

Vol. 237

No. 12



सत्यमेव जयते

Friday

11 December, 2015

20 Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

**RAJYA SABHA**

OFFICIAL REPORT

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[P.T.O.]

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PUBLISHED UNDER RULE 260 OF RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS  
IN THE COUNCIL OF STATES (RAJYA SABHA) AND PRINTED BY PRINTOGRAPH,  
KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005

## **RAJYA SABHA**

*Friday, the 11th December, 2015/20th Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)*

*The House met at eleven of the clock,*

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

### **REFERENCE BY THE CHAIR**

#### **Fourteenth anniversary of the terrorist attack on Parliament**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, 13th of December, 2015 marks the Fourteenth Anniversary of the dastardly attack on the Parliament House by terrorists.

On this occasion, we recall the supreme sacrifice of our security personnel, including two from the Parliament Security Service, five from the Delhi Police and a lady constable of the Central Reserve Police Force, who laid down their lives while preventing the entry of the terrorists inside the Parliament House building. A gardener of the C.P.W.D. and a cameraperson of the ANI were also amongst those who lost their lives in the attack.

The House joins me in paying homage to these persons and in condemning this incident in unequivocal terms. We also reiterate our firm resolve to fight terrorism with determination and re-dedicate ourselves to protect the sovereignty and integrity of our nation.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of those who lost their lives in that tragedy.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table. Shri Sadanada Gowda. ...*(Interruptions)*... ज़रा एक मिनट ठहर जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... एक मिनट ठहर जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

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(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*)

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

#### **Annual Statement on Pending Law Commission Reports**

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Eleventh Annual Statement on Pending Law Commission Reports (December, 2015).

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 4079/16/15]

...*(Interruptions)*...

- I. Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**
- II. Report and Accounts (2014-15) of the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), New Delhi and related papers**

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

- I. (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) Notification No. EP.36 (1)/2004, dated the 29th May, 2015, publishing the Food Corporation of India (Staff) (2nd Amendment) Regulations, 2015, under sub-section (5) of Section 45 of the Food Corporations Act, 1964.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3119/16/15]

- (ii) 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 (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:-

- (1) No. 1(7)/2015-S.P.-I, dated the 18th August, 2015, amending Notification No. 1(5)/2015-S.P.-I, dated the 23rd June, 2015 to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (2) G.S.R. 752 (E), dated the 1st October, 2015, regarding Fixation of Remunerative Price of sugarcane for the sugar year 2014-15 ending with the 30th September, 2015.
- (3) G.S.R. 753 (E), dated the 1st October, 2015, publishing the Provisional Sugar (Price Determination for 2011-2012 Production) Amendment Order, 2015.
- (4) G.S.R. 754 (E), dated the 1st October, 2015, publishing the Sugar (Price Determination for 2009-2010 Production) Amendment Order, 2015.
- (5) No. 1(7)/2015-S.P.-I, dated the 5th October, 2015, amending Notification No. 1(5)/2015-S.P.-I, dated the 23rd June, 2015 to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3528/16/15]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (11) of Section 31 of the Warehousing Corporation Act, 1962: –

- (a) Fifty-eighth Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), 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 Corporation.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3525/16/15]

...(Interruptions)...

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

**II. Report(2014-15)oftheSemiconductorIntegratedCircuitLayoutDesignRegistry (SICLDR), New Delhi and related papers**

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 Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, I lay  
on the Table—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications), under Section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:—

- (1) No.308-1/2015-QoS, dated the 7th August, 2015, publishing the Telecom Consumers Protection (Eighth Amendment) Regulations, 2015.
- (2) No.301-23/2015-F&EA, dated the 16th October, 2015, publishing the Telecom Consumers Protection (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2015.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3291/16/15]

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

- (a) Annual Report of the Semiconductor Integrated Circuit Layout Design Registry (SICLDR), New Delhi, for the year 2014-15.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Organisation.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3290/16/15]

...(Interruptions)...

**Report and Accounts (2013-14, 2014-15) of various Corporations, Committee, Councils, Associations, Board, Institute, School and Society and related papers and MoU between GoI and Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd.**

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

- I.(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) (b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-
- (i) (a) Forty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the National Textile Corporation Limited (NTC), 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. 3690/16/15]
- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited (CCIC), 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. 3332/16/15]
- (iii) (a) Ninety-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the British India Corporation Limited (BIC), Kanpur, for the year 2013-14, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) (iii) above.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3629/16/15]
- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 41 of the Textiles Committee Act, 1963:-
- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Textiles Committee, Mumbai, for the year 2014-15, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Committee.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3347/16/15]



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

- (i) (a) Sixty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL), Mumbai, 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. 3343/16/15]
- (ii) (a) Sixty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC), Mumbai, 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. 3344/16/15]
- (iii) (a) Fiftieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Wool Research Association (WRA), Thane, Maharashtra, 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. 3337/16/15]
- (iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Wool Development Board (CWDB), Jodhpur, Rajasthan for the year 2014-15, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.  
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3338/16/15]
- (v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Wool Industry Export Promotion Council (WOOLTEXPRO), Mumbai, 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. 3339/16/15]
- (vi) (a) Fiftieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council (W&WEPC), 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. 3340/16/15]

- (vii) (a) Twenty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), 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 Institute.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3349/16/15]
- (viii) (a) Twentieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL), Mumbai, 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. 3346/16/15]
- (ix) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International School of Textiles and Management (SVPISTM), Coimbatore, for the year 2014-15, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above School.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3345/16/15]
- (x) (a) Forty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC), Chennai, 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. 3331/16/15]
- (xi) (a) Sixtieth Annual Report and Accounts of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited, NOIDA, 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 Society.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3341/16/15]
- (xii) (a) Thirty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Man-Made Textiles Research Association (MANTRA), Surat, for the year 2014-15, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by the Government on the working of the above Association.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3335/16/15]
- (xiii) (a) Sixty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Synthetic and Art Silk

Mills' Research Association (SASMIRA), Mumbai, 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. 3336/16/15]

- (xiv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Textiles) and the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, for the year 2015-16. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3350/16/15]

...(Interruptions)...

**I. Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**

**II. Report and Accounts (2014-15) of the KCDC, Mangalore; Manage, Hyderabad and NAFSCOB, Navi Mumbai and related papers**

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मोहनभाई कल्याणजीभाई कुंदरिया) : महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ :-

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare), under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:-

- (1) S.O. 2510 (E), dated the 17th September, 2015, publishing the Fertilizer (Control) Third Amendment Order, 2015.
- (2) S.O. 2776 (E), dated the 10th October, 2015, publishing the Fertilizer (Control) Fourth Amendment Order, 2015.
- (3) S.O. 2777 (E), dated the 10th October, 2015, notifying certain specifications in respect of provisional fertilizer, Zinc Poly Phosphate to be manufactured in India for a period of two years from the date of publication of the notification.
- (4) S.O. 2778 (E), dated the 10th October, 2015, notifying specifications in respect of certain customized fertilizers for a period of four years from the date of publication of the notification.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3539/16/15]

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

(a) Thirty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited (KCDC), Mangalore, 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. 3533/16/15]

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

(i) (a) Annual Report of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, for the year 2014-15.

(b) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, for the year 2014-15, and the Audit Report thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3535/16/15]

(ii) (a) Fifty-second Annual Report of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited (NAFSCOB), Navi Mumbai, for the year 2014-15.

(b) Annual Accounts of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited (NAFSCOB), Navi Mumbai, 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. 3537/16/15]

...(Interruptions)...

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

**II. Report and Accounts (2012-13 and 2014-15) of BCPL, Guwahati and NIPER, Ahmedabad and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers) Notification No. S.O. 2701 (E), dated the 6th October, 2015, regarding Order indicating the selling and quantity of supplies

of fertilizer (urea) (under ECA) to be made by domestic manufactures of urea, to States and Union Territories during Kharif, 2015, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3547/16/15]

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

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL), Guwahati, Assam, 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 Company.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3542/16/15]

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

- (i) (a) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Ahmedabad, for the year 2012-13, and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of Section 23 of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Act, 1998.

- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the paper mentioned at (i) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3541/16/15]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), Chennai, 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. 3545/16/15]

...(Interruptions)...

**I. Notifications of the Ministry of Railways**

**II. Report and Accounts (2014-15) of CONCOR, New Delhi; BCL, Kolkata; HMRDC, Bangalore and RSPB, New Delhi and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): Sir, I lay on the Table—

- I. (1) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Railways Notification No. G.S.R. 711 (E), dated the 17th September, 2015, publishing the Railway Claims Tribunal (Procedure) Amendment Rules, 2015, under sub-section (3) of Section 30 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3591/16/15]

- (2) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Railways Notification No. G.S.R. 836 (E), dated the 4th November, 2015, publishing the Railway Passengers (Cancellation of Ticket and Refund of Fare) Rules, 2015, under Section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3363/16/15]

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

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), 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. 3362/16/15]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Braithwaite and Company Limited (BCL), Kolkata, 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 Company.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3587/16/15]

- (iii) (a) Twelfth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hassan Bangalore Rail Development Company Limited (HMRDC), Bangalore, Karnataka, 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 Company

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3361/16/15]

(2) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:-

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB), 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 Board.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3360/16/15]

...(Interruptions)...

**I. Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**

**II. Report and Accounts (2012-13 and 2014-15) of NSC, New Delhi; PPV&FR, New Delhi and Central Agricultural University, Imphal and related papers**

**III. Statement giving reasons for not laying the Report and Accounts**

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. संजीव कुमार बालियान): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ :-

I. (1) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare) Notification No. S.O. 2496 (E), dated the 15th September, 2015, publishing the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Second Amendment) Order, 2015, under sub-section (2) of Section 4D of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3277/16/15]

(2) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare) Notification No. G.S.R. 840 (E), dated the 5th November, 2015, publishing the Insecticides (Amendment) Rules, 2015, under sub-section (3) of Section 36 of the Insecticides Act, 1968.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3567/16/15]

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

(a) Fifty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the National Seeds Corporation Limited (NSC), 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. 3565/16/15]
- (2) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 85 and sub-section (4) of Section 62 of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right Act, 2001:—
  - (a) Annual Report of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FR), New Delhi, for the year 2014-15.
  - (b) Annual Accounts of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FR), New Delhi, for the year 2014-15, and the Audit Report thereon.
  - (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Authority.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3566/16/15]
- (3) (I) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 29 and sub-section (4) of Section 30 of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992:—
  - (a) Annual Report of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, for the year 2012-13.
  - (b) Annual Accounts of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, for the year 2012-13, and the Audit Report thereon.
  - (c) Review by Government on the working of the above University.
  - (d) Review by Government of the Annual Accounts of the above University.
- (ii) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (II) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3276/16/15]
- III. Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation (GSSC) Limited, for the year 2014-15, within the stipulated period.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3568/16/15]

...(Interruptions)...

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**MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA****The Industries (Development and Regulation) Amendment 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 Industries (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2015, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th December, 2015."

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

...(Interruptions)...

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**PETITION PRAYING FOR CREATING AWARENESS REGARDING ABUSE AND ASSAULT THROUGH NON-RESIDENT INDIAN (NRI) MARRIAGES**

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Punjab): Sir, I present to the House, a petition signed by Ms. Sulagna Chattopadhyay, a resident of New Delhi, praying for creating awareness regarding abuse and assault through Non-Resident Indian (NRI) marriages.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Report of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy. Shri Pyarimohan Mohapatra; not present. Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu ... (Interruptions) ... Go and present the Report. ... (Interruptions) ... (Interruptions) ... That is your duty. ... (Interruptions) ... That is your duty; you have to do that. ... (Interruptions) ... Now Statements by Ministers. ... (Interruptions) ...

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**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS****Status of implementation of recommendations Contained in the Seventy-fourth Report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance**

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): On behalf of my colleague, Shri Arun Jaitley, Sir, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Seventy-fourth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance on "Economic impact of revision of Natural Gas price" pertaining to the Ministry of Finance.

... (Interruptions) ...

**Status of implementation of recommendations Contained in the Fifth Report  
of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee  
on Information Technology**

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): On behalf of my colleague, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Sir, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2015-16) pertaining to the Department of Posts.

... (*Interruptions*) ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't howl. ... (*Interruptions*)... Please don't howl. ... (*Interruptions*)... Howling is not human nature. ... (*Interruptions*)...

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): On behalf of my colleague, Sir, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fifteenth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture on the Action Taken by the Government on the Second Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2014-15) pertaining to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

... (*Interruptions*)...

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**STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री; तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी) : महोदय, मैं आपकी अनुमति से यह सूचित करता हूँ कि सोमवार, 14 दिसंबर, 2015 से आरंभ होने वाले सप्ताह के दौरान निम्नलिखित सरकारी कार्य लिए जाएंगे :-

1. आज की कार्यसूची से बकाया सरकारी कार्य की किसी मद पर विचार।

2. लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए गए रूप में निम्नलिखित विधेयकों पर विचार और पारित करना:-

(क) विमानवहन (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2015;

(ख) भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो विधेयक, 2015;

(ग) उच्च न्यायालय और उच्चतम न्यायालय न्यायाधीश (वेतन और सेवा शर्त) संशोधन विधेयक, 2015 और,

(घ) भारतीय न्यास (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2015

3. वाणिज्यिक न्यायालय, उच्च न्यायालय वाणिज्यिक प्रभाग और वाणिज्यिक अपील प्रभाग अध्यादेश, 2015 (2015 का संख्या 8) का निरनुमोदन चाहने वाले सांविधिक संकल्प पर चर्चा और लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए जाने के पश्चात वाणिज्यिक न्यायालय, उच्च न्यायालय वाणिज्यिक प्रभाग और वाणिज्यिक अपील प्रभाग विधेयक, 2015 पर विचार और पारित करना।

4. माध्यस्थ और सुलह (संशोधन) अध्यादेश, 2015 (2015 का संख्या 9) का निरनुमोदन चाहने वाले सांविधिक संकल्प पर चर्चा और लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए जाने के पश्चात माध्यस्थ और सुलह (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2015 पर विचार और पारित करना।

5. निम्नलिखित विधेयकों पर विचार और पारित करना :-

(क) बाल श्रम (प्रतिषेध और विनियमन) संशोधन विधेयक, 2012

(ख) यान-हरण निवारण विधेयक, 2014

6. राज्य सभा की प्रवर समिति द्वारा यथा प्रतिवेदित भू-संपदा (विनियमन और विकास) विधेयक, 2013 पर विचार और पारित करना।

7. राज्य सभा की प्रवर समिति द्वारा यथा प्रतिवेदित और लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए गए रूप में संविधान (एक सौ बाईसवां संशोधन) विधेयक, 2014 पर आगे विचार और पारित करना।

8. लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए जाने के पश्चात निम्नलिखित मांगों से संबंधित विनियोग विधेयकों पर विचार और लौटाना :-

(क) वर्ष 2015-16 के लिए अनुदानों की अनुपूरक मांगें (सामान्य)(दूसरा भाग)

(ख) वर्ष 2012-13 के लिए अनुदानों की अतिरिक्त मांगें (सामान्य)

... (Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, motion for reference of the Bill to a Select Committee. ... (Interruptions) .. The Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2013, Dr. Jitendra Singh to move the motion. ... (Interruptions) ...

**GOVERNMENT BILL****Motion for Reference of the Bill [The Prevention of Corruption  
(Amendment) Bill, 2013] to a Select Committee**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC  
GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): Sir, I beg to move:-

That the Bill further to amend the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, be referred to  
a Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha consisting of the following Members:-

1. Shri Anil Madhav Dave
2. Dr. Chandan Mitra
3. Shri Bhupender Yadav
4. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar
5. Shri Shantaram Naik
6. Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita
7. Shri Naresh Agrawal
8. Shri K.C. Tyagi
9. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy
10. Shri A. Navaneethakrishnan
11. Shri Satish Chandra Misra
12. Shri K. N. Balagopal
13. Shri Anubhav Mohanty
14. Shri Devender Goud T.
15. Shri Praful Patel
16. Shrimati Kanimozhi
17. Shri Sanjay Raut
18. Shri Naresh Gujral
19. Mir Mohammad Fayaz
20. Shri D. Raja

21. Shri Hishey Lachungpa
22. Shri Ramdas Athawale
23. Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar

with instructions to report to the Rajya Sabha by the last day of the first week of the next Session.

...(Interruptions)...

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you say 'no' from well, it has no value. ...(Interruptions)... Now, Zero Hour; Shri Vivek Gupta...(Interruptions)... Zero Hour...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir,...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not able to listen. ...(Interruptions)... What do you want to say? ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, in the List of Business today, that is, Friday, how come the Government has listed three Bills after the Private Members' Business? ...(Interruptions)... They have listed three Bills. ...(Interruptions)... Three Bills have been listed. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will explain. ...(Interruptions)... Private Members' Business will be over by 5.00 p.m. ...(Interruptions)... The House can sit up to 6.00 p.m. That is why it is so. ...(Interruptions)... The House can decide. There is nothing wrong in listing that because these Bills have to be taken up after 5.00 p.m. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: We all agree...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is okay. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Don't take up these Bills...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, I will call Special Mention notices. Those who want to lay can lay on the Table. ...(Interruptions)...

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**SPECIAL MENTIONS\***

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Special Mentions. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

**Demand to set up an enquiry into a case of blatant misuse of 'Protection' power  
by the Police causing harassment to a senior journalist in Delhi**

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, in the name of protection, police has been found harassing a senior journalist of an Urdu daily. This is not the first time. Many incidents of harassment of media-persons by police officials have come to light.

The blatant misuse of power by police officials, as seen in the case of Mr. Haque and many others, speaks loudly on the threat to the freedom of the Press to function in the country.

The following series of events need to be examined in the light of the incident: It was 1.00 a.m. in the night in the month of December. Mr. Haque, aged 81, who is the Chief Editor of an Urdu daily, is paid a visit by the Police Department without a written authority letter. The SHO at Shakarpur, Delhi, calls him and summons him to the Police Station ostensibly for his protection. On reaching the Police Station, he is treated disrespectfully. The incident, in plain first hearing, does not have any room for misinterpretation.

For a country, which boasts of its diversity and respect for views, opinions and a free Press, acts of harassment like these are a matter of shame and disrespect. I believe that this House will condemn the high-handed actions of the officer and seek the Government to not only make an inquiry but also keep a strict vigilance on any such incidents reported.

**Demand to take effective measures to open the closed tea  
gardens in West Bengal**

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, continuing closure of West Bengal tea gardens has created massacre in tea economy and the society. At present, out of 22 tea gardens, which are closed or abandoned, 16 belong to the Duncan Group. Sir, 35,000 regular workers were thrown towards hunger or destitution. Six gardens of Alchemist, though not formally closed, are heading towards that. Already, 270 workers or family members have died owing to starvation there being no wage payment, medical facility, etc., in the secluded captive tea-garden township. Death-toll is increasing every day. The State Government is denying the daily occurrence of starvation deaths. The Central Government has remained in inaction.

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\*Laid on the Table.

This matter was raised twice in Rajya Sabha, that is, on 9th July, 2014 and 5th August, 2014 with indications of more closures in the offing. On 30th September, 2014, hon. Minister of Commerce wrote while assuring corrective intervention in association with the State Government and through Tea Board. It was mentioned that the affected workers are being assisted through 'subsidized foodgrains, NREGS works, enhanced pension coverage and intensive health coverage'. But nothing actually happened and the number of closures or abandonments rose since then from six to twenty-two, thereby increasing the death-toll. The measures to give assistance which were mentioned have not virtually materialized. Practically, no governance exists there. Even in functional gardens, statutory benefits like PF, medical facility, etc., are being mostly denied.

As per section 16 of the Tea Act, 1953, in case tea gardens remain closed or abandoned for more than three months, the Central Government has a mandated responsibility to intervene along with State Government to restore operation and normalcy to save the livelihood of the captive population there. The Government must take immediate action for opening of the closed tea gardens in West Bengal.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Ambeth Rajan, not present; Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad, not present. Shri K.K. Ragesh.

**Demand to give special financial assistance to State of Kerala to assist rubber growers and constitute the Rubber Board**

SHRI K.K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, given the pathetic state of affairs prevailing in the rubber farming sector, I demand the Central Government to confer special assistance to the State of Kerala to save the rubber growers and hence protect the rubber cultivation itself.

The Centre must also take necessary steps to ban the import of natural rubber for the time being, considering the huge import being done from ASEAN countries which has, ultimately, led to unprecedented price fall of the natural rubber.

In 2008-09, the total import of natural rubber was 77,762 tonnes which has been increased into 4,42,130 tonnes in 2014-15. In 2012-13, our production was 9.13 lakh tonnes, and at that time, we were producing natural rubber so as to meet our domestic requirement. But the unrestricted import has resulted in the steep price crunch, ultimately leading to such an alarming situation that the farmers are compelled to abandon rubber plantation. Rubber tapping is not being done properly during the last few years, and it resulted in a steep fall of production too. In 2012-13, our production was 9.13 lakh tonnes and presently it has been declined to 6.45 lakh tonnes. A mere increase of 5 per cent import duty did not serve the purpose.

Kerala, which produces 90 per cent of the total natural production, is the real sufferer. Hence, I demand for providing assistance to the State and taking immediate steps to constitute the Rubber Board also.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri T.K. Rangarajan, not present; Shri Shantaram Naik, ...*(Interruptions)*... Smt. Kanak Lata Singh, not present; Shri Ahamed Hassan, not present; Dr. Sanjay Singh, no ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Palvai Govardhan Reddy, no; Dr. V. Maitreyan, not present; Shri C.M. Ramesh, not present; Shri Bhupinder Singh.

**Demand to address the problems being faced by farmers in Odisha**

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH (Odisha): Sir, as you are kindly aware, a large part of Odisha is experiencing severe drought due to erratic and scanty rainfall during the Khariff season, which has damaged the standing crops. Hon. Chief Minister of Odisha has already initiated a number of proactive measures to combat the drought situation. As against the decision of the Union Government to provide crop loans to the farming community at 7 per cent rate of interest, our Government has been providing interest subventions to the commercial and cooperative banks to bring down the rate of interest, which has been 2 per cent per annum after adjustment of the interest incentives made available by the Union Government. Keeping in view the prevalent drought situation, our Government has decided to further reduce the rate of interest on crop loans from the existing 5 per cent to 4 per cent through interest subvention by the State Government for small, marginal and medium farmers. This will ultimately reduce the effective rate of interest on crop loans from the existing 2 per cent to one per cent in the case of prompt paying farmers and disbursement of crop loans and crop insurance to the farmers. I would like to bring this to your kind notice and request Central Government's intervention and timely financial assistance for combating the drought situation prevalent in our State. I request the hon. Finance Minister to immediately address the problems of farmers of Odisha, which has been raised in this House time and again.

**Demand to restart publication of the Journal IJMS and resolve other issues pertaining to CSIR-NISCAIR**

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN (Kerala): Sir, the Indian Journal of Geo-Marine Sciences (IJMS) is a unique scientific journal published by CSIR-NISCAIR. It has not been published since May, 2014. In February, 2015, the Science and Technology Minister in the answer to my question informed that it would be published soon. The Director-General, CSIR, informed me in May, 2015 that soon it will come out. So many researchers in and out of India are not getting Ph.D. and job because the IJMS issues containing their paper have not come out. I urge the Government to publish the delayed issues of the IJMS immediately and hold an inquiry on non-publication of IJMS be made.



In February, 2015, I had raised the issue of discontinuance of the course on Data Systems and Climate Change Informatics started in January, 2014. The Ph.D. students who joined the course are not rehabilitated as assured by the Minister. Their fellowships are discontinued. I request sympathetic decision in their case. Climate change being very important now, I request the Government to review the decision and start the course again.

I had raised this issue of non-payment of certain bills of ICCCH organised by CSIR-NISCAIR, particularly those of Scientific Publishers and another firm. The Minister in his reply to Question No.402 on 26.02.2014 replied that all the bills except that of Vigyan Bhawan were settled. But Scientific Publishers have recently informed that their bills were not paid even now. I request the Government to take immediate steps to settle the outstanding bills of the ICCCH.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned up to 11.30 a.m.

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

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*The House reassembled at thirty minutes past eleven of the clock,*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair:*

**APPEAL TO STOP OVERCHARGING BY AIRLINE COMPANIES**

SHRI K.K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, I have to raise an important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, he has a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Ragesh, what do you want to say? ...*(Interruptions)*... What is your point? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Sir, I rise to appeal to the Government ...*(Interruptions)*... Loot of the airline companies ...*(Interruptions)*... Especially in the Gulf sector, the loot is being taking place. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, generally, the ticket fares are ranging from ₹ 9,000 to ₹ 11,000. But during the last Onam season, in Kozhikode-Riyadh sector, it was ₹ 73,000. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, for the last four days, I have been trying to raise this issue, and you permitted me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... As a Member of this House, my right is being curtailed. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please permit me to speak on this very important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... And it is not for the first time that this issue is being raised in this august House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, airline companies in our country are

...(Interruptions)... They are looting the poor passengers in our country, especially in the Gulf sector. ...(Interruptions)... If I read out the rates that were charged in the last Onam season ...(Interruptions)... Sir, for Kozhikode sector, Air India charged ₹ 73,000. ...(Interruptions)... I am not talking about the business class. It is economy class fare. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, okay. ...(Interruptions)... You can give a notice. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI K.K. RAGESH: I appeal to the Government to immediately set up a regulatory mechanism. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can give a notice for some discussion. ...(Interruptions)... Give notice for a discussion. ...(Interruptions)... What he has raised is an important point. ...(Interruptions)...

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): Yes, I agree with you, Sir. ...(Interruptions)... Every point raised here is a very important point. ...(Interruptions)... But, unfortunately, they are not ready to run the House. ...(Interruptions)... That is why ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Special Mentions. ...(Interruptions)... Shri Ambeth Rajan, no; Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad, no. ...(Interruptions)... Shri T.K. Rangarajan, no; Shri Shantaram Naik, no. ...(Interruptions)... Shrimati Kanak Lata Singh, no; Shri Ahamed Hassan, no; Dr. Sanjay Singh, no; Shri Palvai Govardhan Reddy; no. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, \* voices ...(Interruptions)... जैसे \* में आवाज़ें आती हैं, यहां भी वैसा ही किया जा रहा है।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. V. Maitreya, not there. ..(Interruptions)...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, they are shouting. ..(Interruptions).. जैसे \* में आवाज़ें आती हैं, यहां भी वैसा ही किया जा रहा है। ...(व्यवधान)... This is not Parliamentary. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, because some Members are shouting, which is very unfortunate, I am not able to run the House. Important Bills are pending.

...(Interruptions)... You are failing in performing your duty. ...(Interruptions)... I am adjourning the House upto 12.00 hours.

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

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*The House reassembled at twelve of the clock,*

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No.136. प्लीज, बस कीजिए। अब आपने बहुत कर लिया। बैठ जाइए। ...(व्यवधान)... क्वेश्चन ऑवर चलने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान) Please don't come. ...(Interruptions)... Please don't do this. ...(Interruptions)... Please allow the questions to be taken up. ...(Interruptions)... This is not correct. ...(Interruptions)... ऐसा मत कीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... मत कीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... ऐसा मत कीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सर, आपने बहुत कोशिश की और हमने भी बहुत कोशिश की कि सदन की कार्यवाही सुचारु रूप से चले। ...(व्यवधान)... आप विकास की बात ...(व्यवधान)... लेकिन हमें यह देखकर बहुत चिंता हो रही है और ...(व्यवधान)... तकलीफ हो रही है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't do that. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: आप देश का विकास चाहते हैं और आप यहां ऐसा करते हैं।...(व्यवधान)... मेरी आपसे अपील है, अनुरोध है कि सदन की कार्यवाही चलने दें। ...(व्यवधान)...हमें चिंता है ...(व्यवधान)... सर, देखिए, अब यह क्या नारा लगा रहे हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't do this. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: पता नहीं, इनके दिल को क्या हो गया है? ...(व्यवधान)... सर, आप व्यवस्था करें कि कोई बड़ा क्लियर ...(व्यवधान)... हो जाए, ताकि ...(व्यवधान)... सदन की कार्यवाही चले। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't do this. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Sir, the Question Hour is there but the Ministers are not here. ...(Interruptions)... Sir, the Question Hour is there but the Ministers are not here. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सर, वे ...(व्यवधान)... पासवान जी रिक्वेस्ट करके गए हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... सर, दूसरा क्वेश्चन ले लिया जाए।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 12.30 p.m.

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

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

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*.

\*136 [The questioner (SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA) was absent.]

**Distribution of imported pulses**

\*136. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to import pulses due to enormous rise in their prices, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the quantum of pulses imported so far and the quantum of shortage thereof;
- (c) how Government proposes to distribute the pulses imported from abroad; and
- (d) whether quality of imported pulses has been checked by Government, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) Yes, Sir. In order to augment domestic availability and moderate prices of pulses, Government decided to import pulses through Metals and Mineral Trading Corporation (MMTC) under the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) scheme of the Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. Tenders were called and based on the bids received 5000 MT of Tur were imported from Malawi.

(b) The details of total production, imports, total availability and estimated surplus/deficit of pulses over the last three years are as given below:

	(in million MT)		
Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Production	18.34	19.25	17.20
Imports	4.01	3.64	4.58
Exports	0.20	0.35	0.22
Total Availability	22.15	22.54	21.56
Demand	20.9	21.77	22.68
Estimated Surplus/Deficit	1.25	0.77	-1.12

Source:- DAC&FW, DGCIS & Niti Ayog

(c) The imports are primarily undertaken by private traders. However, for the Tur imported by the Government, requirements from States/UTs were sought. Based on the requests received, following quantities have been allocated to the States:

Sl.No.	States	Allocation (MT)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1969
2.	Tamil Nadu	1105
3.	Telangana	500
4.	Odisha	300
5.	Uttar Pradesh	250
6.	Delhi	800

(d) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) during January to November, 2015 have checked and approved 4057702.14 MT of pulses out of a total of 4066358.68 MTs of imported pulses, and rejected only 8656.54 MT of imported pulses.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No.136. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't come into the well. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't come into the well. ...*(Interruptions)*... Q.No.136. Mr. Vijay Darda. ... क्वेश्चनर है कि नहीं है?...*(व्यवधान)*... Not present. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the answer be laid. ...*(Interruptions)*... Answer to be laid. ...*(Interruptions)*... Any supplementaries? ...*(Interruptions)*... There are no supplementaries. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question No. 137.

\*137 [The questioner (SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA) was absent.]

#### देहरादून रेलवे स्टेशन का विस्तार

\*137. श्री महेन्द्र सिंह माहरा: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या रेलवे ने देहरादून रेलवे स्टेशन के विस्तार की योजना बनाई है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो क्या उन्हें इस बात की जानकारी है कि देहरादून का रेलवे-प्लेटफार्म अठारह डिब्बों वाली रेलगाड़ीयों को खड़ी करने के लिए छोटा पड़ता है; और

(ग) देहरादून रेलवे स्टेशन से अठारह डिब्बों वाली रेलगाड़ीयां कब तक चालू कर दी जाएंगी, और यदि नहीं तो इसके क्यों कारण हैं?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सुरेश प्रभु): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

**विवरण**

(क) से (ग) जी हां। रेलवे ने देहरादून रेलवे स्टेशन का विस्तार करना शुरू कर दिया है। चूंकि देहरादून रेलवे स्टेशन पर जगह कम है, इसलिए 18 डिब्बों वाली गाड़ी चलाने के लिए शंटिंग नैकों, वाशिंग लाइनों, स्टेबलिंग लाइनों, प्लेटफार्मों आदि का विस्तार करने के लिए स्टाफ क्वार्टरों और अन्य रेलवे संस्थापनाओं को हटाना पड़ेगा। इस संबंध में कार्य पहले ही शुरू कर दिया गया है। इस कार्य के पूरा होने के बाद ही 18 डिब्बों वाली सेवा शुरू की जाएगी।

**Expansion of Dehradun railway station**

†\*137. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have planned for expansion of Dehradun railway station;
- (b) if not, whether they are aware that Dehradun railway platform is not equipped for halting of a train with 18 coaches; and
- (c) by when trains with 18 coaches will be operationalized from Dehradun railway station; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Railways have taken up expansion of Dehradun railway station. As Dehradun railway station has limited availability of space, development of facilities in the form of extension of shunting necks, washing lines, stabling lines, platforms etc. for introduction of 18 coach trains requires relocation of staff quarters and other railway installations. Work in this regard has already been taken up. 18 coach services will be introduced after completion of the work.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Q. No. 137 ...*(Interruptions)*... Do you want to ask the question or not? ...*(Interruptions)*... No? ...*(Interruptions)*... He is not present in place ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the answer be given. ...*(Interruptions)*... Any supplementaries? ...*(Interruptions)*... Any Supplementaries? ...*(Interruptions)*... Question No. 138.

**Decline in sowing area of pulses**

\*138. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the sowing area of pulses is on the decline in Maharashtra and rest of the country resulting in their severe shortage in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the action Government proposes to take to substantially increase the sowing area of pulses in Maharashtra and other parts of 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) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) Depending on yearly variations in weather, rainfall situation, irrigation facilities and inter-crop shift in area due to comparative profitability of other competing crops, State-wise area and production of pulses in the country as well as in the State of Maharashtra during the last five years *i.e.* 2010-11 onwards has followed mixed trend. The State-wise details of area coverage and production of pulses in the country are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

On account of cultivation of pulses on marginal land under rainfed conditions, risk of pests and diseases, etc., production and productivity of pulses in the country has remained low. Annual production of pulses in the country has been generally falling short by 4-5 million tonnes than their demand/requirement and the gap in availability is met through imports.

(b) In order to increase area and production of pulses in the country, Government of India has been implementing through State Governments, the National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Pulses since 2007-08. Presently, around 50% of the funds under the umbrella scheme of NFSM are allocated for promoting cultivation of pulses. Since 2014-15, NFSM-Pulses is being implemented in 622 districts of 27 States including all districts of North-Eastern and hill States. Further, since 2010-11 the Scheme “Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI)” is being implemented in Eastern States of Assam, Bihar, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. To give a boost to their area and production, pulses have also been included under BGREI from 2015-16 as part of demonstrations under cropping systems based approach to target rice fallow areas.

To encourage farmers to grow more pulses through remunerative prices, the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of pulses have also been increased over the years. Further, for 2015-16, over and above MSPs, the Government has announced a bonus of ₹ 200/- per quintal for kharif pulses and ₹ 75/- per quintal for rabi pulses.

**Statement-I****State-wise Estimates of Area and Production of Pulses during 2010-11 to 2015-16**

States	Season	Area (Lakh Hectares)						Production (Lakh Tonnes)					
		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15*	2015-16#	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15*	2015-16#
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh	Kharif	9.97	7.11	7.01	6.42	5.12	5.61	4.39	2.74	4.16	3.74	2.72	2.34
	Rabi	11.35	12.20	12.48	10.30	9.38	5.25	10.01	9.56	12.07	11.77	8.84	
	TOTAL	21.32	19.31	19.49	16.72	14.50	10.86	14.40	12.30	16.23	15.51	11.56	2.34
Assam	Kharif	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.55	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.33
	Rabi	1.19	1.14	1.35	1.44	1.68	0.35	0.65	0.65	0.80	0.99	1.07	
	TOTAL	1.26	1.20	1.41	1.50	1.74	0.90	0.70	0.69	0.84	1.04	1.12	0.33
Bihar	Kharif	0.63	0.56	0.56	0.57	0.60	0.55	0.68	0.61	0.77	0.67	0.65	0.69
	Rabi	5.49	4.68	4.60	4.43	4.46	2.27	4.70	4.50	4.66	4.55	3.56	
	TOTAL	6.12	5.24	5.16	5.00	5.06	2.82	5.38	5.11	5.43	5.22	4.20	0.69
Chhattisgarh	Kharif	2.19	2.19	2.00	2.00	1.99	2.16	0.71	0.72	0.79	0.78	0.80	0.91
	Rabi	6.42	5.94	7.27	6.39	5.86	3.74	4.66	4.27	5.70	4.05	5.75	
	TOTAL	8.61	8.14	9.27	8.39	7.85	5.90	5.38	4.99	6.49	4.82	6.55	0.91
Gujarat	Kharif	6.12	6.20	4.46	4.76	3.99	4.43	4.61	4.52	3.78	3.55	3.49	3.73
	Rabi	2.78	3.37	2.14	3.37	2.38	0.78	2.62	3.28	1.94	3.74	2.32	
	TOTAL	8.90	9.57	6.60	8.13	6.37	5.21	7.23	7.80	5.72	7.29	5.81	3.73



Haryana	Kharif	0.59	0.39	0.37	0.18	0.15	0.22	0.44	0.29	0.26	0.15	0.12	0.18
	Rabi	1.17	1.41	1.26	1.34	0.71	0.63	1.15	0.98	1.04	1.10	0.48	
	TOTAL	1.76	1.80	1.63	1.53	0.86	0.85	1.59	1.27	1.30	1.25	0.60	0.18
Himachal Pradesh	Kharif	0.20	0.21	0.21	0.16	0.20	0.16	0.13	0.12	0.15	0.09	0.17	0.10
	Rabi	0.14	0.11	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.08	0.29	0.19	0.31	0.42	0.25	
	TOTAL	0.34	0.32	0.33	0.29	0.34	0.24	0.42	0.31	0.46	0.51	0.42	0.10
Jammu and Kashmir	Kharif	0.26	0.24	0.25	0.23	0.24	0.21	0.15	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.06	0.07
	Rabi	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.14	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	
	TOTAL	0.29	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	0.35	0.17	0.13	0.14	0.14	0.08	0.07
Jharkhand	Kharif	2.99	2.40	3.59	3.32	3.46	3.26	2.05	1.86	3.32	3.19	3.20	3.08
	Rabi	1.27	2.26	2.28	2.35	2.49	0.67	1.25	2.26	2.78	2.60	2.77	
	TOTAL	4.26	4.65	5.87	5.67	5.95	3.93	3.30	4.12	6.09	5.79	5.97	3.08
Karnataka	Kharif	16.39	13.37	11.26	14.18	12.20	10.74	8.33	5.86	5.71	8.09	6.41	4.20
	Rabi	11.53	9.66	11.43	10.80	10.89	15.55	7.32	5.48	6.88	7.92	8.47	
	TOTAL	27.92	23.03	22.69	24.98	23.09	26.29	15.65	11.34	12.59	16.01	14.88	4.20
Kerala	Kharif	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
	Rabi	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.01	
	TOTAL	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Madhya Pradesh	Kharif	11.72	11.96	12.77	11.53	15.63	17.04	4.28	5.11	7.83	5.99	10.19	11.36
	Rabi	39.90	39.90	40.37	42.43	38.01	31.97	29.58	36.51	43.83	40.46	36.86	
	TOTAL	51.62	51.86	53.14	53.96	53.64	49.01	33.86	41.62	51.66	46.44	47.05	11.36
Maharashtra	Kharif	24.67	21.18	20.36	20.11	16.88	16.98	17.38	14.10	14.08	14.92	8.75	7.10
	Rabi	15.71	11.55	12.38	19.42	14.51	10.06	13.62	8.58	8.98	16.77	8.63	
	TOTAL	40.38	32.73	32.74	39.53	31.39	27.04	31.00	22.68	23.06	31.69	17.38	7.10
Odisha	Kharif	5.13	4.18	4.98	4.58	4.60	5.69	2.52	1.96	2.63	2.45	2.49	3.36
	Rabi	3.66	3.11	3.29	3.23	3.75	2.45	1.75	1.48	1.62	1.75	1.92	
	TOTAL	8.79	7.29	8.27	7.81	8.35	8.14	4.27	3.44	4.24	4.19	4.40	3.36
Punjab	Kharif	0.15	0.13	0.10	0.10	0.09	0.14	0.12	0.09	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.12
	Rabi	0.06	0.06	0.54	0.36	0.73	0.10	0.08	0.06	0.45	0.32	0.66	
	TOTAL	0.21	0.19	0.64	0.45	0.82	0.24	0.19	0.15	0.53	0.40	0.73	0.12
Rajasthan	Kharif	29.16	29.72	19.56	22.21	20.39	23.40	16.04	13.13	6.37	7.93	9.63	9.96
	Rabi	18.39	14.87	12.90	19.77	13.23	11.71	16.56	11.19	13.20	16.98	9.87	
	TOTAL	47.55	44.58	32.46	41.98	33.62	35.11	32.60	24.32	19.57	24.91	19.50	9.96
Tamil Nadu	Kharif	1.75	2.06	1.80	2.51	2.01	1.88	0.82	1.36	0.90	1.66	1.49	1.04
	Rabi	4.62	4.63	3.28	5.65	7.39	2.52	1.64	2.34	1.20	4.48	4.98	
	TOTAL	6.37	6.69	5.08	8.16	9.40	4.40	2.46	3.69	2.10	6.14	6.47	1.04

Uttar Pradesh	Kharif	9.89	8.65	8.75	8.36	8.43	8.75	7.43	6.89	6.92	5.05	4.64	5.95
	Rabi	14.60	15.56	14.92	14.69	14.98	9.59	12.94	17.14	16.40	11.92	9.83	
	TOTAL	24.49	24.21	23.67	23.05	23.41	18.34	20.37	24.03	23.32	16.97	14.47	5.95
Uttarakhand	Kharif	0.38	0.39	0.44	0.48	0.45	0.45	0.32	0.35	0.37	0.41	0.37	0.41
	Rabi	0.24	0.16	0.17	0.18	0.21	0.19	0.21	0.14	0.14	0.16	0.16	
	TOTAL	0.61	0.55	0.61	0.65	0.66	0.64	0.52	0.49	0.51	0.57	0.53	0.41
West Bengal	Kharif	0.48	0.47	0.55	1.04	0.65	0.67	0.32	0.29	0.38	0.55	0.47	0.48
	Rabi	1.48	1.38	1.47	1.83	1.81	1.20	1.44	1.02	1.54	1.86	1.29	
	TOTAL	1.96	1.85	2.02	2.87	2.46	1.87	1.76	1.31	1.92	2.42	1.76	0.48
Others	Kharif	0.43	0.42	0.46	0.47	0.44	0.26	0.43	0.41	0.46	0.48	0.47	0.23
	Rabi	0.77	0.69	0.74	0.71	0.76	1.17	0.72	0.67	0.72	0.72	7.96	
	TOTAL	1.20	1.11	1.20	1.18	1.20	1.43	1.15	1.08	1.17	1.20	8.43	0.23
ALL INDIA	Kharif	123.20	111.90	99.54	103.27	97.58	103.15	71.20	60.58	59.16	59.93	56.22	55.63
	Rabi	140.82	132.72	133.03	148.85	133.40	100.42	111.21	110.31	124.27	132.60	115.69	
	TOTAL	264.02	244.62	232.57	252.13	230.98	203.57	182.41	170.89	183.43	192.53	171.91	55.63

\* As per 4th Advance Estimates released on 17.08.2015.

# As per 1st Advance Estimates released on 16.09.2015

Note: 1. Area Coverage for Rabi 2015-16 is based on the feedback from State on weekly progress of sowing.

2. Production Estimate of Rabi Crops for 2015-16 will be available on release of 2nd Advance Estimates expected in February, 2016.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No.138.

**श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना :** सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो दालें हैं...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot hear you. ...(Interruptions)...

**श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना :** सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो दालें हैं, वह जनता की जितनी मांग है, उसके अनुसार उपलब्ध करवाने का सरकार क्या प्रयास कर रही है?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot hear you. ...(Interruptions)...

**डा. संजीव कुमार बालियान :** महोदय, इस वर्ष हम दालों का बफर स्टॉक तैयार करने का काम कर रहे हैं और अभी-अभी दो दिन पहले निर्णय लिया है कि पहले दालों का क्रय एफ.सी.आई. ...(व्यवधान)... के थ्रू किया जाएगा और मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ कॉमर्स के तहत...(व्यवधान)... जिससे जनता को सस्ती दाल मुहैया कराई जा सके।

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

**डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया :** माननीय सभापति जी, दलहनों का ज्यादा रकबा बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार की ओर से प्रोत्साहन मिलना चाहिए। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि दलहनों का रकबा बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए क्या नीति अपनाने वाली है?

**डा. संजीव कुमार बालियान :** माननीय सभापति महोदय, दलहन का रकबा बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा लगातार योजनाएं भी चलाई जा रही हैं जिसमें से एक योजना है NFSM-Pulses और दूसरी योजना है BGREL...(व्यवधान)... एक सबसे महत्वपूर्ण योजना जो सरकार द्वारा शुरू की गई है, वह योजना है दालों की खरीद।...(व्यवधान)... अगर अभी खरीद व्यवस्था शुरू कर देंगे तो एफ.सी.आई. खरीद करेगी...(व्यवधान)... जिससे किसानों को दालों का उचित मूल्य मिल सके।...(व्यवधान)... मेरा मानना है कि...(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid the speaker cannot be heard. ...(Interruptions)... The House is adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

### Exclusive goods wagons for transporting coal

\*139. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of goods wagons available for transporting coal within the country;

- (b) the total number of goods wagons actually required for transporting coal;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to increase the production of goods wagons for transporting coal; and
- (d) whether there is any proposal to keep goods wagons exclusively for transportation of coal in order to ensure that the transportation of coal is not delayed to its destinations due to shortage of goods wagons?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Transportation of coal is predominantly done in BOXN and BOBR type of open wagons. As on 30th November, 2015, around 1.07 lakh BOXN wagons and 0.15 lakh BOBR wagons were available with Indian Railways.

(b) The availability of wagons for loading and transportation of coal has been adequate for meeting the current demand.

(c) Wagon production is planned yearly by Indian Railways on the basis of the expected demand for transportation of commodities. During 2015-16, production of 8073 number of BOXN wagons and 490 number of BOBR wagons is targeted.

(d) General purpose wagons like BOXN wagons are utilized for transportation of bulk commodities like minerals and ores, including coal. The prevalent arrangement in which general purpose wagons are not being reserved for transportation of any particular commodity has worked satisfactorily over the years. Given the critical importance of coal in the national economy, this traffic segment is normally accorded a relatively higher priority in supply of rakes over other bulk commodities. Further, BOBR wagons are generally dedicated for loading and transportation of coal traffic only.

#### **Encouraging contract farming of cotton by CCIL**

\*140. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by Government to promote the procurement of cotton from farmers by the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL) at the Minimum Support Price (MSP);

(b) whether by encouraging contract farming of cotton by CCIL, cotton farmer receive remuneration that is equal to or in excess of the MSP fixed by Government; and

(c) if so, whether Government is taking any measures to promote contract farming of cotton and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has been entrusted with procurement of cotton from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP). During last cotton season, CCI along with its sub-agent Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Ltd. (MSCCGMFL) procured 92.6 lakh bales at MSP for the benefit of farmers. Similar action has been initiated for MSP operations for cotton (kapas) in this cotton season, giving attention to the following :-

- (i) Purchase centres are operating on five days a week basis.
  - (ii) Payment to farmers is being made through Real-time Gross Settlement Systems (RTGS) to the extent possible.
  - (iii) Lint cotton and cotton seeds are being sold through e-Auction.
  - (iv) Awareness campaign has been taken up in a big way including display of Minimum Support Price (MSP) rate and quality parameters in local languages.
  - (v) Moisture content in cotton purchase is being dealt with as per guidelines (12% as the maximum).
  - (vi) Facilities have been developed for online grievance redressal.
  - (vii) MSP procurement is being monitored closely on a continuous basis at the highest level.
- (b) and (c) Presently, CCI is not engaged in contract farming.

**Drought affected areas in Maharashtra**

\*141. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the parameters for declaring an area as drought affected;
- (b) the areas declared as drought affected in each of the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 in Maharashtra;
- (c) the amount of compensation declared to be paid to farmers in the drought affected areas of the State in each of the above years; and
- (d) the amount of compensation actually paid to the farmers of the State in each of the said years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) As per Drought Manual, 2009, rainfall deficiency, the extent of area sown, normalized difference vegetation index and moisture adequacy index are recommended as the four standard monitoring tools which can be applied in combination for drought declaration. Drought is declared by the State Government on the basis of observed deficiencies.

(b) to (d) State Governments are empowered to initiate necessary relief measures in case of notified natural calamities including drought 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 memorandum from State Governments and in accordance with extant norms and procedures. Financial assistance under SDRF/NDRF in the wake of natural calamities is by way of relief and is not for compensation of loss as suffered.

As per the information provided by the State Government of Maharashtra, drought was declared over 38.42 lakh hectares during Kharif-2013, 112.46 lakh hectares during Kharif-2014 and 53.11 lakh hectare during-2015. A sum of ₹ 1293.82 crore in 2013 and ₹ 3973.94 crore in 2014 have already been released and paid as compensation to the farmers as per information received from the State Government. The amount of compensation to farmers affected by drought during Kharif 2015 is yet to be made. The Central Government has received a Memorandum for financial assistance under NDRF. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) has visited the State for assessment of the drought situation. Financial assistance to the State is being finalized.

In order to protect farmers against crop failure due to natural calamities, pest and diseases, 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.

Coverage and Claims under the crop insurance schemes to the insured farmers during 2013-14, 2014-15 and Kharif-2015 in Maharashtra is given in the Statement.

**Statement***Business statistics of crop insurance schemes in Maharashtra*

Year	Season	Scheme	No. of Farmer covered	Area insured (in Hec.)	Sum insured (₹ in lakh)	Claims reported (₹ in lakh)	Claims Paid	Farmer benefited
2013-14	Kharif-2013	NAIS	1484258	1331670.77	197891.34	8854.86	8854.86	287244
		WBCIS	12221	12124.09	7139.27	371.85	371.85	1107
	Season Total		1496479	1343794.858	205030.6073	9226.713251	9226.71	288351
	Rabi	WBCIS	52084	55083.08	43501.43	9360.41	9360.41	32496
		NAIS	258231	205978.11	26859.99	1468.79	1468.79	67303
2014-15	Season Total		310315	261061.1937	70361.41583	10829.20627	10829.21	99799
	Year Total		1806794	1604856.051	275392.0231	20055.91952	20055.92	388150
	Kharif	WBCIS	1291123	1148978.40	199711.53	28470.53	28470.53	1173967
		NAIS	4479025	2805283.37	452702.44	159564.58	159564.58	3486655
	Season Total		5770148	3954262	652414	188035	188035	4660622
2015-16	Rabi	NAIS	1115600	767989.26	95701.33	21098.40		683696
		WBCIS	133671	140196.73	64162.53	4980.17	4980.17	97676
	Season Total		1115600	767989.264	95701.3251	21098.40312	4980.17	683696
	Year Total		6885748	4722251	748115	209134	193015	5344318
	Kharif	NAIS	7214557	4590491.24	742475.61			
		WBCIS	687522	758579.16	138001.54	0.00		429
2015-16	Season Total		7902079	5349070	880477	0		429



**Hoarding of pulses**

\*142. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that raids were conducted to seize pulses from stock hoarders over last few months, if so, the details thereof along with the quantity of pulses recovered, State- wise;

(b) whether Government has received representations and complaints regarding stockholding limits from importers and wholesalers, if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to keep the price of pulses in check?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Details of the quantity of pulses recovered State-wise are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Yes, Sir. *Vide* Order dated 9.6.1978 States/Union Territories (UTs) have been delegated powers to impose stock limits under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. As the State/UT Government have imposed stock limits, they consider representations and take necessary action.

(c) Steps taken by Government to keep the prices of pulses in check are given in the Statement-II.

***Statement-I***

*Details of raids conducted and quantity of pulses seized over last four months*

(As on 09.12.2015)

Sl. No.	State	Raids conducted	Qty. seized (MT)
1.	Chhattisgarh	112	5447.93
2.	Haryana	1652	14.60
3.	Karnataka	1351	25545.82
4.	Madhya Pradesh	969	3373.60
5.	Maharashtra	5250	86709.39
6.	Telangana	1924	3316.84

Sl. No.	State	Raids conducted	Qty. seized (MT)
7.	Rajasthan	840	2648.08
8.	Jharkhand	140	282.02
9.	Odisha	180	1410.26
10.	Andhra Pradesh	1300	1361.52
11.	Gujarat	203	53.01
12.	Himachal Pradesh	500	3.42
13.	NCT Delhi	01	81.29
14.	Bihar	299	360.41
TOTAL		14177	130608.19

*Source:* State Governments.

#### ***Statement-II***

##### *Steps taken by the Government to keep the price of pulses in check*

1. Stock limits on pulses has been extended up to 30.09.2016.
2. Advisories to States/Union Territories issued to take action against hoarding and black marketing and effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
3. Ban on export of pulses imposed with effect from June 22, 2006, except for Kabuli Chana and organic pulses and Lentils upto a maximum of 10000 tonnes a year.
4. Extension of zero import duty on all pulses till 30.09.2016 except for Chickpeas and Lentils.
5. Import of 5000 tonnes of Tur was undertaken by the Government through Price Stabilization Fund Scheme of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. It was allocated to States based on requests received from State Governments.
6. To incentivise production, higher Minimum Support Price (MSP) has been

announced for both Kharif and Rabi pulses for 2015-16. Accordingly, for Kharif season, MSP (including bonus) has been increased by ₹ 275 from ₹ 4350 to ₹ 4625 per quintal for both Arhar and Urad, and by ₹ 200 from ₹ 4650 to ₹ 4850 per quintal for Moong respectively. For Rabi season, the increase (including bonus) has been by ₹ 325 from ₹ 3175 to ₹ 3500 per quintal for Gram and by ₹ 325 from ₹ 3075 to ₹ 3400 per quintal for Masoor respectively.

7. Anti hoarding operations have been carried out by the States. It was monitored on daily basis by Government. All States/UTs were requested to send daily report on the raids conducted, quantities seized and disposal of the seized quantity as per Section 6 of the E.C. Act, 1955.

#### **Second railway bridge near Saraighat bridge**

\*143. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a Railway Expert Committee had recommended for second railway bridge over Brahmaputra river near Saraighat bridge;
- (b) if so, the project report thereon and the current status thereof; and
- (c) the present status of Bogibeel Rail project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) There is no expert committee recommendation for second railway bridge over river Brahmaputra near Saraighat bridge. However, a survey for the above said second railway bridge has been conducted in 2007-08, according to which the cost of this new bridge has been assessed as ₹ 300 crore at 2007-08 price level, with Rate of Return of 1.88%. Due to unremunerative nature of the project, huge throwforward of ongoing projects and limited overall availability of funds, this project could not be taken forward.

(c) Construction of Rail-cum-Road bridge over Brahmaputra at Bogibeel with linking lines (73 km) has been taken up at an anticipated cost of ₹ 4996 crore. An expenditure of ₹ 3689 crore has been incurred upto March, 2015 and an outlay of ₹ 701 crore has been provided in 2015-16. All the 42 well-foundations and 35 out of 42 piers have been completed. 14 out of 41 girders have been launched. Works of both North and South guide bunds, 44 km long rail link from Chaulkhowa-Moranhat, 14 km long north bank rail link and 8 km long south bank rail link have also been completed.

**Suicide by farmers in West Bengal**

\*144. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of farmers have committed suicide in West Bengal in the last two months, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the remedial measures taken by Government to stop the suicide by farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) The State Government of West Bengal has reported on December 7, 2015 that no case of farmers' suicides has been reported during the last two months.

(b) The Government is implementing a number of schemes to help the farmers in increasing their productivity by reducing cost of cultivation, achieving higher yield per unit and by realizing 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 major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertilizer application and thus save money of farmers. The balanced use of fertilizer 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 reduce cost of fertilizers application. 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 being implemented to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.
- (v) In addition, 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.

