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Friday

26 February, 2016

7 Phalguna, 1937 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
RAJYA SABHA
OFFICIAL REPORT

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NEW DELHI

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RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 26th February, 2016/7th Phalgun, 1937 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Accounts (2014-15) of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), New Delhi and related papers

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

- (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (5) of Section 18 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987:—
 - (a) Annual Accounts of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), New Delhi, for the year 2014-15, and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 4124/16/16]

Copy (2014-15) of Public Enterprises Survey (Volume I and II)

भारी उद्योग और लोक, उद्यम मंत्री (श्री अनंत गीते): महोदय, मैं 2014-15 के वर्ष के लिए लोक उद्यम सर्वेक्षण (खण्ड I और II) की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 4104/16/16]

Report and Accounts (2014-15) of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), 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 Santosh Kumar Gangwar, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), 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.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 4132/16/16]

- I. Report and Accounts (2013-14) of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad and related papers**
- II. Report and Accounts (2014-15) of the National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT), New Delhi and related papers**
- III. Report and Accounts (2014-15) of the National Horticulture Board, Haryana and related papers**

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

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

(a) Forty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2013-14 (extended upto 01.06.2014), 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) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 4111/16/16]

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

(i) (a) Annual Report of the National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT), New Delhi, for the year 2014-15.

(b) Annual Accounts of the National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT), New Delhi, for the year 2014-15, and the Audit Report thereon.

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

(d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 4110/16/16]

- III. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon, Haryana, 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.

(c) Statement giving reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 4112/16/16]

**PETITION PRAYING FOR ENACTMENT OF A SEPARATE
LEGISLATION FOR OFFENCES OF ROAD RAGE**

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I report to the House, the receipt of a petition signed by Shri Gurjit Singh, a resident of Patiala, Punjab, praying for enactment of a separate legislation for offences of road rage.

**REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA (Jharkhand): Sir, I present the following Reports (in English and Hindi) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests:—

- (i) Two Hundred Seventy-first Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Two Hundred Fifty-sixth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Department of Atomic Energy;
- (ii) Two Hundred Seventy-second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Two Hundred Fifty-fifth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Department of Space;
- (iii) Two Hundred Seventy-third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Two Hundred Fifty-eighth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Department of Science and Technology;
- (iv) Two Hundred Seventy-fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Two Hundred Fifty-ninth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Department of Biotechnology;
- (v) Two Hundred Seventy-fifth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Two Hundred Sixtieth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences;
- (vi) Two Hundred Seventy-sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on

the recommendations contained in the Two Hundred Fifty-seventh Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; and

- (vii) Two Hundred Seventy-seventh Report on "The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015".

**EVIDENCE TENDERED BEFORE DEPARTMENT-RELATED
PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS**

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA (Jharkhand): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy of the Evidence tendered before the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests in relation to its Two Hundred Seventy seventh Report on 'The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015'.

**REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE**

श्री हरिवंश (बिहार): महोदय, मैं विभाग संबंधित रक्षा संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति (2015-16) के निम्नलिखित प्रतिवेदनों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:—

- (i) Fourteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Second Report of the Committee (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2014-15)' of the Ministry of Defence on General Defence Budget (Demand No. 20, 21 and 27);
- (ii) Fifteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Sixth Report of the Committee (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' of the Ministry of Defence on Civil Expenditure of the Ministry of Defence and Capital Outlay on Defence Services (Demand No. 21, 22 and 28);
- (iii) Sixteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Eighth Report of the Committee (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' of the Ministry of Defence on Navy and Air Force (Demand No. 24 and 25); and

- (iv) Seventeenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Ninth Report of the Committee (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' of the Ministry of Defence on Ordnance Factories and Defence Research and Development Organisation (Demand No. 26 and 27).

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that a letter has been received from Shri Vijay Goel stating that due to a serious accident, he is unable to attend the sittings of the current (238th) Session of Rajya Sabha for fifteen days.

Does he have the permission of the House for remaining absent for fifteen days of the current (238th) Session of Rajya Sabha from 23rd February, 2016?

(No hon. Member dissented)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I hope the House agrees. Yes, permission to remain absent is granted.

STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 29th of February, 2016, will consist of:—

1. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Lok Sabha —
 - (i) The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016 — 1 hour
 - (ii) The National Waterways Bill, 2015 — 2 hours
 - (iii) The Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2015 — 2 hours
 - (iv) The Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 2015 — 2 hours
 - (v) The High Court and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2015 — 3 hours
2. Further consideration and passing of Whistleblower Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015 — 3 hours

3. Discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address — 12 hours
4. General discussion on the Budget (Railways) for 2016-17
5. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's order paper.

**RE. RAISING OF VARIOUS ISSUES LIKE JNU AND HURTING OF
RELIGIOUS SENTIMENTS BY HON'BLE MEMBERS**

सुश्री मायावती (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभापति जी, जेएनयू और रोहित के मामले में जो चर्चा चल रही है ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. One second. I will allow you. Just a minute. I only want...

सुश्री मायावती: हमारी पार्टी यह चाहती है कि ज़ीरो ऑवर और क्वेश्चन ऑवर को सस्पेंड करके सबसे पहले उस पर माननीय मंत्री का जवाब होना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Rajasthan): Sir, before anything is raised, we would like to draw the attention of the Chair. ...(Interruptions)...

सुश्री मायावती: सर, आप उनको हाउस में बुलाएं और वे डिबेट का जवाब दें। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I got the point; I understand. Your point is valid. I will come to that. ...(Interruptions)... I will come back to all of you. One minute.

श्री के. सी. त्यागी (बिहार): सर, जो बहन मायावती जी ने कहा है, मैं उसका सपोर्ट करता हूं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: त्यागी जी, बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... I will call you. I have only one request. Kumari Mayawati has raised a point, very relevant and pertinent. Mr. Anand Sharma, you too want to say something. I will allow you. But first, I would listen and react. After that, let us keep quiet. Even yesterday, we could not take up Zero Hour. Today we have to take up the Zero Hour. Many Members are after me.

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA (Odisha): Sir, when will the Minister reply?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would be coming to that. I said, that is a subject. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Anand Sharma, let me first dispose of this matter first, as she stood up first. Kumari Mayawati, your point is this. You have said that an assurance was given by the Minister. Isn't it?

सुश्री मायावती: माननीय उपसभापति जी, मेरा यह कहना है कि जेएनयू और श्री रोहित के प्रकरण बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण हैं। इनके ऊपर जो डिबेट चल रही थी, उस पर माननीय मंत्री को

जवाब देना था, लेकिन कल उन्होंने उसका पूरा जवाब नहीं दिया। मेरी आपसे यह रिक्वेस्ट है माननीय मंत्री को सदन में बुलाया जाए और वे इस डिबेट का जवाब दें। इसके लिए जरूरत हो तो आप जीरो ऑवर और क्वेश्चन ऑवर को भी सस्पेंड करे, यह बहुत जरूरी है। मंत्री जी आ गई हैं, आप इनसे बोलिए कि ये इसका जवाब दें। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I have a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. No point of order now. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sit down. Let me respond to a Leader. ...*(Interruptions)*... You may sit down.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Mine is also a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Anand Sharma, I will call you next. One minute. Let me deal with that. Otherwise, everything would go *topsy-turvy*. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am assuring you that I would call you. Now, the first point is, on the matter raised by Kumari Mayawati, the Chair is also involved, because the day-before-yesterday, Kumari Mayawati has made a demand, and that demand is known to everybody. It was that a *dalit* member should be appointed in the Judicial Commission.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): That is our demand too.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: On that ground, the House was stalled for three-four hours and finally, some leaders of the parties came to me and requested me, saying that I should also take an initiative in resolving it and, therefore, there was some kind of an agreement. It was that the Government, or the concerned Minister, while replying, would respond to that particular question. Then, the hon. Member, Ms. Mayawati, said that the Chair should endorse that and should also say that. Because I was so eager to see the House functioning smoothly – otherwise, I should not have been party to that – because I was anxious to see the House functioning smoothly, I also agreed and endorsed what the Government said, that her specific demand will be responded to. I too made an additional comment from my side 'that the Government may consider it seriously'. So, I made that remark. Therefore, your demand is correct. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no. Let the Minister also listen. It is for the Government or, whoever is the Minister responsible, to come to the House and respond to the demand of Kumari Mayawati, which is a commitment here. That is number one. That has to be done. We will decide the time. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, you must keep quiet. Let me say. What is your problem? ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Anand Sharma, be brief and speak to the point. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I am on a point of order. *...(Interruptions)...*
Mr. Deputy Chairman, I want your ruling. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Cooperate with me. *...(Interruptions)...* Cooperate with me. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, we, as Members of this House, take oath as Members to uphold the Constitution. Now, the Constitution of India does not allow anything which can be said or uttered which is blasphemous. If there is any legal sanction that they can be repeated for what is inflammatory, provocative, insulting and disrespectful about any God, Prophet or Goddesses *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Silence please. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: सर, मेरी बात सुनिए, हमारा समाज बहुधर्मी समाज है, यहां दुनिया के सब धर्म हैं और हर धर्म का बराबर का सम्मान है। किसी न किसी धर्म गुरु के बारे में, देवी-देवता के बारे में किसी न किसी व्यक्ति ने हमारे यहां भी और देश के बाहर भी टिप्पणी की है, कुछ लिखा है, कोई कार्टून बनाए हैं। उन्हें सभ्य समाज ने कभी स्वीकार नहीं किया। अब अगर ऐसी कोई वारदात है, जो सरकार के संज्ञान में है *...(व्यवधान)...*

सर, मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि कोई भी सदस्य, विशेष तौर पर केंद्रीय मंत्री जब सदन में चर्चा का उत्तर दे रहे हों, क्या ऐसी कोई बात को, जो कि आपत्तिजनक है, अपमानजनक है, फिर चाहे वह किसी भी ने कही, किसी ने भी लिखी है, जो अपमानजनक है और देश के लोगों की भावनाओं को ठेस पहुंचाती है, कही जा सकती है?

महोदय, कल सदन में दुर्गा मां के बारे में किसी ने कहा, उसे आप गिरफ्तार करें, कार्रवाई करें। मैं उसकी निन्दा नहीं कर रहा हूं, निन्दा तो है ही, बल्कि मैं कह रहा हूं कि कार्रवाई भी करें, क्योंकि सरकार में आप हैं। दुर्गा मां के बारे में कल जो अपमानजनक बात सदन में कही गई, जबकि हम आग्रह करते रहे कि उसे बन्द करिए, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं किया गया, इसलिए जब तक उस पर माफी नहीं होती *...(व्यवधान)...* I want your ruling that nothing which is blasphemous will ever be said in this House against any Prophet, God or any deity. *...(Interruptions)...* आप उसे रिकॉर्ड से निकालिए। यह कभी स्वीकार्य नहीं होगा। *...(व्यवधान)...*

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी): सर, कल ऑनरेबल मिनिस्टर ने जो रिप्लाय दिया और रिप्लाय के समय जो स्थिति बनी, जिस तरह से हंगामा हुआ और जिस तरह से सदन की कार्यवाही को बाधित करने का प्रयास किया गया। *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please *...(Interruptions)...* No, no. *...(Interruptions)...*
Mr. Anand Sharma, let me solve it. *...(Interruptions)...* Let me solve it. *...(Interruptions)...*
Let me hear it. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सर, माननीय आनन्द शर्मा जी सब कुछ जानते हैं, मैं उनका बहुत सम्मान करता हूं। वे और हम जानते हैं कि संविधान में हमारी क्या जिम्मेदारियां हैं। हम

जानते हैं कि दुर्गा मां का भी अपमान नहीं होना चाहिए और भारत मां का भी अपमान नहीं होना चाहिए। हम जानते हैं कि संविधान में हमारी क्या जिम्मेदारियां हैं। हम यह भी जानते हैं कि देश में अगर कहीं कोई भारत विरोधी हरकत हो रही है, तो उसे भी रोकने का अधिकार हमें देश के संविधान ने ही दिया है। यह हमारा संकल्प है और उसके लिए हमारा कमिटमेंट होना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, दूसरी चीज है कि जिस मुद्दे को लेकर आदरणीय आनन्द शर्मा जी ने आपत्ति की है, मुझे लगता है कि यहां ऑनरेबल मिनिस्टर बैठी हुई हैं, अगर आपने माना कि चर्चा पूरी हुई और चर्चा के बाद मिनिस्टर का रिप्लाय था, वह खत्म हो गया है, तो मुझे लगता है कि आप इस संबंध में रिकॉर्ड को देख लीजिए। अगर रिप्लाय को पूरा नहीं मानते, तो जब ऑनरेबल मिनिस्टर उसका रिप्लाय कंटीन्यू करेंगी। तब वे बताएंगी कि उन्होंने क्या कहा और उसके बारे में उनका क्या ब्यु है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I want your ruling. ...**(Interruptions)**... I want your ruling. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will give you. ...**(Interruptions)**... I will give you my ruling. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I want your ruling कि केंद्रीय मंत्री ने, जो ऐसा कागज छपा, लिखा और बांटा गया, उसे सदन में पूरा पढ़ा, जो घोर आपत्तिजनक और अपमानजनक बात थी, जिससे हमारे देश के 100 करोड़ लोगों की धार्मिक भावनाओं को ठेस पहुंची, जिसे टेलिविज़न ने पूरे देश के घर-घर में दिखाया, उसे हम कैसे स्वीकार करें? हर घर के अन्दर वह गया, सदन में वह पढ़ा गया। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आज तक बात को तोड़ा-मरोड़ा गया है, जिसको आज हम स्वीकार करने वाले नहीं हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me deal with this. ...**(Interruptions)**... You sit down. ...**(Interruptions)**... Let me deal with this. ...**(Interruptions)**... Now, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy. ...**(Interruptions)**... Mr. Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, what do you want to say? Do you want to say something on this subject?

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Yes, Sir. Sir, nobody can hurt the sentiments of our people, so far as the religious sentiments are concerned. Particularly, there cannot be any derogatory remark against any God or Goddess, including Maa Durga. Therefore, whatever has been said and printed about Maa Durga by making some derogatory and insulting remarks should be also condemned by each and all. This is my submission. ...**(Interruptions)**... मां दुर्गा का हम पूजन करते हैं। मां दुर्गा किसी का सैलिंग प्वाइंट नहीं हो सकता।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, what should the Chair do in this?

श्री सुखेन्दु शेखर राय: किसी का goods नहीं हो सकता बेचने के लिए। जिस तरह मां दुर्गा का अपमान किया गया है, उसको भी कंडेम करना पड़ेगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री के. सी. त्यागी: सर, ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Tyagiji, do you want to speak on this subject? Then only, I will allow.

SHRI K. C. TYAGI: Yes, Sir, I want to speak on this subject. ...(Interruptions)... सर, पिछले काफी समय से ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Sir, under the Constitution, one can worship any God. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Parida, sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Everyone has a right to worship...(Interruptions)... One can worship Maa Durga; one can worship Mahishasur...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tyagi, you speak. Mr. Parida, you sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: No one should object to it. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tyagi, you say briefly in one sentence.

श्री के. सी. त्यागी: मैं बहुत जल्दी कह रहा हूँ ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to take up Zero Hour.

SHRI K. C. TYAGI: I want to speak. ...(Interruptions)... He is speaking ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing him. Only Mr. K. C. Tyagi...(Interruptions)... I have to take up Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Parida, sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Tyagi, what do you want to say?

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: उसके बाद जब आनरेबल मिनिस्टर कहेंगी तब ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI K. C. TYAGI: Sir, very humbly, I want to say पिछले दो तीन महीनों से ...(व्यवधान).... एक ही मिनट में खत्म कर दूंगा।

श्री उपसभापति: इसके बारे में कुछ बोलना है तो बोलो। हमें क्या करना है, हमें क्या करना है, बोलो। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री के. सी. त्यागी: इससे पहले प्रोफेट को लेकर के एक पर्चा हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश में छपा। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, I don't want to hear all those things. What should I do in this case? Have you got any suggestion?

श्री के. सी. त्यागी: मेरा यह कहना है ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What should I do in this case? You give your suggestion.

श्री के. सी. त्यागी: सर, मेरा सजेशन यह है और मैं इसको कोई गरम नहीं करना चाहता, हिन्दू हो या मुसलमान, सिख हो या ईसाई हो ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: यह सब को मालूम है।

श्री के. सी. त्यागी: किसी के भी धर्मगुरु, देवी और देवता के बारे में सदन के बाहर जो घटनाएं घटती हैं, उसको जस का तस यहां रखना ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: सब समझते हैं, अभी क्या करना है, वह बोलो।

श्री के. सी. त्यागी: मंत्री महोदय को अनकडीशनल माफी मांगनी चाहिए। अगर ये माफी नहीं मांगती हैं, तो सदन की कार्यवाही से निकाला जाना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; I don't want to continue this discussion. I want to move to Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)... Zero Hour is there. ...(Interruptions)... You go back to your seat. ...(Interruptions)... जीरो ऑवर लेना है। What is this, Mr. Tapan Kumar Sen? ...(Interruptions)... Your Zero Hour is there. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, this derogatory demeaning of God to divert the offences that they have committed ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tapan Kumar Sen, you tell me as to what should I do.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: By picking up wrong men with concocted evidence ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; it is not allowed.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not going on record. ...(Interruptions)... Have you got any suggestion to the Chair to solve this issue? If not, keep quiet. ...(Interruptions)... Sit down. ...(Interruptions)... All of you sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Sir, I want to say something on this issue. ...(Interruptions)... I have a point. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All of you sit down. Let me solve this. ...(Interruptions)... All of you sit down. ...(Interruptions)... I cannot allow that point of order now. I have to solve this. ...(Interruptions)... See, I was only asking... (Interruptions)... Have you got a suggestion? ...(Interruptions)...

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): Sir, may I say something?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will call you. *...(Interruptions)...* Have you got a suggestion to the Chair to solve it? Then I am ready to listen to that.

SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Sir, I am giving a suggestion. Please listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Before that, hon. Minister, would you like to say something now? *...(Interruptions)...* No reply.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am just making a statement here. *...(Interruptions)...* I am not replying. I am just making a statement here. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I only said, no reply now. *...(Interruptions)...* On this point, have you got anything to say? *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Yesterday, I declared that I was humbly hearing every voice in this House. There were challenges thrown with regard to the veracity of certain statements made. Anand Sharma ji very rightfully says that we all spoke about what is free speech under the Constitution that binds us in this House and the other. The Leader of the House also spoke about what is free speech, and, whether hate speech or seditious speech is a free speech. That is a matter of record. Another gentleman in this very House...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't go into that. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री नीरज शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश): यह सब वोट के लिए हो रहा है। *...(व्यवधान)...* वोट की राजनीति हो रही है। *...(व्यवधान)...*

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Sir, please allow me to...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You stick to this point. *...(Interruptions)...* No, no. *...(Interruptions)...* Only on this specific point. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Sir, I will sit down after I finish. *...(Interruptions)...* Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, all I would like to say is that I was asked yesterday pointedly as to whether what I was reading was authentic. These are authenticated documents from the university itself, which has been proclaimed as a temple of learning and internationally acclaimed. These are not documents of the Government. I read them because I was asked to give a proof. Here, I would also like to say... *...(Interruptions)...* I would also like to say, I myself am a practicing Hindu. *...(Interruptions)...* I myself am a Durga worshipper. *...(Interruptions)...* I said

it with a lot of pain, what is a free speech that certain political entities are giving respectability to. ...(Interruptions)... All other statements that I made... ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. You can say all these things at the time of reply. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: There is absolutely no problem quoting these very things. ...(Interruptions)... What they have a problem is in my reading out authenticated documents highlighting what they supported. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: This is politics. ...(Interruptions)... This is unacceptable.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Now, Zero Hour submissions. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Pramod Tiwari. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Pramod Tiwari... ...(Interruptions)...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: हम इसे स्वीकार नहीं कर सकते। ...(व्यवधान)... हम संतुष्ट नहीं हैं। प्रश्न यह है कि अगर किसी ने बाहर कोई ऐसी बात कही है तो क्या आप उसको यहां दोहराना चाहते हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री जावेद अली खान: आपको हमें सुनने में क्या परेशानी है? ...(व्यवधान)...

---(مداخلت)--- جناب دیجاو یعل خان : آپ کو ۛیہ سننے ۛیم ایک ۛیر شانی ہے؟

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't you want me to take up Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)... No, no. You cannot derail Zero Hour like this. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, we want Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)... Every day, there is... ...(Interruptions)...

