur	6.489	5.562	85.7	0.938	0.804	85.7	7.427	6.366		85.7	
10.	Meghalaya	7.371	6.318	85.7	0.819	0.702	85.7	8.190	7.020		85.7	

1	2	3	4	56	7	8	9	10	11	12
11.	Mizoram	2.737	2.246	82.1	0.301	0.258	85.7	3.038	2.504	82.4
12.	Nagaland	4.025	3.449	85.7	1.519	1.302	85.7	5.544	4.751	85.7
13.	Odisha	132.776	111.601	84.1	14.756	0.000	0.0	147.532	111.601	75.6
14.	Sikkim	1.729	1.482	85.7	0.196	0.168	85.7	1.925	1.650	85.7
15.	Tamil Nadu	195.783	165.729	84.6	21.756	18.299	84.1	217.539	184.028	84.6
16.	Telangana	58.44	9.009	15.4	6.492	3.405	52.4	64.932	12.414	19.1
17.	Tripura	10.182	8.485	83.3	1.134	1.134	100.0	11.316	9.619	85.0
18.	Uttar Pradesh	286.713	231.705	80.8	190.967	158.908	83.2	477.680	390.613	81.8
19.	Uttarakhand	9.738	0.000	0.0	9.354	7.675	82.0	19.092	7.675	40.2
20.	West Bengal	117.518	16.780	14.3	100.828	70.412	69.8	218.346	87.193	39.9
21.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.973	0.000	0.0	0.280	0.000	0.0	1.253	0.000	0.0
22.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.686	0.464	67.6	0.126	0.084	66.7	0.812	0.548	67.5
23.	Daman and Diu	0.126	0.000	0.0	0.028	0.004	14.3	0.154	0.004	2.6
24.	Lakshadweep	0.102	0.051	50.0	0.012	0.000	0.0	0.114	0.051	44.7
25.	Puducherry	2.898	0.000	0.0	0.324	0.220	67.9	3.222	0.220	6.8
TOTAL		1202.657	838.235	69.7	469.225	343.731	73.3	1671.882	1181.966	70.7



**Statement-IV**  
*Report of action taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955*  
 (Relating to offences under E.C. Act, violation of stock control orders and others orders)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Number of District	No. of complaints received	No. of Fair Price Shops/ godowns	Number of raids	Number of persons arrested	(Updated as on 30.11.2015)		
							Number of persons prosecuted	Number of persons convicted	Number of persons convicted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	152	537	987	0	23	23	23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	1	21FPS / 1 Godown	3	1	-	-	-
3.	Assam	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
4.	Bihar	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
5.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	419	5819	56	0	0	0	0
6.	Delhi	NR	NR	NR	18	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Goa	2	Nil	Nil	90	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Gujarat	35	1150	4401	6796	24	12	-	-
9.	Harayana	21	87	1	34	103	7	-	-
10.	Himachal Pradesh	12	409	4401	24114	-	-	-	-
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
12.	Jharkhand	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
13.	Karnataka	NR	NR	NR	509	107	0	3	3
14.	Kerala	20	670	7762/362	957	28	9	1	1
15.	Madhya Pradesh	NR	NR	NR	37679	-	111	6	6
16.	Maharashtra	35	414	58563	478	592	204	2	2
17.	Manipur	NR	NR	NR	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Meghalaya	11	Nil	276	41	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
19.	Mizoram	8	-	-	141	-	-	-
20.	Nagaland	NR	NR	NR	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Odisha	NR	NR	NR	2111	Nil	Nil	Nil
22.	Punjab	NR	NR	NR	5557	-	-	-
23.	Rajasthan	NR	NR	NR	NR	Nr	NR	NR
24.	Sikkim	4	Nil	378	51	-	-	-
25.	Tamil Nadu	33	0	0	29	41	41	0
26.	Tripura	8	318	2729	111	0	0	0
27.	Uttarakhand	13	1	1	5	5	4	-
28.	Uttar Pradesh	75	154	4788/39	66	13	9	1
29.	West Bengal	28	3	26	607	146	44	-
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3	Nil	50	59	Nil	Nil	Nil
31.	Chandigarh	1	1	-	2	1	15	3
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	NR	NR	NR	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
33.	Daman and Diu	NR	NR	NR	NR	Nr	NR	NR
34.	Lakshadweep	1	Nil	39/18	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
35.	Puducherry	2	Nil	852	607	0	2	-
36.	Telangana	35	1582	20102/126	2183	286	2	0
TOTAL		362	5361	78034	83294	1349	483	39

NR : \*Not Reported

**Purchase of gram and pulses from NAFED**

†748. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments were asked to purchase gram and pulses directly from NAFED by the Central Government, if so, the number of times communications were made between the Centre and the States for the purchase in the last one year;

(b) the total quantity of gram pulse purchased by the States from NAFED, the details thereof; and

(c) whether a decision was taken regarding the import of pulses in view of its increasing demand, if so, when and name of the country from which pulses were purchased in its compliance along with details of rate and quantity?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Government had apprised the State Governments in June, 2015 regarding the procured stock of Gram lying with various branches of NAFED and suggested that the desirous States could consider procurement of pulses from NAFED as per their requirement.

(b) As reported 1524 MT of Gram has been purchased by A.P. State Civil Supplies Corporation from NAFED.

(c) Government had approved import of 5000 MTs each of Tur and Urad through MMTC. However, MMTC could import only 5000 MT of Tur dal between 24.7.2015 to 25.10.2015 at an approximate cost of ₹77 per kg from Malawi/Mozambique. MMTC could not import Urad due to failure of supplier to execute the contract.

**Change in reservation/cancellation rules**

749. SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have changed any of the reservation/cancellation rules recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any complaints have been received on these changes citing inconvenience to passengers; and

(c) if so, the details, thereof and the measures taken by the Ministry to solve them?

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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) With effect from 12.11.2015, certain provisions of Railway Passengers (Cancellation of tickets and refund of fare) Rules have been amended and comprehensive Railway Passengers (Cancellation of tickets and refund of fare) Rules 2015 have been notified through Gazette Notification G.S.R. 836(E). dated 04.11.2015.

Important changes made in Railway Passengers (Cancellation of tickets and refund of fare) Rules are as under:-

- (A) Doubling of Clerkage and Cancellation charges.
- (B) Refund on cancellation of unused confirmed tickets:
  - (i) If confirmed ticket is presented for cancellation between 48 hours and upto 12 hours before the scheduled departure of the train, 25% cancellation charges is levied subject to minimum flat cancellation charge.
  - (ii) If confirmed ticket is presented for cancellation between 12 hours and upto 4 hours before the scheduled departure of the train irrespective of distance, 50% cancellation charge is levied subject to minimum flat cancellation charge.
  - (iii) Refund on confirmed ticket will be granted only upto 4 hours before the scheduled departure of the train.

(C) Refund on cancellation of unused RAC/Wait-listed tickets/partially confirmed tickets:-

- (i) When RAC/Waitlisted ticket/partially confirmed tickets is presented for cancellation, the refund of fare net of clerkage charge is made upto 30 minutes before the scheduled departure of the train.
- (ii) In case of cancellation of trains, automatic cancellation of booking and refund of the amount on e-ticket is granted to the customer's account (*i.e.* one from which booking transactions were made). Filing of TDR would no longer be required in such cases.

(b) and (c) Representations are received at various Administrative levels of Indian Railways from time to time on which action as found feasible and justified is taken.

There shall be no inconvenience to passengers if tickets are cancelled within the prescribed time limits.

**Complaints regarding Shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi Express**

†750. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passengers and tourists have to face great inconvenience due to lack of proper arrangement for food and cleaning of toilets in the Shatabdi Express and Janshabdi Express running between New Delhi and Dehradun;

(b) whether the dinner served in the Shatabdi Express returning to Delhi from Dehradun is of very inferior quality; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government for providing quality food and systematic cleaning of toilets in these two trains, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Regular inspections are conducted in both Shatabdi Express and Jan Shatabdi Express trains running between New Delhi and Dehradun to monitor quality of food served to the passengers. Besides thorough cleaning of coaches of these trains during primary maintenance prior to journey, under the On Board Housekeeping Services (OBHS) scheme, cleaning of coaches, including toilets is being undertaken during run also. Passenger response in respect of these trains has generally been satisfactory. Complaints (if any) are given prompt attention by railway officials and efforts are made to redress such complaints on real time basis, if possible. Further, an all India Helpline (No.138) for rail-users to lodge complaints/suggestions regarding catering and cleanliness services has also been operationalized.

**Dehradun-Kalsi railway line**

†751. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had made budgetary provision for the sanctioned Dehradun-Kalsi railway line in the Budget for the year 2011;

(b) if so, by when Government proposes to start construction work of this railway line; and

(c) the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Dehradun-Kalsi New line is not a sanctioned project. Accordingly, no Budgetary provision has been made and no definite time frame for the start of the project can be given.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Development of Railways under PPP system**

752. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to adopt Public-Private Partnership (PPP) system in development of Railways in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it was tried earlier on the railway system in the country; and
- (c) if so, the results thereof, *inter-alia* indicating the benefits that had accrued in the development of Railways under this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) A Participative Policy for rail connectivity and capacity augmentation was issued in December, 2012 which provides the following five models for building rail connectivities:

- (i) Non- Government Railway (NGR) model
- (ii) Joint Venture (JV) model
- (iii) Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) model
- (iv) Capacity augmentation with funding provided by customers model
- (v) Capacity augmentation through annuity model.

(b) and (c) Beginning of building rail connectivities through PPP was made in 2002 when last mile connectivity projects to the ports through private participation was undertaken.

From 2002 to 2014, eight port connectivity projects have been implemented, namely new line to Mundra Port (including doubling), Pipavav-Surendernagar Gauge conversion, Hassan-Mangalore Gauge conversion, Gandhidham-Palanpur Gauge Conversion, Bharauch-Dahej Gauge conversion project, Venkatachalam-Krishnapatnam new line, new line to Dhamra Port and new line to Tuna Port by involving strategic investors. These projects have added approximately 1030 km of railway line through an investment of approximately ₹ 3153 crore.

**PPP model in development of Railways**

753. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of putting PPP model in the development of Railways;

(b) the status and effective action plan in resolving the disputes between Government and the private partners in such a development; and

(c) the status of capacity enhancement and laying of tracks in underdeveloped regions of the country under this model?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) For encouraging PPP (Public Private Partnership) on Railways, a Policy on Participative models for rail connectivity and capacity augmentation was issued in December 2012 which provides the following five models viz. (i) Non- Government Railway (NGR) model (ii) Joint Venture (JV) model (iii) Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) model (iv) Capacity augmentation with funding provided by customers model (v) Capacity augmentation through annuity model. Till now, under different PPP models, 9 projects have been implemented, 16 projects have been taken up for implementation and 6 projects have been given 'in principle' approval.

(b) The Concession Agreements provide for Conciliation, Arbitration and Adjudication for resolving disputes between Government and partners.

(c) Projects under PPP model are undertaken on the basis of operational requirement, financial viability, bankability and interest of stakeholders. Such projects are not undertaken based on level of development/underdevelopment of a particular region.

#### **Modernization of railway stations**

754. SHRI MAJEED MEMON : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have any plan to modernize all railway stations in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the names of railway stations selected for the purpose;

(c) the criteria Railways follow in selection of railway stations; and

(d) the other railway stations in the country selected for modernization, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Upgradation of passenger amenities at stations is a continuous process. Such upgradation of identified stations in various States including Maharashtra is undertaken under various station upgradation schemes including Adarsh Station Scheme. 106 stations in Maharashtra have already been identified under Adarsh Station Scheme.

The names of Railway Stations identified under Adarsh Station Scheme in Maharashtra are as under:

Ahmednagar, Ajni, Amalner, Ambernath, Andheri, Bandra, Belapur, Bhandup, Bhayander, Borivali, Charni Road, Chembur, Chinchwad, Churchgate, Currey Road, Dadar (CR), Dadar (WR), Dahanu Road, Dahisar, Devlali, Dhule, Diva, Dock Yard, Dombivli, Gangakhed, Ghatkopar, Goregaon, Hingoli, Itwari, Jalgaon, Jalna, Jayasinghpur, Kalmeshwar, Kamptee, Kandivli, Karad, Karjat, Kasara, Katol, Khadki, Khopoli, King's Circle, Kolhapur, Kopergaon, Kurla, Latur, Lower Parel, Malad, Malkapur, Marine Lines, Matunga, Mira Road, Miraj, Multai, Mulund, Mumbai Central (Local), Nagarsol, Nahur, Naigaon, Nandura, Nandurbar, Narkhed, Nasik Road, Nimbhora, Pandhurna, Panvel, Parbhani, Parli Vaijnath, Pokarni Narsimha, Puntamba, Purna, Ramtek, Sangli, Sanpada, Santacruz, Saphale, Savda, Sewri, Shirdi, Shivajinagar, Solapur, Tilaknagar, Turbhe, Udgir, Ulhasnagar, Umrer, Vangaon, Varangaon, Vashi, Virar, Vishrambaug, Wardha, Dharangaon, Manmad, Amravati, Aurangabad, Odha, Gondia, Bhandara Road, Daund, Baramati, Nira, Majri, Khapri, Satara and Rahuri.

(c) Selection of Railway stations under 'Adarsh Stations Scheme' is based on the identified need for upgradation of passenger amenities.

(d) 1195 stations have already been identified in the country including those in the State of Maharashtra under Adarsh Station Scheme, out of which 961 stations have already been developed. The State-wise details of stations identified for development under Adarsh Station Scheme is as under:

State	Number of Identified Stations	State	Number of Identified Stations	State	Number of Identified Stations
Andhra Pradesh	39	Jammu and Kashmir	04	Punjab	32
Assam	27	Jharkhand	30	Rajasthan	36
Bihar	58	Karnataka	41	Tamil Nadu	46
Chhattisgarh	13	Kerala	74	Telangana	25
Delhi	04	Madhya Pradesh	40	Tripura	01
Goa	02	Maharashtra	106	Uttar Pradesh	135
Gujarat	29	Nagaland	01	Uttarakhand	07
Haryana	16	Odisha	42	West Bengal	383
Himachal Pradesh	02	Puducherry	02		



**Agreements for railway projects in Maharashtra**

755. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) how many agreements have been signed recently between Railways and Government of Maharashtra for speedy implementation of railway projects in the State ;
- (b) the total number of agreements and the projects for which the agreements have been signed along with places of projects to be undertaken; and
- (c) whether any time-frame has been agreed to complete these pending projects, the details thereof along with the money sanctioned, project-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding for formation of Maharashtra Rail Infrastructure Development Company between Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra has been signed on 28.06.2015. However, in recent past no project specific agreement has been signed between Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra.

**Railway works in Rajasthan**

†756. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount provisioned for construction works regarding amenities to railway passengers in Rajasthan in 2015-16, the quantum of work for which the work order has been given so far, the status of the remaining works, complete details thereof; and
- (b) the amount sanctioned for laying of new railway lines, doubling of railway lines and gauge conversion in Rajasthan in 2015-16, the amount of funds in respect of which work order has been given so far, location-wise, the status of the remaining works and complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The State of Rajasthan is predominantly served by North Western Railway (NWR). Some of the parts of Rajasthan also fall in Northern, North Central, Western and West Central Railway. Funds for passenger amenities are generally provided under the Plan Head 'Passenger Amenities'. Accountal of funds is maintained Zonal Railway wise and not the State wise. ₹ 95.7 crores have been allotted to NWR under this Plan Head for the current financial year 2015-16. Works amounting to about ₹ 260 Crores are sanctioned under this Plan Head in NWR so far. Throwforward liability of these works is about ₹ 144 Crores. Work orders for passenger amenities works amounting to approximately ₹ 98 Crores have been awarded during the current financial year *i.e.* 2015-16.

- (b) The details of ongoing Railway projects falling fully/partly in Rajasthan are as under:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Length in Km	Sanctioned cost ( in cr.)	Outlay 2015-16 (₹ in cr.)	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>New Line</b>					
1.	Dausa-Gangapur City	93	410	20	Dausa-Deedwana (35.44 Km) completed. Work is in progress on balance section.
2.	Bangugram-Ras	28	145	5	Completed and Commissioned.
3.	Ratlam-Dungarpur via Banswara	176	2028	120	Earthwork taken up.
4.	Thiyat Hamira-Sanu	59	237	30	Land acquisition process has been taken up.
5.	Ajmer-Kota (Nasirabad-Jalindri)	145	822	0.0001	Physical work has to be taken up after necessary approval.
6.	Pushkar-Merta	59	323	0.0001	Physical work has to be taken up after necessary approval.
7.	Ajmer (Nasirabad)-Sawai Madhopur (Chauth ka Barwara) via Tonk	165	874	0.1	Project included in Railway Budget 2015-16.
8.	Delhi-Sohna-Nuh-Ferozpur-Jhirka-Alwar	104	1239	0.0001	Project included in Railway Budget 2013-14 subject to necessary approvals.
9.	Ramganjmandi-Bhopal	262	1226	250	Ramganjmandi-Jalawar completed & commissioned. Work taken up on balance portion.
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>					
10.	Ajmer-Chittargarh-Udaipur, inclu. Material modification for extension from Udaipur to	420	855	0.1	Project completed & commissioned except Mavli-Bari Sadri gauge conversion and Nathdwara-New Nathdwara new line.

Umra Mavli-Nathdwara and Mavli Jn. Bari Sadri						
111.	Sri Ganganagar-Sarupsar Canal Loop (Phase-I)	116	280	10	Completed and Commissioned.	
12.	Jaipur-Ringus-Churu & Sikar Loharu	320	654	150	Sikar-Loharu completed & commissioned. Tendering for balance section taken up.	
13.	Suratpura-Hanumangarh-Sri Ganganagar	241	516	100	Hanumangarh-Sriganganagar completed & commissioned. Track linking completed in balance section.	
14.	Sadulpur-Bikaner & Ratangarh-Degana with material modification for Ratangarh-Sardarsahar	394	872	20	Sadulpur-Bikaner and Ratangarh-Degana completed & commissioned. Work on Sardarshahar-Ratangarh taken up.	
15.	Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur including Modasa Shamiaji Road	322	1215	300	Work taken up on Ahmedabad- Himmatnagar-Udaipur section.	
16.	Dholpur-Sirmuttra with extension to Gangapur City	145	212	120	Work taken up.	
17.	Gwalior-Sheopurkalan gauge conversion with extension upto Kota	284	34	25	Final Locating Survey completed.	
<b>Doubling</b>						
18.	Bina-Kota	283	1125	150	Earthwork & minor/major bridges taken up.	
19.	Alwar-Harsauli	35	92	0.0001	Completed and Commissioned.	

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Harsauli-Rewari	39	134	0.0001	Completed and Commissioned.
21.	Abu Road-Sarota Road	23	158	70	Track linking work on Maval-SriAmirgarh (8 Km) completed.
22.	Swaroopganj-Abu Road	25	155	150	Earthwork & minor/major bridges taken up.
23.	Sarota Road-Karjoda	24	194	170	Chitrasni -Karjoda (5.6 Km) completed.
24.	Keshav Ganji- Swaroopganj	26	119	4	Completed and Commissioned in 2015-16.
25.	Bhagat ki Kothi-Luni	28	123	10	Completed and Commissioned in 2014-15 except bypass at Luni.
26.	Rani-Keshavganj	60	280	150	Track linking for 44 Km completed.
27.	Ajmer-Bangurgram	48	145	2	Work taken up.
28.	Guriya-Marwar and Karjoda-Palanpur	49	206	160	Track linking for 20 Km of Guriya-Marwar is in advance stage. Karjoda-Palanpur: earthwork, minor & major bridges taken up.
29.	Rewari-Manheru	69	374	250	Track linking for 34 Km completed.
30.	Bangurgram-Guriya	47	246	4	Preliminary activities taken up.
31.	Rani-Marwar	55	289	80	Preliminary activities taken up.
32.	Alwar-Bandikui	60	242	20	Preliminary activities taken up.
33.	Phulera-Degana	108	600	14	Project included in Railway Budget 2015-16 subject to necessary clearances.
34.	Nimach-Chittaurgarh	56	260	6	Project included in Railway Budget 2015-16 subject to necessary clearances.

**Development of 'A-1' and 'A' category railway stations in Tamil Nadu**

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

(a) the details of 'A-1' and 'A' category railway stations in the State of Tamil Nadu which have been identified for development on 'as is where is' basis by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around these stations; and

(b) the details of the mechanism in place to oversee whether land and air space is used according to the norms prescribed under this method?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) It has been decided to offer 'A-1' and 'A' category stations (about 400 stations) over Indian Railways, for redevelopment on 'as is where is' basis, by inviting open bids from interested parties with their designs and business ideas. 27 stations, viz. Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Coimbatore Jn., Madurai Jn., Arakkonam Jn., Chengalpattu Jn., Dindigul Jn., Erode Jn., Jolarpettai Jn., Kanyakumari, Karur Jn., Katpadi, Kovilpatti, Kumbakonam, Mayiladuthurai Jn., Mettupalaiyam, Nagercoil Jn., Rameshwaram, Salem Jn., Tambaram, Thanjavur Jn., Tiruchirappalli Jn., Tirunelveli Jn., Tiruppur, Tuticorin, Villupuram Jn. and Virudhunagar Jn. falling in the State of Tamil Nadu qualify for redevelopment under this scheme.

(b) Guidelines have been issued to zonal railways regarding redevelopment of stations through the above method, which, inter-alia, contain provisions regarding leasing of land and air space for financing the station redevelopment.

**Feasibility study for bullet train project**

758. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the feasibility study conducted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on the Bullet train project is the sole evaluation/assessment before an investment of approximately 98, 000 crore is made in the project;

(b) whether the Ministry recognises that it is a potential conflict of interest for JICA to not just conduct a feasibility study but consequently also provide Railways with a soft loan and technology transfer for this project; and

(c) if not, the reasons why JICA is the only agency whose recommendations are being considered by Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor has also been studied by M/s RITES (India), M/s Systra (France) along with M/s Italfer (Italy) in 2010. A Business development study for Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed was also done by SNCF (French Railways) in 2014.

(b) and (c) The JICA feasibility study is a joint study co-financed by India and Japan which has examined the various technological and implementation options for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail project based on international experience. It also provides details of alignment, station locations, land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement, rolling stock requirement etc. The project funding and terms of funding are independent of the feasibility study and as such there is no conflict of interest.