#### **Damage to crops due to fog**

†\*145. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether crops were damaged in certain parts of the country due to fog during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of assistance provided or likely to be provided to the affected farmers during the abovesaid period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) During the last three years, no Memorandum has been received from any State Governments seeking financial assistance from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) in the wake of cold wave/frost.

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is concerned with coordination of relief measures necessitated by drought, hailstorm, pest attack and cold wave/frost. 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

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Response Fund (NDRF) on receipt of relief memorandum from State Governments and in accordance with extant norms and procedures. Besides, for providing immediate relief to the victims of State-specific disaster within the local context, which are not included in the list of notified natural calamities, the State Governments are authorized to incur an expenditure of 10% of funds available under SDRF, subject to the procedures laid down therein.

### **Cyber security**

† 146. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian software sector fetches more than ten lakh crores of rupees; and

(b) if so, the percentage of this amount spent in the field of cyber security?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) According to National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), the total revenue (both exports and domestic) of Indian Information Technology (IT) and IT enabled Services (ITES) Industry for FY 2014-15 is estimated at USD 119.1 Billion (~ Rupees 7,43,184 crore). Out of this, software and services exports is estimated at USD 98.1 Billion (~ Rupees 6,12,144 crore) and the domestic sales and consumption of software and services is estimated at USD 21 Billion (~ Rupees 1,31,040 crore).

Based on various Global IT Research and Advisory forecasts, the total Indian IT spending, which includes software, hardware and services across all sectors (IT, Telecom, Banking, Manufacturing, e-Governance, etc.) is about USD 66.98 Billion (~ Rupees 4,17,955 crore) for 2015. As per NASSCOM's Data Security Council of India (DSCI), average spend on Cyber Security is about 2 to 3 % of the total IT spending *i.e.* about USD 1.5 to 2 Billion.

### **New Railway projects in Odisha**

147. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when Railways will consider sanctioning of the Junagarh to Jeypore, Kesinga to Bhawanipatna, Berhampur to Phulbani, Nuapada to Nabarangpur *via* Komana – Khariar – Sinapali – Golamunda – Dharamgarh-Koksara, Talcher to Lanjigarh,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Kantabanji to Nabarangpur, Bargarh to Nuapada *via* Padampur, Puri to Konark, Rayagada to Gopalpur *via* Gurpur–Bhismagiri–Digapahandi railway lines and wagon factory and wagon maintenance workshop projects in Odisha; and

(b) the details along with the dates of sanctioning thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) Survey for Junagarh-Jeypore-Malkangiri-Bhadrachalam (390 Km) new line has been taken up which covers Junagarh-Jeypore. Surveys for Talcher-Phulbani-Lanjigarh (230 Km) and Bargarh Road-Nawapara Road *via* Padampur (136 Km) new lines have also been taken up. For Naupada to Nabarangpur, Naupada is already connected to Kantabanji by a railway line, a Survey for a new line from Kantabanji to Nabarangpur has been taken up as a part of Kantabanji-Rajkhariar-Ampani-Navarangpur-Jeypore (220 Km) new line.

Kesinga is an existing station on Raipur-Vizianagaram line and Bhawanipatna is also an existing station on Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh line. Since Kesinga and Bhawanipatna are connected *via* Lanjigarh Road, no survey for direct connectivity has been taken up.

Status of remaining Surveys/proposals are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Survey/Proposal	Present Status
1.	Berhampur-Phulbani	Survey from Sambalpur-Phulbani-Berhampur (240 Km) has been completed and the cost of the project has been assessed as ₹ 2957.44 crore.
2.	Puri -Konark	Survey for a new line between Puri-Konark (32.6 Km) has been completed and the cost of the project has been assessed as ₹ 254.41 crore.
3.	Rayagada-Gopalpur <i>via</i> Gunupur to Bhismagiri and Digapahandi	Survey between Gopalpur-Rayagada (Gumada) <i>via</i> Gunupur, Bhismagiri and Digapahandi (223 Km) has been completed and the cost of the project has been assessed as ₹ 1649 crore.

However, the above projects could not be taken up due to Railways' huge throwforward of ongoing projects, limited availability of funds for new lines, and other competing priorities.

Wagon factory has been sanctioned at Sitapalli, Odisha. However, as the existing wagon manufacturing capacity including both private and public sector units are adequate to meet the current demand for new wagons based on traffic projections, the work of setting up of wagon factory has been kept in abeyance. As regards new wagon maintenance workshop, such facilities are planned based on operation requirements and presently no such facility is planned in Odisha.

#### **Fast track implementation of railway projects**

\*148. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have made any prioritization for fast track implementation of its projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the projects to be taken up under the fast track mode; and

(c) to what extent this fast track scheme would be helpful for completion of long pending railway projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 77 doubling/tripling/quadrupling projects having an aggregate length of 9,040 Km and total estimated cost of ₹ 90,304 crore have been included in the Railway Budget for 2015-16 to decongest existing saturated section and create additional carrying capacity. Railways have decided to implement these projects, on fast track mode. Requisite Government approvals for 21 projects have already been obtained and Zonal Railways have been advised to start physical execution. Besides, 50 existing projects have been identified for sustained funding to ensure their early and time bound completion.

(c) The main benefit of fast track implementation of prioritized projects stems from decongestion and debottlenecking of the existing network and thereby, better mobility and revenue earning for Railways.

#### **Allocation of funds under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sinchai Yojana**

†\*149 . SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of amount allocated to the States out of ₹ 5300 thousand crore under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sinchai Yojana;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



(b) the initiatives taken by Government to achieve more production every year under the target of the Scheme;

(c) whether backward States like Bihar would be accorded priority in this Scheme where the sources of micro-irrigation is turning defunct; and

(d) if so, the details of amount allocated for Bihar from this item during the current fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Budget provision of ₹ 5300 crore has been made for implementation of PMKSY during 2015-16. The details of State-wise funds allocated/released under various components of the scheme during 2015-16 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) With the vision of providing end-to end solutions in irrigation supply chain, viz. water sources, distribution network and farm level applications, the Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). The objective of PMKSY is to ensure access to efficient delivery and application of water and enhance coverage of irrigation for increasing agricultural production and productivity. The scheme has been formulated by amalgamating ongoing schemes viz. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and 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 and 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.

(c) PMKSY will adopt a dynamic annual fund allocation methodology that mandates States to allocate more funds to irrigation sectors for becoming eligible to access PMKSY funds. The funds would be allocated to various States, including Bihar, on the basis of District Irrigation Plans (DIPs)/State Irrigation Plans (SIPs) and performance of the States.

(d) Funds to the tune of ₹ 20 crore has been allocated to the State of Bihar during the current fiscal year for Micro-Irrigation activities under PMKSY.

## Statement

State-wise funds allocated/released under various components of the scheme during 2015-16

Sl. No.	Name of the state	Amount allocated/released (Rs. Lakh)									
		MoWR, RD & GR*			Department of Land Resources*			Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare#			
		CADWM	AIBP-MMI	Minor Irrigation	RRR	IWMP	Micro Irrigation	Other interventions- Supplementing material cost of MGNREGS for water conservation and ground water recharge	Other interventions- water conservation and harvesting work for ground water recharge on watershed approach	Extension Activities	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	8673	13175	1460	1690	284.52	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	1472.3	0	1800	50	0	0	159	
3.	Assam	0	0	13941.15	0	0	100	0	0	366.53	
4.	Bihar	0	2106.19	0	0	500	2000	0	1722	893.72	
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	2000	750	840	17	244.35	
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	20.08	
7.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	10000	14675	30	550	410.04	
8.	Haryana	4268.6	0	0	0	0	3450	220	2120	199.16	

9. Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	2000	150	0	833	130.54
10. Jammu and Kashmir	14	0	0	0	0	0	500	0	0	533.89
11. Jharkhand	0	15686.05	0	0	0	2000	1500	0	1733	433.47
12. Karnataka	5201.29	0	0	0	0	12500	11175	7240	4100	294.56
13. Kerala	48.49	0	0	0	0	2000	500	0	833	254.39
14. Madhya Pradesh	875.85	1201.85	0	0	0	15000	8275	530	2267	523.85
15. Maharashtra	0	7626.49	0	0	0	25000	17675	0	2087	592.47
16. Manipur	929.8	0	3999.6	0	0	900	272	0	0	100.42
17. Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	1800	50	0	0	65.27
18. Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	450	0	0	43.51
19. Nagaland	0	0	3138.1	0	0	2700	0	0	0	123.85
20. Odisha	2304	892	0	0	0	6750	1200	0	367	525.52
21. Punjab	9755.3	0	0	0	0	795.3	1000	1180	4637	235.98
22. Rajasthan	1034	4550.6	0	3592.5	0	20000	10475	4080	6900	497.07
23. Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	630	426	0	0	40.17
24. Tamil Nadu	629.25	0	0	0	0	7500	7275	1150	6450	644.35
25. Telangana	0	0	0	0	0	7000	9275	650	1320	169.04
26. Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	1350	200	0	0	75.31

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
27.	Uttar Pradesh	4260	0	0	1536.1	7500	1500	0	2607	1374.06
28.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	2567.7	700	0	667	159
29.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	1000	500	0	0	580.75
30.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	83	25.1
32.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0
36.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		29320.58	32063.18	22551.15	5128.6	141966	107313	17500	41000	9999.97

\*Fund released as on 30th November, 2015

# Allocation of fund for 2015-16

Note: CADWM: Command Area Development and Water Management

AIBP-MMI: Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme-Major and Medium Irrigation

RRR: Repair, Restoration and Renovation of water bodies

IWMR: Integrated Watershed Management Programme

**Social security scheme for farmers**

†\*150. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to prevent farmers from committing suicide;
- (b) whether Government is contemplating to enforce social security scheme for farmers; and
- (c) the number of agriculture related industries developed in the last ten years and the investment made thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) The Government is implementing a number of schemes to help the farmers in increasing their productivity by reducing cost of cultivation, achieving higher yield per unit and by realizing 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 major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertilizer application and thus save money of farmers. The balanced use of fertilizer 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 reduce cost of fertilizers application. 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 being implemented to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.
- (v) In addition, the Government is also implementing several Centrally Sponsored

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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.

(b) It is a priority of the Government to work towards enabling social security protection for citizens, especially from the economically weaker and vulnerable sections. In accordance with this priority, the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) were recently launched to address the areas of life and accident risk, and old age income security. The Rashtriya Swastha Bima Yojana (RSBY) is also operational to provide health insurance cover to persons living below the poverty line etc. The Central Government has also initiated creation of a Senior Citizen Welfare Fund through the use of certain unclaimed amounts under various specified schemes. This fund will be used to subsidize the premiums of vulnerable groups such as old age pensioners, BPL card-holders, small and marginal farmers and others.

The proposed new National Crop Insurance Scheme will protect the interest of farmers with a broader coverage towards crop losses and other such natural calamities. This is an intervention to cover the risks involved in farming.

(c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI), through its various schemes, has been providing assistance to various agriculture related industries. Details of number of projects assisted and amount released by MOFPI are given in the Statement.

**Statement**

*Agriculture related projects assisted by Ministry of Food Processing Industries during Eleventh and Twelfth Plan*

(₹ in crore)		
Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount released (during 11th and 12th Plan)
	No. of projects assisted during 11th and 12th FYP	
1.	Mega Food Parks Scheme	38
2.	Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition & Preservation Infrastructure Scheme	138
3.	Setting up/ Modernisation of Abattoirs Scheme	40
4.	Food Testing Laboratory Scheme	82
5.	Research & Development Scheme	190
6.	Technology Up gradation/Establishment / Modernization of Food Processing Industries Scheme	6849
7.	Technology Up gradation/Establishment / Modernization of Food Processing Industries Scheme under National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP)	744

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS****Benefits of space technology for farm sector**

1441. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farm sector would increasingly reap the benefit of space technology in the coming years through various upcoming projects including the Indus NISAR satellite-4;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it is the need of the hour that agricultural scientists join hands with ISRO to extract more benefits for farm sector from space technology; and

(c) if so, whether Government has asked the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) to take immediate steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) ICAR is working with ISRO in various programmes to harness the potential of space technology in agricultural research involving different ICAR institutes including IARI. The IARI scientists have also participated in the workshops held on NISAR satellite data applications organized by SAC, ISRO, Ahmedabad. At the recently held meeting on 11th September, 2015 on the subject 'Promoting Space Technology in Governance and Development', the Government asked all participating departments including ICAR to utilize space technology in the furtherance of their goals.

#### **Suicide by farmers in Maharashtra**

1442. SHRI D. P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of farmers' suicides in Maharashtra are startling;

(b) the role of the Central Government to tackle this issue; and

(c) whether any short-term and long term measures have been identified to prevent farmers' suicides in Maharashtra, 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 KUNDARIA): (a) As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs report entitled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' for the year 2014 the total number of suicides by farmers in Maharashtra under the profession 'Self-employed Persons [Agriculture (Farmers)]' due to various causes is 2568.

NCRB Report for the year 2015 is not yet published.

However, the State Government of Maharashtra has reported 725 number of suicides by farmers from January, 2015 to October, 2015 due to agrarian reasons.

(b) and (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 fertilizer application and save money. The balanced use of fertilizer 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 'Minimum Support Price (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.

For Kharif 2015, the Government enhanced MSP for various agricultural commodities and also provided for a bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal over and above the MSP in case of pulses.

Likewise, the Government has announced MSP for Rabi 2015 and has declared a bonus of ₹ 75 per quintal over and above the MSP for pulses.

In addition to MSP and MIS as market intervention activities, the Government is aiming to improve marketing efficiency for agricultural commodities in the country. With this objective, the Government is implementing 'National Agricultural Market' scheme, which will lead to creation of an integrated and nation wide agricultural market. This will usher in efficient and competitive price discovery mechanism, thereby transferring remunerative prices to the farmers.

#### **Dearth of agricultural scientists**

†1443. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the agriculture field/profession in the country is facing a dearth of agricultural scientists;
- (b) whether more than 1000 posts of agricultural scientists against sanctioned posts are lying vacant in the country as well as many posts are lying vacant in the institutions of ICAR also;
- (c) whether appointments are not being made even after constitution of ASRB;
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to deal with this problem and by when these vacancies are likely to be filled; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken by Government on the aforesaid problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No Sir, in this connection it is mentioned that the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) is a vast network with ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) institutes, SAUs (State Agricultural Universities)/CAUs/KVKs spread across the country which meets the requirement of human resources engagement in the fields of research/extension/education in agriculture. The responsibility for filling up the vacant positions pertaining to different SAUs vests with them and they work under the State Government

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

So far as ICAR is concerned, the ASRB (Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board), an independent recruitment agency, is responsible for filling up of scientific positions both through the process of direct recruitment under ARS examination and lateral entry for senior scientific positions.

Recruitment of ICAR scientists is a continuous process. All possible steps are being taken to fill vacant positions of Agricultural Scientists on priority basis through Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board (ASRB). During the last 18 months more than 1000 different scientific posts of different levels have been filled up/advertised for recruitment.

Out of overall scientific cadre's sanctioned strength of 6313 in the ICAR, less than 10% of posts are vacant.

(c) It is normal that 7-8% of total posts of an organization remain vacant due to death, retirements on superannuation, resignations, inter-organizational movement etc. Recruitment is a continuous process being undertaken by the ASRB following due process for various scientific positions.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

#### **Implementation of RKVY**

1444. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives behind the launching of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY);
- (b) how far these objectives have been achieved;
- (c) the details of the recent initiatives taken by Government under RKVY; and
- (d) how the agriculture sector in Maharashtra would be benefited by these initiatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) and (b) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) was launched in August, 2007 with the objective to incentivize the States to increase investment in agriculture and allied sectors to achieve and sustain the desired growth in this sector. Implementation of RKVY has resulted in enhancing allocation for agriculture and allied sectors by the States from ₹ 8770.16 crore (4.88% of State plan expenditure) in 2006-07 to ₹ 38768.43 crore (8.36% of State plan expenditure) in 2013-14.

(c) and (d) Programmes of national importance such as Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India, Saffron Mission in J & K, Vidarbha Intensive Irrigation Development Programme, Crop Diversification and Additional Fodder Development Programme are being implemented as sub-schemes of RKVY in various States during the current financial year. An amount of ₹ 438.11 crore has been allocated to Maharashtra under RKVY, including Vidarbha Intensive Irrigation Development Programme and Crop Diversification, of which ₹ 219.00 crore has been released to the State so far.

#### **Role of cooperatives in agriculture sector**

1445. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the role played by cooperatives in agriculture sector;
- (b) whether Government proposes to strengthen the role of cooperatives in agriculture sector, if so, the steps taken in this direction; and
- (c) the performance of cooperatives in milk production, poultry farming and fisheries, especially in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) The role of cooperative sector is important in agriculture sector as it supplies agricultural credit and inputs and has the potential to deliver goods and services in vital areas where State and private sector has not been able to do very much. The village Cooperative Societies provide strategic inputs for the agricultural sector. Cooperative Marketing Societies help the farmer to get remunerative prices and Co-operative Processing Units help in value additions to the raw products etc. Cooperative are also involved in programmes like fodder development, conservation and genetic upgradation of indigenous breeds of Livestock etc.

(b) Central Government, through NCDC has been promoting, developing and financing post-harvest activities through cooperatives in agriculture sector. These comprise, *inter alia*, marketing, storage and processing of agricultural produce besides supply of agricultural inputs. Subsidy to the tune of 15% to 25% is provided to Cooperatives depending on the category of State in addition to term loan. In addition to this, National Federation of Fishers Cooperative Ltd. (FISHCOPFED) implements Centrally Sponsored Group Insurance Scheme for active fishermen, training programme for fishers and cold chain system under the post harvest scheme etc. for the benefit of fishermen.

(c) The details of the units sanctioned and assistance by NCDC in Maharashtra for Poultry, Dairy, Livestock and Fishery Cooperatives as on 31.03.2015 is as under:-

(₹ in crore)

Activity	No. of Units sanctioned	Assistance released
Poultry	78	44.172
Dairy & LS	27	23.634
Fisheries	3710	502.51

However, the details regarding the performance of Cooperative Societies in Milk Production, Poultry Farming and Fisheries registered under the State Cooperative Act of Government of Maharashtra are not maintained by the Union Government.

#### Setting up of National Agricultural Market

1446. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to set up a National Agricultural Market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Following the Budget announcements in July, 2014 and in 2015, the scheme for setting up of National Agriculture Market (NAM) through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF) has been approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 01.07.2015 with a budget of ₹ 200 crore for implementation during 2015-16 to 2017-18.

The scheme envisages implementation of the National Agriculture Market (NAM) by setting up of an appropriate common e-market platform that would be deployable in selected 585 regulated wholesale markets in States/Union Territories desirous of joining the e-platform. Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) has been mandated to implement the national e-platform and cover 250, 200 and 135 mandis during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) will meet expenses on software and its customization

for the States/UTs free of cost. DAC&FW will also give grant as one time fixed cost subject to the ceiling of ₹ 30.00 lakhs per Mandi (other than to the private mandis) for related equipment/infrastructure in 585 regulated mandis, for installation of the e-market platform. State Governments will suggest names of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs) where this project would be initiated.

Integration of States APMCs with NAM requires certain pre-requisites in the State APMC Acts, namely- (i) a single license to be valid across the State, (ii) single point levy of market fee and (iii) provision for electronic auction as a mode for price discovery. Only those States/UTs that have completed these three pre-requisites will be eligible for assistance under the scheme.

In so far as present status of NAM is concerned, SFAC has since finalized selection of its Strategic Partner who will develop, operate and maintain the NAM platform. Simultaneously, the Departmental Project Appraisal Committee for NAM has approved the proposals of Gujarat, Telangana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh for integration of some of their mandis with NAM.

**Reduction in funding meant for farm based programme  
telecast in DD Kisan Channel**

1447. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is not happy with the content telecast of DD's Kisan Channel; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry has cut 44 per cent of funding meant for farm-based programmes, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA):  
(a) No, Sir.

(b) (i) This Ministry has requested Information and Broadcasting Ministry to manage same number of farm based programmes both for Krishi Darshan programmes of Doordarshan and Kisan Vani Programmes of All India Radio with a Budget of ₹ 70.00 crores.

(ii) Separately, the Ministry has mandated I&B Ministry in the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity to conceive and run spots largely on Doordarshan, All

India Radio, Outdoor Campaign, as also on Private Television/Radio Channels and news papers that are beneficial for farmers

**National policy on organic farming**

1448. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a switch over to organic agriculture could end the problems of agrarian distress and groundwater consumption; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to come out with a national policy on organic farming to systematically tackle the adverse consequences of chemical based farming, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Organic farming respects the environment own system for controlling pests and diseases in raising crops and livestock without any use of external inputs such as chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides. Use of organic inputs such as farm yard manure, Vermi-compost and bio-fertilizers increases the water holding capacity of soils which ultimately reduces the requirement of water in crops. However, groundwater consumption is linked to many other factors such as improper method and time of application of water, phenomenon of drought/excess rainfall, unseasonal rains etc. and therefore merely switching over to organic agriculture will not be able to end the problem of excess groundwater consumption.

India has to raise its food production from about 252.7 million tonnes in 2014-15 to about 300 million tonnes in 2025 to meet its food security requirements. Keeping this in view, the agricultural scientists have been advocating the integrated use of inorganic, organic and bio-fertilizers to supply the required amounts of nutrients to crops. Organic Farming benefits particularly resource poor, small and marginal farmers in rain fed and hilly areas where the use of costly chemical fertilizers is lower than national average.

(b) The Policy of Ministry of Agriculture on organic farming is to promote technically sound, economically viable, environmentally non-degrading, and socially acceptable use of natural resources in favour of organic agriculture. The Policy seeks to actualize the area and crop potential for organic farming, sustaining soil fertility, conserving bio-resources, strengthening rural economy, promoting value addition, for accelerating the growth of agro-business and securing a fair standard of living for the farmers and agricultural workers and their families.

Government is promoting organic farming through various schemes/programmes viz. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)/Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

**Loss to agriculture due to floods and drought**

1449. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our country has been facing alternatively floods and drought and this situation is worsening for future of our agricultural sector;

(b) if so, how much loss was incurred due to floods and drought during the last two years;

(c) how many districts have been affected due to floods and drought situation in the country during this year; and

(d) whether Government is considering to adopt long term strategy to tackle natural calamity like drought and floods in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) to (c) In the eventuality of drought and flood, 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. Details of the amount sought by the State Governments and approved from NDRF due to drought for the last two years (2013-14 and 2014-15) are given in the Statement (*See below*). State Government has reported 207 districts in 9 States affected by drought in the country, during this year.

(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.

States have been advised to ensure availability of appropriate low water consumption seeds and ensure meeting any contingency cropping requirement in the eventuality of deficient rainfall. 10% of funds available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)



have also been kept aside for undertaking appropriate interventions to mitigate drought like situation, if any, arising out of deficient rainfall. Appropriate drought mitigation measures viz. construction of water harvesting structure under MGNREGA; promotion of agronomic practices for moisture conservation; promoting cultivation of less water consuming crops; restoration of irrigation infrastructure by de-silting canals; energizing tubewells, replacing/repairing faulty pumps etc. are being initiated by States to deal with any potential drought situation.

Information in respect of flood is being collected and will be laid down on the table of the House.

**Statement**

*Assistance sought and approved from the National Disaster Response  
Fund (NDRF) for drought of 2013-14 and 2014-15*

(₹ in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Assistance sought by the State Government	Central assistance approved by GoI (under NDRF)
<b>During - 2013-2014</b>			
1.	Bihar	12564.04	931.87
2.	Karnataka	778.06	226.57
3.	Andhra Pradesh	638.09	254.54
	TOTAL:	13980.19	1412.98
<b>During - 2014-2015</b>			
1.	Haryana	4829.25	168.87
2.	Karnataka	779.20	200.85
3.	Uttar Pradesh	4819.49	777.34
4.	Maharashtra	6013.28	1962.99
5.	Andhra Pradesh	1532.00	237.51
	TOTAL	17973.22	3347.56

**Suicide by farmers due to damage of crops and debt burden**

†1450. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

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

(a) the details of suicides committed by farmers in the last three years due to damage of crops;

(b) whether it is a fact that non-payment of loans in time borrowed by farmers from banks and money lenders is also one of the main reasons of suicide by farmers; and

(c) the details of per hectare cost escalation in agriculture due to inflation in the last three years, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (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 2012 and 2013, the total number of suicides under the profession 'Self employment - Farming/Agriculture' is as under:-

Year	No. of suicides
2012	13754
2013	11772

For the year 2014, the NCRB delineated for the first time the number of suicides under two sub-categories, namely, farmers and agricultural labourers. The number of suicides with respect to these categories due to various causes was as under:-

Farmers	5650
Agricultural labourers	6710

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

(i) Bankruptcy or indebtedness

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (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

Further, according to NCRB Report of 2014, 952 farmers committed suicide due to failure of crop.

(c) A table containing the percentage change in cost of cultivation (A<sub>2</sub>+FL) for the years 2010-11 to 2012-13 is given in the Statement.

**Statement**

Percentage change in Cost of Cultivation (A<sub>2</sub>+FL), 2010-11 to 2012-13

Sl. No.	Crops	Percentage Change		
		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
1.	Paddy	9.9	20.6	9.1
2.	Jowar	25.6	30.6	7.1
3.	Bajra	8.7	35.6	6.5
4.	Maize	12.9	17.3	20.5
5.	Ragi	13.2	4.8	19.5
6.	Tur	21.5	5.0	26.2
7.	Moong	38.2	19.0	19.5
8.	Urad	10.5	27.0	6.7
9.	Groundnut	21.7	28.6	18.6
10.	Soyabean	5.0	7.2	28.9
11.	Sunflower	22.5	22.1	18.0
12.	Sesamum	17.1	39.3	-1.9
13.	Nigerseed	14.1	54.4	7.3

Sl. No.	Crops	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
14.	Cotton	22.8	24.0	14.7
15.	Wheat	8.2	17.1	10.5
16.	Barley	2.6	44.8	9.6
17.	Gram	8.3	32.0	19.3
18.	Lentil	-5.1	19.2	18.8
19.	R & M	4.6	31.7	19.3
20.	Safflower	0.9	45.8	33.8
21.	Sugarcane	22.4	16.3	10.7
22.	Jute	24.3	19.8	6.9

*Source* : Comprehensive Scheme for studying the Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, New Delhi.

*Note* : A2+FL cost includes all expenses in cash and kind on account of hired human labour, bullock labour, machine labour, seed, insecticides and pesticides, manure, fertilizers irrigation charges and miscellaneous expenses including family labour.

#### **Greenhouse rental service under Indo-Israeli Agriculture Project**

1451. DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Greenhouse rental service under the Indo-Israeli Agriculture Project;
- (b) whether the scheme will be expanded to other States, if so, the road-map of the expansion and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the other schemes, if any, which are part of the Indo-Israeli Agriculture Project; and
- (d) whether there are any other programmes implemented in cooperation with other nations to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) and (b) There is no component of greenhouse rental service under Indo-Israel Action Plan. However, third phase (2015 - 18) of Indo-Israel action plan cooperation in the field of agriculture has been extended to 21 States.

Under the Action Plan for development of horticulture, technology in various fields including protected cultivation (green house technology) is provided by Israel and Infrastructure created for demonstration of these technologies is provided under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has entered into 74 MoUs/Agreements with 63 countries including Israel for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors. The areas for cooperation in these MoU/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 exchange of technical expertise, exchange of Germ-plasm, transfer of technology, setting up of centres of excellence in different fields to demonstrate new technologies etc.

#### **Sale of spurious insecticides and fertilizers**

1452. SHRIMATIRENUKACHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that rampant availability, sale and use of spurious insecticides and fertilizers in the country is resulting in heavy losses to farmers due to low production and damage to crops;

(b) if so, the total number of samples of insecticides and fertilizers collected that failed quality tests during last three years, year-wise and State-wise including in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to check the production and sale of spurious insecticides and fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) The Department receives complaints from various sources regarding supply of spurious insecticides and fertilizers. The Central and State Governments have notified under Section 20 of Insecticides Act, 1968 as many as 168 and 11645 number of Insecticides Inspectors respectively, to carry out inspection of manufacturing, storage and sale points etc., draw samples of pesticides and have them analyzed with the help of notified Pesticide Analysts. Prosecution is initiated in competent courts of law in cases of violations of the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968. This Act has also vested State Governments with Legal authority to investigate complaints and take legal action against offenders.

Samples of fertilizers are drawn periodically by the fertilizer inspectors of the State Governments from retailers/wholesalers, manufacturing units etc. for testing in the notified laboratories to check their quality in respect of the quality parameters prescribed in the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985. In case of imported fertilizers, the fertilizer inspectors of the Central Government (Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute and its regional centres) draw the samples from the ships/containers.

(b) The details of number of samples of various insecticides tested and found to be misbranded during the last two years and during the current year is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

State-wise percentage of samples of fertilizers found not in conformity with the quality parameters laid down in the Fertilizer (Control) Order during the years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 are given in the Statement II, III and IV respectively (*See below*).

(c) The Insecticide Inspectors notified by the Central and State Governments under the Insecticides Act, 1968 are required to *inter alia*, carry out periodic inspections of all establishments licensed to manufacture and sell pesticides, to have samples of the product analyzed and initiate prosecution wherever the case so warrants. These measures have been put in place to ensure quality assurance of pesticides.

To ensure availability of quality fertilizers to farmers, the fertilizer was declared as an essential commodity in 1957. In sequel, the Fertilizer (Control) Order (FCO), 1985 was promulgated in under section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955 to regulate quality, trade and distribution of fertilizers in the country. The fertilizers along with their specifications are included in the FCO after evaluation of their agronomic efficacy. As per clause 19 of the FCO, no person shall manufacture/import any fertilizer for sale, which is not included in the FCO or not of standards prescribed in the FCO. State Governments are the agencies empowered to take necessary administrative and punitive/legal action against those not complying with the provisions of the FCO.

**Statement-I***Details of the samples of insecticides analysed*

Sl. No.	State/UT	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16 (upto Oct., 2015)	
		Analysed	Misbranded	Analysed	Misbranded	Analysed	Misbranded
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5336	66	5250	70	1104	19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Assam	37	4	22	2	-	-
5.	Bihar	617	47	699	16	179	11
6.	Chandigarh	7	2	-	-	-	-
7.	Chhattisgarh	226	41	267	47	31	7
8.	Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Delhi	55	9	101	7	14	-
11.	Goa	5	1	-	-	3	-
12.	Gujarat	3435	155	3393	120	401	6
13.	Haryana	3071	172	2081	88	17	2
14.	Himachal Pradesh	278	-	228	-	109	-
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	1197	73	1431	92	268	35
16.	Jharkhand	21	2	18	-	8	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17.	Karnataka	4956	31	3847	53	-	-
18.	Kerala	1060	4	359	-	1	-
19.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1466	105	976	153	100	16
21.	Maharashtra	6033	282	5740	316	606	8
22.	Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-
23.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-
24.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-
26.	Odisha	728	38	684	36	259	22
27.	Puducherry	462	-	155	-	3	1
28.	Punjab	4114	106	2893	79	3515	146
29.	Rajasthan	2218	81	2563	53	282	7
30.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-
31.	Tamil Nadu	21573	63	22289	86	8	8
32.	Telangana	3547	26	3523	26	2044	7
33.	Tripura	96	13	89	9	33	3
34.	Uttarakhand	271	30	193	14	21	-
35.	Uttar Pradesh	5452	470	6157	361	8	2
36.	West Bengal	642	5	537	3	511	3
TOTAL		66795	1726(2.6%)	63537	1631(2.6%)	9526	303(3.1%)



**Statement-II**

*State-wise number of samples analysed and found not in conformity with the laid down quality parameters during year 2012-13*

Sl.No.	State	No. of samples analysed	No of samples found not in conformity with the laid down parameters	% Samples not in conformity with the laid down parameters
1.	Assam	292	8	2.7
2.	Mizoram	1	0	0.0
3.	Jharkhand	824	6	0.7
4.	Bihar	1719	117	6.8
5.	Odisha	2217	57	2.6
6.	West Bengal	2971	376	12.7
7.	Gujarat	9990	97	1.0
8.	Madhya Pradesh	5497	719	13.1
9.	Chhattisgarh	2150	77	3.6
10.	Maharashtra	16939	2728	16.1
11.	Rajasthan	15586	268	1.7
12.	Haryana	4277	83	1.9
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1770	27	1.5
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	1980	62	3.1
15.	Punjab	3629	92	2.5
16.	Uttar Pradesh	10227	556	5.4
17.	Uttarakhand	215	12	5.6
18.	Andhra Pradesh	15284	250	1.6
19.	Karnataka	9642	381	4.0
20.	Kerala	2262	158	7.0
21.	Puducherry	627	3	0.5
22.	Tamil Nadu	16540	436	2.6
23.	Govt. of India	9233	344	3.7
TOTAL ALL INDIA		133872	6857	5.1

***Statement-III***

*State-wise number of samples analysed and found not in conformity with the laid down quality parameters during year 2013-14*

Sl. No.	State	No. of samples analysed	No of samples found not in conformity with the laid down parameters	% Samples not in conformity with the laid down parameters
1.	Assam	324	11	3.4
2.	Mizoram	1	0	0.0
3.	Jharkhand	723	29	4.0
4.	Bihar	2080	64	3.1
5.	Odisha	3398	241	7.1
6.	West Bengal	2387	253	10.6
7.	Gujarat	14623	159	1.1
8.	Madhya Pradesh	6671	877	13.1
9.	Chhattisgarh	2171	117	5.4
10.	Maharashtra	17422	2720	15.6
11.	Rajasthan	14051	117	0.8
12.	Haryana	3901	76	1.9
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1673	43	2.6
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	2127	7	0.3
15.	Punjab	3576	94	2.6
16.	Uttar Pradesh	10848	722	6.7
17.	Uttarakhand	261	32	12.3
18.	Andhra Pradesh	15238	484	3.2
19.	Karnataka	10423	267	2.6
20.	Kerala	2463	102	4.1
21.	Puducherry	467	5	1.1
22.	Tamil Nadu	17900	661	3.7
23.	Govt. of India	6234	415	6.7
TOTAL ALL INDIA		138961	7496	5.4

**Statement-IV**

*State-wise number of samples analysed and found not in conformity with the laid down quality parameters during year 2014-15*

Sl. No.	State	No. of samples analysed	No of samples found not in conformity with the laid down parameters	% Samples not in conformity with the laid down parameters
1.	Assam	334	0	0.0
2.	Mizoram	2	0	0.0
3.	Jharkhand	842	13	1.5
4.	Bihar	2632	101	3.8
5.	Odisha	4533	241	5.3
6.	West Bengal	2672	283	10.6
7.	Gujarat	11812	106	0.9
8.	Madhya Pradesh	6098	771	12.6
9.	Chhattisgarh	2085	171	8.2
10.	Maharashtra	17117	2257	13.2
11.	Rajasthan	13477	128	0.9
12.	Haryana	3733	66	1.8
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1817	13	0.7
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	1432	0	0.0
15.	Punjab	3610	94	2.6
16.	Uttar Pradesh	13186	919	7.0
17.	Uttarakhand	311	25	8.0
18.	Andhra Pradesh	9621	169	1.8
19.	Telangana	6423	145	2.3
20.	Karnataka	9159	245	2.7
21.	Kerala	2692	132	4.9
22.	Puducherry	546	6	1.1
23.	Tamil Nadu	18551	755	4.1
24.	Govt. of India	2837	210	7.4
TOTAL ALL INDIA		135522	6850	5.0

**Modifying definition of 'Farmer'**

1453. SHRI PALVAIGOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that if one takes into account the definition of 'farmer' before 2014, the farmers' suicides in the country have actually gone up in 2014;
- (b) if so, the reasons for modifying the definition of 'farmer';
- (c) how is it helpful to the farmers and farm labourers; and
- (d) the details of farmers' suicide during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) to (c) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) publishes a report entitled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' for every calendar year (January to December). Till the year 2013, the Report contained 'Farming/Agriculture' as a sub-category under the professional category called 'Self-employment' and showed the number of suicides. The figures included all farm related suicides. For the first time, NCRB in its Report of 2014 delineated the Agriculture related suicides under the 'Self-employed Persons' category as follows:

Self-employed Persons:

Agriculture (Total)	12360
Agricultural labourer	6710
Farmers	5650
Have own land	4949
On contract/lease	701

As seen from the figures above, compared to the previous years, 2014 data is a more detailed analysis of the total number of suicides in the agriculture related profession. Such analysis will help the Central and State Government to understand the causes of agrarian crisis in a proper perspective and undertake more appropriate measures for resolution of the problem.

- (d) The details of farmers' suicides during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise is given in the Statement.

**Statement***The details of farmers' suicides during the last five years*

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
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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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.	Delhi (UT)	9	10	21	8	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	4	0	0	0	0	16
	TOTAL (UTs)	31	23	27	28	8	16
	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

#### **Implementation of Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme**

1454. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has launched a new crop insurance scheme and modified the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme to provide more relief to farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the salient features of the scheme;
- (c) whether Government has any proposal to allow select private sector insurance companies to participate in the Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the funds allocated for implementation of the scheme during the last three years; and
- (e) the crops which are covered under the scheme and the number of farmers benefited thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) and (b) Improvement in crop insurance schemes to make these more scientific in order to better serve the interests of the farmers, is a continuous process and steps are taken in this regard by the Government from time to time. Therefore, based on evaluation

studies, experience gained through implementation and feed back of the stakeholders, and to make the crop insurance scheme more farmer friendly, a restructured scheme in the name of 'National Crop Insurance Programme' (NCIP) has been launched by merging Pilot Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and Pilot Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS) with various improvements/changes for implementation throughout the country from Rabi 2013-14. However, on the basis of requests received, States have also been allowed to implement the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). The salient features of NCIP are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) Ten private General Insurance Companies have been empanelled along with Agriculture Insurance Company (AIC) of India Ltd. for implementation of Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) and Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) components scheme of NCIP.

(d) Details of funds allocation for crop insurance schemes during the last three years are given as under:-

(₹ in crores)			
Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2013-14	2151.00	2550.00	2551.52
2014-15	2823.00	2784.93	2598.35
2015-16	2823.00	3185.09	1962.81
(as on 09.12.2015)			

(e) Details of crops covered under crop insurance schemes are given in the Statement-II (*See below*). Since inception of these schemes in 1999-2000, about 1158 lakh farmers have been benefited under these schemes.

#### **Statement-I**

##### *Salient features of National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP)*

The salient features of the National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) are:

##### **Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS)**

- actuarial premium rates are charged with a provision of subsidy upto 75%, which is shared by the Central and State Governments on 50 : 50 basis;
- entire liability of claims is on the implementing insurance companies;
- it is compulsory for loanee farmers and optional for non-loanee farmers;
- risk coverage for pre-sowing/prevented sowing and post harvest losses due to cyclone in coastal areas;

- on account payment up to 25% advance of likely claims as immediate relief in the areas which suffered atleast 50% crop yield loss;
- more proficient basis for calculation of threshold yield;
- two higher indemnity levels of 80% and 90% instead of earlier 70%, 80% and 90%;
- reduction in Unit Area of Insurance to village/village Panchayat level; and
- private insurance companies have been involved to provide the benefits of competition.

**Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS)**

- Provide coverage against weather deviation from the notified standards on the basis of weather data received from the notified Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs) and Automatic Rain-gauges (ARGs);
- actuarial premium rates are charged with a provision of subsidy upto 50%, which is shared by the Central and State Governments on 50 : 50 basis;
- entire liability of claims is on the implementing insurance companies;
- it is compulsory for loanee farmers and optional for non-loanee farmers;
- add on coverage in respect of hailstorm and cloud burst on individual assessment basis.
- private insurance companies have been involved to provide the benefits of competition.

**Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS)**

- Individual farmer/planter/grower offering at least 5 healthy nut bearing palms in a contiguous area/plot is eligible for insurance;
- Provide coverage against total loss of palm on account of happening of peril insured leading to death of the insured palm or its becoming unproductive;
- Fixed premium rates ranging from ₹ 9/- to ₹ 14/- per palm depending upon the age of palm. However, Government is providing subsidy upto 50% by GOI and 25% by State Government;
- Sum insured per palm is ranging from ₹ 900/- to ₹ 1750/-;
- Scheme is being implemented by AIC.



**Statement-II**  
**Details of Crops Covered under Crop Insurance Schemes**

Crops Covered Under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)				Crops Covered Under Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS)				Crops Covered Under Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS)			
Sl. No.	Crops Covered Under Rabi Season	Sl. No.	Crops Covered Under Kharif Season	Sl. No.	Crops Covered Under Rabi Season	Sl. No.	Crops Covered Under Kharif Season	Sl. No.	Crops Covered Under Rabi Season	Sl. No.	Crops Covered Under Kharif Season
	Food Crops & Oil Seeds		Food Crops & Oilseeds		Food Crops & Oil Seeds		Food Crops & Oilseeds		Food Crops & Oilseeds		Food Crops & Oilseeds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Paddy	1.	Paddy	1.	Redgram	1.	Bajra	1.	Bajra	1.	Bajra
2.	Wheat	2.	Maize	2.	Barley	2.	Blackgram	2.	Barley	2.	Blackgram
3.	Jowar	3.	Jowar	3.	Bengalgram	3.	Castor	3.	Bengalgram	3.	Castor
4.	Bajra	4.	Bajra	4.	Blackgram	4.	Guar	4.	Blackgram	4.	Guar
5.	Maize	5.	Ragi	5.	Field Pea	5.	Cowpea	5.	Pea	5.	Cowpea
6.	Barley	6.	Moth	6.	Greengram	6.	Greengram	6.	Groundnut	6.	Greengram
7.	Rape & Mustard	7.	Korra	7.	Groundnut	7.	Groundnut	7.	Jowar	7.	Groundnut
8.	Linseed	8.	Navane	8.	Horsegram	8.	Horsegram	8.	Lentil	8.	Jowar
9.	Blackgram	9.	Save	9.	Jowar	9.	Jowar	9.	Linseed	9.	Maize
10.	Bengal gram	10.	Blackgram	10.	Lentil	10.	Maize	10.	Maize	10.	Moth
11.	Greengram	11.	Greengram	11.	Linseed	11.	Moth	11.	Mustard	11.	Paddy
12.	Redgram	12.	Horsegram	12.	Maize	12.	Paddy	12.	Paddy	12.	Ragi
13.	Horsegram	13.	Redgram	13.	Mustard	13.	Ragi	13.	Redgram	13.	Redgram
14.	Sunflower	14.	Groundnut	14.	Paddy	14.	Redgram	14.	Sesamum	14.	Sesamum
15.	Safflower	15.	Sesamum	15.	Pea	15.	Sesamum	15.	Sunflower	15.	Soyabean

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16.	Sesamum	16.	Sunflower	16.	Ragi	16.	Soyabean	16.	Taramira	16.	Sunflower
17.	Groundnut	17.	Soyabean	17.	Safflower	17.	Sunflower	17.	Wheat		
18.	Ragi	18.	Niger	18.	Sunflower						
19.	Peas	19.	Castor	19.	Taramira				ACH		ACH
20.	Lentil	20.	Kodo Kutki	20.	Wheat		ACH	1.	Aomla	1.	Areca nut
Annual Comm. /		Annual Comm. /				1.	Chilly	2.	Apple	2.	Apple
<b>Hort. Crops</b>		<b>Hort. Crops</b>				ACH	2.	Cotton	3.	Banana	3. Banana
1.	Cotton	1.	Sugarcane	1.	Banana	3.	Onion	4.	Betal	4.	Betel
2.	Sugarcane	2.	Banana	2.	Chilly	4.	Sugarcane	5.	Brinjal	5.	Bitter Gourd
3.	Potato	3.	Cotton	3.	Cumin	5.	Turneric	6.	Cabbage	6.	Black Pepper
4.	Onion	4.	Potato	4.	Fenugreek			7.	Cashew	7.	Brinjal
5.	Ginger	5.	Chilly	5.	Isabgul			8.	Cauliflower	8.	Cardamom
6.	Chillies	6.	Ginger	6.	Potato			9.	Chilly	9.	Cauliflower
7.	Tapioca	7.	Onion	7.	Sugarcane			10.	Citrus	10.	Chilly
8.	Banana	8.	Turneric	8.	Tapioca			11.	Coriander	11.	Coconut
9.	Jeera	9.	Pineapple					12.	Cotton	12.	Cotton
10.	Garlic	10.	Tapioca					13.	Cumin	13.	Ginger
11.	Isabgol	11.	Jute					14.	Fenugreek	14.	Grape
12.	Sonf							15.	Grape	15.	Guava
13.	Brinjal							16.	Guava	16.	Lady Finger

17.	Isabgul	17.	Marigold
18.	Ladyfinger	18.	Oil Palm
19.	Litchi	19.	Onion
20.	Mango	20.	Orange
21.	Marigold	21.	Papaya
22.	Mosambi	22.	Pineapple
23.	Oilpalm	23.	Potato
24.	Onion	24.	Sapota
25.	Orange	25.	Sugarcane
26.	Papaya	26.	Sweet orange
27.	Pomegranate	27.	Tapioca
28.	Potato	28.	Tomato
29.	Tapioca	29.	Tuberose
30.	Tomato	30.	Turneric
31.	Tuberose		
32.	Turneric		

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**Assistance to farmers in areas receiving less than average rainfall**

†1455. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE and FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers of those States which received less than the average rainfall have not received Government assistance so far despite the announcement;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the names of the States which received less than the average rainfall and assistance provided by the Government to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) to (c) 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 memorandum from State Governments and in accordance with extant norms and procedures.

During Kharif 2015, in view of the deficit rainfall, many States like Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand are facing drought situation. Governments of these States have submitted Memoranda seeking financial assistance from NDRF. An amount of ₹1540.20 crore has been approved for Karnataka from NDRF. The proposals from other States are at various stages of processing/ Binalisation.

**Coverage under crop insurance schemes**

1456. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only small proportion of farmers have been covered under various crop insurance schemes, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the efforts being made to increase this coverage; and

(c) the road-map for this purpose?

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

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) and (b) No, Sir. About 24% of total cultivated area and 30% of total number of land holdings are being covered under various Government sponsored crop insurance schemes. Continued efforts are being made to create awareness about crop insurance schemes by the implementing States in coordination with the insurance companies to increase the coverage under these schemes. The salient activities under awareness campaign, involve the publicity of features and benefits of the scheme through advertisement in leading National/ local news papers, telecast through audio-visual media, distribution of pamphlets, participation in agriculture fairs/mela/gosti and organization of workshops/ trainings and SMS through Kisan Portal etc. State Governments/UTs are also being regularly persuaded to increase the coverage including notifying more crops under crop insurance schemes. Recently, Chief Ministers of those States which did not opt till date or had opted but withdrew later on, have been requested to review the matter personally and issue necessary direction to implement the scheme for the benefits of the farmers.

(c) It is estimated to enhance the area under crop insurance upto 50% of the gross cropped area within next 2-3 years. However, it will depend on notification of areas/ crops by the State Governments.

#### **Decline in arable land**

1457. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area of arable land is decreasing, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the efforts being made for arresting this decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) As per report on Land Use Statistics for 2012-13 (latest available) area of arable land in the country has marginally declined from 182.5 million hectares in 2008-09 to 182.0 million hectares in 2012-13. The decline in agricultural land has been mainly due to diversion for non-agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries, housing etc.

(b) As per Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Government and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to check diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. However, under the National Policy for Farmers – 2007 (NPF -2007), State Governments have been advised to earmark lands with low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity, etc., for non-agricultural development activities,

including industrial and construction activities. National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy – 2007 (NRRP-2007) has also recommended that as far as possible, projects may be set up on waste land, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of irrigated, multi-cropped agricultural land for non-agricultural uses may be kept to the minimum and avoided, to the extent possible. Further, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/degraded areas. The IWMP has been converted as the Watershed Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) from the financial year 2015-16.

Further, Government of India implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) with a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation and also to maintain balance in various types of land uses across the country. Under this mission all type of land including wastelands/barren land are developed with suitable need based soil and water conservation measures and parts of such degraded lands developed are put to agricultural practices, leading to net sown area remaining largely unchanged to 141 million ha. in last two decades.

#### **Promoting Greenhouse Technology**

1458. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Greenhouse facility gives farmers cheap access to seeds, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to promote Greenhouse technology in the country in a big way; and

(c) whether Government is considering to provide financial assistance for setting up of Greenhouses, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India under the scheme Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture promotes green house technologies under the component 'protected cultivation'. Assistance to the extent of 50% is provided to the farmers for establishment of various types of greenhouses upto 4000 sq. mts. per beneficiary.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has standardized low cost net house and poly houses for cultivation of important high value vegetable crops like green and coloured capsicum, English cucumber, bottle gourd, brinjal and tomato which are being disseminated to the farming community. These protected structures are good for off-season production, help in improvement of yield by 65-80%, improve quality and protect from insects and diseases.

#### **Recommendations of Task Force on Agriculture**

1459. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NITI Ayog's Task Force on Agriculture has recommended reforms to address the sensitive issue of frequent spurt in crop prices, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether these recommendations include guaranteed prices for at least half of the key crops, setting up of a unified national agriculture market, changing land lease laws etc., if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether these recommendations will make agriculture more efficient so that the country can produce enough with lesser land as the country is working for another Green Revolution, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) As reported by NITI Aayog, the report of the Task Force on Agricultural Development has not been finalized.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Benefits of subsidy to farmers**

†1460. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy and the respective heads under which subsidy was provided by Government to farmers in the preceding financial year, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government is aware that the full benefit of the subsidy does not reach to farmers, if so, whether Government is contemplating any measures for it, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Agriculture is a

State Subject. However, Government of India supports the State Government through various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, for which financial assistance is provided. Under the schemes, the funds are released to State Government who in turn provide subsidy to the beneficiaries as per approved norms. The details indicating the funds released under various schemes during the year 2014-15 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) To ensure greater and universal impact on efficiency in delivery of benefits and in order to ensure reaching the benefits of financial assistance to the beneficiary, State Governments and institutions are being constantly advised to ensure that the cash component under the schemes is transferred electronically to each beneficiary (individual or institution) from the year 2015-16. Further, the Government has also introduced Central Public Financial Management System (PFMS) to ensure that the benefits reach the targeted beneficiaries in a transparent and speedy manner and also in time.



**Statement**

*Details of State-wise financial assistance released under the various schemes being implemented by  
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare during 2014-15*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Name of Schemes													(₹ in crore)
		Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	National Horticulture Mission (NHM)	National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)	Soil Health Mgmt (SHM) & HS	Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNE)	On Farm Water Mgmt. (OFWM)	Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (under NMAET)	National Bamboo Mission (NBM)	Rainfed Area Development (RAD)	Soil Health Card (SHC)	Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)	Sub-Mission for Seed and Planting Material (SMSP)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	263.54	75.23	64.68	17.98	3.93	0.00	121.48	22.64	0.00	13.00	1.24	10.54	11.11	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13.92	7.50	0.00	2.04	0.62	23.77	0.00	7.13	12.82	4.73	0.12	0.49	0.37	
3.	Assam	267.71	94.94	0.00	8.86	1.82	29.09	1.00	7.49	2.97	3.00	0.51	5.62	18.87	
4.	Bihar	545.73	73.52	17.00	1.54	5.52	0.00	35.00	23.61	0.00	5.00	2.53	9.01	7.29	
5.	Chhattisgarh	341.75	47.94	111.88	3.20	1.22	0.00	10.00	11.83	3.80	11.44	0.66	5.19	17.82	
6.	Goa	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	1.90	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00		0.12	0.00		
7.	Gujarat	290.03	12.64	109.47	14.01	1.01	0.00	140.68	44.86	2.91	22.50	0.81	7.94	0.08	
8.	Haryana	254.68	36.03	65.45	2.42	0.00	0.00	23.00	2.83	0.00		0.34	2.55	0.01	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	86.11	17.98	0.00	0.00	1.99	42.42	1.50	11.85	0.81	7.58	0.24	1.02	1.00	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	78.25	10.20	0.00	1.01	7.36	45.00	0.00	3.24	0.77	2.50	0.32	1.18	2.41	
11.	Jharkhand	153.15	23.35	49.69	1.19	0.00	0.00	15.00	15.06	0.40	10.00	0.51	3.58	0.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12.	Karnataka	632.22	133.51	96.08	20.22	0.50	0.00	124.25	11.47	4.65	15.00	1.27	9.62	1.16
13.	Kerala	300.70	3.13	40.00		1.01	0.00	3.75	17.68	1.10	5.00	1.13	2.37	1.56
14.	Madhya Pradesh	511.78	214.02	42.22	45.06	5.60	0.00	66.50	50.06	6.81	24.98	1.43	13.92	11.20
15.	Maharashtra	942.09	191.95	140.00	34.08	5.04	0.00	177.50	34.13	0.59	40.00	2.16	20.34	10.45
16.	Manipur	43.00	14.82	0.00	1.98	0.00	44.17	2.72	6.71	8.62	5.00	0.13	1.10	0.25
17.	Meghalaya	60.64	9.48	0.00	0.63	0.00	27.60	0.00	1.72	0.97	4.84	0.14	1.25	0.34
18.	Mizoram	113.92	7.08	0.00	6.68	0.08	41.00	4.50	2.44	12.30	4.88	0.12	0.50	0.00
19.	Nagaland	52.75	19.29	0.00	4.55	0.40	34.76	0.00	7.56	11.36	5.46	0.13	0.62	1.71
20.	Odisha	482.07	53.14	71.75	9.26	1.51	0.00	10.14	44.48	3.88	13.00	0.80	7.09	16.68
21.	Punjab	413.71	40.37	58.50	0.40	1.75	0.00	0.00	19.95	0.00		0.26	2.09	2.70
22.	Rajasthan	695.28	2.42	42.66	47.85	0.00	0.00	75.00	24.43	0.31	25.00	1.43	15.80	7.82
23.	Sikkim	9.49	213.58	0.00	0.69	6.12	44.50	4.26	3.51	0.57	4.60	0.12	0.19	0.05
24.	Tamil Nadu	298.95	72.88	55.36	8.43	1.85	0.00	56.63	36.94	0.15	30.00	1.32	8.44	14.38
25.	Telangana	179.64	66.01	45.00	6.19	3.70	0.00	77.57	13.47	0.00	10.00	0.93	6.93	3.93
26.	Tripura	80.27	29.30	0.00	5.12	0.50	37.00	2.00	1.94	0.81	4.50	0.18	0.39	3.25
27.	Uttar Pradesh	589.47	252.24	37.32	11.73	6.79	0.00	3.00	69.98	0.50	20.00	3.54	21.21	16.43
28.	Uttarakhand	80.70	8.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	32.73	6.98	6.96	0.29	7.00	0.23	0.91	2.22
29.	West Bengal	582.34	52.61	18.74	6.03	3.75	0.00	0.00	17.14	0.00	5.00	1.17	5.98	0.00
TOTAL		8363.89	1783.99	1065.81	261.14	63.98	402.04	962.66	521.11	77.36	304.00	23.90	165.85	153.09

**Effect of climate change on Agriculture**

1461. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the effect of climate change on agriculture;

(b) whether Government has taken any initiative to develop sustainable agriculture technology; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Recognizing likely impact of climate change on agriculture and allied sectors, Government through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has initiated network project, National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA). It encompasses multi-pronged strategic research, technology development, capacity building of stakeholders and technology demonstrations at farmer's fields. Government is also addressing the issues of climate change through National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). The NMSA as programmatic intervention aims at making location specific, integrated/composite farming system, soil and moisture conservation measures, comprehensive soil health management, efficient water management practices and mainstream rainfed technologies. Besides, climate resilient interventions have been embedded and mainstreamed into Missions/Programmes/Schemes of Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) through a process of restructuring and convergence.