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार): आप रूलिंग दे दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... इस सदन में पढ़ दिया जाए। ...(व्यवधान)... आपकी रूलिंग चाहिए। कहीं भी ट्रेन में, बस में तरह-तरह के पर्चे बंटते हैं, उन्हें लाकर यहां पढ़ दिया जाए, जो किसी के सेंटिमेंट्स को ...(व्यवधान)... आप रूलिंग दे दीजिए। अगर मंत्री पढ़ेंगे ...(व्यवधान)... क्या सबूत है? वह आदमी अपने से छपवाकर भी बंटवा सकता है। कोई भी बंटवा सकता है। आप रूलिंग दे दीजिए कि कहीं का कोई पर्चा, पोस्टर लाकर यहां रख दिया जाए? यह क्या तरीका है? आप मंत्री को मना कीजिए। यह परिपाटी बनेगी तो कल को कोई भी पर्चा लाकर यहां पढ़ देगा। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are correct. I posed the question to the House. ...(Interruptions)... आपने जो कहा, ठीक है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी: कोई बाहर का पर्चा बिना आपकी इजाज़त के लाकर ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: आप बैठिए। मैं आपकी बात समझ गया हूं। ...(व्यवधान)... आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... आपने जो कहा, वह ठीक है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नीरज शेखर: समाचार पत्रों में क्या आता है, हम लोग यहां लाकर पढ़ दें? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी: आप रूलिंग दे दीजिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What you said is correct. I am not disagreeing with you. I am telling you that I asked the House: Is there any suggestion for the Chair? ...(Interruptions)... Nobody said. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, every day, the Zero Hour is killed. ...(Interruptions)... We want Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Anyhow, yesterday, I had committed that today there will be Zero Hour. Now, I am taking up Zero Hour. I have to take it. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नीरज शेखर: सर, जावेद जी को कुछ बोलना है। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, you have asked the House ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please ask your Members to keep quiet. ...(Interruptions)... I have to take up Zero Hour also. Please cooperate with me. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: We will cooperate. We are very much interested in cooperation. We are very much interested in running the Business of the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is your suggestion? Please tell me.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: But it is a very serious issue, which we are discussing at this moment.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What should I do?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: It is very simple. The hon. Minister should apologize to the House for what she has said yesterday. ये तमाम शब्द इस्तेमाल नहीं कर सकती हैं, जैसा कि हमारी साथी श्री आनन्द शर्मा जी ने बताया। हमारे बहुत सारे रिलिजियस गुरु हैं, उनके खिलाफ तो दुनिया भर में एक कैम्पेन होता है, अलग अलग सोच के लोग हैं, लेकिन हम उनको उसी जुबान में,

† یہ تمام الفاظ استعمال نہیں کر سکتی ہیں، جیسا کہ ہمارے ساتھ شری آنند شرما جی نے بتایا۔ ہمارے بہت سارے ریلیجنس گرو ہیں، ان کے خلاف تو دنیا بھر میں ایک

کیمپین ہوتا ہے، الگ الگ سوچ کے لوگ ہیں، لیکن ہم ان کو بھی اسی زبان میں the same language we never use either in the Press or in the media, print or electronic, and least on the floor of the House. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, every day this is happening. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; please don't ...(Interruptions)...

श्री गुलाब नबी आजाद: इसलिए इसको प्रोसीडिंग से निकाल देना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)... और उससे पहले माफी मांगनी चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

† جناب غلام نبی آزاد : اس لئے اس کو پروسیڈنگ سے نکال دینا چاہئے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔ اور اس سے پہلے معافی مانگنی چاہئے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: सर, ऑनरेबल लीडर ऑफ द अपोजिशन ने एक बात कही है। हम पिछले दो सत्र से एक बात देख रहे हैं कि एक "शॉर्ट ड्यूरेशन", दो "कॉलिंग अटेंशन" और एक "apology" ये होता है और सदन में कोई भी लेजिस्लेटिव काम नहीं होता। ...(व्यवधान)... एक "शॉर्ट ड्यूरेशन" डिस्कशन होगा, दो "कॉलिंग अटेंशन" होंगे और एक "apology" होगी। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, this is unfair. ...(Interruptions)... This is unfair, Sir. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: अपोलजी किसलिए, इसलिए कि हमने कह दिया कि राहुल गांधी को राष्ट्रदोहियों के काम में हिस्सेदारी, भागीदारी नहीं करनी चाहिए? ...(व्यवधान)... हमने कह दिया कि जो कुछ वहां हो रहा था, उसने देश के सम्मान और स्वाभिमान को चुनौती दी है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. ...(Interruptions)... All right. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: हमने यह कह दिया कि हम देश के आतंकवादियों के साथ कोई समझौता नहीं करेंगे। ...(व्यवधान)... आप कहेंगे कि नहीं "apology" मांगो। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Minister, please sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: आप जो करेंगे, वह पुण्य और हम जो करेंगे, वह अपुण्य, यह नहीं चलेगा। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, all of you please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Hon. Members, please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Minister, please sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: देश की प्रोग्रेस को रोकना देश हित में नहीं है, न आपके हित में है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, please sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: हमारा आपसे अनुरोध है कि ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, that can't remain on records. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, *...(Interruptions)...* No, no; I am not allowing anybody. *...(Interruptions)...* Let me say. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: That can't remain on records. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing. *...(Interruptions)...* Sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* Let me say. *...(Interruptions)...* You sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* Hon. Members, I have to say something. Now I am forced to say this. It is a tradition of this House from the very time this House is constituted that no blasphemy will be said here by any Member. Nothing will be said which hurts the feeling of any community. That is a tradition of this House. *...(Interruptions)...* Therefore, what I can do now... *...(Interruptions)...* Please keep quiet. *...(Interruptions)...* Therefore, what I can do now *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI V. P. SINGH BADNORE (Rajasthan): Sir, I have one thing to say. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; you please sit down. You are a Vice-Chairman. I am speaking. Why do you want to intervene? You create problem and put me into trouble. *...(Interruptions)...* If you want, you can solve it. I know it. *...(Interruptions)...* Now, listen. Now you want me to take the burden. So, I am telling you, I will go through the record. Anything that is blasphemy or amounts to blasphemy will be expunged. *...(Interruptions)...* That's all what can I do? *...(Interruptions)...* That is over. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, the Minister has accused us. *...(Interruptions)...* The Minister has accused us that we want only Short Duration Discussion and Calling Attention Motion, and we don't want to pass any legislative business. That's a wrong accusation. *...(Interruptions)...* We have *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Now, Mr. Anand Sharma, *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should withdraw his allegation. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Zero Hour, Mr. Pramod Tiwari. *...(Interruptions)...* Mr. Pramod Tiwari. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, he has to withdraw his accusation. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: इधर से बहाना कर के *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pramod Tiwari, please say. ...(Interruptions)... You speak. You ignore all others. ...(Interruptions)...

सुश्री मायावती: उपसभापति महोदय ...(व्यवधान)... उपसभापति महोदय, हमारी पार्टी ने रोहित वेमुला के मामले में मांग की थी, उसके बारे में कोई जवाब नहीं आया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, आज से कुछ दिन पहले ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In your case, I will give direction after this. ...(Interruptions)... I have called him. He is speaking. I will come to you. ...(Interruptions)... I know that. ...(Interruptions)... I will do that. ...(Interruptions)... I will do that. मैं करूंगा, आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... आप बैठिए, मैं करूंगा। ...(व्यवधान)... श्री प्रमोद तिवारी। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री जावेद अली खान: सर, हम भी एक बड़ी पार्टी के सदस्य हैं।

†جناب جاوید علی خان (اترپردیش): سر، ہم بھی ایک بڑی پارٹی کے سدسئیے ہیں۔

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, please. ...(Interruptions)... Please. ...(Interruptions)... Please. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री जावेद अली खान: हमें भी मौका दिया जाए।

†جناب جاوید علی خان (اترپردیش): ہمیں بھی موقع دیا جائے۔

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Tiwariji, are you speaking? ...(Interruptions)... Do you want to speak?

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Yes, Sir. ...(Interruptions)... I am speaking. ...(Interruptions)...

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Need for CBI inquiry into the launch of cheapest mobile phone for ₹ 251

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, आज से कुछ दिन पहले उत्तर प्रदेश के नोएडा में एक बड़े भाजपा के नेता, जो मार्गदर्शक मंडल के सदस्य हैं, उनकी उपस्थिति में 251 रुपए में स्मार्ट फोन देने का एक कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया। ₹ 251. I am using the word. सर, क्या 251 रुपए में स्मार्ट फोन दिया जा सकता है? सर, 6 करोड़ फोन्स की बुकिंग हुई है और 251 रुपए के हिसाब से यह रकम सैकड़ों करोड़ों में बैठती है। इस फर्म के डायरेक्टर ने खुद कहा है कि हम जब इस फोन का प्लांट लाएंगे, तो हमें फोन 1400 में पड़ेगा। अब ये 1400 में लाएंगे और 251 रुपए में बेचेंगे। सर, मैं निश्चित रूप से आरोप लगाना चाहता हूं कि यह सरकार एक बहुत बड़ा घोटाला करने जा रही है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि उपभोक्ता के हित संरक्षण के

[श्री प्रमोद तिवारी]

लिए इस पैसे को सुरक्षित रखा जाए। मैं एक चीज और आपके संज्ञान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि जिस फर्म ने यह कहा है वह एक परचून की दुकान चलाती है। उसके पास कोई assets नहीं हैं। सर, अब दूसरा सवाल उठाता हूँ कि अगर 251 रुपए में स्मार्ट फोन संभव है तो फिर सरकार 20 हजार और 30 हजार रुपए में जो फोन बिकवा रही है, तो या तो वह गलत है और उसमें घोटाला करा रही है या यह घोटाला कराने जा रही है।

सर, हम इसे बहुत गम्भीरता से नहीं लेते, लेकिन चूंकि भारतीय जनता पार्टी के नेताओं की उपस्थिति में यह प्रोडक्ट लांच हुआ है जिसमें जनता के पैसे का बहुत बड़ा घोटाला होने जा रहा है, इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप सरकार को निर्देश दें और सरकार यहां आश्वस्त करे कि 251 रुपए वाला जो यह घोटाला हो रहा है, जिसमें इनके नेता खुद शामिल हैं। ये कहते थे "मेक इन इंडिया", लेकिन अब ये "मेक इन फ्रॉड" करने जा रहे हैं और उसका सारा-का-सारा श्रेय भारतीय जनता पार्टी के उन नेताओं को है, जिनके संरक्षण में यह चल रहा है। मैं खुद वह फोटो आपको दिखा सकता हूँ और आपके सामने साक्ष्य प्रस्तुत कर सकता हूँ जिन लोगों की उपस्थिति में यह हुआ है। सर, मैं एक सीधी से बात कह रहा हूँ। सर, सैकड़ों सौ करोड़ रुपए बिना लाइसेंस के जमा हो चुके हैं। इसलिए मेरा निश्चित आरोप है कि यह भारतीय जनता पार्टी के शासन में होने वाला सबसे बड़ा घोटाला है। इसलिए इस बारे में सरकार तुरंत जवाब दे कि उपभोक्ताओं का पैसा सुरक्षित रखा जाएगा, उनका पैसा कहीं नहीं जाएगा या 20 हजार रुपए में जो फोन बिक रहे हैं, उसमें इनकी हिस्सेदारी है या इस 251 रुपए में बिकने वाले फोन में इनकी हिस्सेदारी है। मैं यह बहुत अफसोस से आपसे कहना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO (Telangana): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI PANKAJ BORA (Assam): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we also associate ourselves with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

श्री नरेंद्र बुढानिया (राजस्थान): महोदय, मैं इस मेशन के साथ अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री नीरज शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी इस भी मेशन से अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल (महाराष्ट्र): सर, मैं इस मेशन से अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Tarun Vijay. ...(Interruptions)... Shri Tarun Vijay. ...(Interruptions)... Shri Tarun Vijay. ...(Interruptions)... Shri Tarun Vijay. No? ...(Interruptions)... Shri K. C. Tyagi. ...(Interruptions)... It is Zero Hour. You cannot interrupt. ...(Interruptions)... Sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Shri K. C. Tyagi. ...(Interruptions)... Shri K. C. Tyagi. ...(Interruptions)... Not during Zero Hour. Sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Shri K. C. Tyagi. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नीरज शेखर: सर, यह ठीक नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)...

Concern over recent death of soldiers in Siachen Glacier

श्री के. सी. त्यागी (बिहार): सर, मैं एक राष्ट्रीय महत्व के विषय की तरफ आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ और आशा करता हूँ कि मंत्रिमंडल के कोई सदस्य मेरे सवाल पर सरकार का पक्ष रखेंगे। सर, हनुमनथप्पा और 9 अन्य सैनिक हमारे देश की सीमाओं की रक्षा करते हुए शहीद हुए। सर, हमारे पूरे सदन का सिर उनके सम्मान में झुकता है। सर, आपने भी उन्हें श्रद्धांजलि दी है। वहां पर मायनस 45 से मायनस 50 डिग्री टेंपरेचर रहता है। हर साल कई दर्जन लोग इधर से भी और उधर से भी मरते हैं। जब स्वर्गीय राजीव गांधी प्रधान मंत्री थे, मैंने समाचार-पत्रों से यह पता लगाया कि उन्होंने ऐसी पहल करने का प्रयास किया था कि दोनों तरफ की सरकारें ऐसा कुछ इंतजाम करें कि वहां पर सैनिकों की इस तरह की शहादत न होने पाए।

सर, वहां पर जो दो रूपए की रोटी बनती है, वह 200 रूपए में सियाचिन में पहुंचती है। हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार आजादी के 60 साल के बाद भी ऐसा कोई इंतजाम नहीं कर पाई कि कपड़े भी देश में बनते हों। यहां पर पूर्व रक्षा मंत्री महोदय बैठे हैं, ये लम्बे समय तक रक्षा मंत्री रहे हैं, ए. के. अन्तोनी साहब। मैं चाहूंगा कि वे भी इसमें मेरी मदद करें। वहां पर जो सैनिकों के लिए जैकेट्स आ रही हैं और जो सांस लेने की मशीनें आ रही हैं, सब विदेशों की बनीं हैं। जब आप पाकिस्तान से वार्ता कर रहे हैं कि एक हजार चीजों पर क्रिकेट होना चाहिए या नहीं होनी चाहिए, मैं राजीव शुक्ल जी से क्षमा-याचना सहित कहना चाहूंगा कि यह वार्ता कहां होनी चाहिए, काठमांडू में होनी चाहिए या कहीं और होनी चाहिए? आप उस पर वार्ता कर रहे हो, तो आप इस बार पाकिस्तान से जो वार्ता करें, उसमें यह बात शामिल करें। चूंकि वह no men land है, इसलिए वहां से सैनिकों की सुरक्षा के इंतजाम के साथ-साथ वार्ता में यह भी शामिल किया जाए कि दोनों तरफ की सेना वहां के ऐसे दुर्गम इलाकों से हटे, ताकि हमारे भारतीय सैनिकों की शहादत का सिलसिला कम हो। यह ऐसा प्रश्न है, इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि ए. के. अन्तोनी साहब से लेकर, उधर तो रक्षा मंत्री जी कई और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विषयों पर संलग्न होंगे, लेकिन मैं चाहूंगा कि पूरा सदन इस पर अपनी चिंता व्यक्त करे और हमारे सैनिकों की जो लगातार बेवजह शहादत हो रही है, उसको रोका जा सके, धन्यवाद।

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री दिलीप कुमार तिकी (ओडिशा): उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन (बिहार): उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

Ongoing plight of Tamil Nadu fishermen

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the plight of the Tamil Nadu fishermen, who are being harassed by the Sri Lankan Navy, is an issue which we have been raising time and again in this House. And all my esteemed colleagues have joined me. But this has become a sermon, for no improvement is seen. We have been raising this issue in every Session. We have to raise this issue. We have been struggling for the past three days to bring this issue. The fishermen's livelihood is at stake in Tamil Nadu.

On 31st January, Tamil Nadu fishermen from Jegadapattinam and Kottaipattinam in Pudukottai District were out on fishing. They were arrested and about fifty fishing nets had been damaged by the Sri Lankan Navy while they were near the Anaikkadutheevu.

On 11th February, 12 Tamil Nadu fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy personnel for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line near the Katchatheevu.

On 15th February, ten Tamil Nadu fishermen were attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy personnel using iron rods and ropes while fishing near the Katchatheevu.

Sir, these incidents have happened after the Ninth Joint Commission Meeting between our External Affairs Minister, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, and her Sri Lankan counterpart in Colombo where they were to discuss bilateral and regional issues.

Sir, the Katchatheevu issue is yet to be settled. But, at the same time, the Katchatheevu Agreement gives access to our fishermen to dry their nets on the island

and take rest as well as to visit Anthoniyar Temple. But even that is not entertained. The moment they go out for fishing, they are severely attacked by the fishermen. We thought that after the visit of the External Affairs Minister and after their meeting, some fruitful things will come to us. But so far, nothing has happened. As per the Agreement, the Indian fishermen have not been given any right entitled to them.

On 26th October 2008, the Indian Government reached an agreement with the Sri Lankan Government to put in place some practical arrangements to deal with the *bona fide* Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen. But no further development has taken place, for the harassment by the Sri Lankan Navy is going on for ever.

Given these circumstances, fishermen from eight coastal districts in Tamil Nadu have decided that they will lay siege to the Deputy High Commission of Sri Lanka at Chennai on 29th February. They are demanding the release of 29 fishermen who have been arrested and have been languishing in the Sri Lankan prisons. Also, they are demanding the release of 78 fishing boats that have been seized by them. In this light, it is very, very pertinent that the Union Government steps in and takes necessary steps to put a full stop to this harassment and humiliation being meted out.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time is over. All the names of the hon. Members, who have associated with the mention, may be added.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI S. THANGAVELU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

श्री नरेंद्र कुमार कश्यप (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री जावेद अली खान (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

† جناب جاوید علی خان (اترپردیش): آپ سبھاپتی مہودے، مانئیے سدسنیے نے جو موضوع اٹھایا ہے، میں اپنے کو اس سے سمبڈ کرتا ہوں۔

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri K. T. S. Tulsi, not here. Now, Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda.

Problem of water scarcity and drought in Maharashtra

श्री विजय जवाहरलाल दर्डा (महाराष्ट्र): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं महाराष्ट्र के सूखाग्रस्त क्षेत्र के किसानों की समस्याओं के प्रति इस सदन का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। आत्महत्याओं के लिए तो विदर्भ संभाग कुख्यात है ही, इस साल जनवरी से लेकर 25 फरवरी तक 124 किसानों ने महाराष्ट्र में आत्महत्या की है। यह तथ्य खुद महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने मुम्बई हाई कोर्ट के अन्दर कहा है। सबसे दुखद बात यह है कि लगातार दूसरे वर्ष भी महाराष्ट्र के अन्दर सूखा पड़ा है और आत्महत्याओं से लाशों का अम्बार लग रहा है। इसके बावजूद केंद्र सरकार ने उसे रोकने के लिए कोई प्रयास नहीं किया है और न ही कोई ठोस नीति बनाई है।

आज 14,000 के करीब गांवों की स्थिति बहुत दयनीय है। महाराष्ट्र में पड़ने वाला दूसरे साल का सूखा पिछले 40 वर्षों से भी भयंकर है और इससे लाखों लोग प्रभावित हो रहे हैं, दूसरी जगहों पर स्थानांतरण कर रहे हैं और गांव छोड़कर जा रहे हैं। आज की स्थिति इतनी भयंकर है कि महाराष्ट्र के मराठवाड़ा में लातूर जिले के अन्दर जल संकट पैदा हुआ है। उसकी वजह से करीब-करीब 500 उद्योग बंद हुए हैं, कॉलेज बंद हैं, हॉस्पिटल्स के अन्दर जो ऑपरेशंस हो रहे थे, वे बंद हैं, 45,000 लोग अपनी रोजी-रोटी खो चुके हैं और 40 लाख लोग इस जल संकट से जूझ रहे हैं। वहां पानी की सप्लाई टैंकों से हो रही है और आम आदमी को ऊंचे दामों पर पानी खरीदना पड़ रहा है। उजनी से 8 एमएलडी पानी की सप्लाई तय हुई थी। वहां से उस्मानाबाद होकर पाइपलाइन बननी थी, लेकिन यह काम नहीं हुआ है तथा प्रशासन रेलवे टैंकों से पानी की सप्लाई की बात कर रहा है। ये short-term उपाय हैं।

मैं इस सम्बन्ध में एक और महत्वपूर्ण बात बताना चाहता हूँ कि दो विद्यार्थी जब घर के लिए पानी लाने के लिए तालाब में गए, तो वे दलदल में फंस गए और उन दोनों की मृत्यु हो गई। अगर Famine Code को लागू करने का उपाय किया गया होता, तो शायद उन बच्चों की जान बच सकती थी और पलायन भी रुक सकता था।

आज भी किसानों पर हजारों करोड़ रुपए का लोन है, साथ ही उन पर बैंकों और साहूकारों का भी लोन है, जिससे किसान आत्महत्या के लिए बाध्य हो रहे हैं और जिसके बारे में मैं हमेशा यहां पर चर्चा करता रहा हूँ। सिर्फ ऐसा नहीं है कि पैसों की कमी के कारण यह काम धीमी गति से चल रहा है। किसानों तक न तो मुआवजा पहुंच रहा है और न ही लोन की re-structuring हो रही है। जिस प्रकार से हम लोग बैंकों के लिए काम कर रहे हैं, उस प्रकार से किसानों के लिए काम नहीं कर रहे हैं। तीन फसलों की बर्बादी के बाद किसानों को न तो कोई रास्ता दिखाई दे रहा है और न ही उन्हें कोई सहायता मिल रही है।

मैं सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि महाराष्ट्र को अतिरिक्त 20,000 करोड़ रुपए का पैकेज तुरंत दिया जाए, केंद्र और राज्य की तमाम स्कीमों को मिलाकर मनरेगा के साथ संयुक्त रूप से महाराष्ट्र के किसानों के रोजगार के लिए लागू किया जाए और उनके लोन को बिना re-structure किया जाए। मैं अपील करता हूँ कि महाराष्ट्र के अन्दर मराठवाड़ा रीजन को अकाल से बचाने के लिए तुरंत उपाय किए जाएं। ...**(समय की घंटी)**...