#### **Integrated Security System**

759. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of Integrated Security System (ISS), which was proposed for 202 important railway stations across the entire railway network, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to bring in more railway stations under Integrated Security System (ISS); and

(c) if so, the details of the number of railway stations identified for the purpose in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Out of 202 Railway stations nominated for implementation of Integrated Security System (ISS) over Indian Railways, contracts for execution of ISS work over 99 railway stations have already been awarded. ISS has already been implemented at Ajmer, Bikaner, Jaipur and Jodhpur railway stations of North Western Railway, falling in the State of Rajasthan, and railway stations Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Tirupati of South Central Railway, falling in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. So far, Close Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV) have been installed over 88 stations under ISS. In addition, 24 Under Vehicle Scanning System (UVSS), 126 baggage scanners, about 240 Door Frame Metal Detectors (DFMD), more than 900 Hand Held Metal Detectors and 64 bomb detection equipments have also been installed by zonal railways under Integrated Security System.

(b) and (c) Strengthening and upgradation of security infrastructure is a continuous process, based on the threat perception and other local factors.

**Loan for Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor**

760. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to take off Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail corridor;

(b) if so, the names of the countries who offered soft loan for taking off the aforesaid corridor;

(c) whether Government has decided from whom the loan is to be taken; and

(d) if so, the quantum of loan to be taken and the percentage of interest to be paid on the aforesaid loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) A joint feasibility study for Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed corridor, co-financed by Indian Railways and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been completed in July 2015.

(b) Government of Japan has offered an assistance package including soft loan for Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed project.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Discontinuance of pantry car facility in long distance trains**

761. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to discontinue pantry car facility in long distance trains and introduce e-catering system, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is aware that a majority of passengers are not accustomed to the e-catering system and the passengers in long distance trains will not get even tea and snacks in the trains if the pantry car system is discontinued, if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No instructions have been issued for discontinuation of pantry car facility in trains. However, in order to widen the range of food options available to passengers, E-catering services have been introduced, through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) in trains without pantry car or Train Side Vending as well as on 45 designated stations from where passengers of originating/passing trains can avail of this facility. Efforts are being made to proliferate and popularize this service through print and electronic media so that passengers can order food of their choice conveniently.

**Development of railway stations through Swiss Challenger model**

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

(a) whether Railways has envisioned a plan to redevelop around 400 stations through an innovative Public-Private Partnership model called the 'Swiss Challenger';

(b) if so, whether Railways have worked out details of the railway stations to be re-developed, including land plan indicating the area of its yard, buildings and circulating areas; and

(c) whether Railways have called potential investors for a preliminary discussion to assess the expectations of the private investors, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) It has been decided to offer 'A-1' and 'A' category stations (about 400 stations) for redevelopment on 'as is where is' basis, by inviting open bids from interested parties with their designs and business ideas. General guidelines in this regard have been issued to Zonal Railways. Details of 'A-1' and 'A' category stations, Zone-wise, are as under:

Sl. No.	Railway Zone	No. of 'A-1' category stations	No. of 'A' category stations
1	2	3	4
1.	Central	8	26
2.	East Central	6	29
3.	East Coast	3	10



1	2	3	4
4.	Eastern	3	12
5.	North Central	6	14
6.	North Eastern	3	11
7.	Northeast Frontier	2	20
8.	North Western	3	22
9.	Northern	14	49
10.	South Central	5	31
11.	South Eastern	3	8
12.	South East Central	2	6
13.	South Western	2	15
14.	Southern	7	42
15.	West Central	2	15
16.	Western	6	22

Requisite details of these stations including, *inter alia*, the area of station building, yard, circulating area, etc. have been largely uploaded on Railways' website. Preliminary discussions have been held with prominent stakeholders to share their ideas regarding Railways' plan to redevelop stations through above process.

#### **Railway Medical College in Jharkhand**

763. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that amongst the States, Jharkhand has one of the busiest freight traffic for Railways;
- (b) in which States are the five medical colleges being set up by Railways; and
- (c) whether there is a proposal to set up a Railway Medical College in Jharkhand, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The then Hon'ble MR during her Budget speech 2009-10 had announced "Medical colleges are planned to be established attached to existing railway hospitals through PPP(Public Private Partnership)". However, as per rules of Medical Council of India, Public Private Partnership (PPP) with Government (Railway) hospital is not permitted. Therefore, the said proposal was subsequently dropped and currently no medical college is being set up by Railways in any State.

(c) No, Sir. Currently there is no proposal to set up Railway medical colleges in any State.

**Railway projects during Twelfth Five Year Plan under PPP model**

764. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects proposed to be taken up under the Public-Private- Partnership (PPP) model during the Twelfth Five Year Plan in the country, State/ zone-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted by Railways in this regard;

(c) the details of financial implications involved therein; and

(d) the time-frame set for execution of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) A Participative Policy for rail connectivity and capacity augmentation was issued in December, 2012 which provides five different models of PPP. Under the policy PPP projects initiated during the Twelfth Five Year Plan are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Projects under PPP model are undertaken on the basis of financial viability, bankability and interest of stakeholders.

(c) Cost of such PPP projects is estimated at around ₹ 14,000 crore of which projects worth of ₹ 11,000 crore approximately do not require any financial commitment from Ministry of Railways.

(d) Each of the projects has target for completion within 3-5 years of start of construction.

**Statement****1. Sanctioned PPP projects under implementation (Private line and Joint Venture)**

Sl.No	Project name	Cost in Cr.	Km	Zone	State
1.	Digni - Jaigarh Port (NL)	771	35	KRCL	Maharashtra
2.	Roha- Dighi Port (NL)	724	34	CR	Maharashtra
3.	Palanpur- Samkhayali (D/L)	1267	248	WR	Gujarat
4.	Gevra Road-Pendra Road (NL)	838	122	SECR	Chhattisgarh
5.	Kharasia-Dharamjaigarh - Ghargoda-Donga Mahua, (NL)	1647	104	SECR	Chhattisgarh
6.	Rowghat-Jagdarpur (NL)	304	140	SECR	Chhattisgarh
7.	Tuna Port	142	17	WR	Gujarat
	TOTAL	5693	700		
<b>2.</b>	<b>Sanctioned projects under implementation (Customer Funded):</b>				
1.	Hotgi- Kudgi section (Doubling)	946	134	SWR	Karnataka
2.	Manpur-Tilaiya-Bakhityarpur section (Electrification)	140	135	ECR	Bihar & Jharkhand
3.	Lalitpur-Udaipura (Electrification)	44	28	NCR	UP
4.	Balgona-Katwa Section (GC)	112	25	ER	West Bengal
5.	Bhaktiarpur Flyover including 3rd Line	250	18	ECR	Bihar
6.	Khandwa-Nimar Kheri (GC)	487	35	WR	MP

Sl.No	Project name	Cost in Cr.	Km	Zone	State
7.	Jagdulpur-Ambagaon (Doubling)	257	25	ECoR	Chhattisgarh
	TOTAL	2236	400		
<b>3.</b>	<b>Sanctioned projects identified for implementation through Annuity route:</b>				
1.	Bhadrak-Nargundi 3rd line	900	80	ECoR	Odisha
2.	Kazipet-Vijaywada 3rd line with electrification	1566	202	SCR	Telangana & Andhra Pradesh
3.	Nagpur-Wardha 3rd line	550	76	CR	Maharashtra
	TOTAL	3016	358		
<b>4.</b>	<b>Projects under PPP where In Principle approval granted:</b>				
1.	New Bhubaneswar - Astranga Port /ECoR/New line, Odisha	1310	75	ECoR	Odisha
2.	Sayan/Kim -Hazira Port /WR/New line, Gujarat	734	47	WR	Gujarat
3.	Hamrapur- Rewas port /CR/New line	349	26	CR	Maharashtra
4.	Bhimnath- Dholera Rail Link /WR/, (New Line)	252	27	WR	Gujarat
5.	Chhara Port/WR/New Line	351	20	WR	Gujarat
6.	Nargol Port /WR/ New Line	82	11	WR	Gujarat
	TOTAL	3078	206		

**E-catering facilities in trains**

765. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to make available e-catering facilities in a number of trains at 45 stations across the country, if so, the details in this regard;
- (b) the details of stations selected for this purpose; and
- (c) how does Government proposes to monitor quality, quantity and issues of hygiene of the food under e-catering facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) In order to widen the range of food options available to passengers, E-catering services have been introduced, through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) in trains without pantry car or Train Side Vending as well as on 45 designated stations from where passengers of originating/passing trains can avail of this facility. The details of stations selected for this purpose are as follows:- Howrah, Sealdah, Guwahati, New Jalpaiguri, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam, Mughalsarai Junction (Jn.), Kanpur Central, Lucknow Jn., Varanasi, Jaipur, Bilaspur, Kharagpur, Allahabad, Gorakhpur, Anand Vihar Terminal, Hazarat Nizamuddin, New Delhi, Delhi, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Secunderabad, Tirupati, Vijayawada, Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Ernakulam Jn., Kozhikkode, Madurai Jn., Thrisur, Tiruvananthapuram Central, Bangalore City, Yasvantpur, Nagpur, Pune, Agra Cantt., Gwalior, Jhansi, Bhopal, Ahmedabad, Mumbai Central, Surat & Vadodara. IRCTC has tied up with renowned, reputed and established brands in the field of catering services so that the passengers can order good quality and hygienic food of their choice. Further, Janta Khana is also being made available through E-catering services.

**Eliminating unmanned level crossings**

766. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways are going to miss the target of eliminating 10,797 Unmanned Level Crossings (ULCs) during the Twelfth Five Year Plan by huge margin, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that 40 per cent of accidents and 60 per cent of fatalities are accounted for by ULCs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Railways to gear up its efforts in eliminating the ULCs by paying focussed attention to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Ministry of Railways has decided to progressively eliminate all unmanned level crossings by Closure/Merger/Provision of Subways/Manning. Accordingly, 3,933 unmanned level crossings have been eliminated since the start of 12th Five Year Plan. Indian Railway endeavours for elimination of remaining unmanned level crossings subject to availability of funds, which comes from Central Road Fund (CRF) as a percentage of the cess collected on petrol and diesel by Ministry of Finance. The average annual allocation to Railways from Central Road Fund is ₹ 1,100 crore against the throwforward of 31,700 crore.

(b) 38.9 % of the total consequential train accidents, involving 53.4% of the total fatalities, have occurred at unmanned level crossings in the last three years (2012-2015) and in current year (upto 15th Nov., 2015).

(c) To address the issue of constraints of funds, Ministry of Railways has approached Ministry of Finance for enhanced allocation of funds.

#### **Setting up of captive nuclear power plants**

767. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided to set up captive nuclear power plants to meet the rising demand of energy for train operations as well as reducing its power bills;

(b) whether the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has been approached for setting up captive nuclear power plants, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the move will help cash-strapped Railways which spent ₹ 8000 crore on electricity bills and ₹ 15,000 crore on diesel during the last fiscal, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, preliminary discussions were held with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) for exploring the possibility of setting up of a nuclear power plant in Joint Venture.

(c) Does not arise.

**Hike in train fares**

768. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether train fares have been hiked two times during the year 2014-15, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (b) the action plan/steps being taken by Government to provide better facilities to passengers and for the betterment of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. In the financial year 2014-15, fare revision has been effected only once with effect from 25th June 2014.

(b) Upgradation of amenities/facilities at all stations is a continuous and on-going process. The same is undertaken based on the volume of passenger traffic, relative importance of the work/amenities and availability of funds. Presently, development of stations is undertaken from funds allocated for passenger amenities by the concerned zonal railways on a regular basis. In addition, out of total of 1195 stations identified for development under the 'Adarsh Station Scheme', facilities at 961 stations have already been upgraded.

Further, as a part of continual improvement in improving passenger amenities in trains, the following actions have been taken by Indian Railways:

- (1) Provision of cushioned seats/berths in general Second Class coaches, snack table and magazine bags in Sleeper Class coaches, automatic fire and smoke detection system (so far in 3 rakes), Braille signage in coaches to facilitate visually impaired passengers, improved design of dustbins and washing of linens in mechanized laundries.
- (2) Induction of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches in Mail & Express rakes and High Capacity LHB Airconditioned Chair Car coaches on select routes.

**Railway line in Kangra Valley**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the narrow gauge railway line in Kangra Valley is in a bad shape;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to improve and modernize this railway track?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Kangra Valley Railway line is fit and safe for running the Railway traffic. Regular maintenance of the section is being done as per laid down standards. Besides, Complete Track Renewal (secondary) works for 46.61 km with improved track structure and work of replacement of 5913 number of wooden bridge sleepers with steel channel sleepers have been taken up.

#### **Ghanauli-Baddi railway line**

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

(a) whether Government has sanctioned Ghanauli-Baddi railway line project in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has not accorded its permission for the Ghanauli-Baddi railway line project; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/being taken by Railways to seek necessary approval of the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Survey for Ghanauli-Baddi new line project (26.3 km) was conducted in 2009-10 and as per the survey report, the cost and Rate of Return (ROR) of the project was assessed as 541 crore and (-) 3.44% respectively. The proposal was sent to NITI Aayog (erstwhile Planning Commission) for their "in principle" approval (IPA) on socio-economic consideration. However, NITI Aayog did not approve the project due to its unremunerative nature and Railway having huge throwforward of sanctioned ongoing projects, limited overall availability of funds for new lines.

#### **Derailment of trains**

†771. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 9 coaches of Secunderabad-Mumbai Duronto Express and 3 coaches of Kalka-Shimla toy train in Himachal Pradesh derailed on 12 September, 2015, if so, the reasons therefor;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



(b) whether the toy train had four coaches and all the passengers belonged to Britain; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to contain the human error and other reasons in train accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. A statutory inquiry into the derailment of Secunderabad-Mumbai Durgam Cheruvu express is being conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety/South Central circle. As per the preliminary report of Commissioner of Railway Safety/Northeast Frontier circle who had inquired into the derailment of 3 coaches of Kalka-Shimla toy train, the reason for the derailment is failure of Railway staff.

(b) Yes, Sir. Train had four coaches and all passengers belonged to Britain.

(c) Safety Action Plans were continually executed to reduce accidents caused by human errors. A multi-pronged approach with focus on introduction of newer technologies, mechanisation of maintenance, early detection of flaws, etc. to reduce human dependence in the first place, alongwith upgrading the skills of the human resources were the prime drivers for accident prevention. Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been upgraded.

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 upgradation 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), Colour Light, LED Signals, Vigilance Control Device (VCD), usage of 60kg rails and Pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers, long rail panels, better welding technology, progressive use of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) Coaches, Centre Buffer Couplers with Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Coaches, etc.

#### **Agreement with Google for wi-fi facility**

†772. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have entered into any agreement with Google for providing highspeed wi-fi facility at railway stations;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if, so, the details thereof and the names of railway stations earmarked/selected for this purpose and the basis on which their selection has been made;
- (c) the amount of budget allocated for this purpose; and
- (d) the time frame earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RCIL), one of the Public Sector Undertakings of Railways, has entered into an agreement with M/s. Mahataa Information India Private Limited (MIPL) a group company of M/s Google Inc. for providing high speed Wi-Fi facility at Railway stations.

(b) Wi-Fi project shall be undertaken in two phases to cover 75 Class A1 and 325 Class A stations. 100 stations out of total of A1 and A category shall be covered in phase-I and 300 stations in phase-II. Non-Suburban stations with an annual passenger earning of more than ₹60 crores are categorised as A1 stations. Non-Suburban stations with an annual passenger earnings of ₹ 8 crores and upto ₹ 60 crores are categorised as A stations.

(c) The project is cost neutral to Railways and all capital expenditure is to be incurred by RCIL and M/s. MIPL, a group company of M/s Google.

(d) Initially in Phase-I, the work is being taken up at 100 class A-1/A stations, after completion of which, work on 300 class A-1/A stations shall be taken up in phase-II.

#### **Faster engines and coaches**

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

- (a) whether Railways propose to introduce locomotive engines and train coaches which could run at a speed of 200 kilometers per hour;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (c) the time by when the trial run of these engines and coaches is likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The initiatives taken with respect to upgradation of locomotives and coaches are as under:

- (i) One WAP-5 type Electric locomotive with modified transmission and drive gear system suitable to haul trains at 200 kilometres per hour has been upgraded. Similarly, Diesel locomotives are also under upgradation to achieve 200 kilometres per hour.
- (ii) One Linke Hofman Busch (LHB) rake with speed potential of 200 kilometers per hour is under development at Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala. The coaches of this rake are envisaged with advanced braking system having stainless steel brake discs, automatic body-side plug type entrance doors and improved inter-car gangway mounting arrangements. Besides better interior furnishing having improved design of seats, better amenities in lavatories, Light Emitting Diodes (LED) lighting, call cum annunciator system, GPS based passenger information system etc. have also been incorporated in its design.
- (c) Trial run of locomotives and coaches will be dependent upon availability of resources.

#### **On Board House-keeping Services**

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

- (a) the total number of trains which have been provided with On Board House-keeping Services (OBHS);
- (b) whether Government has identified more trains for providing OBHS and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the revised criterion for provisions of OBHS on trains; and
- (d) the fresh steps taken by Government to provide OBHS facility on all long distance trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Presently around 570 train pairs are provided with On Board Housekeeping Services (OBHS) facilities across Indian Railways.

(b) OBHS is being provided on identified Mail/Express trains satisfying laid down parameters such as journey time/period, coach type etc. Zonal Railways identify additional trains for provision of OBHS scheme, as per requirements, which is an ongoing process.

(c) As per the revised criteria, all important Mail/Express trains excluding purely overnight journey trains (running between 2200 hrs to 0600 hrs) are now eligible for coverage under this scheme.

(d) Issue of notification of above revised eligibility criterion is the fresh step taken by the Government to facilitate Zonal Railways to provide OBHS facility on all important Mail/Express trains.

#### **Charges levied on train journeys**

†775. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details regarding charges levied, class-wise, on purchase of tickets, return journeys and cancellation charges from May, 2014 till date with regard to train journey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): Basic fares of different categories of regular train services are as per categorisation of trains. Besides basic fares, the additional charges levied are as follows:-

Class	Reservation Fee (₹ )	Supplementary charge for Super Fast Trains (₹ )
Second (Unreserved)	Nil	15
Second (Reserved)	15	15
Sleeper	20	30
AC Chair Car	40	45
AC Economy	40	45
AC 3-Tier	40	45
First Class	50	45
AC 2 Tier	50	45
AC First Class	60	75

In case of AC and First Class, service tax @ 4.35% of total fare is also levied. Apart from this Mela surcharges, MUTP surcharge, MMTS surcharge etc., wherever applicable, are levied.

Cancellation charges levied are as under:-

Pre-revised	W.e.f. 12.11.2015
Refund of fare on unused Confirmed (Reserved) tickets	
If confirmed (Reserved) ticket was presented for cancellation 48 hours before the scheduled departure of the train, minimum cancellation charge was levied as under:-	If confirmed (Reserved) ticket is presented for cancellation 48 hours before the scheduled departure of the train, minimum cancellation charge is levied as under:-
1st AC/executive class : 120	1st AC/executive class : 240
2AC/1st class : 100	2AC/1st class : 200

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Pre-revised	W.e.f. 12.11.2015
3AC/ACC/3A economy: 90	3AC/ACC/3A economy : 180
Second sleeper class : 60	Second sleeper class : 120
Second class : 30	Second class : 60

#### High speed railway lines

776. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the high-speed railway lines proposed to be laid by Railways in the country;

(b) whether Railways have asked for conducting feasibility studies on three new high speed railway lines;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which feasibility report is likely to be prepared; and

(d) whether Railways propose to speed up its efforts to start the work on the projects and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) A joint feasibility study for Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed corridor, co-financed by Indian Railways and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been completed in July 2015.

Ministry of Railways had undertaken/completed pre-feasibility studies on 7 identified corridors. Further, the following corridors have been identified for feasibility studies for high speed rail connectivity to the four major metros and growth centers of the country: (i) Delhi-Mumbai, (ii) Mumbai-Chennai, (iii) Chennai-Kolkata, (iv) Kolkata-Delhi and both diagonals i.e. (v) Delhi-Chennai and (vi) Mumbai-Kolkata routes. Out of these, three studies have been awarded in September, 2015.

Sl. No.	Corridor	Consultants
1.	Delhi-Mumbai	M/s. The Third Railway Survey and Design Institute (Lead) Group Corporation- Lahmeyer International (India) Private Limited, India (Consortium)
2.	Mumbai-Chennai	M/s. SYSTRA (Lead)- RITES-Ernest and Young LLP (Consortium)
3.	Kolkata-Delhi	M/s. INECO (Lead)- M/s. TYPASA- Consultants and Technocrats Private Limited (Consortium)

Further, Ministry of Railways have also decided to undertake feasibility study through Government to Government co-operation route for Delhi-Nagpur with assistance of China.

(d) Work on any project can start only after the sanction of project. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail proposal has been submitted to an Empowered Committee on Innovation Collaborations chaired by Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog to suggest the way forward.

**Modernisation of railway stations to international standards**

777. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to modernise railway stations to international standards, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the number and names of railway stations developed to international standards in the country including in Tamil Nadu, during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the amount allocated/spent on this, year-wise and State-wise during the above period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) It has been decided to offer 'A-1' and 'A' category stations (about 400 stations) over Indian Railways for redevelopment on 'as is where is' basis, by inviting open bids from interested parties with their designs and business ideas. General guidelines in this regard have been issued to Zonal Railways. 27 stations, viz. Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Coimbatore Jn., Madurai Jn., Arakkonam Jn., Chengalpattu Jn., Dindigul Jn., Erode Jn., Jolarpettai Jn., Kanyakumari, Karur Jn., Katpadi, Kovilpatti, Kumbakonam, Mayiladuthurai Jn., Mettupalaiyam, Nagercoil Jn., Rameshwaram, Salem Jn., Tambaram, Thanjavur Jn., Tiruchirappalli Jn., Tirunelveli Jn., Tiruppur, Tuticorin, Villupuram Jn. and Virudhunagar Jn. falling in the State of Tamil Nadu qualify for redevelopment under this scheme. No station has been redeveloped to international standards so far.

As the entire cost of station development is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the station, no railway funds are required to be allocated.