**Horticulture Revolution**

1462. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to bring in a horticulture revolution;

(b) the layout proposed by Government for development of horticulture in the country;

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

(d) the details of the measures being taken by Government to achieve the objectives and targets set under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) to (d) No such proposal is under consideration, but for holistic development of horticulture in the country, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India has launched two centrally sponsored schemes namely, Technology Mission for North Eastern States (TMNE) in the year 2001-02 and National Horticulture Mission in the year 2005-06. TMNE was later renamed as Horticulture Mission for North Eastern and Himalayan States (HMNEH) in the year 2003-04, with the inclusion of Himalayan States. These schemes were subsumed into the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) since 2014-15 covering all States and Union Territories. MIDH is being implemented in all the States with focus on production of planting materials, area expansion of fruits, vegetables and spices, promotion of Integrated Pest Management/ Integrated Nutrient Management, protected cultivation, promotion of organic farming, horticulture mechanization, creation of water resources, post-harvest management, development of market yards, human resource development etc. for increasing the production and availability of horticulture crops.

Funds to the tune of ₹ 2000 crore as Budget Estimates (BE) for the year 2015-16 have been allocated for MIDH.

**Remunerative price to farmers for their produces**

1463. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

KUMARI SELJA:

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

(a) whether Government has recently announced Minimum Support Price (MSP) for certain crops;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure remunerative price to the farmers for their produces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) and (b) Government has announced Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Kharif and Rabi Crops of 2015-16 Season. The details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Government ensures remunerative price to the growers by offering to procure their produce at Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the Government. However, farmers are free to sell it to Government agencies or in the open market as is advantageous to them.

Apart from procurement at MSP being undertaken by the Government, to ensure that farmers get adequate price for their produce, States/UTs have been advised to amend their respective State APMC Acts on the lines of Model Act, 2003. The Model Act provides for direct marketing, contract farming, farmers/consumer markets, setting up of markets in private and cooperative sectors, e-trading etc. Further, in order to encourage investment in marketing infrastructure development, Government is, *inter alia*, implementing capital investment subsidy schemes such as development/strengthening Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization (AMIGS) and Gramin Bhandaran Yojana (GBY). In addition, Government is also implementing Marketing Research and Information Network (MRIN) with the objective to collect and disseminate prices and arrival data for the benefit of farmers and other stakeholders to facilitate the farmers in taking better production and marketing decisions to get more remunerative prices for their produce.

In addition, the Government has approved the Central Sector Scheme for promotion of National Agriculture Market through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (A-ITF). The Scheme provides for a pan-India electronic trading portal which seeks to network the existing Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMC) and other market yards to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.

#### **Statement**

##### *Minimum Support Prices*

			(₹ per quintal)
Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2015-16
<b>Kharif Crops</b>			
1.	Paddy	Common	1410
		Grade 'A'	1450
2.	Jowar	Hybrid	1570
		Maldandi	1590
3.	Bajra		1275
4.	Maize		1325

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2015-16
5.	Ragi		1650
6.	Arhar (Tur)		4425^
7.	Moong		4650^
8.	Urad		4425^
9.	Cotton	Medium Staple	3800
		Long Staple	4100
10.	Groundnut in Shell		4030
11.	Sunflower Seed		3800
12.	Soyabean		2600
13.	Sesamum		4700
14.	Nigerseed		3650
	<b>Rabi Crops</b>		
15.	Wheat		1525
16.	Barley		1225
17.	Gram		3425**
18.	Masur (Lentil)		3325**
19.	Rapeseed/Mustard		3350
20.	Safflower		3300

^ Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal is payable over and above the Minimum Support Price .

\*\* Bonus of ₹ 75 per quintal is payable over and above the Minimum Support Price .

### **Implementation of 'Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India' Programme**

1464. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government under the programme 'Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India' during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the allocation and utilization of funds under the programme during last three years, State-wise and district-wise, including West Bengal;

(c) whether Government intends to expand the coverage of the programme to crops other than wheat and rice;

- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of targets set and achieved under this programme during last three years, State-wise?

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

(a) Government of India is implementing Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) since 2010-11 in States of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh (Eastern) and West Bengal. Under BGREI, interventions like demonstration of improved package of practices of rice and wheat, asset building, site specific activities and marketing support are undertaken to increase production of rice and wheat in eastern States.

(b) Government of India makes allocation of funds to the States and States further make allocation for districts identified under BGREI. The details showing the State-wise funds allocated and released during the last three years (2012-13 to 2014-15) including West Bengal is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) From the year 2015-16, at least 30 per cent of total rice demonstrations have to be conducted under cropping system based approach to utilize rice fallow areas through cultivation of wheat/coarse cereals/pulses/oilseeds as second crop after rice.

(e) The details of physical targets and achievements of major interventions under BGREI for the last three years (2012-13 to 2014-15) is given in the Statement-II (a), (b) and (c), respectively.

**Statement-I**

*State-wise Funds Allocated and Released under the Programme of Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI) during last three years (2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15).*

Sl. No.	State	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
		Allocation	Release	Allocation	Release	Allocation	Release
1.	Assam	95.50	95.50	97.38	60.09	106.00	76.00
2.	Bihar	119.25	119.25	142.78	71.39	151.00	151.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	131.50	131.50	204.51	102.25	161.00	120.75
4.	Jharkhand	59.00	59.00	85.81	42.90	77.00	38.50
5.	Odisha	217.25	217.25	199.30	199.30	184.00	184.00
6.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	105.50	105.50	116.95	58.48	148.00	110.00
7.	West Bengal	269.00	269.00	151.27	88.64	171.00	165.50
TOTAL		997.00	997.00	998.00	623.05	998.00	845.75

(₹ in crore)



**Statement-II(a)**  
*State-wise Physical Targets and Achievements made for major activities under Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI) Programme during 2012-13*

Sl. No	Component	Unit	T / A	Assam	Bihar	Chhattisgarh	Jharkhand	Odisha	Uttar Pradesh (East)	West Bengal	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
I.	Demonstrations :										
	(A) Rice	Ha	T	90700	111400	87724	54000	155000	143672	730000	1372496
	(B) Wheat	Ha	A	90700	110630	86940	53000	165020	138076.55	629000	1273366.55
			T	0	30000	0	0	0	65000	70000	165000
			A	0	30000	0	0	0	59238	60000	149238
II.	Asset Building *	Nos	T	17000	20700	2107	286	43163	33312	49100	165668
			A	17000	10065	2107	286	45540	31860	53150	160008
III.	Site Specific Needs:										
	(i) Construction of Covered Threshing Floor	Nos.	T	68	0	0	0	3	0	0	71
			A	79	0	0	0	3	0	0	82
	(ii) Water Harvesting Tank	Nos.	T	140	0	0	0	0	0	0	140
			A	140	0	0	0	0	0	0	140
	(iii) Construction of Minor Irrigation Tanks	Nos.	T	0	0	103	0	0	0	0	103
			A	0	0	103	0	0	0	0	103
	(iv) Subsidy on Agricultural Implements	Nos.	T	0	0	1594	0	0	0	0	1594
			A	0	0	7814	0	0	0	0	7814
	(v) Irrigation (Water Conveyance) PVC or High Density Polythene Pipe	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	0	23766	0	23766
			A	0	0	0	0	0	24835	0	24835
	(vi) Drum Seeders/Markers	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	0	525	0	525
			A	0	0	0	0	0	64	0	64

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	(vii) Hand Holdings of Last Year Demonstrations	Ha	T	0	0	0	0	0	27000	0	27000
	(viii) Gypsum Application	Ha	A	0	0	0	0	0	23901	0	23901
			T	0	0	0	0	0	4500	0	4500
	(ix) Tractorisation	Nos	A	0	0	0	0	0	515	0	515
			T	13960	0	0	0	0	0	0	13960
	(x) Lift Irrigation	Nos	A	13960	0	0	0	0	0	0	13960
			T	0	0	0	145	0	0	0	145
			A	0	0	0	145	0	0	0	145
	(xi) Farm cum Fish Pond in Submerged Low Land	Nos	T	0	0	0	0	1730	0	0	1730
			A	0	0	0	0	1730	0	0	1730
	(xii) Community Bore Well	Nos	T	0	0	0	0	161	0	0	161
			A	0	0	0	0	161	0	0	161
	(xiii) Check Dam	Nos	T	0	0	0	0	29	0	0	29
			A	0	0	0	0	29	0	0	29
	(xiv) River Lift	Nos	T	0	0	0	0	95	0	0	95
			A	0	0	0	0	95	0	0	95

T: Target; A: Achievements

\* Assets Building activities includes shallow tube well (boring), pump set, Dug Well/ Bore Well/ Lift Irrigation, Zero Till Seed Drill and Check Dam.

**Statement-II(b)**  
*State-wise Physical Targets and Achievements made for major activities under Bringing Green  
 revolution to Eastern India (BGREI) Programme during 2013-14*

Sl. No	Component	Unit	T/A	Assam	Bihar	Chhattisgarh	Jharkhand	Odisha	Uttar Pradesh (East)	West Bengal	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
I.	Demonstrations										
	(A) Rice:	Ha	T	68250	120254	111094	65250	134077	251020	181100	931045
	(B) Wheat	Ha	A	68250	125786.8	109540	59900	140577	212904.2	181100	898058
			T	0	30000	0	0	0	16000	18000	64000
			A	0	29522.8	0	0	0	15600	18000	63122.8
II.	Asset Building *	Nos	T	17475	25564	3150	36700	31795	34219	14121	163024
			A	1325	21179	5115	6089	32700	22328	28640	117376
III.	Site Specific Needs:										
	(i) Drum Seeder other than Rice Demonstration	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	0	1000	0	1000
			A	0	0	0	0	0	156	0	156
	(ii) Tractor Driven Paddy Threshers	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	0	312	0	312
			A	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	9
	(iii) Mini Combined Harvestors	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	0	1645	0	1645
			A	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	9
	(iv) Electrification of Pumpsets	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	21090	21090
			A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(v) Construction of Check Dams	Nos.	T	0	0	273	0	0	0	0	273
			A	0	0	236	0	0	0	0	236
	(vi) Construction of Minor irrigation Tank	Nos.	T	0	0	35	0	0	0	0	35
			A	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	(vii) Plant Protection Sprayers	Nos.	T	28571	0	0	0	0		0	28571
	(viii) Tarpaulin	Nos.	A	28571	0	0	0	0		0	28571
			T	15111	0	0	0	0		0	15111
			A	15111	0	0	0	0		0	15111
	(ix) Conveyance Pipe	Metre	T	81200	0	0	0	0		0	81200
			A	81200	0	0	0	0		0	81200
	(x) Paddy Weeder	Nos.	T	6666	0	0	0	0		0	6666
			A	6666	0	0	0	0		0	6666
	(xi) Jalkund	Nos.	T	0	0	0	2487	0		0	2487
			A	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
	(xii) Farm cum Fish Ponds in submergence low land	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	2000		0	2000
			A	0	0	0	0	1239		0	1239
	(xiii) Construction of Community Threshing Floor (30x30 mtr)	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	308		0	308
			A	0	0	0	0	413		0	413
	(xiv) Construction of Community Threshing Floor (20x20 mtr)	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	280		0	280
			A	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
IV.	Marketing Support:										
	(i) Pucca Threshing Floor	Nos.	T	0	3756	0	0	0	0	0	3756
			A	0	2806	0	0	0	0	0	2806
	(ii) Community Farm Storage Building	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	26
			A	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	(iii) Seed Dryers	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	120
			A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(iv) Seed Grader	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	120
		A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(v) Portable Bag Closer	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	120
		A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(vi) Weigher with Compressor	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	120
		A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(vii) Establishment of Krishak Bazar	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
		A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
(viii) Farm Level Storage Unit	Nos.	T	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47
		A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(xi) Moisture Meter	Nos.		0	0	0	0	0	260	0	0	0	0	260
			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(x) Bagging Machine	Nos.		0	0	0	0	0	130	0	0	0	0	130
			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(xi) Weighing Machines	Nos.		0	0	0	0	0	260	0	0	0	0	260
			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(xii) Bag Closing Machine	Nos.		0	0	0	0	0	390	0	0	0	0	390
			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(xiii) Grain Grader	Nos.		0	0	0	0	0	32500	0	0	0	0	32500
			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(xiv) Paddy Seed Cleaner cum Grader	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	60
		A	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	60

T: Targets; A: Achievement

\*Assets Building activities includes shallow tube well/ Boring/ dug well/ bore well, pump set, Paddy Transplanter, Improved Machineries as per norms of Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), paddy Thresher, Lift irrigation point, conoweeder, paddy repear, rotavator.

**Statement-II (c)**  
*State-wise Physical Targets and Achievements made for major activities Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI) Programme during 2014-15*

Sl. No	Component	Unit	T/A	Assam	Bihar	Chhattisgarh	Jharkhand	Odisha	Uttar Pradesh (East)	West Bengal	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
I.	Demonstrations :										
	(A) Rice	Ha	T	70667	80746	107333	51250	94702	80000	126000	610698
			A	52678	78782.8	93785	47967	95702	79662.88	143656	592233.68
	(B) Wheat	Ha	T	0	20134	0	0	0	19000.000	20600	59734.000
			A	0	28630.4	0	0	0	27268.000	20500	76398.400
II.	Asset Building *	Nos.	T	60235	52205	7675	18420	24118	35928	71730	270311
			A	37170	0	6503	11557	27037	24228	40010	146505
III.	Site Specific Needs:										
	(i) Shallow Tube Wells with Electric Motor (2 HP)	Nos.	T	3881	0	0	0	0	0	0	3881
			A	1940	0	0	0	0	0	0	1940
	(ii) Water Conveyance Pipe for effective Irrigation	Lakh RM	T	14.076	0	0	0	0	0	0	14.076
			A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(iii) Farm Ponds (66' x 66' x 10')	Nos.	T	0	3620	0	0	0	0	0	3620
			A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(iv) Water Harvesting Structures (110' x 110' x 8')	Nos.	T	0	1501	0	0	0	0	0	1501
			A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(v) Construction of Check Dams	Nos.	T	0	0	389	0	0	0	0	389
			A	0	0	360	0	0	0	0	360
	(vi) Construction of Minor Irrigation Tank	Nos.	T	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	10
			A	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	8

(vii) Construction of Water Harvesting Structures (20' x 20' x 10')	Nos.	T	0	0	0	6000	0	0	0	0
(viii) Construction of Water Harvesting Structures (30' x 30' x 10')	Nos.	A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(ix) Construction of Water Harvesting Structures (40' x 40' x 10')	Nos.	T	0	0	0	6000	0	0	0	6000
(x) Cluster Deep Bore Well	Nos.	A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(xi) Community Surface Lift Irrigation Project	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	96	0	0	96
(xii) Cluster Shallow Tube Wells	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	25
(xiii) Check Dam	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	83	0	0	83
(xiv) Diversion Weir	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	63	0	0	63
(xv) Water Harvesting Structures (OWDM)	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	87	0	0	87
(xvi) Boring	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	16990	0	0	16990
(xvii) Pump sets	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	17177	0	0	17177
(xviii) Construction of Irrigation Channel	RMT	T	0	0	0	0	0	108040	0	108040
(xix) Electrification of Pump Sets	Nos.	T	0	0	0	0	0	92966.05	0	92966.05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	(xx) Construction of Farm Ponds low land	Nos.	A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(xxi) Installation of STW with 5 HP Diesel Pumps	Nos.	T	4227	0	0	0	0	0	0	4227
			A	1950	0	0	0	0	0	0	1950
	(xxii) Low Lift Pumps	Nos.	T	3000	0	0	0	0	0	0	3000
			A	1854	0	0	0	0	0	0	1854
IV.	Marketing Support:										
	(i) Community Storage Facility at PPS Level (200 MT Capacity)	Nos.	T	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
			A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(ii) Covered Threshing Floors at PPS Level on Community basis	Nos.	T	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
			A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(iii) Financial Support to Women Self Help Group for establishment of Chira/ Muri at Process. Unit	Nos.	T	184	0	0	0	0	0	0	184
			A	88	0	0	0	0	0	0	88
	(iv) Construction of Pucca Chabutara for stacking of Paddy	Nos.	T	0	0	1479	0	0	0	0	1479
			A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(v) Moisture Meter	Nos.	T	0	0	0	360	0	0	0	360
			A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(vi) Bagging Machines	Nos.	T	0	0	0	160	0	0	0	160
			A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(vii) Weighing Machines	Nos.	T	0	0	0	160	0	0	0	160
			A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0





1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	(xxi) Paddy Winnowers	Nos.	T	600	0	0	0	0	0	0	600
	(xxii) Self Propelled Paddy Reapers	Nos.	A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			T	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	250
	(xxiii) Bag Sealing Machines	Nos.	A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			T	1786	0	0	0	0	0	0	1786
			A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(xxiv) Moisture Meter	Nos.	T	1850	0	0	0	0	0	0	1850
			A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(xxv) IRRI Super Grain Bag	Nos.	T	21970	0	0	0	0	0	0	21970
			A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

T: Targets; A: Achievement

\*Assets Building activities includes Dug well, Bore Well, shallow tube well, Drum Seeder, Zero Till Seed Drill, Seed Drill, Self Propelled Paddy Transplanter, Pumpset, Conoweed, Manual Sprayer, Power Knap Sack Sprayer, Power weeder, Paddy thresher, Multi Crop thresher, Rotavator, Tractor, Power Tiller, Power Repear, Puddle Paddy Thresher, PVC Delivery Pipe, Wheel Hose, SRI maker, Seed Bin/Gola and Set of Small Implement.

**Area sown under pulses**

1465. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of production of pulses, State-wise and pulse-wise, since January, 2012 till November, 2015;
- (b) whether there has been an increase in the area sown under pulses during the above period, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to increase the area sown under pulses; and
- (d) the estimated production of pulses this Kharif season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) and (b) Depending on yearly variations in weather, rainfall situation, irrigation facilities and inter-crop shift in area due to comparative profitability of other competing crops, State-wise area and production of pulses in the country has followed mixed trend. State-wise details of production of major pulses in the country during 2012-13 to 2015-16 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) In order to increase area and production of pulses in the country, Government of India has been implementing through State Governments, the National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Pulses since 2007-08. Presently, around 50% of the funds under the umbrella scheme of NFSM are allocated for promoting cultivation of pulses. Since 2014-15, NFSM-Pulses is being implemented in 622 districts of 27 States including all districts of North-Eastern and hill States. Further, since 2010-11 the Scheme “Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI)” is being implemented in Eastern States of Assam, Bihar, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. To give a boost to their area and production, pulses have also been included under BGREI from 2015-16 as part of demonstrations under cropping systems based approach to target rice fallow areas.

To encourage farmers to grow more pulses by ensuring remunerative prices, the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of pulses have also been increased over the years. Further, for 2015-16, over and above MSPs, the Government has announced a bonus of ₹ 200/- per quintal for kharif pulses and ₹ 75/- per quintal for rabi pulses.

(d) As per First Advance Estimates production of Kharif pulses during 2015-16 is estimated at 5.56 million tonnes.

**Statement***State-wise production of major pulses during 2012-13 to 2015-16*

State	Tur					Gram					Other Pulses					Total Pulses				
	2012-13					2013-14					2012-13					2012-13				
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15*	2015-16\$	2016-17\$	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15*	2015-16\$	2016-17\$	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15*	2015-16\$	2016-17\$	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15*	2015-16\$	2016-17\$
Andhra Pradesh	251.0	243.0	183.0	144.0	144.0	762.0	843.0	461.0	610.0	465.0	511.9	90.0	1623.0	1551.0	1155.9	234.0				
Assam	4.9	5.6	5.0	5.0	5.0	1.0	1.4		78.5	97.2	106.7	28.0	84.4	104.3	111.7	33.0				
Bihar	47.1	36.5	32.6	44.9	44.9	86.2	70.3	60.8	409.5	415.2	326.9	23.7	542.8	522.0	420.3	68.6				
Chhattisgarh	32.3	31.2	33.8	44.6	44.6	285.2	213.2	290.4	331.2	237.7	330.5	46.3	648.7	482.1	654.7	90.9				
Gujarat	270.0	209.0	258.0	264.0	264.0	168.2	309.0	192.0	134.0	211.0	131.0	109.0	572.2	729.0	581.0	373.0				
Haryana	16.4	11.0	6.5	12.0	12.0	53.0	75.0	44.0	61.0	39.1	9.0	6.0	130.4	125.1	59.5	18.0				
Himachal Pradesh	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	45.6	50.6	41.4	9.8	46.1	51.0	41.9	9.8				
Jammu and Kashmir	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	14.1	13.8	7.9	6.8	14.2	13.8	7.9	6.8				
Jharkhand	202.4	205.2	199.5	191.9	191.9	162.3	181.7	186.4	244.6	191.7	211.2	116.3	609.3	578.6	597.1	308.3				
Karnataka	366.3	587.5	479.0	285.0	285.0	623.0	716.0	769.0	270.0	297.0	240.0	135.0	1259.3	1600.5	1488.0	420.0				
Kerala	1.9	0.8	0.5	0.0	0.0		0.4	0.5	1.4	1.6	0.4	0.0	3.2	2.8	1.4	0.0				
Madhya Pradesh	351.0	332.0	511.0	568.0	568.0	3812.4	3299.1	2964.0	1002.5	1013.2	1229.8	568.0	5165.9	4644.3	4704.8	1136.0				

Maharashtra	966.0	1034.0	664.5	533.2	854.0	1622.0	829.0	486.0	513.0	244.0	177.2	2306.0	3169.0	1737.5	710.4
Odisha	128.5	124.4	123.8	194.8	31.9	36.2	36.6	264.0	258.6	279.8	141.1	424.4	419.3	440.2	335.8
Punjab	2.8	2.6	2.4	4.6	2.8	2.3	3.0	47.4	34.7	67.5	6.9	53.0	39.6	72.9	11.5
Rajasthan	14.8	9.4	9.7	10.8	1277.4	1640.4	910.4	664.6	841.1	1030.3	985.6	1956.8	2490.9	1950.4	996.4
Tamil Nadu	31.1	57.7	82.8	42.5	4.5	5.8	4.1	174.2	550.3	560.3	61.6	209.9	613.8	647.2	104.1
Uttar Pradesh	325.0	271.0	174.0	250.0	676.0	475.4	381.2	1331.0	951.0	892.0	345.0	2332.0	1697.4	1447.2	595.0
Uttarakhand	2.4	2.7	3.0	4.0	0.4	0.7	0.7	48.4	53.1	49.0	37.0	51.3	56.5	52.7	41.0
West Bengal	2.1	2.1	2.7	0.0	29.6	29.3	32.0	160.7	210.3	140.9	47.9	192.3	241.7	175.6	47.9
Others	6.7	8.7	7.5	7.1	2.0	4.5	4.2	80.8	106.9	831.5	15.5	89.5	120.0	843.2	22.5
All India	3022.7	3174.4	2779.2	2606.4	8832.5	9526.3	7169.8	6487.3	6552.2	7242.0	2956.6	18342.5	19252.9	17191.0	5563.0

\* As per Fourth Advance Estimates for 2014-15

\$As per First Advance Estimates for 2015-16 (Kharif only)

**Central share for infrastructural development in fisheries sector**

1466. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to increase the Central share for infrastructure development in fisheries sector, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is considering to make it 75 per cent as it used to be earlier; and

(c) if so, whether Government has received any proposal in this regard from various States and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (c) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing various schemes for development of fisheries during the financial year 2015-16, with Central financial assistance restricted to 40% of the capital cost of Infrastructure projects in general areas and 55% in Hilly and Scheduled areas. Some States namely Kerala and Karnataka have requested for reconsideration of the level of Central financial assistance for infrastructure projects to 75%. The Expenditure Finance Committee (FFC) has recommended to increase the Central financial assistance to (i) 50% of the project/unit cost for General States, (ii) 75% of the Unit/project cost for North- Eastern/Hilly States and (iii) 100% for projects directly implemented by the Government of India through its Institutes/Organizations with Union Territories.

**Fish farmers development agencies**

1467. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fish Farmers Development Agencies working in the country;

(b) the work undertaken by such agencies for the development of fisheries during the last three years; and

(c) the Central assistance sanctioned during the said period for the Fish Farmers Development Agencies of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Distress suicide by farmers in rural Bengal**

1468. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that incidents of distress suicide among farmers in rural Bengal have been increasing during the last four years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and
- (c) whether any action has been taken to stop the distress suicides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (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-employment Persons (Agriculture)' due to various causes is nil.

(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 fertilizer application and save money. The balanced use of fertilizer 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.

#### **Cultivation of oilseeds**

1469. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the incentives proposed to encourage farmers for cultivating oilseeds; and
- (b) whether Government proposes to adopt any land pooling to encourage cultivators of oilseeds, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA):  
(a) Government of India is implementing National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) in oilseeds growing States since 2014-15 for increasing production and productivity of oilseeds. To encourage farmers for cultivating oilseeds, incentives are



given on production and distribution of seeds, supply of seed minikits, transfer of improved production technologies through block demonstrations, frontline demonstrations, farmers training, supply of other inputs such as improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, water carrying pipes, supply of seed storage bins, seed treatment drums, bio-pesticides, micronutrients, bio-fertilizers, plant protection chemicals including bio agents etc. under the scheme.

- (b) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

**Implementation of National Agriculture Market Project**

1470. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to provide guidance and issue directives to the respective State Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs) to implement the envisaged National Agriculture Market Project;

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

(c) whether Government is planning to work in coordination with State Governments to formulate a strong facilitating framework which will enable transparent exchange between the consumer and the producer; 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 KUNDARIA): (a) to (d) The National Agriculture Market (NAM) e-platform has been envisaged to bring in operational efficiency and transparency in the mandi operations and to enhance market access for the farmers and eliminate information asymmetry. In order to provide guidance to the States/Union Territories (UTs) for integration of their regulated wholesale markets with the NAM e-platform, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has had workshops from time to time for the States/UTs, one of which was the visit of State Ministers and officials to Hubli, Karnataka on 9th July, 2015 to witness first hand the functioning of e-marketing platform. The Department has also circulated a detailed template to enable States/UTs to prepare their Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to submit their proposals thereon to the Government. Further to facilitate integration, the implementing agency *i.e.* Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) will engage a Strategic Partner (SP) which shall, *inter-alia*, train all participants (farmers, commission agents, traders, employees of the Market, data entry operators, etc.) in the market where the NAM is adopted, so that every participant is able to operate the NAM for its business

requirement. Further, the SP will also provide one year local support to each participating mandi and set up a help desk to support day to day operations and to answer queries in the State language.

### **Fake pesticides**

1471. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards media reports regarding selling of fake pesticides in Punjab and other parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government has taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) A special drive was launched in the month of September and October in Punjab against misbranded pesticides. A total of 3515 samples were drawn from different districts of Punjab by Central and State Insecticide Inspectors, out of which 146 (4.15%) samples were found misbranded. In addition, 6011 samples were drawn from other States, out of which 157 (2.6%) were found misbranded. Actions against the defaulters are being initiated as per the provision of the Insecticides Act, 1968.

### **Relief package for drought affected States**

1472. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any scheme to give relief package to drought affected States;
- (b) if so, the details of the packages given during the last two years, State-wise; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to create drought relief fund to provide sufficient financial grant matching the loss of farmers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE ( SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) to (c) 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 memorandum from State Governments and in accordance with extant norms and procedures. The details of financial assistance from NDRF for the last two years is given in the Statement.

**Statement**

*Details of financial assistance approved from NDRF for drought relief*

Sl.No.	State	Drought of 2013-14	Drought of 2014-15
1.	Andhra Pradesh	254.54	237.51
2.	Bihar	931.87	-
3.	Haryana	-	168.87
4.	Karnataka	226.57	200.85
5.	Maharashtra	-	1962.99
6.	Uttar Pradesh	-	777.34

**Procurement of cotton by CCI and NAFED**

1473. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and NAFED are not procuring hundred per cent of the cotton crop that come to the market;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor, State-wise; and
- (c) the revenue earned during the current year by such procurement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) and (b) Cotton is purchased by private traders/millers directly from farmers at the market price. During the current season, Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) alone has procured seed cotton (kapas) from farmers only in the event of market price ruling below the Minimum Support Price (MSP), fixed by the Government.

- (c) There is no revenue earned by CCI from MSP operation during the cotton season 2015-16.

**Increase in area under Kharif crops**

1474. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area under Kharif crops is higher this season than in the previous year by 13.51 lakh hectares owing to higher sowing of pulses, coarse cereals and oilseeds, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Kharif crops have been planted on 103137 lakh hectares this year as against 101786 lakh hectares last year; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the overall sowing has improved despite a 14 per cent deficit in rainfall during the southwest monsoon, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) to (c) No Sir. As per First Advance Estimates released on 16.9.2015, total area under Kharif crops during 2015-16 has been 1029.41 lakh hectares as against 1051.40 lakh hectares during Kharif 2014-15 (4th Advance Estimates) *i.e.* a decline of 21.99 lakh hectares. Details of area under major Kharif crops during 2015-16 and Kharif 2014-15 are as under:

Crop	Kharif area coverage (lakh hectares)		
	2015-16 (1st Advance Estimates)	2014-15 (4th Advance Estimates)	Increase (+)/ Decrease (-)
Rice	383.56	396.51	-12.95
Coarse Cereals	182.46	183.57	-1.11
Pulses	103.15	97.58	5.57
Foodgrains	669.16	677.66	-8.50
Oilseeds	186.47	183.39	3.08
Sugarcane	49.18	51.44	-2.26
Cotton	116.99	130.83	-13.84
Jute	7.06	7.49	-0.43
Mesta	0.55	0.59	-0.04
ALL INDIA	1029.41	1051.40	-21.99

**Production of foodgrains**

1475. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of major foodgrains in the country during each of the last three years, foodgrain-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to enhance agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE ( SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) The details of production of major foodgrains in the country during the last three years *i.e.* 2012-13 to 2014-15 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) In order to enhance 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***State-wise estimates of production of major foodgrains during 2012-13 to 2014-15*

State	[Production ('000 Tonnes)]														
	Rice			Wheat			Coarse Cereals			Pulses			Foodgrains		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15*	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15*	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15*	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15*	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15*
Andhra Pradesh	11510.0	12724.7	11565.4	10.0	4.0	6.0	5519.5	5385.4	4715.6	1623.0	1551.0	1155.9	18662.5	19665.1	17442.9
Assam	5128.5	4927.1	4863.0	44.2	40.4	44.0	23.5	25.0	41.0	84.4	104.3	111.7	5280.6	5096.8	5059.7
Bihar	7529.3	5505.8	6377.2	5357.2	4738.0	4049.3	2510.3	2139.9	2206.9	542.8	522.0	420.3	15939.6	12905.8	13053.7
Chhattisgarh	6608.8	6716.4	6021.2	141.3	134.0	135.3	244.7	263.1	264.6	648.7	482.1	654.7	7643.6	7595.6	7075.8
Gujarat	1541.0	1636.0	1637.0	2944.0	4694.0	3220.0	1999.0	2120.6	1547.9	572.2	729.0	581.0	7056.2	9179.6	6985.9
Haryana	3976.0	3998.0	4006.0	11117.0	11800.0	11856.0	1003.0	1051.0	826.0	130.4	125.1	59.5	16226.4	16974.1	16747.5
Himachal Pradesh	125.3	120.8	119.2	608.6	670.7	720.9	700.8	685.9	791.5	46.1	51.0	41.9	1480.7	1528.4	1673.5
Jammu and Kashmir	818.1	610.9	454.8	462.4	601.9	349.2	537.3	551.3	476.7	14.2	13.8	7.9	1831.9	1777.9	1288.6
Jharkhand	3164.9	2810.6	3319.7	319.5	370.4	330.4	463.8	526.1	487.7	609.3	578.6	597.1	4557.5	4285.7	4734.9
Karnataka	3364.0	3572.6	3663.7	179.0	210.0	215.0	6061.0	6825.8	6681.3	1259.3	1600.5	1488.0	10863.3	12208.9	12048.0
Kerala	508.3	509.2	558.3	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	3.2	2.8	1.4	511.8	512.4	560.0
Madhya Pradesh	2775.0	2844.8	3625.3	13133.4	12937.0	14181.9	2616.2	2551.8	2977.3	5165.9	4644.3	4704.8	23690.4	22978.0	25489.3

Maharashtra	3057.0	3120.0	2926.0	1181.0	1602.0	1236.0	4429.3	5955.2	4434.1	2306.0	3169.0	1737.5	10973.3	13846.2	10333.6
Odisha	7295.5	7613.4	8286.1	2.0	1.1	1.0	287.0	325.7	242.7	424.4	419.3	440.2	8008.8	8359.4	8970.0
Punjab	11374.0	11267.0	11107.0	16591.0	17620.0	15783.5	525.0	553.8	498.0	53.0	39.6	72.9	28543.0	29480.4	27461.4
Rajasthan	222.5	312.6	366.7	9275.5	8663.2	9868.7	6912.9	6432.9	7565.7	1956.8	2490.9	1950.4	18367.7	17899.6	19751.5
Tamil Nadu	4049.9	5349.8	5839.0	NG	NG	NG	1333.0	2819.7	2974.2	209.9	613.8	647.2	5592.8	8783.2	9460.4
Uttar Pradesh	14416.0	14636.0	12221.4	30301.9	29890.9	25219.5	3695.5	3803.2	3583.7	2332.0	1697.4	1447.2	50745.4	50027.5	42471.8
Uttarakhand	579.8	578.6	606.0	858.2	842.4	662.0	338.4	298.9	317.0	51.3	56.5	52.7	1827.7	1776.5	1637.7
West Bengal	15023.7	15370.7	14711.2	895.9	927.8	950.0	434.6	538.6	670.8	192.3	241.7	175.6	16546.5	17078.9	16507.6
Others	2163.4	2419.9	2524.3	84.4	102.0	109.7	409.4	441.1	445.0	90.3	120.0	843.2	2747.9	3058.2	3922.2
ALL INDIA	105231.6	106645.5	104798.5	93506.5	95849.8	88938.4	40044.2	43294.9	41748.3	18342.5	19252.9	17191.0	257124.7	265043.2	252676.2

\*As per Fourth Advance Estimates for 2014-15

NG: Negligible

**Implementation of Swaminathan Commission Report**

1476. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has announced to constitute Farmers' Commission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with its terms of reference;
- (c) whether Government disagree with the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for non-implementation of the report of the Swaminathan Commission inspite of assurance by the Prime Minister?

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

(a) No, Sir. Government has not announced constitution of Farmers' Commission. However, Government has initiated action to constitute an Expert Committee to revisit the National Policy for Farmers-2007.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government constituted a National Commission on Farmers under the Chairmanship of Shri Sompal in the year 2004, which was subsequently reconstituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan *vide* Resolution No. 8-2/2003-Policy (ES) dated 18.11.2004.

The Commission submitted five reports to the Government. The major recommendations of the Commission contained in the five reports were included in the 'Draft National Policy for Farmers'; submitted by the Commission itself.

Based on the above referred 'Draft National Policy for Farmers', the Government approved the 'National Policy for Farmers, 2007' (NPF 2007).

While most of the recommendations were accepted, some recommendations were not incorporated in the NPF-2007. These along with reasons for non-acceptance is given in the Statement (*See* below).

Thereafter a Committee has been set up in the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare to monitor the implementation of various action points that emerge from the Policy. And the Committee is monitoring the implementation of the action points.

Various schemes/programmes/missions adopted by the Ministry are based on the recommendation of the National Commission on Farmers.



**Statement***Recommendations made by NCF but not incorporated in the National Policy for Farmers 2007*

Gist of Recommendations	Reasons
(a) To permit farmers to protect crops by killing wild boars, nilgai and to curtail free grazing of cattle in rabi season	These are not policy issues and may be taken up separately with the Ministry of Environment and Forest for appropriate action by them to protect the crops.
(b) MSP should be at least 50% higher than weighted average cost of production	MSP is recommended by CACP on objective criteria considering variety of relevant factors. Hence, prescribing an increase of at least 50% on cost may distort the market. A mechanical linkage between MSP and cost of production may be counter-productive in some cases.
(c) Formation of All India Agricultural Council	Mandate of ICAR can be expanded to discharge this function (This has been suggested in the policy).
(d) To set up an Agricultural Risk Fund	DEA has expressed reservations and stated that subsidizing agriculture insurance premium is a better option.
(e) A Food Guarantee Act shall be enacted	NREG Act and revamped PDS should take care of food security of BPL families.
(f) To establish an Indian Trade Organisation to help Government to operate Livelihood Security Box for farmers and to link global policies with local action	Department of Commerce (DOC) has expressed reservation on this proposal and has stated that DOC along with DAC are recommending necessary steps to safeguard farmers' interests from time to time.

Gist of Recommendations	Reasons
(g) Every State should set up a State Farmer Commission	State Government will have to take necessary decision in this regard. Hence this may not be incorporated in National Policy for Farmers.
(h) To include Agriculture under Concurrent List under Article 246 of the Constitution	Some of the State Governments have opposed this recommendation. It may not be incorporated in Policy as a Constitutional amendment is required for which separate action may be needed.
(i) National Livestock Development Council to be established at the National level. Livestock Feed and Fodder Corporations to be set up at the State level.	Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries have decided not to establish National Livestock Development Council. Livestock Feed and Fodder Corporation can be considered separately.
(j) National Agricultural Biosecurity Council, National Centre for Agriculture Biosecurity and National Agricultural Biosecurity Network would be put in place.	This is implementation issue and can be considered by Government subsequently. Hence, it is not incorporated in the Policy.
(k) PDS would be made universal.	In view of reservations expressed by Ministry of Finance and Department of Food and Public Distribution, this may not be incorporated in NPF.
(l) Gram Panchayat Mahila Fund to assist women SHGs.	Existing schemes implemented by Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj can take care of women livelihood and capacity building issues.
(m) MSP and Procurement operations should be treated as two separate initiatives	Department of Food and Public Distribution has reservation on this, since it will be difficult to implement.

**Plan to boost production of pulses**

1477. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent crisis of pulses was due to the absence of timely planning to import them; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government will fix responsibility for the muddle and draw up a comprehensive plan to boost production of pulses in the country?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA ): (a) No, Sir. Pulses in India are imported by private sector and not by Government. There are no restrictions on import of pulses. There is no import duty on import of pulses. However, Government imported 5000 tons of pigeon pea (tur) for taking up limited market intervention.

(b) The Government promotes production of pulses in the country through National Food Security Mission (NFSM) which covers 622 districts in 27 States. Around 50% of total allocation of NFSM is made for pulses for various interventions like demonstration of improved technology, distribution of quality seeds of new varieties, integrated pest management, water saving devices and capacity building of farmers. An additional allocation of ₹ 440 crore has been made for rabi and summer pulses during 2015-16. In order to increase production of pulses in the eastern India, pulses have been included in the scheme Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI) also from 2015-16. A special programme for demonstration of new varieties of pulses seeds through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) has been initiated from Rabi 2015-16. The Government has substantially increased minimum support price (MSP) for pulses in the current year.

**Impact of deficit rainfall on agricultural production**

1478. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the southwest monsoon season has registered an overall rainfall deficit of 14.3 per cent relative to the normal long period average for June-September; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on the agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) Yes, Sir. According to India Meteorological Department during South-West Monsoon, 2015 (1 June to 30 September), the country as a whole received 760.6 mm rainfall than the normal rainfall of 887.5 mm, which is 14% deficient. Details of Zone-wise rainfall (June-Sept.) are given below:

Zone/Region	Actual	Normal	% Deficit
East & North East India	1317.5	1438.3	-8%
North West India	510.6	615.0	-17%
Central India	815.5	975.5	-16%
South Peninsula	605.7	716.1	-15%

(b) As per the First Advance Estimates for 2015-16, production of Kharif foodgrains is estimated at 124.05 million tons, which is marginally lower by 2.26 million tons than the production of Kharif foodgrains during last year.

#### **Suicide by farmers due to increasing cost of production**

1479. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production cost in agriculture sector has increased during the last years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether farmers have committed suicide due to this reason, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) The all India weighted average cost of production (A2+FL), as projected by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), of major foodgrains and commercial crops for the last three years, from 2013-14 to 2015-16 is given below:

(Value in ₹ per quintal)

Crop	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
	Cost of Production (A2+FL)*	Cost of Production (A2+FL)*	Cost of Production (A2+FL)*
Wheat	679	744	785
Paddy	961	978	1020
Gram	1786	1902	2124
Maize	860	914	941
Sugarcane	120	129	215
Cotton	2485	2510	2753
Groundnut	2720	3232	3314
Soyabean	1692	1729	1770

\*- A2+FL: Paid-out Cost inclusive of imputed value of Family Labour

(b) As recorded by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) Report 2014, the major causes of suicides by farmers are bankruptcy or indebtedness, poverty, family problems, illness, farming related issues e.g. failure of crops, distress due to natural calamities, inability to sell produce and other causes.

#### **Financial assistance to cotton growing farmers in Vidarbha**

1480. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will provide any financial assistance to the cotton growing farmers in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra where farmers are committing suicide in large number; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA):  
(a) and (b) As reported by the Government of Maharashtra, the number of suicides among farmers in Vidarbha region (Nagpur Division) of the State, stand at 147, for the period January 2015 to September 2015.

The State of Maharashtra has a provision of *ex-gratia* relief @ ₹ 1.00 lakh to be paid to the heirs of the deceased farmer. The Government of Maharashtra has laid down 3 (three) norms for eligibility for sanction of this *ex-gratia* payment. These are crop failure, indebtedness and harassment due to inability to pay agriculture related loans.

**Compensation to farmers under Crop Insurance Scheme**

1481. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether farmers do not get compensation under the Crop Insurance Scheme when crops fail due to drought or cyclone;
- (b) if not, how many farmers received compensation for failure of crops due to such natural calamities in the last one year, State-wise; and
- (c) whether it is a common complaint of farmers that they do not get compensation under the crop insurance scheme, if so, the remedial steps Government is taking to assuage the feelings of farmers and prevent them from committing suicide ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) and (b) No Sir. Claims are worked out and paid to the insured farmers as per the provisions of the concerned crop insurance scheme. State-wise details of farmers covered and farmers who received claims (farmers benefited) along with amount of claims paid under various crop insurance schemes during 2014-15 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) No Sir. However, some complaints about non-payment and delayed payment of claims; under payment of claims on account of incorrect/delayed submission of insurance proposals by banks; unrealistic assessment of crop loss due to large unit area of insurance; delay in providing Government share of funds etc., have been received in the past. As far as possible, all the complaints have been suitably addressed by the Insurer and the Ministry.

*State-wise details of farmers covered, farmers benefited and claims paid during 2014-15 under various Crop Insurance Schemes*

Sl. No.	State	Farmers Covered				Farmers Benefitted (to whom claims paid)					Total Claims					
		NAIS		WBCIS		Total	NAIS		WBCIS		Total	NAIS		WBCIS		Total
		3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42748	266383	96614	405745	0	22338	78158	100496	0	2129.83	4514.99	6644.82			
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	26538	783	0	27321	339	184	0	523	0	5.87	0	5.87			
3.	Assam	1579229	0	23351	1602580	838856	0	21738	860594	27.71	0	1308.13	1335.84			
4.	Bihar	94188	447997	1846855	2389040	5846	0	1582408	1588254	112882.174	999.44	32311.19	146192.8			
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	974199	974199	0	0	590731	590731	110.85	0	18391.58	18502.43			
6.	Goa	660855	160	0	661015	192157	0	0	192157	0	0	0	0			
7.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50323.1472	0	0	50323.147			
8.	Haryana	32755	0	22	32777	402	0	7	409	0	0	0.79	0.79			
9.	Himachal Pradesh	64644	0	99015	163659	5163	0	94213	99376	45.61	0	3465.77	3511.38			
10.	Jharkhand	0	35334	158589	193923	0	0	158589	158589	166.88	35.17	2638.98	2841.03			
11.	Karnataka	0	938570	174771	1113341	0	318111	124542	442653	0	15412.28	6490.11	21902.39			
12.	Kerala	4990892	19904	29502	5040298	425136	1394	22715	449245	0	430.80	284.91	715.71			
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5594625	0	168771	5763396	4170351	0	165535	4335886	69308.0171	0	4847.46	74155.477			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14.	Maharashtra	3472	0	1424794	1428266	3472	0	1271643	1275115	180662.99	0	41006.96	221669.95
15.	Manipur	2010	0	0	2010	838	0	0	838	185.130000	0	0	185.13
16.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16.28	0	0	16.28
17.	Mizoram	1918490	0	0	1918490	186255	0	0	186255	0	0	0	0
18.	Odisha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26331.2301	0	0	26331.23
19.	Rajasthan	19	4034470	5852258	9886747	0	1499509	5113159	6612668	0	47343.60	70564.02	117907.62
20.	Sikkim	543048	0	0	543048	8121	0	0	8121	0	0	0	0
21.	Tamil Nadu	266043	44817	0	310860	53591	0	0	53591	1044.17	0	0	1044.17
22.	Telangana	324	700585	70538	771447	0	0	68721	68721	2204.19	0	5518.05	7722.24
23.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0	1488070	284520	1772590	0	887980	278448	1166428	0	67492.88	9166.51	76659.39
25.	Uttarakhand	751827	37987	41246	831060	162628	14199	37934	214761	0	941.57	3222.84	4164.41
26.	West Bengal	0	1079087	3408	1082495	0	0	0	0	10833.11	6970.84	0	17803.95
27.	Puducherry	1541	0	0	1541	72	0	0	72	1.76	0	0	1.76
28.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	1364	1364	0	0	1364	1364	0	0	54.18	54.18
TOTAL		16573248	9094147	11249817	36917212	6053227	2743715	9609905	18406847	454143.263	141762.28	203786.47	799692.01



**Subsidy to farmers for purchasing agricultural implements**

1482. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of scheme, if any, for granting soft loans and subsidy to farmers for purchasing various agricultural implements;
- (b) whether Government has identified the agricultural equipments which result in saving water and ensuring better agriculture produce and which cannot be afforded by the marginal farmers and need to be subsidized;
- (c) the various ways of promoting and encouraging farmers for using these implements, which result in increase of production; and
- (d) the total subsidy, if any, given to farmers of Punjab for purchase of such equipments?

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

(a) Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) provides Subsidy to farmers through State Governments under different schemes, such as Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) for purchase of various agricultural equipments and machines. However, the Department schemes does not provide soft loans for purchasing agricultural implements.

(b) DAC&FW has identified equipments and machines for small and marginal farmers and provide subsidy on such agricultural equipments which helps in increasing agriculture production and productivity, improving utilization efficiency of costlier inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and irrigation water, besides reducing human drudgery and cost of cultivation.

(c) The scheme of Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization has been launched by the Department w.e.f. 2014-15 with the objective of increasing the reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers; Promoting 'Custom Hiring Centres', Creating hubs for hi-tech and high value farm equipments and creating awareness among farmers through demonstration and capacity building activities. Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes provides training to the farmers on operation, repair and maintenance of agricultural machines and equipments.

(d) During the year 2014-15 and 2015-16, the funds allocated/released to Government of Punjab for farm mechanization under different schemes is as under:

(₹ in lakhs)

Scheme	2014-15	2015-16 (Allocation)
SMAM	209.45	186.56
NFSM	270.00	255.00
NMOOP	Nil	5.74
MIDH	431.20	385.55
RKVY	4372.00	Nil

**Suicide by farmers**

1483. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of farmers who committed suicide due to agrarian crisis in the last five years;
- (b) whether Government has made any analysis of the pending debt liability of farmers;
- (c) the number of small and marginal farmers who are under stress and debt ridden; and
- (d) whether Government is contemplating a scheme for loan waiver or payment in installments for farmers?

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

(a) 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' is as under:

Year	No. of suicides
2010	15964
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.

Further, according to NCRB Report of 2014 a total of 1163 farmers committed suicide due to indebtedness and 969 farmers committed suicide due to farming related issues like failure of crop and inability to sell.

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

(b) and (c) National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducted Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households during NSS 70th round (January, 2013 - December, 2013) in the rural areas of the country with respect to the agricultural year July, 2012 – June, 2013. In this survey, information on the amount of loan outstanding on the date of the survey was collected from each surveyed household. The information included all kinds of outstanding loans irrespective of the purpose for which loans were taken.

As per the estimates obtained from this survey, 51.9 per cent of the estimated 90.2 million agricultural households in the country were reported to have some kind of outstanding loan. Also, the details of estimates related to indebted agricultural households for each size class of land possessed (ha.) are given in the Statement (*See below*).

- (d) No, Sir.

**Statement**

*Average amount of outstanding loan\* (₹ '00) per agricultural household and proportion of indebted agricultural household by size class of land possessed*

Size class of land possessed	Approximate average amount of outstanding loan (In ₹ '00)	Number of households having outstanding loan (00)	Estimated number of agricultural households (00)
< 0.01	311	10015	23890
0.01 – 0.40	239	135972	287663
0.41 – 1.00	354	152163	314811
1.01 – 2.00	548	86108	154577
2.01 – 4.00	949	56098	84345
4.01 – 10.00	1827	25207	33019
10.00 +	2903	2918	3706
ALL SIZES	470	468481	902011

\* Loan taken from all the sources irrespective of the purpose as outstaying as on date of survey

*Note:* Land class-wise detailed figures in col.3 not yet published.

**Import and testing of fertilizers**

1484. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the policy of Government for import of fertilizers;
- (b) the quantum and value of fertilizers imported along with the names of importing companies and the countries from which these fertilizers were imported during each of the last three years and current year, fertilizer-wise;
- (c) whether appropriate testing facilities are available for testing these fertilizers as per international standard, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the monitoring mechanism put in place to check quality of fertilizers being imported by the said companies; and

(e) the measures taken by Government to make the country self-sufficient in production of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) Urea is the only fertilizer under statutory price control and its import is restricted and permitted through State Trading Enterprises (STEs) namely MMTC Limited (MMTC), State Trading Corporation Limited (STC) and Indian Potash Limited (IPL), under the Foreign Trade Policy of the Government. Urea for direct agricultural use is imported on Government account to bridge the gap between assessed demand and indigenous production. Government is also importing approximately 20 Lakh Metric Tonnes urea from Oman India Fertilizer Company (OMIFCO) under a Long Term Urea Off Take Agreement (UOTA) between GOI & OMIFCO. The import of urea from OMIFCO is made through M/s IFFCO and M/s KRIBHCO. The year-wise quantity and value of urea imported during the last three years and current year (up to November, 2015) are as under:

Year	From OMIFCO (LMT)	Through STE (LMT)	Total Urea Imported (LMT)	Value (Million US\$)
2012-13	18.33	62.11	80.44	3,009.49
2013-14	21.21	49.68	70.89	1,968.36
2014-15	14.63	72.86	87.49	2,477.27
2015-16*	14.27	43.48	57.75	1,468.24

\* upto November, 2015

Import of fertilizers (other than Urea) is free, commonly known as Open General Licence (OGL). Various companies import these fertilizers as per their commercial judgment. Government does not maintain the value of these imports. The year-wise details of quantity of P&K fertilizers imported during the last three years and current year (up to June, 2015) are as under:

(Figures in Lakh MT)

Year	DAP	NPK	MOP#
2012-13	57.02	4.05	24.95
2013-14	32.61	3.62	31.80
2014-15	38.53	2.91	41.97
2015-16*	52.88	6.29	25.72

\* upto November, 2015

# MOP includes both for use as direct application as well as NPK manufacture.

The names of companies who have imported P&K fertilizers during the last 3 years and the current year are Agrigold Organics Pvt. Ltd. (AOPL), Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. (CFCL), Coromandel International Ltd. (CIL), Deepak Fertilizers & Petrochemicals Ltd. (DFPL), Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT), Greenstar Fertilizer Ltd. (GFL), Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. (GSFC), HINDALCO/Indo Gulf Fertilizers Ltd. (IGFL), HPM Chemicals and Fertilizers, Indian Farmers Fertilisers Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO), Indian Potash Ltd. (IPL), KPR Fertilizers Ltd. Krishak Bharati Cooperative (KRIBHCO), Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (MCFL), Madras Fertilizer Ltd. (MFL), Mosaic India Pvt. Ltd. Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd (NFCL), Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL), Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF), Shriram Ferts and Chemicals, Sunfert International Pvt. Ltd. Tata Chemicals Ltd. (TCL), Zuari Agro Chemicals Ltd. (ZACL).

The countries from where the fertilizers have been imported during the last three years and current year are Australia, Belarus, China, Canada, CIS, Estonia, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Morocco, Oman, Russia, S. Arabia, Spain, Ukraine, USA and Vietnam.

(c) Yes, Sir. The method for analysis of various parameters of all the fertilizers have been prescribed in Schedule II of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985, which are as per international prevailing standards. At present, there are 4 notified Central Government Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCLs), namely, Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute (CFQC&TI) and its three Regional Fertilizer Control Laboratories (RFCLs), which have been entrusted with the responsibility to check the quality of imported fertilizers. These laboratories carry out the analysis as per the methods notified in the FCO.

(d) In order to check the quality of imported fertilizers, the fertilizer inspectors of CFQC&TI and RFCLs draw samples at the ports and send the samples to the laboratories. Thereafter, the samples are analyzed by the qualified analyst of the laboratories.

(e) 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.

The Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme has been announced for P&K fertilizers w.e.f. 01.04.2010 to ensure sufficient availability. Government is also encouraging private sector and public sector companies to explore the possibilities for joint ventures abroad to ensure uninterrupted supply of fertilizer inputs to P&K sector.

#### **Pricing of drugs/medicines**

1485. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has a clear policy regarding pricing of medicines;
- (b) whether it is weighed in favour of pharmaceutical companies or in favour of patients from ordinary/poor families; and
- (c) whether Government has ensured that life saving drugs are made available at reasonable cost to them by producing them in public sector companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) The Department of Pharmaceuticals has notified the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy-2012 under which the prices of medicines included in the National List of Essential Medicines-2011 are to be controlled and regulated. The objective is to put in place a regulatory framework for pricing of drugs so as to ensure availability of required medicines - "Essential Medicines" - at reasonable prices even while providing sufficient opportunity for innovation and competition to support the growth of the industry, thereby meeting the goals of employment and shared economic well being for all.

(c) Life saving drugs is not mentioned in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order-2013. It only finds mentioned in the custom and excise tariff. Some full/partial exemptions/concessions from payment of duties on specified drugs and medicines are presently in force. However, essential medicines as mentioned in the reply to Parts (a) and (b) above, are made available at reasonable prices in accordance with the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy-2012 and the Drugs (Price Control) Order- 2013.

**Review of Drug Pricing Policy**

†1486. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to review and re-evaluate Drug Pricing Policy, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Drug Pricing Regulator is fixing the prices of life saving drugs and other medicines at present; and

(c) if not, the number and details of medicines whose prices are fixed by pharmaceutical companies themselves and whether these prices are reasonable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) The Government has been reviewing/re-evaluating the policy whenever required. It is an ongoing process.

(b) 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 First Schedule of DPCO, 2013 and brought under price control. Out of total 680 NLEM medicines (628 net medicines) under scheduled category of DPCO, 2013, NPPA has fixed the ceiling prices in respect of 530 medicines based on market price data under provisions of the said order.