श्रीमती रजनी पाटिल (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री संजीव कुमार (झारखंड): महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

डा. संजय सिंह (असम): महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

DR. M. S. GILL (Punjab): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda.

SHRI AJAY SANCHETI (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda.

SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda.

Need to take urgent steps to combat Zika Virus

श्री विवेक गुप्ता (पश्चिमी बंगाल): सर, डेंगू, इबोला और स्वाइन फ्लू के बाद एक और भयानक बीमारी इंडिया की तरफ आ रही है, जिसका नाम है—ज़िका वायरस। इंडिया में इस वायरस के ऊपर 1952-53 में last study की गई थी या इसके बारे में कोई जानकारी थी। यह वायरस अब लैटिन अमेरिका, अफ्रीका से होते हुए बहुत तेजी से साउथ-ईस्ट एशिया की तरफ आ रहा है। इसके बारे में भारत सरकार और हमारे स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय को कोई जानकारी नहीं है। वे एकदम चुपचाप बैठे हुए हैं। इसका न तो कोई prevention किया जा रहा है, न इसकी कोई monitoring की जा रही है, न ही इसके लिए कोई kit है। सर, इसका outbreak इंडिया में होना ही है और हमेशा की तरह हम outbreak होने के बाद इसका उपाय करें, इससे अच्छा है कि इस पर जल्द से जल्द कार्रवाई की जाए। मैं आपके माध्यम से ध्यान सदन का आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि इस पर जल्द से जल्द कार्रवाई की जाए और इसके prevention का उपाय किया जाए।

सर, यह डेंगू वायरस की तरह दिखता है और हमारे डॉक्टर्स ने यह भी मान लिया है कि जो डेंगू के बहुत सारे केसेज होते हैं, उनमें ज़िका के भी केसेज होंगे। इंडियन मेडिकल एसोसिएशन ने advisory तक इश्यू कर दी है कि pregnant woman वहां नहीं जाएं। इसके अलावा इसके ऊपर कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की गई है।

सर, मैं सदन का ज्यादा समय बर्बाद न करते हुए आपके माध्यम से सरकार को केवल चेताना चाहता हूँ कि इस पर जल्द से जल्द कार्रवाई की जाए।

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता (झारखंड): महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री डी. बंदोपाध्याय (पश्चिमी बंगाल): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री के. के. रागेश (केरल): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री रीताब्रता बनर्जी (पश्चिमी बंगाल): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री वी. हनुमंत राव (तेलंगाना): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री गुलाम रसूल बलियानी (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

† جناب غلام رسول بلیاوی (بہار): میں بھی خود کو اس موضوع کے ساتھ سمبڈ کرتا ہوں۔

श्री नीरज शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री संजीव कुमार (झारखंड): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

कुछ माननीय सदस्य: महोदय, हम भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करते हैं।

Closure of *Beedi* manufacturing units affecting crores of workers

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the entire House and particularly the Government to the fact that for the last ten days or so, all the major *beedi* manufacturing units in the country, right from extreme south to extreme north, have stopped their production. The factory owners have closed down their production against the Health Ministry notification that the size of the pictorial warning on the bundles or packets has been enhanced from 45 to 85 per cent. On cigarette packets it is 85 per cent. It is understandable and workable. But you know that the *beedis*, tobacco, the poor man's smoke. But the pictorial warning on bundles with 85 per cent is impractical. We have drawn the attention of the Government much in advance. But no action has been taken. The notification that has been issued will come into effect from 1st April, 2016. All the *beedi* owners have shut down their factories. Workers are not cooperating. So, they urged the workers to join them to protest, but they refused. Because of the closure of *beedi* factories, more than a crore workers who are working in the organised sector, in the *beedi* segment, have lost their earnings. Their earning is linked to the number of *beedis* they roll out. Now, there is no production. In this connection, I have already spoken to the hon. Labour Minister; and also to the Health Minister to immediately intervene. I urge, through you, upon the Government that they should call the owners of the *beedi* factories and direct them to open their factories immediately.

At the same time, while addressing the health concern, please take into account the reality both in the organised and unorganised sectors in the *beedi* factories. More than ten crore people's livelihood, rozi, roti is dependent on two crore workers working in the *beedi* industry. There should be timely rehabilitation of these workers along with adjusting your health concerns which should go hand in hand. Otherwise, you can't throw ten crore people in the lurch. People mostly from downtrodden, backward,

† Transliteration in Urdu script.

Dalit and minority sections of the society are working in the *beedi* industry. So, this human concern along with your health concern should go together. Otherwise there will be a massacre, misnomer in the society.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to intervene immediately, exercise power, and call the factory owners, and ask them to open the *beedi* industry in order to save one crore *beedi* workers along with five core of their families and their livelihood. Thank you.

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार): सर, बड़े पैमाने पर महिलाएं भी इसमें काम करती हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... कई राज्यों में बच्चे भी काम करते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, Mr. Ansari is supporting. Next Mr. Sanjiv Kumar.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

Problems being faced by people of Koyalanchal, in Jharkhand due to underground fire

श्री संजीव कुमार (झारखंड): उपसभापति महोदय, झारखंड कोयलांचल के बीसीसीएल एरिया में 16 फरवरी, 2016 को धनबाद जिले के सुढाम डीह के चीफ हाउस कॉलोनी में पुनः भू-धसान हुआ है। इसमें कई घर जमीन के अन्दर चले गए, कई लोग घायल हुए और कुछ मर गए। अंडरग्राउंड आग के कारण बीसीसीएल, खासकर झरिया इलाके में भू-धसान के कारण लोगों का मारना, गांव-घर तबाह होना आम बात है। सुढाम डीह की घटना कोई इकलौती घटना नहीं है। भू-धसान एवं इसके कारण जान-माल की बरबादी की जो घटनाएं हाल ही के दिनों में हुई हैं, उनमें 1 जनवरी, 2016 को कुसुंडा रेलवे फाटक के पास, 5 फरवरी, 2016 कुसुंडा एरिया के कुर्मी डीह में, 17 अगस्त, 2015 माल गाड़ा के ताराबान में, 1 नवंबर, 2015 को सुढाम डीह की मेन कॉलोनी में, नवंबर, 2015 को धनु डीह बस्ती के पास और 22 अक्टूबर, 2015 को कतरास के कैसल पुर कुम्हार पट्टी के पास ये घटनाएं हुई हैं। ऐसी हजारों भू-धसान की घटनाएं, हजारों लोगों की मौत, अन्य बरबादी की एवं अंडरग्राउंड आग की घटनाएं पिछले कई दशकों से जारी हैं एवं अंडरग्राउंड इतिहास में दर्ज है।

महोदय, इसी प्रकार ईसीएल एरिया में निरसा एवं इसके आसपास के इलाके में भू-धसान आम बात है। हाल ही में मैं निरसा प्रखंड के माउमा गांव में गया था। वहां जो दृश्य देखा, वह दिल दहलाने वाला था। ऐसा लगा कि पूरी माउमा बस्ती ज्वालामुखी के ऊपर खड़ी है और कभी भी पूरी बस्ती जमीन के अंदर समा सकती है।

[श्री संजीव कुमार]

महोदय, मैं पहले भी बता चुका हूँ कि कोल इंडिया, खासकर बीसीसीएल भ्रष्टाचार, माफिया और कोयला चोरी का गढ़ है। एक तरफ लोगों को भू-धसान इलाके से सुरक्षित इलाके में बसाने का काम बहुत अधिक धीमा है, वहीं भ्रष्टाचार एवं कोयले की काली कमाई निरंतर तेजी पकड़ती जा रही है।

महोदय, सदन के माध्यम से मैं मांग करता हूँ कि कोल इंडिया, खासकर BCCL और ECL भू-धसान इलाकों से जल्द से जल्द लोगों को सुरक्षित स्थानों पर पहुंचाने की कोशिश की जाए, धन्यवाद।

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

चौधरी मुनवर सलीम (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इनके उल्लेख से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

†چودھری منور سلیم (اثر پردیش) : مہودے، میں خود کو ان کے الیکھ سے سمبڈھ کرتا ہوں۔

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता (झारखंड): महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इनके उल्लेख से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

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

Need to declare 9th May, a Public holiday on the Birth Anniversary of Maharana Pratap

डा. संजय सिंह (असम): महोदय, आपने मुझे समय दिया, इसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। 9 मई, 2016 को महाराणा प्रताप जी की जयन्ती है। मैं देश के सर्वोच्च सदन में भारत के इतिहास के सर्वाधिक साहसी, शौर्यवारन, महात्यागी व बलिदानी शूरवीर योद्धा को शत-शत नमन करते हुए अपनी बात रखना चाहता हूँ। भारत में अनेकानेक ऐसे महापुरुषों ने जन्म लिया है, जिनका जीवन सदैव ही नई पीढ़ी के लिए मार्गदर्शन एवं आकर्षण का केंद्र रहा है। ऐसे ही एक परम साहसी, वीर शिरोमणि, प्रातः स्मरणीय योद्धा का नाम है महाराणा प्रताप।

मेवाड़ के राणा उदय सिंह जी की 23 संतानों में सबसे बड़े महाराणा प्रताप सिंह थे। अपने पिता उदय सिंह की मृत्यु के बाद 1572 में प्रताप सिंह जब गद्दी पर बैठे, तब देश की परिस्थितियां अत्यंत प्रतिकूल थीं। मुगल शासक अकबर ने अपनी शक्ति और कूटनीति से अधिकतर राजपूत शासकों से मित्रता कर उन्हें अपने अधीन कर लिया था, किन्तु मेवाड़ के राणा उदय सिंह ने अकबर की पराधीनता स्वीकार नहीं की। शत्रुओं का सामना करने के लिए प्रताप को सैन्य बल खड़ा करने की आवश्यकता थी, जिसके लिए अपार धन चाहिए था। महाराणा प्रताप ने अपने विश्वसनीय सरदारों के सामने प्रण किया कि जब तक अपनी मातृभूमि को स्वतंत्र नहीं करवा लेंगे, तब तक सोने-चांदी के बरतन में भोजन नहीं करेंगे, मखमल के गद्दे पर नहीं सोएंगे। उन्होंने

प्रतिज्ञा ली कि पत्तल में भोजन करेंगे, जमीन पर सोएंगे और झोंपड़ी में रहेंगे। उनकी इस प्रतिज्ञा से सेना के जवानों पर ऐसा असर पड़ा कि उन सबने भी प्रतिज्ञा ली कि मातृभूमि की रक्षा के लिए अपने जीवन के रक्त की आखिरी बूंद तक कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर लड़ेंगे और मातृभूमि के लिए मर मिटेंगे, पर हटेंगे नहीं।

अकबर ने महाराणा प्रताप को परास्त करने के लिए 2 लाख सैनिकों को मानसिंह और युवराज सलीम के नेतृत्व में रवाना किया। महाराणा प्रताप की सेना में केवल 22,000 सैनिक थे। महाराणा प्रताप के नेतृत्व में हल्दी घाटी में ऐतिहासिक युद्ध हुआ और अपने से 10 गुना से भी अधिक मुगल सेना पर महाराणा प्रताप की सेना भारी पड़ी। अपने प्रिय चेतक पर सवार होकर महाराणा ने अकेले ही हजारों मुगल सैनिकों का संहार किया। महाराणा प्रताप ने घायल होने के उपरान्त भी हार नहीं मानी और जंगलों की पनाह ली तथा वहीं से मुगल सेना पर आक्रमण जारी रखा। अकबर ने एड़ी-चोटी का जोर लगा दिया, किन्तु महाराणा प्रताप को पराजित नहीं कर सका। महाराणा प्रताप ने घास की रोटी खाकर अपनी लड़ाई जारी रखी।

महोदय, राष्ट्र, धर्म, संस्कृति, स्वाभिमान एवं स्वाधीनता की रक्षा करने वाले वीर शिरोमणि महाराणा प्रताप का जीवन सदा ही हर पीढ़ी के लिए प्रेरणा और आकर्षण का केंद्र रहा है। ऐसे अद्भुत और अद्वितीय योद्धा की जयन्ती पर उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने विगत 2015 से सार्वजनिक अवकाश की घोषणा की है। महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दुवा सूर्य महाराणा प्रताप की जयन्ती पर सार्वजनिक अवकाश की घोषणा करने का कष्ट करें।

DR. M. S. GILL (Punjab): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO (Telangana): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

श्री विजय जवाहरलाल दर्डा (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इनके उल्लेख से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

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

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

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

Separate Crematorium System for Scheduled Castes in many Southern States, especially in Tamil Nadu

श्री तरुण विजय (उत्तराखंड): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपके समक्ष एक अत्यंत गंभीर समस्या लाना चाहता हूँ। हम अनुसूचित जातियों की बात करते हैं, लेकिन न तो उन्हें सम्मान से जीने दिया जाता है और न ही सम्मान से मरने दिया जाता है। मैं उत्तराखंड से आता हूँ। वहां पर मन्दिरों में

[श्री तरुण विजय]

प्रवेश पर उनको पीटा गया। जब वहां एक गर्भवती दलित महिला अपने होने वाले बच्चे के लिए मन्त्र मांगने गई, तो उसको पीटा गया। हम लोग इसके लिए राज्यपाल से मिले, मुख्य मंत्री को पत्र लिखा और वहां पर आन्दोलन किया, किन्तु कोई कार्यवाही नहीं हुई, बल्कि उनको धमकाया गया कि अगर तुम ज्यादा हीरो बनोगे और हमारी शिकायत करोगे, तो हम तुमको देख लेंगे।

सर, अभी मैं दक्षिण में तमिलनाडु गया था। मेरे पास दलित लोग आए और कहने लगे कि आप मरने पर भी हमें रास्ता नहीं देते। वहां पर दो-दो कब्रिस्तान बनाए गए हैं। कुछ लोग अपने आप को बड़ी जाति का कहते हैं। मैं कहता हूं कि वास्तव में बड़ी जाति का वही है, जो मानवीय है, लेकिन जो बड़ी जाति का अहंकार रखता है, वास्तव में वह छोटी जाति का ही है। जिसको तुम छोटी जाति का कहते हो, वह हमारा पूज्य है और असल में वही बड़ी जाति का है, लेकिन उस जाति वाले को आप कब्रिस्तान भी दूसरा देते हैं।

मैं मांग करता हूं कि जो दो कब्रिस्तान, दो क्लास वाला सिस्टम तमिलनाडु और अन्य प्रदेशों में जारी है, इसके विरुद्ध सभी दलों को एकजुट होना चाहिए। एक जाति मनुष्य जाति होनी चाहिए। जाति के आधार पर कब्रिस्तान अलग-अलग नहीं होने चाहिए, मन्दिर अलग-अलग नहीं होने चाहिए। सबकी एकजुटता ही हमारी शक्ति है, हमारा प्राण है। सरकार को इस पर कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए।

केरल में एक दलित लड़की को जबरदस्ती आत्महत्या करने के लिए मजबूर किया जाता है, लेकिन राजनीति के कारण उस दलित बच्ची का कोई भी प्रश्न यहां पर उठाया नहीं जाता। क्यों नहीं उठाया जाता? क्या दलित होना पाप है? क्या दलित होने के लिए जरूरी है कि वह आपकी राजनीतिक पार्टी से संबद्ध हो, तभी उसका प्रश्न उठाया जाएगा। ये सब मामले सर्वदलीय होने चाहिए और इसमें कोई भी राजनीतिकरण नहीं देखा जाना चाहिए। यह जो दो कब्रिस्तान, दो क्लास और मंदिर में प्रवेश की अनुमति नहीं देना, यह हिन्दुस्तान पर कलंक है और इसके विरुद्ध केंद्रीय सरकार को तुरन्त कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए और आंदोलन करना चाहिए। वे लोग हमारे पूज्य होने चाहिए, जो स्वच्छता के शिखर पर हैं, जो हमारे गांधी बाबा के सबसे बड़े पूज्य रहे, वैष्णवजन अगर किसी को कहना चाहिए तो अनुसूचित जातियों को कहना चाहिए। उनको राजनीति का मोहरा मत बनाइए, उनको सम्मान से जीने दो और उनकी मृत्यु पर भी वही सम्मान प्रकट करो। जो बड़ी जाति का अहंकार रखने वाले हैं वे तुच्छ हैं, उनके विरुद्ध कार्यवाही होनी चाहिए। यह छोटी जाति और बड़ी जाति का अंतर मिटना चाहिए और सामाजिक संरचना की बात होनी चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आज भी महिलाओं को मंदिर में प्रवेश की अनुमति नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री रणविजय सिंह जूदेव (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, मैं इस विषय से अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना (पंजाब): सर, मैं भी इसका समर्थन करता हूं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, now, Mr. Minister, I want to know. See, already. ...**(Interruptions)**... No, please. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I want to know....(Interruptions)... Mr. Minister, already a commitment is given to Km. Mayawati. I want to know when....
...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH : Sir, he was speaking about Tamil Nadu.
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The commitment is that a specific demand would be responded to. ...(Interruptions)... When are you going to do that? ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH : No, Sir, I want to respond. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, please. What is this? ...(Interruptions)...., what is this? Sit down, sit down. ...(Interruptions)... What is this? आप बैठिए।

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. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH : Sir, I want to kindly respond to his statement. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, it is not going on record. ...(Interruptions)... Don't do that. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: *

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

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: See, you are my dear sister. Sit down.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH : *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, Mr. Minister, see the commitment given to Km. Mayawati has to be fulfilled. ...(Interruptions)... When are you going to do that? That is no.1. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH : *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Can you say something about that?

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सर, ऑनरेबल मिनिस्टर यहां पर अवेलेबल हैं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Agreed. ...(Interruptions)... Okay.

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: अगर आप चाहते हैं तो अभी मायावती जी ने जिस मुद्दे को रखा ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH : *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, no, please. ...(Interruptions)... It is not going on record. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH : *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I will allow you a separate chance. ...(Interruptions)... Give a notice. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH : *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You give a Zero Hour Notice. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH : *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, you give a Zero Hour Notice. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH : *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Give a Zero Hour Notice. ...(Interruptions)... You can say it. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH : *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, it is not going on record. ...(Interruptions)... Why don't you give a Zero Hour Notice? ...(Interruptions)... It is not going on record. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH : *

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: सर, आप इधर सुनिए तो हो जाएगा। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes, please. ...(Interruptions)... Then, speak louder. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH : *

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: जिस विषय को मायावती जी ने उठाया है उसके बारे में हमने कहा था कि जब ऑनरेबल मिनिस्टर रिप्लाय करेंगी तब उस पर रिस्पांड करेंगी। अभी ऑनरेबल मिनिस्टर यहां हैं, उनका रिप्लाय कल हो चुका है, लेकिन मायावती जी का जो स्पेसिक मुद्दा है,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : When, when? *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: उसके बारे में अगर सदन चाहता है तो just now, immediately उसे ले सकते हैं। *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No time, now. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI : It is all right. *...(Interruptions)...* तो 2:30 बजे पर इलेक्शन लॉ (अमेंडमेंट) बिल, 2016 है, जिस पर सहमति है कि उसको पास करना है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is already there. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: उसके बाद ऑनरेबिल मिनिस्टर रिप्लाय दे सकती हैं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, that means, between 2.30 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI : Yes, Sir.

सुश्री मायावती (उत्तर प्रदेश): नहीं, यह हमें मंजूर नहीं है। पहले हमें जवाब चाहिए, उसके बाद बिल चाहिए। *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Okay. *...(Interruptions)...* No, no. That is not a problem. *...(Interruptions)...* We will do one thing.

सुश्री मायावती: पहले जवाब चाहिए फिर बिल चाहिए।

श्री उपसभापति: ठीक है, I will come to that. Already in the presence of the Chairman in the morning, there was a consensus among the leaders that the Bill, which is the consequence of that agreement, has to be taken up. So, we will pass it without discussion. So, that needs only ten minutes. Now, we will take up the Private Members' Bill at 3.00 P.M if the House agrees, from 3.00 P.M. to 5.30 P.M., so that even if the Bill has taken ten minutes, you have twenty minutes. Even otherwise, I have no problem either way.