**Ongoing pending railway projects in Karnataka**

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

- (a) the present status of the ongoing/pending railway projects in Karnataka, project-wise;
- (b) whether there are audit observations regarding inordinate delay and huge escalation of cost in these projects and if so, the reaction of Railways thereto;
- (c) the reasons for inordinate delay in completion and the resultant escalation of cost thereof;
- (d) the details of the funds allocated/spent thereon, project-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by Railways to expedite completion thereof to prevent further escalation of cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (d) Details of ongoing/pending railway projects falling fully/partly in the State of Karnataka with their present status, expenditure incurred upto March, 2015 and outlay provided during 2015-16 are as under:-

(₹ in crore)					
Sl. No.	Project	Anticipated cost	Expenditure incurred upto March, 2015	Outlay during 2015-16	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>New Line</b>					
1.	Kadur-Chickmagalur-Sakleshpur (93 Km)	1156	387	70	Kadur-Chikmagalur (46 Km) commissioned. Work on balance portion taken up.
2.	Hubli-Ankola (167 Km)	2315	114	12	Project held up for want of clearance from Central Empowered Committee under the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
3.	Hassan-Bangalore via Sharavanbelagola	1290	1017	190	Hassan-Sharavanbelagola (42 Km) and Neelamangala-Chikbanaver/Bangalore (14 Km) sections have already been commissioned. On balance portion, track linking work on 83 Km section has been completed and work on remaining portion taken up.
4.	Rayadurg-Tumkur (213 Km)	2000	304	115	Track linking on Rayadurg-



	Vedavathy-Kalyandurga (31 Km) completed and work on Kalyandurga-Kadaredevapally (15 Km) taken up. In balance Kadaredevapally-Tumkur section, land requisition submitted to State Government.				
5.	Bagalkot-Kudachi (142 Km)	1065	125	155	Work on Bagalkot-Karkalamatti-Lokapur (33 Km) taken up.  Land acquisition papers for balance portion submitted to State Government.
6.	Bangalore-Chamarajanagar-Satyamangalam (260 Km)	1524	6	10	Work on Bangalore-Chamarajanagar section taken up. Work beyond Chamarajanagar frozen for want of forestry clearance.
7.	Munirabad-Mahboobnagar (246 Km)	2641	405	185	Yeramaras-Yadalapur doubling (15 Km) commissioned and track linking on Deverakadra-Makhtal part (31 Km) completed. Work on Ginigera-Budhgumpa-Chikka-benakal (27 Km) taken up. Land

1	2	3	4	5	6
					acquisition in balance portion taken up.
8.	Gulbarga-Bidar (140 Km)	912	779	60	Khanapur-Honnabad (38 Km) has already been commissioned and track linking on Honnabad-Hallikhed (16 Km) and Gulbarga-Sultanpur (10 Km) sections have been completed. Work on Hallikhed-Sultanpur (47 Km) section taken up.
9.	Cuddapah-Bangalore (255 Km)	2061	185	265	Track linking on Cuddapah-Pendlimari part (19 Km) completed and work on balance portion taken up.
10.	Shimoga-Harihar (79 Km)	832	17	150	Land acquisition papers submitted to the State Government.
11.	Whitefield-Kolar (53 Km)	375	12	0	Land acquisition papers submitted to the State Government.
12.	Marikuppam-Kuppam (24 Km)	313	1	0	Land acquisition papers submitted to the State Government.

13.	Tumkur-Davangere (200 Km)	2193	18	140	Land acquisition papers submitted to the State Government.
14	Gadag-Wadi (252 Km)	2617	1	120	Final location survey taken up.
15.	Chikballapur-Puttaparthi-Sri Satya Sai Nilayam (103 Km)	692	-	0	Projects included in Budget subject to requisite approvals. Though State
16.	Srinivasapura-Madanapalli (75 Km)	296	0	0	Government has consented to provide free land and share 50% of construction cost of the project, it could not be taken forward due to their unremunerative nature even with cost sharing and huge throwforward of ongoing projects.
17.	Chikballapur-Gowribidanur (44 Km)	368	-	0	Project included in Budget subject to requisite approvals. However, it could not be taken forward due to its unremunerative nature and huge throwforward of ongoing projects.
TOTAL		22650	3371	1472	

1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Gauge conversion</b>					
1.	Mysore-Chamarajanagar (Ph-I) with extension to Mettupalayam (148 Km)	609	207	1	Mysore-Chamarajanagar gauge conversion (60 Km) commissioned. No clearance for Chamarajanagar-Mettupalayam new line available.
	TOTAL	609	207	1	
<b>Doubling</b>					
1	Yeshwantpur-Yellahanka (12 Km)	95	68	20	Track linking completed.
2.	Kankanadi-Panambur (19 Km)	227	73	170	Formation, bridges and tunneling works taken up.
3.	Ramanagaram-Mysore doubling (93 Km)	875	345	94	Ramangaram-Yeliyur & Mysuru-Naganahalli (65 Km) commissioned and track linking for Yeliyur-Naganahalli (28 Km) completed.
4.	Hospet-Hubli-Londa-Tinaighat-Vasco-da-Gama (352 Km)	2128	174	756	Track linking on 97 Km completed and earthwork and bridge works taken up on balance portion.
5.	Tornagallu-Ranjitpura (23 Km)	165	0	0	Land acquisition papers submitted to State Government.

6.	Bangalore Whitefield-Bangalore City-Krishnarajapuram (23 Km)	85	2	0	Government of Karnataka has not agreed to the alignment.
7.	Daund-Gulbarga and Pune-Guntakal electrification (641 Km)	1514	324	675	Track linking on 35 Km completed and earthwork in formation & bridge works taken up on balance portion.
8.	Hotgi-Kudgi-Gadag (284 Km)	1618	2	40	Requisite approvals received recently.
9.	Yelahanka-Penukonda (121 Km)	958	..	22	Requisite approvals received recently
10.	Hubli-Chikjajur (190 Km)	1900	..	43	New work included in the Budget 2015-16.
11.	Arsikere-Tumkur (96 Km)	960	..	22	Requisite approvals received recently.
12.	Gooty-Dharmavaram-Bangalore (180 Km)	1800	...	41	New work included in the Budget 2015-16.
	TOTAL	12325	988	1883	
<b>Railway Electrification (Plan Head 35)</b>					
1.	Shoranur-Mangalore-Panamur (328 Route Kilometer)(Ullal-Panamur-34 Route Kilometer falls in Karnataka)	384	262	50	Works taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Yelahanka-Dharmavaram-Gooty including Penukonda-Dharmavaram via Sri Satya Sai Prashanti Nilayam (306 Route Kilometer) (Yelahanka-Dharmavaram -72 Route Kilometer falls in Karnataka)	249	234	15	Works taken up.
3.	Guntakal-Bellary-Hospet including Tornagallu-Ranjitpura branch line (138 Route Kilometer) (Bellary-Hospet -114 Route Kilometer falls in Karnataka )	227	43	30	Works taken up.
4.	Hospet-Hubli-Vasco Da Gama (346 Km)	466	0	0	Works taken up.
	TOTAL	1326	539	95	

(b) and (c) Ministry of Railways have been receiving audit observation of generic nature regarding delay and escalation of the cost of projects. However, completion of projects depends on many factors such as land acquisition, forestry and wild life clearances, shifting of services, construction of road over and road under bridges by road maintaining agencies etc. apart from availability of funds. As most of these factors are not within the control of Railways, it is not feasible to fix timelines for all the projects. As a result, most of the ongoing projects are facing cost overrun.

(e) Various measures taken to expedite completion of new line, gauge conversion and doubling projects include substantial increase in allocation of funds, prioritization of projects, delegation of powers at field level, inviting the State Governments to participate with Railways for resource mobilization for projects, nomination of nodal officers for improved co-ordination with the State Governments etc.

#### **Ticketing racket on IRCTC website**

779. SHRI T.K.RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a ticketing racket existed on the IRCTC website which could book over two lakh train tickets in thirty seconds;
- (b) if so, for how long was the racket functioning; and
- (c) how the racket was detected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) website has the capacity to book 15000 tickets in a minute. While no incidence of over two lakh train tickets having been booked in thirty seconds is on record, isolated cases of users making use of some software to enable quicker booking of tickets have been reported. Steps have been taken to negate the possible advantage being drawn by illegal use of such software. Upgradation of infrastructure relating to the website has also been undertaken.

#### **Disabled-friendly railway stations**

780. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has set an ambitious target to make 75 railway stations disabled-friendly by July, 2016;
- (b) how many of the 75 railway stations have already been included in earlier schemes to make them disabled-friendly;
- (c) the railway stations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana selected under the above scheme; and

- (d) the details of funds allotted for this purpose by Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) In order to provide better accessibility for differently abled passengers, provision of various passenger facilities has already been planned at stations which *inter-alia*, include 'A-1' category stations (75 stations). Hyderabad, Kacheguda, Secunderabad Jn., Tirupati, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam railway stations are 'A-1' category stations in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. All identified amenities for differently abled passengers have already been provided at 72 'A-1' category stations. Now, in view of targets set by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, provision of all identified amenities at remaining 3 'A-1' category stations is planned by July, 2016. The expenditure on works pertaining to provision of amenities at stations for differently-abled passengers are generally funded under Plan Head – 'Passenger Amenities'. Allocation of ₹ 75.79 cr., ₹ 123.80 cr., ₹ 133.47 cr. and ₹ 84.07 cr. have been made under this Plan Head for the current financial year to East Coast Railway, Southern Railway, South Central Railway and South Western Railway respectively which cover the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

#### **New Rajdhani Train from Goa**

781. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to start Rajdhani train from Goa;
- (b) if so, by when will the service commence;
- (c) the proposed frequency of the train; and
- (d) whether the train will run on the route other than the one on which the Trivandrum-Goa-Nizamuddin train runs through Goa, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) A new Rajdhani Express train connecting Delhi and Goa, viz. 22413/22414 Madgaon-Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express (Bi-weekly) having commercial stoppages at Kota, Vadodara, Surat, Vasai Road, Panvel, Ratnagiri, Kudal, Thivim has commenced operations w.e.f. 15.11.2015.

#### **Accidents on unmanned level crossings**

782. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of accidents on the unmanned level crossings during the last two years;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to contain such accidents; and



(c) whether Government proposes to reduce the number of unmanned level crossings and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The number of accidents at the unmanned level crossings (UMLCs) in the last two years is 47 in 2013-14, 50 in 2014-15, and 23 in the current year upto November, 2015.

(b) Various measures taken by Indian Railways to prevent accidents at level crossings are as under:

- Progressive elimination of unmanned level crossings by (i) closing unmanned crossings having NIL/negligible Train Vehicle Units (TVUs), (ii) merger of unmanned level crossing with nearby unmanned/manned gates or Road Under Bridge or Road Over Bridge or Subway by construction of diversion road, (iii) provision of Subways/Road Under Bridges and (iv) phased manning of unmanned level crossings which cannot be eliminated by the above means based on the volume of rail road traffic (TVU), visibility conditions, etc.
- Provision of basic infrastructure at unmanned level crossings, including appropriate visibility, width, gradient, level surface on either side from centre of the nearest track, whistle boards, road warning boards, surface of the approach road and speed breakers/rumble strips as per laid down standards.
- Social awareness campaigns to educate road users with the use of various print and electronic media for observance of safe practices prescribed in Motor Vehicle Act and Indian Railways Act and joint ambush checks along with civil police to counter misadventure in front of approaching trains.
- SMS Campaigns to create awareness amongst road users.

(c) Ministry of Railways have decided to progressively eliminate all unmanned level crossings by Closure/Merger/Provision of Subways/Manning. Accordingly, in the last seven years and the current year (upto Oct.'2015), Indian Railway has eliminated 8170 unmanned level crossings, out of which 3205 unmanned level crossings by manning and 4965 unmanned level crossings by closure/merger/subways.

#### **Doubling of rail track between new Bongaigaon and Guwahati**

783. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes doubling of railway track between New Bongaigaon and Guwahati and extending it up to Kamakhya station, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the project report thereon; and

(c) the budget allocation for 2015-16 along with the sanction details, till date, therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) New Bongaigaon & Guwahati are connected by two separate Broad Gauge Routes. Doubling of both the routes *viz.* New Bongaigaon-Kamakhya *via* Rangiya (142 km) and Bongaigaon-Goalpara- Guwahati (176 km) has been included in Railway Budget subject to requisite Government approvals at an anticipated cost of ₹ 4494 crore. An outlay of ₹42 crore has been provided for these works in 2015-16.

**Criteria for declaring suburban railway services as a separate zone**

784. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rationale behind creating a new zone for Kolkata Metro and whether it can be replicated in other cities such as Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi that also have similar suburban rail services;

(b) the criteria that a suburban railway system must fulfil to enable it to be notified as a separate zone; and

(c) whether the above three cities fulfil that criteria and are eligible for being notified as separate zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Metro Railway, Kolkata is a one-of-a-kind stand-alone system on Indian Railways (IR) which operates only Metro services. After taking this into consideration along with operational, administrative and other factors, the zonal railway status was granted to Metro Railway, Kolkata to, *inter-alia*, help this organization in its operations and in further expansion. In the Indian Railway system operational in other cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai, the suburban railway traffic is run along with the mainline traffic, *i.e.* unified operation of all types of trains takes place on the same infrastructure *viz.* track, bridges, signalling, Over Head Equipment (OHE), etc. Creation of exclusive zones for suburban systems, operated by Indian Railways, in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai is not envisaged as segregation of suburban, non-suburban, freight traffic, etc. is not possible in these cities.

**Revision in train ticket booking and cancellation charges**

785. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has revised the rates of train ticket bookings and cancellations, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware that the charges for cancellation of reserved ticket is too high and will cost much to poor people, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government will review its decision in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Clerkage and Minimum cancellation charges have been doubled.

(b) Cancellation of ticket involves two transactions, i.e. one for booking and another for cancellation. Clerkage and cancellation charge is being collected to cover the operating cost of cancellation of tickets. It is expected that increase in these charges may *inter alia* disincentivize speculative bookings also.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal.

**Stoppage of daytime travel facility to unreserved  
travellers in Non-AC sleeper coaches**

786. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to stop the daytime travel facility available to unreserved travellers in non-AC sleeper coaches of Express/Superfast trains; and

(b) whether railway authorities are planning any alternative such as new local trains or additional unreserved coaches in Express trains in the event of withdrawal of the facility, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. W.e.f. 16.04.2015, Zonal Railways have been empowered to declare sleeper class coaches in identified trains as Second Class unreserved Coaches on nominated sections during daytime where the Sleeper class coaches are running empty or in locked condition due to insufficient demand. Second Class fares are charged for travel in such coaches. This facility is in addition to the facility of declaring requisite number of sleeper class coaches as sleeper class unreserved coaches on specific sections during daytime only, where sleeper class fares is charged on actual distance.

**Rail Neer scam**

787. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge Rail Neer scam has been reported/detected in Railways, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has inquired into the scam and has fixed responsibility in this regard, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would make it mandatory for vendors to provide Rail Neer in every train, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against two Railway officials and eight private caterers under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 regarding the supply of packaged drinking water other than the prescribed 'Rail Neer' in Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains in Northern Railway. The identified officials have been placed under suspension.

(c) As per the extant guidelines, Rail Neer is the exclusive brand to be procured and sold by the department and non-departmental private catering licensees on the premises of Indian Railways including trains subject to availability and supply of Rail Neer by Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). Supply of Rail Neer is mandatory in trains and at stations as per the Contract agreement executed between the Zonal Railways and the licensees. In case of non-availability/inadequate supply of Rail Neer by Railway/IRCTC, licensees are permitted to sell packaged drinking water of brands approved by Railway, for which the licensees are bound to take prior approval of Railway, in writing.

#### **Pending Railway Projects**

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

- (a) whether the Ministry would complete the incomplete railway projects in West Bengal;
- (b) the details of railway projects which have been announced along with their current status of completion for West Bengal since 2000 till the year 2007, project-wise;
- (c) the allocation of funds along with the disbursements made for West Bengal during the last three years; and
- (d) the list of projects from the above mentioned set of projects which the Ministry is planning to shelve along with the reasons therefor and the proposed alternatives, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Railway projects are not sanctioned State-wise, but Zone-wise. The details of ongoing major Projects of New Lines, Gauge Conversions, and Doubling sanctioned from 2000-01 to 2007-08 falling partly/fully in the State of West Bengal are as under:-

Sl. No.	Project	Year of inclusion in the Budget	Latest Cost 2015-16 (₹ in cr.)	Expr. upto March 2015 (₹ in cr.)	Outlay 2015-16 (₹ in cr.)	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>New Line</b>						
1.	Azinganj-Murshidabad (Jiyaganj) incl. Rly. Bridge over river Bhagirathi (5 km)	2001-02	129	101	4	Detailed Estimate has been sanctioned. Land in 466m (7.585 acres stretch has not been handed over by the State Govt. Land acquisition in further sections, earthwork and bridge work have been taken up. Main bridge over Bhagirathi river has been completed.
2.	Tarakeshwar-Bishnupur with Ext up to Dhaniakhali, Arambagh-Irphala & new MM for Irphala-Ghatal (11.2 km) & Arambagh-Champadanga (23.3 km) (Total 154.27 km)	2000-01	1522	677	15	Tarakeshwar-Arambagh and Bishnupur-Mayonapur (46 km) have been completed and commissioned. In Arambagh-Goghat (9 km) section, track linking has been completed. Goghat-Kamarpukur (6 km): bridge-work and earthwork have been taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						Kamarpurkur-Mayonapur (20 km) section land acquisition has been taken up. In remaining section, FLS has been completed partly and preliminary works have been taken up.
3.	New Moynaguri-Jogighopa NL with GC of New Mal-Moynaguri Road and New Changrabanda-Changrabanda (3 km) (total 289km)	2000-01	2531	1853	378	New Coochbehar-Golakganj (59 km) has been commissioned. Track linking in New Mal-Changrabandha, New Changrabandh-New Coochbehar (129 km) sections has been completed. In balance section, earthwork and bridge work have been taken up. Normal forest land (29.87 hect): NOC has been received from State Govt and same has submitted to MoEF/ NDLS for clearance.
4.	Araria-Galgalia (Thakurganj)	2006-07	828	54	110	Land acquisition and work on

(100 km)

**Gauge Conversion**

1.	Bardhaman-Katwa (51.52 km) with new MM for Katwa-Bazarsau (30.59 km) - DL, Katwa(Dainhat)-Mateswar (34.4 km), Nangun-Mangalkot (8.60 km) & Mateswar-Memari (35.6 km) NL (Total 160.62 km)	2007-08	2002	308	120	<p>major bridge have been taken up.</p> <p>(i) Burdwan - Balgona (25 km) has been commissioned.</p> <p>(ii) For Balgona-Katwa (26 km) section, This section is being funded by NTPC which has deposited ` 112.57 cr. in Mar' 2014. Earthwork &amp; bridge work have been taken up.</p> <p>(iii) Katwa-Bazarsau (31 km) doubling – work has been taken up.</p> <p>In remaining portions, land acquisition process has been initiated.</p>
2.	Katihar-Jogbani with ext. upto Radhikapur, Katihar-Tejnarayanpur & new MM for Raiganj-Dalkhola(43.43 km) NL (Total 277.43 km)	2000-01	1426	738	50	<p>(i) Katihar-Radhikapur (89 Km), Jogani-Katihar(108 Km) &amp; Katihar-Tejnarayanpur (36 Km) sections have been commissioned.</p> <p>(ii) Preliminary activities and</p>

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						land acquisition proposal have been taken up on Raiganj-Dalkhola (43 Km) new line section.
<b>Doubling</b>						
1.	Chandpara-Bongaon with extn. to Chandabazar and new MM for Bongaon-Poramaheshkala (20 km) & Chandabazar-Bagdah (13.86 km) NL (Total 55.13 km)	2003-04	187	37	3.2	(i) Chandpara-Bongaon (10 km) has been completed. (ii) Bongaon-Chandabazar (12 km): FLS and Works on Railway land have been completed. On remaining section work is in preliminary stage.
2.	Chinpai-Sainthia & Prantik-Siuri NL (33.98km) MM Chaurigacha-Sainthia via Kandi (56.50Km) (Total 122.09 km)	2005-06	591	96	26	(i) Chinpai-Sainthia (32 km) has been commissioned. (ii) Prantik – Suri (34 km) new line: FLS has been completed. Alignment plan & L-section have been approved. Land acquisition, earthwork & bridge works have been taken up.



iii) Chowrigacha – Sainthia via Kandi new line (57 km): FLS completed. L-Section for 10 km approved. Another 10 km under approval. Resurvey in 10 km required to avoid settlement.

3.	Habra-Bongaon Phase-I (Habra-Chandpara) & Machlandapur-Swarup Nagar (total 37.25 km)	2000-01	145	78	1.05	(i) Habra-Chandpara (9 km) has been commissioned. (ii) Machlandapur-Swarup Nagar (15 km) - FLS has been completed. Earthwork, bridge works have been taken up.
4.	Kalinarayanpur-Krishnanagar with Krishnanagar-Shantipur-Nawadwipghat-GC & Krishnanagar-Chartala & new MM for Krishnanagar-Chhapra NL, Naihati-Ranaghat-3rd line & Nawadwipghat-Nabadwipdham with extn to BB (total 115.06 km)	2000-01	945	183	63	(i) Kalinarayanpur-Krishnanagar with Krishnanagar - Shantipur-Nawadwipghat gauge conversion work has been completed. (ii) Krishnanagar-Amghata (8 km): Completed in 2012-13. 41 unauthorised crossing is critical issue in commissioning.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						<p>(iii) Amghata-Nabadwipghat Gauge Conversion (4 km): Work is not feasible due to Mandir and Masjid in the alignment.</p> <p>Nabadwip Dham – Nanadwip Ghat (10 km): Work entrusted to RVNL. Sub-structure has been taken up.</p> <p>(iv) Krishnanagar – Chapra new line (19 km): FLS has been completed. Alignment plan approved. Land acquisition process has been initiated.</p> <p>(v) Naihati – Ranaghat (36 km) 3rd line (36 km): Detailed estimate sanctioned in July' 2015.</p>
5.	Pandabeswar-Chinpai (21.41 km) and Ikra-Churulia-Gurundi with	2004-05	294	140	4	<p>(i) Pandabeswar-Chinpai (21 km) has been completed and commissioned.</p>

new MM between Barbani-Churulia (9 km) NL (total 51.91 km)	(ii) Barbani – Churulia new line (9 km): Alignment plan and Land plan have been approved.	0.21	78	576	2000-01
6. Sonarpur-Canning (Ph.I) (14.96 km) with new MM for Kalikapur-Minakhan via Gatakpur (38 km) NL (Total 52.96 km)	(i) Sonarpur-Ghutari Sharif (15 km) has been commissioned. (ii) Kalikapur – Minakhan via Ghatakpur new line: FLS has been completed. Alignment for 31.75 km has been prepared. In balance portion, earthwork and bridge work have been taken up.				