In addition, maximum retail price (MRP) has been capped in respect of 106 non scheduled medicines.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

**Subsidy of fertilizers**

1487. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are getting requisite benefit of subsidy on fertilizers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether some companies resort to the tactics of indicating lower production capacity and on the basis of percentage production obtain huge subsidy;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



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

(d) the steps taken to ensure that the poor and marginal farmers get the maximum benefit of subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) Urea is provided to farmers at a statutory price of ₹ 5360/MT (plus sales tax and other local taxes wherever levied) plus a maximum of 5% of the statutory price for neem coating urea. The MRP of Urea is much below the actual delivered cost. The Difference of delivered price and MRP is paid as subsidy to the urea manufacturer/importer by the Government of India.

The Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers DAP, MOP, MAP, Ammonium Sulphate, TSP, SSP and 15 grades of NPK complex fertilizers, are also provided to farmers at subsidized prices. The MRP along with the subsidy provided on these fertilizers is printed on each bag of these fertilizers and the farmers, who purchases these fertilizers, gets the benefit of subsidy.

(b) and (c) So far as P&K fertilizers [except Single Super Phosphate (SSP)] is concerned, there is no linkage between subsidy payment and capacity utilization. In respect of SSP, the SSP units are eligible for subsidy if they produce a minimum of 40000 MT per year or utilize 50% of their annual recognized capacity during one year between 1st May to 30th April. The capacity of the SSP units is recognized based on the 'consent to operate' granted by the State Pollution Control Boards and their installed capacity duly verified and certified technically by Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL)/ FACT Engineering and Design Organisation (FEDO), PSUs.

(d) Subsidy on fertilizers are provided to farmers irrespective of their landholding and economic status.

#### SC Judgement on Sections 66A and 69 of IT Act

1488. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the fallout of Supreme Court (SC) judgment in declaring Section 66A of the Information Technology Act *ultra vires* of the Constitution and declaring Section 69 to be *intra vires*; and

(b) the action Government proposes to take thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Following the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgment declaring Section 66A of the Information Technology Act *ultra vires* of the Constitution and declaring Section 69 to be *intra vires*, section 66A can no longer be invoked by the law enforcement agencies/authorities while registering complaints against any person. Further, Section 69A and the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules 2009 are constitutionally valid. In this context, it is reiterated that the Government fully respects the freedom of speech and expression as enshrined in the Constitution of India and follows the same in letter and spirit.

(b) Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted a Committee to examine the implications of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgment quashing Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and to suggest appropriate legal remedy to fill gaps in the legal regime, if any, in the wake of the aforesaid judgment.

Also, an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri T.K. Vishwanathan, former Secretary, Law Commission and Secretary General has been set up by Ministry of Home Affairs to study and examine the existing domestic cyber laws and International Cyber legislations and recommend a road map with measures and amendments to the present laws for consideration of the Government.

Further, in order to comprehensively address the issues of Cyber Crimes, Ministry of Home Affairs has set up an Expert Group consisting of Academicians and Professionals of repute to prepare a roadmap for effectively tackling the Cyber Crimes in the country and give suitable recommendations on all facets of cyber crime. The five-member Expert Study Group comprises of Dr. Rajat Moona, Director General Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Professor Balakrishnan, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, Dr. Gulshan Rai, then Director General Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In), Professor Manindra Aggarwal, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur and Professor D. Dass, International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Bengaluru. Shri Kumar Alok, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs is the Convenor of the Expert Group. The Terms of Reference of the Expert Group are:

- (i) To prepare a Road Map for effectively tackling the Cyber Crime in the country and give suitable recommendations on all its facets.
- (ii) Recommend possible partnerships with Public and Private Sector, NGOs, International Bodies and International NGOs.

- (iii) Any other special measures/steps the Expert Group may like to recommend with regard to tackling Cyber Crimes.

**Revival of fertilizers plants**

1489. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has declined to provide guarantee of the continuation of the current urea investment policy beyond 2019 to the investors desiring to take part in the bidding process for revival of Gorakhpur and Sindri plants of FCIL and Barauni plant of HFCL;

(b) whether there is no assurance that gas will necessarily flow from domestic sources and of compensation for the units in case Jagdishpur- Haldia pipeline is delayed; and

(c) the number and names of the investors who have shown interest in taking part in the revival activities even after such conditionality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) As per New Investment Policy (NIP) 2012 and as amended in October, 2014 only those units whose production starts within five years from the date of its amendment notification will be covered under the policy. Subsidy will be given only upon domestic sale as at present for a period of 8 years from the date of start of production. Thereafter, the units will be governed by the urea policy prevalent at that time. Being a policy matter, applicability of the NIP 2012 beyond 2019 cannot be commented at this stage.

(b) GAIL (India) Ltd. (GAIL) is executing Jagdishpur-Haldia Pipeline (JHPL) in phases with phase-I comprising of mainline from Phulpur to Dobhi and spur lines to Fertilizer Corporation India (FCI), Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC)/Indian Oil Corporation Limited ( IOCL), Barauni and Patna. The construction of JHPL will be in synchronization with the revival of fertilizer plants and execution of Gas Transmission Agreement (GTA) by the potential customers. Hence, the compensation for delay on account of JHPL construction does not arise.

(c) Against the Request for Qualification (RFQ) floated, two response, one each for Gorakhpur unit (M/s Matix Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited) and Sindri unit (M/s Adani Enterprises Limited) have been received.

**Supply of low cost generic medicines and production of APIS**

1490. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be please to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to start more Pharmaceutical companies to provide generic and cheap medicines and drugs to the needy poor people, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has taken up the issue with the drug manufacturers and pharmaceutical industries to produce and use Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) indigenously than to depend heavily on China; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof along with the further steps taken by Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) The Government had constituted a Committee headed by Secretary, Health Research to look into the issues of Active Pharmaceuticals Ingredient (API)/ Bulk Drugs produced in the country. The recommendations of this committee which have since been submitted to the Government are being examined in consultation with all stake holders including manufacturers. These recommendations, once implemented would provide a roadmap for the growth of domestic Bulk Drug/API industry.

**Unauthorized sale of fertilizers**

1491. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to conduct inspection on the quality of fertilizers being sold in the market and their price, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor, and whether cases of unauthorized sale of fertilizers have been encountered by the Government; and

(c) if so, the details of the quantity and net worth of fertilizers stocked for sale without prior permissions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is already a mechanism in place to ensure quality of fertilizers and reasonable prices of subsidized

fertilizers in the country. Under FCO quality of indigenous/imported chemical fertilizers is tested regularly through the network of 78 Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCLs). As per clause 19 of the FCO, no person shall manufacture/import any fertilizer for sale, which is not included in the FCO or not of standards prescribed in the FCO. State Governments are the agencies empowered to take necessary administrative and punitive/legal action against those not complying with the provisions of the FCO.

In respect of monitoring of prices of subsidized fertilizers, the fertilizer companies are required to print Maximum Retail Price (MRP) along with applicable subsidy on the fertilizer bags clearly. Any sale above the printed MRP is punishable under the EC Act. Besides this, the Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers manufacturers/importers are required to upload MRP of P&K fertilizers in the web-based Fertilizer Monitoring System. The MRPs entered by these companies are regularly monitored. The Government is also examining the reasonableness of MRPs of P&K fertilizers from 2012-13 onwards.

Under FCO only authorised persons are eligible for sale of fertilizers in the country. During 2014-15, no case of unauthorised sale of fertilizers has been reported by any State Government.

#### **Supply of fertilizers to Uttar Pradesh**

†1492. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards paucity of urea and other chemical fertilizers in the State of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) whether Government is formulating any scheme to meet the demand of fertilizers and chemical fertilizers so that the problems of farmers could be resolved?

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

(b) To meet the demand of chemical fertilizers (Urea, DAP, MOP & NPK) of farmers following steps have been taken by Department of Fertilizers during the current season:

- (i) The month-wise demand has already been assessed and projected by the Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) in consultation with the State Governments before commencement of current cropping season.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (ii) On the basis of month-wise and State-wise projection given by DAC&FW, Department of Fertilizers allocating sufficient/adequate quantities of fertilizers to States by issuing monthly supply plan and continuously monitoring the availability through following system: -
- The movement of all major subsidized fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system ([www.urvarak.co.in](http://www.urvarak.co.in)) also called as Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS);
  - The State Governments are regularly advised to coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies through timely placement of indents for railway rakes through their State institutional agencies like Markfed etc.
  - Regular Weekly Video Conference is conducted jointly by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Department of Fertilizers (DoF), and Ministry of Railways with State Agriculture Officials and corrective actions are taken to dispatch fertilizer as indicated by the State Governments.
  - The gap between demand (requirement) and production is met through import.

#### **Revival of urea plants and protection of employees**

1493. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- whether a number of urea plants in the country are facing closure;
- if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- the steps taken/being taken for revival of these urea plants and to protect their employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) No, Sir. None of the operational urea plants at present are facing closure.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, questions do not arise.

#### **Investment in fertilizers sector**

1494. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- the estimated annual demand and indigenous production of fertilizers in the country;

(b) the steps taken by Government to meet the domestic requirement of fertilizers;

(c) whether Government proposes to increase expand public/private investment in fertilizer sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) The details of estimated annual demand and indigenous production of Urea, DAP, Complex Fertilizer and MOP during the current year in the country are given as below:

(Figures in LMTs)

Sl. No.	Major Fertilizer Product	Annual estimated Demand of Fertilizers	*Estimated Production in 2015-16
1.	Urea	314.64	237.82
2.	DAP	102.44	34.22
3.	Complex Fertilizers	106.24	96.32
4.	MOP	36.16	Nil

\*Actual Production has been taken during April, 2015 to October, 2015 and for the period of November, 2015 to March, 2016, the respective production targets have been taken.

(b) To meet the domestic requirement of fertilizers (Urea, DAP, MOP & NPK) following steps have been taken by Department of Fertilizers during the current season:

- (I) The month-wise demand has already been assessed and projected by the Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) in consultation with the State Governments before commencement of current cropping season.
- (II) On the basis of month-wise and State-wise projection given by DAC&FW, Department of Fertilizers allocating sufficient/ adequate quantities of fertilizers to States by issuing monthly supply plan and continuously monitoring the availability through following system: -
  - (i) The movement of all major subsidized fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system ([www.urvarak.co.in](http://www.urvarak.co.in)) also called as Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS);

(ii) The State Governments are regularly advised to coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies through timely placement of indents for railway rakes through their State institutional agencies like Markfed etc.

(iii) Regular Weekly Video Conference is conducted jointly by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Department of Fertilizers (DoF), and Ministry of Railways with State Agriculture Officials and corrective actions are taken to dispatch fertilizer as indicated by the State Governments.

(iv) The gap between demand (requirement) and production is met through import.

(c) and (d) The Government has the following plans to increase the public investment in fertilizer sector: -

- (i) The Union Cabinet in its meeting dated 21.05.2015 has approved setting up of a Brownfield Ammonia Urea Complex of 8.646 LMTPA urea production capacity in Joint Venture with an estimated project cost of ₹ 4412 crores at the premises of BVFCL Namrup, Assam. The investment proposed is in Joint Venture mode with 48% equity to be allotted on nomination basis to PSUs viz. M/s OIL (26%), M/s BVFCL (11%) and Government of Assam (11%). The remaining 52% equity will be allotted to Private/Public entity through open bidding. The investor for 52% equity is yet to be identified.
- (ii) The Government has also approved revival of Talcher and Ramagundam units of FCIL for setting up of 1.27 MTPA Ammonia-Urea Complex each at a total estimated cost of ₹ 8700 crore and ₹ 5300 crore respectively. Talcher unit is to be revived through nomination route by a consortium of PSUs namely Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers, GAIL India Ltd., Coal India Limited and FCIL. Ramagundam unit is to be revived through nomination route by a consortium of PSUs namely Engineers India Limited and National Fertilizers Limited and FCIL. The project activities are in its initial phase.
- (iii) Government has also approved revival of the closed urea units of FCIL namely, Talcher and Ramagundam and closed urea unit of HFCL namely Barauni through bidding route.

Moreover, the Government had announced New Investment Policy (NIP)-2012 on 2nd January, 2013 and its amendment on 7th October, 2014 in order to facilitate fresh investment in urea sector and to make India self-sufficient in the urea sector.



**Secure network to thwart spying activities**

1495. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's vulnerability to spying activities of unfriendly nations in the internet era has forced Government to chalk out a ₹ 450 crore plan to develop and deploy a pan-India secure network and network-based services, such as e-mail and internet-telephony, thus providing a foolproof infrastructure for telecom and internet communication exclusively for Government use; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Sir, the modern age communications equipments are prone to spyware/malwares etc., if attempted by the outfits, antisocial/anti national activists or unfriendly country. Government has proactively recognized the potential threats after analyzing the possible impact on national security. Government has planned Secure and Dedicated Communication Network (SDCN) designed for provision of 5000 secured phones for intra-Government communication initially at Delhi to be scaled up to 20000 users for entire country. The execution of the project has been entrusted to C-DoT. The System is in testing and installation phase. In addition Government has notified email policy on 19th February, 2015 to protect exchange of communications of national interest among Government officials. The policy mandates that only Government of India email service shall be used for official correspondence, the objective of the policy includes sensitizing the Government officials regarding protection of critical Government data and mandating the use of Government mail service for official communication. The implementing agency for this email policy is National Informatics Centre (NIC). The Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and Information Technology Act, 2000 provides legal framework to address misuse/destruction/disruption/crime related to communication and information technology infrastructure. Further, Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved a Communication Security Research and Monitoring (CSRM) scheme with a Government funding of ₹450 crore consisting of Centralised Monitoring System (CMS) of ₹ 400 crore for lawful interception and monitoring and a Telecom Testing and Security Certification Centre (TTSC) of ₹ 50 crore for security testing of telecom network elements.

**Outstanding dues against MTNL and BSNL subscribers**

1496. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sizeable amount of dues are outstanding presently against mobile and landline subscribers of MTNL and BSNL in various telecom circles in the country, if so, the details thereof, circle-wise;

(b) the details of dues recovered during the previous year and the current year, circle and State-wise;

(c) the measures taken/being taken by Government for recovery of dues and fixing the responsibility for non-recovery, so far; and

(d) the action taken against the defaulters by MTNL and BSNL in their respective service areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Circle-wise details of outstanding dues against subscribers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Circle-wise details of dues recovered by BSNL and MTNL during the previous year and the current year are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) and (d) BSNL and MTNL are taking a number of measures and actions against the defaulting subscriber to recover the outstanding dues. These measures include:

- Payment reminders through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS)/ Short Message Service (SMS) to customers making payment before disconnection of their telephones.
- Disconnection of phone as per the schedule in case of non-payment of dues.
- Graded discount scheme to incentivize defaulting customers, for clearance of old outstanding dues.
- Initiation of legal proceedings wherever required against the defaulters for recovery of dues.
- The State Governments have been requested to amend their respective Land Revenue Acts so that the defaulted Telephone dues of BSNL can be recovered as land revenue arrears.

- Fixing circle-wise and year-wise targets for liquidation of outstanding dues.
- Periodical monitoring of liquidation of outstanding dues.
- Procedure for settlement of defaulter cases through Lok Adalats/Lok Nyayalaya has been introduced for recovery of outstanding telephone dues in respect of permanently closed connections.

**Statement-I**

*Circle-wise details of outstanding dues against subscribers of BSNL and MTNL*

(₹ In Crores)				
Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Land Line	Mobile	Total
1	2	3	4	5
<b>BSNL</b>				
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.40	1.86	3.26
2.	Andhra Pradesh	65.51	10.51	76.02
3.	Assam	51.66	57.17	108.83
4.	Bihar	238.30	39.83	278.13
5.	Jharkhand	79.02	15.82	94.84
6.	Gujarat	38.55	3.67	42.22
7.	Haryana	15.26	2.04	17.30
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5.88	2.59	8.47
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	52.42	56.17	108.59
10.	Karnataka	24.27	7.80	32.07
11.	Kerala	36.77	4.74	41.51
12.	Madhya Pradesh	47.09	11.87	58.96
13.	Chhattisgarh	29.20	5.83	35.03
14.	Maharashtra	175.21	33.90	209.11
15.	North East-I	41.48	37.54	79.02
16.	North East-II	206.89	80.76	287.65
17.	Odisha	22.64	22.33	44.97
18.	Punjab	16.71	1.07	17.78

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Rajasthan	16.91	3.71	20.62
20.	Tamil Nadu	24.56	4.14	28.70
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	259.60	32.68	292.28
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	96.99	14.49	111.48
23.	Uttarakhand	13.97	3.40	17.37
24.	West Bengal	82.41	21.47	103.88
25.	Kolkata	153.28	18.00	171.28
26.	Chennai	14.87	3.90	18.77
TOTAL BSNL		1810.85	497.29	2308.14
<b>MTNL</b>				
1.	Delhi	459.76	134.23	593.99
2.	Mumbai	231.46	58.14	289.60
TOTAL MTNL		691.22	192.37	883.59

North East-I includes Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram

North East-2 includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland

### ***Statement-II***

*Circle-wise details of dues recovered by BSNL and MTNL during the previous year and the current year (Upto September, 2015)*

( ₹ In crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	During 2014-15			During 2015-16		
		Land Line	Mobile	Total	Land Line	Mobile	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>BSNL</b>							
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3.90	1.77	5.67	1.88	0.85	2.73
2.	Andhra Pradesh	404.37	90.56	494.93	201.07	48.02	249.09
3.	Assam	38.68	136.49	175.17	18.23	65.06	83.29
4.	Bihar	43.60	25.50	69.10	19.62	10.41	30.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Jharkhand	36.54	18.76	55.30	16.20	9.05	25.25
6.	Gujarat	482.39	42.58	524.97	232.42	19.38	251.80
7.	Haryana	123.93	12.16	136.09	59.09	5.85	64.94
8.	Himachal Pradesh	43.45	23.80	67.25	22.67	12.21	34.88
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	42.40	132.37	174.77	21.38	65.08	86.46
10.	Karnataka	487.07	110.69	597.76	239.24	55.80	295.04
11.	Kerala	573.26	124.92	698.18	269.19	57.68	326.87
12.	Madhya Pradesh	178.80	70.65	249.45	87.94	34.33	122.27
13.	Chhattisgarh	33.07	23.16	56.23	16.46	11.38	27.84
14.	Maharashtra	590.14	150.49	740.63	298.67	73.10	371.77
15.	North East-I	17.79	36.60	54.39	8.32	17.31	25.63
16.	North East-II	9.99	31.22	41.21	4.30	14.35	18.65
17.	Odisha	64.19	49.56	113.75	29.26	24.94	54.20
18.	Punjab	183.90	18.77	202.67	86.51	9.01	95.52
19.	Rajasthan	222.36	59.02	281.38	108.83	27.48	136.31
20.	Tamil Nadu	330.16	129.78	459.94	156.98	64.41	221.39
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	105.02	71.74	176.76	44.67	35.71	80.38
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	130.73	23.25	153.98	59.92	11.16	71.08
23.	Uttarakhand	43.53	13.72	57.25	20.90	6.54	27.44
24.	West Bengal	83.97	27.12	111.09	37.59	12.58	50.17
25.	Kolkata	243.63	28.93	272.56	116.42	13.46	129.88
26.	Chennai	279.07	66.79	345.86	133.93	32.41	166.34
TOTAL BSNL		4795.94	1520.43	6316.37	2311.69	737.55	3049.24
<b>MTNL</b>							
1.	Delhi	766.00	41.14	807.14	376.07	22.95	399.02
2.	Mumbai	1324.12	47.73	1371.85	638.81	20.70	659.51
TOTAL MTNL		2090.12	88.87	2178.99	1014.88	43.65	1058.53

North East-I includes Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram

North East-2 includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland

**Payments Bank**

1497. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Post has been granted licence for Payments Bank, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether India Post proposes to set up a 100 per cent subsidiary company to operate as Payments Bank, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further steps taken in this regard and the time by which Payments Bank services are to be started by India Post?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The Reserve Bank of India has granted “In-Principle” approval to Department of Posts on 7th September, 2015 with a condition that licence would be granted after DoP completes all formalities within the validity period of 18 months.

(b) Yes Sir, Department of Posts proposes to set up India Post Payments Bank as a public limited company with 100% Government equity.

(c) The Department of Posts has initiated action including obtaining approvals from the Public Investment Board (PIB), which will be followed by approval from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). The Payments Bank’s services are to be started by March, 2017 as mandated by the RBI while granting “In-Principle” approval.

**Irregularity in allocation of 2G spectrum**

1498. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has come to know about some serious instances of irregularity in the allocation of 2G spectrum;

(b) whether the spectrum was distributed in an arbitrary manner to favour a set of players; and

(c) whether Government has also found clear instances of irregularities in the way the Ministry changed the goal post allegedly to favour a set of players?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 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 and the investigation by the CBI is being monitored by the Supreme Court.

On receipt of CVC report and based on source information, CBI registered case no. RC-DAI-2009-A-0045 on 21.10.2009 for criminal conspiracy and criminal misconduct under section 120-B of Indian Penal Code (IPC), 13(2) read with (r/w) 13(1)(d) of Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 1988 against unknown officials of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), unknown private persons/companies and others on the allegations of irregularities in the allocation of 2G Spectrum in the year 2008 to favour certain applicant companies.

Investigation into the main offence has been concluded and has revealed commission of offences, during 2007-09, punishable under section 120-B, 420, 468, 471 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and also punishable under section 13 (2) r/w 13 (1) (d) of Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 1988 against accused persons, viz. S/Shri A. Raja, then Minister of Communications and Information Technology (MOC&IT); Siddhartha Behura, then Secretary (Telecom); R. K. Chandolia, then Private Secretary (PS) to Minister of Communications and Information Technology; Shahid Usman Balwa, Director, M/s Swan Telecom Pvt. Ltd.; Vinod Goenka, Director, M/s Swan Telecom Pvt.

Ltd; M/s Swan Telecom Pvt. Ltd. (now Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.; through its Directors; Sanjay Chandra, Managing Director, M/s Unitech Ltd.; M/s Unitech Wireless (Tamil Nadu) Private Ltd. through its Director; Sh. Gautam Doshi, Group Managing Director, Reliance ADA Group; Shri Hari Nair, Senior Vice-President of Reliance ADA Group; Shri Surendra Pipara, Senior Vice-President of Reliance ADA Group and M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd. through its Directors. Accordingly, a charge-sheet against the aforesaid persons/companies was filed before the Hon'ble court of Special Judge, 2G spectrum cases, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi on 02.04.2011.

Subsequently, the allegations regarding *quid pro quo*/suspected illegal gratification of around ₹ 200 crores paid by M/s Dynamix Realty (a DB Group company which also promotes/owns M/s Swan Telecom Pvt. Ltd.) to Shri A. Raja, then MOC&IT through M/s Kalaighar TV Pvt. Ltd; following a circuitous route through M/s Kusegaon Fruits and Vegetables Pvt. Ltd. and M/s Cineyug Films Pvt. Ltd. were also investigated. Investigation disclosed that the amount of ₹ 200 crores paid by M/s. Dynamix Realty to M/s. Kalaighar TV Pvt. Ltd. through M/s. Kusegaon Fruits and Vegetables Pvt. Ltd. and M/s. Cineyug Films Pvt. Ltd. was not a genuine business transaction but in the nature of

illegal gratification paid in lieu of the UAS Licences, valuable spectrum and other undue benefits shown by accused public servants to M/s Swan Telecom Pvt. Ltd. Accordingly, in addition to the offences charged by CBI against the accused persons in the main charge-sheet dated 02.04.2011, accused persons *viz.* A. Raja, Ms. Kanimozhi Karunanithi, Sharad Kumar, Shahid Balwa, Vinod Goenka, Asif Balwa, Rajiv Agarwal and Karim Morani were charge-sheeted *vide* a supplementary charge-sheet dated 25.04.2011, for offences punishable under section 120-B IPC read with Section 7 (alternatively section 11) and 12 of PC Act, 1988.

The Ld. Special Judge for 2G spectrum cases took cognizance of the aforesaid two charge-sheets and clubbed them for single trial. The trial is now in the stage of final argument.

However, investigation in the above referred case on the allegation of cheating by suppression of the violation of Clause No. 8 *i.e.* Substantial Equity Clause of Unified Access Service Licence (UASL) Guidelines dated 14.12.2005 issued by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), by suspected persons/companies belonging to M/s Loop Telecom/Essar group continued. Investigation regarding the role of public servants in the matter of not issuing Show Cause Notice to M/s Loop Telecom Pvt. Ltd. Even after having *prima facie* allegation of violation of said Clause 8 of UASL Guidelines, was also conducted. After completion of investigation in RC-DAI-2009-A-0045 on the above aspects, second supplementary charge-sheet was filed in the Hon'ble court of Special Judge (2G spectrum cases) on 12.12.2011 for the offences punishable under Section 120-B IPC r/w 420 of IPC against accused Ravi N. Ruia, Anshuman Ruia, Vikash Saraf, I.P. Khaitan, Ms Kiran Khaitan, M/s Loop Telecom Ltd. (erstwhile M/s Shippingstop Dot Com India Pvt. Ltd.), M/s Loop Mobile India Ltd. (erstwhile M/s BPL Mobile Communications Limited) and M/s. Essar Teleholdings Ltd. The trial proceedings pertaining to this charge-sheet are also in the stage of final argument.

In RC-DAI-2009-A-0045, further investigation with regard to two issues is pending wherein Letters Rogatory (LRs)/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 and 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.



**Under-valuation of 2G spectrum**

1499. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG has accused the Telecom Ministry of undervaluing 2G spectrum sold to new players in 2008;

(b) if so, whether the allotment price was not realistic and the policy failed to address the issue of price discovery of spectrum; and

(c) if so, the responsibility fixed by Government in this regard and corrective steps now proposed to be taken to fix the wrinkles of spectrum allocation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Sir, the CAG Report on “Issue of Licences and Allocation of 2G spectrum” by the Department of Telecommunications has been tabled in the Parliament on 16.11.2010.

(c) This issue is being monitored by the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India.

**Spread of hate and extremist views on social media**

1500. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how Government looks at the spread of hate and extremist views on social media;

(b) whether complaints regarding such messages on social media have been lodged with Government, if so, the details thereof along with the nature of action, if any, taken thereon; and

(c) whether Government is contemplating to strengthen laws to govern such social media platforms for monitoring and checking hate content thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Cyber space is a complex environment of people, software, hardware and services on the Internet. Cyberspace has distinct and unique characteristics as compared to physical space. The cyberspace is virtual, borderless and offers complete anonymity. In the recent years, web and social media have emerged as one of the important public communication channels. It brings social groups together in one virtual place for interaction in real time. Of late, use of

social media has been seen all over the world as a key tool for engineering psychological manipulation of public and its opinion on issues that affect nation and society. With a borderless cyberspace coupled with the possibility of instant communication and anonymity, the potential for spread of hate and extremist views through the use of social media is higher than ever, posing a threat to harmony and public order.

(b) Government takes prompt action under Section 69A of Information Technology Act, 2000 for blocking of websites/URLs with objectionable contents, whenever requests are received from designated nodal officers or upon Court orders for blocking of websites/URLs. Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 empowers Government to block any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any Computer Resource in the interest of Sovereignty and Integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above.

Government has invoked Section 69A of Information Technology Act, 2000 to block/disable access to certain URLs of social media websites. A total of 13 and 10 and 492 URLs of social media websites were blocked in 2013, 2014 and 2015 (till 30th November, 2015) respectively under Section 69A through the Committee constituted under the rules therein. Further, a total of 533, 432 and 352 URLs of social media websites were blocked in compliance with the directions of the competent Courts of India in 2013, 2014 and 2015 (till 30th November, 2015) respectively. Besides, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) gets requests for blocking of objectionable content from individuals and Organisations which merely forwards those requests to the concerned websites for appropriate action.

(c) The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules, 2011 under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act requires that the Intermediaries (such as social media) shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of Computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable and unlawful in any way.

An advisory was issued on August 17, 2012 under Section 79 of Information Technology Act, 2000 and Rules therein to all intermediaries asking them to take necessary action to disable inflammatory and hateful content hosted on their website on priority basis. Government is in regular dialog with intermediaries including social networking sites for effective disablement of such objectionable content.

**Central Monitoring System**

1501. DR. K. KESHAHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of operationalising the Central Monitoring System (CMS) and who will have access to this data and restrictions on its use;
- (b) whether the information gained through such surveillance would be a parallel database;
- (c) whether CMS will have any parliamentary or judicial oversight; and
- (d) the safeguards built into CMS?

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 and Monitoring of telecommunications. The execution of the CMS project has been entrusted with Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT). The CMS is anticipated to be progressively operationalised from the end of the current financial year. The CMS will enable access for Lawful Interception and monitoring by designated Central and State level Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) in serious desirable case of National Security and allied matters on case to case basis as per the provisions of Section 5(2) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1985 read with Indian Telegraph Rule 419 (A).

(b) The Intercepted information will be transferred in a secure manner to the Designated LEA through an automated process without content being seen by the provisioning agency. The intercepted information thus gathered can be used by the Designated LEA as per the existing legal Framework.

(c) and (d) The lawful interception and monitoring is governed by the Section 5(2) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 read with rule 419A of Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2007 wherein oversight mechanism exists in form of review committee under chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary at Central Government level and Chief Secretary of the State at the State Government level. The same mechanism is applicable for the interception under the CMS Project also. Additionally, there is an inbuilt mechanism of check and balance as Security Agencies/Law Enforcement Agencies cannot provision the target and the provisioning agency cannot see the content.

**Installation of additional mobile towers to curb call drops**

1502. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to curb the mobile call drop problem;
- (b) whether Government has instructed the Mobile Service Providers to install more mobile towers for effective performance; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) are closely monitoring the performance of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) against the benchmarks for parameters relating to call drop through monthly/quarterly reports obtained from service providers. Wherever the Quality of Service benchmarks are not met the explanation of the service providers is called for and after considering the response of the service provider financial disincentive are imposed. TRAI has been pursuing with service providers for improving Quality of Service and in this regard regular interactions are held with the service providers. TRAI has also engaged independent agencies for auditing and assessing the quality of service and surveys are being done regularly through independent agencies to assess the customer perception of service. The results of the audit and assessment of quality of service and surveys are published for the information of stakeholders, which also force the service providers to improve the quality of service.

Steps taken by Department of Telecommunications are as under:

- Secretary, Telecom took a meeting of TSPs on 27th April, 2015 to address the issues of call drop.
- Suggestions of Telewings regarding Free talk time against call drop forwarded to TRAI on 10th June, 2015 for examination and offering their advice.
- Hon'ble Minister reviewed the status on 7th July, 2015 and directed that a special Audit be undertaken by Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) cells to assess the gravity of situation and to take corrective measures. The special audit activity has commenced from 22. 7. 2015. The Telecom Service Providers have also been addressed to undertake Radio Frequency (RF) optimization exercise and augmentation of

resources to curb the menace of call drop. The audit has concluded on 14th August, 2015 and number of cells not meeting the criteria identified.

- A letter has been written by Hon'ble Minister (Communications and Information Technology) to Union Urban Development Minister/all Chief Ministers of States citing "Digital India" and "m-governance" programmes for providing:
  - Single window clearances;
  - Space in government buildings for mobile sites;
  - Speedy Right of Way (RoW) clearances;
  - Ensuring 24x7 power.
- As a follow up of the letter of Hon'ble Minister (Communications and Information Technology), a meeting has been held between Secretary (T) and Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) on 22.07.2015, wherein it has been in-principle agreed that MoUD shall permit installation of mobile towers/ in-building solutions in the Government buildings under their control subject to structural safety and payment of appropriate Licence fee by the TSP. Such mobile towers/in-building solution shall be a shared facility for all TSPs.
- Telecom Secretary held a meeting with Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Telecom Service Providers to discuss the issue relating to call drops on 17.8.2015. The various issues were discussed and it was stressed that operators need to augment the infrastructure by way of additional towers and base stations in order to address the issue of call drops and quality of service. The operators assured that they have taken necessary action for optimization of networks and will do it on regular basis which will improve the performance of worst affected cells. The operators were asked to submit the weekly report.
- A meeting was taken by the Hon'ble Minister on 26th August, 2015 wherein it was decided that efforts which are being carried out to address the concerns should continue. It was also decided that Secretary will speak to the owner of the companies to convey the concerns on this issue. TRAI may consider to put penalties in terms of disincentives, poor performance as per the TRAI report published in June, 2015 for Delhi and Mumbai. As the licence agreement has also provision for imposition of penalties for meeting the quality of service parameters, the option will be exercised as last option in this respect for imposition of the penalties.

- TSPs have been asked to take action for enhancing coverage by putting new mobile towers/in-building solutions in the Government buildings in Delhi. Similar action has been suggested in other parts of the country as well.
- A meeting was held with Chairman, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on 24.11.2015 for facilitating installation of towers in NDMC area.
- The Department has taken pro-active steps at various forums to allay the fear of radiation hazards due to telecom towers. Secretary had participated in a discussion held by Doordarshan and media also has been sensitized.

(b) and (c) Yes, TSPs have been asked to take action for enhancing the coverage by putting new mobile towers/in-building solutions in the Government buildings in Delhi. Similar action has been suggested in other parts of the country as well. The operator assured that they have taken necessary action for optimization of network and will do it on regular basis which will improve the performance of the worst affected cells. Weekly report is being obtained from the operators. As per weekly reports, there is TCH drop improvement. Details of new sites added by TSPs is given in the Statement (*See below*).

Due to proactive initiative of Department of Telecommunications, about 29 thousands new 2G/3G sites have been added by TSPs in their Mobile Network, across the country in the last six months.

**Statement***Details of sites deployed by TSPs across the country*

Name of the TSP	New 2G/3G Site deployed for capacity & coverage enhancement		New in building Solution (IBS) deployed		New Repeaters deployed		No. of weeks reported
	2G	3G	2G	3G	2G	3G	
Bharti Airtel	2854	7617	197	451	953	953	July to November, 2015
Idea	3399	5598	22	26	379	427	14 weeks
Vodafone	1677	3811	97	135	2104	3013	July to November, 2015
Aircel	1106	1541	0	0	74	40	Sept., to 27th Nov., 2015 (13 weeks)
Tata	189	787	26	0	0	0	14 weeks
Reliance	116	165	13	0	126	78	15 weeks
Videocon	44	-	0	-	3	-	12 weeks
QTL	91	-	0	-	18	-	14 weeks
SSTL	7	-	0	-	2	-	14 weeks
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9483</b>	<b>19519</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>3659</b>	<b>4511</b>	

**Action against telecom operators for call drops**

1503. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has imposed fine or initiated any stern action against any mobile service providing companies on the call drop issue, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Considering the inconvenience caused to the consumers due to the problem of call drops, TRAI has, through the Telecom Consumers Protection (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2015 dated 16.10.2015, *inter-alia*, mandated that every originating service provider providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service shall, for each call drop within its network, 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. The Regulation comes into effect from 1st January 2016.

**Under-utilisation of funds**

1504. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has spent less than 35 per cent of the funds allocated to it in 2015-16;

(b) the percentage of funds allocated in 2014-15 and 2015-16 that is yet unused; and

(c) the reasons for low utilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No Sir.

(b) Budget Estimates 2014-15 was ₹18319.74 crore including Supplementary Demands for Grants; and Actual Expenditure for the year 2014-15 was ₹ 13026.14 crore. Hence, total unused funds as compared to BE 2014-15 is ₹ 5293.60 crore which is 28.89%. However, at RE 2014-15 stage, the amount had been reduced to ₹ 12569.63 crore on the basis of Expenditure trend upto September, 2014.

BE 2015-16 is ₹ 15977.25 crore including Supplementary Demands for Grants and



Provisional Expenditure upto October, 2015 is ₹ 8595.61 crore. Hence, total unused funds is ₹ 7381.64 crore which is 46.20%. The financial year is still not complete.

- (c) Does not arise in view of response to (a) and (b).

**Compensation for call drops**

1505. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the compensation to be given to consumers by telecom operators on the occurrence of call drops;

(b) whether Government has consulted telecom operators on the compensation issue, if so, their views thereon; and

(c) whether tariffs for consumers will increase if telecom operators are to compensate for call drops?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) TRAI has, through the Telecom Consumers Protection (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2015 dated 16.10.2015, 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.

(b) TRAI issued a Consultation Paper (CP) on 'Compensation to the Consumers in the Event of Dropped Calls' on the 04.09.2015. The stakeholders were to submit written comments on the issues raised in the CP by the 21.09.2015 and counter-comments by the 28.09.2015. An Open House Discussion was held on 01.10.2015 in New Delhi with the stakeholders. While all the consumer advocacy groups, and majority of individual consumers strongly supported the options of (i) not charging the consumers for the last pulse of a dropped call and (ii) providing compensation to the calling consumers for the dropped calls, the telecom service providers and their industry associations cast aside

these options. On the basis of the comments received from the stakeholders and further analysis thereof, TRAI issued the Telecom Consumer Protection (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2015 dated 16.10.2015 regarding relief to the consumers for call drops.

(c) Based on data of the TSPs, TRAI has conducted a detailed analysis of the call data and call drops data. It is observed that the total financial implication on the TSPs is likely to be not more than ₹ 200 crore per quarter, which is less than 1% of the total revenue of the TSPs. However, as per the Regulations, there is a ceiling of on relief of ₹ 3 per subscriber per day; thus, the likely financial implications would be even less than ₹ 200 crore per quarter.

#### **Project Loon**

†1506. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are technical glitches in according approved to 'Project Loon', if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, by when internet access will be made available through 'Project Loon' and the amount of money subscribers will have to pay for such facility?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The proposed frequency band to be used in the Loon project of Google is being used for cellular operation in India and it will lead to interference with cellular transmissions.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **4G services by BSNL**

1507. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL plans to launch 4G services on 2600 MHz band in a couple of cities by March-end, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that BSNL has taken various customer-centric initiatives, such as free night calling, free roaming and is providing a minimum broadband speed of 2 Mbps to build trust, if so, the details thereof?

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) BSNL is taking several steps to enhance revenues through investments to strengthen its network and focus on customer care and service delivery to improve quality of service. These includes:-

- BSNL has introduced free roaming (*i.e.* free incoming voice call facility) to its GSM (Global System of Mobile communication) subscribers while in National roaming for a period of one year w.e.f. 15.6.2015.
- BSNL has upgraded the bandwidth under all wireline Broadband plans of 512 Kbps/1Mbps to 2 Mbps speed with fair usages policy (FUP) w.e.f. 1.10.2015 without additional cost to the customers.
- BSNL has introduced free night calling between 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. for its landline customers.

#### **Profit and investment by BSNL**

1508. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has reported an operating profit of ₹ 672 crore in 2014-15;

(b) whether it is also a fact that BSNL aims to achieve a net profit by 2018-19; and

(c) whether BSNL will invest ₹ 7700 crore in the current financial year to expand network, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes Sir, BSNL has reported an operating profit of Rs.672 crores in the year 2014-15.

(b) Yes Sir, BSNL aims to achieve a net profit by 2018-19.

(c) BSNL has planned a capital budget outlay of ₹ 7,796 crores for the year 2015-16 (Budgeted Estimates). The details of capital investment plan for the year 2015-16 are given in the Statement.

**Statement***Details of capital investment plan of BSNL for the year 2015-16*

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme/ Programme	Objective/Outcome	Annual Plan 2015-16 (In ₹ crores)
1.	Mobile	Addition in GSM capacity Addition in GSM Mobile VLR connections	3570
2.	Wireline	Replacement of legacy wireline exchanges by Next Generation Network (NGN) To provide DELs on demand	1382
3.	Broadband	To provide broadband connections (Wireline + Wireless), expansion & upgradation of broadband network including FTTH (Fibre To The Home). To provide increased coverage of WiFi Hotspot services by setting up of Targetted 263 Hot Spots across 26 cities.	456
4.	Optical Fibre Cable (OFC)	Laying & commissioning of OFC to provide transmission network for new exchange & Mobile equipment and provide bandwidth for core network. Strengthening of MPLS Core network & allied services.	1752
5.	Others *		636
TOTAL CAPEX			7796

\*Others includes funds requirement of IT, USO, Civil, Elect, TF, Ancillary units etc.

**Policy to protect misuse of personal data of mobile customers**

†1509. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that by year 2015, 9 billion mobile applications shall be downloaded in the country, if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that mobile applications can be downloaded only after receiving details and obtaining permission to bring into use the mobile directory of the customer by the application provider; and

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to bring any policy, or rule to prevent misuse of personal data of customers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Sir, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has not conducted any study on this. However, the joint-study by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Deloitte has indicated that there may be a growth in mobile applications download from 1.56 billion per annum in 2012 to 9 billion by 2015.

(b) These mobile applications are mostly availed by the citizens across world through Internet and used for sharing audio, video, image, email, data and accessing other web services anytime and anywhere. Many of these applications seek the user details and permissions for accessing their mobile's configuration data.

(c) There are specific provisions within Section 43, Section 43A and Section 72A of Information Technology Act, 2000 and IT Rules (Reasonable Security practices and procedure and sensitive personal data or information) 2011 which provides comprehensive legal framework for privacy and security of data in digital form.

#### **Increase in number of internet users**

†1510. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of internet users has increased rapidly during the years 2014 and 2015 as compared to the year 2013, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the quantum of expansion of 'fixed broadband'/the increasing number of internet users?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes. The number of internet connections are rising.

The number of fixed broadband connections and internet connections at the end of December, 2013, December, 2014 and June, 2015 as maintained by TRAI are given below:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(figures in millions)

	As at the end of Dec., 2013	As at the end of Dec., 2014	As at the end of June, 2015
Fixed broadband connections	14.54	15.32	15.70
Internet connections	238.71	267.39	319.42

As per the news-item which appeared in The Economic Times dated 18th November, 2015, it is predicted that the number of internet users in India is expected to reach 402 million by December, 2015.

**Making electronic industry and IT sector at par with foreign counterparts**

1511 DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS and INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken and new scheme of plans devised and implemented by Government to make electronic industries and IT Sector at par with foreign electronic and IT companies;

(b) whether Government is keen in utilizing the services of various electronic arms of Department of Electronics for multi tasking activities of Government than to outsource very important and essential activities to private players, if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether the domestic use of electronic and IT sector is a multi-crore business, if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Statement indicating the steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote electronic and IT industries is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The Government uses both public sector and private sector Organisations for meeting its electronics and IT needs. The Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) is implementing several projects through the Government agencies under the DeitY *e.g.* Centre of Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), National Informatics Centre (NIC), Education and Research Network (ERNET) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD). CDAC is implementing various projects, namely Localization Platform Management Framework, Mobile Seva Project and Design and Development of Mobile based Educational Application in Indian languages projects,

etc. NIC is implementing various projects *e.g.* Government of India Cloud, e-Hospital, PRAGATI, Biometric Attendance System, Digitize India platform, e-Taal, etc. ERNET is implementing agency for enabling all schools with Virtual Classrooms project. NeGD is implementing Capacity Building, Assessment System, Awareness and Communication, Digital Locker projects, etc. Besides this, various schemes/projects namely State Wide Area Network (SWAN), e-District, Common Services Centre (CSC), State Data Centre (SDC), State Services Delivery Gateway (SSDG) etc. at various stages of implementation. The e-Governance Division of DeitY undertakes different kinds of projects which require various types of skill. If the required skill set is available with the various agencies of DeitY, it is assigned to agencies of DeitY. Otherwise, if skill is not available, the task is outsourced following due procedure.

(c) Yes, Sir. As per India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) - Frost and Sullivan Report on “Indian Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) Market” published in 2014, the Indian electronics product market (in USD billion) for the last 3 years is as under:

	2013	2014(E*)	2015(E*)
Electronics Product Market	50.61	57.14	64.85

\*E: Estimated

As per NASSCOM Strategic Review 2015, the domestic IT revenue (in USD billion) for the last 3 years is as under:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15(E*)
Domestic IT Revenue	19.20	18.90	21.00

\*E: Estimated

### ***Statement***

#### *Steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote electronic and IT industries*

1. Promotion of electronics hardware manufacturing is one of the pillars of Digital India campaign of the Government.
2. Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) provides financial incentives to offset disability and attract investments in the Electronics Systems Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector. The scheme was notified in July, 2012. The scheme provides subsidy for investments in capital expenditure - 20% for investments in

SEZs and 25% in non-SEZs. The scheme is available for both new projects and expansion projects. For high technology and high capital investment units like Fabs, production subsidy @10% is also provided. The incentives are available for investments made in a project within a period of 10 years. The scheme is open to receive applications till 26.07.2020.

3. Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) Scheme provides financial assistance for creating world-class infrastructure for electronics manufacturing units. The assistance for the projects for setting up of Greenfield Electronics Manufacturing Clusters is 50% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of ₹ 50 crore for 100 acres of land. For larger areas, pro-rata ceiling applies. For lower extent, the extent of support would be decided by the Steering Committee for Clusters (SCC) subject to the ceiling of ₹ 50 crore. For setting up of Brownfield Electronics Manufacturing Cluster, 75% of the cost of infrastructure, subject to a ceiling of ₹ 50 crore is provided.
4. Policy for providing preference to domestically manufactured electronic products in Government procurement is under implementation.
5. Electronic Development Fund (EDF) policy has been approved to support Daughter Funds including Early Stage Angel Funds and Venture Funds in the area of Electronics System Design and Manufacturing, Nano-electronics and IT. The supported Daughter Funds will promote innovation, R&D, product development and within the country.
6. A meeting of State IT Ministers and State Government Officials was held on 26.08.2014 to encourage them to actively promote electronics manufacturing. Several States have shown keen interest.
7. Approvals for all foreign direct investment up to 100% in the electronic hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.
8. Under the Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) Scheme, approved units are allowed duty free import of goods required by them for carrying on export activities, CST reimbursement and excise duty exemption on procurement of indigenously available goods, as per the Foreign Trade Policy.
9. Tariff Structure has been rationalized to promote indigenous manufacturing of electronic goods.
10. Mandatory compliance to safety standards has been notified for identified Electronic



Products with the objective to curb import of sub-standard and unsafe electronics goods. As of now, 30 electronic products are under the ambit of this Order.

11. Two Schemes for skill development of 90,000 and 3,28,000 persons, respectively in the electronics sector has been approved to provide human resource for the industry.
12. Government has approved setting up of two semiconductor wafer fabrication (FAB) manufacturing facilities in India.
13. The Scheme to enhance the number of PhDs in the Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) and IT/IT Enabled Services (ITES) sectors has been approved. 3000 PhDs are proposed to be supported under the Scheme.
14. Steps have been taken for the development and implementation of the Indian Conditional Access System (CAS) to promote indigenous manufacturing of Set Top Boxes (STBs), keeping in view the huge indigenous requirement on account of roadmap for digitalization of the broadcasting sector.
15. An Electopreneur park has been approved for providing incubation for development of ESDM sector which will contribute IP creation and Product Development in the sector.
16. National Centre of Excellence in Large Area Flexible Electronics (NCFLEX) is being set up in IIT Kanpur with the objectives to promote R&D; Manufacturing; Ecosystems; Entrepreneurship; International Partnerships and Human Resources and develop prototypes in collaboration with industry for commercialization.
17. National Centre of Excellence for Technology on Internal Security (NCETIS) is being set up at IIT-Bombay with the objective to address the internal security needs of the nation on continuous basis by delivering technology prototypes required for internal security and to promote domestic industry in internal security.
18. Centre for Excellence on Internet of Things (IoT) is being set up in Bengaluru jointly with NASSCOM.
19. An Incubation centre with focus on medical electronics is being set up at Indian Institute of Technology - Patna.
20. The Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) provides funding under several schemes for promotion of R&D, including support for International Patents in Electronics & IT (SIP-EIT); Multiplier Grants Scheme and Scheme for Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE) in the area of Electronics, ICT and Management.

**National guidelines for telecom towers**

1512. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry proposes to issue national guidelines for setting up of telecom towers, if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(b) the reasons that Government's policies are not able to address the issue efficiently; and

(c) the concerns that have been raised by the telecom service providers with regard to Government's policy on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Sir, mobile towers are established by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) at suitable locations, as per their Radio Frequency (RF) network planning for proper coverage of the area and as per their service requirement to fulfil the license conditions. Apart from taking siting clearances from Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) Wing of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), before installation of mobile towers, TSPs are also required to obtain necessary clearances from concerned local authorities such as municipal corporation, Gram Panchayat etc. With a view to facilitate formulation of uniform policies across various States for setting up of mobile towers, DoT has issued guidelines dated 01.08.2013 for issue of clearances for installation of mobile towers to all the State Governments. These guidelines were finalized after careful consideration of views of all stakeholders including State Government and Civil society, keeping in view the need to maintain the present momentum of telecom growth while addressing the public concerns about safety and human health.

(b) As mentioned above, for setting up of telecom towers TSPs are required to obtain necessary clearances from concerned local authorities such as municipal corporation, Gram Panchayat etc. For giving clearance for installation of mobile towers, different States/local bodies were having their own policies/laws which varied from one State to another. DoT has addressed this concern by issuing guidelines for issue of clearances for installation of mobile towers to all the State Governments. State Governments have started aligning their policies with DoT's guidelines.

(c) Telecom Service Providers and their associations have brought to the notice of DoT that while in general, State Governments/local bodies are following the guidelines issued by DoT, some of the State Governments/local bodies have issued mobile tower

installation policies/guidelines which have provisions that are not aligned to the above mentioned guidelines of DoT. For instance, policies of some of the State Governments have provisions regarding restriction on installation of tower in specific buildings/areas, charging of high permission fees/annual recurring charges/license fees etc. DoT has already taken up the matter with respective State Governments.

#### **Verification of cellphone users**

1513. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that over five crore cellphone users in the country have not been verified as per the KYC norms which is posing a serious threat to the security of the nation:

(b) if so, the list of unverified cellphone users in the country, State-wise;

(c) the preventive steps being taken by the Ministry to curb the alarming number of unverified users in the country; and

(d) the expected time-limit by which the verification of the cellphone users, as per KYC norms, will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have been mandated by Department of Telecom (DoT) to carry out adequate verification of each and every customer before enrolling them as subscribers by verifying their identity with specified documents for Proof of Identity (PoI) and Proof of Address (PoA). The subscriber verification process has evolved with passage of time and consequently DoT has been issuing various guidelines to TSPs in this regard to strengthen the verification process. The existing instructions on subscriber verification dated 09.08.2012 have been issued by DoT in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

In order to ensure adherence of these DoT instructions by all TSPs, the Telecom Enforcement, Resource & Monitoring (TERM) Cells carry out sample verification of Customer Acquisition Form (CAF) and related documents of the acquired customers, by all TSPs, on monthly basis, by generating random samples of 0.1 % of the customer base at the end of each month and cross verify the same against the entries of the database submitted by the TSP and details as mentioned by the customer in the copy of CAFs and supporting documents for all such samples. The sample size in respect of J&K, NE and Assam Service Areas is 0.2% on quarterly basis. This verification process by TERM Cells

brings out non-compliant cases where DoT guidelines were violated by TSPs in acquiring the customer which may include cases where identities of subscribers are not properly verified. The random sample CAF verification process carried out by TERM Cells on monthly basis of each TSP is being done since April, 2007. As on 30.09.2015, out of total of 6.87 crores CAFs audited, a total of 39.04 lakhs CAFs were found non-compliant by TERM Cells during such CAF verification process. The Licensed Service Area (LSA)-wise details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

For all cases of non-compliant CAFs, TERM Cells have taken actions which include imposition of penalty on non-compliant CAFs and filing of complaints/FIR against apparently forged cases. In addition, in case of non-compliant CAF, Service Provider has to either disconnect the connection or submit the compliant CAF to TERM Cells within 72 hrs.

Further, purpose of regular periodic audit is to find deviation/deficiencies from the mandated outcomes and enforce course correction in the system/mechanism of TSPs by way of imposing penalties as deterrent so as to achieve the mandated objective of 100% verification. The whole existing evolved process is dynamic and aims to achieve the desired target of 100% verification.

***Statement***

Sl. No.	License Service Area	Total number of CAFs audited by TERM Cells as on 30.09.2015	Total number of non compliant CAFs found by TERM Cells as on 30.09.2015
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	48,77,961	3,04,145
2.	Assam	10,98,030	96,842
3.	Bihar	44,21,904	1,54,051
4.	Chennai	7,10,124	33,990
5.	Delhi	31,64,193	1,42,570
6.	Gujarat	36,99,646	1,97,143
7.	Haryana	18,10,794	75,636
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6,17,843	22,615

1	2	3	4
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3,74,542	50,800
10.	Karnataka	40,99,208	76,775
11.	Kerala	24,82,552	1,44,582
12.	Kolkata	20,05,083	3,86,546
13.	Madhya Pradesh	39,06,159	3,86,706
14.	Maharashtra	52,36,849	1,95,828
15.	Mumbai	27,41,368	1,19,508
16.	North East	4,88,241	29,134
17.	Odisha	19,21,778	95,029
18.	Punjab	24,96,702	2,33,061
19.	Rajasthan	40,44,194	3,14,112
20.	Tamil Nadu	57,77,287	2,10,239
21.	UP East	53,57,415	3,00,085
22.	UP West	39,58,305	1,93,524
23.	West Bengal	34,12,271	1,41,422
GRAND TOTAL		6,87,02,449	39,04,343

#### Postage stamp on Dhumketu

1514. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1295 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd December, 2011 and state:

(a) whether the commemorative postage stamp on Dhumketu of Gujarat, for his remarkable contribution in literature, particularly his great story named 'Post Office', has been issued;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the updated status on the issue and the reasons for the delay in this regard; and

(c) by when the said commemorative postage stamp on Dhumketu would be issued?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No Sir. The commemorative postage stamp on Gaurishankar Govardhan Joshi known as Dhumketu of Gujarat has not been issued.

(b) and (c) The proposal was placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 27.07.2015 for its consideration, where it was decided to consider the proposal along with the other proposals in the next Philatelic Advisory Committee meeting.

**Penalty on companies for call drops**

†1515. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is determined upon its decision to impose penalty on companies for call drops and whether companies have approached Government to change its decision;

(b) the details of profits being accrued to telecom operators from call drops; and

(c) the details of Government's plan to expand network of BSNL and MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Considering the inconvenience caused to the consumers due to the problem of call drops, TRAI has, through the Telecom consumers Protection (ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2015 dated 16-10-2015, *inter alia*, mandated that every originating service provider providing cellular mobile telephone service shall, for each call drop within its network, 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. TRAI has not made any change to this mandate, which is to come into effect from 01.01.2016. After consultation with the telecom service providers (TSP) and upon examination of the representations received from them on the matter, it was clarified by TRAI through a press release dated 12.11.2015 that:-

(i) It is technically possible for the TSPs to implement the Regulations; and

(ii) Sufficient time has been given to the TSPs to make suitable provisions so as to comply with the Regulations.

There is no audit done by TRAI to assess any gain by the service providers on account of call drop.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) BSNL is augmenting its mobile network progressively so as to enhance coverage, capacity and to further improve the Quality of Service. In order to provide better network connectivity and further reduce call drop, BSNL has planned to add 6.3 million GSM lines capacity in its network during the year 2015-16 and out of this approximately 3.2 million have already been operationalized. BSNL is also optimizing its network continuously for its performance. Monitoring of the network has also been strengthened to ensure performance as per the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI. MTNL also making efforts for augmentation of its mobile network progressively so as to enhance coverage, capacity and to further improve the Quality of Service. Monitoring of the network has also been strengthened to ensure better performance and also meeting call drop related QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI.

#### **Problem of call drops**

1516. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the problem of call drops faced by citizens of the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the reasons have been identified on the issue of call drops; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to solve this problem and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Government has taken the cognizance of the problem of call drops faced by the citizen of the country. TRAI has laid down the Quality of Service standards for cellular mobile telephone service through regulations issued, from time to time.