सुश्री मायावती : माननीय उपसभापति जी, आपसे यह रिक्वेस्ट है कि माननीया मंत्री जी मेरे सवाल का जवाब दे दें और इस संदर्भ में मुझे भी अपनी बात रखनी है, उसके बाद आप बिल ले आएंगे।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, now, the hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): Sir, I have requested that this is a very important Bill because elections are going to be held in West Bengal in May. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, no. Don't worry. *...(Interruptions)...* I agree with you. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Many of them are agreeing. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I see the importance. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, if the House agrees. Just now, we will pass it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just now, it is Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal) : Sir, it is not only Behenji's question, but we also have questions that need answers. You must answer Behenji's question and other questions also.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is what I told you.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: I have lots of questions.

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: That is all right, no problem.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In that case, the only way is that at 2.30 P.M., Behenji's question will be replied to and the rest will be taken up later. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: No, no. At 2.30 p.m., the Bill will be taken for 10 minutes and then Behenji's question will be taken up. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have decided about 2.30 p.m. It is now Question Hour time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, the Minister has given a statement. We are not interested in anything except for Short Duration Discussion. We are not interesting in passing legislations. ...*(Interruptions)*... We have already said, we are not interested. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: But we are interested. ...*(Interruptions)*...

12.00 NOON

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, it is Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please resume your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, we take up Question No. 31. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Setting up of cold storages under Integrated Cold Chain Project

*31. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cold storage units sanctioned under the Integrated Cold Chain Project in the country along with those proposed to be set up in the next two years and in the current year;

(b) whether they would meet the requirements of handling capacity of milk and dairy products, fruits, vegetables, fish, marine products and cereals; and

(c) if not, the shortfall estimated and the manner in which Government plans to meet the deficiency in the handling capacity?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for setting up integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure facilities both for horticulture and non-horticulture produce since 2008-09. So far, 138 Integrated Cold Chain Projects have been sanctioned by the Ministry. Of this, 74 Integrated Cold Chain Projects have achieved completion and commenced commercial operation, 61 Integrated Cold Chain Projects are in various stages of implementation and 3 projects have been cancelled/withdrawn by the Ministry due to non-implementation by the promoter. The implementation schedule for the cold chain project is 24 months in general areas and 30 months in difficult areas (North-Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand).

(b) The existing cold storage/cold chain infrastructure is inadequate to meet the requirements of handling of perishable agri-produce in the country.

(c) Dr. Saumitra Chaudhuri Committee constituted by the Planning Commission in 2012 had indicated cold storage requirement of 61 million tonnes. The present capacity of cold storage is estimated at around 32 million tonnes in the country. Thus the present gap is around 29 million tonnes.

To meet the deficiency in cold storage/cold chain capacity, Government is providing assistance through the schemes of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure of Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Mission for Integrated

Development of Horticulture (MIDH) of Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare. The proposal(s) under the scheme of Ministry of Food Processing Industries are invited through publication of expression of interest based on number of projects approved by the Government from time to time. However, the proposals under MIDH scheme are accepted round the year. These schemes are demand driven from entrepreneurs, private companies, co-operatives, farmers groups, self-help groups, etc. for which assistance in the form of Grant-in-Aid/subsidy is provided by the Government.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, considering the Minister's reply, it really gives us all the details which are academic. It was the UPA Government, which realized the potential of India to contribute to this fast growing sector of agriculture and horticulture. In 2011, they set up the National Centre for Cold Chain Development. The economy was given a boost by all the new factors zeroed in on the policy, the new Ministry of Food Processing will set up. I am not really asking the Minister in general terms what the things are. I want to know from her as to why there is this 40 per cent wastage because we don't have adequate cold storage facilities. What are the numbers and the capacity of cold storage or cold chain storages in the last three years, especially, in the State of Punjab?

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, as for the cold chains that are being created by my Ministry, it is written in the answer. If you were to go through it, it would tell you exactly what the cold chain capacity is. But to give you a broader picture, there is no doubt that there are high wastages, especially of perishables, wherein in our country, the horticulture produce has been growing at a much faster pace than the grain produced, almost doubled in the last few years. The only study that was done by the Sumitra Choudhary Committee, as I have said in my answer, showed that there was a shortage of almost 29 million metric tonnes. In 2008, this scheme for Integrated Cold Chain was launched and 138 projects were sanctioned from 2008 up till the time that we took over.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: I want to know about the last three years, especially in Punjab.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: In the last three years, like I said, out of 138 Cold Chain Projects which were sanctioned, half of them have been completed and the rest of them are in the process of being completed. As far as the State of Punjab goes, there were 8 cold chains which are ongoing at the moment. There were four completed projects and another four are ongoing in the State of Punjab.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I am compelled to ask the second question, without getting a straight reply to the question. How many cold storages in the last three years have been opened in Punjab, which is, primarily, an agrarian State? I know, the Minister is telling me the number since 2008. We understood the importance of this sector in the UPA Government. I want to know in the last three years what have they done. Well, I did not get an answer.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: I think what you are not understanding is that we do not set up cold storages. That is set up by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Food Processing sets up an Integrated Cold Chain, which is from the farm to the fork, which is processing IQF, waxing, grading and sorting the whole chain. Out of those, we have set up eight in total. Four had come up earlier in the last three years and four more are ongoing. As for details about how many cold storages have come up, I do not give grants from my Ministry for any cold storage as a stand-alone project. If you want to know the entire number of cold storages in the country, I could have the data given to you, or I will talk to my colleague in the Ministry of Agriculture and have that data sent to you. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: The Minister of Agriculture, sitting here, should respond. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: The Ministry sets up cold chains, and I have answered *...(Interruptions)...* The main question is on Integrated Cold Chain projects. It is not on cold storages. There is a difference between a storage and a chain. I think the hon. Member has not understood.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: I do understand. Our Government understood that and that is why we created this whole policy, and the new setup was put for cold chains and not for cold storages alone. I am asking how much fund has been allocated by your Ministry for cold chains in the last three years. Don't tell me those projects were started in 2008. I am aware of that. Some of them have been completed and some of them have been written-off by you because the pace was slow. How much fund has the NDA Government, which goes on emphasising the importance of infrastructure and 'Make in India', given to Punjab in the last three years to justify the creation of your Ministry?

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, as you know, our Government has come in just 20 months ago. And, this scheme, as I said, was started in 2008. When we took over in 2014, most of the cold chain projects were all delayed and, practically, one-third had been completed. So, before asking for more funds, I first had to complete what was already ongoing. Now, about the exact funds given to Punjab, in

[Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur Badal]

specific, as I told you, I can tell you about the number of projects but I do not have the exact break-up of funds allocated for the eight projects, I have got the details of what, exactly, is being created out of that. But I can give you the break-up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let that information be given to the hon. Member.

श्री अजय संचेती: सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या भारत सरकार की ऐसी कोई योजना है या वह इस पर सोचेगी कि देश में जो नक्सलाइट बेल्ट या नेक्सलाइट डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स हैं, अगर वहां कोल्ड चेन लगाई जाती है, तो ऐसे एरियाज़ के लिए सामान्य तौर पर जो रियायतें दी जाती हैं, उसके ऊपर भी कोई और रियायत देने का प्रोविजन किया जा सकता है?

श्रीमती हरसिमरत कौर बादल: सर, मंत्रालय के तहत जो कोल्ड चेन का प्रोजेक्ट है, उसके लिए कोई भी अप्लाई कर सकता है, कोई individual, कोई Self-Help Group, कोई फार्मर ग्रुप, कोई organisation, anybody is allowed to apply for it. We give special emphasis to hilly areas and the North-Eastern areas where they get 75 per cent of the project cost up to a maximum limit of ₹ 10 crores, whereas in general areas, it is only up to 50 per cent. There is no other specific thing given for Naxal areas.

श्री वैष्णव परिडा: सर, यह पॉलिसी मैटर है। My supplementary is this. In India, many of the States lack this cold chain facility and they are not able to preserve the foodgrains which they produce, and my State, Odisha, is one of them. Is there any policy with the Central Government to help those States build up this cold storage or cold chain process?

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, as I said, when we give cold chain projects, people have to apply. An ad comes out in newspapers, and the Expression of Interest is invited by the people. For people, who apply, there is a marking system, a very transparent marking system, which is there on the website, and on the basis of that, the numbers, which are being allocated, are given to the people who fit the criteria. As far as Odisha is concerned, there are two ongoing projects of cold chain in the State which have been sanctioned by the Ministry and these are going to be ready very shortly.

श्री हुसैन दलवाई : सर, महाराष्ट्र में बहुत दिनों से, बहुत सालों से कोस्टल एरियाज़ में कोल्ड स्टोरेज के बारे में बात हो रही है। जहां कोस्टल एरिया है, वहां बड़े पैमाने पर fishing होती है, लेकिन वहां कोल्ड स्टोरेज नहीं होने की वजह से उनको बड़ी दिक्कत आती है और उनको जो प्राइस मिलना चाहिए, वह नहीं मिलता है। महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट ने इसके लिए assistance देने के लिए केंद्र सरकार से अनुरोध किया है। क्या सरकार इसके बारे में विचार करेगी?

श्रीमती हरसिमरत कौर बादल: सर, जैसे मैंने कहा कि हम लोग कोल्ड चेन लगाते हैं, कोल्ड स्टोरेज नहीं, integrated cold chain, जहां पूरी चेन complete हो।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I seek your protection. The Ministry is constantly contradicting her own Ministry. I would like to draw her attention to the question — this is in English — which is very specific. It says, "The number of cold storage units sanctioned under the Integrated Cold Chain project." That is English. For her to say 'that we don't sanction cold storage', misleads the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us proceed with the reply. Renukaji, please sit down.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: I think, Madam, you are not understanding yet again what I have said. The Integrated Cold Chain project..
...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: It is you who have not understood. This is what your Ministry has put in writing. You pushed the envelope... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Renukaji, you have made your point. Please sit down.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: May I answer, please? If you see, the question is 'setting up of cold storages under the Integrated Cold Chain project'.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Exactly...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: May I finish? Under the Integrated Cold Chain project, if you were to look at the norms of the Cold Chain project, it is up to the individual to decide which component he wants to take, whether it is a cold storage, whether it is reefer van, whether it is a processing norm. (Interruptions)...

श्री सभापति: आपका सवाल नहीं है। (व्यवधान)... Renukaji, please... (Interruptions)...

One minute, please.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: No, Sir; you have to protect us in this House. She has not understood the question. She cannot give this answer.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Can I finish? (Interruptions).... Can you have the patience to hear me out? (Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: She tells...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not your question. Please sit down. (Interruptions)...

SHRI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: It doesn't matter. I am a Member of this House. I am entitled to... (Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Is the Minister entitled to answer?
...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute, please. All of you, please sit down. There is a set procedure. ...(Interruptions)... Just a minute, please. If the question is wrong or if the answer is wrong, there is a procedure for correcting it. You can ask for that. If the answer is inadequate, you can point that out.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, the question is not wrong. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, if they will not allow me to complete my answer and keep butting in the middle, then, how can I complete?
...(Interruptions)...

श्री सभापति: आप उनकी बात तो सुन लीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: You categorically made a statement....
...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Precious time is going. Let us hear her answer.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: But, Sir, the answer is wrongly...
(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Ambika Soni, you have had your question and two supplementaries answered. Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Will you finish quickly? I want to go on to the next question.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Yes, Sir, if they would allow me, I would like to finish quickly. Sir, I would yet again start off by saying that we do not ask people, 'Do you want to set up a cold storage?' We ask them, 'Would you like to set up an Integrated Cold Chain?' It is entirely up to the entrepreneur what he wants to put up. Now, which of them have put up a cold storage, I can give her this break-up. I can only tell the hon. Member as to how many Integrated Cold Chains have been put up, which is what the topic of this question is.

Now, to come back to what the hon. Member asked about Maharashtra, I would like to highlight to the hon. Member that in Maharashtra, we have got nine on-going Cold Chain projects, out of the total of 27 which were sanctioned to Maharashtra, 18 have been completed and nine are ongoing. So this Ministry has sanctioned quite a huge bulk of the cold chain projects to Maharashtra and like I said, कोई भी अप्लाई कर सकता है। उसमें 50 per cent of the cost तक की ग्रांट की लिमिट होती है और उनको up to 10 crores दिया जाता है। महाराष्ट्र में टोटल 27 प्रोजेक्ट्स सेंक्शन हुए हैं, जिनमें से 18 कम्प्लीट हो गए हैं और 9 ऑनगोइंग हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The Chair is compelled to point out that the wording of Part (a) of the question says, 'the number of cold storage units...' So, the answer to that has to be specific. Was there a number of units, x, y, z. That is all. Maybe, that can be corrected later. Let me go on to the next question. Question No. 32.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, the answer is given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is about units.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Yes, Sir. But my answer says that it is implementing a Central sector scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure. That is what we put up for setting up an Integrated Cold Chain. We do not give a grant for just setting up a cold storage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not units, but projects.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Units may or may not be a part of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let this be examined. Let us go to Question No. 32.

People fallen out of PDS ambit

*32. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of people have fallen out of the ambit of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in West Bengal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government of West Bengal has begun the implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 in all of its districts *w.e.f* February 2016. Under the NFSA, 2013, the State is entitled to cover 74.47% of its rural population and 47.55% urban population, based on the Census of 2011, which works out to 601.84 lakh beneficiaries in the State. The task of identification is in the domain of the State Government. The Government of West Bengal has identified 545.62 lakh beneficiaries so far, to be covered under the Act. Based on the provisions of the NFSA, wherein subsidized foodgrains @ ₹ 2/kg. for wheat and ₹ 3/kg for rice, the Government of India has allocated a quantity of 3.01 lakh tons of foodgrains

per month to West Bengal from February 2016 onwards as against an allocation of 2.74 lakh tons per month under the erstwhile Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) scheme.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Sir, the answer does not mention what is happening in Bengal. Three crores of people are falling outside the ambit of PDS and big agitations are there everywhere, in every district. On February 11th, Sir,...
(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute, please ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not correct.
...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Let me put my question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, the information is wrong. The fact is wrong.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: This is the difficulty. You have a problem even if I put a question also. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I need your protection. Let me put my question, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, Question Hour is not Zero Hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a debate...*(Interruptions)*...The Minister is fully competent to deal with the question. Please...*(Interruptions)*... Sit down everybody...
(Interruptions)...Let the question be asked. ...*(Interruptions)*...Let the Member ask the supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, it is an accusation, not a question
...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are going to ask your supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*...
You will get your chance. Please, go ahead.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Sir, on February 11, 2016, in Burdwan district, in Raina, there was a demand for...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, these are allegations; where is the supplementary?...
(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister deal with it...*(Interruptions)*...Derek, please...
(Interruptions)...Hon. Minister is competent to deal with it...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, this is a supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*...Sir, what is claimed by the hon. Minister is not seen on the ground...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Sir, can I ask the supplementary? Sir, I need your protection...*(Interruptions)*...I want to ask the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, sit down...(Interruptions)... Will you please be specific with your question?

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: I will be specific, Sir.

Sir, I just want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is aware of such a situation wherein every district of West Bengal ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, ho!

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Sir, I need your protection. I want to ask the question ...(Interruptions)... Sir, I need your protection. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not your question ...(Interruptions)... This is not your question ...(Interruptions)... This is not a debate that you are interjecting without permission ...(Interruptions)... Please, let him ask the question ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI AHMED HASSAN: Sir, it is not a question. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Who are you? Please, sit down ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Sir, I will be very specific. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is aware of agitations going in every district of Bengal and on February 11, in Burdwan, one farmer ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister deal with it, *bhai*. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, it is an allegation, not a question ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Sir, I need your protection. ...(Interruptions)... I need to ask the question, Sir...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. This is not fair ...(Interruptions)... This is not fair ...(Interruptions)... It is between the questionnaire and the hon. Minister ...(Interruptions)... Let the hon. Minister deal with it. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, the supplementary must be relating to the main question...(Interruptions)...He cannot make allegation...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Sir, can I ask the question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Look, it is for the Minister to say that. It is not for you to say that...(Interruptions)...The hon. Minister will deal with the question as he or she deems fit...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, he is making an acquisition. ...(Interruptions)...This is not relating to the main question.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, it is absolutely relating to the main question... *(Interruptions)*...What hon. Minister claims and what is happening on the ground is entirely different...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are we wasting time? Mr. Tapan Sen, please, sit down... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, definitely, it is relating to the main question ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why don't you let the hon. Minister deal with it? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Sir, you know that it is a political statement... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this excitability for nothing? It is waste of time... *(Interruptions)*... Please, go ahead with your question quickly ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Otherwise, I will go to the next question.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: ...whether the Government is aware of the situation where there are agitations in every district... ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I need to ask the question...*(Interruptions)*... What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*...What is the problem? ...*(Interruptions)*...What is their problem? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, it is a political question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: It is a House of politics...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot say that it is a political question...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, sit down. Please, sit down. I plead you, gentlemen... *(Interruptions)*...There is a procedure. It is his question. If his question is not related to the main question, the Minister is in a position to answer it. Why are you pre-judging?...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, it is recorded. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is recorded ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Political accusation is recorded. ...*(Interruptions)*... Political accusation is recorded...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, don't convert the House into a public meeting... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, political accusations cannot be recorded in the House ...(Interruptions)... It is not a question. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Sir, can I ask my question? ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. You have asked your question. Please, sit down... (Interruptions)...

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: No, no. I have not asked the question. I have to finish my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Look, I will be compelled to go beyond this question to the next one. You cannot hold the House to ransom.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: I want to ask the question. If I am disturbed, how can I ask the question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, ask your question quickly.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: I am asking a specific question: Whether the Government is aware of these agitations in which, on 11th of February, one farmer has been killed ...(Interruptions)... He has been demanding legitimate foodgrains ...(Interruptions)... I want to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government is aware of the situation. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: It is an irrelevant question. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: It is absolutely a relevant question. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: alright. Listen ...(Interruptions)... Let the hon. Minister deal with it. Please, sit down ...(Interruptions)...