Total funds allocated for projects of New Lines, Gauge Conversions and Doubling falling partly/fully in West Bengal for the last three years are as under:-

Projects	Outlay for 2012-13 ( ₹ in crore)	Outlay for 2013-14 ( ₹ in crore)	Outlay for 2014-15 ( ₹ in crore)
New Line	602	364	520
Gauge Conversion	175	5	80
Doubling	1091	510	867

Completion of Railway projects is dependent upon various factors like forestry clearances, complete handing over of encumbrance free land by the State Govt., shifting of utilities, etc. apart from availability of funds. As many of these factors are beyond the control of the Ministry of Railways, it is not feasible to fix time lines for all the projects in the country including those in West Bengal. No project from the above list of projects has been proposed for shelving as of now.

#### **Construction of overbridges**

789. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) how many overbridges have been completed in the country during the last two years;
- (b) how many overbridges are under construction and by when they are going to be completed;
- (c) how many overbridges have been sanctioned where work is yet to start; and
- (d) how many projects are under consideration and how long it would take to decide on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) During the last two years (2013-14 & 2014-15), 405 Road Over Bridges(ROBs)/full height Road Under Bridges (RUBs) have been completed.

There are sanctioned works for construction of 1492 Road Over Bridges (ROBs)/ full height Road Under Bridges (RUBs) as on 01.04.2015. Out of these, Railway portion as well as State Govt. portion has been completed in 184 ROBs/RUBs. In addition to this, Railway portion has also been completed in 150 ROBs/RUBs. Further, work has been taken up for 175 ROBs/RUBs. Work in remaining 983 ROBs/RUBs, including 39 ROBs

on National Highways which are to be constructed by NHAI, are in different stages of planning.

Normally, Railway undertakes the construction of Railway portion of ROB/RUB whereas approaches are being constructed by the State Government. Funds for these works come from Central Road Fund (CRF) as a percentage of the cess collected on petrol and diesel by Ministry of Finance. The average annual allocation to Railways from Central Road Fund is ₹ 1,100 crore against the throwforward of ₹ 31,700 crore. To address the issue of constraints of funds, Ministry of Railways has approached Ministry of Finance for enhanced allocation of funds.

Proposals for construction of ROBs/RUBs in lieu of Level Crossings (LCs) are received at various levels in Zonal Railways from State Government and other Statutory Authorities. After completing various formalities with State Government/Statutory Authorities, regarding the consent for sharing of cost and closure of LCs, proposals received for construction of ROBs/RUBs in lieu of LCs are further processed for their inclusion in Railway Works Programme. This is a continuous process.

#### **Unhygienic and unsanitary conditions near railway tracks**

790. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are unhygienic and unsanitary conditions near railway tracks in Delhi and other places;
- (b) whether the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has made certain serious adverse remarks in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Indian Railway accords high priority for ensuring cleanliness at stations and railway tracks in Delhi and other places. Generally, there are no unhygienic conditions near tracks. However, there are large jhuggi clusters located on encroached Railway land in Delhi and other major urban areas where large quantity of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)/garbage is being dumped on the vacant Railway land alongside the tracks by such jhuggi dwellers.

(b) The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed with regard to (a) of the question for the Delhi area as under:

- (i) MSW accumulated already in the encroached Railway land in Delhi area should be cleared and disposed off appropriately by Railways as a one time effort after which action should be taken to maintain these areas clean by growing of trees and levying monetary compensation of ₹ 5000/- on polluters under “Polluters Pay Principle”.
  - (ii) Appropriate sized dustbins must be put up at convenient locations in all such encroachment areas and arrangements made by the local government for disposal of MSW collected in such dustbins, as per the extant rules.
  - (iii) Suitable mobile toilets/eco friendly toilets have to be provided for the use of encroachers in the Railway land by the local government on the Railway track and nearby areas.
  - (iv) Similar instructions should be issued to other Zonal Railways also.
- (c) Following actions have been taken by Delhi division of Northern Railway in this regard:
- (i) Major Railway stations in Delhi and other areas are covered by Cleaning and Rag picking contracts. Railway has undertaken all-out efforts to clear the garbage from railway track and nearby areas followed by plantation, wherever feasible, in a planned manner as a one time effort.
  - (ii) Action has been taken in coordination with local Government authorities to put up dustbins and mobile toilets for use by the encroachers living on Railway land by the track side.
  - (iii) Persons throwing litter/garbage in Railway areas are counselled and also punished with fines under Indian Railways (Penalties for activities affecting cleanliness at railway premises) Rules, 2012. From 2013 to June, 2015 an amount of nearly ₹ 99 lakhs has been realised as penalty over Northern Railway including Delhi division.
  - (iv) Notices for imposing fines of ₹ 5000/- have also been issued to 223 offenders by Northern Railway under ‘Polluters Pay Principle’ in Delhi area in recent past.

In addition to the above, guidelines have been given to other Zonal Railways also to take action in the similar lines.

**Production of coaches**

791. DR. CHANDAN MITRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual target for production of coaches by Rail Coach Factories, factory - wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the target to produce additional coaches has not been achieved by the Rail Coach Factories for the last several years, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the fresh steps being taken by Government to enhance the production of coaches and wagons in order to meet the growing demands of railway traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS ( SHRI MANOJ SINHA ): (a) The target for production of coaches by Rail Coach Factories under the Ministry of Railways for the year 2015-16 is as below:-

Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai	1793
Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala	1595
Rail Coach Factory(RCF), Raebareli	500
DEMU Factory, Haldia	46 (for furnishing only)
TOTAL	3934

(b) All efforts are made to ensure that the production of coaches in Rail Coach Factories is as per the target. The Rail Coach Factory, Raebareli and DEMU Factory, Haldia are still in the project stage and their outturn is planned to increase gradually. However, in last ten years, the two established Rail Coach Factories i.e. ICF, Chennai and RCF, Kapurthala cumulatively produced 29225 coaches as against the cumulative target of 29290 coaches which is a negligible difference.

(c) In order to meet further traffic demand, the following steps have been taken by Indian Railways to enhance the production of coaches;

- Setting up of DEMU Coach Factory at Haldia.
- Setting up of Rail Coach Factory at RCF/Raebareli.
- Augmentation of existing production capacities of ICF/ Chennai and RCF/ Kapurthala.
- Sanction of projects for setting up of Rail Coach Factories at Palakkad, Kanchrapara and Kolar.

Wagons are mainly procured from private wagon builders and Public Sector Undertakings, with a small percentage being manufactured inhouse by Indian Railways as well. Further, recently, a Joint Venture company between Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) has been made functional for producing 1200 new wagons per year.

**Revival of closed NTC mills**

792. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to revive all textile mills managed by the National Textile Corporation, including Parvathy Mills in Kollam and Alagappa Textiles in Thrissur;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the funds allocated to each unit; and

(c) the measures being taken to ensure the job security of the workers in these mills, fill up the vacancies and also to generate additional employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) National Textile Corporation (NTC) had been implementing Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) approved Revival Scheme MS-08 wherein, it has no mandate to revive the unviable mills closed under Industrial Dispute Act. As per the scheme, the Parvathy Mills, Kollam is one of the 11 mills slated for revival under Joint Venture route. The Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) signed with the Joint Venture partner was terminated as the JV partner failed to enter into definitive agreement with NTC within specified time as per MoU. The JV partner has challenged the termination of MoU in the High Court of Delhi and the matter is *sub-judice*.

As regard Alagappa Textiles Mill, Thrissur, NTC Board has recently approved implementation of first phase of modernization plan which includes merger of Alagappa Mill, Thrissur with Kerala Lakshmi mill, Thrissur at the land of Kerala Textile Mill installing 78,144 numbers of spinning spindles at an estimated cost of Rs.177 crores. Mill wise details of funds spent towards modernization of 23 mills by NTC as per the scheme are given in the Statement (*See below*).

The workers in the mills of NTC are protected under the statutes and in the event of being declared surplus on account of workload settlement are readjusted in other mills of NTC or given Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS). The vacancies arising out of superannuation etc. are filled up by the casual worker available in the mills. The generation of additional employment is possible in case of additional capacity creation only.



**Statement***Mill-wise amount spent towards modernisation as on 30.09.2015*

Sl. No.	Name of the Mills	Location	State	Amount spent on	
				Modernization/ Expansion (₹ in cr.)	
				Modernization	Expansion
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Algappa Textile Mills	Alagappanagar	Kerala	24.87	
2.	Cannanore S & W Mills, Can	Cannanore	Kerala	51.25	73.91
3.	Kerala Laxmi Mills	Trichur	Kerala	24.45	
4.	Vijayamohini Mills	Thirupanthapuram	Kerala	22.70	
5.	Cannanore S & W Mills, Mahe	Mahe	Pondicherry	33.37	
6.	Podar Mills	Mumbai	Maharashtra	39.96	
7.	Barshi Textile Mills	Barshi	Maharashtra	24.67	
8.	Tata Mills	Mumbai	Maharashtra	80.87	
9.	India United M III No.5	Mumbai	Maharashtra	31.44	
10.	Cambodia Mills	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	13.32	
11.	Coimbatore Murugan Mills	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	15.96	
12.	Pankaja Mills	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	22.23	
13.	Pioneer Spinners Mills	Kamudakudi	Tamil Nadu	19.51	51.46

1	2	3	4	5	6c
14.	Sri Rangavilas S. & W. Mills	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	51.40	
15.	Kaleswarar Mills 'B' Unit	Kalayarkoil	Tamil Nadu	19.56	46.62
16.	Arati Cotton Mills	Dasngar	West Bengal	48.05	
17.	Burhanpur Tapti Mills	Burhanpur	Madhya Pradesh	25.05	94.37
18.	New Bhopal Textile Mills	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	29.61	70.31
	SUB-TOTAL			578.27	336.67
Total Cost of Modernization and Expansion					914.94
New Mills set up by Relocation				Amount Invested	
19.	Finlay Mills	Achalpur	Maharashtra	254.66	
20.	Minerva Mills	Hassan	Karnataka	175.18	
21.	Rajnagar Tex. Mills	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	139.12	
	SUB-TOTAL			568.96	
Mills Which Are Yet To Be Modernize				Amount Spent	
22.	Coimbatore S & W Mill	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	0.82	
23.	Tirupathi Mills	Renigunta	Andhra Pradesh	3.85	
	Sub-total			4.67	
	Misc. Capital expenditure			96.43	
	GRAND TOTAL			1585.00	

**New law for betterment of weavers**

†793. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed the Central Government about the day-to-day deteriorating condition of weavers living in the State; and

(b) whether Government is considering to bring a new law to address the problems of the weavers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Government of India is aware of the problems and challenges being faced by handloom weavers including those of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) No new law is proposed. The Government of India, Ministry of Textiles through the office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has been implementing the following schemes for the overall development of the handloom sector and welfare of the weavers in the country, including the State of Uttar Pradesh:-

1. National Handloom Development Programme
  - (i) Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme (formulated by merging the components of Integrated Handloom Development Scheme, Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme and Diversified Handloom Development Scheme implemented during 11th Plan).
  - (ii) Revival, Reform and Re-structuring Package.
2. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.
3. Yarn Supply Scheme.

**Policy for closed textile mills**

†794. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sick textile mills which have been closed in the country, State-wise;

(b) the year-wise details of the losses being incurred because of them; and

(c) the policy proposed by Government with regard to these mills in future?

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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) State-wise details of total number of sick textile mills closed in the country are given in the Statement-I (*See below*). National Textile Corporation (NTC) closed 78 unviable mills under Industrial Disputes Act., under the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) approved Revival Scheme MS-08. The details are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(b) Details in Losses incurred by private mills are not maintained in the Ministry. So far as NTC is concerned, the expenditure towards security etc. incurred during the last three years and charged to profit and loss account of NTC is as follows :-

Years	Loss (₹ in crores)
2012-13	23.36
2013-14	19.82
2014-15	20.76

(c) Sick Textiles Units are governed by Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985 (SICA) under which BIFR has been set up for taking decision on sick/potentially sick companies, including their revival/closures. As far as NTC is concerned, in the BIFR approved revival scheme MS-08, there is no mandate to restart the closed mills.

***Statement-I***

*State-wise total number of sick textile mills closed in the country*

Sl. No	State	No. of mills lying sick/closed
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22
2.	Assam	7
3.	Bihar	4
4.	Chhattisgarh	1
5.	Daman and Diu	1
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-
7.	Goa	-
8.	Gujarat	42
9.	Haryana	40
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1

Sl. no	State	No. of mills lying sick/closed
12.	Jharkhand	-
13.	Karnataka	20
14.	Kerala	17
15.	Madhya Pradesh	19
16.	Maharashtra	64
17.	Manipur	1
18.	Odisha	13
19.	Puducherry	2
20.	Punjab	18
21.	Rajasthan	20
22.	Tamil Nadu	212
23.	Uttar Pradesh	52
24.	Uttarakhand	4
25.	West Bengal	16
TOTAL		578

**Statement-II***List of 78 mills closed under I.D. Act*

State	Sl. No.	Name of the Mills	Location	Reasons of Closure
Andhra Pradesh	1.	Azam Jahi Mills	Warangal	Unviable
	2.	Natraj Spinning Mills	Adilabad	Unviable
	3.	Adoni Cotton Mills	Adoni	Unviable
	4.	Netha Spinning Mills	Secunderabad	Unviable
	5.	Ananthapur Cotton Mills		En-mass MVRs
Assam	6.	Associated Industries	Chandrapur	En-mass MVRs
Bihar	7.	Gaya Cotton & Jute Mills	Gaya	Unviable
	8.	Bihar Co-Operative Mills	Mokameh	En-mass MVRs
Gujarat	9.	Ahmedabad Jupiter Tex. Mills	Ahmedabad	Unviable
	10.	Jehangir Textile Mills	Ahmedabad	Unviable

State	Sl. No.	Name of the Mills	Location	Reasons of Closure
Karnataka	11.	Mahalaxmi Tex.Mills	Bhavnagar	Unviable
	12.	New Manekchowk Tex.Mill	Ahmedabad	Unviable
	13.	Petlad Tex.Mills	Petlad	Unviable
	14.	Rajkot Tex.Mills	Rajkot	Unviable
	15.	Viramgam Tex.Mills	Viramgam	Unviable
	16.	Rajnagar II	Ahmedabad	Unviable
	17.	Himadari Textile Mills	Ahmedabad	Unviable
	18.	Ahmedabad New Textile Mills	Ahmedabad	En-mass MVRs
	19.	M.S.K. Mills	Gulbarga	Unviable
	20.	Mysore Spg. & Mfg. Mills	Bangalore	Unviable
Madhya Pradesh	21.	Shree Yallama Cotton Mills	Davangere	En-mass MVRs
	22.	Minerva Mills	Bangalore	Relocated at Hassan
	23.	Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills	Rajnandgaon	Unviable
	24.	Hira Mills	Ujjain	Unviable
	25.	Indore Malwa United Mills	Indore	Unviable
Maharashtra	26.	Kalyan Mal Mills	Indore	Unviable
	27.	Swadeshi Textile Mills	Indore	Unviable
	28.	India United Mills No.2	Mumbai	Unviable
	29.	India United Mills No.3	Mumbai	Unviable
	30.	India United Mills No.4	Mumbai	Unviable
	31.	Kohinoor Mills No.2	Mumbai	Unviable
	32.	Kohinoor Mills No.3	Mumbai	Unviable
	33.	Jam Mfg. Mills	Mumbai	Unviable
	34.	Model Mills	Nagpur	Unviable
	35.	R.S.R.G. Mills	Akola	Unviable
	36.	Shri Sitaram Mills	Mumbai	Unviable

State	Sl. No.	Name of the Mills	Location	Reasons of Closure
	37.	Vidharbha Mills	Achalpur	Unviable
	38.	Bharat Textile Mills	Mumbai	Unviable
	39.	Digvijay Textile Mills	Mumbai	Unviable
	40.	Elphinstone Spg & Wvg Mills	Mumbai	Unviable
	41.	Jupiter Textile Mills	Mumbai	Unviable
	42.	Mumbai Textile Mills	Mumbai	Unviable
	43.	New Hind Textile Mills	Mumbai	Unviable
	44.	Podar Processors	Mumbai	Unviable
	45.	Shree Madhusudan Mills	Mumbai	Unviable
	46.	India United Mills No.6 ( Dye Works)	Mumbai	En-mass MVRs
	47.	Kohinoor Mills No.1	Mumbai	En-mass MVRs
	48.	Finlay Mills	Mumbai	Relocated at Achalpur
Punjab	49.	Dayalbagh Spg & Wvg Mills	Amritsar	Unviable
	50.	Panipat Woollen Mills	Kharar	Unviable
	51.	Kharar Textile Mills	Kharar	En-mass MVRs
	52.	Suraj Textile Mills	Malout	En-mass MVRs
Rajasthan	53.	Edward Mills	Beawar	Unviable
	54.	Shree Bijay Cotton Mills	Bijianagar	En-mass MVRs
Uttar Pradesh	55.	Atherton Mills	Kanpur	Unviable
	56.	Bijli Cotton Mills	Hathras	Unviable
	57.	Laxmirattan Cotton Mills	Kanpur	Unviable
	58.	Lord Krishna Tex. Mills	Saharanpur	Unviable
	59.	MUIR Mills	Kanpur	Unviable
	60.	New Victoria Mills	Kanpur	Unviable
	61.	Rae Bareilly Tex. Mills	Raebareilly	Unviable

State	Sl. No.	Name of the Mills	Location	Reasons of Closure
West Bengal	62.	Shri Vikram Cotton Mills	Lucknow	Unviable
	63.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills	Kanpur	Unviable
	64.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills	Naini	En-Mass MVRs
	65.	Bangasri Cotton Mills	Sonepore	Unviable
	66.	Bengal Fine S.&W.Mills No.II	Kataganj	Unviable
	67.	Manindra B.T. Mills	Cossim Bazar	Unviable
	68.	Jyoti Wvg. Factory	Patipukur	Unviable
	69.	Central Cotton Mills	Belur	Unviable
	70.	Shree Mahalaxmi Cotton	Palta	Unviable
	71.	Bengal Fine S.&W.Mills No.I	Konnagar	Unviable
Tamil Nadu	72.	Bengal Luxmi Cotton Mills	Serampore	Unviable
	73.	Rampooria Cotton Mills	Rishra	Unviable
	74.	Balaramavarma Textile Mills	Shencottah	Unviable
	75.	Kishnaveni Textile Mills	Coimbatore	Unviable
	76.	Om Parasakthi Mills	Coimbatore	Unviable
	77.	Somasundaram Mills	Coimbatore	Unviable
	78.	Kaleeswarar Mills 'A' Unit	Coimbatore	Unviable

#### **Boost to textile industry**

†795. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide financial aid and raw materials to handicraft units/textile industry in order to make textile industry competitive at international level;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to establish textile centres in order to generate employment opportunities in textile industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof and Statewise details of the concessions and incentives given by Government for this purpose; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) In order to facilitate development of various segments of the textile industry including handicrafts to make it globally competitive and to generate employment opportunities, Government has launched number of initiatives and schemes, namely Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), Scheme for Development of Technical Textiles, Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS), Schemes for the development of the Powerloom Sector National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), etc.

In respect of Handicrafts sector, financial assistance is provided to various implementing agencies *viz* State Handicrafts Corporations, Apex Co-operative Societies and NGOs for promotion and development of handicrafts units including for supply of raw material.

In the Handloom sector Government of India is implementing Yarn Supply scheme throughout the country to make available all types of yarn at Mill Gate Price to the eligible handloom weavers so as to facilitate regular supply of basic raw materials to the handloom sector and help utilize the full employment potential of the sector.

Assistance under these schemes is provided to concerned agencies in all the States with active involvement of the State Government.

The details of funds allocated and utilized in respect of schemes relating to various segments of the Textile Industry during last three years are given in the Statement.

**Statement**

*Details of funds allocated and utilized in respect of schemes relating to various segments of the Textile Industry during last three years*

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme/ Sector	Annual Plan 2012-13			Annual Plan 2013-14			Annual Plan 2014-15		
		BE	RE	Actual Exp.	BE	RE	Actual Exp.	BE	RE	Actual Exp.
1.	Handloom	3253.00	1109.00	737.93	487.00	608.00	550.00	577.00	479.50	404.25
2.	Handicraft	177.02	188.52	162.26	191.00	180.91	142.13	221.00	114.00	104.64
3.	Wool & Woollens	13.06	15.06	13.51	22.00	16.67	16.66	50.01	21.01	21.00
4.	Sericulture/Silk	258.01	300.01	258.00	350.00	374.54	374.55	298.50	298.50	297.58
5.	Powerlooms	12.05	13.91	12.57	83.00	54.21	13.09	84.52	58.00	51.52
6.	Megacluster	48.00	69.44	23.38	77.00	57.80	38.75	263.00	92.00	51.45
7.	Industry Schemes including Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (TUFS), Scheme for Integrated Textiles park (SITP), Integrated Skill Development Schemes (ISDS) and North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPC)	3238.86	2804.06	2419.73	3421.00	2607.87	2029.78	3336.97	2436.99	2390.78
GRAND TOTAL		7000.00	4500.00	3627.38	4631.00	3900.00	3164.96	4831.00	3500.00	3321.22

(₹ in crores)

**Cotton production**

796. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is expected to emerge as the largest cotton producer in the world in 2015-16;

(b) whether cotton output in all major producing countries in the year barring India, has been anticipated to be lower than the previous season;

(c) whether the global cotton production during 2015-16 had been estimated at 23.68 million tones i.e. 8.6 per cent lower than the previous season's production of 25.90 million tonnes; and

(d) if so, whether Government expects that there would be a huge demand of cotton for exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. However in 2015-16, total production of cotton in India is expected to be slightly lower than the previous year.

(c) As per the International Cotton Advisory Committee's Monthly release "Cotton This Month" for November, 2015, the global cotton production in the cotton year 2015-16 is estimated at 23.92 million tons, as against 26.16 million tons in the previous cotton year 2014-15 i.e. less by 8.56%.

(d) The export of cotton is expected to be 68 Lakh bales during the current Cotton Season (2015-16) as against 57.72 lakhs bales exported during the previous Cotton Season 2014-15 as per the estimate of the Cotton Advisory Board.