- (b) The common reasons attributed to call drops are
  - Change of frequency in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata from December, 2014 onwards.
  - Change in pattern of traffic and the need of Telecom Service Providers to efficiently manage it.
  - Poor network/RF Network Optimisation
  - Non Up-gradation of network maintenance tools to international standards.
  - Inadequate investment in network

- Poor radio coverage :

Non availability of sites may be due to acquisition problems;

Sealing of sites by local authorities/Resident Welfare Associations(RWAs)/ owners due to Electromagnetic Fields(EMF)/Other issues –

Clearance by Government including Standing Advisory Committee on Radio Frequency Allocation (SACFA).

- Loading of available spectrum :

Limited 3G spectrum with very high users;

Sites too close to each other in same band causes interference in 3G/4G.

Operators might not have allocated more resources for voice as data traffic is increasing.

- Non availability of 24x7 power, resulting in shutdown of sites.
- Radio interference due to unauthorized use of repeaters/Wi-Max frequencies/ at international borders.

(c) In view of the growing concerns on call drops and other network issues, TRAI conducted Independent Drive Tests (IDT) by Independent Agencies in Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Pune, Surat and Bhubaneswar in the months from July to September 2015 to assess the network performance in these cities so that service providers could be persuaded to improve the performance. In this regard meeting with Chief Executive Officers of mobile companies were also held in TRAI. Further, TRAI has issued a Consultation Paper on compensation to the consumers in the event of dropped calls for comments of stake holders on 4th September 2015. After receipt of the comments of the stakeholders, an Open House Discussions was held on 1st October, 2015.

Steps taken by Department of Telecommunication are as under:

- Secretary, Telecom took a meeting of TSPs on 27th April 2015 to address the issues of call drop.
- Suggestions of Telewings regarding free talk time against call drop forwarded to TRAI on 10th June 2015 for examination and offering their advice.
- Hon'ble Minister reviewed the status on 7th July 2015 and directed that a special audit be undertaken by Telecom Enforcement, Resource & monitoring (TERM) Cells to assess the gravity of situation and to take corrective measures. The



special audit activity has commenced from 22.07.2015. The telecom service providers have also been addressed to undertake Radio Frequency(RF) optimization exercise and augmentation of resources to curb the menace of call drop. The audit has concluded on 14th August, 2015 and number of cells not meeting the criteria identified.

- A letter has been written by Hon'ble Minister (Communication & Information Technology) to Union Urban Development Minister/all Chief Ministers of States citing "Digital India" and "m-governance" programs for providing:  
  
Single window clearances;  
  
Space in government buildings for mobile sites;  
  
Speedy Right of Way (RoW) clearances;  
  
Ensuring 24x7 power.
- As a follow up of the letter of Hon'ble Minister (Communication & Information Technology), a meeting has been held between Secretary (T) and Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development(MoUD) on 22/07/2015, wherein it has been in-principle agreed that MoUD shall permit installation of mobile towers/in-building solutions in the Government buildings under their control subject to structural safety and payment of appropriate Licence Fee by the TSP. Such mobile towers/ in-building solution shall be a shared facility for all TSPs.
- Telecom Secretary held a meeting with Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Telecom Service Providers to discuss the issue relating to call drops on 17.8.2015. The various issues were discussed and it was stressed that operators need to augment the infrastructure by way of additional towers and base stations in order to address the issue of call drops and quality of service. The operators assured that they have taken necessary action for optimization of networks and will do it on regular basis which will improve the performance of worst affected cells. The operators were asked to submit the weekly report.
- A meeting was taken by the Hon'ble Minister on 26th August, 2015 wherein it was decided that efforts which are being carried out to address the concerns should continue. It was also decided that Secretary will speak to the owner of the companies to convey the concerns on this issue. TRAI may consider to put penalties in terms of disincentives, poor performance as per the TRAI report published in June, 2015 for Delhi and Mumbai. As the licence agreement has

also provision for imposition of penalties for meeting the quality of service parameters, the option will be exercised as last option in this respect for imposition of the penalties.

- TSPs have been asked to take action for enhancing coverage by putting new mobile towers/in-building solutions in the Government buildings in Delhi. Similar action has been suggested in other parts of the country as well.
- A meeting was held with Chairman New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on 24.11.2015 for facilitating installation of towers in NDMC area.
- The Department has taken pro-active steps at various forums to allay the fear of radiation hazards due to telecom towers. Secretary had participated in a discussion held by Doordarshan and media also has been sensitized.

Fortnightly review is being done at the highest level in DoT. Signs of improvements are already there. Due to proactive initiative of Department of Telecommunication, about 29 thousands new 2G/3G sites have been added by TSPs in their mobile network, across the country in the last six months. Operators are required to take further initiatives for addressing call drop issue.

### **Digital lockers**

1517. SHRIMATI VANDANACHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of users of digital lockers in the country;
- (b) The funds allocated towards this scheme; and
- (c) How Government is planning to increase the number of users of digital lockers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The number of users for digital locker as on 02.12.2015 is 1,015,654.

- (b) The fund allocated for the project is ₹70 crores.
- (c) To increase the number of users of DigiLocker, the following steps are planned :
  - Undertake on boarding activities for government departments, agencies and institutions so they can become digital locker issuers and requesters. This will create mass awareness about the platform and promote its usage.

- Build features in the digital locker application that allow users to share their activity on the internet to generate word of mouth based distribution.
- Run social media campaigns on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn to create Awareness.
- Provide print and electronic media advertising support.
- Send newsletter on the e-Sampark database and put digital locker logo on e Government portals

#### **Free roaming service by BSNL**

1518. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has proposed nationwide free roaming service in the country;
- (b) if so, whether TRAI has objected to the said proposal;
- (c) if so, whether TRAI can overrule the decision of an organization which gives benefits to its customers; and
- (d) if so, the action proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has launched free incoming-voice call facility while in National Roaming under all postpaid and prepaid GSM (Global System of Mobile communication) mobile plans offered to subscribers initially for a period of one year w.e.f. 15.6.2015.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

#### **Call drop problem**

†1519. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the problems being faced by the mobile users because of call drops during the recent past;
- (b) the reasons for the call drops;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government has tried to find a solution to this problem by taking up the issue with mobile service provider companies; and

(d) whether the relief has percolated down to mobile customers and the quantum of relief provided?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Government has taken the cognizance of the problem of call drops faced by the mobile users of the country. TRAI has laid down the Quality of Service Standards for cellular mobile telephone service through regulations issued, from time to time.

(b) The common reasons attributed to call drops are :

- Change of frequency in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata from December, 2014 onwards.
- Change in pattern of traffic and the need of Telecom Service Providers to efficiently manage it.
- Poor network/RF Network Optimisation
- Non up-gradation of network maintenance tools to International standards.
- Inadequate investment in network
- Poor radio coverage :
  - Non availability of sites may be due to acquisition problems;
  - Sealing of sites by local authorities/Resident Welfare Associations(RWAs)/owners due to Electromagnetic Fields(EMF)/Other issues ;
  - Clearance by Government including Standing Advisory Committee on Radio Frequency Allocation(SACFA).
- Loading of available spectrum:
  - Limited 3G spectrum with very high users;
  - Sites too close to each other in same band causes interference in 3G/4G.
  - Operators might not have allocated more resources for voice as data traffic is increasing.
- Non-availability of 24x7 power, resulting in shutdown of sites.

- Radio interference due to unauthorized use of repeaters/Wi-Max frequencies/ at international borders.

(c) and (d) In view of the growing concerns on call drops and other network issues, TRAI conducted Independent Drive Tests (IDT) by independent agencies in Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Pune, Surat and Bhubaneswar in the months from July to September 2015 to assess the network performance in these cities so that service providers could be persuaded to improve the performance. In this regard meeting with Chief Executive Officers of mobile companies were also held in TRAI. Further, TRAI has issued a Consultation Paper on compensation to the consumers in the event of dropped calls for comments of stakeholders on 4th September 2015. After receipt of the comments of the stakeholders, an Open House Discussions was held on 1st October, 2015.

Steps taken by Department of Telecommunication are as under:

- Secretary, Telecom took a meeting of TSPs on 27th April, 2015 to address the issues of call drop.
- Suggestions of Telewings regarding free talk time against call drop forwarded to TRAI on 10th June 2015 for examination and offering their advice.
- Hon'ble Minister reviewed the status on 7th July, 2015 and directed that a special audit be undertaken by Telecom Enforcement, Resource & Monitoring (TERM) Cells to assess the gravity of situation and to take corrective measures. The special audit activity has commenced from 22.7.2015. The telecom service providers have also been addressed to undertake Radio Frequency(RF) optimization exercise and augmentation of resources to curb the menace of call drop. The audit has concluded on 14th August, 2015 and number of cells not meeting the criteria identified.
- A letter has been written by Hon'ble Minister (Communication and Information Technology) to Union Urban Development Minister/all Chief Ministers of States citing "Digital India" and "m-governance" programs for providing:
  - Single window clearances;
  - Space in government buildings for mobile sites;
  - Speedy Right of Way (RoW) clearances;
  - Ensuring 24x7 power.
- As a follow up of the letter of Hon'ble Minister (Communication & Information

Technology), a meeting has been held between Secretary (T) and Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development(MoUD) on 22.07.2015, wherein it has been in-principle agreed that MoUD shall permit installation of mobile towers/in-building solutions in the Government buildings under their control subject to structural safety and payment of appropriate Licence Fee by the TSP. Such mobile towers/in-building solution shall be a shared facility for all TSPs.

- Telecom Secretary held a meeting with Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Telecom Service Providers to discuss the issue relating to call drops on 17.8.2015. The various issues were discussed and it was stressed that operators need to augment the infrastructure by way of additional towers and base stations in order to address the issue of call drops and quality of service. The operators assured that they have taken necessary action for optimization of networks and will do it on regular basis which will improve the performance of worst affected cells. The operators were asked to submit the weekly report.
- A meeting was taken by the Hon'ble Minister on 26th August, 2015 wherein it was decided that efforts which are being carried out to address the concerns should continue. It was also decided that Secretary will speak to the owner of the companies to convey the concerns on this issue. TRAI may consider to put penalties in terms of disincentives, poor performance as per the TRAI report published in June, 2015 for Delhi and Mumbai. As the licence agreement has also provision for imposition of penalties for meeting the quality of service parameters, the option will be exercised as last option in this respect for imposition of the penalties.
- TSPs have been asked to take action for enhancing coverage by putting new mobile towers/in-building solutions in the government buildings in Delhi. Similar action has been suggested in other parts of the country as well.
- A meeting was held with Chairman, New Delhi Municipal Council(NDMC) on 24.11.2015 for facilitating installation of towers in NDMC area.
- The Department has taken pro-active steps at various forums to allay the fear of radiation hazards due to telecom towers. Secretary had participated in a discussion held by Doordarshan and media also has been sensitized.

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 1.1.2016. As per these regulations, every originating service provider, 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;
- (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.

Due to pro-active initiative of Department of Telecommunication, about 29 thousands new 2G/3G sites have been added by TSPs in their Mobile Network, across the country in the last six months.

#### **Call drop parameters**

1520. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that none of the telecom service providers are meeting the call drop parameters, which are prescribed as 2 per cent by TRAI;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to address the call drop problem; and
- (c) the details of compliance measures taken by various service providers across the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) TRAI has laid down the Quality of Service standards for cellular mobile telephone service through regulations issued from time to time for assessing the performance of service providers on call drop, both for 2G and 3G services.

For 2G/3G services, non-compliance with the benchmarks is mostly observed in respect of the parameters (1) "Worst affected cells having more than 3% Traffic Channel (TCH) drop (call drop) rate/and Circuit switched voice drop rate" (2) "Worst affected Base Transmission Station(BTS)/Node-B's due to downtime."

(b) and (c) TRAI undertakes audit and assessment of Quality of Service through independent agencies. In view of the growing concerns on call drops and other network issues, Drive Tests were conducted by independent agencies in Mumbai, Delhi, in June/July, 2015. Following these drive tests, meeting were held in TRAI with the Chief Executive

Officers of mobile companies to finalize action points for improving network conditions including measures for reducing call drops. In this meeting the Chief Executive Officers of mobile companies assured TRAI of improvement in network conditions very shortly. The drive tests were repeated in these cities in September to assess the improvement in network conditions. These drive tests reports show improvements in network conditions of some of the service providers. Also drive tests were held in Kolkata, Pune, Surat and Bhubaneswar in September, 2015 to assess the network performance in these cities so that service providers could be pursued to improve the performance. Another meeting with Chief Executive Officers in this regard to assess the progress in improving network conditions was held on 29th October, 2015. Further to this meeting, a meeting was held in TRAI on 20th November 2015 to assess the action taken by the service providers in addressing the call drop network issues. To allay the fears of consumers relating to radiation from mobile towers, TRAI has embarked on a programme to educate consumers about the safety of radiation from mobile towers.

#### **Call drop cases in MTNL**

1521. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that call drop cases under Government-owned MTNL mobile services have increased manifold, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of steps Government is taking to stop call drop cases and to make it competitive with private companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) MTNL is meeting all the Quality of Service (QoS) related parameters prescribed by TRAI for mobile service including call drop in its license service area of Delhi and Mumbai. The details in respect of MTNL are given as below:

TRAJ	TRAJ	Delhi			Mumbai		
		Aug. 15	Sept. 15	Oct. 15	Aug. 15	Sept. 15	Oct. 15
Call drop rate	<2%	1.84%	1.88%	1.86%	1.47%	1.50%	1.53%
	(2G)	(2G)	(2G)	(2G)	(2G)	(2G)	(2G)
	<2%	1.70%	1.60%	1.70%	1.70%	1.50%	1.60%
	(3G)	(3G)	(3G)	(3G)	(3G)	(3G)	(3G)

(b) MTNL has taken following various steps to further minimize the call drops:

1. Introduction of new frequency plan.



2. Optimization of cell level parameters.
3. Preventive maintenance to minimize the hardware faults.
4. On line monitoring of BTS outages.
5. Optimization of RF network regularly.
6. Network will be expanded as and when needed.

**Payment of overdues to sugarcane producers**

†1522. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2166 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th August, 2015 and state:

- (a) the amount paid to sugarcane producers so far out of their total overdues of 17,301 crore and by when the full amount would be paid;
- (b) the effect of soft loan provided to sugar mills through banks by Government and other steps taken, on the economic condition of sugar mills;
- (c) the details of the other steps taken by Government in view of the incidents of suicide committed by financially struggling farmers so that the cane growers get their dues early;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether it is affecting sugarcane and sugar productions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):(a) The cane dues of ₹ 17301 crores were outstanding against the sugar mills as on 15.07.2015. Since then, ₹ 10,620 crores have been paid to the sugarcane producers up to 15.11.2015. The payment of cane dues is an ongoing process and the dues position changes continuously on account of fresh supplies received and payment made for previous supplies. As such, it is not possible to indicate time-line by which the full amount would be paid.

(b) and (c) Funds amounting to ₹ 4151 crores were disbursed under Soft Loan Scheme which were credited directly into farmer's account. It helped in reducing the cane price arrears. The Central Government with a view to facilitate clearance of cane price arrears of sugarcane farmers, has also taken several other initiatives to help the industry resolve liquidity problems and expeditiously clear cane price dues. The measures taken by the Government are listed below:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (i) Incentive for exporting raw sugar in sugar seasons 2013-14 and 2014-15.
- (ii) Fixing remunerative prices for supplies of ethanol to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for blending with petrol to improve liquidity of mills; waiver of excise duty on ethanol supplies to OMCs during 2015-16 and scaling up of blending targets from 5% to 10%.
- (iii) Enhanced import duty to 40% to discourage imports.
- (iv) The “Duty Free Import Authorization” scheme (DFIA), for sugar withdrawn.
- (v) The period for discharging Export Obligations under the Advanced Authorization Scheme for sugar reduced to 6 months to prevent leakage into the domestic economy.
- (vi) Notified a scheme on 2.12.2015 to extend production subsidy @ ₹ 4.50 per quintal to sugar mills to offset the cost of cane and facilitate timely payment of cane price dues of farmers.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) There has been no significant impact on sugarcane or sugar production attributable to cane price arrears.

**Rise in prices of onion and daily use agricultural produces**

1523. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government faces rise in prices of onion and some daily use agricultural produces almost every year;
- (b) if so, the reasons identified for rise in their prices; and
- (c) the strategy prepared by Government to address the inflation related to onions in future?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) In case of essential food items including onion an important factor causing rise in prices is the shortfall in domestic production due to adverse weather conditions. In addition, other factors such as increased transportation cost, supply chain constraints like lack of storage facilities for vegetables and hoarding and black marketing also contribute to price rise.

(c) The strategy for ensuring availability and moderating the prices of onion include imposition of stock limits by States/UTs, regulation of exports through fixation of Minimum Export Price (MEP) and regulation of price volatility through assistance under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) Scheme of Department of Agriculture, Co-operation & Farmers Welfare.

**Payment of arrears to sugarcane growers**

†1524. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) the steps taken by Government in view of the payments of arrears to the sugarcane growers by sugar mills and whether this would be fruitful in the interest of the sugarcane growers in the future;

(b) the name of products being manufactured by sugar mills by using sugarcane at present; and

(c) whether sugarcane is being used/being proposed to be used to produce ethanol which can be utilized by mixing it in fuel, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Central Government with a view to facilitate clearance of cane price arrears of sugarcane farmers, has taken several steps to help the sugar industry resolve liquidity problems and expeditiously clear cane price dues. The measures taken by the Government are listed below:

- (i) Extending working capital loans with interest subvention to sugar mills to facilitate clearance of cane price dues of farmers under Scheme for Extending Financial Assistance to Sugar Undertakings (SEFASU-2014) and Soft Loan scheme.
- (ii) Incentive for exporting raw sugar in sugar seasons 2013-14 and 2014-15.
- (iii) Fixing remunerative prices for supplies of ethanol to OMCs for blending with petrol; waiver of excise duty on ethanol supplies to OMCs during 2015-16 and scaling up of blending targets from 5% to 10%.
- (iv) Enhanced import duty to 40% to discourage imports.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (v) The “Duty Free Import Authorization” scheme (DFIA), for sugar withdrawn.
- (vi) The period for discharging Export Obligations under the Advanced Authorization Scheme for sugar reduced to 6 months to prevent leakage into the domestic economy.
- (vii) Notified a scheme on 2.12.2015 to extend production subsidy @ ₹ 4.50 per quintal to sugar mills to offset the cost of cane and facilitate timely payment of cane price dues of farmers.

The above measures are likely to improve the liquidity position of sugar mills enabling them to make timely payment of cane price dues of farmers.

(b) Sugar mills in the country are producing white and raw sugar from sugarcane. Besides, bagasse; molasses and press cake are also generated as primary by-products in the process of sugar production.

(c) The extant policy of the Government does not allow production of ethanol directly from sugarcane juice. However, ethanol is being produced from molasses, a by-product during production of sugar from sugarcane, and is *inter alia* being used for blending with petrol under the Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP) of the Government.

#### **Hoarding of pulses**

†1525. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many cases of hoarding of pulses have come to light in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any action against the hoarders till date; and
- (c) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The States are the enforcement agencies for the Essential Commodities Act 1955 & the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of essential Commodities Act, 1980. Action taken by the State Governments/UTs against hoarders of essential commodities covered under the Orders of Stock limits, during 2015 (as on 07.12.2015) is given in the Statement-I (*See below*). The details of the raids conducted by the States on dealers of pulses during 17.10.2015 till 07.12.2015 are given in the Statement-II.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Statement-I***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 7.12.2015				
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
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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Himachal Pradesh	24114	-	-	-	19.7
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
12.	Jharkhand	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
13.	Karnataka	571	128	0	3	16.71
14.	Kerala	8430	10	4	1	63.83
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
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	67	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		90837	1352	478	39	2621.26

***Statement-II******Enforcement data under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (Pulses)***

(07.12.2015)

Sl. No.	State	Raids conducted, quantity seized & quantity disposed (MT)			
		Raids	Qty. seized	Qty. disposed	Balance
1.	Chhattisgarh	112	5447.93	3080.63	2367.30
2.	Haryana	1652	14.60	Nil	14.60
3.	Karnataka*	1351	25545.82	4123.32	21422.50
4.	Madhya Pradesh	969	3373.60	1972.90	1400.70
5.	Maharashtra	5250	86709.39	57167.28	29542.11
6.	Telangana	1924	3316.84	5.12	3311.72
7.	Rajasthan	840	2648.08	300.16	2347.92
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		14177	130608.19	68413.90	62194.29

*Source:* State Governments.

\*The High Court of Karnataka on 23.11.2015 declared the Department of Food and Civil Supplies' seizure of pulses stored by traders as "illegal" and ordered the release of pulses, edible oils and oilseeds from them.

**Scarcity of pulses**

†1526. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that extreme scarcity of pulses is being felt in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



(b) if so, whether Government is proposing to increase the stock of pulses in view of its scarcity; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) There has been a shortfall in availability of pulses on account of fall in domestic production due to adverse weather conditions. During the year 2014-15, the total pulses production was 17.20 million tones as against 19.25 million tonner in 2013-14 i.e. a fall of 2.05 million tonns.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government has imported pulses under the Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme (PSF) scheme to improve its availability and moderate prices. Besides, a decision has also been taken to go in for procurement to build up buffer stocks of pulses.

#### **Storage facilities for foodgrains**

1527. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a lot of foodgrains in the country are wasted due to lack of storage facilities, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to avoid wasting of foodgrains due to lack of storage facility; and

(c) the details of hired, acquired and built storage facilities for storage of foodgrains for the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, sir. At present, no foodgrains in the country are wasted due to lack of storage facilities. Total storage capacity available with FCI and State Agencies as on 31.10.2015 is 806.46 lakh MT against central pool stock of 411.98 lakh MT.

(b) FCI has augmented its storage capacities through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode as well as using Plan funds over the past few years to avoid wasting of foodgrains due to lack of storage facility. New godowns of total 130.31 lakh MT capacity have been constructed in PPP mode in 20 States. Further, new godowns of capacity 88,060 MT have been constructed under Plan scheme. These efforts have addressed the shortage of covered godowns which were witnessed in the past.

(c) Details of storage capacity hired by FCI for storage of foodgrains during the last three years and the current year are given as under:-

As on	Hired Capacity (Lakh MT)
31.03.13	221.02
31.03.14	212.49
31.03.15	203.45
31.10.15	213.13

State-wise details of capacities hired by FCI as on 31st March of last three years viz. 2013, 2014, 2015 and for the current year as on 31.10.2015 are given in the Statement-I (See below).

FCI does not acquire storage capacity.

Storage capacity built under Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) scheme (for guaranteed hiring by FCI) and Plan scheme (FCI's owned capacity) in the last 3 years and the current year is as below:-

Year	PEG Scheme (LMT)*	Plan Scheme** (MT)
2012-13	40.66	2910
2013-14	49.88	22500
2014-15	8.30	43480
2015-16 (upto 31.10.2015)	3.30	19170
TOTAL	102.14	88060

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

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

### ***Statement-I***

#### *State-wise details of capacities hired by FCI for the last three years*

Zone	Sl. No.	Region/U.T.	Total Hired Capacity ( In Lakh MT)			
			March, 2013	March, 2014	March, 2015	Oct., 2015
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
East	1.	Bihar	2.51	2.48	2.37	2.61
	2.	Jharkhand	0.64	1.07	1.52	1.57
	3.	Odisha	3.07	2.83	2.49	2.44
	4.	West Bengal	2.00	2.00	1.14	1.14
	5.	Sikkim	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
		TOTAL (E. ZONE)	8.23	8.39	7.53	7.77

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
N.E.	6.	Assam	0.77	0.92	1.04	1.02
	7.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.04
	8.	Meghalaya	0.12	0.12	0.14	0.14
	9.	Mizoram	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
	10.	Tripura	0.19	0.09	0.08	0.07
	11.	Manipur	0.07	0.04	0.04	0.04
	12.	Nagaland	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13
		TOTAL (N.E.Z)	1.34	1.36	1.48	1.44
North	13.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	14.	Haryana	22.44	29.24	36.42	42.84
	15.	Himachal Pradesh	0.16	0.16	0.29	0.30
	16.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.28	0.62	1.15	1.28
	17.	Punjab	68.50	82.11	78.47	83.17
	18.	Chandigarh	2.37	2.64	2.48	0.06
	19.	Rajasthan	12.35	14.75	13.93	11.43
	20.	Uttar Pradesh	33.97	26.92	24.13	28.77
South	21.	Uttarakhand	1.17	1.20	1.01	0.98
		TOTAL (N.Z.)	141.24	157.64	157.88	168.83
	22.	Andhra Pradesh	30.96	14.33	7.06	7.30
	23.	Telangana			2.40	3.79
	24.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	25.	Kerala	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.05
	26.	Karnataka	3.97	3.58	3.34	3.34
	27.	Tamil Nadu	3.88	4.59	4.63	4.31
West	28.	Puducherry	0.27	0.27	0.43	0.49
		TOTAL (S.Z.)	39.08	22.82	17.91	19.28
	29.	Gujarat	3.11	2.19	2.35	2.06
	30.	Maharashtra	10.20	11.69	10.33	10.45
	31.	Goa	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
	32.	Madhya Pradesh	2.08	0.95	1.16	0.05
	33.	Chhattisgarh	4.62	3.53	3.33	3.11
		TOTAL (W.Z.)	20.06	18.41	17.22	15.72
GRAND TOTAL			209.95	208.62	202.02	213.04

***Statement-II****State-wise and year-wise details of the storage capacity created under PEG scheme*

(Figures in Lakh MT)

Sl. No	State	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0.16	0.00	
2.	Bihar	0.12	0.58	0.50	0.15
3.	Chhattisgarh	1.73	1.78	0.24	0.25
4.	Gujarat	0.05	0.45	0.00	
5.	Haryana	8.77	15.48	4.20	
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.025	0.22	0.00	
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.3	0.53	0.26	
8.	Jharkhand	0.1	0.70	0.20	0.13
9.	Karnataka	0.69	0.67	0.14	
10.	Kerala	0.05	0.00	0.00	
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1.59	8.84	0.00	1.10
12.	Maharashtra	1.33	2.40	0.00	0.00
13.	Odisha	0.72	0.45		0.30
14.	Punjab	18.28	8.44	1.08	0.76
15.	Rajasthan	1.43	0.57	0.00	
16.	Tamilnadu	0.2	0.75	0.00	0.05
17.	Telengana	0.53	1.41	0.00	
18.	Uttar Pradesh	4.53	6.06	1.46	
19.	Uttarakhand	0		0.00	
20.	West Bengal	0.21	0.39	0.22	0.66
TOTAL		40.66	49.88	8.30	3.40

***Statement-III****State-wise and year-wise details of the storage capacity created under XIIth FYP*

(Figures in MT)

Sl	States	Centres	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1.	Assam	North Lakhimpur			2500	
		Jogigopa			2000	
		Hojai			2500	
		Changsari			25000	9170
		Bindukuri			5000	10000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Ziro		2500		

Sl	States	Centres	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
		Seppa			1670	
		Anini (Dibang Valley)			640	
		Senapati	1660			
		Jiribam	1250			
3.	Meghalaya	Tura			2500	
4.	Nagaland	Dimapur			1670	
5.	Odisha	Baripada		10000		
6.	Kerala	Arakulam		5000		
		Meenangadi		5000		
TOTAL		2910	22500	43480	19170	

**Pendency of cases in consumer redressal forums**

1528. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending in various consumer redressal forums in the country; and

(b) whether Government has any concrete steps to address the backlog of cases in the consumer redressal forums?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The details of total number of cases pending at various Consumer Disputes Redressal forum is given in the Statement (See below).

(b) The important steps being taken for speedy disposal of consumer cases, pending before the Consumer fore are as under:-

- (i) State Governments have been requested from time to time take action well in advance for filing up of vacancies of President and Member and to maintain a panel of candidates for filling up to future vacancies also to avoid delay in appointments so that no Consumer Fora remains non-functional due to vacancies.
- (ii) Circuit Benches from National Commission have been frequently visiting States.
- (iii) Some State Commissions have constituted Additional Benches mainly to disposal of the cases.
- (iv) The National Commission and some of the State Commissions as well as District Fora are adopting the process of holding Lok Adalats for speedy disposal of the cases.
- (v) Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government to the States/UTs for strengthening of infrastructure of Consumer Fora including computerization and networking to facilitate quick disposal of cases.

**Statement***Cases Filed/Disposed of/Pending in the National Commission and State Commissions*

Sl. No.	Name of State	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Cases filed since inception	Cases disposed of since inception	Cases Pending	% of Disposal	As on	
	<b>National Commission</b>		98496	88505	9991	89.86	30.11.2015	
1.	Andhra Pradesh		31827	31190	637	98.00	31.10.2015	
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands		111	106	5	95.50	30.06.2015	
3.	Arunachal Pradesh		81	74	7	91.36	31.10.2015	
4.	Assam		2807	2451	356	87.32	31.10.2015	
5.	Bihar		18024	13499	4525	74.89	31.08.2015	
6.	Chandigarh		14804	14615	189	98.72	31.10.2015	
7.	Chhattisgarh		10791	10197	594	94.50	30.11.2015	
8.	Daman & Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli		25	20	5	80.00	31.03.2011	
9.	Delhi		40973	35912	5061	87.65	30.06.2015	
10.	Goa		2702	2672	30	98.89	31.10.2015	
11.	Gujarat		52589	48144	4445	91.55	31.10.2015	
12.	Haryana		46359	45339	1020	97.80	31.10.2015	

13.	Himachal Pradesh	9005	8928	77	99.14	31.10.2015
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	7732	6937	795	89.72	30.04.2015
15.	Jharkhand	5651	5146	505	91.06	31.10.2015
16.	Karnataka	50085	44530	5555	88.91	31.10.2015
17.	Kerala	28318	26189	2129	92.48	31.10.2015
18.	Lakshadweep	18	16	2	88.89	31.08.2015
19.	Madhya Pradesh	48533	40955	7578	84.39	31.10.2015
20.	Maharashtra	67693	56808	10885	83.92	30.09.2015
21.	Manipur	168	157	11	93.45	30.09.2015
22.	Meghalaya	300	285	15	95.00	31.03.2015
23.	Mizoram	216	205	11	94.91	31.08.2015
24.	Nagaland	156	93	63	59.62	31.12.2014
25.	Odisha	24100	17491	6609	72.58	31.10.2015
26.	Puducherry	1023	981	42	95.89	30.09.2015
27.	Punjab	34642	31903	2739	92.09	31.10.2015
28.	Rajasthan	59677	52584	7093	88.11	31.10.2015
29.	Sikkim	57	54	3	94.74	31.03.2015
30.	Tamil Nadu	26679	24268	2411	90.96	30.09.2015

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
31.	Telangana	1500	0	1500	0.00	31.10.2015
32.	Tripura	1666	1642	24	98.56	30.09.2015
33.	Uttar Pradesh	76569	50559	26010	66.03	31.10.2015
34.	Uttarakhand	5615	4537	1078	80.80	31.10.2015
35.	West Bengal	24289	20252	4037	83.38	30.06.2015
	TOTAL	694785	598739	96046	86.18	

*Cases filed/disposed of pending in District fora*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Cases filed since inception	Cases disposed of since inception	Cases Pending	% of Disposal	As on
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	115233	112840	2393	97.92	31.10.2015
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	767	720	47	93.87	30.06.2015
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	415	378	37	91.08	30.09.2015
4.	Assam	15298	13841	1457	90.48	31.10.2015
5.	Bihar	98269	83740	14529	85.22	31.08.2015
6.	Chandigarh	52756	51402	1354	97.43	31.10.2015
7.	Chhattisgarh	43819	39261	4558	89.60	30.11.2015
8.	Daman & Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli	162	144	18	88.89	31.03.2011



9.	Delhi	254168	236589	17579	93.08	31.03.2015
10.	Goa	6959	6557	402	94.22	31.10.2015
11.	Gujarat	200141	187193	12948	93.53	31.10.2015
12.	Haryana	241177	228445	12732	94.72	31.10.2015
13.	Himachal Pradesh	62167	59269	2898	95.34	31.10.2015
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	20792	18855	1937	90.68	31.12.2007
15.	Jharkhand	37937	33673	4264	88.76	31.10.2015
16.	Karnataka	180411	168311	12100	93.29	31.10.2015
17.	Kerala	198788	188241	10547	94.69	31.10.2015
18.	Lakshadweep	83	65	18	78.31	31.08.2015
19.	Madhya Pradesh	213601	195565	18036	91.56	31.10.2015
20.	Maharashtra	294429	272172	22257	92.44	30.09.2015
21.	Manipur	1172	1051	121	89.68	30.09.2015
22.	Meghalaya	1005	925	80	92.04	31.03.2015
23.	Mizoram	3771	3733	38	98.99	30.06.2015
24.	Nagaland	624	575	49	92.15	31.12.2014
25.	Odisha	103155	95688	7467	92.76	31.10.2015

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26.	Puducherry	3119	2904	215	93.11	30.09.2015
27.	Punjab	178622	172969	5653	96.84	31.10.2015
28.	Rajasthan	342060	309305	32755	90.42	31.10.2015
29.	Sikkim	338	324	14	95.86	31.03.2015
30.	Tamil Nadu	111485	103369	8116	92.72	30.09.2015
31.	Telangana	87911	84079	3832	95.64	31.10.2015
32.	Tripura	3327	3177	150	95.49	30.09.2015
33.	Uttar Pradesh	638169	560684	77485	87.86	31.10.2015
34.	Uttarakhand	38770	35983	2787	92.81	31.10.2015
35.	West Bengal	101712	95106	6606	93.51	30.06.2015
TOTAL		3652612	3367133	285479	92.18	

**Softening in prices of pulses**

1529. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether alarmed by sudden spurt in prices of pulses, especially Arhar and Urad, Government had stepped up country-wide crackdown on hoarders and black-marketeers resulting in confiscation of large quantity of pulses hoarded across States;

(b) whether Government had asked the State Governments on the eve of Diwali to offload the confiscated stocks in the PDS and open markets; and

(c) whether coupled with the crash imports of lentils and pulses from Global markets the prices have now started softening in open markets, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Section 3 of the Essential Commodities (EC) Act, 1955 confers powers to State Governments to control production, supply and distribution of essential commodities. Accordingly, as on 08.12.2015, based on total of 14,721 raids across the 14 States/ UTs total of 1.31 lakh tons of pulses was seized. The seized pulses are allowed to be disposed off either through auction or other means under the EC Act, 1955.

(c) Retail prices of pulses have shown a declining trend as shown below:-

Major Pulses	All-India Daily Average Retail Price ( ₹ /kg)				
	Price As On	1 Month Ago	1 Year Ago	% Variation over	
	08.12.15	08.11.15	08.12.14	1 Month	1 Year
Chana Dal	69.53	70.64	45.36	-1.57	53.28
Tur Dal	150.93	155.52	75.51	-2.95	99.88
Urad Dal	143.57	146.88	75.4	-2.25	90.41
Moong Dal	107.77	110.91	95.53	-2.83	12.81
Masoor Dal	88.03	90.18	71.19	-2.38	23.66

**Black-marketing in PDS**

†1530. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has the details of BPL and APL families living in the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the details of subsidy given per month to people by Government through Public Distribution System, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government is formulating any concrete action plan to curb fraud and black-marketing in Public Distribution System and to ensure availability of Government subsidy to genuine person, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Government of India has enacted National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 which has come into force with effect from 5.7.2013. The coverage under the Act has been delinked from the poverty estimates. The Act provides for coverage upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population of the country for receiving 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month to priority households and 35 kg per family per month to Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households at subsidized prices of ₹ 3/2/1 for rice, wheat and coarsegrains respectively. So far 23 States/UTs have implemented the Act. The States/UTs which have not implemented the Act are being allocated foodgrains under existing Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) which is based on March, 2000 population estimates of Registrar General of India and 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission. As per these estimates, there were 6.52 crore accepted number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, (which included 2.50 crore AAY families) and 11.52 crore Above Poverty Line (APL) families. The State-wise coverage of beneficiaries under NFSA and State-wise BPL and APL families as per the TPDS are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

In case of States which have adopted Decentralized Procurement Scheme (DCP), food subsidy is directly released to the State by the Government of India for quantity of foodgrains procured by them under TPDS and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS). In case of non-DCP States, they are provided subsidized foodgrains through Food Corporation of India (FCI) for which payment of subsidy is released to FCI. The details of subsidy released to DCP States, FCI and UTs of Puducherry and Chandigarh which have adopted Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/ Union Territory (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 eligible families, issuance of ration

cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified on August 31, 2001 which mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. As provided under the said Order, the State and UT Governments are responsible for implementing TPDS and competent to take action against those indulging in malpractices in TPDS by invoking provisions of clauses 8 & 9 of the said Order. The PDS (Control) Order, 2001 has been superseded by the TPDS (Control) Order, 2015 notified on 20.03.2015 in consonance with NFSA, 2013. The provisions of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 shall be effective in States/UTs which have not implemented the NFSA or are implementing it only in part. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of these Orders is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Thus, both the Orders empower State/UT Governments to take punitive action in case of contravention of relevant provisions of these Orders. State/UT-wise details regarding action taken under clauses 8 & 9 of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 during the last three years and current year is given in the Statement-III (*See below*).

In a continuous endeavour to strengthen and streamline TPDS, the Government has initiated implementation of a plan scheme on 'End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS Operations' during the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) to ensure transparency and check leakages in the TPDS system. Under the scheme, financial assistance is being provided to States/UTs on cost sharing basis. The cost is being shared on 90:10 basis with North East States and on 50:50 basis with other States/UTs. Under this scheme, as per reports received, as on 31.10.2015, ration card data digitization has been done in 29 States/UTs, ration card data is available on Web Portal in 27 States/UTs, Online allocation is being done in 16 States/UTs, supply-chain management in 8 States/UTs, Transparency Portal set up in 27 States/UTs, online Grievance Redressal Mechanism in 26 and toll free helpline number has been set up in 32 States/UTs.

To curb leakages further, under the NFSA *inter alia*, States/UTs have been asked to either do cash transfer of food subsidy under Direct Benefit Scheme (DBT) or install electronic Point of Sale Device (ePoS) at the Fair Price Shops (FPSs).

The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) also encourages progressive reforms in the TPDS.

***Statement-I******Beneficiaries covered under TPDS***

(figures in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Accepted families under TPDS				
		AAY	BPL	AAY + BPL	APL	Total
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.38	0.61	0.99	1.43	2.42
2.	Gujarat	8.13	13.10	21.20	66.37	87.60
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.82	4.80	7.36	10.66	18.28
4.	Kerala	5.96	9.58	15.54	45.56	61.10
5.	Manipur	0.64	1.02	1.66	2.41	4.07
6.	Meghalaya	0.70	1.13	1.83	2.66	4.49
7.	Mizoram	0.26	0.42	0.68	0.99	1.67
8.	Nagaland	0.48	0.77	1.24	1.78	3.03
9.	Sikkim	0.17	0.27	0.43	0.62	1.06
10.	Tamil Nadu	18.65	29.98	48.63	90.19	138.82
11.	Uttar Pradesh	40.95	65.84	106.79	154.63	261.42
12.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.11	0.24	0.28	0.53	0.88
13.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.07	0.13	0.18	0.18	0.38

***Beneficiaries covered under NFSA***

(figures in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Persons covered under NFSA		
		Rural	Urban	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	200.20	68.03	268.23
2.	Assam	225.41	26.49	251.90
3.	Bihar	783.74	87.42	871.16
4.	Chhattisgarh	165.16	35.61	200.77
5.	Delhi	1.58	71.20	72.78
6.	Goa	2.33	2.99	5.32
7.	Haryana	90.28	36.21	126.49
8.	Himachal Pradesh	34.68	2.13	36.82
9.	Jharkand	216.52	47.73	264.25
10.	Karnataka	285.55	116.38	401.93
11.	Madhya Pradesh	420.83	125.59	546.42
12.	Maharashtra	469.71	230.45	700.17
13.	Odisha	287.19	39.02	326.21
14.	Punjab	94.88	46.57	141.45

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Rajasthan	356.09	90.53	446.62
16.	Telangana	143.08	48.62	191.70
17.	Tripura	20.26	4.76	25.02
18.	Uttarakhand	45.85	16.09	61.94
19.	West Bengal	463.31	138.53	601.84
20.	Chandigarh	0.11	4.85	4.96
21.	Daman and Diu	0.16	1.03	1.19
22.	Lakshadweep	0.05	0.17	0.22
23.	Puducherry	2.35	3.99	6.34

**Statement-II**

*Statement indicating the subsidy released to DCP States, UTs  
(for Direct Benefit Transfer) and FCI for 2015-16 (As on 07.12.2015)*

**I. DCP States:** (₹ in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2015-16
1.	Bihar	1930.38
2.	Madhya Pradesh	4100.18
3.	Andhra Pradesh	1179.59
4.	Telangana	1231.06
5.	West Bengal	1731.28
6.	Chhattisgarh	2355.77
7.	Uttarakhand	326.63
8.	Tamil Nadu	700.75
9.	Odisha	2206.39
10.	Gujarat	55.57
11.	Kerala	632.54
12.	Rajasthan	54.67

**II. Subsidy released under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme:**

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Subsidy released 2015-16
1.	UT of Chandigarh	6.8723256
2.	UT of Puducherry	24.998148

**III. Food Corporation of India (FCI):**

(₹ in crores)

Year	Subsidy Released
2015-16	87000.00

**Statement-III**

*Results of action taken by the State/UT Governments under Clauses 8 & 9 of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 from January, 2012 to June, 2015.*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Year	Number of inspections	Number of raids conducted	Number of persons arrested/prosecuted/convicted	Number of FPS Licenses suspended/Cancelled/Show cause notices issued/FIR lodged
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2012	*	*	*	*
		2013	5450	103	00	66
		2014	*	*	*	*
		2015	*	*	*	*
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2012	0	12	0	00
		2013	*	*	*	*
		2014	*	*	*	*
		2015	*	*	*	*
3.	Assam	2012	650	258	00	32
		2013	501	162	00	14



	2014	*	*	*	*	*
	2015	*	*	*	*	*
4. Bihar	2012	73629	101	38	10358	
	2013	32698	61	4	3984	
	2014	*	*	*	*	
	2015	*	*	*	*	
5. Chhattisgarh	2012	3033	253	11	104	
	2013	7726	792	64	244	
	2014	*	*	*	*	
	2015	*	*	*	*	
6. Delhi	2012	29	00	00	28	
	2013	*	*	*	*	
	2014	*	*	*	*	
	2015	*	*	*	*	
7. Goa	2012	334	00	00	23	
	2013	403	02	00	52	
	2014	357	27	00	57	
	2015	63	00	00	06	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Gujarat	2012	15637	00	45	209
		2013	13911	00	87	310
		2014	8887	00	46	243
		2015	2436	00	07	122
9.	Haryana	2012	*	*	*	*
		2013	*	*	*	*
		2014	*	*	*	*
		2015	*	*	*	*
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2012	31109	00	02	00
		2013	21814	00	02	04
		2014	9635	00	00	08
		2015	1389	00	00	02
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	2012	*	*	*	*
		2013	*	*	*	*
		2014	*	*	*	*
		2015	*	*	*	*
12.	Jharkhand	2012	*	*	*	*
		2013	*	*	*	*

	2014	*	*	*	*	*
	2015	*	*	*	*	*
13. Karnataka	2012	64484	784	69	59	
	2013	71613	444	94	170	
	2014	39239	424	196	263	
	2015	19283	243	44	147	
14. Kerala	2012	110840	6760	02	127	
	2013	83493	15683	00	139	
	2014	92638	22427	02	115	
	2015	*	*	*	*	
15. Madhya Pradesh	2012	97846	16910	19	2323	
	2013	251262	4092	71	4092	
	2014	*	*	*	*	
	2015	*	*	*	*	
16. Maharashtra	2012	*	*	*	*	
	2013	*	*	*	*	
	2014	*	*	*	*	
	2015	*	*	*	*	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	Manipur	2012	*	*	*	*
		2013	*	*	*	*
		2014	*	*	*	*
		2015	*	*	*	*
18.	Meghalaya	2012	992	28	00	06
		2013	729	26	00	03
		2014	681	34	00	04
		2015	*	*	*	*
19.	Mizoram	2012	338	223	00	03
		2013	204	107	00	00
		2014	242	147	00	00
		2015	56	33	00	00
20.	Nagaland	2012	69	03	00	01
		2013	*	*	*	*
		2014	*	*	*	*
		2015	*	*	*	*
21.	Odisha	2012	00	31197	131	1229
		2013	00	27740	80	1229

	2014	*	*	*	*	00	*
	2015					00	*
22.	Punjab						
	2012	*	*	*	*	335	*
	2013	*	*	*	*	170	*
	2014	*	*	*	*	*	*
	2015	*	*	*	*	*	*
23.	Rajasthan						
	2012	00	279				00
	2013	00	125				00
	2014	*	*				*
	2015	*	*				*
24.	Sikkim						
	2012	*	*			*	*
	2013	00	00			00	00
	2014	*	*			*	*
	2015	*	*			*	*
25.	Tamil Nadu						
	2012	184677	10290			2340	00
	2013	175705	9196			2008	00
	2014	218293	8949			53	00
	2015	*	*			*	*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26.	Tripura	2012	10676	392	00	780
		2013	10150	671	87	1254
		2014	9843	403	20	431
		2015	2729	111	00	149
27.	Uttarakhand	2012	2953	1477	7	16
		2013	10897	1683	11	101
		2014	2236	00	01	15
		2015	*	*	*	*
28.	Uttar Pradesh	2012	76458	19226	976	5302
		2013	9220	00	311	1807
		2014	8226	00	261	1906
		2015	*	*	*	*
29.	West Bengal	2012	15436	452	01	1213
		2013	17284	302	04	1840
		2014	22769	75	01	1401
		2015	7680	52	00	462
30.	A and N Islands	2012	316	00	00	17
		2013	126	00	00	00

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
35.	Puducherry	2012	385	770	161	00
		2013	1026	520	49	01
		2014	2206	670	13	00
		2015	511	175	00	00
TOTAL	2012	689891	89415	4137	21830	
	2013	714220	61711	3052	15310	
	2014	415258	33158	593	4443	
	2015	34147	614	51	888	
GRAND TOTAL= 2012+2013+2014+2015			1853516	184898	7833	42471

\* Information not provided



**Modernization of FCI godowns**

1531. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether instances of wastage of foodgrains due to poor storage conditions in FCI godowns have come to light during the last few years;

(b) if so, the quantity and value of foodgrains got wasted during the last three years, foodgrains-wise;

(c) the details of action taken against persons responsible for negligence in upkeep of godowns during the last three years; and

(d) whether Government is contemplating comprehensive renovation and modernization of existing FCI godowns in the country including Gujarat, in a time bound manner, 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) Procured foodgrains are stored by Food Corporation of India (FCI) in scientific manner in covered godowns and in CAP (Cover & Plinth) storage. Scientific codes of practices for safe storage of foodgrains are followed during storage. In spite of all precautions, some quantity of foodgrains 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. Details of quantity and value of foodgrains accrued as damage/non-issuable in Food Corporation of India godowns in the last three years and current year, foodgrain-wise are given in the Statement-I (See below).

(c) Details of action taken against person responsible for accrual of damage foodgrains in FCI during last three years and current year are given in the Statement-II (see below).

(d) Yes Sir,

In order to improve the condition of the existing godowns, a mechanism of grading of godowns to assess the condition of the godowns at any point of time is in place. All the godowns have been categorized into 5 grades based on the existing condition. 100 godowns have already been upgraded upto the financial year 2014-15. This is a continuous process and sufficient funds are provided to improve the condition of the godowns.

It has been planned to transform 65 existing depots into model depots with identified modern infrastructure and operational facilities. FCI has also planned to modernize its existing storage capacity by construction of modern Silos on PPP mode with the provision of Viability Gap Funding (VGF). For Non-VGF route, FCI has identified 27 locations which includes 2 locations in Gujarat namely Ahmedabad, Banaskantha.

**Statement-I**

*Details of accrual of damaged foodgrains in FCI, offtake quantity excluding decentralised procuring (DCP) States and % damaged foodgrain W.R.T. offtake foodgrain and its value*

Year	Commodity	Accrued Quantity of Damaged foodgrains (in Lakh Tons)	Offtake quantity excluding DCP (States) (in Lakh Tons)	% Damaged foodgrain against offtake quantity	Value in ₹ crore
2012-13	Wheat	0.02	299.17	0.01	1.86
	Rice	0.01	253.43	0.00	0.71
	TOTAL	0.03	552.60	0.01	2.57
2013-14	Wheat	0.13	281.79	0.05	10.80
	Rice	0.11	241.37	0.05	12.68
	TOTAL	0.25	523.16	0.05	23.48
2014-15	Wheat	0.07	241.35	0.03	5.51
	Rice	0.12	260.40	0.05	14.39
	TOTAL	0.19	501.75	0.04	19.90
2015-16 (As on 1.11.2015)	Wheat	0.01	130.91	0.01	0.81
	Rice	0.02	118.32	0.02	2.27
	TOTAL	0.03	249.23	0.01	3.08

**Statement-II**

*No. of officers/officials against whom action taken for damage of foodgrains due to various reasons during last three years and current year*

Region	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (till Oct., 2015)
Maharashtra	9	1	0	0
Gujarat	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	10	3
Delhi	0	0	16	0
Andhra Pradesh	0	0	11	6
Bihar	0	4	1	0
Punjab	0	37	14	0
Kerala	0	0	0	1
West Bengal	1	3	0	2
Jharkhand	1	2	1	0
Odisha	0	0	0	0
Rajasthan	0	0	0	0
Haryana	4	0	0	0
Zonal Office (W)	0	1	0	0
Zonal Office (East)	0	2	0	0
Chhattisgarh	0	0	1	0
Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	9
Karnataka	0	0	9	0
Chennai	0	0	11	0
Assam	0	0	3	2
North Eastern Frontier	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	15	50	77	24

**Illegal hoarding of red gram**

1532. 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 illegal hoarding of red gram has resulted in its price rise in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to stop illegal hoarding and step up the active public distribution system?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The primary reasons for the increase in prices of pulses, including red gram, is their reduced availability following a decline in production of pulses from 19.25 million tonnes in 2013-14 to 17.20 million tonnes in 2014-15 on account of adverse weather conditions, rise in transportation cost, hoarding and black-marketing. The State Governments/UTs have been enabled to impose stock limits on pulses and have been asked to undertake measures to enforce stock limits and conduct anti hoarding operations under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The information regarding Public Distribution System is given in the Statement-I (*See below*). The details of the raids conducted by the States on dealers of Pulses as on 08.12.2015 are given in the Statement-II.

***Statement-I******Public Distribution System***

Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (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 eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

2. In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified on August 31, 2001 which mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. As provided under the said Order, the State and UT Governments are responsible for implementing TPDS and competent to take action against those indulging in malpractices in TPDS by invoking provisions of clauses 8 & 9 of the said Order. The PDS I Order, 2001 has been superseded

by the TPDS I Order, 2015 notified on 20.03.2015 in consonance with NFSA, 2013. The provisions of the PDS (C) Order, 2001 shall be effective in States/UTs which have not implemented the NFSA or are implementing it only in part. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of these Orders is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Thus, both the Orders empower State/UT Governments to take punitive action in case of contravention of relevant provisions of these Orders.

3. In a continuous endeavour to strengthen and streamline TPDS, the Government has initiated implementation of a plan scheme on 'End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS Operations' during the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) to ensure transparency and check leakages in the TPDS system. Under the scheme, financial assistance is being provided to States/UTs on cost sharing basis. The cost is being shared on 90:10 basis with North East States and on 50:50 basis with other States/UTs. Under this scheme, as per reports received, as on 31.10.2015, ration card data digitization has been done in 29 States/UTs, ration card data is available on Web Portal in 27 States/UTs, Online allocation is being done in 16 States/UTs, supply-chain management in 8 States/UTs, Transparency Portal set up in 27 States/UTs, online Grievance Redressal Mechanism in 26 and toll free helpline number has been set up in 32 States/UTs.

4. To curb leakages further, under the NFSA *inter-alia*, States/UTs have been asked to either do cash transfer of food subsidy under Direct Benefit Scheme (DBT) or install electronic Point of Sale Device (ePoS) at the Fair Price Shops (FPSs).

5. The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) also encourages progressive reforms in the TPDS.

### **Statement-II**

*Department of Consumer Affairs Enforcement data under Essential  
Commodities Act, 1955 (Pulses)*

(08.12.2015)

Sl. No.	State	Raids conducted, quantity seized & quantity disposed (MT)			
		Raids	Qty. seized	Qty. disposed	Balance
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Chhattisgarh	112	5447.93	3257.94	2189.99
2.	Haryana	1652	14.60	Nil	14.60
3.	Karnataka	1351	25545.82	4192.76	21353.07
4.	Madhya Pradesh	969	3373.60	1972.90	1400.70

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Maharashtra	5250	86709.39	57167.28	29542.11
6.	Telangana	1924	3316.84	5.12	3311.72
7.	Rajasthan	840	2648.08	332.91	2315.17
8.	Jharkhand	140	282.0	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		14177	130608.19	68696.40	61914.80

Source: State Governments.

#### **Norms for BPL and APL categories**

1533. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for fulfilling a Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) category; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to replace APL and BPL by 'exclusion' and 'inclusion' categories?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The erstwhile Planning Commission estimated the extent of poverty using a poverty line defined in terms of the Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE). The methodology for estimation of poverty had been based on the recommendations made by the experts in the field from time to time. Using the poverty line recommended by the Tendulkar Committee for 2004-05 and updating it to 2011-12, the monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) of ₹ 816 in rural areas and ₹ 1000 in urban areas were the estimated poverty lines for 2011-12. These poverty lines vary from State to State because of inter-State price differentials.

The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 has been notified on 10.9.2013, which provides for legal entitlement of foodgrains for eligible households, namely, priority households and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households. The NFSA, 2013 entitles upto 75% of rural and upto 50% of urban population to receive subsidised foodgrains under TPDS. Under NFSA, the coverage under TPDS has been delinked from poverty estimates and corresponding to the above coverage at the all India level, State-wise coverage has been determined by the Planning Commission on the basis of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) data for 2011-12 on the consumption expenditure. Within the State/UT-wise coverage, identification of households is to be done by State/UT as per the criteria to be evolved by them.

#### **Hoarding and black-marketing of pulses**

1534. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that pulses, particularly Arhar is being hoarded and there have been several cases of black-marketing in the country;
- (b) if so, whether action has been taken against the hoarders;
- (c) the quantum of pulses, particularly Arhar, recovered from the hoarders; and
- (d) whether these recovered pulses have been made available to people, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Details, including Arhar, are given in the Statement.

#### **Statement**

*Department of Consumer Affairs, Information Data under  
Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (Pulses)*

(08.12.2015)

Sl.No.	State	Raids conducted, quantity seized & quantity disposed (MT)			
		Raids	Qty. seized	Qty. dispose	Balance
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Chhattisgarh	112	5447.93	3257.94	2189.99
2.	Haryana	1652	14.60	Nil	14.60
3.	Karnataka*	1351	25545.82	4123.32	21422.50

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Madhya Pradesh	969	3373.60	1972.90	1400.70
5.	Maharashtra	5250	86709.39	57167.28	29542.11
6.	Telangana	1924	3316.84	5.12	3311.72
7.	Rajasthan	840	2648.08	332.91	2315.17
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	3.42
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		14177	130608.19	68623.94	61984.23

*Source:* State Governments.

\*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.