श्री रामविलास पासवान: सर, पश्चिमी बंगाल में फरवरी 2016 से फूड सिक्योरिटी एक्ट लागू हुआ है। फूड सिक्योरिटी एक्ट लागू होने के पहले एपीएल था, बीपीएल था और अन्त्योदय था। उस समय जो लाभार्थियों की कार्ड संख्या 145.23 लाख की थी, फूड सिक्योरिटी एक्ट लागू होने के बाद जो लाभार्थियों की संख्या है, वह बढ़कर 6 करोड़ 1 लाख 84 हजार हो गयी है। इस 6 करोड़ 1 लाख 84 हजार में से जो अभी लाभार्थी हैं, वे 5 करोड़ 45 लाख 62 हजार हैं। इसलिए यदि दोनों को आप देखेंगे तो उसमें से अभी राज्य सरकार को 56 लाख 22 हजार लाभार्थी बनाने हैं। जो लाभार्थी बनाए जाते हैं, वे हम नहीं बनाते हैं, बल्कि पूर्ववर्ती प्लानिंग कमीशन ने तय कर दिया है कि पश्चिमी बंगाल में 74.47 प्रतिशत आबादी ग्रामीण इलाके में कवर होगी और 47.55 प्रतिशत शहरी इलाके में होगी। इन्हें मिलाकर 6 करोड़ 1 लाख 84 हजार बनते हैं। इसलिए लाभार्थी कौन होगा, उसे सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट तय नहीं करती, उसे राज्य सरकार तय करती है। आपका यह कानून 5 जुलाई, 2013 का बनाया हुआ है, इसलिए राज्य सरकार को अभी 56 लाख 22 हजार लाभार्थी बनाकर देने हैं और जिनका नाम राज्य सरकार देगी, उन्हें हम accept करेंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, you may put your second supplementary question.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: I think, I have asked specifically whether the Government is aware. I think, the Government is not aware that the people are killed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is your surmise.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: I want to ask the second question, Sir. My second question specifically is, the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal, from the headquarters, has categorically said that you don't need ration cards, you don't need digital ration cards and that only the picture of the Chief Minister will be enough for the collection of food grains. My experience is that ...(Interruptions)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is going on? Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: It is happening, Sir. He was about to answer. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, everybody. ...(Interruptions)... Stop this indiscipline. Please sit down, everybody. Do I have to reiterate for the education of those Members who don't care to read the rules that supplementaries can relate only to the question asked and the answer given? So, don't bring your wider political agendas into supplementary questions. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Sir, I am not bringing. I have a specific question regarding the answer; it is related to the answer.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: I have a point to make, Sir. The question is whether it is a fact that a large number of people have fallen out of the ambit of the public distribution system in West Bengal. So, the Minister has given a figure of what the total number should be. He has rightly answered it to be 74 lakhs and that 56 lakhs are yet to be covered. ...(Interruptions)... लाभार्थियों की जो लिस्ट है, उसमें से लोगों को निकाल दिया या नहीं? ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you bringing your political battles into the House? This is a simple Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)... No, it is not; I am sorry to say that. ...(Interruptions)... I am sorry.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Sir, I have to ask my question, the second supplementary. मंत्री जी, मैं अपना दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी पूछना चाहता हूँ ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रामविलास पासवान: सर, इसका जवाब इसमें है। इसमें सप्लीमेंटरी की कोई जरूरत भी नहीं है, इसमें लिखा हुआ जवाब है कि 6 करोड़ 1 लाख 84 हजार लोगों को अनाज मिलना

चाहिए, वहां की सरकार चाहे दो रुपए किलो देती है या एक रुपए किलो देती है। यदि 31 रुपए किलो चावल है तो भारत सरकार 28 रुपए वहन करती है। किसी राज्य में, जैसे तमिलनाडु है, वहां 100 प्रतिशत राज्य सरकार देती है। आपके यहां शायद एक रुपए की दर से मिलता है तो उसमें एक रुपया वहन करती है और दो रुपए कंज्यूमर वहन करता है, लेकिन वह बनता 6 करोड़ 1 लाख 84 हजार लोगों का है। अभी वहां पर फरवरी में फूड सिक्योरिटी एक्ट लागू हुआ है। अभी वहां पांच करोड़ 45 लाख 62 हजार बना है, हमने कहा कि इसमें 56 लाख 22 हजार बाकी है। आप राज्य सरकार से कहिए कि उस 56 लाख में कौन आदमी छूट गया है या कौन नहीं छूटा है, उसके बारे में अगर राज्य सरकार लिस्ट भेजेगी, तो उसको हम शामिल कर लेंगे।

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

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE : No, Sir. I want to ask the specific question that whether the Government will *...(Interruptions)...* provide more foodgrains to Bengal *...(Interruptions)...* because you are going to the shops *...(Interruptions)...* with the picture of the Chief Minister...*...(Interruptions)...* Food grains are not available, Sir. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री तपन कुमार सेन: छूटने वाली बात ही disputed है। *...(व्यवधान)...*

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: I want to know whether the Government, Central Government, will allocate more foodgrains to Bengal because we are going with the picture of the Chief Minister. Foodgrains are not available, Sir. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not asked that question. *...(Interruptions)...* You went on a fishing expedition. *...(Interruptions)...* That is not correct. *...(Interruptions)...* I am afraid, I will have to go to the next question. *...(Interruptions)...*

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I am sorry...*...(Interruptions)...* I am sorry, Mr. Derek. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, the indiscretion of the questioner *...(Interruptions)...* Sir, why would a supplementary question be penalised because of his indiscretion and his ideal of petty politics on a question like this?...*...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Derek, please *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, the same questioner *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Am I compelled *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: No, no, Sir...*...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute ...(Interruptions)... Let me read the question. ...(Interruptions)... What is the question? Will the Minister be pleased to state (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of people have fallen out of the ambit of the PDS in West Bengal and (b) if so, details thereof and the reasons thereof. Now, the answer to that is either 'yes' or 'no'. Have a large number fallen out or not fallen out? Okay. ...(Interruptions)...

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. ...(Interruptions)... Just a minute ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN : Sir, I am not on the content of the question. ...(Interruptions)... There is an indiscretion ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Derek, you have no *locus standi*.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, there is an indiscretion. You are penalising those who put supplementary questions...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because you won't allow me to proceed. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: No, Sir. I am requesting you, Sir. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your *locus standi* at the moment?

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, the question is on my State. ...(Interruptions)... Please allow my colleague. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, it has nothing to do with the State. It is an individual's question, addressed to the Minister ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, allow us a supplementary, don't penalise. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay; I will allow the supplementary, but don't interrupt. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Thank you. ...(Interruptions)... I will not interrupt. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have never seen such indiscipline in the Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, allow his supplementary first. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, one second. ...(Interruptions)... Let somebody else ask another supplementary question ...(Interruptions)... Come on; on this only. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not a pleader on his behalf, Mr. Derek. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सुखेन्दु शेखर राय: अभी चुनाव आ रहा है इसलिए ऐसा होगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, 80 per cent of the people in West Bengal are provided with subsidised foodgrains in spite of the fact that many people in the backward areas, particularly, the Maoists-affected areas used to eat and take ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Sir ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, it is not your question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Listen, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, they used to take ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, it is not your question ...*(Interruptions)*... Will you ask your question?

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Yes, Sir. I am coming to that. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I am coming to that. ...*(Interruptions)*... People used to eat and take...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ...*(Interruptions)*... What is the question?

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, my question is, ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just your question, without any *alaap*.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, my question is whether the Government shall allocate more quantity of foodgrains so as to enable the Government of West Bengal to provide all people of the State at subsidised rate, particularly, rice and wheat under NFSA basis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fine...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Minister, answer that question. That is all. Okay.

श्री रामविलास पासवान: सभापति महोदय, भारत सरकार राज्य के गामीण इलाके में 74.47% तथा शहरी इलाके में 47.55% तक चिन्हित लोगों के लिए देगी। यदि मार्केट रेट 31 रुपया है और 28 रुपया में दे रही है और राज्य सरकार अपनी पॉकेट से एक या दो रुपया दे रही है, उस परिस्थिति में मान लेते हैं कि आपको सबको देना है, तो 26 परसेंट लोगों को आप क्यों नहीं दे देते हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप उनको भी दे दीजिए। आपको कौन रोकता है? अब तमिलनाडु सरकार कर रही है, तो क्या उसे कोई रोक रहा है? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सुखेन्दु शेखर राय: आप जवाब दे रहे हैं या सवाल पूछ रहे हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. That is all. ...(Interruptions)... No argumentation. ...(Interruptions)... Listen to the ...(Interruptions)...

श्री रामविलास पासवान: हम सवाल नहीं पूछ रहे हैं। हम इतना ही कहना चाहते हैं कि भारत सरकार ने फूड सिक्योरिटी एक्ट लागू किया है। ...(व्यवधान)... फूड सिक्योरिटी एक्ट के तहत पहले जितना अनाज एपीएल, बीपीएल और अंत्योदय में मिलता था, उससे कम सामान अब नहीं मिलेगा। योजना आयोग, जो आज नीति आयोग है, उसने हर राज्य के लिए गरीबी का पैमाना तय कर के कहा कि वहां 74.47 परसेंट ग्रामीण इलाक़ों में और 47.55 परसेंट शहरी इलाक़ों में लाभार्थी होंगे। यदि कोई राज्य सरकार उससे ऊपर सब्सिडाइज्ड रेट पर देना चाहती है, तो उस सरकार को देने की पूरी आजादी है।

SHRI PAVAN KUMAR VARMA: Sir, I just want to say that the hon. Minister has corrected himself now. But in his initial reply of the question, he has referred to the Planning Commission. But the Planning Commission stands abolished. I am sure, the Minister will correct himself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think he has corrected himself.

श्री रामविलास पासवान: सर, हमने कहा कि पहले यह योजना आयोग था और अब नीति आयोग है।

श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद: सर, फूड मिनिस्टर ने उदाहरण बहुत गलत स्टेट का दिया है। गलत स्टेट in the sense, उन्होंने तमिलनाडु की बात की। तमिलनाडु, आंध्र प्रदेश और कर्णाटक में, एक ऐसा resource mobilization है, जो किसी दूसरी राज्य सरकार के पास उपलब्ध नहीं है, वह है excise और excise particularly.

† جناب غلام نبی آزاد: سر، فوڈ منسٹر نے اُداہرن بہت غلط اسٹیٹ کا دیا ہے۔ غلط اسٹیٹ ان دا سینس، انہوں نے تامل ناڈو کی بات کی۔ تامل ناڈو، آندھراپردیش اور کرناٹک میں، ایک ایسا resource mobilization ہے، جو کسی دوسری راجیہ سرکار کے پاس موجود نہیں ہے، وہ ہے excise اور -excise particular

SHRI D. RAJA: It is liquor.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Yes, liquor और शराब वगैरह पर तकरीबन 18 से 20 हजार करोड़ ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Sir, I am sorry to interrupt. It is not only from liquor... ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: This is not specific to Tamil Nadu. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. ...(*Interruptions*)... What has gone wrong with you people today? ...(*Interruptions*).... Please sit down.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: When I took the name of Tamil Nadu, it does not mean that I am speaking against Tamil Nadu. I am saying that they can mobilize additional resources, this includes Tamil Nadu. I am not just talking about Tamil Nadu, but Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have this as one of the most important areas wherefrom they can mobilize additional resources to the tune of ₹ 17,000 crores to ₹ 20,000 crores. But this is not available with other States. Jammu and Kashmir, North-East and smaller States are dependent on the funding from the Government of India. They have hardly any resource mobilization from other sources. There are bigger States also which do not have this type of area wherefrom they can mobilize the resources. They have to depend on the Government of India only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: The question is कि बाकी स्टेट्स भी अपने से क्यों नहीं देते जबकि तमिलनाडु देता है? यह इसलिए क्योंकि बाकी स्टेट्स के पास अपने रिसोर्सेस नहीं हैं और उन्हें गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया पर निर्भर रहना पड़ेगा।

श्री रामविलास पासवान : महोदय, गुलाम नबी आज़ाद जी हमारे पुराने मित्र हैं। यह पर्सेंटेज आपने तय किया है। सर, 5 जुलाई, 2013 को फूड सिक्योरिटी एक्ट लागू हो गया। उस समय तो वह सब योजना आयोग की परोसी हुई चीज थी कि कितने परसेंट लोगों को ग्रामीण इलाके में लाभ मिलेगा और शहरी इलाके में कितने परसेंट को मिलेगा। अब हमारे लिए इतना ही था कि एक साल के अंदर हर राज्य में यह 5 जुलाई, 2014 तक लागू हो जाना चाहिए। अभी यह 28 राज्यों में यह लागू हो गया है। आठ राज्यों में अभी लागू नहीं हुआ है। अगर आप कहेंगे तो उनके नाम बतला सकता हूं। वहां 1 अप्रैल से लागू हो जाएगा। हम इस बात को मानते हैं कि जम्मू-कश्मीर बहुत गरीब राज्य है, लेकिन हमारे पास कोई ऐसी पावर नहीं है, जिसके तहत उस पर्सेंटेज को बढ़ा सकें। हां, अगर कोई आपदा आती है, तो विशेष परिस्थिति में विशेष व्यवस्था की जाती है।

श्री सीताराम येचुरी : उन आठ राज्यों के नाम बता दीजिए।

SHRI AHMED PATEL: It includes Gujarat also.

Providing clean and hygienic bedding to passengers

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

(a) whether Railways are aware that bed sheets, blankets and pillows supplied to passengers of III tier AC coaches stink and most of the time they are not completely dried; and

(b) whether Railways would consider outsourcing the laundry service in order to provide clean and hygienic bed sheets, blankets and pillows to passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. Bedrolls items, being provided in Air Conditioned (AC) coaches including III tier AC coaches, are washed and dried properly prior to provision to the passengers. References regarding quality of bedrolls provided, however, are received from time to time from passengers and these are acted upon appropriately.

(b) Laundry service earlier completely outsourced was regular source of complaints for poor washing quality. Accordingly, Railways decided to set up mechanized laundries on Railway land under its control. In this regard, 41 mechanized laundries have already been set up. Significant improvement has been reported in washing quality of linen cleaned in these laundries.

श्री अनुभव मोहंती: सर, भारतीय रेल को हम हमारे देश की लाइफ लाइन मानते हैं and being an Indian, I welcome the Rail Budget. I was very happy to listen to the entire Rail Budget sitting in the Lok Sabha Gallery. Sir, coming to my question, I just want to know as to what is the Budget allocated for cleaning, ironing, packing and delivery of bedrolls. And, as there is a provision of 'carry-away-beddings' for passengers with reservation, पैसेंजर्स के पास जो रिजर्व टिकट होता है, उसके लिए आपने प्रोविजन रखा है, carry-away-beddings यह कितनी ट्रेनों में लागू है और क्या आप इसको पूरे देश में हर ट्रेन में लागू करने की सोच रहे हैं या नहीं? अगर लागू कर रहे हैं, तो कब तक लागू करेंगे?

श्री मनोज सिन्हा: महोदय, माननीय सदस्य का जो मूल प्रश्न है, वह linen की स्वच्छता की क्वालिटी को लेकर है। अभी मैं उनको बजट का विवरण भी उपलब्ध कराऊंगा। उन्होंने जानना चाहा है कि क्यों न इसकी outsourcing कर दी जाए, तो पहले यह outsourcing की व्यवस्था थी, लेकिन बार-बार शिकायतें आती थीं। इसलिए भारतीय रेल ने 2009 में mechanized laundries लगाने का निर्णय लिया। आज देश में 41 mechanized laundries लगा दी गई हैं, जिससे लगभग 40 प्रतिशत linen उपलब्ध हो रही है और AC class की AC first, AC second and AC third में हमने सामान्यतः सिस्टम IVRS का लगाया हुआ है और हम इसमें 5-6 चीजों के बारे में यात्रियों से पूछते हैं। उसमें एक linen की quality के विषय में भी है। आज की तारीख में जो 26 हजार फोन कॉल्स materialise हुए हैं, उसमें 1337 लोगों ने कहा है कि linen की quality अच्छी नहीं है। ज्यादातर लोगों ने उसे अच्छा और संतोषजनक बताया है।

जहां तक विवरण का सवाल है, मैं माननीय सदस्य को अलग से दे दूंगा। इन्होंने यह जानना चाहा है कि बजट कितना एलोकेट हुआ है, तो मैं इनको यह जानकारी स्वतः उपलब्ध करा दूंगा। मुझे लगता है कि जब से भारतीय रेल ने mechanized laundries प्रारंभ की है तब से linen की quality में काफी सुधार हुआ है। हम निरंतर उसकी मॉनिटरिंग भी कर रहे हैं और हमारे रेलवे का कंट्रोल उस पर बढ़ गया है, जबकि पहले शिकायतें ज्यादा आती थीं।

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: I would like to thank the hon. Minister, but मैं इनसे रिक्वेस्ट करना चाहूंगा कि अगर इनका श्री टीयर एसी में एक पर्सनल ट्रेवल हो, तो इनको experience होगा कि असल बात क्या है और पैसेंजर्स वहां प्रैक्टिकली क्या experience कर रहे हैं। आप सिर्फ linen कवर को देख रहे हैं, लेकिन एक बार आप उस linen कवर को उतार कर देखेंगे, तो रेलवे के pillows भी खूबसूरत दिखते हैं, because I have a personal experience. अभी कुछ ही दिन पहले ही, मैं बोलना नहीं चाहता कि कौन सी ट्रेन से कहां से कहां जा रहा था, I had a very poor experience in the train.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, you should name the specific journey. Only then, can the Government look into it.

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Of course, I will. But मैं बोल रहा हूं कि यह सिर्फ शायद उसी ट्रेन में नहीं होगा, यह बहुत सी ट्रेन्स में होगा, may be, he is not aware of that. ...*(Interruptions)*... My second supplementary is still pending. पहले जो आप outsourcing कर रहे थे और जब से आपने खुद laundries का mechanism start किया है, what is the budget difference in it? भारतीय रेल को कितने पैसों का फायदा हुआ या नुकसान हुआ? आपने जो 41 mechanized laundries के बारे में कहा है, is it enough to meet the entire nation's railway requirement of cleaning linen? Is it enough for that?

श्री मनोज सिन्हा: महोदय, हम लगभग तीन लाख पंद्रह हजार यात्रियों को प्रतिदिन bedrolls सप्लाई करते हैं और इसमें 41 mechanized laundries बनने के बाद हम 40 प्रतिशत यात्रियों की देखभाल कर पा रहे हैं और 25 और जो sanctioned mechanized laundries हैं, हम वे स्थापित कर लेंगे, तो मैं उम्मीद करता हूं कि 85 से 90 प्रतिशत लोगों की हम देखभाल कर सकेंगे। इन्होंने disposable bedrolls के बारे में जानना चाहा था, तो वह अभी हमने पांच स्टेशनों पर तथा कुछ selected trains में उपलब्ध करवा दिया है। 140 रुपए में 2 बैडशीट और 1 तकिया और 110 रुपए में कम्बल, यात्री जिस स्टेशन से चाहे ले सकता है या पहले से उसे बुक कर सकता है। हम इसको पैन-इंडिया में आने वाले 6 महीने में लागू करने की कोशिश करेंगे।

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question has been answered. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, you cannot. ...*(Interruptions)*...

डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया : सभापति जी, मैं रेलवे की इस घोषणा का स्वागत करता हूं कि आम लोगों को बिस्तर उपलब्ध कराने के लिए उसने अतिरिक्त व्यवस्था की घोषणा की है। आज जानते हैं कि यदि बिस्तर साफ-सुथरा नहीं है, तो इसका असर स्वास्थ्य पर पड़ सकता है। इसलिए बहुत ज्यादा जरूरी है कि बिस्तर के साथ-साथ जो तकिया है, बार-बार खोल बदल जाने के कारण से वह तकिया भले ही नया दिखाई देता हो किन्तु जो अन्दर का material है, उसकी बार-बार सफाई न हो, उसका कोई प्रबन्ध न हो, तो यह ठीक नहीं है। इतनी बड़ी यात्रा होती है और इतने लोग यात्रा करने वाले होते हैं, लेकिन आपने बताया कि अभी यह 40 प्रतिशत ही होता है। इसलिए शत-प्रतिशत यात्रियों के लिए इसका प्रबन्ध करने के लिए, चूंकि यह मामला स्वास्थ्य से सम्बन्धित है, इसके लिए सरकार क्या उपाय करेगी, मैं इतना जानना चाहता हूं।

श्री सभापति : बिस्तरबंद लेकर चलने का पुराना सिस्टम बहुत अच्छा था।

श्री मनोज सिन्हा : सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने जो बात कही है, जहां-जहां हम mechanized laundry से धुलाई नहीं कर पा रहे हैं, वहां हमने इसको outsource किया हुआ है। Bed rolls, towels, pillow covers और चादरें, हर उपयोग के बाद इनकी धुलाई की जाती है, blanket को हम दो महीने में एक बार धुलवाते हैं। जिस बात का जिक्र माननीय सदस्य ने किया है, हम उसका पूरा ध्यान रखते हैं। हम periodical inspection करते रहते हैं। मैं इनको आश्वस्त करना चाहता हूँ कि यात्रियों के स्वास्थ्य की चिंता और धुलाई की उत्तम गुणवत्ता पर भारतीय रेल का जोर है और इसे हर हालत में maintain किया जाएगा।

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता: श्रीमन्, कल रेल बजट प्रस्तुत किया गया। लोगों को बड़ी उम्मीद थी कि प्रभु देश को कुछ देंगे। उस प्रभु को तो कोई देख नहीं सकता, लेकिन इन प्रभु को तो हम सबने देखा है। हमें इतना disappointment मिला कि पूरा देश स्तब्ध रह गया।

श्रीमन्, रेलवे में जो travel करते हैं, मेरा भी सौभाग्य है कि मुझे कई बार travel करने का मौका मिला। Bed rolls, चादरें, pillow covers और blankets इस तरह से stink करते हैं कि यह बहुत ही दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है। पहले यह outsource होता था, फिर आप लोगों ने mechanized system लगाया। यह शुरू में ठीक था, लेकिन अब फिर वही दुर्दशा है। सर, यह ineffective है।

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता: सर, यह एक बहुत serious health hazard है। आप केवल इन दो चीजों को करवा दीजिए, बाकी तो आप लोग कुछ नहीं कर पाएँगे। Bed rolls, bed sheets, ये तो हैं ही, इनके साथ ही स्वस्थ भोजन मिलना शुरू हो जाए, इसके बारे में आप क्या प्रबन्ध कर रहे हैं, आप इसके बारे में कुछ बताएँ, तो आपकी कृपा होगी।

श्री मनोज सिन्हा : सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य को रेल यात्रा करने का सौभाग्य मिला, मैंने सुना था कि वे बराबर सैलनू में ही चला करते थे। मैं उनको बधाई देता हूँ कि उन्होंने ऐसी यात्रा भी कि जहां उनको दुर्गन्ध आई। यह इस देश का सौभाग्य है। अगर प्रभु जी तारे भी ले आएँगे ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: प्लीज।

श्री मनोज सिन्हा: मुझे बोलने दीजिए। अगर प्रभुजी चांद और तारे भी ले आएँगे, तो उनको यहां नहीं दिखाई पड़ेगा। उनको क्या दिखता है, मैं यह जानता हूँ, इसलिए वे राजनीतिक सवाल न करें।

मुझे उनके प्रश्न के संदर्भ में एक बात कहनी है कि हम जिम्मेदारी से कहना चाहते हैं कि bed rolls की quality और bed linen ठीक सप्लाई हो, रेलवे इसकी पूरी चिंता कर रही है। 2009 में भारतीय रेल ने पहले से यह परंपरा शुरू की थी, क्योंकि लोगों की तमाम शिकायतें आ रही थीं। आज हम कह सकते हैं कि वे शिकायतें कम हुई हैं।

जहां तक खाने का सवाल है, वहां भी मैं मानता हूँ कि जहां गुणवत्ता में सुधार करने की आवश्यकता है, वहीं उस क्षेत्र में प्रतिस्पर्धा बढ़ा देनी चाहिए। इसलिए हमने प्रतिस्पर्धा और विकल्प

उपलब्ध करा दिए हैं। यात्री चाहें तो पैट्री कार से खाना लें और वे चाहें तो उनके पास विकल्प उपलब्ध है, वे टिकट के साथ अच्छा खाना बुक कर सकते हैं।

श्री विजय जवाहरलाल दर्डा: सभापति जी, मैं माननीय रेल मंत्री जी से कहना चाहूँगा कि इस सदन में hygienic bed sheet, linen, pillow, ये देने का हमेशा वादा हुआ है, मगर इसके बावजूद आज तक सारे सदन की यही राय है कि जैसा चाहिए, वैसा नहीं हुआ है। आपने इसको mechanized किया है, यह बहुत अच्छा है। जो रूट्स अभी mechanized system के अंतर्गत नहीं हैं, वहां आपने outsourcing की है। अगर वे quality maintain नहीं कर रहे हैं, तो क्या आप उनको blacklist करेंगे?