**Potential of Textile Industry in creation of jobs**

797. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile sector has a potential to create 45 to 50 per cent of direct jobs in rural India;

(b) if so, whether there is a need for branding Indian cotton against the world labels;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government thereon;

(d) whether textile sector is a driving force behind Skill India and Make in India initiatives; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to harness textile sector with regard to creation of direct jobs, particularly in rural India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) The textile sector comprises of two broad segments namely viz. (i) unorganised comprising of handloom/handicraft, sericulture, jute, wool etc. and (ii) organized comprising of ginning, spinning, weaving, processing, apparel garment-fashion. A number of programmes and schemes are being implemented by the Government for creation of employment in these segments.

So far as employment in the rural areas is concerned, efforts are being made for consolidating and strengthening the handloom/handicraft, silk, jute, wool activities by providing required assistance to the producers under a number of ongoing schemes. In the organised sectors, the integrated skill development scheme is being implemented for provision of skills as per the requirement of the industry.

As per the assessment made by the Working Group for the 12th five year plan (2012-17), generation of 121.20 million jobs were projected by the year 2017. As per available information the employment generated during 2012-15 is as follows:-

Sector	Employment in cotton/man-made textile mills & powerloom units (in Lakhs)		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Cotton/man made fibre	9.52	9.50	9.54
Powerloom Sector	58.7	59.2	61.9

No separate data is maintained on generation of employment in the unorganized sector and in the rural areas.

In order to generate employment opportunities and to facilitate development of various segments of the Textile Industry Government has taken several policy initiatives and launched schemes namely Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), Scheme for the Development of Powerloom Sector, National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), Reform and Restructuring (RRR) package for Handloom, etc. These schemes have facilitated setting up of new units as well as expansion of the existing units in various segments of the textile industry thereby

generating substantial employment opportunities. These initiatives aim at supporting the textile industry for facing the global competitive environment. At present, there is no proposal for branding of Indian cotton.

Assistance for skill development in the textile sector is provided under the Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS). The Textile Ministry is implementing the Scheme in order to address the requirement of trained manpower in the textile industry. Under the Scheme a total of 4,75,372 persons have been trained as on 30th November, 2015. Further, under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) assistance is provided to enable entrepreneurs to set up textile parks. ISDS, SITP, Technology Upgradation and other infrastructure Schemes, support the Make in India initiative in the textile sector.

#### **Awards for innovative design and branding in handloom sector**

798. SHRI S. THANGAVELU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to institute awards for innovative design and branding initiatives in handloom sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the proposed award will be given from the year 2016 onwards, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Government of India is considering a proposal for institution of National Awards and National Merit Certificates in the field of design development and marketing of handloom products. These are proposed to be given for year 2015 onwards.

#### **Revival of spinning mills in Odisha**

799. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps would be taken for providing necessary infrastructure and technical support to develop Konark Spinning Mill bestowed with state-of-the art facilities which shall be a much needed support to the languishing textile sector in Odisha;

(b) whether there is a proposal to provide support for revival of three spinning mills closed down in the State due to obsolescence; and

(c) whether Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) proposes to open a branch at

Bhawanipatna, the epicenter of cotton production in Odisha for MSP support in the interest of cotton farmers, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Ministry of Textiles has no scheme for providing infrastructure and technical support for revival of closed mills.

(c) Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) no proposal to open branch. However, it has opened procurement centres at Kesinga and Karlapada under Kalahandi District, in very proximity (30-35 km) to Bhawanipatna for undertaking purchase of Cotton under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operation on similar link as done in other States.

#### **Study on hank yarn requirement**

800. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to take up study of hank yarn requirement in the country;

(b) whether Government is considering to modify the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is considering to focus on technical textiles, promoting research and development, obtaining patent for products developed by the Centres of Excellence and putting a monitoring mechanism in place, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) A study on "Trends in Production, Distribution and Demand for Hank Yarn and issues related thereof" was done through M/s Technopack Advisors Pvt. Ltd in 2014. The study report is under examination.

(b) A proposal for amendment of the ongoing Revised Restructured Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (RR-TUFS) is under process in consultation with the stakeholders and concerned Ministries.

(c) Yes, Sir. A number of steps have been taken for promotion and growth of technical textiles sector in the country through implementation of various schemes such as, the Technology Mission on Technical Textiles (TMTT), Scheme for Usage of Agrotextiles in North East Region, Scheme for Promoting Usage of Geotechnical Textiles in North-Eastern Region and the Scheme for Promoting Usage of Agrotextiles in India (excluding North Eastern States). For the promotion of Research and Development

(R&D), assistance is being provided under the Research and Development Scheme to Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Textile Research Associations (TRAs) and Textile Institutes. The Technology Mission on Technical Textiles including the Centers of Excellence (CoEs) are being monitored by the Empowered Committee. Targets have been assigned to these Centers of Excellence and the performance of Centers of Excellence is reviewed at regular intervals.

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

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*The House reassembled at one of the clock,*

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER CORRECTING ANSWER TO QUESTION**

**सुश्री मायावती** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय सभापति जी ..(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Statement by Minister...(Interruptions)... Please sit down.  
...(Interruptions)...

**सुश्री मायावती** : माननीय सभापति जी ..(व्यवधान).. दलितों के मामले में सरकार का जो जवाब आया है ..(व्यवधान)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Statement by Minister correcting answer to question; Shri Nadda ...(Interruptions)...

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I lay on the Table, a Statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the answer to Unstarred Question 2547 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th February, 2014 regarding 'National Institute status for NEIGRIHMS, Shillong'.

... (Interruptions)....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

*The House then adjourned at one minute past one of the clock.*

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS**

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Gujarat): Sir, take up only Private Members' Business and no Legislative Business, please.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is Private Members' time; don't worry. Now Bills for introduction. The Child Development Programmes Coordination Agency Bill, 2015, Shri Prabhat Jha to move. He is not seen. One more Bill to be moved by Shri Prabhat Jha; he is absent.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (amendment of article 348), Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya.

**The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015****(Amendment of Article 348)**

श्री मनसुख एल. मांडविया (गुजरात) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि भारत के संविधान का और संशोधन करने के लिए विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

श्री मनसुख एल. मांडविया : महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

**The Deposit Insurance and Credit****Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2015**

श्री मनसुख एल. मांडविया (गुजरात): महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि निक्षेप बीमा और प्रत्यय गारंटी निगम अधिनियम, 1961 का और संशोधन करने के लिए विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

श्री मनसुख एल. मांडविया: महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

**The Prohibition of using Telecommunication****System for Hoax Calls Bill, 2015**

श्री मनसुख एल. मांडविया (गुजरात) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि मिथ्या फोन कॉल करने और लघु संदेश सेवा के लिए दूरसंचार प्रणाली के प्रयोग के प्रतिषेध और तत्संसक्त अथवा उसके आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने के लिए विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

श्री मनसुख एल. मांडविया: महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।



**The Electronic Waste (Handling and Disposal) Bill, 2015**

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA (Maharashtra): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for proper handling and disposal of millions of tonnes of electronic waste being generated by discarded electronic devices like television, personal computer, floppies, audio-video CD, batteries, cell phones, refrigerators, air-conditioners, electronic toys, telephones, washing machines, electric switches, etc., by prescribing norms and fixing responsibilities and duties on manufacturers, recyclers and consumers with regard to disposal of electronic waste and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Consumer Goods Price Fixation Board Bill, 2015**

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA (Maharashtra): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of a Board for determination of prices of consumer goods and services commonly used by public in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Gymnasiums and Fitness Centres (Regulation) Bill, 2015**

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA (Maharashtra): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation and control of gymnasiums and fitness centres which are engaged in activities, such as, giving training on weight lifting and body building and conduct courses for weight reduction and proper nutrition in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2015**

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Supreme Court (Establishment of a Permanent  
Bench at Visakhapatnam) Bill, 2015**

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent bench of the Supreme Court at Visakhapatnam.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Financial Assistance to Girl Child belonging to Parents Living  
Below Poverty Line Bill, 2015**

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for financial protection and security to girl child of parents living below poverty line and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The next Bill is the Prevention of Deaths due to Heat and Cold Waves Bill, 2015; Shri Rajkumar Dhoot, not present. Again, Shri Rajkumar Dhoot is not present. The third Bill is also of Shri Rajkumar Dhoot, not present. Shri Vivek Gupta to move the Prevention of Addiction of Technological Gadgets Bill, 2015.

**The Prevention of Addiction of Technological Gadgets Bill, 2015**

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the prevention of the rising problem of technological gadgets and addiction among the citizens in the country.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (Amendment of Eighth Schedule)**

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Prohibition of Lotteries Bill, 2015**

**श्री विजय गोयल** (राजस्थान) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि लाटरियों का संचालन और संप्रवर्तन करने वाले संगठन का प्रतिषेध करने और उनसे संबंधित या उनके आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने के लिए विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

**श्री विजय गोयल** : महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

सर, इनसे कहिए कि ये हिन्दी थोड़ी सरल बनाएं, ये लोग बहुत कठिन हिन्दी बनाते हैं। जब हमें ही यह हिन्दी समझ नहीं आती, तो दूसरे लोग क्या समझेंगे? सर, आप इनकी हिन्दी थोड़ी सरल करवा दीजिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Hindi should be simplified. How can I simplify Hindi? I don't know even simple Hindi. How can I do that?

**श्री विजय गोयल** : सर, जो संबंधित लोग हैं, अगर आप इनको कहेंगे, तो ये लोग इसको सरल हिन्दी में करेंगे। इससे लोग हिन्दी में ज्यादा कामकाज करेंगे।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But then you give suggestion how it can be simplified.

**श्री विजय गोयल** : सर, सब लोग इस सुझाव से सहमत हैं। सब लोग चाहते हैं कि सदन की कार्यवाही हिन्दी में ज्यादा चलनी चाहिए, क्योंकि पूरा देश इस कार्यवाही को देखता-सुनता है। जहां-जहां जरूरी है, वहां अंग्रेजी का प्रयोग जरूर करें, किन्तु बाकी सब काम हिन्दी में होना चाहिए। हमारी जितनी भी कमेटीज़ हैं - होम कमेटी, पीएसी कमेटी आदि, इन सबमें भी अंग्रेजी में कार्यवाही चलती है। हम चाहते हैं कि ज्यादातर कार्यवाही हिन्दी में चले, थोड़ी-थोड़ी अंग्रेजी भी रहे। थोड़ा-थोड़ा अंग्रेजी में भी काम हो, लेकिन ज्यादा काम हिन्दी में हो।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have no problem. Anybody, who wants to speak in Hindi, can speak in Hindi. But sometimes I have to take the help of interpretation because I am not able to understand every Hindi word.

**श्री विजय गोयल**: सर, सिर्फ इतना कह दीजिए कि इसे सरल हिन्दी भाषा में किया जाये।

**श्री उपसभापति**: हिन्दी आसान भाषा है, सरल भाषा है और अच्छी भाषा है।

**श्री विजय गोयल**: सर, इसे बोलचाल की भाषा में किया जाना चाहिए।

**डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया** (मध्य प्रदेश) : सर, मेरा कहना है कि यह बोलचाल की भाषा में होना चाहिए।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, Malayalam is also a very beautiful language. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes. Even Tamil is also a beautiful language. Tamil is a very melodious language. I know that. It is a poetic language, I must say. There is no doubt about that.

Now, the Slums and Jhuggi-Jhopri Areas (Basic Amenities and Clearance) Bill, 2015.

**The Slums and Jhuggi-Jhopri Areas (Basic Amenities and Clearance) Bill, 2015**

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the basic amenities and clearance of Jhuggi-jhopri areas and slum areas and for matters connected therewith.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the Death Penalty (Abolition) Bill, 2015, Shrimati Kanimozhi. Hon. Member not present.

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Amendment Bill, 2015, Shri Avinash Pande.

**The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Amendment Bill, 2015**

SHRI AVINASH PANDE (Maharashtra): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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**RE. LISTING OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'  
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS DAY AFTER 5 P.M.**

SHRI MADUSUDAN MISTRY (Gujarat): Sir, before you take up the Bills for consideration and passing, I have a point to make. Sir, today is the day for Private Members' Legislative Business. It is totally unfair on the part of the Government to list the Government Business at the end of the day.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, this is Private Members' Business.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: No, Sir, if you look at the end of the List of Business, Government Legislative Business has also been listed. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is totally unfair. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is totally unfair. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no. It is only after the Private Members' time is over.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, normally, on Fridays, no Government Business is listed. The Rajya Sabha's timings are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. I do not know when it became from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is hon. Chairman's direction. It had been decided in consultation with the party leaders.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: If that is the case, then, Private Members' time should be increased, not for the Government's Legislative Business. It being it Friday, most of the Members remain absent from the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, if you have such a suggestion...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I request the hon. Minister not to list it...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He cannot do anything. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mistryji, according to rules, the Private Members' Business has only two-and-a-half hours' time. And, the hon. Chairman, in consultation with the party leaders, had decided that the House will sit up to 6 p.m. Therefore, for the extended one hour, there has to be some business. Naturally, the Government has fixed the ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Then, in that case, we should change the timings. On Friday, it should be 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., instead of 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, you can write to the hon. Chairman, or, I will convey your suggestion, if you want. That's all.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: No; no. I just want the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister to assure...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no. He cannot say anything about Chairman's decision. How can he say anything?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am just saying that the Government Business should not be taken up today. It should rather be taken up on Monday.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How can you say that? It is listed in the Business. Now, the Rajya Sabha's timings are up to 6.00 p.m. I had been in Lok Sabha for twenty years. The Lok Sabha's timings have always been from 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. So, maybe, hon. Chairman thought that the Rajya Sabha's time should also be up to 6.00 p.m. And, it was decided in consultation with the Leaders of the parties. You cannot question it now.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I was also the Chief Whip of Lok Sabha. But they would not take the Government Business on Friday. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I told you, you can give that suggestion to hon. Chairman; I will also convey it. But now we cannot change it. That is all what I am saying. Neither can I change it, nor the Minister. The Minister also cannot say against the decision of the Chairman. You have made your point. Now, you sit down. .... *(Interruptions)...* You have made your point.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: No; I want an assurance from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; no assurance. He cannot give any assurance. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I think he should consider this. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How can he give assurance? *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: It is not like that, Sir. *...(Interruptions)...* In the absence of...*(Interruptions)...* we cannot pass these Bills. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He cannot give assurance like that. How can he give assurance? If the House does not want to pass the Bill, that is a different thing.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: What do they think about it?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He cannot do that.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, you can advise the Government not to take up the Bills today.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, you know the rules. I tell you, at 5.00 p.m., if the House is not ready, then, you raise it at that time. The Minister cannot say now that at 5.00 p.m. what will happen and what will not happen. Neither can I say anything

like that. So, you leave it. At 5.00 p.m., we will decide. If at all you are very particular, after all, the House is supreme. If the House says we will sit up to 9.00 p.m., we will sit. If the House says we will not sit, we won't. You have raised your point. It is on record. That is enough. Now sit down.

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, what Mr. Mistry is saying, that is practically impossible. Most of the Members of Parliament go to their respective places on Friday. So, just take his suggestion and communicate it to the Chairman on our behalf, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. That can be done. I have no problem.

I will convey your suggestion to the Chairman.

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: There should be no legislative business after the Private Members' Business. . . .(*Interruptions*)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Until the Chairman changes the decision, I am unable to make any change on that. That is all what I am saying. I go by this. Now, the Bill for consideration and passing -- the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2014. The following motion was moved by Shri Avinash Pande on 24th April, 2015:

"That the Bill to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860, be taken into consideration."

On 24th April, Shri Husain Dalwai had not concluded his speech. He may, therefore, continue his speech.

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#### **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL - Contd.**

##### **The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2014 - Contd \***

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI (Maharashtra): Sir, people say that this Bill to further amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860, seeks to criminalise the offence of marital rape by removing Exception (2) to Section 375 of the IPC Act. People say that this is against Indian family values. The Manu Smriti states that it is acceptable to punish your wife if she disobeys the order of her husband. It is not true that marriage institutions are beyond reform. We formulated and passed the Domestic Violence law. Rape laws cover a husband who rapes his wife who is below 15 years of age. A husband can also be prosecuted if he rapes his wife during judicial separation. Besides, sexual assault is

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\*Further discussion continued from 24 April, 2015

[Shri Husain Dalwai]

covered as an offence under Section 498A of IPC. All these provisions have not destroyed the institutions of marriage.

Sir, some say that marriage is sacred. Yes, it is. In India, the concept of marriage is held in high esteem. It is an agreement or contract between two equal and willing parties with reciprocal rights and duties. It is the responsibility of the spouse to respect the wishes of his or her partner and this extends to all aspects of the relationship, sexual or otherwise. Since marriage is considered as sacred, we cannot allow a sin like rape to be committed in the name of this bond. Times have changed, so has the structure of society. The Government has to step forward to initiate the change. The UPA Government was a coalition Government and at that time it was more important to pass a Domestic Violence law to at least begin the reform process. Given that the BJP has absolute majority now in the Lok Sabha, why not bring the law there and we shall support it? Section 375 of the IPC defines 'rape' and makes 'marital rape' the exception to the rule. The provision says, 'Forcible sexual intercourse by a man with his wife will not be rape, unless she is below the age of 15.' The Protection of Children from Sexual Abuse Act, 2012 says, 'It is an offence to have sexual intercourse with any woman up to the age of 18.' The Hindu Marriage Act, Special Marriages Act, all state that age of consent for marriage is 18 for boys and girls.

It is so deeply entrenched in our culture that sex within the marriage is "good sex" whereas sex outside marriage is "bad sex" regardless of the consent of the individuals involved.

There is a possibility of the law being misused. But does that mean that there shall be no law? We can create safeguards. Our judicial courts are competent to see which cases are genuine and which are not. This is no excuse to deny someone a basic human right.

One of the commonest excuses given is that it is considered that the concept of marital rape, as understood internationally, cannot be suitably applied in the Indian context due to various factors, including level of education, illiteracy, poverty, myriad social customs and values, religious beliefs, mindset of the society to treat the marriage as a sacrosanct. No Indian belief, religion or custom encourages marital rape or domestic violence or sexual abuse within marriage in any form. We cannot hide the reality behind such excuses.

As per the recent report of National Family Health Survey, as many as 62,652 married women have experienced sexual violence. The number is so much. Sexual violence here includes being forced to have sexual intercourse or perform any other sexual acts against one's own will.



**3.00 P.M.**

Ten per cent of rural women have experienced sexual violence, compared with six per cent of urban women.

The prevalence of sexual violence declines sharply with education from 12 per cent among women with no education to less than 5 per cent of women with, at least, 10 years of education.

As in the case of physical violence, among women who were employed have a somewhat higher prevalence of sexual violence, that is, 10 per cent, than women not employed which is 7 per cent.

Sir, this shows that the Parliament has a duty to protect and provide for redressal to all these vulnerable women.

In a recent judgment -- *State of MP vs. Madan Lal* -- Supreme Court held, "We would like to clearly state that in case of rape or attempt of rape, the conception of compromise, under no circumstances, can really be thought of. These are crimes against the body of a woman which is her own temple."

The Court further held that there cannot be a compromise or settlement against a women's honour which is sacrosanct. The Court said that it cannot be ever allowed that a victim is forced to marry her rapist.

If this is what the Supreme Court says, then we cannot have any compromise in the case of marital rape also.

Isn't it a compromise that the woman is forced to live with the husband, who rapes her? If marriage is sacred, then dignity of a woman is sacrosanct too. That cannot be compromised. It is against the principles of the rule of law, as enshrined in our Constitution. The institution of marriage cannot be above the Constitution. If we are so concerned about the religious sanctity of marriage, Nepal, which is the only Hindu nation -- so far, it was, not now -- in the world, has criminalized marital rape through its Supreme Court. They had a similar provision of excluding marital rape from the purview of rape. In the final judgement, the Nepalese Supreme Court said, "As long as women remain as human beings, they are also entitled to all rights that a human being is entitled to for being a human." There is no distinction in the exercise of these rights before and after the marriage of women. The aim of the law is to punish all culprits instead of the traditional practice of discrimination. It would lead to discrimination if we interpret that an act committed on any other woman is an offence and is not an offence if the same act is

[Shri Husain Dalwai]

committed on one's own wife. There is no justification in differentiating between women who are wives and other women. No law can be interpreted against the provisions of the Constitution and treaties and international instruments to which Nepal is a party. Therefore, to exempt an offence of rape committed on the wife by the husband is against the recognized principles of justice. An offence is deemed to be committed because it has been committed and not because there is a difference in the status of position of the person committing that offence.

Sir, this is the submission I wished to make. I think, the House would be very generous and pass this law.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Now, Shrimati Kanimozhi; not there. Dr. Bhalchandra Munekar; not there. Therefore, Mr. Minister may respond, please.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for winding up this discussion early. I must compliment the hon. Member, Shri Avinash Pande, for moving this very important Bill. I thank the hon. Members who have participated in this discussion.

Sir, I would not drag this matter very long and take the time of the House. Rather, I would try to restrict myself to some very specific points because the subject itself is very limited. It is a proposal for the deletion of one *Exception under* Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code.

The hon. Member has made an appeal, and with reference to the Bill, he has asked for a Bill that seeks to omit *Exception 2* of Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC). I would like to read out the Exception. *Exception 2* says, "Sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under fifteen years of age, is not rape. ...(*Interruptions*)..."

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, basically, it is incorrect. I am sorry for the interruption. I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Deputy Chairman to page 3, where *Explanation 2*, is given. *Explanation 2* has been erroneously printed as *Exception 2*.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: This is *Exception*.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: It is *Explanation*. Kindly go through it.