### **Rise in prices of essential food items**

1535.SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

KUMARI SELJA:

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

(a) the percentage of rise in prices of essential food-items during the last three months, item- wise and month-wise;

(b) whether food inflation has again surged and reached double digit in the month of October, 2015, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for rise in the prices of food articles during the last three months; and

(d) the impact of Government's policies on the increase in the prices of food articles?



THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The requisite information based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Rise in the prices of essential food items are due to factors such as shortfall in production owing to adverse weather conditions, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints like lack of storage facilities and hoarding and black marketing. The steps taken by the Government to control the rising prices of essential food-items has contributed to moderating their prices.

**Statement**

*Rate of inflation of essential food items in the WPI (August to October, 2015)*

	(in per cent)		
Major Group/Sub-group/Items	August, 2015	September, 2015	October, 2015
<b>I. Food articles</b>	(-)1.02	0.69	2.44
1. Cereals	(-)1.98	(-) 1.02	(-)0.25
i. Rice	(-)3.89	(-)3.64	(-)3.40
ii. Wheat	2.09	3.34	4.68
2. Pulses	36.49	38.56	52.98
i. Gram	42.61	44.78	56.94
ii. Arhar	48.40	54.27	73.11
iii. Moong	14.62	14.02	20.89
iv. Masoor	30.38	28.09	31.53
v. Urad	35.34	37.59	66.02
3. Vegetables	(-)20.03	(-)9.45	2.56
i. Onion	74.44	113.70	85.66
ii. Potato	(-)51.76	(-)57.34	(-)58.95
iii. Tomato	(-)57.75	(-)31.36	9.27
<b>II. Food Products</b>	(-)2.11	(-)0.75	0.23
1. Sugar	(-)18.44	(-)16.30	(-)14.54
2. Edible oils	1.17	3.21	4.53

Major Group/Sub-group/Items	August, 2015	September, 2015	October, 2015
i. Vanaspati	(-)9.48	(-)6.70	(-)5.48
ii. Groundnut Oil	20.21	20.09	21.25
iii. Palm Oil	(-)6.60	(-)4.37	(-)4.76
iv. Mustard & Rapeseed Oil	15.92	16.67	18.96
v. Soyabean Oil	(-)6.34	(-)4.06	(-)1.19
vi. Sunflower Oil	0.47	6.73	7.79

*Source:* Office of Economic Adviser, DIPP

### **Rise in prices of essential commodities**

1536. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of factors responsible for increase in prices of essential commodities including pulses and vegetables recently; and

(b) the measures Government has taken to control the prices and to make available these essential commodities at reasonable prices and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Rise in the prices of essential food items including pulses and vegetables may be caused by several factors such as reduced production due to adverse weather conditions, rise in transportation costs, supply constraints and artificial shortages due to hoarding and black marketing.

The steps taken by the Government to contain the price rise of essential food items are given in the Statement.

### ***Statement***

#### ***Steps taken by the Government to improve the availability and to contain prices of essential food items: General Measures***

- I. National Consultation Meeting held with States/UTs in-charge of Consumer Affairs and Food held on 7th July, 2015, at New Delhi resolved to take steps to keep prices of essential commodities, especially pulses and onions under control.
- II. Advisories issued to State Governments to take strict action against hoarding and

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.

- III. Regular review meeting on price and availability situation is being held at the highest level to monitor the price situation and recommend appropriate interventions.
- IV. Measures taken to improve availability by incentivizing production through higher Minimum Export Price (MSP).
- V. A new Plan Scheme titled Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) is being implemented to regulate price volatility of agricultural commodities.

**Specific Measures: Onion**

- VI. Export of onion is restricted through Minimum Export Price (MEP) and presently the MEP is USD 700 MT *w.e.f.* 24.8.2015. Import duty of onion is allowed at zero duty.
- VII. Imported 2000 MT of onion from Egypt and China through MMTC. As no demand from States were received, the onion is being disposed through tenders in the open market.
- VIII. SFAC and NAFED were provided funding support during this year through PSF Scheme of Department of Agriculture, Co-operation & Farmers Welfare for creating stock during harvest season. Retail sale of onion was undertaken from the stock held by SFAC and NAFED during the lean season to improve availability and moderate the prices.
- IX. The stock limits in respect of onion has been extended by one more year *i.e.* up to 2nd July, 2016 under the Essential Commodities Act.

**Pulses**

- X. Authorized States/Union Territories to impose stock limit on pulses and the same has been extended up to 30.9.2016.
- XI. Advisories to States/Union Territories 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.
- XII. As per the information provided by State Governments, 14134 raids have been

conducted in 14 States resulting in seizure of 130606 tonnes of pulses (as on 03.12.2015) to arrest the rising prices of pulses.

XIII. Ban on export of pulses imposed with effect from June 22, 2006, except for Kabuli Chana and organic pulses & Lentils up to a maximum of 10000 tonnes a year.

XIV. Extension of zero import duty on all pulses till 30.09.2016 except for Chickpeas and Lentils which will be reviewed during December, 2015.

XV. Import of 5000 tonnes of Tur was undertaken by the Government through Price Stabilization Fund Scheme of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. It was allocated to States based on requests received from State Governments.

XVI. To incentivize production, higher Minimum Support Price (MSP) has been announced for both Kharif and Rabi pulses for 2015-16. Accordingly, for Kharif season, MSP (including bonus) has been increased by ₹ 275 from ₹ 4350 to ₹ 4625 per quintal for both Arhar and Urad, and by ₹ 200 from ₹ 4650 to ₹ 4850 per quintal for Moong respectively. For Rabi season, the increase (including bonus) has been by Rs 325 from ₹ 3175 to ₹ 3500 per quintal for Gram and from ₹ 3075 to ₹ 3400 per quintal for Masoor respectively.

#### **Implementation of recommendations of High Level**

#### **Committee on restructuring of FCI**

1537. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps towards implementation of the recommendations of the High Level Committee on restructuring of FCI, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has considered the option of outsourcing the operations of FCI to other agencies, including private entities, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government intends to move away from the present system of covered and plinth storage to the Silos system as suggested in the report, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has

taken suitable decisions for implementation of acceptable recommendations of the High Level Committee (HLC) on restructuring of Food Corporation of India (FCI). The details of these decisions of the Government on the recommendations of HLC are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Yes Sir. FCI has decided to outsource management of newly constructed godowns by FCI under Plan scheme.

Under PEG scheme, storage capacity is created 'with lease' or 'with lease and services' by outsourcing to Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) and private investors through competitive bidding process and handling & transport work is also carried out by contractor appointed by the nodal agency. A capacity of about 120 lakh MT has been taken over under PEG Scheme for storage of foodgrains.

In addition to Private Entrepreneur Guarantee (PEG) Scheme, FCI hires covered capacity from CWC, SWCs and private parties under PWS Scheme on normal rental basis. FCI undertakes preservation work only in capacities hired from private parties.

FCI has also hired 5.5 LMT capacities in the shape of Modern Silos under Build Own Operate system from private party. Preservation, handling and movement of foodgrain stocks from mother to baby silos is undertaken by the developer.

The Government has considered the options of outsourcing the procurement activity in areas not operated by FCI & State Government to private parties. In this regard, tenders have been floated by FCI in the State of Assam, Jharkhand, West Bengal and U.P. In Jharkhand private parties have already been selected for procurement.

FCI has also decided to engage of service providers for quality assurance, checking during receipt, preservation/ maintenance, dispatches and issues of foodgrains as per GOI specifications in identified FCI godowns, in case required.

(c) Yes Sir. As per the recommendations of HLC, all the hired Covered and Plinth (CAP) capacities have been de-hired by FCI. However, CAP capacity of 12,348 MT approximately has been hired on Actual Utilization Basis (AUB) basis in the UT of Chandigarh in Oct-Nov 2015 for storing the paddy procured locally.

Moreover, instructions have been issued to all the field offices not to store stocks in CAP capacities in consuming Regions. It has also been decided that stocks stored in CAP in procuring Regions should also be liquidated within 6-8 months.

**Statement***The decision taken by the Government of India on the recommendation of the Shanta Kumar Committee*

Sl. No.	Recommendations	Decisions taken
1.	<p>HLC recommends that FCI hand over all procurement operations of wheat, paddy and rice to states that have gained sufficient experience in this regard and have created reasonable infrastructure for procurement. These States are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Punjab.</p>	<p>All States excluding Punjab and Haryana are Decentralised Procuring (DCP) States where Food Corporation of India (FCI) is not involved in procurement.</p> <p>FCI has decided to stop procurement in Punjab and Haryana, only on getting request from the concerned State Governments.</p> <p>The State Government of Haryana has already given consent for not to involve FCI in procurement of wheat for RMS 2015-16, consequently, FCI has not taken part in procurement of wheat there.</p> <p>Similarly, FCI has decided not to take part in procurement of paddy in KMS 2015-16 in Haryana as per consent of the State Government.</p> <p>FCI has taken part in procurement of wheat in RMS 2015-16 as per the request of State Government of Punjab.</p>
2.	<p>FCI will accept only the surplus (after deducting the needs of the States under NFSA) from these State Governments (not millers) to be moved to deficit States.</p>	<p>FCI is of the view that transfer of stock of rice from one State to another is to be done by FCI, therefore, if they do not check the quality of rice themselves, it will create problem. If FCI would not accept the rice later on, due to poor quality of rice procured by State Governments, then it would create problems to</p>

the State Governments also. Therefore, the existing system has been decided to be continued.

FCI provides only guidance and outside support in procurement work in case of DCP States.

In Non-DCP States, FCI has decided to help in the following manner-

(1) Procurement plan to be prepared in consultation with the State Governments.

(2) FCI, as far as possible, to open its procurement centers in larger numbers.

(3) Where FCI and State Government Agencies are not able to open procurement centers, procurement would be done through of private agencies.

(4) Training would be imparted to State Governments on quality and storage for doing arrangements like States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh etc. from time to time.

(5) For creating infrastructure in these States, development of Agricultural Mandies, arrangements of storage, arrangements of machines equipments etc. could be done with the support of Ministry of Agriculture.

There is already agreement with DCP States. FCI has prepared a draft agreement for Non- DCP States for holding consultation with State Governments.

3. FCI should move on to help those States where farmers suffer from distress sales at prices much below MSP, and which are dominated by small holdings, like Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam etc. This is the belt from where second green revolution is expected, and where FCI needs to be pro-active, mobilizing State and other agencies to provide benefits of MSP and procurement to larger number of farmers, especially small and marginal ones.

4. DFPD/ FCI at the Centre should enter into an agreement with States before every procurement season regarding costing norms and basic rules for procurement.

Sl. No.	Recommendations	Decisions taken
5.	Centre should make it clear to States that in case of any bonus being given by them on top of MSP, Centre will not accept grains under the central pool beyond the quantity needed by the State for its own PDS/ OWS.	Decision has already been taken by the Government <i>vide</i> orders dated 12.06.2014 on this issue.
6.	The statutory levies including commissions, which vary from less than 2 per cent in Gujarat and West Bengal to 14.5 percent in Punjab, need to be brought down uniformly to 3 per cent, or at most 4 per cent of MSP, and this should be included in MSP itself (States losing revenue due to this rationalization of levies can be compensated through a diversification package for the next 3-5 years).	State Governments have not agreed for uniform Taxation. It is not justified to include taxes, commissions etc. in MSP.
7.	Quality checks in procurement have to be adhered to, and anything below the specified quality will not be acceptable under central pool. Quality checks can be done either by FCI and/ or any third party accredited agency in a transparent manner with the help of mechanized processes of quality checking.	FCI is strengthening its quality control infrastructure and modernize its laboratories. FCI is making arrangements for quality checks by External agencies, as per need. FCI is contacting premier institutions of the country for mechanized quality checking.
8.	HLC also recommends that levy on rice millers be done away with. HLC notes and comments that some steps have been taken recently by DFPD in	Levy has been withdrawn with effect from Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2015-16.



this direction, but they should be institutionalized for their logical conclusion.

9. Negotiable warehouse receipt system (NWRs) should be taken up on priority and scaled up quickly. Under this system, farmers can deposit their produce to the registered warehouses, and get say 80 per cent advance from banks against their produce valued at MSP. They can sell later when they feel prices are good for them. This will bring back the private sector, reduce massively the costs of storage to the Government, and be more compatible with a market economy. GoI, through FCI and Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) can encourage building of these warehouses with better technology, and keep an on-line track of grain stocks with them on daily/ weekly basis. In due course, GoI can explore whether this system can be used to compensate the farmers in case of market prices falling below MSP without physically handling large quantities of grain.

10. (a) GoI needs to revisit its MSP policy. Currently, MSPs are announced for 23 commodities, but effectively price support operates primarily in wheat and rice and that too in selected States. This creates highly skewed incentive

At present farmers of the country are totally dependent on Government procurement and they do not have adequate knowledge and arrangements to bring their produce directly in the market. However, steps would be taken in this direction with the help of WDRA and Finance Ministry.

Department has agreed for procurement of pulses and oilseeds through FCI on the pattern of NAFED under the Price Support Scheme of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. This will not create burden on food subsidy and FCI will create

Sl. No.	Recommendations	Decisions taken
	<p>structures in favour of wheat and rice.</p> <p>(b) While country is short of pulses and oilseeds (edible oils), their prices often go below MSP without any effective price support. Further, trade policy works independently of MSP policy, and many a times, imports of pulses come at prices much below their MSP. This hampers diversification. HLC recommends that pulses and oilseeds deserve priority and GoI must provide better price support operations for them, and dovetail their MSP policy with trade policy so that their landed costs are not below their MSP.</p> <p>On trade policy front, HLC also notes that while India is the largest exporter of rice in the world, it has currently an import duty of 70 per cent. This is not a good idea for using trade policy for providing stability. HLC recommends bringing down this duty to 5-10 per cent and decanalizing rice imports. This would help India to bring rice in its north-eastern hills through Myanmar route in a cost effective manner and save resources of FCI. Similarly, wheat imports can also be kept open at appropriate duty levels to augment stability of food system.</p>	<p>separate fund for this procurement with the assistance of Department of Agriculture &amp; Cooperation.</p> <p>Department of Commerce has been requested for making changes in the trade policy in such a manner that prices of imported pulses and oilseeds would not be lower than MSP.</p> <p>Import duty is being imposed as per the recommendations of High Level Committee for import of rice from Myanmar.</p>
11.	HLC recommends that FCI should outsource its stocking	FCI would outsource of management of newly constructed

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| <p>operations to various agencies such as Central Warehousing Corporation, State Warehousing Corporation, Private Sector under Private Entrepreneur Guarantee (PEG) scheme, and even State Governments that are building silos through private sector on State lands (as in Madhya Pradesh). It should be done on competitive bidding basis, inviting various stakeholders and creating competition to bring down costs of storage.</p>  | <p>godowns under Plan Schemes.<br/>Godowns of CWC/ SWC will be hired as per existing arrangement and where such godowns are not available; private godowns will be hired on the basis of competitive bidding.</p>  |
| <p>12. India needs more bulk handling facilities than it currently has. Many of FCI's old conventional storages that have existed for long number of years can be converted to silos with the help of private sector and other stocking agencies. Better mechanization is needed in all silos as well as conventional storages</p> <p>While there is need to work out specific quantity and what places it needs to be through a more detailed study, HLC's overall assessment is that given the overall production in the country, and drought prone nature of many regions, a silo capacity of about 10 MMT (together for wheat and rice) should be created in the next 3-5 years.</p> | <p>FCI will undertake construction of approx. 43.5 lakh tons capacity of silos in next five years.<br/>FCI depots having railway sidings, will be upgraded to Silos first. Where FCI or State Agencies do not have their own land, Silos would be built on Private land.<br/>FCI has already engaged a Consultant for this work.</p> |
| <p>13. Covered and Plinth (CAP) storage should be gradually phased out with no grain stocks remaining in CAP for more than 3 months. Silo bag technology and conventional</p>  | <p>FCI will de-hire its currently hired CAP capacity of 1.94 lakh MT within 1 month.<br/>There are 8.90 LMT FCI owned CAP capacity. CAP Complexes</p>  |

Sl. No.	Recommendations	Decisions taken
	storages wherever possible should replace CAP.	having 5000 MT or above capacity will be taken up for conversion into silos.
		In addition, grains kept in CAP will be evacuated within 6-8 months.
14.	Movement of grains needs to be gradually containerized which will help reduce transit losses, and have faster turn-around-time by having more mechanized facilities at railway sidings.	As Railways do not have facilities of containerized movement at present, it is not feasible to implement it as of now.
15.	Each State, especially the deficit ones in difficult terrain (like hilly areas of North-East, Jammu and Kashmir etc.), must have storage of grains for at least three months of their consumption requirement.	The construction work of godowns is going on in the States of North-East region under Plan Schemes. By the end of September, storage capacity of two months consumption requirement of grains, will be available in the States of North-East region. On construction of additional 5 LMT storage capacity, it would be feasible to store foodgrains for 3 months consumption requirement in NER. Efforts will be made to increase storage capacity in J&K to store foodgrains for 3 months requirement against existing two-month capability.
16.	FCI engages large number of workers (loaders) to get the job of loading/ unloading done smoothly and in time.	FCI has already requested the Ministry of Labour and Employment to de-notify the depots. Only contractual labour will be engaged in

- Currently there are roughly 16,000 departmental workers, about 26,000 workers that operate under Direct Payment System (DPS), some under no work no pay, and about one lakh contract workers. A departmental worker (loader) costs FCI about ₹ 79,500/ per month (Apri-Nov 2014 data) I DPS worker at ₹ 26,000/per month and contract labour costs about ₹ 10,000/ per month. Some of the departmental labour (more than 300) have received wages (including arrears) even more than ₹ 4 lakhs/per month in August 2014. This happens because of the incentive system in notified depots, and widely used proxy labour. This is a major aberration and must be fixed, either by de-notifying these depots, or handing them over to States or private sector on service contracts, and by fixing a maximum limit on the incentives per person that will not allow him to work for more than say 1.25 times the work agreed with him. These depots should be put on priority for mechanization so that reliance on departmental labour reduces. If need be, FCI should be allowed to hire people under DPS/ NWNP system. HLC recommends that the condition of contract labour, which works the hardest and are the largest in number, should be improved by giving them better facilities.
- One of the key challenges for FCI has been to carry buffer
- the depots after their de-notification.
- If, Ministry of Labour and Employment agrees, contractual labour would be engaged in all its depots and the cadres of Departmental Labour will be declared as dying cadres.
- The restructuring of labour force of FCI would be done by taking the labour unions in confidence.
- Capping of incentive being given to the regular workers of FCI is not advisable as it would lead to delay in unloading at the railheads.
- Regular strict vigil would be kept to provide better facilities to contractual labour prescribed under various labour laws.
- A decision has already been taken in this regard under which FCI

Sl. No.	Recommendations	Decisions taken
	<p>stocks way in excess of buffer stocking norms. During the last five years, on an average, buffer stocks with FCI have been more than double the buffer stocking norms costing the nation thousands of crores of rupees loss without any worthwhile purpose being served. The underlying reasons for this situation are many, starting with export bans to open ended procurement with distortions (through bonuses and high statutory levies), but the key factor is that there is no pro-active liquidation policy. DFPD/ FCI have to work in tandem to liquidate stocks in OMSS or in export markets, whenever stocks go beyond the buffer stock norms. The current system is extremely ad-hoc, slow and costs the nation heavily. A transparent liquidation policy is the need of hour, which should automatically kick-in when FCI is faced with surplus stocks than buffer norms. Greater flexibility to FCI with business orientation to operate in OMSS and export markets is needed.</p>	<p>would sell surplus wheat and rice in the open market in smooth manner.</p>
18.	<p>HLC recommends total end to end computerization of the entire food management system, starting from procurement from farmers, to stocking, movement and finally distribution through TPDS. It can be done on real time basis, and some States have done a commendable job on computerizing the procurement operations. But its dovetailing with movement</p>	<p>FCI has invited tenders for Depot Online Project. It will be done in phases. Depot Online Project will be done in 10 depots in current year and all other depots of FCI in the next year. Depot on line project would be implemented in hired Depot in third phase.</p>

and distribution in TPDS has been a weak link, and that is where much of the diversions take place.

19.

- Improve storage management practices by,
  - Outsourcing the management of storage and handling
  - Focusing on bulk rather than bagged
  - Even to the extent bagged storage has to continue, better quality material like HDPE rather than jute should be used.
  - The possibility of having ‘ears’ to a bag to eliminate hook based handling should be considered
  - The possibility of palletisation and usage of forklifts should be explored
- Reduce the number of stages of handling at procurement end,
  - Rationalize the mandis for procurement
  - Ensure bulk storage capacity at such mandis
  - Rail connectivity to be provided at such mandis.
- Bulk rail movement from mandis to distribution end.
- Reduce the number of stages of handling at distribution end
  - District-wise storage towards NFSA, OWS and Strategic Reserve
  - Ensure bulk storage capacity at such locations
  - Rail connectivity to be provided at such locations
  - Packaging facility to be provided at such locations
  - Direct movement from district-wise storage to the retail outlets/schemes consumers.

20.

Since the whole system of food management operates within the ambit of providing food security at a national as well as at household level, it must be realized that farmers need due

A Cabinet Note has been prepared by this Department for seeking relaxation for essential packing of wheat in jute bag. Other aspects have been mostly covered elsewhere.

Department of Fertilizers is actively considering this matter.

Sl. No.	Recommendations	Decisions taken
	<p>incentives to raise productivity and overall food production in the country. Most of the OECD countries as well as large emerging economies do support their farmers. India also gives large subsidy on fertilizers (more than ₹ 72,000 crores in budget of FY 2015 plus pending bills of about ₹ 30,000-35,000 crores). Urea prices are administered at a very low level compared to prices of DAP and MOP, creating highly imbalanced use of N, P and K. HLC recommends that farmers be given direct cash subsidy (of about ₹ 7000/ha) and fertilizer sector can then be deregulated. This would help plug diversion of urea to non-agricultural uses as well as to neighbouring countries, and help raise the efficiency of fertilizer use. It may be noted that this type of direct cash subsidy to farmers will go a long way to help those who take loans from money lenders at exorbitant interest rates to buy fertilizers or other inputs, thus relieving some distress in the agrarian sector.</p>	
21.	<p>HLC also recommends to have a relook at the current coverage of 67 per cent of population; priority households getting only 5 kgs/ person as allocation; and central issue prices being frozen for three years at ₹ 3/2/1/kg for rice/ wheat/coarse cereals respectively. HLC's examination of these issue reveals that 67 per cent coverage of population is</p>	<p>There is no proposal to make amendments in the NFSA, 2013.</p>



on much higher side, and should be brought down to around 40 per cent, which will comfortably cover BPL families and some even above that; 5kg grain per person to priority households is actually making BPL households worse off, who used to get 7kg/ person under the TPDS. So, HLC recommends that they be given 7kg/ person. On central issue prices, HLC recommends while Antyodaya households can be given grains at ₹ 3/2/1/ kg for the time being, but pricing for priority households must be linked to MSP, say 50 per cent of MSP. Else, HLC feels that this NFSA will put undue financial burden on the exchequer, and investments in agriculture and food space may suffer. HLC would recommend greater investments in agriculture in stabilizing production and building efficient value chains to help the poor as well as farmers.

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| 22. | Leakages in PDS range from 40 to 50 per cent, and in some states go as high as 60 to 70 per cent, GoI should defer implementation of NFSA in States that have not done end to end computerization; have not put the list of beneficiaries online for anyone to verify, and have not set up vigilance committees to check pilferage from PDS. | Government has made all States and Union Territories aware about NFSA and asked to implement it, so that leakage in the PDS can be reduced. |
| 23. | HLC recommends that targeted beneficiaries under NFSA or TPDS are given 6 months ration immediately after the procurement season ends. This will save the consumers  | Ministry has already issued instructions for release of foodgrains upto 6 months requirement at a time.                                     |
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Sl. No.	Recommendations	Decisions taken
24.	<p>from various hassles of monthly arrivals at FPS and also save on the storage costs of agencies. Consumers can be given well designed bins at highly subsidized rates to keep the rations safely in their homes.</p> <p>HLC recommends gradual introduction of cash transfers in PDS, starting with large cities with more than 1 million population; extending it to grain surplus States, and then giving option to deficit States to opt for cash or physical grain distribution. This will be much more cost effective way to help the poor, without much distortion in the production basket, and in line with best international practices. HLC's calculations reveal that it can save the exchequer more than ₹ 30,000 crores annually, and still giving better deal to consumers. Cash transfers can be indexed with overall price level to protect the amount of real income transfers, given in the name of lady of the house, and routed through Prime Minister's Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and dovetailing Aadhaar and Unique Identification (UID) number. This will empower the consumers, plug high leakages in PDS, save resources, and it can be rolled out over the next 2-3 years.</p>	<p>This Department has decided to implement this with an appropriate strategy to maintain a balance between the cash transfer of subsidy and availability of foodgrains in the market. It will be implemented in the States/ UTs which are agreed to and ready for it.</p>

**Production cost of sugar**

†1538. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of production cost of sugar in various parts of the country, State-wise;
- (b) the name of the State where production cost of sugar is maximum;
- (c) the reasons therefor and how does it affect the price of sugar; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to reduce the production cost of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The production cost of sugar depends upon various factors like availability of adequate raw material, recovery from sugarcane, duration of the season, plant size, efficiency of plant, up gradation and diversification, State Advised Price of sugarcane, cost of working capital, managerial efficiency etc. The Central Government does not maintain the data in this regard.

(c) Factors like State Advised Price of sugarcane, control of molasses etc. which affect cost of production substantially, are decided by the concerned State Governments. Therefore, the production cost varies from factory to factory as also from State to State. The price of sugar gets affected by various factors like cost of production, domestic demand and supply, market sentiments, trends of international prices etc.

(d) It is the responsibility of the entrepreneur concerned to take necessary steps to reduce production cost of sugar. However, the Central Government extends concessional loans from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for (i) modernization/ rehabilitation of plant and machinery (ii) sugarcane development (iii) production of ethanol from molasses and (iv) Bagasse-based cogeneration projects, to increase efficiency of the sugar mill thereby reduction of production cost of sugar and increase value additions.

**Rise in prices of pulses, spices and mustard oil**

1539. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a drastic rise in the prices of pulses, spices and mustard oil etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) the reasons for this sharp rise in the price of these essentials;
- (d) the steps Government is taking to reduce the prices; and
- (e) whether these steps have been successful, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The requisite information based on the latest Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for October 2015 is as follows:

Sub-group	Wholesale Price Index			Percentage change over the year		
	Oct.13	Oct.14	Oct.15*	Oct.13	Oct. 14	Oct. 15
Pulses	229	238.2	364.4	-10.72	4.02	52.98
Condiments & Spices	240.7	302.8	346.2	15.28	25.80	14.33
Mustard & Rapeseed Oil	153.4	156.1	185.7	-0.90	1.76	18.96

*Source:* DIPP.

\* Latest.

(c) Rise in the prices of pulses and mustard oil are due to shortfall in production owing to adverse weather conditions, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints like lack of storage facilities and hoarding and black marketing. The prices of spices are mainly dependent on the demand and supply situation in the domestic and international market.

(d) and (e) The requisite information the steps taken by the Government to control the rising prices of pulses and edible oils are given in the Statement .

#### ***Statement***

*Recent steps taken by the Government to improve the availability  
and to contain prices of essential food items*

#### **General Measures:**

- I. National Consultation Meeting of the Minister of States/UTs in-charge of Consumer Affairs and Food held on 7th July, 2015, at New Delhi resolved to take steps to keep prices of essential commodities, especially pulses and onions under control.
- II. Advisory were issued to State Governments to take strict action against hoarding and 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.

- III. Regular review meeting on price and availability situation is being held at the highest level including at the level of Finance Minister, Committee of Secretaries, Inter-Ministerial Committee, Price Stabilization Fund Management Committee and other Departmental level review meetings.
- IV. Higher MSP has been announced so as to incentivize production and thereby enhance availability of food items which may help moderate prices.
- V. A new Plan Scheme titled Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) is being implemented to regulate price volatility of agricultural commodities.

**Specific Measures: Onion**

- VI. Export of onion is restricted through Minimum Export Price (MEP) and presently the MEP is USD 700 MT *w.e.f.* 24.8.2015. Import duty of onion is allowed at zero duty.
- VII. Retail sale of onion was undertaken from the stock held by SFAC and NAFED.
- VIII. Imported 2000 MT of onion from Egypt and China through MMTC. As no demand from States were received, the onion has been disposed off through tenders in the open market.
- IX. The stock limits in respect of onion has been extended by one more year *i.e.* up to 2nd July, 2016 under the Essential Commodities Act.

**Pulses**

- X. Export of all pulses is banned except kabuli channa and up to 10,000MTs in organic pulses and lentils.
- XI. Zero import duty on pulses has been extended till 30.9.2016 except for chana and lentils which will be reviewed during December 2015.
- XII. Stock limits on pulses extended till 30.9.2016.
- XIII. Government of India imported 5000 MT of tur from Malawi/Mozambique and allocated it to States with a subsidy of ₹ 10 per kg for retail sale to consumers, to improve availability and to help moderate prices.
- XIV. MSP raised for kharif pulses by ₹ 275 per qtl. For Tur and Urad, and ₹ 250

per qtl. for Moong. MSP also raised for rabi pulses by ₹ 325 per qtl. for Gram and Masoor(including bonus).

**Edible Oils**

XV. 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.

XVI. MSP increased in the range of ₹ 30 per qtl. To ₹ 250 per qtl. for various rabi and kharif oil seeds.

**Settlement of outstanding dues by sugar mills**

1540. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the dues of the sugarcane growers outstanding against the sugar mills; and
- (b) whether there is any issue between sugarcane growers and the sugar mills pending settlement, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) As on 15.11.2015, sugarcane dues of ₹ 6681.88 crores are outstanding against the sugar mills including arrear of ₹ 277.03 crores of 2015-16 sugar season and ₹ 6404.85 crores for 2014- 15 & earlier sugar seasons.

(b) The Central Government receives the representations from the sugarcane growers mainly relating to payment of their dues. The Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 stipulates payment of cane price within 14 days of its supply, failing which interest at the rate of 15% per annum on amount due for the delayed period beyond 14 days is payable. The powers for enforcing this provision are delegated and vested with the State Governments/UT Administrations who have necessary field formations. Such representations are forwarded to State Governments concerned for appropriate action.

**Status of food processing industry in the country**

1541. KUMARI SELJA:

SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

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

- (a) whether India ranks first in production of milk, pulses and tea and second in

production of fruits and vegetables in world but its share in the world food trade is less than two per cent;

(b) whether the level of food processing in the country is abysmally low at six per cent compared to developed countries and even other Asian and Latin American countries;

(c) whether very high wastage and very low value addition in the country causes loss to farm income; and

(d) if so, the statistics and status of food processing in the country, State-wise and their comparison with other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) Yes sir. India ranks first in production of milk, pulses and tea and second in production of fruits and vegetables. However, the share of India's exports of processed food & beverages products was about 2.50 per cent in 2014 (*Source*: calculated from latest global data maintained by International Trade Centre, Geneva, Switzerland).

(b) Yes sir. The overall level of food processing in the country is estimated to be less than 10 per cent whereas the level of food processing is reported to be very high in developed countries (80 per cent in USA, 70 per cent in France) and in many developing countries as well (30 per cent in Thailand) [*Source*: "Vision 2015: Strategy & Action Plan for Food Processing Industries in India" prepared by Rabo India Finance in April, 2005].

(c) Yes Sir. High wastage and low value addition does not give remunerative prices to the farmers for their agricultural produce resulting in loss of farm income.

(d) As per the latest National Accounts Statistics-2015 of Central Statistics Office (CSO), the value addition of manufactured food products & beverages in 2014-15 was ₹ 1,81,195 crore (at current prices) which is 1.57 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). As per the latest Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2012-13, the State/ UT-wise details of number of food processing units in registered sector are given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*The details of number of food processing units in registered sector for different States/ UTs during 2012-13*

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Number of registered food processing units
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5,735
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6
3.	Assam	1,256
4.	Bihar	736
5.	Chandigarh (U.T.)	14
6.	Chhattisgarh	1,008
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	11
8.	Daman and Diu	37
9.	Delhi	159
10.	Goa	90
11.	Gujarat	1,923
12.	Haryana	608
13.	Himachal Pradesh	163
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	156
15.	Jharkhand	206
16.	Karnataka	2,038
17.	Kerala	1,501
18.	Madhya Pradesh	738
19.	Maharashtra	3,077
20.	Manipur	19
21.	Meghalaya	18
22.	Nagaland	15
23.	Odisha	931
24.	Puducherry	75



Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Number of registered food processing units
25.	Punjab	2,792
26.	Rajasthan	795
27.	Sikkim	21
28.	Tamil Nadu	5,161
29.	Telangana	3,716
30.	Tripura	68
31.	Uttar Pradesh	2,097
32.	Uttarakhand	383
33.	West Bengal	1,624
TOTAL		37,175

Source: Annual Survey of Industries, 2012-13

#### Improving food processing infrastructure

1542. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any national level data about the volume of fruits and vegetables which go waste in the absence of processing infrastructure, if so, the details thereof, State-wise, for the last three years; and

(b) whether Government is taking any concrete steps to address the aforesaid issue, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) Yes Sir, Government obtained its first National Level data for 2009 after entrusting a study to Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana to ascertain the extent of harvest and post-harvest losses of major agricultural products. Government reassigned the study to CIPHET and obtained National Level data for 2014 as well.

As per the study, estimated losses at the National level was ₹ 44,143 crore in 2009, which increased to ₹ 92,651 crore in 2014. Product-wise percentage losses in 2014 is given in the Statement-I (*See* below). State-wise annual details are not available as compilation of such data is based on periodic survey taking a sample of districts chosen across the country.

(b) Food processing units are set up by entrepreneurs in the private sector. It has

been the endeavour of the Government to promote food processing industry in the country to reduce wastage of agricultural produces, control food inflation and ensure higher returns to the farmers. With a view to promoting the sector, Government is implementing various Central Sector Schemes, namely (i) Scheme for Development of Infrastructure for Food Processing having components of Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure and Modernization of Abattoirs (ii) Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, Research & Development and Other Promotional Activities.

In order to arrest post harvest losses of horticulture & non-horticulture produce and providing integrated and complete cold chain and preservation infrastructure facilities from the farm gate to the consumer or from the production site to the market, Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure since 2008-09. The scheme is primarily private sector driven wherein financial assistance @ 50% of the total cost of plant & 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 is provided for setting up the cold chain infrastructure in the country. Integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure can be set up by individuals, groups of entrepreneurs, cooperative societies, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), NGOs, Central/State PSUs, etc. Ministry has approved 138 cold chain projects in the country to reduce the cold chain gap.

In addition, National Horticulture Mission (NHM), National Horticulture Board (NHB), and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Government of India are also providing assistance for setting up cold storages under their respective schemes. Various other incentives provided by the Government to promote this sector are given in the Statement-II.

***Statement-I***

*Percentage of losses estimated for major produces- 2014*

Crops	Cumulative wastage (%)
Cereals	4.65 – 5.99
Pulses	6.36 – 8.41
Oil Seeds	3.08 – 9.96

Crops		Cumulative wastage (%)	
Fruits & Vegetables		4.58 – 15.88	
Milk		0.92	
Fisheries (Inland)		5.23	
Fisheries (Marine)		10.52	
Meat		2.71	
Poultry		6.74	
Horticultural crops	Cumulative wastage (%)	Cereal crops	Cumulative wastage (%)
Guava	15.88%	Paddy	5.53%
Apple	10.39%	Bajra	5.23%
Mango	9.16%	Wheat	4.93%
Grapes	8.63%	Maize	4.65%
Banana	7.76%		
Papaya	6.70%		

**Statement-II**

*Details of various other incentives provided by the Government to the cold chain sector*

- Services of pre-conditioning, pre-cooling, ripening, waxing, retail packing, labelling of fruits and vegetables have been exempted from Service Tax in Budget 2015-16.
- Loans to food & agro-based processing units and Cold Chain have been classified under Agriculture activities for Priority Sector Lending (PSL) as per the revised RBI Guidelines issued on 23/04/2015.
- Under Section 35-AD of the Income Tax Act 1961, deduction to the extent of 150% is allowed for expenditure incurred on investment for (i) setting up and operating a cold chain facility; and (ii) setting up and operating warehousing facility for storage of agricultural produce.
- Government has extended Project Imports' benefits to cold storage, cold room (including for farm level pre-cooling) or industrial projects for preservation, storage or processing of agricultural, apiary, horticultural, dairy, poultry, aquatic and marine produce and meat. Consequently, all goods related to food processing, imported as part of the project, irrespective of their tariff classification, would be entitled to uniform assessment at concessional basic customs duty of 5%.

- Refrigeration machineries and parts used for installation of cold storage, cold room or refrigerated vehicle, for the preservation, storage, transport or processing of agricultural, apiary, horticultural, dairy, poultry, aquatic and marine produce and meat under Tariff Head: Chapter 84 are exempted from excise duty.
- Construction, erection, commissioning or installation of original works pertaining to post-harvest storage infrastructure for agricultural produce including cold storages for such purposes are exempted from service tax.
- Capital investment in the creation of modern storage capacity has been made eligible for Viability Gap Funding scheme of the Finance Ministry. Cold chain and post-harvest storage has been recognized as an infrastructure sub-sector.

#### **Promotion of meat processing industries**

1543. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise number of meat processing industries in the country in Public as well as in private Sector; and
- (b) whether Government has any scheme to promote meat processing industries and meat exports etc., if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) Sir, Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not maintain data centrally regarding number of meat processing industries State-wise, in public as well as in private Sector in the country. However, as per information furnished by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Department of Commerce, the number of APEDA registered state-wise list of Abattoirs-cum-Meat processing plants/stand alone abattoirs & meat processing plants is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Ministry has implemented a Central Sector Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/ Establishment of Food Processing Industries including meat processing. This scheme is now being implemented for spillover liabilities of the Eleventh plan. Proposals received up to 31.03.2012 are being processed by the Ministry under the Central Sector Scheme. Under this scheme financial assistance is provided for Setting up/ modernization/ expansion of food processing industries including meat and poultry processing Industries in the country. The scheme envisage grant of 25% in

general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas for the cost of plant and Machinery (P&M) and technical civil work (TCW) and other eligible items subject to maximum of ₹50 lakhs per unit in general areas and ₹ 75 lakhs per unit in difficult areas including North Eastern States including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and ITDP notified areas of the States.

This scheme was subsumed under the Centrally Sponsored of National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) with effect from 1.04.2012. However, the centrally sponsored scheme of NMFP has been delinked from central support from Financial Year 2015-16. State-wise financial assistance provided to the meat and poultry processing industries under the aforesaid schemes is given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

Ministry has also implemented the Central Sector Scheme for setting up/ Modernization of Abattoirs under which assistance in the form of grant-in-aid is provided to local bodies (Municipal Corporation and Panchayats)/Public Sector Undertakings/ Co-operatives/Boards under Government. The Scheme has flexibility for involvement of private investor on Public Private Partnership basis. The Scheme envisage grant of 50% in general areas and 75% in difficult areas for the cost of plant and Machinery (P&M) and technical civil work (TCW) and other eligible items subject to maximum of ₹ 15 crores per abattoir. Difficult areas include North Eastern States including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and ITDP notified areas of the States.

This Scheme was subsumed for implementation under the Centrally Sponsored National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) with effect from 1.04.2014. Proposals received upto 31.03.2014 are being processed by the Ministry under the Central Sector Scheme. Fresh proposals with effect from 01.04.2014 are to be submitted to State Governments under NMFP Scheme. However, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of NMFP has been delinked from Central support from Financial Year 2015-16. State-wise details of Grants –in-Aid released under the Scheme for Setting up/modernization of Abattoirs for the Financial years 2013-14 and 2014-15 including current year is given in the Statement-III (*See* below).

Besides, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Department of Commerce, is also operating various Developmental financial assistance schemes viz. (i) Infrastructure Development, (ii) Market Development, (iii) Quality Development and (iv) Transport Assistance for meat export industry in the country.

**Statement-I**

*(A) APEDA registered Abattoirs-cum-Meat Processing Plants/  
Stand alone Abattoirs-State-wise for export*

Sl.No	Name of the State	Abattoirs-cum-Meat Processing Plants/Stand alone Abattoirs
1.	Telangana	3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3
3.	Maharashtra	11
4.	Uttar Pradesh	41
5.	Punjab	4
6.	Haryana	2
7.	Kerala	2
8.	North East (Nagaland)	1
9.	West Bengal	1
10.	Bihar	1

*(B) APEDA registered Meat Processing Plants – State-wise for export*

Sl.No	Name of the State	Abattoirs-cum-Meat Processing Plants
1.	Uttar Pradesh	32
2.	Haryana	1
3.	Delhi	1
4.	Maharashtra	9
5.	Andhra Pradesh	4
6.	Rajasthan	1

**Statement-II**

*State-wise and unit-wise Grants-in-Aid (GIA) to Meat & Poultry Sector during 2013-14,  
2014-15 current year under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Modernization /  
Establishment under committed liabilities of Eleventh Plan.*

Sl. No.	State/UT	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
						(as on 04.12.2015)	
		No. of Units	Sanctioned amount ( ₹ in lakhs)	No. of Units	Sanctioned amount ( ₹ in lakhs)	No. of Units	Sanctioned amount ( ₹ in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	1	25.00	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Chandigarh	1	25.00			.	-
3.	Delhi	1	25.00	1	25.00	1	25.00
4.	Goa			1	25.00	-	-
5.	Haryana	1	11.53			-	-
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	1	18.00	-	-
7.	Karnataka	-	-	-	-	1	25.00
8.	Kerala	2	20.00	-	-	-	-
9.	Maharashtra	1	25.00	3	75.00	-	-
10.	Nagaland	1	7.92	-	-	-	-
11.	Punjab	-	-	1	7.25	-	-
12.	Tamil Nadu	3	75.00	1	23.41	-	-
13.	Uttar Pradesh	11	275.00	8	200.00	2	50.00
14.	West Bengal	1	24.21	2	39.87	-	-
	ALL INDIA	22	488.66	19	438.53	4	100.00

*State-wise and unit-wise funds/assistance provided to Meat & Poultry Sector during  
2012-13, 2013-14 & 2014-15 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of  
National Mission on Food Processing*

Sl. No.	State/UT	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
		No. of Units	Sanctioned amount ( ₹ in lakhs)	No. of Units	Sanctioned amount ( ₹ in lakhs)	No. of Units	Sanctioned amount ( ₹ in lakhs)
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	63.32	-	-	1	23.35
2.	Karnataka	-	-	-	-	1	25.00
3.	Gujarat	1	22.74	-	-		
4.	Nagaland	1	20.00	-	-		
5.	Uttar Pradesh	1	50.00	-	-		
	ALL INDIA	5	156.06	-	-	2	43.85

**Statement-III**

*State-wise details of Grants-in-Aid (GIA) released under the scheme for setting up/  
modernization of Abattoirs, MOFPI for last two financial years (2013-14  
and 2014-15) and current financial year 2015-16*

Sl. State No	Financial Year 2013-14		Financial Year 2014-15		Financial Year 2015-16	
	No. of Units	GIA Sanctioned Amount (₹ in lakhs)	No. of Units	GIA Sanctioned Amount (₹ in lakhs)	No. of Units	GIA Sanctioned Amount (₹ in lakhs)
1. West Bengal	2	572.8815	-	-	5	104.99
2. Goa	1	61.70	-	-	-	-
3. Kerala	1	143.61	-	-	1	430.00
4. Telangana	1	591.59	-	-	1	271.87
5. Andhra Pradesh	1	150.00	1	450.00	1	600.00
6. Himachal Pradesh	1	600.00	1	300.00	-	-
7. Arunachal Pradesh	1	101.981	-	-	-	-
8. Mizoram	1	128.623	-	-	-	-
9. Karnataka	3	160.2185	3	101.66	1	17.02
10. Sikkim	1	69.396	1	18.93	-	-
11. Punjab	-	-	1	33.26	-	-
12. Tamil Nadu	-	-	1	14.58	-	-
13. Nagaland	-	-	1	110.73	-	-
14. Puducherry	-	-	-	-	1	24.54
ALL INDIA	13	2580	9	1029.16	10	1448.42

**Workers in Food Processing Industries**

†1544. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of workers presently working in the Food Processing Industries in the country, particularly in Maharashtra;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



(b) the number of workers, out of the above, working in the unorganized sector; and

(c) the gross growth rate of this industry during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) and (b) As per the latest Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2012-13, the total number of persons engaged in registered food processing sector is 16.89 lakhs. Un registered food processing sector supports employment to 47.9 lakh workers as per the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) 67th Round, 2010-11. As per ASI for 2012-13, the total number of persons engaged in registered units for Maharashtra is estimated at 2.17 lakh. Information on State-wise employment in the unorganised sector is not maintained.

(c) As per the latest National Accounts Statistics-2015 of Central Statistics Office (CSO), food processing industries has grown by 7.1 per cent in 2014-15 at constant prices over 2013-14.

#### **Replies to letters of Members of Parliament**

1545. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received from Members of Parliament by the 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 along with the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken to avoid the situation in part (d) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Cold storages for the benefit of small and marginal farmers**

1546. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria adopted by Government for establishing cold storages, particularly to benefit the small and marginal farmers in their area of produce;
- (b) the number of such cold storages established in the State of Odisha;
- (c) whether these cold storages have proper connectivity by road/rail and other modes of transports;
- (d) whether these cold storages are operating on no-profit no-loss basis for the benefit of small and marginal farmers; and
- (e) if so, the details of such cold storages and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVINIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for providing assistance in setting up of integrated cold chain infrastructure for arresting post harvest losses of horticulture & non-horticulture produce. Integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure can be set up by individuals, groups of entrepreneurs, cooperative societies, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), NGOs, Central/State PSUs, etc. Under the scheme financial assistance @ 50% of the total cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 75% for North Eastern (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 is provided for setting up the cold chain infrastructure in the country. The applications under the scheme are invited through Expression of Interest (EOI). The Scheme promotes backward linkages through setting up of Minimal Processing Centres in the production areas to benefit especially small and marginal farmers.

Further, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for development of horticulture in the country which includes assistance for creation of post-harvest infrastructure including establishment of cold storages, processing units, pack houses, pre-cooling units, controlled atmosphere storage, reefer vans and setting up of ripening chambers. Under post harvest component credit linked back ended subsidy @ 35% of the project cost in general areas and 50% in case of hilly and schedule area is available.

(b) Total 20 cold storages/cold chain infrastructure projects are established in Odisha under the schemes of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure, Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

(c) The Government schemes for providing financial assistance for setting up of cold storage/cold chain infrastructure provide flexibility to the promoters to choose location of the project as per techno economic feasibility and viability of the project vis-à-vis availability of adequate infrastructure including proper connectivity by road/rail and other modes of transport.

(d) and (e) The Government schemes for providing financial assistance for setting up of cold chain infrastructure including cold storage are demand driven. The projects are set up by the entrepreneurs factoring into economic feasibility, backward linkages with the farmers and forward integration with the market to ensure viability of the project.

#### **Formulation of international treaties and agreements**

1547. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Parliamentary Panel has recommended for a new body to formulate international pacts; and

(b) whether the said Parliamentary Panel has recommended for creation of a new wing, namely the Department of International Law, under the Ministry of Law and Justice, to ensure that matters related to international treaties and agreements which may *inter alia* include multiple treaties on black money and other international agreements are formulated and implemented in a better way, if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA):  
(a) and (b) No, Sir. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat has informed that the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice has identified the subject "Role of Ministry of Law and Justice in Framing/Approving the Provisions of International covenants/ Multilateral/ Bilateral Treaties or Agreements" for examination. The Committee has not finalized its report.

#### **Salary and retirement age of Judges of SC and HCs**

1548. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken by Government for enhancing the salary and allowances of the Judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court; and

(b) whether it is being considered to enhance the date of superannuation of the High Court and Supreme Court Judges to 65 from 62 and to 70 from 65, respectively, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The salary of the higher constitutional functionaries including the Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts, are fixed by making necessary adjustments with reference to the pay scales suggested by the Pay Commissions and approved by the Government for the level of Secretaries to the Government of India. Increase in salary, allowances etc. of Judges will take place once the salary of Secretaries to Government is re-fixed.

(b) There is no proposal to increase the age of retirement of Judges of High Courts and the Supreme Court under consideration of the Government.

#### **Electronic transfer of postal ballots**

1549. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted instances of postal ballot forms being returned undelivered, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government plans to introduce electronic transfer of postal ballots for in Service voters, if so, the details thereof and the time-line for its implementation, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government plans to introduce measures to make the procedure of nomination of proxy for voting less cumbersome, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) In addition to normal modes of voting, a proposal is under consideration of the Government to introduce e-postal ballot system for Armed Forces Personnel and overseas electors which envisages transmission of blank postal ballot paper electronically and thereafter return of the same by the registered post. At present, a Committee of Ministers is examining this matter. Since the issue involves in-depth deliberation with various stake-holders, no specific time-line can be indicated.

**Help to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe category  
persons in fighting legal cases**

1550. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of atrocities against Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) category persons being heard in courts, as on date, along with the details of region/case specification *i.e.* burning, looting, murder etc. as also the dates on which these cases were filed and convictions made, if any, so far;

(b) the manner in which SC and ST category persons are helped to fight their cases in the court; and

(c) whether there is a special help centre to provide guidance to them for justice, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule (List-II) to the Constitution of India and, therefore, the State Government/UT Administrations are primarily responsible for prevention, detention, registration, investigation and prosecution of all crimes within their jurisdiction including crimes against members of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SCs/STs).

As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and based on the latest data furnished by the National Crimes Record Bureau (NCRB) for the year 2014, the requisite details in regard to number of cases in courts related to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) (POA) Act, 1989 in conjunction with the IPC, are given below;

No. of cases in courts including brought forward cases	No. of cases disposed of by courts	No. of cases ending in conviction	No. of cases compounded or withdrawn	No. of cases pending in courts at the end of the year
1,40,068	19,847	5,710	752	1,19,469

Offence-wise data pertaining to the POA act in conjunction with the IPC is not furnished by NCRB.

(b) and (c) The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities)

Rules, 1995, were notified on 31.3.1995, under the PoA Act. The Schedule to Rules at Annexure-I, thereof, provides for the 'Norms for Relief Amount' to the victims of atrocity, which was between ₹ 20,000/- to ₹ 2,50,000/-, depending on the nature of the offence. Nevertheless, the relief amount have been enhanced twice in December, 2011 and in June, 2014 and the existing relief amount is between ₹ 75,000/- to ₹ 7,50,000/- depending upon the nature of offences.

As regards assisting members of SCs and STs being victims of offences of atrocities under PoA Act, Section 15 of the PoA Act stipulates that for conducting the cases in special courts, the concerned State Government is required to specify a Public Prosecutor or appoint an advocate as a Special Public Prosecutor. Rule 4 (5) of the POA Rule, 1995, also specifies that the District Magistrate or the Sub-Divisional Magistrate may, if deemed necessary or if so desired by the victims of atrocity engage an eminent Senior Advocate for conducting cases in Special Courts.

Further, in regard to help centres, Rule 3 (ix) of the POA Rules specifies that with a view to prevent atrocities on the members of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, the State Government shall encourage Non- Government Organizations for establishing and maintaining Awareness Centre and fertilizer Workshops.

In addition under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the persons belonging to SC and ST category are provided free legal services for filing & defending any case in the court of law. Under the Act, Legal Services Authorities and Legal Services Committees have been constituted at State/District/Supreme Court/High court/Taluk levels for providing free legal services to the persons, belonging to SC and ST.

- (i) Services of an advocate
- (ii) All relevant charges payable or incurred in connection with any legal proceedings.
- (iii) Charges for drafting, preparing, filing or any legal proceedings and representation by a legal practitioner in legal proceedings
- (iv) Cost of obtaining any certified copy/copies of judgments, orders and other miscellaneous expenses in legal proceedings
- (v) Cost of preparation of paper book (including paper, printing and translation of documents) in legal proceedings and expenses incidental thereto

Legal Services Clinics/Centres have also been established for providing free legal services. As on September, 2015, 19598 legal services clinics/centres have been set up all over the country for assisting the people including SC and ST persons to provide free legal services.

**Action plan to address pending court cases**

1551. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the pendency of court cases in all the courts of the country has gone up unabatedly;
- (b) whether the Chief Justice of India has expressed concern over this; and
- (c) whether Government has devised an action plan to address this serious issue, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c) Data on pendency of cases is maintained by Supreme Court and High Courts. As per the information made available by the Supreme Court of India, pendency in the Supreme Court of India has declined from 66,692 cases at the end of the year 2012 to 58,879 cases as on 30.11.2015.

As per the information made available by the High Courts, the pendency in High Courts has declined from 44.34 lakh cases at the end to the year 2012 to 41.53 lakh cases at the end of 2014. Pendency in District and Subordinate Courts has declined from 2.68 crore cases at the end of year 2012 to 2.64 crore cases at the end of 2014.

The Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India had written to High Courts in November, 2014 regarding expeditious disposal of pending cases, reduction in arrears pending in the High Courts and to achieve the goal of "Five-Plus Zero" initiative.

Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of judiciary. The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial system, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including Computerisation, increase in strength of judicial officers / judges, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development. As a result of concerted efforts, the trend of increasing pendency of cases has been checked.

**The readjustment of representation of SCs and STs in Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Bill, 2013**

1552. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 2660 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20 March, 2015 and state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to introduce a new Bill in this regard in the forthcoming winter session of Parliament;

(b) if so, whether any changes are contemplated in the new Bill; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the State of Uttar Pradesh has implemented the direction of Supreme Court on their own, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) The matter is further being examined in consultation with the Ld. Attorney General for India.

(c) The revision in the representation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh was effected by issue of Notification dated 13th January, 2014 by the Election Commission of India under the provisions of the Readjustment of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Third) Ordinance, 2013 before its expiry on 15th January, 2014.

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

1553. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Government proposes to allow foreign legal firms to operate in the country, if so, the details of the scheme, if any, in this regard?

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

The matter is under consideration of the Government in consultation with the Bar Council of India, a statutory body under the Advocates Act, 1961 (25 of 1961).

#### **Arrears Committees for disposal of cases in High Courts**

1554. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided to set up Arrears Committees in each of the High Courts in the country, if so, the present status thereof;

(b) the number of cases which are older than five years and are pending in each High Court as on date, court-wise; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by Government towards reduction of pendency and ensure that the cases older than five years are disposed of at the earliest?

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

(a) to (c) The Chief Justices' Conference held on 3rd and 4th April, 2015 has resolved that each High Court shall establish Arrears Committee to clear the backlog of cases pending for more than five years. Other terms of reference include evolving a uniform



nomenclature for all categories of cases and counting only main cases towards pendency and arrears. In the light of the resolution passed in the above Conference, Government has, *inter-alia*, requested Chief Justices of High Courts to intimate their action plans for liquidating the backlog of cases. As per information available, Arrears Committees have been set up in the High Courts of Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Orissa, Calcutta and Bombay. High Court wise details of cases pending in High Courts for more than five years are given in the Statement (*See below*).

Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of judiciary. The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial system, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including Computerisation increase in strength of judicial officers / judges, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development.