दूसरी बात, आप कृपया यह बताएँ कि अभी आदरणीय सभापति महोदय ने एक सुझाव दिया कि आप स्वयं bed roll लेकर चलें। क्या आप इसको लागू करेंगे?

मेरी तीसरी बात यह है कि आपका टाइम टेबल क्या है और देश के अन्दर आप इसको किस प्रकार से लागू करेंगे?

श्री मनोज सिन्हा: सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने बहुत अच्छा सुझाव दिया है और आपकी बात उनको पसंद आई, मुझे लगता है कि और लोगों को भी पसंद आएगी तो भारतीय रेल को कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। यह अच्छी बात है, पुरानी परंपरा को आगे बढ़ाया जाए। इसमें आपका सहयोग मिलेगा, तो मुझे लगता है कि पूरा देश प्रसन्न होगा।

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी: ऑटो-क्लेविंग कीजिए। यह ऑटो क्लेविंग की एक टेक्नोलॉजी है।

श्री सभापति: प्लीज, रेणुका जी।

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी: सर, सज़ेशन है।

श्री मनोज सिन्हा: महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो दूसरी बात कही है कि हाईजैनिक् बेड-रोल उपलब्ध हैं, तो हम इसके लिए पूरी कोशिश कर रहे हैं। जो 25 मेकेनाइलाज्ड लांड्रीज़ हैं, आने वाले दो वर्षों में वे भी देश में काम करने लगेंगी। तो 85 से 90 प्रतिशत यात्रियों की हम चिंता दूर कर लेंगे। देश में जो संख्या बढ़ती जा रही है, देश की आबादी भी बढ़ती जा रही है, उस अनुपात में भविष्य में हम देश में मेकेनाइज्ड लांड्रीज़ भी बढ़ाएंगे।

Reduction in area of cultivable land

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

(a) the total area of cultivable land in the country in the year 2005 and the present status thereof, State-wise; and

(b) whether it is a fact that cultivable land is reducing day-by-day, if so, to what extent it will affect production of foodgrains by 2020?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per report on Land Use Statistics for 2012-13 (latest available), State-wise details of cultivable land in the country during 2005-06 and 2012-2013 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) The cultivable land in the country has marginally declined from 182.7 million hectares in 2005-06 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.

As cultivable area in the country is limited, in order to boost agricultural production by enhancement of productivity of various agricultural crops, Government of India has been implementing various Crop Development Schemes/ Programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) etc.

Under the above 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, issuance of Soil Health Cards etc. The States are also provided support for creation of agricultural infrastructure for optimal use of water and other natural resources.

In order to enhance agricultural productivity in the country, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is conducting basic and strategic research related to improvement and production of rice, wheat, maize, millets, fodder crops, oilseeds, pulses, sugarcane, cotton and other fiber crops through 26 commodity/theme based research institutes and 33 All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) and All India Network Projects (AINPs), mostly situated in State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) to develop location specific, high yielding crop varieties and matching technologies as per the agro-ecological needs.

As a result of above initiatives, the agricultural production in the country has been following an increasing trend except in the years affected by drought, floods, and other natural calamities. Despite marginal reduction in cultivable land the above trend is expected to continue in future.

Statement*State-wise details of cultivable land in the country during 2005-06 and 2012-13*

States	Cultivable Land (000' Hectares)	
	2005-06	2012-13
Andhra Pradesh	15772	15930
Arunachal Pradesh	418	424
Assam	3224	3217
Bihar	6638	6582
Chhattisgarh	5590	5552
Gujarat	12409	12661
Haryana	3784	3664
Himachal Pradesh	819	811
Jammu and Kashmir	1048	1070
Jharkhand	4299	4336
Karnataka	12905	12846
Kerala	2323	2280
Madhya Pradesh	17337	17264
Maharashtra	21167	21129
Manipur	232	316
Meghalaya	1058	1056
Mizoram	219	408
Nagaland	644	694
Odisha	7473	6743
Punjab	4248	4286
Rajasthan	25621	25548
Tamil Nadu	8164	8126
Tripura	311	277
Uttarakhand	1504	1547
Uttar Pradesh	19268	19075
West Bengal	5749	5673
Others	462	436
ALL INDIA	182686	181950

श्री भूपिंदर सिंह: सभापति महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का जो जवाब आया है, वह सही नहीं आया है। मैं आपका ध्यान अपने क्वेश्चन की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि मेरा जो पहला सवाल था, वह था कि 2005 से लेकर प्रेजेंट स्टेट्स में स्टेटाइज्ड कितनी एग्रीकल्चर लैंड, कृषि की जमीन घटी है? इसका जवाब 2005 से लेकर 2012-13 तक का आया है। दूसरा मेरा जो पार्ट था, बी पार्ट, उसमें मैंने यह पूछा था कि 2020 तक हमारा फूड प्रोडक्शन क्या होगा, कितना घटेगा, लेकिन यहां 2020 के बारे में कुछ भी नहीं कहा गया। चलिए, न कहा गया हो, लेकिन सरकार ने जो जवाब दिया है, उसके ऊपर सवाल पूछ लेता हूँ।

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री भूपिंदर सिंह: सर, सवाल यह है। सर, इसको भी आप देखिए। The question is with you and the answer is also with you. Why is it happening? सर, मुझे यह चांस लॉटरी से मिला है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please.

श्री भूपिंदर सिंह: कुछ प्रोटेक्शन दीजिए that the Government should come out with the answer properly. Is it expected from the Government that we will get this type of answer? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. You have raised a question that the answer in your view is not adequate. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the hon. Minister reply.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Not in my view but in the view of the entire country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak only for yourself at this time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: No, Sir. I need protection from you, Sir. I want to know your view also. You give me protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I need protection from you if you are taking precious time. Please let the hon. Minister clarify.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Sir, I will ask the question. 2005 से 2013 तक अगर एग्रीकल्चर लैंड एक लाख हेक्टेयर घटा है, तो 2020 तक इस जमीन के घटने से जो प्रोडक्शन का देश पर असर पड़ेगा, क्या उसके बारे में सरकार ने सोचा है? इस बारे में मंत्री जी बताएं।

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: महोदय, माननीय सदस्य का जो सवाल है, उसका उत्तर इस जवाब में है। हमारे मंत्रालय को विभिन्न सोर्सों से 2012-13 तक के जो आंकड़े मिले हैं, उनको हमने उपलब्ध कराया है, जिसको पूरे सदन के सामने हमने रखा है और इसी उत्तर में यह बताया है कि हमने जो कई पहलें की हैं, उनके परिणाम स्वरूप देश में कृषि-उत्पादन सूखे, बाढ़ एवं अन्य प्राकृतिक आपदाओं से प्रभावित वर्षों से छोड़कर एक बढ़ती हुई प्रवृत्ति का अनुकरण कर रहा है और अगर डिटेल् चाहिए, तो वह भी मैं आपको दूंगा। इस वर्ष का जो द्वितीय एस्टीमेट आया है, वैसे पिछले वर्ष से माइनस बारह कम वर्षा हुई थी, इस बार माइनस 14 कम वर्षा है, फिर

भी जो उत्पादन की प्रवृत्ति है, विभिन्न जो योजनाएं चल रही हैं, उसके कारण द्वितीय एस्टीमेट में जो अनुमान आया है, उससे इस बार अधिक उत्पादन होगा। अब इसको बढ़ाने के लिए हम क्या-क्या कर रहे हैं? इसके विषय में भी मैं उनको विस्तार से बताना चाहूंगा कि इस देश के अंदर किसानों की लागत कम हो, उत्पादन अधिक बढ़े, इस दृष्टि से हमने कई योजनाएं चलाई हैं। सबसे पहले तो यह प्रधान मंत्री कृषि सिंचाई योजना है। आपके ध्यान में होगा कि इसके लिए हमने सभी राज्यों को पैसा दिया था, 5300 करोड़ हमारा इस वर्ष का था, उसको बढ़ा कर 7000 करोड़ किया गया। जो प्रारंभिक बजट था, खर्च भी तेज हुए और तीन मंत्रालय इस काम को कर रहे हैं, प्रधान मंत्री कृषि सिंचाई योजना के लिए हमने राशि बढ़ाई और देश भर के 155 अधिकारियों को हमने डिस्ट्रिक्ट इरिगेशन प्लान बनाने के लिए ट्रेनिंग दी है। मुझे खुशी है कि उन्हें ट्रेनिंग देने की प्रक्रिया चल रही है। 135 जिलों में District Irrigation Plan बन रहे हैं। सितम्बर तक देश के सभी जिलों का Irrigation Plan तैयार हो जाएगा। मैं समझता हूं कि हमारे माननीय सदस्य यह स्वीकार करेंगे कि उत्पादकता बढ़ाने में इसका बहुत बड़ा योगदान होगा।

दूसरा, मैं इनको बताना चाहूंगा कि इस देश में जो किसान हैं, उनको पता ही नहीं है कि उनकी जो मिट्टी है, खेत है या जमीन है, उसमें कौन-कौन सी बीमारी है और उसके लिए कौन सी दवा, कितनी मात्रा में देनी है, कितनी खाद देनी है या कितना भोजन देना है। 2007-08 में ही इस पर चर्चा शुरू हो गई थी। जहां तक Soil Health Management की बात है, मैंने इसके जो पुराने आंकड़े देखे, उनके अनुसार जब हम सरकार में आए, उससे पहले पूरे देश के सभी राज्यों को Soil Health Management के लिए 72 करोड़ रुपये दिए गए थे। मैं माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहता हूं कि उत्पादकता बढ़ाने की दृष्टि से 18 महीने के अन्दर ही राज्यों को Soil Health Management के लिए 288 करोड़ रुपये दिए गए हैं।

दूसरा, इनकी जानकारी में मैं यह भी लाना चाहता हूं कि इससे पहले Soil Health Card के लिए राज्यों को अलग से पैसा नहीं दिया जाता था। जो पैसा Soil Health Management और राष्ट्रीय कृषि विकास योजना के लिए जाता था, उन्हीं पैसों से Soil Health Card के लिए पैसा निकाला जाता था।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: मैं चाहता हूं कि माननीय सदस्य को उनके प्रश्न का संतोषजनक उत्तर प्राप्त हो।

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. We have to take up other questions.

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: इस प्रकार उत्पादकता के लिए हमारी बहुत सारी योजनाएं हैं। जब इस विषय पर चर्चा होगी, तब विस्तार से हम उनके बारे में बताएंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*... One minute.

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: हमारी पूरी कोशिश है कि उत्पादकता बढ़े और 2020 आते-आते निश्चित रूप से हमारी उत्पादकता और बढ़ेगी।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Second question.

श्री भूपिंदर सिंह: सर, हमारे संतुष्ट होने या न होने से कुछ नहीं होगा, क्योंकि अब तक इस देश का किसान संतुष्ट नहीं हो पाया है, हमें इसी बात का दुःख है। इस बात को आप भी जानते हैं, सारा सदन भी जानता है और सारा देश भी जानता है, लेकिन इसके लिए हम अकेले मंत्री जी को ही रिस्पांसिबल नहीं मानते हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री भूपिंदर सिंह: सर, मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि यहां पर 2020 में कितना प्रोडक्शन आएगा, उसके बारे में मंत्री जी ने चुप्पी मार दी है। इन्होंने कहा कि जब कैलेमिटीज़ होती हैं, तभी प्रोडक्शन घटता है, नहीं तो प्रोडक्शन बढ़ ही रहा है।

सर, इन्होंने यहां पर जो स्कीम्स बताई हैं, लेकिन इस सदन में सबको इस बात पर उद्বেग है कि इस सरकार के आने से पहले राष्ट्रीय कृषि विकास योजना पर राज्यों को 100% सब्सिडी मिलती थी, लेकिन अब उस सब्सिडी को 100% से घटा कर 50% कर दिया गया है। क्या यह बात सच है या नहीं?

Horticulture Mission के लिए देश के जितने डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स को पैसा दिया जाता था, उसको घटा दिया गया है, क्या यह बात सत्य है या नहीं? ओडिशा में सभी 30 जिलों को Horticulture Mission के तहत सहायता दी जाती थी, उसको घटा दिया गया है या नहीं?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री भूपिंदर सिंह: जिन राज्यों में सिंचाई की सुविधा कम है, अगर उन राज्यों के किसानों के लिए सरकार Minimum Support Price को बढ़ाएगी, तभी प्रोडक्शन बढ़ सकता है, नहीं तो किसानों के बारे में चर्चा मात्र चर्चा बन कर रह जाएगी। क्या इसके बारे में सरकार ने कुछ सोचा है?

श्री सभापति: आपने एक साथ कितने सवाल पूछ लिए हैं?

श्री भूपिंदर सिंह: सर, मेरा सवाल एक ही है। Sir, the question is one, with parts 1, 2 and 3.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; only one part would be answered. I leave it to the Minister to answer.

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: महोदय, इन्होंने विभिन्न योजनाओं में राज्यों को सहायता देने की बात कही है। इनको पता है कि मुख्य मंत्रियों की अध्यक्षता में एक कमेटी बनी थी, जिसमें उन्होंने जो 60:40 का रेश्यो तय किया, उसी के आधार पर राज्यों को सहायता दी जा रही है। चूंकि इन्होंने ओडिशा की और राष्ट्रीय कृषि विकास योजना की चर्चा की है, मैं माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहूंगा कि 2014-15 में राष्ट्रीय कृषि विकास योजना के अंतर्गत जो पैसे गए थे, वह 100 करोड़ रुपए भी अभी तक ओडिशा सरकार खर्च नहीं कर पाई है। अगर आप पिछले 10 वर्षों का रिकॉर्ड देखेंगे, तो आपको मालूम होगा कि प्रति वर्ष राज्यों को जो पैसा मिलता रहा है, उसके सम्बन्ध में अधिकतर राज्यों की यही स्थिति रही है। यदि उस वर्ष का पैसा खर्च नहीं होता तो फिर दूसरे वर्ष में उसका नवीकरण होता है। इससे सरकार का तो नुकसान नहीं होता है, लेकिन राज्य के किसानों का नुकसान अवश्य होता है।

मेरी विनती है कि अपने राज्य में आप इस चीज़ को देखें। मैं इसके लिए सारे अधिकारियों के साथ बैठा था। राज्यों के पास पैसे की कमी नहीं है, लेकिन उन्हें जो पैसा दिया जा रहा है, वह पैसा खर्च नहीं हो पा रहा है और हर साल उसका डायवर्शन हो रहा है।

श्री अनुभव मोहंती : राज्यों के पास सही वक्त पर पैसा आता ही नहीं है।

श्री भूपिंदर सिंह : सर, मुझे मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं मिला है।

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह : आप अभी मेरा पूरा उत्तर सुनिए। मूल सवाल में आपने जो 2020 तक उत्पादकता के सम्बन्ध में प्रश्न किया है, मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे यहां पर उत्पादकता की जो प्रकृति है, उसके मुताबिक यह बात बहुत साफ है कि उत्पादकता पर बहुत अधिक असर नहीं पड़ेगा। इसके लिए पुराने आंकड़े भी दिए गए हैं, जो सभा पटल पर रखे गए हैं। आंकड़ों की प्रवृत्ति यही दर्शाती है कि 2020 आते-आते खेती की जमीन कम होने के बावजूद भी हमारी उत्पादकता बढ़ रही है। इस मामले में हमको बहुत अधिक परेशानी नहीं उठानी पड़ेगी।

SHRI ANIL DESAI: Sir, the hon. Agriculture Minister has stated in his reply that by 2020 also the trend of foodgrains and the trend of agricultural produce will go on increasing and that exceptionally during drought or floods it may come down. One part is, productivity is okay. For the National Food Security and to make available foodgrains to the people, we need to see what arrangements are there in the agricultural strategies regarding the facilities like warehousing, cold-storages and then the poor condition of FCI godowns because of which ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI ANIL DESAI:... the wastage of foodgrains is taking place. Are there any measures to be taken which should be very effective because these wastes amount to not less than 30 per cent of the production? And also what action is being taken regarding the middle-men who are there in the chain from the producer to the consumer?

MR. CHAIRMAN: One question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't make a speech. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANIL DESAI: We have witnessed during the scarcity of tur dal that it is imported. But what has happened to the hoarders from where a lot of dal was taken off? I want the Minister to enlighten the House about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please answer one of the various questions raised.

डा. संजीव कुमार बालियान : सभापति महोदय, वेयरहाउस और कोल्ड स्टोरेज की जो स्कीम्स पहले से चल रही हैं, वे अभी भी हैं और लगातार जारी रहेंगी। एफसीआई के बारे में जो सवाल है, उसका जवाब माननीय केंद्रीय मंत्री जी दे सकते हैं। यह सही है कि देश में दालों का

[डा. संजीव कुमार बालियान]

प्रोडक्शन कम है और पिछले दो वर्ष से भी कम रहा, करीब 18 से 21 मिलियन टन के बीच में हम झूल रहे हैं। पिछले साल भी कम था, उससे पहले तो यह आंकड़ा 19 तक चला गया था। पिछले दो साल सूखे की वजह से यह स्थिति हुई। ...**(व्यवधान)**... पिछले साल सूखे की वजह से यह कम रहा। पिछले दो वर्षों से लगातार सूखा रहा। जो NFSM (National Food Security Mission) है, उसमें जो धन प्रदेशों को आवंटित होता था, तो अभी सरकार ने 50 परसेंट केवल दालों के लिए दिया है। सरकार का प्रयास है कि दालों का प्रोडक्शन बढ़े।

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, when the Parliament passed the Food Security Act and when the Parliament discussed the legislation of Land Acquisition, a concern was expressed that agricultural land is increasingly transferred to non-agricultural purposes. The answer admits that the decline in agricultural land has been mainly due to diversion of land for non-agricultural purposes. At the end, the answer says, "despite marginal reduction". I don't know what you mean by 'marginal reduction'. Has the Centre had at any point of time, any discussion with State Governments on this question?

डा. संजीव कुमार बालियान: सभापति महोदय, इसमें मार्जिनली का मतलब यह है कि अभी रिडक्शन के बारे में 2005-06 से 2012-13 तक का डेटा केंद्र सरकार के पास उपलब्ध है। टोटल एग्रीकल्चरल लैंड के अन्दर 0.74 मिलियन हेक्टेयर का रिडक्शन हुआ है। लेकिन, साथ ही साथ 2007 में जब एग्रीकल्चर पॉलिसी बनी थी, तो सभी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को कहा गया था कि जो डाइवर्जन है, उसे क्योंकि बिल्कुल खत्म नहीं कर सकते, इसलिए प्रयास किया जाए कि जो वेस्ट लैंड है, उसमें इंडस्ट्रीज़ लगे। यानी वेस्ट लैंड का उपयोग non-agricultural purposes हेतु जमीन के लिए किया जाए, ऐसा प्रयास किया जाए। यह 2007 में सभी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को एडवाइज किया गया था। इसके लिए लगातार प्रयास जारी है। जो वेस्ट लैंड है, उसमें भी हमारा प्रयास है कि वेस्ट लैंड को हम एग्रीकल्चरल लैंड के अन्दर कन्वर्ट कर सकें।

श्री किरनमय नन्दा: महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से एक प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ। मंत्री जी ने उत्तर में कहा कि उत्पादकता हर साल बढ़ी है और भी बढ़ेगी। तो जहां उत्पादकता इतनी बढ़ती जाती है, तो किसानों की आत्महत्याएँ क्यों बढ़ जाती हैं? इसका कारण क्या है?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: किसान के आक्रोशित होने का जो कारण है, उसमें सबसे पहला कारण यह है कि उत्पादन की जो उसकी लागत है, वह ज्यादा है, उत्पादकता कम है तथा उसे अच्छा मूल्य नहीं मिलता है। जब प्राकृतिक आपदाओं में उत्पादन पूरा समाप्त हो जाता है, तो देश में बीमा की ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप सुन लीजिए। मैं फिर दोहरा रहा हूँ। पूरा सुन लीजिए, उसके बाद बोलिए। एक तो उत्पादन लागत ज्यादा है और दूसरा, उत्पादकता कम है और अच्छा मूल्य ...**(व्यवधान)**...