SHRI AVINASH PANDE (Maharashtra): It is 'exception'. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: It was erroneously printed as 'exception', subject to correction. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AVINASH PANDE: You are misinformed. It is 'removing of exception 2 of Section 375'.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: It is not 'explanation'; it is 'exception' to section 375 of the Indian Penal Code. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why don't you verify it with IPC 1860? ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Navaneethakrishnan is saying, it is 'explanation' and you are saying that it is 'exception'.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: It is an 'exception'.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You stand by that.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Avinash Pande's Bill is 'to remove that exception'. The exception is already there. His Bill is to remove that 'exception'.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, the word 'exception' is correct.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: 'Explanation' found here is incorrect.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, 'explanation' is incorrect. Now, you are correct. Mr. Minister, please proceed.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, as I stated, the main objective of the Member's Bill is to make marital rape of a wife an offence under the criminal law by omission of that exception 2 of section 375 of the IPC. Marital rape is very complicated and it is very personal in nature in marital relationship. It is very difficult to explain and describe also the sexual acts between two individuals, husband and wife. These are of such an extreme private nature that neither there can be evidence of consent nor can there be any long-lasting record of any evidence of any consent between husband and wife. That is why, as I said, the matter is complicated and very sensitive also. The matter was dealt in detail ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री हुसैन दलवाई:** माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him complete. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will allow you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him complete. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री किरन रिजिजु: आप clarification पूछ सकते हैं। Sir, the matter has been dealt in detail through Department-related Parliamentary Committee as well as the Law Commission of India also. Justice J.S. Verma Committee also had given a Report on Amendments to the Criminal Law in January 2013 and it sought to amend and delete the marital rape exception. However, the Law Commission of India on its 172nd Report on Review of Rape Laws, which was submitted in March 2000, had not recommended criminalization of marital rape. The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs also presented its 167th Report on the Criminal Amendment Bill 2012 in Rajya Sabha on 1st March, 2013. While giving its Report, Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs *inter alia* considered the 172nd Report on Review of Rape Laws given by the Law Commission of India, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2012 and the Report of Justice J.S. Verma and the Committee deliberated the amendment to section 375 of IPC at para 5.9 of the Report including the issue of marital rape. Sir, the Committee observed, "If a woman is aggrieved by the acts of harassment, there are other means of approaching the court. In India, for ages the family system has evolved and it is moving forward." I agree that it is a very dynamic situation; it is evolving also, and the legal system cannot be static. We admit that. Sir, the past experience also shows that a family is able to resolve the problems and, under the law, there is also a provision to deal with cruelty against women. It is section 498A of IPC, which specifically deals with the cruelty against women. So, we have a very strong provision already there in the IPC. It was also, therefore, felt that if the marital rape is brought under the law, the entire family system will be under great stress, and, the Committee may perhaps be doing more injustice. This was observed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

It is seen that the matter has already been deliberated by the Standing Committee as well as by the Law Commission of India. I feel that the explanations are being given and the Government is in tune with the prevailing social situation in the country. We do not deny that amendment or any kind of change in law cannot take place. We cannot say that but we have to respond to the social reality.

Amendment to the criminal law is a continuous process and the Government has already taken various steps in that regard. For the information of this august House, I would like to mention that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, again, in its 146th Report dated 23rd June, 2010, recommended that there is a need for a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system of the country. This means that going in for piecemeal amendments may not be appropriate.

Sir, on 6th July, 2010, the then Home Minister in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice made a request to the Law Commission of India to examine and give a comprehensive report covering all aspects of the criminal law so that comprehensive amendments can be made in various laws, especially, in the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure as well as the Indian Evidence Act. These three Acts are being dealt with by the Home Ministry. So, we have asked for comprehensive suggestions.

The Law Commission of India also took up the matter for study and examination on 11th October, 2013. Sir, last year, on 11th December, 2014, the Law Commission informed us, the Ministry of Home Affairs, that they have identified certain focus areas and formed sub-groups to deliberate on such areas, and, that the Commission is actively pursuing the issue and will finalize its views as early as possible. This is the latest information which we have received from the Law Commission. So, I feel that the Law Commission is in very much sync with the sense of the House and the sentiments being expressed by the hon. Members. We also want that the Law Commission should submit its report as early as possible. We have also communicated recently that the comprehensive suggestions may be submitted to us as soon as possible.

Sir, with this background, and, as I mentioned, I do not want to rake this issue further beyond the point which I have mentioned, I would like to say to hon. Member, Shri Avinash Pande, that we are not opposed to what he has said but we are waiting for the appropriate suggestions from the Law Commission of India, and, the Parliamentary Standing Committee Report also has been mentioned during my reply. So, it is the fittest thing for us to wait for the Committee Report.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, if you think that rape by a husband is a crime, then, why should the Government wait for the report? Rape is a crime, you accept it; whether it is a rape by a husband or any other person, it is equally a crime. But then, in that case, why do you wait for the Report? That is the question.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, as I have explained, there is a specific clause under Section 498A, which already deals with the cruelty against the women. It is a very specific provision and it is taking care of the problems being faced by the women, and we have expressed our concern also. But to delete that exception itself too is a subject-matter to be deliberated at length. That is why I have made this plea that we should wait for the comprehensive report which we are waiting from the Law Commission of India. Once that Report comes, we will definitely come back to the House and seek the support of the hon. Member and the entire House. That is why I would like to appeal to the hon. Member, Avinash Pandeji, to withdraw this particular Bill in the context of the explanation which I have given. We are expecting that the Report will come as soon as possible.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Avinash Pande. You have the right to reply.

**श्री हुसैन दलवई :** सर, मुझे एक बात कहनी है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप evidence की बात करते हैं, अगर wife अपना affidavit दे दे, तो that is enough, I think. अभी आप इसमें ज़रा आगे आए हैं, थोड़ा और आगे आएँगे, तो यह पास हो सकता है।

**श्री किरन रिजिजू :** सर, माननीय सदस्य ने जो कहा है, मैं उससे सहमत हूँ। हम लोग इसको नकार नहीं रहे हैं और हम आपकी भावना के साथ जुड़े हुए हैं, लेकिन अगर हम एक-एक करके piecemeal कानून लाएँगे, तो इससे दिक्कतें आएँगी। इसलिए हमारी यह अपील है, चूँकि लॉ कमीशन से रिपोर्ट आने वाली है, हमने उससे कहा है कि वह अपनी रिपोर्ट जल्दी से जल्दी submit कर दे। उसके बाद सारे criminal laws हैं। होम मिनिस्ट्री के अधीन तीन कानून आते हैं। तीनों कानूनों में बाकी पहलू भी हैं। अगर हम उन सारी चीजों पर एक साथ amendments लाएँगे, तो वह हमारे लिए, इस सदन के लिए और इस देश के लिए भी फायदेमंद होगा, यह मेरा कहना है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Avinash Pande.

**श्री अविनाश पांडे :** सर, सबसे पहले तो मैं चेयर को धन्यवाद दूँगा कि इस बहुत ही संवेदनशील विषय पर माननीय चेयर ने बहुत ही स्पष्टता के साथ माननीय मंत्री जी से यह कहा कि हम यह जानते हैं कि यह act of marital rape अपने आप में एक heinous crime है, गलत है और समय-समय पर इस हाउस ने जो गलत कानून, जो दकियानूसी कानून बने हुए थे, उन रीतियों को, उन रिवाजों को सख्त कानून बना कर ही दूर किया। अगर ऐसा नहीं होता, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि untouchability, सती प्रथा, identification of sex during pregnancy, इन सबके विरोध में कानून बनना possible नहीं था। आज आपने जो बात रखी कि लॉ कमीशन की रिपोर्ट आने के बाद इस पर विचार किया जाएगा, मैं उस चीज से निश्चित रूप से सहमत हूँ, लेकिन मैं एक बात कहना चाहूँगा कि हमारी उन माताओं, उन बहनों के लिए कानून बनाने के लिए, जो इस गलत प्रथा का शिकार हैं और जो अपनी जुबान नहीं खोल पा रही हैं, जो एक बहुत ही simple तरीका है, हम उसको इतना गोल घुमा रहे हैं!

जहाँ तक इस सम्बन्ध में आपने कहा कि family system के अन्दर husband-wife के बीच में यह बहुत ही personal matter है और वे इसके लिए कानून की दूसरी धारा, 498B का सहारा ले सकते हैं, अगर आप देखेंगे कि पिछले दिनों में marital atrocities या marital rape के विरोध में कितनी शिकायतें दर्ज की गईं, तो, in general, हम देखेंगे कि शिकायतों का जो दायरा है, जो actual अपराध हो रहे हैं, उनसे यह बहुत ही कम है। मैं एक चीज़ और कहना चाहूँगा, जैसा कि माननीय हुसैन दलवई जी ने भी कहा कि वर्मा कमिशन की रिपोर्ट के बाद यूपीए सरकार ने women atrocities के खिलाफ कानून बनाया था। उस समय जिन दो चीज़ों का एक्सेप्शन छोड़ा गया, उसके भी कुछ कम्प्लेक्स थे, क्योंकि उस समय शासन में Coalition Government थी। आज मैं आपसे और आज की सरकार से यह उम्मीद करता हूँ, चूँकि पूरी जनता ने उनको भारी मेजॉरिटी दी है और चुनाव के दौरान उन्होंने नारियों के लिए एक बहुत ही आकर्षक नारा भी दिया था - "बहुत हुआ नारी पर वार, अबकी बार मोदी सरकार", तो मैं समझता हूँ कि जहाँ हर रोज़ हम बड़ी-बड़ी बातें करते हैं, वहीं नारी

जाति को न्याय दिलाने के लिए, हमारी बहनों के लिए, माताओं के लिए, जो आज भी इस गलत प्रथा का शिकार हैं, इस सख्त कानून को और सख्त बनाने का पूरा प्रयास करेंगे। आपने आश्वासन दिया है कि लॉ कमिशन रिपोर्ट को गंभीरता से विचारपूर्वक देखने के बाद इस कानून पर अमल किया जाएगा। मैं ऑनरेबल हाउस से और ऑनरेबल चेयर से यही निवेदन करूंगा कि जितनी जल्दी हो सके, इस कानून को और अधिक सख्ती के साथ लेकर आए।

डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, मैं इसमें एक उदाहरण देना चाहूंगा। यह बात तब की है, जब एक दिन मैं अपने मित्र के घर गया था और मैंने उसकी बेटियां से मुलाकात की। उस समय बातचीत में जब यह विषय निकला कि वह शादी क्यों नहीं कर रही है, मुझे हाउस के सामने इसका कारण बताने में बहुत ही शर्म आ रही है, क्योंकि इस प्रकार हमारी बहुत सी नौजवान बहनें हैं, बेटियां हैं, जो आज शादी करने से घबराती हैं, क्योंकि वे इस प्रकार के फोर्सफुल और मेरिटल रेप के डर से बहुत बुरी तरह से प्रभावित हैं। यह एक बहुत बड़ा कारण है। आज समाज के अन्दर अगर आप देखें, तो एक तरफ live in relationship हो रहे हैं, लेकिन दूसरी तरफ हमारी कुछ बहनें, बेटियां शादी करने से घबराती हैं। मंत्री जी ने आश्वासन दिया है कि वे इस विषय पर गंभीरता के साथ विचार करेंगे और लॉ कमिशन की रिपोर्ट के बाद और ज्यादा सख्ती के साथ इस पर कानून लाएंगे, इसलिए मंत्री जी के इस आश्वासन को ध्यान में रखते हुए, मैं अपने इस बिल को विद्वृत्त करता हूँ, धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay; He has already withdrawn. The question is:

That leave be granted to withdraw the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

*The motion was adopted*

*The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn.*

*...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Bill is withdrawn with the consent of the House.  
*...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI AVINASH PANDE: On the assurance. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Assurance is on record. *...(Interruptions)...* No, no. *...(Interruptions)...* You need not....*...(Interruptions)...* It is over. Assurance is on record. What you have said is on record. It is over now.

**The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order  
(Amendment) Bill, 2014 - Contd... \***

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, next the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2014. Further consideration of the following Motion moved by Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad on 24th April, 2015:-

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\*Further discussion continued from 24 April, 2015.

[Mr. Deputy Chairman]

“That the Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, be taken into consideration.”

On the 24th of April, 2015 on a Motion moved by Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad under Rule 117, Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States and adopted by the House, debate on the Bill was adjourned. You see, that was adjourned by the decision of the House. Shri Prasad, therefore, now you can start the discussion. Shri Vishambhar Prasad, therefore, may speak. After that, other Members can speak. Yes, please.

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, 24 अप्रैल 2015 को इस विधेयक पर डिस्कशन हुआ था। मैं इसके बारे में बताना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने उस समय बताया था कि उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने संस्तुति भेजी है, जिस पर आर.जी.आई. परीक्षण करवा रही है। 24 अप्रैल, 2015 के बाद हम लोग आज 4 दिसम्बर, 2015 के दिन बिल की बहस पर बैठे हैं।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. ई.एम. सुदर्शन नाच्चीयप्पन)** पीठासीन हुए।

मान्यवर, मेरे द्वारा 24 अप्रैल, 2015 को संविधान (अनुसूचित जातियाँ) आदेश, 1950 का और संशोधन करने वाले विधेयक पर विचार करने हेतु बिल उपस्थित किया गया था। मैं सभी माननीय सदस्यों से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि उसको सर्वसम्मति से पारित किया जाए।

उत्तर प्रदेश में अनुसूचित जाति की सूची क्रम संख्या-18 में बेलदार दर्ज हैं, उसकी समनामी पुकारु उपजाति अथवा पर्यायवाची जाति बेलदार को परिभाषित किया जाए। क्रम संख्या-36 में गोड़ के साथ गौड़, गोड़िया, कहार, कश्यप, बाथम को परिभाषित किया जाए। क्रम संख्या-53 में मझवार की उपजाति केवट, मल्लाह, निषाद को परिभाषित किया जाए। क्रम संख्या 59 में पासी, तरमाली के साथ भर, राजभर को परिभाषित किया जाए। इसी तरह क्रम संख्या 65 में शिल्पकार के साथ कुम्हार, प्रजापति को परिभाषित किया जाए। क्रम संख्या 66 में तुरेहा के साथ धीमर, धीवर, तुराहा, तुरहा को परिभाषित किया जाए। मान्यवर, मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि दिल्ली और पश्चिमी बंगाल में मल्लाह अनुसूचित जाति में हैं। पश्चिमी बंगाल और त्रिपुरा में केवट तथा मध्य प्रदेश में कुम्हार आदि जातियाँ अनुसूचित जाति में हैं।

मान्यवर, पूरे देश में उक्त जातियाँ कहीं अनुसूचित जाति में हैं, कहीं पिछड़ी जाति में हैं। ये इनकी विसंगतियाँ हैं। इनका रहन-सहन, खान-पान, रीति-रिवाज, आपस में शादी-ब्याह एक जैसा है। इनकी उप-जातियों में अस्पृश्यता परम्परागत रूप से विद्यमान है। उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार अभी से नहीं, बल्कि लगातार 31 दिसम्बर, 2004, 19 सितम्बर, 2005, 16 मई, 2006 और 15 फरवरी, 2013 और 01.04.2015 को अपनी संस्तुतियाँ केन्द्र सरकार को भेजती रही है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आर.जी.आई. इस पर बार-बार आपत्ति लगा देती है। वह कहती है कि इनके साथ छुआछूत नहीं होता, ये जातियाँ मिक्स हो गयी हैं, जबकि इनका सामाजिक, आर्थिक और शैक्षिक स्तर बहुत ही निम्न है और जो गाइडलाइंस हैं, उन सब मानकों को ये पूरा करती हैं।



मान्यवर, संविधान में भी व्यवस्था है कि प्रत्येक 10 साल में सभी जातियों के बारे में, चाहे वह अनुसूचित जाति हो या पिछड़ी जाति हो- आरक्षण से संबंधित जितनी जातियाँ हैं, इसकी समीक्षा की जायेगी और जो जातियाँ पिछड़ी हैं, जो मानकों को पूरा करती हैं, उनको सम्मिलित किया जायेगा, लेकिन आज़ादी के 67 साल बीतने के बाद भी ऐसा नहीं हो पाया है। 1950 में उत्तर प्रदेश की अनुसूचित जातियों की सूची में दर्ज मझवार, गोंड, बेलदार, तरमाली, शिल्पकार, तुरैहा के प्रमाण-पत्र जारी नहीं किये जा रहे हैं, जबकि 1931 की जनगणना के समय इनकी आबादी लाखों की संख्या में थी। अब उस जनसंख्या को विलुप्त बताया गया है। मैं यह बिल इसीलिए लाया हूँ कि संविधान के अनुच्छेद 341 में संशोधन कर इन जातियों को अनुसूचित जातियों की सूची में परिभाषित किया जाए, क्योंकि ये सभी जातियाँ अपेक्षित मानकों को पूरा करती हैं।

मान्यवर, मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इस बिल को पास कराया जाये। उत्तर प्रदेश में ये जो जातियाँ हैं, जिनके बारे में यह बिल मैं लेकर आया हूँ- कहार, कश्यप, केवट, मल्लाह, निषाद, कुम्हार, प्रजापति, धीवर, बिन्द, भर, राजभर, धीमर, बाथम, तुरहा, गोडिया, इनको उत्तर प्रदेश की अनुसूचित जातियों की सूची में सम्मिलित कर उनको न्याय दिलाया जाये।

मान्यवर, मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री जी का एक पत्र मुझे मिला। मंत्री जी ने पत्र के माध्यम से मुझे सूचित किया था। मैं 29 अप्रैल, 2015 को माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी से मिला था और उनसे भी अनुरोध किया था कि मल्लाह कहीं अनुसूचित जाति में हैं, तो कहीं पिछड़ी जाति में हैं। दिल्ली में मल्लाह अनुसूचित जाति में हैं। भारतीय जनता पार्टी से रामचरित्र निषाद जी लोक सभा के सांसद हैं। वे भी निषाद हैं। उनको मल्लाह होने के नाते अनुसूचित जाति का लाभ मिला हुआ है। इसी तरह से उत्तर प्रदेश के अकबरपुर क्षेत्र से शंखलाल मांझी लोक सभा में सदस्य रहे। ये जो आपस में मिक्स जातियाँ हैं, इनके बारे में उत्तर प्रदेश का जो अनुसूचित जाति शोध संस्थान है, वह बार-बार रिपोर्ट भेज रहा है कि ये मानकों को पूरा करती हैं, लेकिन पता नहीं क्यों, भारत सरकार की जो आरजीआई एजेंसी है, वह पुराना हवाला दे देती है। कोई 1911 का, 1931 का या कोई दूसरा नियम लगाकर कहती है कि ये मानक पूरा नहीं करती हैं। मैंने इस बारे में अभी एक प्रश्न भी लगाया था। 03.12.2015 को मेरा एक अतारंकित प्रश्न संख्या 598 था। उसमें भी मैंने इस बारे में पूछा था, लेकिन सरकार ने गोलमोल जवाब देने का काम किया। तो मान्यवर, मैं यह चाहता हूँ, कि इन जातियों के साथ न्याय किया जाए।

सदन में हमारे क्षेत्र से बहन साध्वी निरंजन ज्योति जी भी बैठी हैं, जो खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री हैं। जब ये लोक सभा में चुन कर आयी थीं, तो इन्होंने भी वादा किया था। इसी बात पर फतेहपुर के लोगों ने इनको जिताने का काम किया था। इन्होंने लोक सभा में मामला उठाया। मैं मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करूँगा कि ये प्रधानमंत्री जी से बात करें। जब हम लोग वोट माँगने गये थे, तब वहाँ भारतीय जनता पार्टी ने कहा था कि हम इन जातियों को न्याय देने का काम करेंगे, अनुसूचित जाति में शामिल करेंगे, लेकिन अब कौन सी आपत्ति है कि जब प्रदेश सरकार लगातार रिकमेंड करके भेज रही है, तो भारत सरकार इसको डिनाई कर रही है? मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यही अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ, चूँकि पिछली बार भी काफी वार्ता हो चुकी है.. ज्यादा डिस्कशन की आवश्यकता नहीं है, लेकिन मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यही अनुरोध करूँगा, चूँकि इन जातियों का स्तर देखिए, अभी तमिलनाडु में बाढ़ आई या कहीं भी बाढ़ आती है, मैंने यह सवाल उठाया था कि जब बाढ़ आती है तो

[श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद]

नाव चलाने वाले मल्लाहों को याद किया जाता है। इनकी आर्थिक और सामाजिक स्थिति इतनी खराब है कि इनके घर के बर्तन देख लीजिए, ये कच्ची झोपड़ी में रहते हैं, नदी किनारे रहते हैं, समुद्र किनारे रहते हैं। इसीलिए मैंने माननीय केन्द्रीय गृह मंत्री से अनुरोध किया था कि अगर कहीं बाढ़ आती है, दैवी आपदा आती है तो आपके पास अलग से कोई एजेंसी नहीं है कि नाव चलाने वाले को आप कहीं से ला पाएं। फिर पता चला कि जिनके यहां बाढ़ आती है तो वह अपने बच्चे, परिवार को अपनी नाव में लेकर जा रहे नाविक को उतारकर ज़बर्दस्ती पुलिस के बल पर लाते हैं। हमने मांग की थी कि इनको केन्द्रीय पुलिस बल में या राज्यों में अलग से फोर्स बनाया जाए और इनको स्पेशल आरक्षण का दर्जा दिया जाए, जिससे कि दैवी आपदाओं में इनसे काम लिया जा सके। हमने देखा है, एक बार मेरे क्षेत्र में बाढ़ आई थी, मिलिट्री लगा दी गई थी। मेरे क्षेत्र में तिन्दवारी के दरदा में मिलिट्री फोर्स के लोग वहां एक नाव में गए थे, वह नाव पलट गई थी। एक महिला तीन बच्चों को लिए हुए थी। एक नाव चलाने वाला था, दो मिलिट्री वाले थे, वे सेफ्टी जैकेट पहने हुए थे। जब नाव पलट गई तो चारों लोगों ने एक पेड़ को पकड़ लिया। उस महिला ने कहा कि मेरे एक बच्चे को पकड़ लीजिए। केन्द्रीय पुलिस बल का जो तैराक था, उसने कहा कि पहले मैं अपनी जान बचाऊंगा तो इस कारण वह उस बच्चे को नहीं पकड़ पाया। महिला ने फिर अपने तीनों बच्चों को मजबूती से पकड़ लिया, लेकिन फिर वह महिला बच्चों के साथ पानी में बह गई। ऐसी दुर्घटनाएं हमने देखी हैं। हम जानते हैं कि किस तरीके से नदी किनारे, झीलों के पास व समुद्र किनारे किस तरह से इन जातियों के साथ दुर्व्यवहार होता है। इनको काफी परेशानियां हैं। इनकी सामाजिक, आर्थिक स्थिति भी बहुत खराब है। उत्तर प्रदेश में इनकी हालत बहुत खराब है। ये सब अपना मानक पूरा करती हैं इसलिए मैंने अपना एक प्राइवेट मेम्बर बिल सदन में प्रस्तुत किया है। मैं माननीय सदन से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूं कि इस विधेयक को पास किया जाए। माननीय मंत्री जी उदार हैं, उन्होंने कहा था कि हम इसको कराएंगे। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने भी हमको भरोसा दिलाया था कि हम इसका परीक्षण कराएंगे। माननीय उपसभापति जी, हमारी आपसे अपील है कि माननीय मंत्री जी से कहें कि इस बिल को, जो मैंने प्रस्तुत किया है पास कराया जाए। चूंकि जो ये जातियां हैं, हमारा जो मामला है, वह परिभाषित करने का है और हमने पहले ही बता दिया है कि कौन जाति किस के साथ परिभाषित किया जाना है। मैंने सारा विवरण बतला दिया है। महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करता हूं कि इस बिल को पारित कराएं जिससे कि आपका चुनावी वायदा भी पूरा हो सके। काले धन का वायदा तो पूरा नहीं हो पाया, जिसमें कहा था कि हम हरेक को 15 लाख रुपए देंगे, वह तो पूरा नहीं कर पाए, लेकिन कम से कम इनको आरक्षण ही दिला दीजिए, जिससे कि लोग यह तो कहें कि इन्होंने कोई न कोई वायदा तो पूरा किया है। मैं सभी दलों के सभी माननीय सदस्यों से, सत्ता पक्ष, विपक्ष, सभी से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूं कि इस विधेयक को पारित कराने की कृपा करें, धन्यवाद।

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Respected Vice-Chairman, my colleague, Vishambhar Prasad Nishadji, through this Bill, tried to draw the attention of the House and the Union Government towards the low-lying and low-level communities in Uttar Pradesh, which are eagerly waiting to be included in the list of Scheduled Castes. I take this opportunity to briefly submit that there are very severe anomalies all across

the nation and several communities are waiting for justice for several decades. Boya Valmiki, washermen community Rajaka, stone-breaking community Vadera and some such communities are Scheduled Castes in some States and those were included as Other Backward Classes in other States. These types of anomalies have to be removed and uniform categorisation of such communities is highly required for their emancipation. Therefore, I urge upon the Minister of Social Justice to evolve instruments and mechanisms to assess the socio anthropological level of the communities across the nation. Based on the scientific enumeration the urges which are pending for quite long should be taken into consideration. Just as I mentioned, the Boya Valmiki community which totally depends on the forest produce for their livelihood were included in the list of the Other Backward Classes in my State of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Though there are other community people in other States categorised as Scheduled Castes but they were not categorised as Scheduled Castes in other States, they are being deprived of the essential support which is supposed to be given to them. To assess the community, the research and empirical process has to be taken to judge the social defence, social security, social justice and social empowerment levels. Only then can we do justice to these communities.