#### **Statement**

##### *Details of cases pending in High Courts for more than five years*

Sl. No	High Court	Cases pending for more than five years in High Courts as on 31.12.2014
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	6,03,528
2.	Andhra Pradesh	86,985
3.	Bombay	1,63,172
4.	Calcutta	1,53,500
5.	Delhi	15,926
6.	Gujarat	33,375
7.	Gauhati	3,490
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5,868
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	26,787
10.	Karnataka	18,411
11.	Kerala	45,858
12.	Madras	1,36,787
13.	Madhya Pradesh	81,798

1	2	3
14.	Orissa	83,962
15.	Patna	38,310
16.	Punjab and Haryana	1,08,795
17.	Rajasthan	90,110
18.	Sikkim	2
19.	Uttarakhand	3,095
20.	Chhattisgarh	16,765
21.	Jharkhand	24,842
22.	Tripura	363
23.	Manipur	530
24.	Meghalaya	28
TOTAL		17,42,287

#### **Repeal of obsolete laws**

1555. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any review has been made by Government for finding out obsolete laws in the Statute book; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken for repeal of those Acts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA):  
 (a) Yes Sir. Review of all laws with a view to bring them in harmony with the current economic, social and political situation in the country, is a continuous process. The 20th Law Commission was constituted by the Government for a period of three years from 1st September, 2012 to 31st August, 2015 and one of its terms of reference includes "review/ repeal" of obsolete laws. The Law Commission of India has submitted its 248th, 249th, 250th and the 251st Reports on "Obsolete Laws: Warranting Immediate Repeal", in which it recommended for repeal of 72, 113, 74 and 30 obsolete Acts respectively, including some State laws. Further, a Two-member Committee chaired by Shri R. Ramanujan was also constituted by the Prime Minister's Office on 1st September, 2014 for review of repeal of obsolete laws. The said Committee has, *inter-alia*, identified a total number of 1741 Acts for repeal.

(b) The Government has examined the Reports submitted by the Law Commission of India and also the Report submitted by the Two-member Committee and letters were issued to Ministries/Departments in the Government of India and the State Governments seeking their comments and also requesting them to take necessary action. On the basis of the comments/views of the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments, “The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2014” proposing to repeal 35 Acts has been enacted by Parliament as Act No. 17 of 2015 and “the Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2014” proposing to repeal 90 obsolete amending Acts has been enacted as Act No. 19 of 2015. Further, the Government has also introduced a Bill, namely, “the Appropriation Acts (Repeal) Bill, 2015” seeking to repeal 758 Appropriation Acts which has been passed by Lok Sabha and is pending in Rajya Sabha. Also “the Repealing and Amending (Third) Bill, 2015” seeking to repeal 295 Acts has been passed by Lok Sabha and is pending in Rajya Sabha.

#### **Bringing judges appointment procedure under RTI Act**

1556. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is committed to transparency by any method, in appointment of judges;
- (b) if so, the reasons for which the Government can not think of bringing in the entire appointment procedure of judges under the RTI Act;
- (c) whether any consultations have been held in this regard with the Supreme Court, Bar Council and other stakeholders; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

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

(a) to (d) In the Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 13 of 2015 filed by Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association and Anr. Versus Union of India, the Supreme Court itself asked for suggestions for improving the Collegium System for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. In response, the Government while reserving its options, *inter-alia*, raised the issue of the need for transparency in the appointment of judges. The Bar Council of India has also given their suggestions along with many others. The Supreme Court has not given its final verdict in the matter.

**Water vending machines at railway stations**

1557. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of implementation of water vending machines' installation at railway stations in East Zone, including the East Central Railway (ECR);
- (b) the agencies involved in execution of the project; and
- (c) the reasons for delay of the project which was proposed to commence in summer of 2015?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) In terms of the policy on Water Vending Machines (WVMs) that has been in effect since June 2015, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is mandated to install Water Vending Machines (WVMs) at Railway Stations all over Indian Railways. Till now, IRCTC has invited tenders for installation and operation of approximately 1200 WVMs at various stations in East Zone, including the East Central Railway.

**Enquiry into the incident of missing train**

†1558. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a train laden with 90 containers had started from Jodhpur for Mundra Port on 27 July, 2015 containing goods worth ₹ 9 crore;
- (b) whether this train was supposed to reach Mundra Port in three days;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Railways initiated an enquiry when exporter enquired with Concor depot;
- (d) whether there is a possibility of heavy losses to the exporter due to negligence of Railways;
- (e) when this train reached Mundra Port; and
- (f) the details of the action taken by Railways on the complaint made by Jodhpur Handicrafts Association?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. A train laden with 90 containers was loaded at Bhagat Ki Kothi,

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

terminal of Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR) in Jodhpur at 05:00 hrs on 27.7.2015.

It was drawn out from the terminal at 18:30 hrs on 31.07.2015 and departed at 19:40 hrs on 31.07.2015 *via* Marwar – Palanpur route as the normal route *via* Samdari – Bhildi section of North Western Railway was affected between 23.07.2015 to 07.08.2015 due to breaches following extensive rains. Value of the consignment was not declared and therefore, not known to Railways.

(b) In normal course, containers trains departing from Bhagat Ki Kothi reach Mundra Port in 3 days. This particular train which had started on the diverted route, was detained in Ahmedabad Division of Western Railway due to breaches in Palanpur – Bhildi – Samakhiali route on the route to the Gandhidham Area from 28.07.2015, which was restored only on 19th of August 2015. Thus, there was a total disruption of about 23 days for which a very large number of trains had to be diverted through alternate sections which, consequently, got congested and caused detention to this train in transit. Information regarding movement of all trains including this train was monitored on the Freight Operations Information System (FOIS).

(c) The customer communicated with CONCOR's depot at Bhagat Ki Kothi through a mail on 11.08.2015. As per information of CONCOR, the customer was replied to the effect that there were breaches on the route for which the train had been stabled enroute.

(d) Cannot be factually verified.

(e) The train reached Mundra Port at 04:30 hours on 14.08.2015.

(f) No formal complaint had been received by North Western Railway in this regard.

#### **Work completed against targets set for railway projects**

1559. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total length, in Kilometers of tracks relaid against the target set and the expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years and the current year, till date, year-wise;

(b) the total length of railway electrification work against the target set and the expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years and the current year, till date, year-wise; and

(c) the total length of new lines constructed against the target set and the expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years and the current year, till date, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The length of track renewed against target and expenditure incurred thereon are as under:

Year	Target (in Km.)	Achievement (in Km.)	Expenditure (₹ in crores)
2015-16	2500	1449 (Upto October, 15)	3130.16 (Upto October, 15)
2014-15	2200	2424	5371.55
2013-14	2100	2885	4985.35
2012-13	3000	3296	5426.19

(b) The length of Railway electrification done against the target and expenditure incurred thereon are as under:

Year	Target (in Km.)	Achievement (in Km.)	Expenditure (₹ in crores)
2015-16	1600	618 (Upto October, 15)	1038.86 (Upto October, 15)
2014-15	1350	1375	1390.57
2013-14	1300	1350	1264.80
2012-13	1200	1317	967.61

(c) The length of track commissioned under Plan Head 'New Lines' against the target and expenditure thereon during the last three years and current year are as under:

Year	Target (in Km.)	Achievement (in Km.)	Expenditure (₹ in crores)
2015-16	500	277 (Upto October, 15)	4484.14 (Upto October, 15)
2014-15	350	380	8433.81
2013-14	400	390	6612.51
2012-13	500	523	6189.99

**New railway tracks in Chhattisgarh**

1560. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time-frame for commencement and completion of railway track from Ambikapur to Barwadih and Raigarh to Dharamjaigarh in Chhattisgarh; and

(b) whether there is any plan to connect Jharsuguda to Ambikapur and if so, the route details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The work of construction of new line Ambikapur (Chirimiri) to Barwadih was included in Budget of 2013-14 at an abstract cost of ₹ 1137 crore subject to requisite approval. The project could not be taken forward as the condition put forth by NITI Aayog of cost sharing was not agreed to by Coal India Limited, Government of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

New line work between Raigarh to Dharamjaigarh is a part of approved work of Kharsia-Ghaharghoda-Korichhaapar-Dharamjaigarh including spur from Ghaharghoda-Donga Mauha (104 Km.) at a cost of ₹1647 crore which has been taken up through Special Purpose Vehicle. Land acquisition and forestry clearance have been taken up. Wherever land has been acquired tenders for execution have been awarded. As many of above factors are not within the control of Railways, it is not feasible to fix timeline for the projects.

(b) Survey for new line between Ambikapur to Jharsuguda via Baluali Sitapur, Pathalgaon, Korba has been taken up.

**Setting up of solid waste plants**

1561. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to set up solid waste plants in its vacant land near railway stations, aimed at generating clean energy from the solid waste generated on its network, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the railway stations identified for the purpose;

(c) the quantum of energy estimated to be generated from these plants and the manner in which the energy would be utilized; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be put into operation and the estimated cost of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Railways have proposed a pilot project for disposal of municipal solid waste being generated at railway terminals in an environment friendly manner, including conversion of waste to energy.

(b) New Delhi and Jaipur Railway Stations have been identified for setting up pilot plants.

(c) Quantum of energy generated will depend upon the technology adopted for the pilot plant. Bio gas or electricity are the two possible forms of energy to be generated from these plants which would be utilized for suitable services at/near Railway Station.

(d) Time required and the cost of the project would depend on the technology chosen for the pilot plant.

#### **Redevelopment of railway stations**

1562. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the list of 'A-1' and 'A' category railway stations in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railways are going to redevelop 400 railway stations and the Cabinet has also approved the same;

(c) if so, the details of railway stations identified, State-wise, and the time-frame within which they are likely to be redeveloped; and

(d) what happened to the earlier proposal of developing railway stations as world-class stations and what was the success of that proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) State-wise number of A-1 and A category railway stations is as under:

State	A-1	A
Andhra Pradesh	6	28
Assam	1	9
Bihar	6	31
Chhattisgarh	2	5
Chandigarh	1	0



State	A-1	A
Delhi	4	4
Goa	0	1
Gujarat	4	17
Haryana	1	12
Jammu and Kashmir	1	1
Jharkhand	2	9
Karnataka	2	18
Kerala	4	17
Madhya Pradesh	3	21
Maharashtra	10	28
Nagaland	0	1
Odisha	2	10
Punjab	2	11
Rajasthan	3	23
Tamil Nadu	4	23
Uttar Pradesh	11	44
Uttarakhand	2	3
West Bengal	4	16
TOTAL	75	332

(b) to (d) Railway's proposal to redevelop 'A-1' and 'A' category stations (total 400 stations) on 'as is where is' basis by inviting open bids from interested parties with their designs and business ideas has been approved by Union Cabinet. Details of 'A-1' and 'A' category stations, State-wise are given as above. Seven stations, viz. Anand Vihar, Bijwasan, Chandigarh, Habibganj, Shivaji Nagar, SAS Nagar Mohali and Surat have been entrusted to Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited for redevelopment.

Request for qualification and request for technical proposal in respect of one station, viz. Habibganj has been finalized. Request for qualification for two more stations, viz. Bijwasan and Anand Vihar has been invited.

Station redevelopment projects are intrinsic in nature which require detailed techno-economic feasibility studies and statutory clearances from local bodies. Though Railways have been making sustained efforts towards expediting various issues, it is, however, not possible to provide time limit at this stage for completion of these projects.

### **Transfer policy of Railways**

1563. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Group-A officers promoted from Group-B/C are not transferred to other Zones and they usually retire from their Zone of posting;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, Zone/units-wise;
- (c) whether there is an urgent need for formulating a rotational transfer policy for such officers; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) The Comprehensive Transfer Policy issued on 31/08/2015 provides for inter-Zonal transfer of a Group-‘B’ officer with residual service of more than 3 years on empanelment to Group-‘A’.

### **Bullet train financing**

1564. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Japan has offered to finance India’s first bullet train, estimated to cost ₹ 15 billion, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Japan Railways have also taken keen interest in many other railway projects, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Government of Japan has given an assistance package proposal for Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail project involving financial assistance to the tune of 81% of project cost as loan.

- (b) The Western Dedicated Freight Corridor project is funded substantially by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency).

**Probe of railway employees**

1565. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several railway employees are being probed for allowing private firms to supply water bottles in the trains, if so, the details thereof including the loss incurred to the State exchequer;

(b) the details of the railway employees and private firms alleged to be involved in the said scam;

(c) the details of trains in which such private firms were being allowed to supply water; and

(d) the steps taken by Railways to prevent such incidents in future?

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) and (d) The catering licensees were supplying packaged drinking water other than the prescribed 'Rail Neer' in Shatabdi/Rajdhani/Duronto trains. With a view to preventing such incidents in future, it has been decided to make payments directly to Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation for supply of Rail Neer packaged drinking water in Shatabdi/Rajdhani/Duronto trains.

**Hefty profits in Rail Neer water bottles**

†1566. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many companies were earning hefty profits in preparing Rail Neer water bottles with the support of senior officers which was revealed a few days ago;

(b) if so, the action taken by Railways in this regard so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the maximum total cost of one litre bottled water is ₹ 5 per bottle;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) if not, whether Government has done any exercise in this regard, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) "Rail Neer" is the brand name of the Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) manufactured by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is presently investigating a matter concerning supply of other than the mandated Rail Neer brand of PDW to passengers of Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains etc., in case number RC-32(A)/2015-DLI registered by it in October, 2015 against Railways' catering licensees and officials. The two railway officials named as accused in the above mentioned CBI case have been placed under suspension.

(c) to (e) IRCTC's average cost of one litre bottle of "Rail Neer" is ₹ 9.60 and its transfer price for supplies made in locations within 75 kms. Of the manufacturing plant is ₹ 10.00 and beyond that distance is ₹10.50.

**Insufficient platform length at Godavari railway station**

1567. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware that passengers are forced to jump out to get down from the train and climb to get into the train due to insufficient platform length at Godavari railway station in Rajahmundry;

(b) if so, the reasons for not altering the platform despite knowledge of the problem; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Railways to solve the problem and to extend the length of the platform?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) At Godavari railway station, the length of platform no.1 is 610 meters which can accommodate 26 coaches. Hence there is no inconvenience to passengers for entrain and detrain, as the platform length is sufficient. The length of platform no.2 is 330 meters with insufficient length due to sand hump point no. 5A and 5B and Road Under Bridge no. 249 'A', which is 50 meters ahead followed by 3rd Godavari Bridge (on the river Godavari) towards Vijayawada end. On Vishakhapatnam end Bridge no. 250 Road Over Bridge is at end of platform. Hence, the extension of length of Platform

no. 2 is not feasible. At present only few passenger trains are being dealt at this platform for which the present length is found sufficient.

(b) There is no inconvenience to the passengers to get down from the train on platform no.1 since, the longest stopping train length is 446 meters, and the same are being dealt on platform no.1 only. As explained above, the extension of platform no. 2 is not feasible.

(c) There is no need to extend the platform no.1 since sufficient length is available and extension of platform no.2 is not feasible due to reasons as explained in (a) above.

#### **Demand and supply of railway rakes and coaches**

†1568. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures taken in the country to fulfil the required demand of railway passenger rakes and coaches for trains at present and status thereof; and

(b) whether coaches of trains are still in operation even after expiration of their term and if so, the number thereof and measures taken for their replacement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The following measures have been taken to fulfil the demand of coaches:

1. Setting up of DMU Coach Factory at Haldia. The factory has been commissioned.
2. Setting up of Rail Coach Factory at RCF/RBL. The factory has been commissioned.
3. Besides above, projects for setting up of Rail Coach Factories have been sanctioned at Palakkad, Kanchrapara and Kolar.
4. Augmentation of existing production capacities of ICF/Chennai and RCF/Kapurthala.

(b) No, Sir. Coaches are withdrawn from passenger service after completion of their service life.

#### **Online satellite images of trains**

1569. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have joined hands with ISRO to get online satellite images for improving safety and enhancing efficiency, if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the technology is also expected to be used for tracking trains for disseminating information about their movement on real time basis, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. Railways have not yet joined hands with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to get online satellite images for improving safety and enhancing efficiency.

However, Railways needs satellite imaging to be used as background for asset mapping and ISRO has been requested for the same.

(b) Yes, Sir. Space Technology is also planned to be used in implementing Real-time Train Information System (RTIS).

For this, a project of Real-time Information System has been included in the Works Programme at a total cost of ₹ 123.69 crore.

#### **Surplus land with Railways**

1570. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have over 4.40 lakh hectares of surplus land of which, only 43,000 hectares have been identified as land not required for operational purpose; and

(b) whether Railways will consider replicating the successful fertilizers and indexing exercise of the Directorate General of Defence Estates to chalk out a blue print for fertilizers of its surplus land, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The total area of land under Railway network is 461487 hectare out of which 414240 hectare is under operational and allied use and 46333 hectare land is vacant. The vacant Railway land is mostly in the form of narrow strips along tracks, which is required for servicing and maintenance of track, bridges and other infrastructure. The vacant railway land is also utilized for execution of various infrastructural projects for meeting future growth needs of Railways and include projects like doubling/tripling and traffic facilities works, etc. The vacant land, which is not required by Railways for its immediate operational needs, is utilized in the interim period for commercial development through Rail Land Development Authority wherever feasible, in order to mobilize additional financial resources.

(b) Indian Railways has already completed most of work related to digitisation of land record *i.e.* maintaining land data (details of acquisition/area/usages and land plans) in digital form. Indian Railways have also digitised details of vacant plots of land measuring more than one acre to chalk out the blue print for monetisation of its vacant land.

#### **Konkan railway line**

1571. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any estimate regarding total cost of Konkan railway line from Mangalore to Mumbai has been made;

(b) if so, the approximate cost of the civil work on electrification of the said line; and

(c) the components of civil work, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Konkan Railway line from Roha (excluding) to Thokur (740 km) was completed in 1998 at a total cost of ₹ 3555 crore, including cost of work and financing cost.

(b) Out of the total estimated cost of ₹ 709.39 crore for electrification of existing Konkan Railway line from Roha (excluding) to Thokur (740 km), the approximate cost of the civil works is ₹ 61 cr.

(c) The details of the components of civil works for electrification are as under:

1. Foot Over Bridges Modification
2. Road Over Bridges Modification
3. Provision of Height Gauge at Level Crossings
4. Platform Shelter Modification
5. Provision of Protective Screens
6. Provision of OHE Mast Foundation on Bridge Piers
7. Construction of sidings for Tower Wagon
8. Construction of Relay Rooms
9. Provision of diversion of side drains in hard rock and soft rock cuttings
10. Construction of various shed structures
11. Construction of Approach Roads to Electrical Sheds, Structures etc.

**Bullet train financing by Japan**

1572. SHRI SALIM ANSARI:

SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan has offered to finance India's first bullet train estimated to cost more than \$ 15 million, if so, the complete details thereof; and

(b) whether Railways have abolished the original plan of the project to 'Build and Supply' concept through tender, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Government of Japan has given an assistance package proposal for Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail project involving financial assistance to the tune of 81% of project cost as loan.

(b) There was no concrete plan to implement Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail project through 'Build and Supply' route.

**Ticketless travelling**

1573. SHRI SALIM ANSARI:

SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Division of the Northern Railway collected more than ₹ 15 crore as penalty from over 7 lakh passengers travelling ticketless between April to September, 2015;

(b) if so, the complete details of increase in ticketless travelling and action proposed to be taken by Railways to prevent ticketless travelling;

(c) the estimated loss due to ticketless travelling by various railway zones during the last 18 months; and

(d) the steps Railways propose to take to ensure that ticketless travelling is reduced considerably?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) During the period April, 2015 to September, 2015, Delhi Division of Northern Railway detected 7.2 lakh cases of ticketless/irregular travellers and unbooked luggage and realised ₹ 15.53 crore railway dues as fare plus penalty from the above cases.



The losses incurred by Indian Railways due to ticketless travellers are not identified. However, with a view to prevent ticketless travel, various steps have been taken by Indian Railways, some of which are as under:-

- (i) Conducting of regular and surprise checks against ticketless travel, which are intensified during peak rush periods.
- (ii) Vigorous drives such as Ambush Checks, Fortress Checks are conducted in association with Railway Protection Force and Magistrates under the Action Plan framed by Railway Board.
- (iii) Intensive Check Posts have been set up at important stations of each division of Zonal Railways to curb ticketless travelling in unreserved segments.
- (iv) With a view to curb entry of without ticket passengers in ticketed areas and to reduce ticketless travel, instructions have been issued for ensuring effective manning of all designated/functional gates at stations.
- (v) Travelling public are urged to avoid ticketless travel through publicity campaigns launched by Zonal Railways through posters/notices/ announcements at railway stations and advertisements in newspapers.

Further, Indian Railways have taken various measures using technological advancement or otherwise to facilitate issuing of tickets so as to prevent travelling without ticket on account of non-availability of tickets which include:-

- (i) Provision of Automatic Ticket Vending Machines.
- (ii) Provision of unreserved tickets through Mobile phones.
- (iii) Engaging Jan Sadharan Ticket Booking Sewaks outside station premises for issuing of unreserved tickets through Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) of Indian Railways.
- (iv) Engaging of Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBAs) for issuing of unreserved tickets from E category stations.
- (v) Engaging Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendra (YTSK) licensee for issuing of unreserved as well as reserved tickets.

#### **Wi-Fi facility in Rajdhani trains**

1574. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether there are any plans to introduce Wi-Fi in the Rajdhani trains and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): Yes, Sir. Wi-Fi Broadband Internet in running trains has been introduced in New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Express as a technology demonstration. Subsequently, tenders are under process for providing this in 5 other Shatabdi/Rajdhani Express trains including New Delhi-Ahmedabad Rajdhani Express. This facility is currently feasible only through satellite communication and is a very costly proposition.

#### **Introduction of dynamic fares**

1575. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Railways are considering introduction of dynamic fares for all classes in all trains on the lines of air fares, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that passenger traffic on trains has decreased over the last few years;
- (c) if so, whether any reasons have been identified in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the other steps being taken by Railways to increase their revenue so that high fares do not become a burden for passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) At present, there is no proposal to extend the concept of dynamic fare/variable fare system on all types of trains. However, over and above the regular time tabled trains, the concept of Suvidha/Premium Special trains with variable/dynamic fares has already been introduced.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The details of decline in passenger traffic are as under:

Financial Year	Number of passengers ( in millions)	Variation over last year (in %)
2013-14	8397	-0.29
*2014-15	8224	-2.06

\* Data for FY 2014-15 is provisional.

The decline in passenger traffic can be attributed to various factors including the changed norms/regulations in the issue of concessional tickets particularly in the case of Izzat MSTs, improvement in road infrastructure offering better and faster connectivity leading to increase in the number of personal and commercial vehicles, diversion of passenger traffic to metro rail projects in cities, impact of natural disasters like floods and heavy monsoons, closure of certain sections etc.

(d) Besides dynamic fare/variable fare system, with effect from 01.10.2014, in some of the selected trains identified by Zonal Railways which are most in demand, 50% of the existing accommodation under Tatkal Quota has been earmarked as Premium Tatkal Quota and is being booked on dynamic pricing. This is a distance-slab based fare scheme where the fare increases by 20% after each slab of 10% berths are sold subject to maximum three times of tatkal fare. Also, to increase earnings, special trains on special charges are introduced. Running of Premium trains/Suvidha trains on dynamic fare/variable fare are over and above the regular Time Tabled train services.

#### **Increase in revenue due to Suvidha Trains**

1576. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Suvidha trains only reflect the experience, well-being and purchase patterns of customers who travel between cities;
- (b) whether Suvidha special trains have increased the revenue of Railways; and
- (c) if so, the details of additional revenue earned in the past year due to Suvidha trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Suvidha Trains were introduced with effect from 01.07.2015 for meeting the demand surges that arise from time to time during summer and winter holiday seasons, festivals and such other occasions. These services have been provided with a view to supplement facilities regularly available to passengers through a mechanism that caters to the requirement of that segment of passengers which is willing to travel at short notice by paying higher fares.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Revenue earned from Suvidha Trains during the period 01 July 2015 to 30 Nov., 2015 is ₹ 64.22 crores (approx.)

#### **Creating separate zone out of Mumbai Suburban Railway**

1577. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a feasibility study has been conducted to assess the possibility of creating a separate zone out of the Mumbai Suburban Railway system (CR and WR) in the past;

- (b) if so, the outcome of the study; and
- (c) if not, whether such a study is planned in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The proposal for creation of an exclusive Zone for Mumbai Suburban area has been, *inter-alia*, examined by a Senior Administrative Grade level Committee and this proposal was not found feasible from operational point of view.

**Development of 400 railway stations**

1578. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a proposal to develop 400 railway stations in metros and major cities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with names of railway stations and States;
- (c) by when, these stations will be developed; and
- (d) the total estimated cost that would be required for this work?

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. Details of 'A-1' and 'A' category stations, State-wise are given in the Statement (*See below*). The entire cost of station redevelopment is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the stations. Accordingly, these stations have been proposed to be developed at no cost to Railway. The estimated project cost would be known after framing detailed Project Report/Master Plan-cum-Feasibility Report.

Station redevelopment projects are complex in nature and require detailed techno-economic feasibility studies and statutory clearances from local bodies. Therefore, no time frame can be indicated.

**Statement***Details of 'A-I' and 'A' Category Stations*

Sl.No	Name of station	State
1.	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Secunderabad Jn.	-do-
3.	Vijayawada	-do-
4.	Hyderabad	-do-
5.	Tirupati	-do-
6.	Kacheguda	-do-
7.	SSP Nilayam	-do-
8.	Palasa	-do-
9.	Srikakulam Road	-do-
10.	Vizianagaram	-do-
11.	Anantpur	-do-
12.	Anakapalle	-do-
13.	Bhimavaram Town	-do-
14.	Chirala	-do-
15.	Cuddapah	-do-
16.	Eluru	-do-
17.	Gudur Jn.	-do-
18.	Guntakal Jn.	-do-
19.	Guntur Jn.	-do-
20.	Kakinada Town	-do-
21.	Kazipet Jn.	-do-
22.	Khammam	-do-
23.	Kurnool Town	-do-
24.	Manchiryal	-do-
25.	Nellore	-do-
26.	Nizamabad	-do-
27.	Ongole	-do-

Sl.No	Name of station	State
28.	Rajahmundry	-do-
29.	Renigunta	-do-
30.	Samalkot Jn.	-do-
31.	Tadepalligudem	-do-
32.	Tenali Jn.	-do-
33.	Tuni	-do-
34.	Warangal	-do-
35.	Guwahati	Assam
36.	Barpeta Road	-do-
37.	Bongaigaon	-do-
38.	Dibrugarh Town	-do-
39.	Jorhat Town	-do-
40.	Kamakhya	-do-
41.	Lumding	-do-
42.	Rangiya Jn.	-do-
43.	Tinsukia	-do-
44.	Silchar	-do-
45.	Darbhanga Jn.	Bihar
46.	Gaya Jn.	-do-
47.	Muzaffarpur Jn.	-do-
48.	Patna Jn.	-do-
49.	Chhapra Jn.	-do-
50.	Bhagalpur	-do-
51.	Anugraha Narayan Road	-do-
52.	Ara Jn.	-do-
53.	Bhaktiarpur Jn.	-do-
54.	Barauni Jn.	-do-
55.	Betiah	-do-
56.	Buxar	-do-

Sl.No	Name of station	State
57.	Danapur	Bihar
58.	Dehri-on-Sone	-do-
59.	Hajipur Jn	-do-
60.	Jamui	-do-
61.	Jayanagar	-do-
62.	Khagaria Jn.	-do-
63.	Kiul Jn.	-do-
64.	Madhubani	-do-
65.	Mokama	-do-
66.	Bapudham	-do-
67.	Motihari	-do-
68.	Narkatiaganj Jn.	-do-
69.	Patna Sahib Jn.	-do-
70.	Rajendra Nagar (T)	-do-
71.	Raxaul Jn.	-do-
72.	Sagauli Jn.	-do-
73.	Saharsa Jn.	-do-
74.	Samastipur Jn.	-do-
75.	Sasaram Jn.	-do-
76.	Sivan Jn.	-do-
77.	Jogbani	-do-
78.	Katihar Jn.	-do-
79.	Kishanganj	-do-
80.	Purnea Jn.	-do-
81.	Raiganj	-do-
82.	Jamalpur	-do-
83.	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
84.	Bilaspur Jn.	-do-
85.	Bhilai Power House	-do-

Sl.No	Name of station	State
86.	Champa Jn.	Chhattisgarh
87.	Durg	-do-
88.	Raigarh	-do-
89.	Rajnandgaon	-do-
90.	Delhi Jn.	Delhi
91.	New Delhi	-do-
92.	Hazrat Nizamuddin	-do-
93.	Anand Vihar Terminal	-do-
94.	Adarshnagar Delhi	-do-
95.	Delhi Cantt.	-do-
96.	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	-do-
97.	Delhi Shahdra	-do-
98.	Vasco-Da-Gama	Goa
99.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
100.	Vadodara	-do-
101.	Rajkot	-do-
102.	Surat	-do-
103.	Anand	-do-
104.	Ankleshwar	-do-
105.	Bharuch	-do-
106.	Bhavnagar Terminus	-do-
107.	Gandhidham	-do-
108.	Jamnagar	-do-
109.	Mahesana	-do-
110.	Nadiad	-do-
111.	Navsari	-do-
112.	New Bhuj	-do-
113.	Palanpur	-do-
114.	Surendranagar	-do-



Sl.No	Name of station	State
115.	Udhana	Gujarat
116.	Valsad	-do-
117.	Vapi	-do-
118.	Veraval	-do-
119.	Viramgam	-do-
120.	Ambala Cantt.	Haryana
121.	Ballabhgarh	-do-
122.	Faridabad	-do-
123.	Gurgaon	-do-
124.	Jagadhri	-do-
125.	Kalka	-do-
126.	Karnal	-do-
127.	Panipat	-do-
128.	Rohtak	-do-
129.	Sonipat	-do-
130.	Bhiwani	-do-
131.	Hisar	-do-
132.	Rewari	-do-
133.	Jammu Tawi	Jammu & Kashmir
134.	Udhampur	-do-
135.	Dhanbad Jn.	Jharkhand
136.	Tatanagar	-do-
137.	Daltonganj	-do-
138.	Gomoh Jn.	-do-
139.	Koderma	-do-
140.	Parasnath	-do-
141.	Jasidih	-do-
142.	Madhupur	-do-
143.	Bokaro Steel City	-do-

Sl.No	Name of station	State
144.	Hatia	Jharkhand
145.	Ranchi	-do-
146.	Bangalore City	Karnataka
147.	Yashwantpur	-do-
148.	Gulbarga	-do-
149.	Mangalore Central	-do-
150.	Mangalore Jn.	-do-
151.	Bangalore Cantt.	-do-
152.	Bangarpet	-do-
153.	Belgaum	-do-
154.	Bellary	-do-
155.	Bijapur	-do-
156.	Davangere	-do-
157.	Dharwad	-do-
158.	Hospet	-do-
159.	Hubli	-do-
160.	Kengri	-do-
161.	Krishnarajapuram	-do-
162.	Mysore	-do-
163.	Shimoga Town	-do-
164.	Raichur	-do-
165.	Yadgir	-do-
166.	Trivandrum Central	Kerala
167.	Ernakulam Jn.	-do-
168.	Thrisur	-do-
169.	Kozhikkode	-do-
170.	Alappuzha	-do-
171.	Aluva	-do-
172.	Chengannur	-do-

Sl.No	Name of station	State
173.	Ernakulam Town	Kerala
174.	Kanhangad	-do-
175.	Kannur	-do-
176.	Kasargod	-do-
177.	Kayankulam Jn.	-do-
178.	Kollam Jn.	-do-
179.	Kottayam	-do-
180.	Palakkad Jn.	-do-
181.	Payyannur	-do-
182.	Shoranur Jn.	-do-
183.	Thalassery	-do-
184.	Tirur	-do-
185.	Tiruvalla	-do-
186.	Vadakara	-do-
187.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
188.	Jabalpur	-do-
189.	Singrauli	-do-
190.	Morena	-do-
191.	Gwalior	-do-
192.	Indore	-do-
193.	Nagda	-do-
194.	Ratlam	-do-
195.	Ujjain	-do-
196.	Burhanpur	-do-
197.	Khandwa	-do-
198.	Betul	-do-
199.	Bina	-do-
200.	Damoh	-do-
201.	Habibganj	-do-

Sl.No	Name of station	State
202.	Hoshangabad	Madhya Pradesh
203.	Itarsi	-do-
204.	Katni	-do-
205.	Maihar	-do-
206.	Pipariya	-do-
207.	Rewa	-do-
208.	Satna	-do-
209.	Saugor	-do-
210.	Vidhisha	-do-
211.	CST Mumbai	Maharashtra
212.	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	-do-
213.	Pune	-do-
214.	Nagpur	-do-
215.	Kalyan	-do-
216.	Dadar	-do-
217.	Thane	-do-
218.	Solapur	-do-
219.	Mumbai Central	-do-
220.	Bandra Terminus	-do-
221.	Akola	-do-
222.	Amravati	-do-
223.	Badnera	-do-
224.	Bhusawal	-do-
225.	Chalisgaon	-do-
226.	Jalgaon	-do-
227.	Kurduwadi	-do-
228.	Latur	-do-
229.	Manmad	-do-
230.	Miraj	-do-

Sl.No	Name of station	State
231.	Nasik Road	Maharashtra
232.	Panvel	-do-
233.	Sai Nagar Shirdi	-do-
234.	Shegaon	-do-
235.	Ahmednagar	-do-
236.	Daund	-do-
237.	Kolhapur	-do-
238.	Kopergaon	-do-
239.	Lonavla	-do-
240.	Ballarshah	-do-
241.	Chandrapur	-do-
242.	Wardha	-do-
243.	Nanded	-do-
244.	Aurangabad	-do-
245.	Jalna	-do-
246.	Nagarsol	-do-
247.	Parbani Jn.	-do-
248.	Gondia	-do-
249.	Dimapur	Nagaland
250.	Bhubaneswar	Odisha
251.	Puri	-do-
252.	Bhadrak	-do-
253.	Brahampur	-do-
254.	Cuttack	-do-
255.	Jajpur-Keonjhar Road	-do-
256.	Khurda Road	-do-
257.	Rayagada	-do-
258.	Sambalpur	-do-
259.	Balasore	-do-

Sl.No	Name of station	State
260.	Jharsuguda	Odisha
261.	Rourkela	-do-
262.	Amritsar	Punjab
263.	Beas	-do-
264.	Chakki Bank	-do-
265.	Firozpur Cantt.	-do-
266.	Jalandhar Cantt.	-do-
267.	Jalandhar City	-do-
268.	Pathankot	-do-
269.	Patiala	-do-
270.	Phagwara	-do-
271.	Rajpur Jn.	-do-
272.	Sirhind	-do-
273.	Ludhiana	-do-
274.	Bhathinda Jn.	-do-
275.	Jaipur	Rajasthan
276.	Jodhpur	-do-
277.	Ajmer	-do-
278.	Kota	-do-
279.	Sawai Madhopur	-do-
280.	Abu Road	-do-
281.	Alwar	-do-
282.	Bandikui	-do-
283.	Barmer	-do-
284.	Bhilwara	-do-
285.	Bikaner	-do-
286.	Falna	-do-
287.	Gandhinagar (Jaipur)	-do-
288.	Hanumangarh Jn.	-do-

Sl.No	Name of station	State
289.	Lalgarh	Rajasthan
290.	Marwar Jn.	-do-
291.	Nagaur	-do-
292.	Pali Marwar	-do-
293.	Phulera	-do-
294.	Rani	-do-
295.	Sri Ganganagar	-do-
296.	Suratgarh	-do-
297.	Udaipur City	-do-
298.	Jaisalmer	-do-
299.	Bharatpur	-do-
300.	Chittorgarh Jn.	-do-
301.	Chennai Central	Tamil Nadu
302.	Chennai Egmore	-do-
303.	Coimbatore Jn.	-do-
304.	Madurai Jn.	-do-
305.	Arakkonam Jn.	-do-
306.	Chengalpattu Jn.	-do-
307.	Dindigul Jn.	-do-
308.	Erode Jn.	-do-
309.	Jolarpettai Jn.	-do-
310.	Kanyakumari	-do-
311.	Karur Jn.	-do-
312.	Katpadi	-do-
313.	Kovilpatti	-do-
314.	Kumbakonam	-do-
315.	Mayiladuthurai	-do-
316.	Mettupalaiyam	-do-
317.	Nagercoil Jn.	-do-

Sl.No	Name of station	State
318.	Rameshwaram	Tamil Nadu
319.	Salem Jn.	-do-
320.	Tambaram	-do-
321.	Thanjavur Jn.	-do-
322.	Trichy Jn.	-do-
323.	Tirunelveli	-do-
324.	Tiruppur	-do-
325.	Tuticorin	-do-
326.	Villupuram	-do-
327.	Virudhunagar	-do-
328.	Mughalsarai	Uttar Pradesh
329.	Allahabad	-do-
330.	Kanpur Central	-do-
331.	Jhansi	-do-
332.	Agra Cantt.	-do-
333.	Mathura Jn.	-do-
334.	Gorakhpur Jn.	-do-
335.	Lucknow Jn.	-do-
336.	Lucknow	-do-
337.	Varanasi	-do-
338.	Bareilly	-do-
339.	Agra Fort	-do-
340.	Aligarh	-do-
341.	Banda	-do-
342.	Chitrakut Dham Karvi	-do-
343.	Etawah	-do-
344.	Fatehpur	-do-
345.	Lalitpur	-do-
346.	Mahoba	-do-



Sl.No	Name of station	State
347.	Orai	Uttar Pradesh
348.	Phaphund	-do-
349.	Raja Ki Mandi	-do-
350.	Tundla	-do-
351.	Mirzapur	-do-
352.	Azamgarh	-do-
353.	Ballia	-do-
354.	Basti	-do-
355.	Belthara Rd.	-do-
356.	Deoria Sadar	-do-
357.	Gondia Jn.	-do-
358.	Khalilabad	-do-
359.	Mau Jn.	-do-
360.	Akbarpur	-do-
361.	Ayodhya	-do-
362.	Barabanki	-do-
363.	Bhadohi	-do-
364.	Chandausi	-do-
365.	Faizabad	-do-
366.	Ghaziabad	-do-
367.	Hapur	-do-
368.	Hardoi	-do-
369.	Janghai	-do-
370.	Jaunpur	-do-
371.	Meerut Cantt.	-do-
372.	Meerut City	-do-
373.	Moradabad	-do-
374.	Muzaffarnagar	-do-
375.	Pratapgarh	-do-
376.	Rae Bareli Jn.	-do-
377.	Rampur	-do-

Sl.No	Name of station	State
378.	Saharanpur Jn.	Uttar Pradesh
379.	Sahganj	-do-
380.	Shahjahanpur	-do-
381.	Sultanpur	-do-
382.	Unnao	-do-
383.	Haridwar	Uttarakhand
384.	Kathgodam	-do-
385.	Rudrapur City	-do-
386.	Dehradun	-do-
387.	Kathgodham	-do-
388.	Rudrapur City	-do-
389.	Roorkee	-do-
390.	New Jalpaiguri	West Bengal
391.	Kharagpur	-do-
392.	Asansol	-do-
393.	Bandel	-do-
394.	Barddhaman	-do-
395.	Howrah	-do-
396.	Durgapur	-do-
397.	Kolkata Terminal	-do-
398.	Malda Town	-do-
399.	Naihati Jn.	-do-
400.	New Farakka	-do-
401.	Rampurhat	-do-
402.	Alipurduar Jn.	-do-
403.	Coochbehar	-do-
404.	New Alipurduar	-do-
405.	New Coochbehar	-do-
406.	Siliguri Jn.	-do-
407.	Digha	-do-
408.	Shalimar	-do-

**Probe in the publicity works of Railways**

1579. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI raided houses of five railway officials for irregularities in the publicity works at railway stations in 2008-09; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that CBI has confiscated records related to the case from Firozpur Division Office of Railways, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No such official communication from Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is available with Northern Railway.

(b) CBI has registered one First Information Report (FIR) on 02.01.2015 and three FIRs on 28.09.2015 in connection with commercial publicity work in Firozpur Division of Northern Railway and has confiscated some records related thereto on Firozpur Division of Northern Railway.

**Supply of poor quality ballast in Madhya Pradesh**

1580. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways awarded an order of ₹ 2.80 crore to a private company on 20 September, 2013 for supply of 50,000 cubic meter ballast in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that as many as 19 stacks of ballast were found to be of poor quality; and

(c) if so, how the bills have been settled by West Central Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. However, West Central Railway had floated a tender on 20 September, 2013 for supply of 50,000 cum of ballast against which order was placed on 18.03.2014 at a cost of ₹ 2.84 crores.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The testing of ballast was got done by Railway officials as per laid down procedures and bills were passed by West Central Railway as ballast was found conforming to the provisions stipulated in Railway Specifications for Track Ballast. However, samples of ballast have been collected by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) from Gotegaon ballast depot on 18th and 19th September, 2015.

**Survey for new railway line in Chhattisgarh**

†1581. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is fact that survey of a new railway line from Raipur to Jharsuguda has been conducted;
- (b) whether Raipur to Baloda Bazar, Girodhpuri and Sarangarh to Jharsuguda have been included in the survey; and
- (c) by when will this new railway line start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Survey for new line from Raipur to Jharsuguda *via* Balode Bazar, Sarangarh has been completed in 2010-11. The work was included in Budget 2013-14, subject to requisite approvals. The project could not be taken forward as NITI Aayog did not accord “In principle Approval” to the project on the ground of huge throwforward of ongoing projects & limited overall availability of resources for new lines.

**Doubling of railway line on Villupuram Dindigul Section**

1582. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways are unable to complete the doubling of railway line between Villupuram-Dindigul section in Chennai-Kanyakumari trunk route, which is pending for a long time, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Railways will allocate substantial funds so that doubling work could be completed in a time-bound manner on this section, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Villupuram-Dindigul doubling with electrification (273kms) was included in Railway Budget 2008-09 and track linking of 253 kms length has already been completed on this section. Out of this completed length, 90 kms section has been commissioned. An allotment of ₹ 520 cr. Has been made for this project in 2015-16, against ₹ 265 cr. Allocated in 2014-15 and ₹ 286 cr. Allocated in 2013-14. The project is suffering on account of delay in handing over of land by Government of Tamil Nadu.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**New Railway zone for Seemandhra**

1583. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee of Senior Officers from Railways was constituted to examine amongst other issues, the feasibility of creation of a new Railway Zone in the residual State of Andhra Pradesh as mentioned in item 8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, if so, the details thereof;

(b) by when the Committee is likely to consult various stakeholders, including MPs, State Governments etc. on the issue;

(c) whether there is any time-frame fixed for it; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Committee comprising of the following officers from Railway Board, South Central Railway and East Coast Railway was constituted by the Ministry of Railways for this purpose:

(i)	Executive Director (Planning), Railway Board	-	Convenor
(ii)	Executive Director /CE(G), Railway Board	-	Member
(iii)	Executive Director/ME (Infra), Railway Board	-	Member
(iv)	Chief Engineer(P&D), South Central Railway	-	Member
(v)	CME(Planning)/South Central Railway	-	Member
(vi)	Chief Transportation Planning Manager(CTPM), East Coast Railway	-	Member
(vii)	Chief General Engineer (CGE), East Coast Railway	-	Member

(b) to (d) The Committee has initiated the consultation process. However, since the issues referred to the Committee are complex in nature and a large number of stakeholders have to be consulted, no time frame can be set.

**Approval for laying tracks**

1584. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have received approval for 14 doubling/tripling projects to lay 13,048 kilometres of tracks, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have overcome earlier funds crunch for executing such projects and have sanctioned an enhanced amount of ₹ 18,200 crore in 2015 against ₹ 4025 crore last year, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Out of the 77 doubling/tripling projects that have been included in the Railway Budget 2015-16, 21 projects covering a length of 1504 Kms at a cost of ₹ 15,116 crore have been approved.

(b) Ministry of Railways has signed an MoU with LIC for a loan of ₹1,50,000 crores to be received over a period of five years, for funding the new capacity enhancement projects and ongoing remunerative projects. First tranche of ₹ 2,000 crores has been received. In addition, allocation for these projects has also been increased substantially from Gross Budgetary Support received from Finance Ministry in the current financial year.

#### **Railway line from Unchahar to Shahganj**

†1585. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have completed the process of laying of railway line from Unchahar to Shahganj *via* Amethi-Sultanpur railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the route ascertained for this segment;

(c) the details of budget sanctioned for this purpose; and

(d) the quantum of amount, out of sanctioned budget, that has been released so far and action plan formulated to complete this task along with the time-limit fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) On Unchahar-Amethi-Sultanpur-Shahganj sections, works for construction of 66 km new line between Unchahar-Amethi has been sanctioned at a cost of ₹ 966 crore. Further, Amethi-Sultanpur (29 km) and Sultanpur-Kadipur (39 km) new lines have also been taken up as a part of Utretia-Zafrabad Doubling project. Cost of Utretia-Zafrabad along with linked parts is ₹ 1115.47 crores. Expenditure incurred as on 31.03.15 on Unchahar-Amethi and Utretia-Zafrabad Doubling projects is approximately ₹ 416 crores. An allotment of ₹ 370 crores has been made for Financial Year 2015-16 for undertaking these projects.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

For Unchahar-Amethi-Sultanpur-Kadipur sections, land plans have been submitted to the State Government for taking up land acquisition. Time lines for their completion can only be fixed after complete handing over of land by the State Government. Construction of new line between Kadipur and Shahganj has not been sanctioned.

### **Corruption in PSUs under Railways**

1586. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS to be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways are aware of the fact that mass scale corruption is prevailing in the PSUs under the Ministry of Railways, preventing them from generating revenue and to pay dividend to the Railways, if so, the facts thereof;
- (b) whether Railways have instructed the PSUs under them to ensure transparency and best practices in the tendering and contract process, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to make PSUs profit making institutions so as to get the maximum dividends from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Railway has robust systems to check, prevent and act against instances of possible corruption in the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under Ministry of Railways. Chief Vigilance Officer of each PSU is assigned the task of Vigilance. As and when a case of corruption comes to the notice of the Management, the same is investigated as per the standing instructions of the Government/Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). Many of the PSUs are generating substantial revenue and paying healthy dividends to the Railways.

(b) There are standing instructions on ensuring transparency and best practices in the tendering and contract process. To ensure transparency, open tender are published on the official website of the respected PSUs and also on the Central Public Procurement web portal.

(c) PSUs under the administrative control of Ministry of Railways have to sign an MoU every year with the Ministry, wherein targets for various parameters like Sales Turnover, Profit after Tax, Gross Operating Margin, Capital Expenditure, physical targets etc. are assigned to the PSU for the coming financial year. After the end of the financial year, the performance of the PSU is evaluated and accordingly grading assigned. This exercise is an endeavour to make the PSU a profit making institution and to give maximum possible dividend to the Government. PSUs were directed to exceed turnover,

profitability and physical targets fixed in MoU 2015-16, as a step towards their further growth. Intensive review of the PSUs is held from time to time.

#### **New DRM offices in Odisha**

1587.SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways plan to set up one DRM office in Kalahandi-Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) zone and one at Rourkela in Odisha;
- (b) whether any reorganisation of DRM offices of Railways is being considered; and
- (c) whether there is any proposal to re-organise the East Coast Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) At present, there is no plan to re-organise the existing Divisions amongst the Zonal Railways.
- (c) There is presently no plan to re-organise the Zonal Railways.

#### **Bogibeel National Project**

1588.SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Bogibeel National Project is still pending for completion;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken up by Government thereon; and
- (c) the reasons that this important National Project is still pending for completion, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Construction of Rail-cum-Road bridge over Brahmaputra at Bogibeel with linking lines (73 km) has been taken up at an anticipated cost of ₹ 4996 crore. An expenditure of ₹ 3689 crore has been incurred upto March, 2015 and an outlay of ₹ 701 crore has been provided in 2015-16.

The project has mainly suffered in the past on account of inadequate availability of funds, apart from delays in land acquisition and forestry clearances.



To expedite the completion of work, the annual outlays have been enhanced, and against an allotment of ₹340 crore in the year 2013-14, budget allotments of ₹ 600 crore and ₹ 701 crore have been made in the year 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively.

#### **Survey of Ramnagar Bhikiyasen railway line**

†1589. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey work on Ramnagar-Mohaana-Marchula-Chaukhutia-Bhikiyasen railway line has been completed;

(b) if so, the level at which the proposal for laying of this railway line is pending, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds are likely to be allocated in the next financial year for laying of this railway line; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) A survey for new line from Ramnagar-Mohan-Marchula-Bhikiyasen-Chaukhutiya (87 km) has been completed in 2011-12. As per survey report, the cost has been assessed ₹ 1379 crore with the negative rate of return of 3.03%. Due to unremunerative nature of the project, huge throwforward of ongoing works and limited availability of funds, the proposal could not be taken forward.

#### **Revenue earning system of Railways**

1590. SHRI K.C. TYAGI :

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL :

KUMARI SELJA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have taken note of the fact that its current revenue earning system leaves a very small surplus for investment and modernisation if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the corrective steps taken/ being taken by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Against huge requirement of resources for expansion

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and modernization Railways' revenue earning system does not leave much surplus for investment and Modernization in Railways. Railways' internal resource generation for plan investment in 2013-14 and 2014-15 was ₹ 11,668 crore and ₹ 15,440 crore respectively.

(b) Investment on expansion and modernization of Railways is financed from multiple sources *i.e.* Gross Budgetary Support from the Ministry of Finance, Internal Resources generated by Railways and Extra Budgetary Resources like market borrowings and Public Private Partnerships etc. Efforts towards enhancing internal resource generation in Railways is a continuous endeavour. Towards this end, Railways have targeted progressively higher revenue through an inter-mix of capacity augmentation, pricing adjustments and expenditure control such as:

- Targeting progressively higher volume of passenger and freight traffic;
- Periodic rationalization of both freight and passenger tariffs and fares;
- Periodic adjustments of various charges incidental to passenger and freight;
- Exploration of alternate sources of revenue like commercial exploitation of surplus Railway land, advertisement on Railway premises/assets etc;
- Constant endeavour by Railways to effect economy in expenditure.
- Austerity and economy measures in areas such as hospitality, publicity, advertisements, inaugural ceremonies, seminars and workshops, contingent office expenses etc.
- Implementation of guidelines on expenditure control and management circulated by the Ministry of Finance on the Railways also.
- Rigorous monitoring of expenditure with reference to the monthly budget proportions.

#### **Extending the route of Andhra Pradesh Express**

1591. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons that the Ministry is considering to extend Andhra Pradesh Express introduced between Delhi and Visakhapatnam;

(b) the problems Railways are facing for maintenance of this train at Visakhapatnam;

(c) whether it is a fact that in view of (b) above, Railways are planning to extend this train upto Katra or Jammu;

- (d) whether initially, it was proposed to run this train on daily basis;
- (e) the reasons for running it only twice a week; and
- (f) the efforts being made to run this train on daily basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) At present, there are no maintenance related constraints at Visakhapatnam and New Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. Due to resource constraints, the train is being operated as a tri-weekly service, at present.

#### **New rules for cancellation and refund of railway tickets**

1592. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the new rules for cancellation of railway tickets, there will be no refund of confirmed/waitlisted tickets after the departure of train and one can get refunds only upto four hours before the departure, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the reasons and rationale for such a rule;
- (c) whether Government would refund 100 per cent of ticket fare if train gets late by at least 4 hours and 50 per cent if train gets late by 2 hours; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for such one-sided guideline/rule by Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Under normal circumstances no refund is granted on confirmed, RAC and Waitlisted tickets after the departure of the train.

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). Refund on cancellation of unused confirmed tickets:

- (i) If confirmed ticket is presented for cancellation upto 48 hours before the scheduled departure of the train, per passenger minimum cancellation charge is levied .
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) Refund on confirmed ticket is granted only upto 4 hours before the scheduled departure of the train.

(B) 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 minus clerkage charge is made upto 30 minutes before the scheduled departure of the train.

Certain provisions of Railway Passengers (Cancellation of tickets and refund of fare) Rules have been amended to check bogus claims, to facilitate provision of Mobile ticketing as well as paperless ticketing, discourage last minute cancellation resulting in seats/berths going vacant etc. The amendment in refund rules became necessary to adapt to changes/developments in the ticketing systems.

Further, reservation charts are being prepared at least 4 hours in advance, which facilitates purchase of available berths till 30 minutes before departure of the train.

(c) and (d) No cancellation charge or clerkage charges is levied and full fare is refunded to all passengers holding confirmed, RAC and Wait-listed tickets if the journey is not undertaken due to late running of the train by more than three hours of scheduled departure of the train from the journey commencing station, subject to the condition that the ticket is surrendered prior to the actual departure of the train.

#### **Second terminal at Kollam railway station**

1593. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of second terminal at Kollam railway station is completed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the present status of the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The work of development of second entry at Kollam Railway station has been sanctioned during the current financial year at a cost of ₹ 7.85 crore. Agency for extension of Foot Over Bridge has been fixed. Tenders for provision of circulating area and parking facility on second entry side have been opened.

#### **Land scam in NTC**

1594. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the land scam worth ₹ 1700 crore in National Textile Corporation Limited;

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

(c) the quantum of loss incurred to the exchequer due to this scam;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard, if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the persons found guilty in the said land scam; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to prevent such scams in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case in the matter of transfer of part of the land of Shree Madhusudan Mills to M/s. Hall and Anderson in terms of settlement arrived by National Textile Corporation Limited. The matter is under investigation of CBI.

#### **Setting up of textile colleges in Madhya Pradesh**

†1595. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile colleges situated in the country, including Madhya Pradesh, along with the location thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes/plans to set up new textile colleges in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details of the locations where these colleges are proposed to be set up; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the details of the likely time-frame with in which these colleges would be setup?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Ministry of Textiles runs National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT). It is functioning at present in the country are:

- (1) Bengaluru (Karnataka)
  - (2) Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)
  - (3) Bhubaneswar (Odisha)
  - (4) Chennai (Tamil Nadu)
  - (5) Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
  - (6) Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)
  - (7) Jodhpur (Rajasthan)
  - (8) Kangra (Himachal Pradesh)
  - (9) Kannur (Kerala)
  - (10) Kolkata (West Bengal)
  - (11) Mumbai (Maharashtra)
  - (12) New Delhi
  - (13) Patna (Bihar)
  - (14) Rae Bareli (Uttar Pradesh); and
  - (15) Shillong (Meghalaya).
- (b) No sir,
- (c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

#### **Urban Haats**

1596. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number and the details of Urban Haats sanctioned across the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether all such Haats are functioning and have at least 50 per cent stall occupancy, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

- (c) the details of sales and profit derived there from;
- (d) whether Urban Haats have been successful in achieving their objective, if so, the details there of, if not, the reasons there for and the steps being undertaken therefor; and
- (e) the other steps being taken to revive, promote and develop handloom and handicraft sector in the country along the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

**Funds to boost textile sector**

1597. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the representatives of FICCI have met the Government representatives asking for funds to boost the textile sector in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the current status of this sector; and
- (c) how far will this help to boost this sector to generate employment, especially in the rural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes Sir. The Ministry had received a proposal from FICCI to organize an event namely VASTRA – 2016, which was also supported by Government of Rajasthan. Ministry of Textiles recommended this proposal to the Dept. of Commerce, after which funds to the tune of ₹ 1.00 cr. Have been approved for this event for the year 2016-17 under market Access Initiative (MAI) assistance.