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Procurement of wheat in Delhi, Punjab and Haryana**

*35. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is unable to purchase wheat from farmers in Delhi, Punjab and Haryana;

(b) if so, the total quantity of wheat produced and the quantity purchased in these States from farmers during the last three years; and

(c) whether farmers have been given proper rates by the Government, if so, the amount given per quintal during this period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government agencies have been procuring wheat in Punjab and Haryana over the years. In Delhi, the production and marketable surplus is limited, therefore, procurement is not regular.

The Statement showing production and procurement of wheat for the last three years is enclosed. (*See below*).

(c) The Central Government extends price support for the purchase of food-grains through Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government Agencies. Foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications are bought by the public procurement agencies at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) plus incentive bonus, if any announced by the Central Government. The farmers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/State Agencies at MSP or to sell it in the open market, whichever is advantageous to them. The Statement showing rate of MSP of wheat, paid to the farmers during last three years is as below:—

(₹ Per Quintal)

RMS	Wheat
2013-14	1350
2014-15	1400
2015-16	1450

Statement

Details of production and procurement of wheat for the last three years

Sl. No.	States/UTs	RMS 2013-14		RMS 2014-15		RMS 2015-16	
		Production (Crop year 2012-13)	Procurement	Production (Crop year 2013-14)	Procurement	Production (Crop year 2014-15)	Procurement
1.	Delhi	0.65	—	0.85	—	0.86	0.02
2.	Haryana	111.17	58.73	118.00	64.95	118.56	67.78
3.	Punjab	165.91	108.97	176.20	116.41	157.83	103.44
	TOTAL	277.08	167.70	294.20	181.36	276.39	171.24

Farmers seeking suicide clearance in Maharashtra

*36. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the incident of several farmers in Wardha district of Maharashtra approaching district authorities to obtain a "suicide clearance", effectively seeking Government's permission to commit suicide, due to the alleged failure of Government to redress their grievances and provide adequate compensation for crop failures;

(b) if so, the measures being taken to provide adequate assistance to these farmers, economically, socially and psychologically; and

(c) whether Central Government is planning to set up any mechanism to detect and prevent cases of farmers' suicides in various States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) As reported by the Government of Maharashtra, in Wardha District, 102 farmers of Waghoda Village of Tehsil, Karanja, 6 (six) farmers of Wadad village of Tehsil, Wardha and 1 (one) farmer of village Antora (New) of Tehsil, Ashti had given application regarding permission to obtain suicide clearance. Further, the State Government has reported that these applications are due to low yield of Kharif crops, and not due to failure of Government to redress their grievance and provide adequate compensation to crops.

(b) Government of Maharashtra has also reported, that in case of farmers of Waghoda village, they are demanding debt relief as there is failure of Kharif crop; that the Tehsildar and his team visited this village and counselled them; that in the case of farmers of Wadad village, they are demanding assistance for loss of Kharif crop of 2014. The State Government has further reported that, an assistance of ₹ 28350/- was provided to these farmers. In the case of Shri Sheshrao Thakare, the farmer of the village Antora (New), Tehsil Ashti, the Tehsildar and his team personally visited him and counselled him. It is also reported that in Wardha District, a scheme of assured health service is being implemented which includes provision of psychological help desk at District Hospital; that Health Department is also implementing Prerna Project which includes survey of farmers by Aasha Workers through which Aasha Workers are identifying the psychologically depressed farmers and also the farmers suffering from chronic illness; and that these farmers are being provided with medicines and counseling.

(c) During the year 2015-16 (including Kharif 2015), the State Government of Maharashtra has submitted a memorandum seeking financial assistance for drought

from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), amounting to ₹ 4002.82 crore. The Central Government has approved an amount of ₹ 3049.36 crore for Maharashtra under NDRF.

Apart from the above, the Government of India 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 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 nutrient status of their soils and undertake judicious use of fertiliser application and thus save on cost of cultivation. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate use of urea, 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); Unified National Agriculture Markets; and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- (vi) Government has recently approved a new crop Insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to replace National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified NAIS (MNAIS) from Kharif 2016 season. PMFBY has addressed all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and would be available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. This scheme would provide insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances.

Salient features of the PMFBY are:

- (a) Farmers have to pay the lowest ever premium rate.

- (b) There will be a uniform premium rate for farmers for entire country- 2% maximum for Kharif food and Oilseed crops, 1.5% maximum for Rabi food and Oilseed crops and 5% maximum for Annual Horticultural/ Annual Commercial crops.
 - (c) The remaining financial burden will be borne by the Government.
 - (d) Farmers will get full insurance cover—there will be no “capping” of the Sum Insured and consequently, claim amount will not be cut or reduced.
 - (e) For the first time, inundation has been included under localized risk cover, in addition to hailstorm and landslide. Individual farm level assessment of crop loss will be done for this.
 - (f) For the first time, post harvest losses arising out of cyclones and unseasonal rains through out the country have been covered.
 - (g) For the first time, emphasis has been given to mobile and satellite technology to facilitate accurate assessment and quick settlement of claims.
 - (h) Crop Insurance Portal has been launched. This will be used extensively for better administration, co-ordination, dissemination of information and transparency.
 - (i) Coverage of areas to be increased from 23% (at present) to 50% in 2 years.
- (vii) 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.

**Compensation under national crop income
insurance scheme**

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

- (a) the total number of farmers, who have applied for claims for insurance benefits under National Crop Income Insurance Scheme during the financial year 2015-16, State-wise; and

(b) the total number of farmers, who have been compensated under the Scheme against their claims during the financial year 2015-16, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Government of India has not approved/implemented any scheme under the name of National Crop Income Insurance Scheme during the year 2015-16.

(b) Does not arise.

Training milk producers in innovative technologies

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

(a) whether Government is providing financial assistance to States to establish dairies under any special scheme;

(b) if so, the quantum of assistance provided to States during the last three years and in the current financial year;

(c) whether Government has any plan to give training in innovative technologies to milk producers to develop dairy production with advanced technologies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India is implementing the following schemes to promote dairy development in India, including provision for financial assistance to States to establish dairies:

(i) National Dairy Plan (Phase-I).

(ii) National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development.

(iii) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme.

The quantum of assistance provided to States and implementing agencies, under these Schemes, during the last three years and in the current financial year, is as follows:-

(₹ in crore)

Scheme	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
National Dairy Plan (Phase I)	123.00	139.79	164.00	300.00
National Programme for Dairy Development	89.10	74.79	89.95	66.97
Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme	310.00	284.30	154.59	116.64

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) The Government gives training in innovative technologies to milk producers to develop dairy production with advanced technologies, with the help of National Dairy Development Board under National Dairy Plan-I (NDP-I) and National Dairy Research Institute. Under NDP-I, NDDB imparts orientation on improved practices on animal rearing and milk production. So far, under NDP-I, 8586 number of milk producers and 17675 Technical Officers/Trainers and Local Resource persons have been trained during the last three years in village based milk procurement and ration balancing. National Dairy Research Institute organizes training programmes on “Commercial Dairy Farming” and provides knowledge to milk producers in the areas of scientific milk production including recent developments related to animal selection; breeding; health management; feed and fodder management; animal shelter design and construction; economics of milk production and prospects of value addition.

Quality of food provided by private vendors

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

(a) whether it is a fact that after privatizing the food vendors, the quality of food served in trains has deteriorated; and

(b) the criteria of Railways to select contractors for supplying food in trains and at stations, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) No, Sir. In its endeavour to provide quality and hygienic food to the passengers, Railways have developed and operationalized an institutionalized mechanism for monitoring of quality and hygiene of catering services through regular inspections at the ministerial, zonal and divisional levels to address catering complaints and thus improve passenger satisfaction in this regard.

(b) In pursuance of Catering Policy 2010, selection of the licensee for provision of catering services on trains and stations is done either through two packet tender system based on the Standard Bid Documents (SBDs) or calling of application through press notification. Allotment of all Major units and General Minor Units (GMUs) at ‘A’, ‘B’ and ‘C’ category stations is done through Two Packet Tender System. Packet ‘A’ contains the techno-commercial bid in which aspects like reputation, experience, track record, financial standing, size of establishment, quality certification, location of unit, legal standing etc. of the bidder are assessed through a transparent grading method by a Selection Committee for award of catering contracts. Packet ‘B’ contains the financial bid. Under Two Packet Tender System, the contracts are awarded to the highest bidders who qualify techno-commercial eligibility defined in the bid document.

Allotment of all Special Minor Units *i.e.* reserved units at all category of stations and General Minor units at 'D', 'E', and 'F' category of stations is done through 'Calling of Applications' through Press Notification. In case of allotment being done through 'Calling of Application' predefined weightage (marks) is allocated to each parameter by the nominated Selection Committee. The details of weightage to each parameter and the selection criteria is notified in the advertisement inviting applications as defined in the Catering Policy, 2010, which include, *inter-alia*, (i) reputation/business standing of the applicant, (ii) Turnover of applicant's business in catering for the last 5 years, (iii) Financial standing, (iv) previous experience in catering service (v) location of the unit, (vi) domicile of the units.

Formulation of a New Consumer Policy

*40. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted a Committee for formulating a New Consumer Policy;

(b) if so, how many members are there in this Committee;

(c) whether any time-frame has been set for submission of its report;

(d) if so, by when the Committee is likely to submit its report; and

(e) the main objectives which will form part of the New Consumer Policy?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) Government constituted a Committee with nine members on 26th July, 2004 to formulate National Consumer Policy. The Committee submitted its report on 1st April, 2005. It was decided that provisions envisaged in the draft Consumer Policy can be included in a comprehensive amendment to the Consumer Protection Act and by doing so, the Department will be able to put in place a legal framework for provisions which were to be declared as consumer policy. The Government has introduced a fresh bill titled "Consumer Protection Bill, 2015" in Lok Sabha which seeks to bring about comprehensive amendments to the existing Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The objectives of the Consumer Protection Bill are to (a) modernize the legislation on consumer protection to keep pace with the changes in markets; (b) enable consumers to make informed choices; (c) ensure fair, equitable and consistent outcomes for consumers; and (d) enable swift executive intervention in the nature of class action to prevent consumer detriment. The enactment of the Consumer Protection Bill, 2015, will provide the legal framework covering all issues relating to consumers and constitute the policy framework.

Upgradation/renovation of train coaches

*41. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are presently in the process of upgrading/renovating train coaches for the benefit of passengers; and

(b) the salient features of Railways' plans in this regard, including the time-frame therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) Upgrading/renovating of train coaches for benefit of the passengers is a continual process. This is being done either through refurbishing as done in case of Mahamana Express coaches with additional amenities and pleasing colour scheme or through gradual replacement of conventional Integral Coach Factory Design (ICF) coaches with safer and more comfortable Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches in Mail and Express trains.

**Non-lifting of imported pulses quota
by State Governments**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the State Governments have not lifted imported pulses offered by Centre at subsidized prices which are still lying in Central pool;

(b) if so, the total quantity of pulses imported during 2015, alongwith the States which have lifted their quota and the reasons why other States have not lifted their quota so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that private importers of pulses have resorted to cartels, hoarding stocks abroad, to jack up prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken against such importers?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) To improve the domestic availability and thereby moderate prices of pulses, Government decided last year to import pulses. Accordingly, a total of 4927 MT of Tur was imported through the Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC). The imported Tur has been allocated after mutual consultation and also based on specific requirement of the States. Of the total imports, an amount of 4422 MT has been allocated to/

lifted by various State Governments including Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana. Of the balance of 505 MT available, an amount of 395 MT has now been allocated to Manipur. Details of the imports including quantity lifted by various State Governments/agencies are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) There have been reports that some private importers did attempt forming cartels and cornering stocks of certain pulses in producer countries with an objective of delaying their arrival in India, thereby increasing its prices. Domestic searches and surveys have been conducted on a number of importers, traders and financiers engaged in pulses trade. A Group of Officers has been set up for regular monitoring and exchange of information on hoarding, cartelization etc. to facilitate coordinated action.

Statement

Allocation/distribution of imported tur by Government

Sl. No.	State/Agency	Allocation(MT)	Lifted(MT)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1872	1872
2.	Tamil Nadu	1105	1000
3.	Telangana	800	500
4.	Odisha	300	Nil
5.	Uttar Pradesh	500	500
6.	Manipur	395	Nil
7.	Delhi Mother Dairy	300	300
	Kendriya Bhandar	500	250
8.	(i) TOTAL LIFTED		4422
	(ii) TOTAL IMPORT		4927
	(iii) BALANCE		505

Note: The imports were channelised through the Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC), Department of Commerce.

Completion of broad gauge conversion of railway lines

*43. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have completed the work of broad gauge conversion of railway lines in many sectors, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that safety inspection has been carried out on the completed broad gauge converted lines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether any suggestions have been received by Railways during track inspection?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Conversion of Narrow Gauge (NG) lines, wherever feasible and Meter Gauge (MG) lines into Broad Gauge (BG) have been taken up by Indian Railways, as a part of Uni-gauge policy in phases, depending on overall availability of funds and relative priority of the route.

At the time of launching of this policy, Indian Railways had 23283 Km MG and 4066 Km NG lines, out of which 18376 Km MG and 1769 Km NG lines have been converted to BG lines till 31.03.2015.

(b) and (c) Railway lines, including the newly converted ones, are opened to passenger traffic only after safety inspection by railway officers and authorization by Commissioner of Railway Safety. The suggestions for improvement received during these inspections are examined and suitable measures are taken for ensuring safety of the passengers.

Train accident in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

*44. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a flatbed truck carrying huge granite monolith crashed through a railway level crossing near Madakasira in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh just as the Bengaluru-Nanded Express train was passing through and rammed the side of the carriage; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that five persons were killed in the said accident, including a legislator of Karnataka, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir. While Train No.16594 Down Bangalore City-Hazur Sahib Nanded Express was on run between Rangepalli and Penukonda Jn. stations in Bangalore-Dharmavaram section of Bangalore Division of South Western Railway, an overloaded road lorry No. AP 16 TT 9885 carrying a heavy stone dashed with it resulting in derailment at Special Class Interlocked manned level crossing No.77 at about 02.15 Hours of 24.08.2015.

(b) Yes, Sir. 5 persons were killed in the said accident including Shri Venkatesh Nayak, a legislator of Karnataka. Out of those killed, 3 were passengers, one was a Railway staff and a 5th person was travelling in the lorry. 2 persons suffered grievous injuries, out of whom one was a passenger and another a contractor's bed role attendant travelling in the train. 2 others suffered simple injuries, out of whom one was a passenger and another a Railway staff.

Reducing travel time of Andhra Pradesh Express

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

(a) the steps being taken by Railways to reduce the travel time of Andhra Pradesh Express by converting it to Rajdhani/Duronto;

(b) the steps being taken by Railways to attach sleeper coaches to Andhra Pradesh Express with neat and clean bogies; and

(c) the details of representations pending with Railways from Andhra Pradesh in this regard and by when action would be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Unlike Rajdhani/Duronto Express group of trains, which *inter-alia*, have limited stoppages and have safety clearances to run at maximum permissible speed of 130 Kmph on certain sections, Train No. 22415/22416 Visakhapatnam-New Delhi AC AP Express with 19 stoppages enroute is only cleared to run at 110 Kmph for major part of the journey. The train connects important towns/cities of the state of Andhra Pradesh to other important towns, enroute, as well as the national capital, which, as a concept, is not in the nature of the Rajdhani/Duronto Express group of trains. Given these constraints, any reduction of travel time of Train No. 22415/22416 Visakhapatnam-New Delhi AC AP Express to bring it closer to the travel time of Rajdhani/Duronto Express would necessarily mean upgradation of the maximum permissible speed of the train as well as reduction in the number of stoppages, which has not been found feasible yet.

(b) Train No. 22415/22416 Visakhapatnam-New Delhi AC AP Express was announced in the Railway Budget 2014-15 as a daily AC service. Attachment of non-AC sleeper coaches would change the very nature of the service it is providing and, hence, has not been found feasible at present.

(c) Requests/representations for speeding up of trains or/and attachment of coaches including sleeper class coaches are received at various levels of Railways administration *viz.* Stations, Divisional level, Zonal level and Railway Board's level and action as found feasible is taken from time to time. However, Indian Railways do not maintain a compendium of such representations.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Area under irrigation and cultivation of different crops

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

(a) the total area under cultivation of different crops, especially pulses, year-wise and State-wise during last ten years; and

(b) the proportion of this area that is irrigated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KLYANJIBHAI AKUNDARIYA):

(a) and (b) Details of total area under cultivation of different crops including pulses for 2005-06 to 2014-15 and percentage area under irrigation for 2005-06 to 2012-13 (latest available) in respect of major crop growing States of the country are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of total area under cultivation of major crops from 2005-06 to 2014-15

(a) State-wise area under Rice and percentage of Rice area under irrigation

State/UT	Area Coverage ('000 Hectares)										% Irrigated Area							
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Andhra Pradesh	3982.0	3978.0	3984.0	4387.0	3441.0	4751.0	4096.0	3628.0	4356.0	2394.0	96.56	96.43	96.64	96.85	97.47	97.15	97.09	96.80
Assam	2420.3	2189.0	2324.0	2484.2	2495.8	2570.3	2537.0	2488.2	2449.1	2495.3	2.57	5.58	5.26	10.01	7.08	4.88	4.93	4.93
Bihar	3252.4	3357.1	3572.6	3496.0	3213.7	2832.5	3323.9	3298.9	3130.8	3263.4	53.50	56.96	57.22	56.66	54.37	55.63	61.12	62.45
CHhattisgarh	3747.2	3723.6	3752.4	3734.0	3670.7	3702.5	3773.8	3784.8	3802.1	3808.5	30.34	32.34	32.89	32.68	31.74	33.58	34.20	35.28
Gujarat	666.0	734.0	759.0	747.0	679.0	808.0	836.0	701.0	788.0	786.0	57.97	63.30	61.48	61.48	61.48	61.48	61.48	61.48
Haryana	1052.0	1041.0	1075.0	1210.0	1205.0	1245.0	1235.0	1215.0	1228.0	1287.0	99.90	99.91	99.91	99.93	99.92	99.76	99.92	99.95
Himachal Pradesh	79.4	79.2	78.6	77.7	76.7	77.1	77.2	76.9	74.4	72.5	60.77	63.50	64.91	65.66	64.39	64.81	64.81	64.81
Jammu and Kashmir	259.0	252.5	263.2	257.6	259.9	261.3	262.2	261.7	271.5	276.4	90.44	91.42	87.07	90.53	91.18	90.41	90.20	90.53
Jharkhand	1354.7	1623.6	1653.7	1683.6	995.0	720.3	1469.0	1414.5	1255.9	1502.2	4.03	2.77	2.82	2.16	2.29	3.24	3.00	6.41
Karnataka	1485.0	1395.0	1416.0	1514.0	1487.0	1540.0	1416.0	1278.0	1340.0	1326.0	75.77	73.75	73.72	74.69	75.23	77.04	75.18	72.19
Kerala	275.8	264.0	228.8	234.3	234.0	213.2	208.2	197.3	199.6	198.2	57.89	65.67	67.44	72.15	72.26	70.59	100.00	74.48
Madhya Pradesh	1657.7	1661.3	1558.9	1682.3	1445.7	1602.9	1662.0	1882.6	1930.0	2153.0	13.64	14.31	15.39	17.76	17.89	20.45	21.67	26.04

Maharashtra	1515.0	1529.0	1574.0	1522.0	1470.0	1518.0	1543.0	1557.0	1613.0	1551.0	26.06	26.06	26.06	26.06	26.06	26.06	26.06	26.06	26.06	26.06
Odisha	4479.0	4450.3	4451.8	4454.7	4365.1	4225.7	4004.5	4022.8	4180.2	4166.3	43.92	46.98	46.45	46.76	33.54	33.17	33.15	33.97	33.15	33.97
Punjab	2642.0	2621.0	2610.0	2735.0	2802.0	2831.0	2818.0	2845.0	2851.0	2894.0	99.50	99.54	99.35	99.54	99.59	99.61	99.53	99.64	99.53	99.64
Rajasthan	107.4	107.7	127.8	133.4	150.7	131.1	134.3	125.6	145.6	167.8	40.33	35.16	41.71	58.54	66.74	61.99	55.13	51.62	55.13	51.62
Tamil Nadu	2050.5	1931.4	1789.2	1931.8	1845.5	1905.7	1903.8	1493.1	1725.7	1795.0	92.98	92.97	92.75	93.32	92.76	93.21	93.75	92.18	93.75	92.18
Telangana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Uttarakhand	302.0	281.0	289.0	296.0	294.0	289.5	280.0	262.8	252.8	261.7	66.47	64.80	65.73	67.54	69.50	68.46	68.91	70.30	68.91	70.30
Uttar Pradesh	5578.2	5920.6	5709.0	6034.0	5186.7	5657.0	5947.0	5861.0	5982.0	5872.0	77.18	78.84	78.82	78.97	80.45	81.63	82.11	83.09	82.11	83.09
West Bengal	5783.0	5687.0	5719.7	5935.7	5630.1	4944.1	5433.7	5444.3	5513.7	5376.0	48.19	48.19	48.19	48.19	48.19	48.19	48.19	48.19	48.19	48.19
ALL INDIA	43659.8	43813.6	43914.4	45537.4	41918.4	42862.5	44006.3	42753.9	44136.0	44110.5	56.83	58.02	57.73	58.80	56.90	58.99	58.75	58.29	58.99	58.29

Note: Details of percentage area under irrigation for 2013-14 and 2014-15 are not available due to time lag in receipt of requisite data from States.
NA: Not applicable.