During the discussion on this Bill, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government to initiate a process to build a proper mechanism by involving the scientific tools of the socio- anthropological methods to assess the aspirations of several communities such as Boya Valmiki, Razakka and Waddera . Only then can real justice be done to the waiting communities to be included in the list of the Scheduled Castes. Thank you very much.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you. The day before yesterday I had made a Special Mention with regard to a community called Narikoravan Tribe in Tamil Nadu. This Bill which my colleague has moved is with regard to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2014 whereas mine is with regard to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill. Sir, the Narikoravan is a community in Tamil Nadu who are considered to be nomadic people and who depended solely on hunting. After the hunting is banned they don't have any job to do and they are literally left alone. So many of them are literally educated but they are not giving due recognition by way of employment. So, what we suggest is those people must be brought under the Scheduled Tribes. Just for the convenience of the Minister I would like to say that in the year 2013, the UPA Government brought a Bill to amend the Scheduled Tribes Order to include the Narikoravan community as Scheduled Tribes. But after the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha that Bill got lapsed. So, I would urge the Minister, making use of this opportunity, the Ministry need not take much efforts over that, to

[Shri Tiruchi Siva]

bring the Bill back again which has lapsed to give life to a very big community who very much deserve the attention of the Government. So, Sir, thanking my colleague for bringing the Bill at the right occasion so many communities are deprived of education and employment for the past centuries. We know the system which we don't want to discuss and elaborate here. Our country has been relied on so many things, so many conventions which have prevented so many people from coming into common people's array. We know literally very well that though you have efficiency, you are deprived of education. You are deprived of admission to educational institutions. Thanks to the great fight of leaders like Periyar in the South, Dr. Ambedkar and Lohia and all. So many reformations have come. And, it is only by way of enacting laws that people who are downtrodden, who have been suppressed and deprived of their genuine rights, as against what they deserve, could be helped.

I hope the hon. Minister, who has always been progressive, who has helped me in moving and passing the Bill on Transgenders—which is now to be discussed in the Lok Sabha – would take this into consideration. The *Narikkuruva* community is still around us. If the Minister so wishes, I can give him all the relevant material. It would be very easy to do that. The Bill that had been introduced in the Lok Sabha and lapsed, can be brought forth again. The *Narikkuruva* community would be grateful to this Government for that and today's progressive life could be shared with them too. One community need not be sidelined, marginalized or discriminated just because of lack of opportunities. By way of reservations, by way of including some people who have suffered for long for many reasons that we know very well, we could relieve them and bring them up in life by bringing laws.

Hence, I would request the Minister to amend the Scheduled Tribes Order to include *Narikkuruvas* and declare them as a Scheduled Tribe. Kindly reintroduce the Bill which lapsed in the 15th Lok Sabha and which was brought by the earlier Government. Thank you.

**श्री हुसैन दलवाई :** महोदय, आदरणीय विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद साहब जो बिल यहाँ लाए हैं, मेरे ख्याल से यह एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण बिल है। मैं तो कहूँगा कि एक दफा इसके ऊपर एक अलग कमीशन नियुक्त करके, अलग-अलग जगहों पर जो कुछ लोगों को छोड़ देने का काम हुआ है, जिसकी वजह से उनके ऊपर इतने सालों से अन्याय हो रहा है, उस अन्याय को दूर करने के लिए हमें कहीं न कहीं काम करना पड़ेगा।

अभी मुझे ज़रा आश्चर्य हुआ कि यूपी में मल्लाह को शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट में नहीं रखा गया है। मेरे ख्याल से बिहार, दिल्ली और पश्चिमी बंगाल में मल्लाह को शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट में रखा गया है। मुझे

लगता है कि यह गलत बात है। यही बात गौड़-गोड़िया के बारे में भी है। जातियों के नाम हर जगह एक नहीं रहते, उनके नाम कुछ फासले के बाद बदल जाते हैं। हमारे यहाँ कुनबी, कुर्मी, वैश्यवानी, वैश्य हैं, जिनके संबंध में मंडल कमीशन की रिपोर्ट को अमल में लाने के वक्त बहुत दिक्कतें आईं। वे एक ही जातियाँ हैं, उनमें शादी-ब्याह होते हैं और वे एक-दूसरे के घर खाना खाते हैं, तो भी उनको यह फायदा नहीं मिलता है। मुस्लिम, क्रिश्चियन मुस्लिम और जो आदिवासी हैं, उनको रिजर्वेशन के फायदे मिलते हैं, लेकिन जो मुस्लिम या क्रिश्चियन दलित हैं, उनको यह फायदा नहीं मिलता है। मेरे ख्याल से इसमें बदलाव करना जरूरी है। मैं तो यह सुझाव दूँगा कि इस प्राइवेट बिल को सरकार को वैसे का वैसे ही मान्य करना चाहिए।

दूसरी बात यह है कि मंडल कमीशन के तहत जो जातियाँ आती हैं या जो जातियाँ शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स, शेड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स में आती हैं, उनके बारे में एक कमीशन की नियुक्ति हो। जो जातियाँ यहाँ से बाहर गई हैं, जिनको न्याय नहीं मिला है, उनके बारे में विचार करना बहुत जरूरी है, क्योंकि जाति-व्यवस्था की वजह से समाज में अन्याय होता है, जैसे मल्लाह के ऊपर अन्याय होता है, दीन के ऊपर अन्याय होता है। हमारे यहाँ जो बेलदार है, वह पत्थर तोड़ने वाला है, लेकिन यहाँ वह मजदूर होता है। हमारे यहाँ बेलदार को भी शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट का फायदा नहीं है, लेकिन उसको इसमें लिया गया है, हालांकि वह बहुत नीचे के स्तर का है। मुझे आश्चर्य लगता है कि हमारे यहाँ जो धोबी है, उसको ओबीसी तो समझा जाता है, लेकिन दलित नहीं समझा जाता, जबकि वह यूपी और बिहार में दलित समझा जाता है। ये डिफरेंसेज क्यों हैं? इसकी जाँच होनी जरूरी है। ये जो सबसे पिछड़ी हुई जातियाँ हैं, इनको हमें मान्य करना चाहिए। अभी मैं पासी के बारे में भी बोलूँगा। पासी को तो इसका फायदा दिया जाता है, लेकिन तरमाली, भर, राजभर को इसका फायदा नहीं दिया जाता। सर, मेरे ख्याल से यह तो बिलकुल गलत बात है। कहीं न कहीं सभी लोगों को इसके फायदे होने चाहिए। बाबा साहेब अम्बेडकर ने इसका provision इसलिए किया कि जो पिछड़े हुए हैं, उन्हें साथ में लाया जा सके। उनका उद्देश्य यही था कि जिन्हें मौका नहीं मिला, उन्हें बराबर का मौका दिया जाए और उन्हें साथ में लाया जाए। श्री आनन्द भास्कर रापोलू ने भी यही बात कही थी कि जो छूट गए हैं, उन्हें बराबर लाने के लिए विशेष मौका दिया जाए। जो लोग पिछड़े हुए हैं, उन्हें विशेष मौका देकर अपने साथ लाने की कोशिश करना ही इस विधेयक का उद्देश्य है, लेकिन वह उद्देश्य ही पूरा नहीं हुआ और सालों से ये लोग पिछड़े हुए हैं।

महोदय, मेरे ख्याल से अभी तक 'मल्लाह' जाति का कोई भी व्यक्ति IAS या IPS अधिकारी नहीं बना है, अभी तक कोई 'बेलदार' बड़ी पोस्ट पर नहीं गया है और अभी तक कोई 'तुराहा' जाति का व्यक्ति बड़ी पोस्ट पर नहीं गया है। ऐसा क्यों हो रहा है? मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि यह इसलिए हो रहा है—क्योंकि कहीं न कहीं इन जातियों को reservation के दायरे से बाहर रखा गया है। यह इनके ऊपर अन्याय है और यह सालों से चला आ रहा है। अब तो देश को आजाद हुए भी लगभग 68 साल हो गए हैं, इसलिए अब तो सरकार को इस पर विचार करना चाहिए।

महोदय, अगर इसके ऊपर सरकार विचार करेगी, तो हमारी पार्टी आपकी सरकार को पूरी तरह से साथ देगी, क्योंकि आखिरकार यह सामाजिक न्याय की बात है। जहां सामाजिक न्याय की बात होगी वहां कांग्रेस पार्टी और दूसरी सभी पार्टियाँ आपके साथ रहेंगी। आजकल आप भी सामाजिक

[श्री हुसैन दलवाई]

न्याय की बातें करते हैं। आप बार-बार महात्मा गांधी जी का नाम लेते हैं, यह अच्छी बात है और हम इसका स्वागत करते हैं।

महोदय, आपने श्री रामदास अठावले को सामाजिक न्याय की बात करते-करते भी अभी तक बाहर रखा है, यह गलत बात है। मैं आपसे निवेदन करूंगा कि कहीं न कहीं उनके ऊपर भी न्याय करने की बात सरकार को करनी चाहिए और उन्हें भी मंत्री बनाना चाहिए। जहां तक जाति का सवाल है, इस सवाल पर सारा हाउस मिलकर एक साथ रहना चाहिए और इन लोगों को, जो सबसे पिछड़े हैं, उन्हें बाजू में रखना गलत है। अगर उन्हें बाजू में रखा जाएगा, तो उनकी कभी भी उन्नति नहीं होगी, वे कभी भी समाज में बराबरी का दर्जा प्राप्त नहीं कर पाएंगे। उनकी आज जो हालत है, यह अच्छी बात नहीं है। मुझे यही कहना है कि सरकार को इस पर जरूर विचार करना चाहिए, धन्यवाद।

**सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री (श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत):** उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद जी ने जो Private Member Bill के रूप में एक विधेयक प्रस्तुत किया, उसकी पहले भी चर्चा हुई और आज भी चर्चा हुई है। इस चर्चा में माननीय आनन्द भास्कर रापोलू जी, श्री तिरुची शिवा और श्री हुसैन दलवाई साहब ने अपने-अपने विचार व्यक्त किए हैं। उनकी बातों से मैं भावनात्मक रूप से सहमति व्यक्त कर सकता हूं, परन्तु जो कानून-कायदे बने हुए हैं, उन्हें ध्यान में रखते हुए, जब हम उनका अनुपालन करने की कोशिश करते हैं, तो हम उनकी भावनाओं का सम्मान नहीं कर पा रहे हैं और न उनकी मदद कर पा रहे हैं।

महोदय, केवल इस सरकार के समय में ऐसी स्थिति उत्पन्न हुई है, ऐसा नहीं है। देश की आजादी के तुरन्त बाद, जब संविधान बना और संविधान में S.C. और S.T. को आरक्षण देने की व्यवस्था की गई, तो उसके साथ ही साथ जातियों के निर्धारण की भी कार्यवाई शुरू हुई। इसके लिए एक समिति बनी। उस समिति ने अनुसूचित जाति में कौन होगा तथा अनुसूचित जन जाति में कौन होगा, इसका लम्बे समय तक अध्ययन किया और देखा कि उन जातियों का background क्या है- इस बारे में निष्कर्ष निकाला और फिर Article 341 में S.C. की एक सूची बनी और इसी प्रकार Article 342 में S.T. की एक सूची बनी एवं वर्ष 1950 में उसके आधार पर वे दोनों सूचियां जारी हो गईं तथा उनके आधार पर अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति के लोगों को आरक्षण सम्बन्धी सुविधाएं मिलने लगीं।

महोदय, जो जातियां अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति में दर्ज हो गईं और उनमें यदि कोई परिवर्तन करना हो, तो समय-समय पर परिवर्तन करने हेतु उसी समय नियम भी बना दिए गए। वर्ष 1950 में अनुसूचित जातियां आदेश जारी हुआ, तब से यह आदेश निरन्तर लागू है। महोदय, इस में संशोधन करने की कुछ प्रक्रियाएं व नियम बनाकर निर्धारित किए गए हैं और उनका अनुपालन पिछली सरकारें भी करती आ रही हैं। सर, चूंकि यह एक कानून है और इस कानून का पालन करना वर्तमान सरकार का भी कर्तव्य है, अब अगर किसी जाति को अनुसूचित जाति में सम्मिलित करना हो, तो वह जिस प्रदेश का विषय है, उस प्रदेश की सरकार उस जाति को अनुसूचित जाति में सम्मिलित करने के लिए प्रस्ताव व अनुशंसा भेजती है। उसके बाद हम नियमानुसार अगर एस.सी. में सम्मिलित करने की बात है, तो उसे आर.जी.आई. को भेजते हैं। महोदय, रजिस्ट्रार जनरल ऑफ इंडिया के पास उन सब

जातियों का बैकग्राउंड है, जो अनुसूचित जाति में लिस्टेड हैं। इस सम्बंध में जो आदेश 1950 में जारी हुआ, उन सब जातियों का बैकग्राउंड उनके पास है और उस बैकग्राउंड को देखते हुए वह उन जातियों के बारे में निष्कर्ष निकालते हैं और उस पर अपनी सहमति या असहमति देते हैं।

मैं माननीय विशम्भर प्रसाद जी की भावना से सहमत हूँ। उन्होंने कहा कि इस प्रदेश में वह इस जाति में सम्मिलित है, दूसरे प्रदेश में है, तीसरे में भी है, लेकिन उसमें नहीं, उस राज्य में नहीं हैं। महोदय, अनेक राज्यों में एक जाति तीन जिलों में हैं, दूसरे तीन जिलों में ओबीसी में है, लेकिन बाकी पूरे प्रदेश में नहीं है, कोई जाति कुछ जिलों में ओबीसी में है, दूसरे चार जिलों में एस.सी. में है, दूसरे पांच जिलों में एस.टी. में है, तो within state भी इस प्रकार की स्थिति है।

(श्री उपसभापति पीठासीन हुए)

महोदय, मेरे मध्य प्रदेश में भी ऐसी स्थिति है। तीन जिलों में "प्रजापति" अनुसूचित जाति में हैं, बाकी में ओबीसी में हैं। तीन जिलों में किसी और जाति को किसी और जाति में सम्मिलित किया गया है, लेकिन किसी में ऐसा नहीं है। इस तरह भिन्न-भिन्न राज्यों में यही स्थिति है, परंतु कौन सी जाति अनुसूचित जाति में होगी, इस बारे में जब अध्ययन किया गया तो उस समय की परिस्थितियों के हिसाब से उन्होंने निष्कर्ष निकाला। अब मैं इस बात से भी सहमत हूँ कि आज की परिस्थिति में बहुत सी जातियां उस समय आर्थिक दृष्टि से या सामाजिक दृष्टि से अच्छी परिस्थिति में रही होंगी, लेकिन वे आज कुछ कमजोर हो गयी हैं। उस समय वे कमजोर थीं, लेकिन आज कुछ अच्छी स्थिति में हैं। यह सब है, लेकिन उस समय जातियों का जो बैकग्राउंड निर्धारित हो गया, उसी को आधार बनाकर आज आर.जी.आई. अपनी रिपोर्ट देती है और माननीय विशम्भर प्रसाद जी ने जिन जातियों का उल्लेख किया है, यह विषय 2003-2004 से चल रहा है और उस समय जब इस बारे में उन जातियों की अनुशंसा आई तो हमने उसे आर.जी.आई. के पास भेजा। आर.जी.आई. ने उस पर असहमति व्यक्त की। अब जब एक बार असहमति आती है, तो हम जिस प्रदेश सरकार से अनुशंसा आई थी, उसे सम्बंधित राज्य सरकार को भेजते हैं। उनसे फिर से कहते हैं कि आर.जी.आई. ने आपकी अनुशंसा को इस कारण से अस्वीकार कर दिया है, लेकिन अगर आप किसी विशेष जानकारी और विशेष तथ्यों के साथ फिर से इसे recommend करना चाहते हैं, तो कर दें। तो उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने उस समय प्रस्ताव को वापस कर लिया था। जानकारी देने के बजाय, तर्क देने या उसकी पुष्टि कर के फिर अनुरोध करने के बजाय, उन्होंने कहा कि ठीक है, हम हमारे प्रस्ताव को वापस ले लेते हैं। यह 2007 की बात है। उसके बाद फिर सरकार बदली और दूसरी सरकार ने फिर अनुशंसा कर दी। फिर वह मामला आया और फिर नियमानुसार हमने उसे आर.जी.आई. के पास भेजा। अब आर.जी.आई. ने उसका अध्ययन कर के फिर असहमति व्यक्त की और उस असहमति की जानकारी हमने वर्तमान उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार को, जहां तक मुझे ध्यान है, अगस्त माह में भेज दी।

अब माननीय विशम्भर प्रसाद जी चाहते हैं कि ये जातियां इस में सम्मिलित हों, परंतु 1950 की जो अधिसूचित अनुसूचित जातियां हैं, उनसे इन जातियों का उस समय का बैकग्राउंड और आज के बैकग्राउंड का तालमेल नहीं खाता, ऐसा आर.जी.आई. का कहना है और हमारे लिए आर.जी.आई. का निर्णय, सहमति या असहमति बंधनकारी है। अगर आरजीआई इस पर सहमति दे देती, तो नियमानुसार हम इस मामले को एससी कमीशन के पास भेजते। चूंकि आरजीआई ने इस पर दो-दो

[श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत]

बार इनकार कर दिया, इसलिए हमारे पास वे सारे रास्ते बंद हो गए। चूँकि इस पर आरजीआई की असहमति हो गई, इस कारण से भारत सरकार इन जातियों को, भले ही वह उनसे तालमेल रखती है, उनसे मिलती-जुलती जातियाँ हैं या पर्यायवाची शब्द हैं, फिर भी अगर आरजीआई ने असहमति व्यक्त कर दी है, तो वर्तमान कानून के हिसाब से भारत सरकार इन जातियों को अनुसूचित जाति में सम्मिलित करने की कार्रवाई नहीं कर सकती है। यह हमारी मजबूरी है। मैंने पहले बताया कि उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार को हमने इसकी सूचना दे दी थी कि इन परिस्थितियों के कारण हम इन जातियों को अनुसूचित जाति में सम्मिलित करने में असमर्थ हैं। इसलिए मैं माननीय विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद जी से क्षमा याचना करता हूँ कि हम आपकी भावनाओं का कानूनी प्रावधान नहीं होने के कारण अनुपालन नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। मैं आपसे अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि ये विषय निरंतर लंबे समय से चल रहे हैं और चलते रहेंगे और अगर भविष्य में कभी परिस्थितियाँ ऐसी बनेंगी और कानून में संशोधन होगा, तो इस पर निश्चित रूप से विचार होगा।