- (b) The current status of textile sector in terms of no. of mills, installed capacity, production and exports is given below:

Category	Items	Unit	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (Apr.- Sep.) Prov
	No. of Cotton/ Man-Made Fibre textile Mills	No.	3474	3442	3481	3483
Installed	(i) Spindles	Mn.No	49.17	49.46	50.16	50.65
Capacity	(ii) Rotors	Thousand No.	795	814	834	842
	(iii) Looms (composite + powerlooms)	Lakh No.	24.14	24.34	25.42	25.64
Production	(i) Man made fibre	Mn. Kg	1263	1307	1344	650
	(ii) Spun yarn	Mn. Kg	4868	5309	5488	2850
	(iv) Man made filament yarn	Mn. Kg	1371	1293	1248	581
	(v) Fabrics	Mn.sq. mtr	62792	63500	65276	33081
Export #	Export of Textile Items	Mn.US \$	33049	37571	37659	8620**

\*\*Export data for 2015-16 from April-August 2015.

#Source: DGCIS, Kolkata.

(c) In order to strengthen the textile industry in the country, Government has launched various policy initiatives and schemes like Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), Schemes for the development of the Power-loom Sector, Schemes for Technical textiles Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), Integrated Skill Development Scheme, etc. which will help in creating employment/jobs all over the country including the rural areas.

#### **Purchase of cotton from farmers by CCIL**

1598. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a tussle between the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd.(CCIL) and farmers producing cotton regarding purchase of cotton, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any request has been received from State Governments to direct the



CCIL for taking necessary steps to purchase cotton from farmers, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to solve the problem and direct the CCIL for rectifying the logjam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) There is no tussle between Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and farmers regarding purchase of cotton. Before commencement of current cotton season 2015-16, request had been received from State Government of Telangana regarding opening of more procurement centres, purchase of kapas with excess moisture etc. These have been dealt as per guidelines. Ministry of Textiles has been closely pursuing purchase of cotton from the cotton growers under the Minimum Support Price Operation by the Cotton Corporation of India in close liaison with the concerned State Governments of the cotton producing States. Specific attention is being given for opening required number of cotton purchase centres. Issues relating to purchase of cotton in Telangana was discussed with a high level delegation from Telangana and senior officers from the Ministry had visited Telangana on the 7th and 8th December, 2015 and taken steps for doing the operation in a smooth manner in consultation with the State officials and officers of Cotton Corporation of India.

#### **Upliftment of Handloom Industry**

1599. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the various schemes of Government for the upliftment of handloom industry;
- (b) the funds allocated and released for these schemes during the last three years; and
- (c) the manner in which Government proposes to overcome the problems of handloom industry, such as lack of market access, inadequate credit facilities and rising input prices because of which youths are not interested in taking over the family business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Government of India has been implementing following schemes/programmes, for the upliftment of handloom industry, development and welfare of handloom weavers throughout the country namely:

- (1) National Handloom Development Programme,
- (2) Handloom Weaver's Comprehensive Welfare Scheme,
- (3) Yarn Supply Scheme,
- (4) Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (Development of Mega Handloom Clusters),

(b) The details showing financial assistance to handloom industry during the last three year is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) All the above schemes fulfill the need of weavers such as marketing, supply of raw material at subsidized rate, concessional credit from banks and welfare etc. for continuance of handloom activities as employment by weavers' families.

***Statement***

*Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms*

*Financial assistance to Handloom Industries during the last three years*

(₹ in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes (Plan)	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
		Fund Allocated	Fund released	Fund Allocated	Fund released	Fund Allocated	Fund released
							31-3-2015
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Integrated Handloom Development Scheme	156.00	138.96	Merged With CHDS			
2.	Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme	45.00	41.37				
3.	Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme	150.00	127.03	95.00	66.00	57.50	42.25
4.	Mill Gate Price Scheme/Yarn Supply Scheme	133.00	122.91	100.00	96.86	130.00	127.81
5.	Diversified Handloom Development Scheme	25.00	17.08	Merged With CHDS			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Revival Reform and Restructuring Package for the Handloom Sector	600.00	291.03	271.00	269.79	Merged with NHDP	
7.	Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme			142.00	117.35		
8.	National Handloom Development Programme					292.00	227.39
9.	CHCDS-Handloom Mega Cluster					18.00	14.45
	TOTAL (PLAN)	1109.00	738.38	608.00	550.00	497.50	411.90

**Assistance to textile sector**

1600. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile industry, which is pegged at 105 billion dollars turn over per year and forms 35 to 40 per cent export, has asked for quick help from Government on its problems, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether their demands include action on Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on export in centives and release of funds under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) among others, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The textile industry has asked for help from Government on its problems as given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(i) Regarding FTAs: The industry has demanded Free Trade Agreements with major markets.

- Presently India has FTA with the countries such as ASEAN, Japan, Korea etc.

- The Government is presently negotiating a bilateral Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) with European Union (EU) covering a number of track ranging from Trade in Goods to services including textiles.
  - India has Preferential Trade Agreements (PTA) with MERCOSUR (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela) and Chile for limited number of items.
  - In order to enhance India's competitiveness in Textiles sector in LAC region, India is expanding its existing PTA with Chile wherein Chile has offered Margin of Preference (MoP) ranging from 30% to 100% on tariff lines under the chapters on Textiles.
  - The process for expansion of India- MERCOSUR has also been initiated.
- (ii) Regarding TUFS:- Representations have been received from textile industry from time to time for release of subsidy under TUFS and the Government has already released the same till the quarter ending December 2014.

***Statement***

*Demands raised by the Textile Industry*

- (i) Signing of Free Trade Agreements with major markets
- (ii) Release of Funds under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS)
- (iii) Reduction of Excise duty on Man-made Textile Sector from 12% to 6%
- (iv) Removal of 4% Special Additional Duty(SAD) on all manmade fibres,
- (v) Restoration of Interest rate subvention scheme with wider scope covering entire cotton and MMF value chain,
- (vi) Expanding the product and country coverage of MEIS,
- (vii) Upward revision of All India Rates of Duty Drawback for textile and apparel products,
- (viii) Provide working capital @ 7% to exporters under priority sector lending,
- (ix) Reduction in the Investment allowance threshold limit from ₹ 25 crores to ₹ 5 crores for textile and apparel sector units (excluding spinning),
- (x) Increasing eligibility for duty free imports of trimmings and embellishments for made-ups to bring them at par with garments.

*The House then adjourned at thirty-five minutes past twelve of the clock.*

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*:

**GOVERNMENT BILL—Contd...**

**The Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial  
Appellate Division of High Courts Bill, 2015**

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री; तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री  
(श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी) : सर, एक बिल है जिसे विद्वद्धों करना है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, I have no problem.  
..(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Most of the Members have gone. ..(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is withdrawal of a Bill.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):  
Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I move for leave to withdraw the Bill to provide for the  
constitution of Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate  
Division in the High Courts for adjudicating commercial disputes and for matters  
connected therewith or incidental thereto.

I want to make only one submission. The statement laid by me on 26th November  
says that the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee has not submitted  
its Report. However, yesterday, 10th December, the Committee has submitted its Report  
before this House.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted*

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 2015-16**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Finance Minister will present the Supplementary  
Demands.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I lay on the Table,  
a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants  
(General) 2015-16.

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION****Re. Deferment of the Private Members' Resolution to the next Session**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, one minute has been taken away from Private Members' Business time. *...(Interruptions)...* Let me say.

**श्री विजय गोयल** (राजस्थान): सर, मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me say. *...(Interruptions)...*

**श्री विजय गोयल** : सर, मैंने सबसे पहले हाथ खड़ा किया है। आप कृपया एक मिनट के लिए मेरी बात सुन लीजिए। सर, बड़ी मुश्किल से प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स डे पर मेरा रिजॉल्यूशन लगा है। मेरी उन लोगों से प्रार्थना है कि आज गवर्नमेंट बिजनेस को प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स से पहले चलने दें।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will allow you. *...(Interruptions)...* That is what I am saying. *...(Interruptions)...* I will allow you. *...(Interruptions)...* I will allow you. What I want to say is only this. You have taken two minutes from Private Members' Business time. Therefore, Private Members' Business will go up to 5.02. We will have Private Members' Business till 5.02 because the Government has taken two minutes for its business. That is my point. *...(Interruptions)...* Now, let me listen first to Mr. Vijay Goel. He was the first person to raise his hand. I will also allow Mr. Anand Sharma.

**श्री विजय गोयल** : सर, मेरा निवेदन यह है कि आज प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स डे है। हम सब लोग जानते हैं और कोशिश करते हैं कि जो जनता के महत्व के मुद्दे हैं, उनको हम यहां पर उठाएं। आज लॉटरी को लेकर मेरा रिजॉल्यूशन इसमें लगा हुआ है। *...(व्यवधान)...* कृपया सुनिए। आपका भी है। मैं आपके साथ हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I allow him, please.

**श्री विजय गोयल** : सर, यह जनता का बहुत महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा है। मैं विपक्ष के अपने साथियों से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आपकी जो grievances हैं, उन्हें आप जरूर रखिए, हमें उसमें कोई एतराज नहीं है। पूरा देश इस सदन को देख रहा है इसलिए हाउस चलना चाहिए और कम से कम *...(व्यवधान)...* प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स का जो बिजनेस है, वह तो चले। गवर्नमेंट बिजनेस चले तो और भी अच्छी बात है *...(व्यवधान)...* लेकिन प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिजनेस तो चलने दीजिए। ऐसा मेरा आपसे निवेदन है।

**श्री उपसभापति** : I have heard your point. Now, Mr. Anand Sharma. सुन लिया। आपका प्वाइंट सुन लिया है, कृपया बैठिए।

**श्री विजय गोयल** : आपने मेरी बात सुनी, उसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now Shri Anand Sharma. *...(Interruptions)...* Mr. Govardhan Reddy, let me listen to Mr. Anand Sharma.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Rajasthan): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want to draw your attention to the "Revised List of Business" for today. Now, the House was to take up the Private Members' Business, and after the Private Members' Business is over at 5 o'clock the House will be adjourned. That was the understanding. Now, it has been extended up to 6 o'clock.

In the last session also, the Government had listed Bills on a Friday evening, and this matter was taken up both inside the House and outside the House by me and by the leaders of other parties, and also in the Business Advisory Committee. Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it was agreed that this would not be done.

Now, most of the Members have left. I am speaking not only on behalf of our Members, but other Members also; you look at the presence in the House. Normally, Members go back to their hometowns, their constituencies, and they book their tickets. Many have left to catch their flights; the others have to go to the airport. So, it will not be proper nor fair to have this business at all. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is what we would say, and the Government should agree.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Naqvi.

**अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री; तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी):** उपसभापति महोदय, प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिल या बिजनेस पांच बजे तक है और 5.00 बजे से लेकर 6.00 बजे के बीच में जो ये तीन बिल लगे हुए हैं, वे 6.00 बजे या उसके आगे तक... निश्चित तौर से हमारी अंडरस्टैंडिंग भी है और हमारा निर्णय भी है कि हाउस 6.00 बजे तक चलेगा और 2.30 बजे से लेकर 5.00 बजे तक प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिजनेस और उसके बाद लेजिस्लेटिव बिजनेस होगा। मुझे लगता है कि इसमें किसी को कोई आपत्ति नहीं होनी चाहिए। अगर आपको लगता है कि हाउस का अभी तक का जो निर्णय है, वह चेंज होना है, तो उसका निर्णय बिजनेस एडवाइजरी कमेटी में होगा। अभी आप प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिजनेस चलने दीजिए और उसके बाद बिल पर चर्चा होगी। आप बिल पर चर्चा करने के लिए तैयार हैं, तो मुझे लगता है कि यह तरीका ठीक नहीं है कि साहब, हम प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स चलने देंगे, हम शार्ट ड्यूरेशन चलने देंगे, हम कॉलिंग अटेंशन चलने देंगे, लेकिन हम कोई भी सरकारी बिल पास नहीं होने देंगे। यह तरीका ठीक नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, sense of the House should be taken. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी (मध्य प्रदेश):** सर, आप हाउस की सेंस ले लीजिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will call you. Now, Mr. Raja.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I have two points to make. One, today is Private Members' day. My Resolution against capital punishment...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is a different issue. Let us solve this first.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, my Resolution against capital punishment was listed for the Monsoon Session. Rajya Sabha did not function. So, the House had decided to take it up during the Winter Session. Now, it has been listed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We would take it up today.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, if the House doesn't work, I appeal to the House....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It should work. Why do you say, 'if it doesn't work'?

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, we are discussing it. We have not yet started the conduct of business. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us work. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: So, I am making an appeal. This House should agree to take it up at the next immediate available opportunity.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is only if it doesn't work today. First, let us try to work today. If not, we will consider that.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, my second point is, as far as official Business is concerned, the Government could be more accommodative. Today is Private Members' Business. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना (पंजाब): उपसभापति जी, प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स का टाइम 5.00 बजे तक फिक्स्ड है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: You may consider this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Mr. V.P. Singh Badnore and after that.....  
*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Rajasthan): Sir, the BAC decides only the number of hours meant for discussion on a Bill and what the House would discuss. But it is actually the House which decides whether we can sit after 5 o'clock, 6 o'clock or 7 o'clock. It is the House which decides that. So, let the House decide it. ...*(Interruptions)*... But after the Private Members' Business, we must sit and do it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Derek O'Brien. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, there are two issues here. The first is the Private Members' Business and the second is this issue of sitting up to 5 o'clock or 6 o'clock, which I completely agree with. ...*(Interruptions)*...



SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Up to 6 o'clock has already been decided. After 6...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: One minute, please.

The question is not only about today, but for subsequent weeks also. Sir, I humbly submit to you, quickly take the sense of the House for today that...

SHRI V. P. SINGH BADNORE: Not now; at that time.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Do it now, Sir. The sense of the House is that between 5 o'clock and 6 o'clock there should be no business today. ...*(Interruptions)*... They are not based in Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, this is not a Delhi-based Parliament. This is a Council of States. We all have to go back to our States. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is across parties. Take a sense now. So, if you want to get the Private Members' Business done every week between 2.30 and 5.00 p.m., it is fair enough. But, after 5 o'clock, Sir, the sense of the House seems to be...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: That should be done after 5 o'clock. Sense of the House should be taken after 5 o'clock and not now. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, sense of the House must be taken after 5 o'clock, not now. ...*(Interruptions)*... Not now. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, you could get the sense of the House.....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: They would decide. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: This is precious time, Sir. It is Private Members' time. Let us take the sense of the House now. ...*(Interruptions)*... We discussed, informally, with the Chairman; now we could discuss it here. The sense of the House is that after 5 o'clock, there should be no Government Business. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी:** उपसभापति जी, इसमें दो मुद्दे हैं, जैसा कि अभी हमारे सहयोगी साथी श्री देरेक ओब्राइन ने कहा है, इस मामले में हमारी बात हो चुकी है। चैम्बर में भी बात हुई है, यहां भी बात हुई है। उसके बाद यह तय हुआ था कि 2.30 बजे आज हम लोग यहां सेंस ऑफ दि हाउस लेंगे और अगर हाउस इस बात पर एग्री करेगा कि 5.00 बजे के बाद बिजनेस होना है, तब 5.00 बजे के बाद बिजनेस आज रखा जाएगा अन्यथा 5.00 बजे के बाद आज बिजनेस नहीं रखा जाएगा। जहां तक आगे के दिनों का सवाल है, उसके लिए Business Advisory Committee अधिकृत है। महोदय, Business Advisory Committee में ही आगे का निर्णय होगा, पर जहां तक आज का सवाल है, आज 5 बजे के बाद बिजनेस होगा या नहीं, उसके बारे में आपसे अनुरोध है कि आप sense of the House ले लें और उसके बाद आप अपना निर्णय दें।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, now listen. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now listen, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me say. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी :** सर, परम्परा यह है कि अगर 5 बजे के बाद हाउस नहीं चलना है या चलना है, तो sense of the House 5 बजे होगा। It is not possible now. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now please listen. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now let me say. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, It was decided that the sense of the House will be taken at 2.30 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, let me say. ... *(Interruptions)*. Now, let me say. ... *(Interruptions)*... Now, please. ... *(Interruptions)*... Now, please. ... *(Interruptions)*... आप बैठें। Now, the issue is. ... *(Interruptions)*...

**श्री के.सी. त्यागी (बिहार) :** सर, मुझे भी मेरी पार्टी की तरफ से बोलने का मौका दिया जाए।

**श्री उपसभापति :** आपकी पार्टी? Sorry, we are all above party lines.

**श्री के. सी. त्यागी :** सर, सदन के संचालन की जो पुरानी परम्पराएं रही हैं, उनमें बी.ए.सी. की एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रही है और उसमें हम मीटिंग कर के तय करते हैं और अगर किसी विषय पर व्यवधान आता है, तो sense of the House से काम चलाते हैं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay.

**श्री के.सी. त्यागी :** सर, कई मौके ऐसे आए हैं, जब कि यहां एकमत नहीं हो पाया है, तो आपने sense of the House से फैसले लिए हैं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will do that. I will do that.

**श्री के. सी. त्यागी :** सर, उसमें एक technical point यह है कि sense of the House 5 बजे से पहले लिया जाए या बाद में लिया जाए?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will do that. Okay, I will do that.

**श्री के.सी. त्यागी :** इसलिए मेरा आप से अनुरोध है कि आज प्राइवेट मेंबर्स बिजनेस का टाइम बरबाद न कर के...*(व्यवधान)*... जो सरकारी कामकाज थोपा जा रहा है, उसे आप न मानें।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will go strictly according to the rules. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, precious time is lost.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, now please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now let me

come to the first issue raised by Shri Anand Sharma whether after 5.00 p.m. – and the other Members also raised and in the Hon. Chairman's Chamber also, I know you came and this issue was raised -- on Friday the Government Business can be enlisted in the List of Business. I only told you, the rule is that two-and-a-half hours is set apart for Private Members' Business and we start the Private Members' Business at 2.30 p.m., that means up to 5.00 p.m. If we took some extra time that is also compensated for. So, after 5.00 p.m. there is nothing wrong, between 5.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m., in including the Government Business in the List of Business. There is nothing wrong in that. That is the first point. Then, the second point is, Shri V.P. Singh Badnore, Shri Derek O' Brien and from this side also, Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, all said to go by the sense of the House. I always go by the sense of the House and the House is supreme. But the sense of the House cannot be on one side only. It should be from both sides. I see from the right side, they are not concurring with your view. *...(Interruptions)...* That means that is not a sense. *...(Interruptions)...* No, sense of the House is *...(Interruptions)...* I tell you the sense of the House means *...(Interruptions)...* See, one second. *...(Interruptions)...* The sense of the House means Treasury Benches and the Opposition Benches should agree. *...(Interruptions)...* The sense of the House cannot be only Opposition Members *...(Interruptions)...* That is the point. I have no problem. *...(Interruptions)...* See, I have no problem, if from the Government's side they agree. *...(Interruptions)...* Today being Friday *...(Interruptions)...* I got your point. I am saying that I have no problem if from the Government's side, they agree, today being Friday and the Members want to go early and most of the flights are at 6.00 p.m. Of course, for me also the flight is at 6.00 p.m. If from the Government's side they agree that today we will sit up to 5.00 p.m., if the Government's side also agree, then I can say there is a *...(Interruptions)...* No, no, sit down, sit down. Then I can say that there is consensus. *(Interruptions)...* But, at present, because the Government has disagreed, I cannot decide on consensus. *...(Interruptions)...* So what is your *...(Interruptions)...* Now, please. *...(Interruptions)...* I go by procedure. *...(Interruptions)...* Yes, consensus means both sides. *...(Interruptions)...* That is all. *...(Interruptions)...*

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी :** सर, इनका ऑब्जेक्शन 6 बजे तक बैठने का नहीं है। इनका ऑब्जेक्शन यह है कि हम कोई गवर्नमेंट बिजनेस नहीं होने देंगे। *...(व्यवधान)...* ऑब्जेक्शन 6 बजे तक बैठना नहीं है, मुख्य ऑब्जेक्शन गवर्नमेंट बिजनेस नहीं होने देना है। अगर इनको लगता है कि इन्हें तुरंत कहीं जल्दी जाना है, तो हमारी request है कि आप आधे घंटे में एक गवर्नमेंट बिजनेस कर लीजिए, एक बिल पास कर दीजिए।

**श्री आनन्द शर्मा :** उपसभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी स्वभाव के अच्छे हैं, मज़ाक कर रहे हैं, गंभीर बात है। अभी ज्यादातर मेम्बर्स चले गए हैं, क्योंकि उनको अपनी फ्लाइट्स पकड़नी हैं। उपसभापति महोदय, सेन्स ऑफ दि हाउस यूनेनिमिटी नहीं होती है। अगर सरकार अपने हठ पर अडिग है, तो फिर आप बहुमत देख लें कि बहुमत क्या चाहता है?

**श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी:** सर, सदन के नेता यहां मौजूद हैं, इसलिए मैं खास तौर से सदन के नेता का ध्यान इस ओर दिलाना चाहता हूं। सर, पूरे सदन की स्थिति को देखते हुए ये स्वयं भी परिचित हैं कि आज अधिकांश सदस्य जा चुके हैं और जो बाकी बचे हैं, उनको भी जाना है। मैं उन्हीं से अनुरोध करूंगा कि वे कृपा करके इस मामले में कोई जिद्द-जिद्दी न करके स्वयं आगे आकर आज शाम के 5.00 बजे का बिजनेस कह दें। हमको क्यों वोटिंग आदि करनी पड़े, इसलिए इस मामले में स्वयं ही कह दें।

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I seek your permission to lay a Report on the Table.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Which Report?

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Sir, Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will call you. Just wait. Please sit down. You can do it later. Then I do not see consensus on this proposal. Therefore, I am going to take up the Private Members' Business. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want you to kindly consider whether the sense of the House means consensus or unanimity. But consensus also does not mean unanimity. Even the word 'consensus' does not mean unanimity. If a large number of parties, the leaders of the parties who have spoken are of this view, then that should be the sense of the House. Minority cannot be the sense of the House even if it is the Ruling Party. Sir, you have to ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sense of the House means both sides. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, we would urge the Government not to ...*(Interruptions)*... We know and the Government also knows; it is not the question. Once we are requesting, then let this not ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have said it. I will be happy if the Government agrees. That I have already said. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Otherwise, in any case ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, let us have a happy weekend. Let the Members go.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, it is not a question of minority. It is the question of the House to function.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: See, you are not deciding on a resolution or a motion. Then it is minority, I agree.

SHRI D. RAJA: That is what I am saying.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Rajaji, the point is, there is a difference between taking a decision on the basis of a vote, that is, majority. Then majority is enough. I agree you may have the majority. But the sense of the House will not be on majority. There is this section of the House also. I cannot ignore this section and say that it is the sense of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, the issue which we are discussing is whether we should continue after 5 o'clock or not. It cannot be a question of a minority or a majority. It is a question of practicality. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, practicality. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Government should also say it.

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी :** सर, अगर आप सेन्स ऑफ दि हाउस यह लेना चाहते हैं कि 5.00 तक हाउस चले या नहीं चले- आपका यही मुद्दा है ना? ...*(व्यवधान)*... एक मिनट, एक मिनट। ...*(व्यवधान)*... क्या है? 6.00 बजे तक हाउस चलने का है कि 6.00 बजे तक चलना चाहिए कि नहीं चलना चाहिए, यही है? ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप मेरी बात सुनिए। सर, दो घंटे का प्राइवेट मेम्बर बिजनेस का टाइम है, अभी तीन बजे हैं और वैसे भी हाउस 6.00 तक चलना है। उसके बाद ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप सेन्स ऑफ दि हाउस ले लीजिएगा। अगर यह सेन्स ऑफ दि हाउस है कि अगर हम कोई गवर्नमेंट बिजनेस नहीं करने देंगे, तो हमें लगता है कि सत्यव्रत जी, यह न्याय नहीं है। प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिजनेस होना चाहिए, कॉलिंग अटेंशन भी होना चाहिए, शॉर्ट ड्यूरेशन डिस्कशन भी होना चाहिए और देश से जुड़े विकास के मुद्दों पर भी चर्चा होनी चाहिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... यदि आप इन पर चर्चा नहीं करेंगे और हाउस को चलने नहीं देंगे, तो यह ठीक नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**श्री आनन्द शर्मा :** सर, मेरा निवेदन है कि ...*(व्यवधान)*... "sense of the House" पर सहमति नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... हमारी भावनाओं को देखा जाए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... हम आपसे निवेदन करते हैं कि हमारी बात को सुना जाए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*... What can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*... I will give you time. ...*(Interruptions)*... Be there. ...*(Interruptions)*... Be there. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will give you time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

The House is adjourned up to 3.30 p.m.

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

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair:*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Opposition wants to say something.

**विपक्ष के नेता (श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद):** डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, मुझे दो बातों का निवेदन करना है। एक निवेदन यह करना है कि माननीय चेयरमैन साहब के यहां, जहां आपकी उपस्थिति थी, वहां भी अलग-अलग पार्टियों के प्रतिनिधियों ने चर्चा की थी कि फ्राइडे के दिन, विशेष रूप से पूरे साउथ के और नॉर्थ ईस्ट के मेम्बर्स ऑफ पार्लियामेंट को सैटरडे, संडे के लिए फ्लाइट पकड़नी होती है। जो अधिकतर फ्लाइट्स होती हैं, आउट-बाउंड फ्लाइट्स, वे 6.00 बजे के लिए होती हैं, शायद इसीलिए हमारे बुजुर्गों ने फ्राइडे को पांच बजे तक हाउस रखा था और सोचा था कि कोई सरकारी बिजनेस न हो। बीच में तय यह हुआ है कि हमारे राज्य सभा का हाउस, जो पहले 5.00 बजे तक होता है, अब 6.00 तक कर दिया जाए। मेरा निवेदन है कि फ्राइडे के दिन सिर्फ 5.00 बजे तक हाउस होना चाहिए, जैसे 2.30 बजे से 5.00 बजे तक प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिजनेस होता है और उसके बाद हाउस एडजोर्न होता है, ताकि मेम्बर्स अपनी-अपनी फ्लाइट्स पकड़ सकें। शायद यह तो बिजनेस एडवाइजरी कमेटी में डिसाइड होगा, लेकिन आज के दिन मेरा यही निवेदन है, मेरा सरकार से भी यही निवेदन होगा कि अधिकतर राजनीतिक दलों की यही इच्छा है कि 5.00 बजे के बाद कोई बिजनेस न हो, न सरकारी हो, न गैर-सरकारी हो, ताकि हमारे अधिकतर ऑनरेबल मेम्बर्स ऑफ दि पार्लियामेंट 6.00 बजे की फ्लाइट्स पकड़ सकें और अपने-अपने राज्यों में जा पाएं। एक तो मेरा सरकार से और माननीय पार्लियामेंटरी अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर, जो यहां हैं, उनसे यही निवेदन होगा कि ऐसी सभी की ख्वाहिश है।

सर, दूसरा मेरा निवेदन है, जो मैं दो-तीन दिनों से देख रहा हूँ कि सरकार की तरफ से इस बात को पेश किया जा रहा है कि जैसे कांग्रेस पार्टी सदन को "नेशनल हेराल्ड" के मुद्दे को लेकर नहीं चलने दे रही है। मैंने पहले भी दो दफे स्पष्ट किया है, लेकिन यह बड़ी दुख भरी बात है कि न किसी चैनल पर वह बात आती है और न किसी प्रिंट-मीडिया में आती है। मैं सभी साथियों से कहूंगा, जो प्रिंट-मीडिया से हैं, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया से हैं, राज्य सभा में जो मैंने परसों चार-पांच मिनट बात की थी और उससे पहले बात की थी, अगर उसको वे देखेंगे, तो मैंने उसमें यह बिल्कुल स्पष्ट कर दिया था कि इस सदन की कार्यवाही न चलने का कारण, न हमें कोर्ट से कोई शिकायत है, न गिला है और न ही नेशनल हेराल्ड से इसका कोई लेना-देना है। कोई संबंध नहीं, कोई संबंध नहीं, मैंने दो बार कहा, तीसरी बार कहना चाहता हूँ, लेकिन ऐसा इम्पेशन दिया जाता है कि कांग्रेस पार्टी नेशनल हेराल्ड के मुद्दे को लेकर पार्लियामेंट नहीं चलने दे रही है। मैंने सदन में यह कहा था, मैं इस बात को मानता हूँ और मैं उसे बुरा नहीं मानता, कि पहले दो दिन अगर सदन नहीं चला तो वह जनरल वी.के. सिंह जी के मुद्दे को लेकर नहीं चला था। जो बात उन्होंने बाहर कही थी, मैं उस मुद्दे को दुबारा दोहराना नहीं चाहता हूँ, सदन में सब उठा है। जनरल वी.के. सिंह के मुद्दे को लेकर बात उठी थी, क्योंकि वे सदन में बैठे थे और उस मुद्दे को लेकर कार्यवाही नहीं चली थी। उसके बाद से अगर दो-तीन दिन से सदन की कार्यवाही नहीं चल रही, तो उसका मुख्य कारण यही है कि जो पिछला सत्र नहीं चला था, उस पिछले सत्र में पूरी दुनिया, पूरा सदन और रूलिंग पार्टी जानती है कि हमने राजस्थान की मुख्य मंत्री के मुद्दे को उठाया था, हमने छत्तीसगढ़ के चीफ मिनिस्टर के बारे में कार्रवाई के लिए कहा था, हमने मध्य प्रदेश के चीफ मिनिस्टर के खिलाफ कार्यवाही के लिए कहा था, लेकिन उस सत्र में सरकार की तरफ से उन मुद्दों को लेकर उनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही नहीं की गई। मैंने अपनी परसों की स्पीच में भी कहा है कि हमारा मुद्दा है कि आप उनको डिसमिस नहीं करते हो, निकालते नहीं हो, कम से कम केन्द्रीय सरकार कोई कार्यवाही तो कर दे, नोटिस तो दे दे। उनके खिलाफ कोई नोटिस नहीं दिया जाता है, उनके खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही भी नहीं की जाती है।...(व्यवधान)...

اُقلد حزب اختلاف (جناب غلام نبی آزاد): ٹپٹی چیئرمین سر، مجھے دو باتوں کا نویدن کرنا ہے۔ ایک نویدن یہ کرنا ہے کہ مائے چیئرمین صاحب کے یہاں، جہاں آپ کی ایستھی تھی، وہاں بھی الگ الگ پارٹیوں کے پرتی-غذہیوں نے چرچہ کی تھی کہ فرانی ڈے کے دن خاص طور سے پورے ساؤتھ اور نارٹھ ایسٹ کے ممبرس آف پارلیمنٹ کو ہفتہ، اتوار کے لئے فلائٹ پکڑنی ہوتی ہے۔ جو زیادہ تر فلائٹس ہوتی ہیں، آؤٹ-ہاؤنڈ فلائٹس، وہ 6-00 بجے کے لئے ہوتی ہیں، شاید اسی لئے ہمارے بزرگوں نے فرانی ڈے کو 5-00 بجے تک ہاؤس رکھا تھا اور سوچا تھا کہ کوئی سرکاری بزنس نہ ہو۔ بیچ میں یہ طے ہوا ہے کہ ہمارے راجہ سیہا کا ہاؤس جو پہلے 5-00 بجے تک ہوتا ہے، اب 6-00 بجے تک کر دیا جائے۔ میرا نویدن ہے کہ فرانی ڈے کے دن صرف 5-00 بجے تک ہاؤس ہونا چاہئے۔ جیسے 2-30 بجے سے 5-00 بجے تک پرائیویٹ ممبرس بزنس ہوتا ہے اور اس کے بعد ہاؤس ایڈجرن ہوتا ہے، تاکہ ممبرس اپنی اپنی فلائٹس پکڑ سکیں۔ شاید یہ تو بزنس ایڈوائزری کمیٹی میں ڈیسائنڈ ہوگا، لیکن آج کے دن میرا بھی نویدن ہے، میرا سرکار سے بھی یہی نویدن ہوگا کہ زیادہ تر سیلنسی پارٹیوں کی یہ خواہش ہے کہ 5-00 بجے کے بعد کوئی بزنس نہ ہو، نہ سرکاری ہو، نہ غیر سرکاری ہو، تاکہ ہمارے زیادہ تر انریبل ممبرس آف دی پارلیمنٹ 6-00 بجے کی فلائٹس پکڑ سکیں اور اپنے اپنے راجیوں میں جا پائیں۔ ایک تو میرا سرکار سے اور مائے پارلیمنٹری ایئرس منسٹر، جو یہاں ہیں، ان سے بھی نویدن ہوگا کہ ایسی سبھی کی خواہش ہے۔

سر، دوسرا میرا نویدن ہے، جو میں دو تین دنوں سے دیکھ رہا ہوں کہ سرکار کی طرف سے اس بات کو پیش کیا جا رہا ہے کہ جیسے کانگریس پارٹی سدن کو 'نیشنل بیرالڈ' کے مذعے کو لے کر نہیں چلے دے رہی ہے۔ میں نے پہلے بھی دو دفعہ واضح کیا ہے، لیکن یہ بڑی دکھ بھری بات ہے کہ نہ کسی چینل پر وہ بات آتی ہے اور نہ کسی پرنٹ میڈیا میں آتی ہے۔ میں سبھی سٹہیوں سے کہوں گا، جو پرنٹ میڈیا سے ہیں، الیکٹرانک میڈیا سے ہیں، راجہ سیہا میں جو میں نے چار پانچ منٹ بات کی تھی اور اس سے پہلے بات کی تھی، اگر اس کو وہ دیکھیں گے، تو میں نے اس میں یہ بالکل واضح کر دیا تھا کہ اس سدن کی کاروائی نہ چلنے کی وجہ، نہ ہمیں کورٹ سے کوئی شکایت ہے، نہ گلا ہے اور نہ ہی نیشنل بیرالڈ سے اس کا کوئی لینا دینا ہے، کوئی سمبندھ نہیں، کوئی سمبندھ نہیں، میں نے دو بار کہا۔ تیسری بار کہنا چاہتا ہوں، لیکن ایسا امپریشن دیا جاتا ہے کہ کانگریس پارٹی نیشنل بیرالڈ کے مذعے کو لے کر پارلیمنٹ نہیں چلے دے رہی ہے۔ میں نے سدن میں یہ کہا تھا، میں اس بات کو مانتا ہوں اور میں اسے برا نہیں مانتا، کہ پہلے دو دن اگر سدن نہیں چلا تو وہ جنرل وی کے سنگھ جی کے مذعے کو لے کر نہیں چلا تھا۔ جو بات انہوں نے باہر کہی تھی، میں اس مذعے کو دوبرا نہیں چاہتا ہوں، سدن میں سب اٹھا ہے۔ جنرل وی کے سنگھ کے مذعے کو لے کر بات اٹھی تھی، کیوں کہ وہ سدن میں بیٹھے تھے اور اس مذعے کو لے کر کاروائی نہیں چلی تھی۔ اس کے بعد سے اگر دو تین دن سے

[श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद]

सदन की कारروائی نہیں چل رہی ہے، تو اس کی خاص وجہ یہی ہے کہ جو پچھلا سیشن نہیں چلا تھا، اس پچھلے سیشن میں پوری دنیا، پورا سدن اور رولنگ پارٹی جانتی ہے کہ ہمارے راجستھان کی مکھیہ منتری کے مذعے کو اٹھایا تھا، ہم نے چھتیس گڑھ کے چیف منسٹر کے بارے میں کارروائی کے لئے کہا تھا، ہم نے مدھیہ پردیش کے چیف منسٹر کے خلاف کارروائی کے لئے کہا تھا، لیکن اس سیشن میں سرکار کی طرف سے ان مذعوں کو لے کر ان کے خلاف کارروائی نہیں کی گئی۔ میں نے اپنی پرسوں کی اسپیک میں بھی کہا ہے کہ ہمارا مذع ہے کہ آپ ان کو ٹسمس نہیں کرتے ہو، نکالتے نہیں ہو، کم سے کم مرکزی سرکار کوئی کارروائی تو کر دے، نوٹس تو دے دے۔ کیوں کہ ان کے خلاف کوئی نوٹس بھی نہیں دیا جاتا ہے، ان کے خلاف کوئی کارروائی نہیں کی جاتی۔ (مداخلت)۔

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना : तो आप चर्चा कीजिए।... (व्यवधान)...

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : क्या चर्चा करें? ... (व्यवधान) ... क्या चर्चा करें? ... (व्यवधान) ... आप लोगों ने सारे कानूनों को ... (व्यवधान) ... आज तक उन लोगों के खिलाफ कोई भी ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद : सर, जब आप दूसरी पार्टियों के खिलाफ, चाहे वह टीएमसी हो, एनसीपी हो, बीएसपी हो, कांग्रेस पार्टी हो या कोई अपोजिशन पार्टी हो, कोई कार्यवाही करते हैं, तो क्या उन पर चर्चा करते हैं? विपक्ष की पार्टियों के खिलाफ सरकार को जब कोई कार्यवाही करनी होती है, उस वक्त चर्चा नहीं होती है, उस वक्त ऐक्शन होता है।... (व्यवधान) ... और जब सत्ताधारी पार्टी के लोगों पर ऐक्शन की बात आई, तो फिर आप चर्चा की बात करते हैं।

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: سر، دوسری پارٹیوں کے خلاف، چاہے وہ ٹی ایم سی ہو، این سی پی ہو یا بی ایس پی ہو یا کانگریس پارٹی ہو، جب آپ کسی اپوزیشن پارٹی کے خلاف کوئی کارروائی کرتے ہیں، تو کیا ان پر چرچہ کرتے ہیں؟ ویکن کی پارٹیوں کے خلاف سرکار کو جب کوئی کارروائی کرنی ہوتی ہے، اس وقت چرچہ نہیں ہوتی ہے، اس وقت ایکشن ہوتا ہے۔ (مداخلت)۔ اور جب سٹہ دھاری پارٹی کے لوگوں پر ایکشن کی بات آئی تو پھر آپ چرچہ کی بات کرتے ہیں۔

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, what is your reaction about the first point that he said?

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी : सर, ऑनरेबल लीडर ऑफ दि अपोजिशन ने जो बात कही है, पहले मैं उनकी पहली बात का जवाब दे दूँ। सर, चाहे कॉलिंग अटेंशन हो, शॉर्ट ड्यूरेशन डिस्कशन हो, प्राइवेट मेम्बर बिजनेस हो या लेजिस्लेटिव बिजनेस हो, वह सब तो होना ही चाहिए, यह सदन इसीलिए है। देश के विकास से, देश की तरक्की से और देश के सम्मान से जुड़े हुए जो सवाल हैं, उन सभी सवालों पर सदन में डिस्कशन हो, डिसीजन हो, यह हम सभी की इच्छा है, मुझे लगता है कि उधर वालों की भी यही इच्छा होगी।

†Transliteration in Urdu Script.



जहां तक आज के विषय पर सवाल आया है, मैं पुराने विषय पर नहीं जाता, आज का विषय यह है कि सदन की कार्यवाही 6.00 बजे तक चलनी चाहिए या नहीं चलनी चाहिए। आपने इस बारे में माननीय सदस्यों से स्वयं पूछा था, लेकिन उसमें कोई यूनेनिमिटी नहीं बनी। जहां तक ऑनरेबल लीडर ऑफ दि अपोजिशन ने कहा कि उधर की पार्टी के कुछ लोग ऑनरेबल चेयरमैन से मिले थे, साथ ही एनडीए एवं कुछ अन्य पार्टियों के लोग भी ऑनरेबल चेयरमैन से मिले थे, तो उन सबका यही कहना था कि प्राइवेट मेम्बर बिल के बाद जो लेजिस्लेटिव बिजनेस लिस्टेड होता है, वह होना चाहिए। अब यहां प्रश्न यह है कि इसमें यूनेनिमिटी नहीं है। अगर यूनेनिमिटी नहीं है तो अब यह आपको डिसाइड करना पड़ेगा। मेरी रिक्वेस्ट तो यही होगी और जैसा ऑनरेबल लीडर ऑफ दि अपोजिशन ने कहा है, ठीक है, आपके विरोध के कारण जो परसेप्शन बना, हो सकता है वह गलत हो। परसेप्शन यह बना है कि आप जो विरोध कर रहे हैं या सदन को चलने नहीं दे रहे हैं, उसका कारण नेशनल हेराल्ड है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... जो परसेप्शन बना है, उस परसेप्शन को ठीक करने का एक ही तरीका है - "देर आए दुरुस्त आए"। जो आने वाला मंडे है, वह गुड डे हो, वर्किंग डे हो, सोमवार एक शुभवार हो और सोमवार से हम लोग अच्छी तरह से काम शुरू करें। देश के सरोकार, देश की तरक्की और देश के विकास से जुड़े हुए जो मुद्दे हैं, हम उन मुद्दों को मिलजुल कर आगे बढ़ाएं। हमें लगता है कि जो कुछ नुकसान हुआ है, उसकी भरपाई हम देर तक बैठकर कर लें, तो सारी चीजें ठीक हो जाएंगी, इसीलिए हमने कहा है - "देर आए दुरुस्त आए"। अगर यह स्थिति बन जाती है, तो बहुत अच्छा होगा।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. Now, I have a view. Therefore, in view of the opinions expressed from all sides and also from this side, I heard and I think, the sense of the House is that today, we will not sit beyond 5 o'clock. That is the first point, but that is only for today. If for other Fridays, a decision has to be taken, it has to be taken by the Business Advisory Committee later on or by the appropriate body on which I am not commenting anything, but I would also join the request of the Minister that let us try to start function from Monday onwards. I would appeal to all Members...

SHRI D. RAJA: What about today?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: About today I will tell you now. I would appeal to hon. Members that from Monday onwards let us work. Let the Government and the Opposition sit together, discuss and thrash out the issues, if any, because hon. LoP has said that the issues are different and you said, 'perception'. Whether it is 'perception' or otherwise, if these issues can be thrashed out, it is well and good. Even otherwise, we are duty bound to function. That is my view. That is my appeal to the hon. Members.

**श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी:** सर, मेरा एक निवेदन है कि आज जिन मेम्बर्स के Private Members' Resolution आये हैं, उनको आगे के लिए postpone कर दिया जाये, ताकि वे लैप्स न होने पायें।

SHRI D. RAJA: If you postpone today's Private Members' Business *i.e.*, Resolutions, kindly allow me to make point. In fact, one Resolution is inconclusive. My Resolution has to be taken up. It is against death penalty. It could not be taken up in the last Session. So, I am requesting the Chair and appealing all sides of the House to take it up on the next day of Private Members' Resolutions.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why cannot we take up Private Members' Business up to 5 pm?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, we can take it up in the next Friday.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Next Friday, Sir.

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO (Telangana): Sir, next Friday.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we will take it up next Friday.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, we can postpone it. Then it will be taken up in the next Session only. The decision should be for the next Session on the day when Resolutions are taken up.

Now, my question is: Why cannot we take up this business today?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no.

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सर, अगर मूड नहीं है, तो रहने दीजिए। सोमवार से अच्छे-अच्छे मूड में काम हो, तो अच्छा है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am ready to conclude today's business on a favourable note.

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY (Odisha): Sir, I want to make a point.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will come to you...*(Interruptions)*...Sit down...*(Interruptions)*...Sit down. You are not allowed. I am not allowing any Member now. You can raise it on Monday.

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Sir, give me just two minutes. I am also a Member, Sir...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not allowed. Sit down. There are so many Members and so many issues...*(Interruptions)*...Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...You cannot raise it now...*(Interruptions)*...Mr, it is Private Members' time. You cannot raise any other issue. Sit down.

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Sir, I take only two minutes. Sir, allow me for two minutes only.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Let me complete. Sit down. You sit down first. First you obey me.

I am ready and happy to end today's business on a favourable note. We can also adjourn the House now. But, hoping against hope, from Monday onwards we will start function smoothly. I am requesting everybody to support me and stand together so that the House functions.

As has been suggested by Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, Shri Raja and others – I think, the Government has also no objection – that today's List of Private Members' Resolution will be, in toto, transferred to the next day when Resolutions will be taken up *i.e.*, during the Budget Session. That is the decision of the House.

Now, there are some Special Mentions.

Mr. Mohanty, you want to raise something. I cannot allow it now. You have given a notice to raise the issue either for Zero Hour or for Special Mention on Monday... (*Interruptions*)...I am not allowing it now. I cannot allow like that.

Now, let us take up Special Mentions.

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**SPECIAL MENTIONS\*—Contd.**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Ambeth Rajan.

SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: \*

**Demand to take steps to prevent air pollution in country, particularly in and around Delhi, Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi**

SHRI AMBETH RAJAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, Article 48A of the Constitution of India states that State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wildlife of country. India participated in the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in June, 1972. In 1981 itself, Government enacted the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act.

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\*Paper laid on the Table.

[Shri Ambeth Rajan]

In spite of all this, quality of air in and around Delhi, Agra, Kanpur, Varanasi and Lucknow is fast deteriorating and has reached an alarming level. The major pollutants of air are PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, CO, O<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub> and Pb. The PM<sub>2.5</sub> is dangerous and can cause adverse health effects owing to its greater penetrability into the human respiratory system and eventual accumulation in human organs and blood. This PM 2.5 is a major pollutant of air, particularly in Delhi, Agra, Kanpur, Varanasi and Lucknow. Overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of Delhi is 135, whereas for Beijing, it is only 56. For this level itself, Beijing has announced red alert and is taking several measures like issuing masks to protect its citizens. Masks are being supplied by Government and private agencies to protect people.

To curb the air pollution, the Government should focus on four main areas – agriculture, construction waste, demolition waste and vehicular pollution. Otherwise, air will become poisonous.

Hence, I urge the Government to take necessary steps to prevent the air pollution, particularly in and around Delhi, Agra, Kanpur, Varanasi and Lucknow.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad.

**Demand to release the remaining funds for early completion of pending projects in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh**

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद** (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, उत्तर प्रदेश का बुन्देलखण्ड क्षेत्र आर्थिक दृष्टि से अत्यन्त पिछड़ा हुआ है। इस पिछड़ेपन को दूर करने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा वर्ष 2009-10 में बुन्देलखण्ड पैकेज स्वीकृत किया गया था, जिसमें 3,521 करोड़ रुपये की धनराशि निर्धारित की गयी थी, जिसके सापेक्ष अभी तक उत्तर प्रदेश को मात्र 1,845.83 करोड़ रुपये की अतिरिक्त केन्द्रीय सहायता अवमुक्त की गयी है। उक्त पैकेज के अन्तर्गत अनुमोदित कई परियोजनाएँ अधूरी हैं- पेयजल हेतु 345.45 करोड़, लघु सिंचाई हेतु 64.50 करोड़, बाँदा कृषि विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में सिंचाई सुविधा से सम्बन्धित 11.93 करोड़ रुपये के कार्य। कुल 421.88 करोड़ रुपये की लागत वाले कार्यों पर सैद्धान्तिक सहमति हो जाने के बाद भी यह धनराशि अभी तक उपलब्ध नहीं हुई है।

वर्ष 2015-16 के केन्द्रीय बजट में बी.आर.जी.एफ. को केन्द्रीय सहायता से डी-लिंक कर दिया गया है तथा बुन्देलखण्ड पैकेज के अन्तर्गत इस सहायता को बन्द कर दिये जाने के कारण जनहित में बुन्देलखण्ड की परियोजनाएँ अधूरी हैं, जिन्हें पूरा किया जाना आवश्यक है। माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा 14 अगस्त के पत्र द्वारा माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी से योजना को वचनबद्धता के अनुरूप अतिरिक्त केन्द्रीय सहायता प्रदान किये जाने तथा योजना को 12वीं योजना अवधि तक यथावत् चलाये जाने का अनुरोध किया गया है।

मैं केन्द्र सरकार से माँग कर रहा हूँ कि बुन्देलखण्ड क्षेत्र में अधूरी योजनाओं को पूरा करने हेतु मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा माँगी गयी बुन्देलखण्ड पैकेज की शेष धनराशि को शीघ्र वित्तीय वर्ष में स्वीकृत कर धनराशि प्रदान की जाये, जिससे बुन्देलखण्ड की अधूरी योजनाओं को पूरा कर किसानों को सिंचाई की सुविधा दिलायी जा सके।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri T.K. Rangarajan, not present. Shri Shantaram Naik, not present. Smt. Kanak Lata Singh.

**Demand for production of ethanol from sugarcane to resolve the problems  
of sugarcane farmers in country**

**श्रीमती कनक लता सिंह** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, इसी सत्र में बताया गया कि वर्ष 2014 में 12,360 किसानों और श्रमिकों ने आत्महत्या की है। इस आँकड़े को देखकर लगता है कि जैसे यह किसी युद्ध में मारे जाने वालों का आँकड़ा हो, पर जब गन्ना किसानों की समस्याओं के समाधान की बात आती है, तो समाधान के नाम पर हिल्ला-हवाली होती है।

आज़ादी के बाद गन्ना किसानों की समस्याओं के समाधान हेतु गन्ने से अन्य उत्पादों के साथ पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों में गन्ने से एथनॉल बनाकर ईंधन में उपयोग का सुझाव आया था। इस दिशा में वर्तमान केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा कैबिनेट की बैठक में निर्णय किया गया कि पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों में एथनॉल बनाकर ईंधन में इस्तेमाल किया जाएगा, परंतु खेद की बात है कि एथनॉल गन्ने से नहीं बल्कि पेट्रोलियम और अन्य पदार्थों से बनाए जाने की दिशा में केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा कार्य किया जा रहा है, जो कि गन्ना किसानों की समस्याओं को दरकिनार करने की योजना प्रतीत हो रही है।

यदि गन्ने से एथनॉल बनाया जाता, तो गन्ना किसानों को इसका सीधा लाभ मिलता, उनकी समस्याएँ दूर हो जातीं, उन्हें उनके गन्ने पर ज्यादा राशि मिलती, पर सरकार की गलत एवं भ्रमित नीतियों की वजह से गन्ने से एथनॉल न बनाकर अन्य पदार्थों से एथनॉल बनाए जाने का निर्णय देश के गन्ना किसानों के साथ धोखा है। इस निर्णय से ऐसा प्रतीत हो रहा है कि गन्ना किसानों की समस्याओं का समाधान यह सरकार चाहती ही नहीं है।

अतः मेरी माँग है कि गन्ने से एथनॉल बनाने पर सरकार विचार करे, जिससे देश के गन्ना किसानों को उचित लाभ मिल सके।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Ahamed Hassan, not present. Dr. Sanjay Singh.

**Demand to take effective measures for career progression of Agricultural  
scientists working in Krishak Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country**

**डा. संजय सिंह** (असम) : महोदय, भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद, नई दिल्ली अपने 600 से अधिक कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्रों के माध्यम से कृषि उत्पादन एवं उत्पादकता वृद्धि का कार्य कर रहा है। अधिकांशतः ये के.वी.के. रिमोट एरिया में ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में ही अवस्थित हैं। आई.सी.ए.आर. के मानकों

[डा. संजय सिंह]

के आधार पर इन के.वी.के. में वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिक एवं वैज्ञानिक पदों को सृजित किया गया है। शोध संस्थानों एवं कृषि विश्वविद्यालयों में विकसित प्रजातियों, तकनीकों एवं यन्त्रों को ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में शोध उपरान्त प्रसारित करना इनका दायित्व है। कृषि क्षेत्रों की मौलिक समस्याओं के निराकरण एवं अन्य शासकीय दायित्वों का निर्वहन कर रहे ये प्रसार वैज्ञानिक अपने कैरियर के विकास का कार्य नहीं कर पाते और 70 प्रतिशत से अधिक वैज्ञानिक जिस पद पर नियुक्त होते हैं, उसी पद से रिटायर हो जाते हैं। वहीं इसी आई.सी.ए.आर. सिस्टम में टीचिंग और रिसर्च सेक्शन में लगे वैज्ञानिक रिसर्च पेपर, बुक मैनुअल का पब्लिकेशन कर एवं इंटरनेशनल एसाइन्मेंट में जुड़ कर लगातार विकास करते हैं। आई.सी.ए.आर. अपने appraisal सिस्टम में आई.सी.ए.आर. इंस्टीट्यूट, स्टेट एग्रीकल्चर इंस्टीट्यूट्स, स्टेट एग्रीकल्चर यूनिवर्सिटीज एवं के.वी.के. को एक जैसे ही फॉरमेट में तुलना करता है, जबकि के.वी.के. सिस्टम में काम कर रहे वैज्ञानिकों की कार्य परिस्थिति एवं कार्य शैली नितांत भिन्न हैं, जहां संस्थानों में वैज्ञानिक स्किल्ड एवं सेमी स्किल्ड लेबर के साथ आदर्श परिस्थितियों में सुविधाओं से सुसज्जित होकर काम करते हैं, वहीं के.वी.के. के वैज्ञानिकों को ग्रामीणों के साथ, ग्रामीणों के अनुसार एवं स्थानीय परिस्थितियों में अध्ययन करने होते हैं।

अतः सदन के माध्यम से मैं मांग करता हूँ कि के.वी.के. वैज्ञानिकों के लिए कैरियर सिक्योरिटी एवं कैरियर एडवांसमेंट की स्पष्ट एवं हितकारी नीति निर्मित की जाए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Palvai Govardhan Reddy.

**Demand to impose three per cent agriculture cess to improve the  
condition of farming in the country**

SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY (Telangana): Sir, we are an agrarian country and farmers made India a food sovereign country. But, unfortunately, in the recent past, farmers, who are behind this outstanding achievement, are resorting to suicides. The fundamental reason behind taking such extreme step is increase in input costs, loss in agricultural operations, spurious seeds/ fertilizers, lack of support price, increased labour cost, acute problems in repayment of debt taken from financial institutions and moneylenders. This is not a healthy sign for Indian agriculture.

Secondly, a dangerous trend is also growing rapidly that farmers are leaving agricultural operations by selling their small land holdings and migrating to urban areas as they are not able to get two square meals a day, leave alone earning something from agriculture. This is resulting in most of farm lands being converted into real estate ventures, thus reducing farm land. If this trend continues, I have no doubt that very soon India will inch back to the old days of 'ship-to-mouth'.

In view of the above and to support farmer and his holdings, I make an appeal to

the Government of India to impose three per cent agriculture cess and the money so accrued should be spent on agriculture and farmers. Pending this, the Government of India should direct all States and Union Territories to allocate, at least, ₹1,000 crore as corpus exclusively for payment to farmers when there is loss in agriculture or when they are in distress or this fund can also be used for marketing, etc. Therefore, I, once again, request the Government of India to seriously consider imposing three per cent cess in the forthcoming Budget.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Palvai Govardhan Reddy.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. V. Maitreyan, not present. Shri C.M. Ramesh, not present.

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**MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA—Contd...**

**The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) 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 101 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to inform you that the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2015 at its sitting held on the 7th December, 2015, were taken into consideration and agreed to by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th December, 2015:-

**CLAUSE 4**

1. That at page 2, *for* lines 25 to 28, the following be *substituted*, namely:-

"transferred to the court having jurisdiction under sub-section (2) of section 142, as amended by the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015, shall be deemed to have been transferred under this Act, as if that sub-section had been in force at all material times."

2. That at page 2, *for* lines 41 to 43, the following be *substituted*, namely:-

"court, such court shall transfer the case to the court having jurisdiction under sub-section (2) of section 142, as amended by the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015, before which the first case was filed and is pending, as if that sub-section had been in force at all material times."

**CLAUSE 5**

3. That at page 2, *for* line 44, the following be *substituted*, namely:-

Repeal	“5.(1) The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment)	Ord. 7 of savings.
and	Second Ordinance, 2015, is hereby repealed.”.	2015.
savings.		

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mohanty, you may give notice on whatever you want to say, for Monday.

The House stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. on Monday, the 14th December, 2015.

*The House then adjourned at forty-six minutes past three  
of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday,  
the 14th December, 2015.*