महोदय, दलवाई साहब ने एक विषय उठाया। हालाँकि वह इस विधेयक का हिस्सा तो नहीं है, परन्तु उन्होंने कहा कि जो ऐसी धर्मांतरित जातियों के लोग हैं, जो वर्तमान में या तो ईसाई बन गए हैं या जिन्होंने इस्लाम धर्म स्वीकार कर लिया है, परन्तु कभी न कभी वे हिन्दू जाति के थे और वे वहाँ उस समय अनुसूचित जाति में दर्ज थे, किन्तु आज ईसाई बन गए हैं या इस्लाम धर्म स्वीकार कर लिया है, उनके बारे में भी अनुसूचित जाति का दर्जा देने की माँग उन्होंने की है। मैं इस सम्बन्ध में बताना चाहूँगा कि संवैधानिक प्रावधानों के अनुसार आज जो कानून है, उसके अनुसार अगर वह हिन्दू धर्मावलम्बी है और 1950 की अनुसूचित जाति की सूची में दर्ज है, उसी को वह पात्रता है, अन्य किसी धर्मावलम्बी को नहीं है। एक बार इसमें संशोधन हुआ था, तो जिसने बौद्ध धर्म स्वीकार किया है और जो अनुसूचित जाति के रहे हैं, उनको भी यह सुविधा देने का प्रावधान है। यह सिख धर्मावलम्बियों के लिए भी है। परन्तु अगर अनुसूचित जाति का कोई व्यक्ति इस्लाम धर्म स्वीकार करता है या ईसाई धर्म स्वीकार करता है, तो उसके लिए अभी नियम में कोई गुंजाइश नहीं है। एक बार नहीं, इस पर अनेक बार चर्चा हुई है, देश की आजादी से पहले भी हुई है और आजादी के बाद 1948 में भी हुई है, 1952 में भी हुई है और 1956 में भी हुई है। निर्णय करने वालों ने इस सम्बन्ध में यह निष्कर्ष निकाला कि धर्म परिवर्तन के बाद उनके साथ सामाजिक और आर्थिक दृष्टि से जो अंतर दिखाई देता था, वह नहीं रहता है, क्योंकि अनुसूचित जाति हिन्दू धर्मावलम्बी होने के कारण छुआछूत की परिधि में माना जाता था। आज उसमें काफी अंतर आ गया है, सुधार आ गया है। उन्होंने जो माँग की है, वह आज न्यायसंगत और कानूनसंगत नहीं है। इसके साथ ही यह मामला सुप्रीम कोर्ट में भी विचाराधीन है। वहाँ इस सम्बन्ध में अनेक याचिकाएँ दायर हुई हैं। उन याचिकाओं पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट विचार-विमर्श कर रहा है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट का निर्णय आने के बाद सरकार उस निर्णय को देख कर आगे इस पर विचार कर सकती है। आज तो मेरे ख्याल से इस विषय में इतना ही कहना न्यायसंगत होगा।

**श्री ऑस्कर फर्नांडिस (कर्णाटक) :** आपको सरकार का यह सुझाव सुप्रीम कोर्ट में फाइल करना चाहिए।

**श्री हुसैन दलवाई :** सर, मैं मंत्री महोदय को सूचित करना चाहता हूँ कि जो मुस्लिम आदिवासी



4.00 P.M.

हैं, उनको रिजर्वेशन दिया गया है। यह बात मैं कितना भी बोलूँ, यह कहा जाता है कि सभी मुसलमान समान हैं, लेकिन निज़ाम और हज्जाम मस्जिद में नमाज तो इकट्ठे पढ़ते हैं, यह सही है, लेकिन मस्जिद से बाहर आने के बाद निज़ाम अलग है और हज्जाम अलग है। यह भी ध्यान में रखना चाहिए। मजहब बदला, लेकिन आप देखेंगे कि मुसलमानों में जाति व्यवस्था बराबर बरकरार है। आज भी सैय्यद अपनी बेटी अंसारी के घर नहीं देता। जाति व्यवस्था के बारे में जो बातें कही गई हैं कि यह हिन्दू समाज में है, वह मुसलमानों में भी जारी है। ऐसे कितने लोग हैं? ये बहुत कम लोग हैं। आज भी शौचालय साफ करने वाला जो मुसलमान है, वह शौचालय ही साफ करता रहता है, लेकिन उसको इसका फायदा नहीं मिलता है।

मेरे खयाल से मजहब के नाम पर इस तरह से फर्क करना गलत बात है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... एक मिनट, एक मिनट। जब मंडल कमिशन आया था, उस समय जो पिछड़ी मुस्लिम जातियां हैं, उनको हक दिए जाने के बारे में बयान आया था। जो मंडल कमिशन में आने वाली जातियां हैं, मैं खुद भी उनमें आता हूँ, उस समय मैंने उनकी एक मीटिंग बुलाई। मुंडे साहब मेरे अच्छे दोस्त थे, तो मुंडे साहब और बीजेपी के एक अन्य नेता ने मुझे फोन करके कहा कि आप यह क्या बोल रहे हैं, लेकिन मैंने उन्हें जाकर समझाया कि यह इस प्रकार की बात है। उसके बाद मंडल कमिशन के इम्प्लिमेंटेशन में, जो मुस्लिम जातियां हैं, उनको भी लिया गया और बीजेपी के लोगों ने इसका विरोध नहीं किया, इसलिए कहीं न कहीं इस पर विचार होना चाहिए। आज अगर आप इस काम को करेंगे, तो मैं इसका बड़ा स्वागत करूंगा।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay; now Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad.  
...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, only one small clarification. माननीय मंत्री जी, विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद जी के संशोधन प्रस्ताव पर, आरजीआई का हवाला देकर माननीय मंत्री जी बड़ी असमर्थता जाहिर कर रहे हैं। एक बार पहले भी इस सदन में इस विषय पर बहस हो चुकी है और आज भी कुछ वक्ताओं ने इस पर अपनी बात रखी है। मोटे तौर पर किसी ने भी इनके प्रस्ताव से, इनके संशोधन से असहमति अभिव्यक्त नहीं की है, लेकिन आप इसमें अपनी मजबूरी जाहिर कर रहे हैं। मैं बहुत छोटी-छोटी दो बातें कहना चाहता हूँ। हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश में एक मुख्य मंत्री जी थे, इत्तिफाक से वे भी आप ही की पार्टी के थे। उनकी जाति की एक उप जाति, जो न ओबीसी में आती थी और न ही एससी में आती थी, उन्होंने मांग की कि कम से कम आप हमें ओबीसी में शामिल कर दीजिए। उन मुख्यमंत्री जी ने वायदा किया और दो-चार महीने के अन्दर ही वह जाति ओबीसी में शामिल हो गई। इसी तरीके से हमारे पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश में और दिल्ली के आसपास के इलाकों में एक जाति है, मैं उसका नाम नहीं लेना चाहता हूँ, वह बड़ी इन्फ्लुएण्शियल जाति है, लेकिन उसके लिए यह मांग हुई कि इसे ओबीसी में शामिल कर दिया जाए। इससे उन्हें कोई राजनैतिक फायदा था या नहीं था, वह बात अलग है, लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि आज वह जाति ओबीसी में शामिल हो चुकी है।

हम यहां सिर्फ इन जातियों को और उनकी उप जातियों को परिभाषित करने की बात कर रहे हैं, तो आप यह बताएं कि यह कैसे संभव है कि मल्लाह अगर यमुना के इस पार का है, तो वह

[Shri Javed Ali Khan]

अनुसूचित है, लेकिन अगर मल्लाह यमुना के उस पार है, तो वह अनुसूचित नहीं रह सकता? यह कोई बात नहीं है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ, आरजीआई इतनी पावरफुल है कि सदन के अन्दर राजनैतिक दलों की जो सहमति बनकर आ रही है, क्या उसे भी वह ओवररूल कर देगी? तब तो आरजीआई महान है और मंत्रालय कुछ नहीं है, संसद कुछ नहीं है।

मंत्री जी, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस विषय को आप इच्छाशक्ति के हिसाब से लीजिए और जिन जातियों का स्तर अनुसूचित जाति के बराबर है, उन्हें अनुसूचित जातियों में शामिल कीजिए, धन्यवाद।

**श्री रामदास अठावले (महाराष्ट्र) :** सर, महाराष्ट्र में जो लोग शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट से बुद्धिस्ट बन गए हैं, उनके सामने यह प्रॉब्लम आ गई कि कॉलम भरते वक्त उन्हें यह कहा गया कि आपने तो बौद्ध लिखा है, इसलिए अब वे जनरल में माने जाते हैं। महाराष्ट्र में कम से कम 4% लोग इस तरह से जनरल कैटेगरी में चले गए हैं, वे न तो एससी/एसटी में आते हैं और न ही ओबीसी में आते हैं। जब वी.पी. सिंह जी प्राइम मिनिस्टर थे, उस समय महाराष्ट्र में जो लोग शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट से बुद्धिस्ट बने थे, उनको शिक्षा और नौकरियों में रिजर्वेशन देने का प्रस्ताव पारित किया गया था, इसलिए महाराष्ट्र में जो लोग भी शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट से बुद्धिस्ट बने हैं, उन्हें यह लिखना पड़ता है कि पहले वे हिन्दू महार थे। यह लिखने के बाद ही उनको रिजर्वेशन की सुविधा मिलती है। मुझे लगता है कि अपनी वर्तमान जाति लिखने के बाद उन्हें अलग से रिजर्वेशन मिलना चाहिए।

मंत्री महोदय, इसके लिए आप कुछ प्रावधान कीजिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, do you want to react?

**श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत:** मैं सदन को अवगत कराना चाहूंगा कि अनुसूचित जातियां आदेश 1950 में पारित हुआ था। उसके बाद इन जातियों में अनेक बार संशोधन हुए हैं। ऐसा नहीं है कि इनमें संशोधन नहीं हुए हैं, लेकिन जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि एक मुख्य मंत्री जी ने इसके लिए कहा था और चार महीने बाद वह जाति उसमें शामिल हो गई। मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगा कि हमारे पास अनेक राज्यों से प्रस्ताव आए और वे सहमत भी हुए, परन्तु आरजीआई और एससी कमिशन की सहमति के बाद ही वे बिल के रूप में सदन में आए और सदन ने उन पर सहमति दी। इसमें लम्बे समय से संशोधन की प्रक्रिया आती रही है, चलती रही है और संशोधन होते भी रहे हैं, परन्तु इन जातियों का, जिनका उल्लेख विशम्भर प्रसाद जी ने किया है, इस पर आरजीआई की सहमति नहीं है। चूँकि उसकी सहमति नहीं है, इसलिए हम इस पर आगे विचार नहीं कर पा रहे हैं, मैंने यह निवेदन किया।

दलवाई साहब ने कुछ बातें कही हैं। मैं विस्तार से बहुत सारी बातें कह सकता हूँ, परन्तु उन्होंने जो विषय उठाया है, वह आज सुप्रीम कोर्ट में विचाराधीन है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट में जो निर्णय होगा, उसके बाद हम देखेंगे।

माननीय ऑस्कर फर्नांडिस साहब ने निवेदन किया कि भारत सरकार की ओर से कोई affidavit वहाँ दिया गया है, तो जी हाँ, दिया गया है। भारत सरकार ने वर्तमान संवैधानिक प्रावधानों के दायरे में

और जो नियम, कायदे-कानून बने हैं, उनके दायरे में यह दिया है कि "धर्मातरित व्यक्ति, चाहे फिर वह ईसाई बन गया हो या इस्लाम धर्म स्वीकार कर लिया हो, वर्तमान कानून में एससी का दर्जा प्राप्त करने के लिए अधिकृत नहीं है।" बस इतना हमने दिया है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट जो निर्णय देगा, उसको आगे हम देखेंगे।

विशम्भर प्रसाद जी, मेरा निवेदन है, अनुरोध है कि आप अपने विधेयक को वापस ले लें, धन्यवाद।

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद:** माननीय उपसभापति जी, मैं इसमें स्पष्टीकरण चाहता हूँ। महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह बात पहले भी पिछले सदन में कही थी। मैं पूरे सदन को बताना चाहता हूँ कि...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nishad, it is your reply; no more clarification. You are the mover; it is your reply. Now, the Minister's clarification is over; no more clarification. You are the mover, and you are replying. You reply and say whether you want to press it or whether you want to withdraw the Bill. That is all.

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद:** सर, मैं उसी में थोड़ा सा बताना चाहता हूँ।

**श्री उपसभापति:** अभी मिनिस्टर ने तीन बार क्लेरिफिकेशन दिया। अब और कोई क्लेरिफिकेशन नहीं होगा।

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद:** माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी के उत्तर से संतुष्ट नहीं हूँ। जब देश आज़ाद हुआ, तो आज़ादी के पहले से हमारे फिशरमेन का शानदार इतिहास रहा है। कानपुर के शक्तिचौरा में 11 लोगों ने अंग्रेजों को गंगा नदी में डुबोकर मारने का काम किया था और आज़ादी की लड़ाई में भाग लिया था। 1857 में तिलका मांझी से लेकर आगे भी उनका पूरे देश में इतिहास रहा है।

मान्यवर, अब पुल बन गये, सड़कें बन गयीं और उनका सारा व्यापार खत्म हो गया। अब हमारे फिशरमेन की जो उप जातियाँ हैं, केवल उनकी विसंगतियाँ हैं। कहीं वह अनुसूचित जाति में है तो कहीं अनुसूचित जनजाति में है।

उत्तर प्रदेश में जो मझवार है, उसको एक भी सर्टिफिकेट जारी नहीं हो रहा है। वह इसलिए जारी नहीं हो रहा है, क्योंकि उसे कह देते हैं कि तुम मल्लाह हो और दिल्ली में जो मल्लाह है, उससे कह देते हैं कि तुम धीवर हो, कहार हो, तुम निषाद हो, इसलिए तुमको मल्लाह का सर्टिफिकेट नहीं मिलेगा। इसीलिए मैंने यह बिल पेश किया था।

हमारे आनंद भास्कर साहब ने, तिरुची शिवा साहब ने, हुसैन दलवाई जी ने और जावेद भाई तथा अन्य माननीय सदस्यों ने मेरे इस बिल का समर्थन किया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि 1971 में भइया राम मुंडा बनाम अनिरुद्ध पटार नामक एक प्रकरण में सुप्रीम कोर्ट का जजमेंट आया था। मान्यवर, हमारे समाज में न तो कोई आई.ए.एस. है, न पी.सी.एस. है और समाज न ज्यादा पढ़ा-लिखा है, तो उस समय कोई संशोधन नहीं ला पाये थे। उस समय हमारा कोई एमपी

[श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद]

नहीं था, कोई एमएलए नहीं था और कोई अधिकारी नहीं था। बहुत सी तमाम जातियाँ थीं। मैं उदाहरण के तौर पर बताना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश में चमार के साथ धुसिया जाटव को जोड़ने वाली बात हुई, एक जाति के साथ सब जातियाँ जुड़ गई, लेकिन हमारे लोग रह गये, क्योंकि हमारे लोग पढ़े-लिखे नहीं थे, जानकार नहीं थे। माननीय मुलायम सिंह यादव जी ने हम लोगों को यहाँ भेजा है। मैं आज राज्य सभा में हूँ, तो इसलिए अपनी जातियों की वकालत कर रहा हूँ और यहाँ यह बिल लाया हूँ।

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आप इनकी भावनार्यें समझिए। उत्तर प्रदेश में आपकी जो अनुसूचित जाति/जनजाति शोध संस्थान नामक एजेंसी है, वह इसकी संस्तुति भेज रही है। आरजीआई में कुछ लोग बैठे हैं। मैं आरोप नहीं लगाना चाहता हूँ। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि वे लोग चाहते हैं कि दूसरे लोग इसमें न आ पायें, जबकि उनकी सामाजिक, आर्थिक स्थिति ऊपर उठ गयी है। वे आई.ए.एस. अधिकारी हैं। वे सामाजिक, राजनीतिक और शैक्षिक स्तर में आगे बढ़ गये हैं। वहीं अगर हमारे लोगों की शैक्षिक स्थिति देखी जाये, तो हमारे 50 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा लोग अभी भी अशिक्षित हैं, पढ़े-लिखे नहीं हैं। संविधान में व्यवस्था है कि सामाजिक, आर्थिक और शैक्षिक स्तर को देख कर 10-10 साल में संशोधन होगा। यह सदन इसीलिए है कि इसमें हमेशा रिव्यू होगा और जो सामाजिक, आर्थिक और शैक्षिक आधार पर पिछड़े हैं, उनको अनुसूचित जाति में या अनुसूचित जनजाति में सम्मिलित किया जायेगा। जैसे हिन्दू से जो मुस्लिम में कन्वर्ट हुए थे, जैसा दलवाई साहब ने भी बताया, आज जो स्वीपर का काम कर रहे हैं, धोबी का काम कर रहे हैं, आज उनको अनुसूचित जाति की सुविधा नहीं है। यह उनको भी मिलनी चाहिए। जैसे गुजरात में कोरी जाति बैकवर्ड में है, उत्तर प्रदेश में अनुसूचित जाति में है और मध्य प्रदेश में धोबी है। आपने कुछ जिलों में प्रजापति के बारे में बताया कि ये मध्य प्रदेश में एससी में है, जबकि कुछ जगहों में बैकवर्ड में है। माननीय मंत्री जी, आप ये सारी विसंगतियाँ दूर कराइये, जिससे सभी को न्याय मिल सके। मैं यही निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ माननीय उपसभापति जी से कि हमारा बिल पास कराया जाए। मैं अपना बिल वापस नहीं लेता हूँ।

**श्री उपसभापति :** आप विद्वद्धों कीजिए।

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद :** अगर मंत्री जी कह दें कि हम इसको करा देंगे तो हम वापस ले लेते हैं। इसमें क्या दिक्कत है?

**श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत :** उपसभापति जी, मैंने पहले भी निवेदन किया था...(व्यवधान)

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद :** आर.जी.आई. में कुछ अधिकारी ऐसे बैठे हैं, वे नहीं चाहते हैं। बार-बार वे पुराना हवाला दे देते हैं कि यह 2002 में खारिज किया, इसलिए अब भी असहमत हैं।

**श्री उपसभापति :** कुछ एश्योरेंस दे सकते हो?

**श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत :** माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैंने पहले भी निवेदन किया था कि मैं उनकी भावना से सहमत हूँ परन्तु जो संवैधानिक प्रावधान और कानूनी प्रक्रिया है, उस दायरे में वह नहीं आ रहा है। जहाँ तक आर.जी.आई. का सवाल है, इसी आर.जी.आई. की सहमति से पिछले 50 सालों में बहुत सारे संशोधन हुए हैं। अब एक बार उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने इसको वापस ले लिया था

इसलिए आर0जी0आई0 दूसरी बार सहमति देने के लिए तैयार नहीं है। ऐसी स्थिति में भविष्य में जब भी कोई ऐसा विषय आएगा, तो हम माननीय सदस्य की भावनाओं का सम्मान करेंगे, लेकिन आज की तारीख में तो सहमति देना संभव नहीं है।

**अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी) :** माननीय मंत्री जी ने आपकी भावनाओं का सम्मान करने की बात की है, आप इसको विदड़ों कर लें।

**श्री उपसभापति :** अगर कोई पॉसिबिलिटी हो तो आप देखिएगा।

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद :** महोदय, मंत्री जी यह हवाला दे रहे हैं कि उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने इसको वापस ले लिया था। उस समय बसपा सरकार थी। 6 जून, 2007 को उन्होंने वापस ले लिया था। राजनीतिक कारणों से वापस ले लिया था। तो उनको इसका खामियाजा भुगतना पड़ा, उनकी सरकार चली गई। अगर आप नहीं करेंगे तो आपको भी खामियाजा भुगतना पड़ेगा। इसलिए निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आप 2014 के लोक सभा चुनावों में यह कह कर आए थे, उत्तर प्रदेश में पूरा समर्थन आपको मिला है, इसलिए आपसे निवेदन करना चाहते हैं कि हमारे बिल को पास किया जाए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, are you withdrawing?

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद :** नहीं-नहीं, हम विदड़ों नहीं करेंगे।

**श्री उपसभापति :** नहीं करते?

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद :** नहीं-नहीं, हम विदड़ों नहीं करेंगे।

**श्री उपसभापति :** विदड़ों नहीं करेंगे?

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद :** हम विदड़ों नहीं करेंगे।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, I will have to put it for vote.  
...(Interruptions)...

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी :** माननीय निषाद जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने बहुत स्पष्ट तरीके से आपको आश्वस्त किया है कि जो भी संवैधानिक दायरे में नियमों के दायरे में होगा - वे आपकी भावनाओं से भी सहमत हैं और उसके बारे में उन्होंने बहुत कहा है कि जो भी संवैधानिक दायरे में होगा, हम जरूर करेंगे। अब इसके बाद मुझे लगता है कि इसको प्रेस करना, इस पर चर्चा करना ठीक नहीं है क्योंकि और भी कई माननीय सदस्यों के बिल अभी हैं, उन पर चर्चा होनी है। अब मुझे लगता है तथा मेरा अनुरोध है कि इसको विदड़ों कर लीजिए।

**श्री उपसभापति :** निषाद जी, मंत्री जी ने बोला कि अगर कोई पॉसिबिलिटी होगी तो वह करेंगे, लेकिन उन्होंने बताया है कि डिफिकल्टी क्या है। He has explained the difficulty.

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद :** मान्यवर, पिछली बार भी यही आश्वासन आया था, इस बार माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने स्पष्ट कर दिया। हमें सरकार से उम्मीद नहीं है। इसलिए हम इसको प्रेस करते हैं और इस पर आप मतदान कराइए। कोई दिक्कत नहीं है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing?

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: No; no.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not withdrawing?

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद** : सर, हम वापस नहीं ले रहे हैं।

**श्री उपसभापति** : आप विदग्ध कर लें।

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Sorry. Not withdrawing ...(व्यवधान)  
आप मतदान करा लीजिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If he is not withdrawing, I will have to put it to the decision of the House. That is the only way. ...(Interruptions)...

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद** : मैं अपने बिल पर बल देता हूँ।

**श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत** : महोदय, मैं एक बार और उनसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि मैंने उनकी भावनाओं से सहमति व्यक्त की है, प्रारम्भ से की है। मैं चाहता भी हूँ कि ये जो प्रस्ताव, विधेयक यहां पर लाए हैं, उस पर सहानुभूतिपूर्वक विचार किया जाए, परन्तु नियम, कायदे, कानून और संवैधानिक प्रावधान के दायरे में आज वह करने की स्थिति में हम नहीं हैं, इसलिए हम कह रहे हैं कि भविष्य में जब भी ऐसी स्थिति बनेगी, हम निश्चित रूप से उनके सुझावों को ध्यान में रखेंगे। मैं निवेदन करता हूँ कि आप इसको विदग्ध कर लें।

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद** : आप मतदान कराइए।

**श्री उपसभापति** : क्या फायदा?

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: No, Sir; I am not withdrawing.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, it is a Constitutional amendment.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. So, I will have to put it for vote.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, quorum is not there.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: There is no quorum, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no quorum. That is the finding now. Okay, there is no quorum. ...(Interruptions)..

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, adjourn the House.

SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Sir, it is a Constitutional amendment.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will make a decision on that. I am taking a decision

on that. Let me formally get the quorum slip. I am not to count and take a decision. Let me see. It is coming.

Now, since it is raised in the House that there is no quorum and it has been confirmed that there is no quorum, I am adjourning the House for the day to meet on Monday at 11.00 a.m., that is, on 7th December, 2015, at 11.00 a.m.

*The House then adjourned at nineteen minutes past  
four of the clock till eleven of the clock on  
Monday, the 7th December, 2015.*