(b) State-wise area under Wheat and percentage of Wheat area under irrigation

State/UT	Area Coverage ('000 Hectares)										% Irrigated Area								
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Assam	50.0	60.0	56.0	50.1	58.4	44.8	52.6	33.9	31.3	23.6	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.59	0.98	2.72	2.72	
Bihar	2003.7	2049.7	2162.5	2158.3	2193.3	2103.5	2141.9	2207.7	2009.0	2154.4	91.23	91.94	91.73	92.13	92.20	93.22	94.25	94.58	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Chhattisgarh	102.4	91.5	93.3	88.9	112.2	110.8	108.5	101.2	102.8	97.5	62.90	65.26	67.76	71.13	68.05	73.60	74.51	75.00
Gujarat	916.0	1201.0	1274.0	1091.0	878.0	1274.0	1351.0	1024.0	1442.0	1112.0	91.01	89.80	90.81	90.81	90.81	90.81	90.81	90.81
Haryana	2304.0	2376.0	2462.0	2462.0	2492.0	2515.0	2522.0	2497.0	2499.0	2601.0	99.03	99.12	99.52	99.28	99.43	99.35	99.46	99.47
Himachal Pradesh	358.5	362.2	366.6	360.0	352.5	357.2	356.6	364.2	358.1	330.4	19.59	19.81	20.15	20.55	20.23	21.55	21.55	21.55
Jammu and Kashmir	248.0	260.0	278.3	278.7	288.9	290.7	296.2	290.0	292.1	321.0	28.96	27.82	27.80	29.11	29.98	28.70	28.33	28.48
Jharkhand	58.0	84.3	86.3	99.9	99.7	96.4	158.6	164.3	174.5	171.1	89.59	99.12	81.86	85.82	91.45	89.14	88.73	96.03
Karnataka	253.0	269.0	276.0	269.0	283.0	255.0	225.0	225.0	209.0	198.0	51.65	53.96	51.85	53.64	56.72	56.66	55.92	55.18
Madhya Pradesh	3692.8	3992.8	3742.3	3785.2	4275.9	4341.0	4889.2	5300.0	5380.0	6002.0	78.34	81.97	83.95	83.84	84.68	87.14	89.27	90.80
Maharashtra	933.0	1231.0	1253.0	1022.0	1081.0	1307.0	843.0	773.0	1097.0	1067.0	73.89	73.89	73.89	73.89	73.89	73.89	73.89	73.89
Punjab	3468.0	3467.0	3488.0	3526.0	3522.0	3510.0	3528.0	3512.0	3512.0	3505.0	98.53	98.51	98.58	98.55	98.69	98.78	98.91	98.91
Rajasthan	2123.9	2564.8	2591.8	2294.8	2394.2	2479.2	2935.3	3063.2	2810.0	3318.2	99.04	98.35	99.34	99.43	99.61	98.10	99.22	99.22
Uttarakhand	395.0	391.0	397.0	398.0	395.0	379.2	369.0	358.1	347.8	347.8	52.71	53.25	54.41	56.17	57.47	55.80	57.60	57.65
Uttar Pradesh	9163.9	9197.6	9115.0	9513.0	9668.0	9637.0	9731.0	9734.0	9839.0	9846.0	97.64	97.75	97.78	98.09	98.10	98.17	98.31	98.42
West Bengal	366.7	350.6	352.6	307.0	315.9	316.8	315.7	321.6	332.5	334.6	95.95	95.95	95.95	95.95	95.95	95.95	95.95	95.95
ALL INDIA	26483.6	27994.5	28038.6	27752.4	28457.4	29068.6	29864.8	30003.3	30473.2	31465.5	90.55	90.86	91.32	91.69	91.76	92.15	93.02	93.41

Note: Details of percentage area under irrigation for 2013-14 and 2014-15 are not available due to time lag in receipt of requisite data from States.

(c) State-wise area under Coarse Cereals and percentage of Coarse Cereals area under irrigation

State/UT	Area Coverage ('000 Hectares)											% Irrigated Area						
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Andhra Pradesh	1393.0	1302.0	1281.0	1270.0	1283.0	1137.0	1254.0	1405.0	1354.0	526.0	23.35	25.25	31.85	36.96	31.63	37.75	39.87	39.69
Assam	26.7	25.0	25.0	22.8	26.1	25.0	26.9	28.1	29.5	33.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	0.32
Bihar	695.4	688.6	685.9	679.7	662.3	687.5	705.7	713.7	756.2	732.7	56.24	57.05	58.01	60.21	61.53	63.01	63.67	63.39
Chhattisgarh	346.6	332.2	322.7	280.6	271.9	280.7	268.7	263.7	238.2	255.3	1.22	1.57	1.61	1.74	1.99	2.40	3.33	4.28
Gujarat	1608.0	1633.0	1567.0	1441.0	1404.0	1553.0	1592.0	1197.0	1335.0	1038.0	14.61	18.15	18.90	18.19	18.10	18.62	18.43	18.79
Haryana	723.0	764.0	770.0	755.3	711.0	780.0	693.0	524.0	524.0	474.0	37.18	43.89	46.60	44.47	44.89	36.84	41.80	49.79
Himachal Pradesh	332.7	334.0	333.3	328.7	324.5	326.8	324.4	326.9	317.5	321.3	9.59	9.26	9.99	9.82	9.07	9.26	9.24	9.39
Jammu and Kashmir	348.1	366.9	346.8	363.0	357.0	347.5	354.5	355.2	339.1	335.8	10.72	8.87	9.63	9.53	9.65	10.60	9.37	11.50
Jharkhand	222.8	294.8	286.4	263.7	208.0	249.8	228.8	264.2	269.5	284.5	1.96	0.75	2.47	2.46	1.79	2.27	3.21	0.99
Karnataka	3877.0	3413.0	3796.0	3591.0	3706.0	3652.1	3481.0	3527.0	3491.0	3349.0	15.59	16.43	18.29	18.80	18.92	19.14	20.82	20.07
Madhya Pradesh	2042.7	2015.0	1961.5	1886.0	1797.3	1757.1	1766.4	1639.5	1627.1	1794.0	2.60	2.52	2.28	3.02	3.08	3.29	3.61	4.07
Maharashtra	6866.0	6864.0	6324.0	5791.0	6185.7	6166.0	5198.0	4971.0	4808.0	5423.0	8.52	8.54	8.66	8.89	8.92	8.97	8.99	8.97
Odisha	165.2	158.5	172.6	162.5	169.8	211.4	186.8	179.7	181.6	173.0	11.41	10.48	10.34	15.10	2.07	2.28	2.64	2.48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Punjab	175.0	182.0	176.1	175.1	159.0	148.0	141.0	145.0	142.8	137.0	77.74	70.73	69.48	69.31	74.17	72.81	77.66	78.11
Rajasthan	6772.7	6817.9	7017.9	7104.8	7226.0	7704.1	6913.0	5976.7	6263.8	5986.5	8.33	7.68	8.32	7.97	6.45	6.11	6.14	7.42
Tamil Nadu	741.1	698.2	698.5	724.0	652.7	631.3	638.0	624.4	898.0	859.3	14.90	14.93	17.68	25.06	23.02	22.75	28.57	24.87
Uttarakhand	272.0	261.0	257.0	271.0	256.0	256.4	248.0	249.7	225.0	221.7	0.34	0.45	0.31	0.44	0.47	0.33	0.43	0.43
Uttar Pradesh	2148.1	2197.1	2104.0	1987.2	1926.6	2061.0	2034.0	1998.0	2016.0	2010.0	21.19	21.68	22.59	22.74	24.55	22.82	23.10	24.55
West Bengal	70.5	106.1	97.4	110.1	114.4	103.9	109.7	121.2	142.9	166.3	21.30	20.70	20.93	20.20	19.22	19.70	18.35	18.60
ALL INDIA	29064.9	28708.2	28481.5	27449.5	27675.4	28338.7	26421.7	24764.6	25219.93	25169.9	13.37	13.66	14.78	15.28	14.56	14.35	15.58	16.47

Note: Details of percentage area under irrigation for 2013-14 and 2014-15 are not available due to time lag in receipt of requisite data from States.

(d) State-wise area under Pulses and percentage of Pulses area under irrigation

State/UT	Area Coverage ('000 Hectares)										% Irrigated Area							
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Andhra Pradesh	1781.7	1984.0	2113.0	1771.0	1932.0	2131.8	1931.0	1949.0	1672.0	1043.0	1.09	1.31	1.45	1.56	2.53	1.98	3.70	2.17
Assam	100.5	106.0	113.0	113.7	115.3	126.4	119.7	141.2	150.1	148.2	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.97	0.13	0.01	0.01
Bihar	596.9	607.0	607.6	585.7	564.8	612.3	524.3	515.8	500.0	574.9	2.90	3.24	2.43	3.73	0.59	0.63	3.17	16.15
Chhattisgarh	949.7	908.7	915.6	859.8	808.9	861.4	813.6	926.5	839.0	896.9	4.66	5.79	7.06	9.09	10.28	10.95	12.05	13.09
Gujarat	777.0	1000.0	881.0	784.0	733.0	890.0	957.0	660.0	813.0	591.0	12.24	11.14	14.14	14.35	12.73	13.27	15.19	13.46
Haryana	189.8	170.0	169.0	182.9	132.0	176.4	180.0	162.9	152.6	83.2	31.86	34.52	46.66	30.37	30.72	27.24	27.56	36.28

Himachal Pradesh	27.5	31.0	33.9	31.0	30.4	34.3	32.3	32.6	28.9	31.0	13.35	14.02	13.24	13.56	12.37	17.07	16.96	17.06
Jammu and Kashmir	26.8	28.1	30.3	30.6	29.7	28.7	26.0	26.7	25.9	24.2	11.75	12.24	10.16	12.24	12.33	13.49	12.51	13.54
Jharkhand	291.1	376.4	410.0	387.6	315.7	426.2	465.5	587.0	566.8	594.7	1.94	2.21	2.08	2.37	4.66	2.89	2.13	0.82
Karnataka	1981.0	2369.0	2383.0	2087.0	2479.0	2792.0	2303.0	2269.0	2498.0	2320.0	5.43	6.41	6.41	8.46	7.33	6.87	7.62	7.61
Madhya Pradesh	4284.9	4108.1	4026.2	4559.8	4940.5	5161.8	5185.9	5314.4	5395.8	5513.2	33.49	35.37	37.04	37.10	35.28	31.58	35.10	38.54
Maharashtra	3432.0	3828.0	4056.0	3082.0	3376.0	4038.0	3273.0	3274.0	3953.0	3409.0	7.36	8.99	9.17	8.41	10.07	9.76	8.67	9.15
Odisha	809.2	791.0	859.0	804.9	867.3	879.0	729.3	827.2	780.8	826.3	7.33	10.82	14.23	7.70	7.15	5.62	2.98	5.84
Punjab	32.6	31.9	28.6	23.9	20.3	21.2	19.0	64.4	45.4	49.2	84.68	83.93	87.45	84.00	83.76	83.39	83.40	88.04
Rajasthan	3444.6	3207.6	3869.9	3672.5	3501.0	4754.8	4458.0	3245.6	4197.7	3362.3	12.02	14.11	15.65	15.28	13.88	12.74	13.09	21.13
Tamil Nadu	525.3	536.5	609.8	536.1	534.8	636.8	668.5	507.6	815.8	883.9	5.53	4.01	4.35	5.70	6.09	8.73	10.56	9.33
Telangana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	408.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Uttarakhand	61.0	53.0	63.0	64.0	64.0	61.2	55.0	61.0	65.0	66.4	7.41	8.13	6.21	6.70	8.51	10.37	9.95	9.79
Uttar Pradesh	2750.7	2724.3	2156.0	2223.3	2540.7	2449.0	2421.0	2367.0	2305.0	2350.0	25.92	25.25	20.79	24.91	21.00	21.19	22.02	23.76
West Bengal	222.0	219.1	186.1	182.6	181.9	196.2	185.0	201.9	286.7	251.2	23.84	23.53	23.37	23.30	23.32	23.28	23.31	23.38
ALL INDIA	22371.3	23170.1	23614.4	22072.9	23282.4	26401.7	24462.2	23256.8	25212.9	23554.0	14.55	15.45	15.89	16.47	16.21	14.98	16.20	18.59

Note: Details of percentage area under irrigation for 2013-14 and 2014-15 are not available due to time lag in receipt of requisite data from States.

NA: Not applicable.

(c) State-wise area under Foodgrains and percentage of Foodgrains area under irrigation

State/UT	Area Coverage ('000 Hectares)									% Irrigated Area								
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Andhra Pradesh	7167.7	7274.0	7387.0	7442.0	6666.0	8029.8	7289.0	6990.0	7390.0	3963.0	58.56	57.73	58.14	63.93	57.26	63.48	62.51	58.94
Assam	2597.5	2380.0	2518.0	2670.8	2695.6	2766.5	2736.2	2691.5	2660.0	2700.5	2.40	5.13	4.85	9.31	6.62	4.56	4.62	4.60
Bihar	6548.4	6702.4	7028.6	6919.7	6634.1	6235.8	6695.9	6736.1	6396.0	6725.4	60.74	62.75	63.36	63.47	62.91	64.45	67.38	69.53
Chhattisgarh	5145.9	5056.0	5084.0	4963.3	4863.7	4955.4	4964.6	5076.2	4982.4	5058.2	24.26	26.32	26.92	27.56	27.20	28.88	29.68	30.67
Gujarat	3967.0	4568.0	4481.0	4063.0	3694.0	4525.0	4736.0	3582.0	4378.0	3527.0	38.68	42.45	44.84	44.84	42.22	45.48	45.95	45.15
Haryana	4268.8	4351.0	4476.0	4610.2	4540.0	4716.4	4630.0	4398.9	4403.6	4445.2	85.18	87.16	88.46	87.60	88.98	86.42	88.93	92.45
Himachal Pradesh	798.1	806.4	812.4	797.4	784.1	795.3	790.5	800.6	778.9	755.2	19.29	19.50	20.01	20.16	19.61	20.49	20.54	20.56
Jammu and Kashmir	881.9	907.5	918.6	929.9	935.6	928.2	938.8	933.6	928.6	957.3	38.80	37.25	37.46	38.12	38.78	38.82	37.97	38.95
Jharkhand	1926.6	2379.1	2436.4	2434.8	1618.3	1492.7	2321.9	2430.0	2266.7	2552.5	6.62	5.86	5.63	5.39	5.92	6.98	6.16	9.48
Karnataka	7596.0	7446.0	7871.0	7461.0	7955.0	8239.1	7425.0	7299.0	7538.0	7193.0	26.01	25.48	25.83	28.54	27.26	27.03	28.20	26.43
Kerala	287.6	274.8	243.0	245.2	247.3	219.6	212.3	201.0	202.5	199.7	55.20	63.31	65.15	70.00	70.01	69.39	97.94	73.20
Madhya Pradesh	11678.1	11777.2	11288.9	11913.3	12459.4	12862.8	13503.5	14136.5	14332.9	15462.2	39.67	43.43	44.39	44.48	45.90	45.91	50.50	54.13
Maharashtra	12746.0	13452.0	13207.0	11417.0	12112.7	13029.0	10857.0	10575.0	11471.0	11450.0	14.85	16.76	17.19	16.47	17.12	17.98	16.36	16.29
Odisha	5456.7	5403.7	5489.0	5427.4	5406.1	5318.9	4922.1	5030.8	5143.3	5166.0	31.95	34.54	35.05	33.60	29.36	28.50	29.01	29.57

Punjab	6317.6	6301.9	6302.7	6460.0	6503.3	6510.2	6506.0	6566.4	6551.2	6585.2	98.23	98.02	98.00	98.11	98.40	98.49	98.65	98.72
Rajasthan	12448.6	12698.0	13607.4	13205.5	13271.8	15069.2	14440.8	12411.2	13417.1	12834.8	25.01	27.79	28.00	26.36	25.90	26.43	27.66	34.11
Tamil Nadu	3316.9	3166.1	3097.5	3191.9	3032.9	3173.9	3210.4	2625.1	3439.5	3538.1	61.69	60.69	58.42	63.12	62.45	62.25	63.50	59.82
Telangana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2613.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Uttarakhand	1030.0	986.0	1006.0	1029.0	1009.0	986.4	952.0	931.6	890.6	897.6	40.57	40.35	40.92	42.72	44.36	43.13	44.04	44.18
Uttar Pradesh	19640.9	20039.6	19084.0	19757.5	19322.0	19804.0	20133.0	19960.0	20142.0	20078.0	73.82	74.73	74.72	76.02	75.56	76.11	76.72	77.50
West Bengal	6442.2	6362.8	6355.8	6535.4	6242.3	5561.1	6044.0	6089.0	6275.8	6128.2	49.68	49.51	49.63	49.26	49.35	49.49	49.32	49.30
ALL INDIA	121579.6	123686.4	124048.9	122812.2	121333.6	126671.4	124754.9	120778.7	125042.0	124300.0	45.70	47.18	47.28	48.47	47.84	48.10	49.86	51.21

Note: Details of percentage area under irrigation for 2013-14 and 2014-15 are not available due to time lag in receipt of requisite data from States.
NA: Not applicable.

(f) State-wise area under Oilseeds and percentage of Oilseeds area under irrigation

State/UT	Area Coverage ('000 Hectares)										% Irrigated Area							
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Andhra Pradesh	2922.0	2235.0	2657.0	2599.0	2072.0	2319.0	1945.0	1945.0	2030.6	1072.0	16.48	20.70	20.78	20.60	25.54	20.40	23.22	25.61
Assam	243.4	270.5	266.0	254.7	275.3	266.7	268.3	306.2	305.0	306.9	0.03	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.32	0.17	0.38	0.36
Bihar	139.0	142.9	140.8	138.1	138.8	130.0	133.4	128.0	122.9	116.2	39.77	37.71	38.38	39.32	45.24	45.14	54.01	57.09
Chhattisgarh	302.1	321.1	361.8	381.5	330.1	316.5	308.3	297.5	289.5	291.0	5.48	5.85	5.23	4.70	4.74	4.27	3.96	4.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Gujarat	3032.0	2828.0	2920.0	2984.8	2793.0	2893.0	3131.0	2452.0	3079.0	2545.0	25.75	28.58	28.58	28.62	27.07	27.50	35.08	31.14
Haryana	734.2	621.0	529.3	541.3	533.4	519.5	553.0	580.2	549.1	511.2	74.27	77.65	77.89	77.60	79.17	78.80	79.91	80.88
Himachal Pradesh	15.1	14.9	14.7	13.7	13.9	15.0	14.9	13.5	12.5	12.2	19.86	20.06	18.27	14.66	18.84	17.97	17.98	18.51
Jharkhand	27.3	118.5	124.4	130.6	141.5	182.0	228.9	250.6	275.8	231.3	5.39	15.01	4.21	4.12	15.25	6.17	11.89	5.92
Karnataka	2857.0	2354.0	2276.0	2178.0	2001.0	1624.0	1416.0	1422.0	1410.0	1313.0	21.14	23.47	24.77	25.97	28.25	28.55	30.10	30.78
Madhya Pradesh	5668.3	6086.7	6258.1	6489.6	6765.1	7029.9	7201.6	7534.4	7732.0	7066.0	7.67	6.78	5.11	6.43	5.99	5.14	4.80	5.46
Maharashtra	3648.0	3863.0	3825.0	3980.0	3884.0	3615.0	3667.0	3806.0	4148.0	4242.0	5.49	5.73	4.56	3.82	3.67	4.09	3.57	3.28
Odisha	332.0	318.1	323.2	298.3	292.2	290.4	250.7	243.3	223.4	212.0	12.70	19.07	23.12	18.67	14.68	13.08	15.98	17.36
Punjab	81.7	70.4	59.4	59.7	61.6	53.5	50.0	51.4	48.1	45.7	88.72	86.76	87.17	88.45	86.44	84.01	84.31	88.09
Rajasthan	5257.0	4508.0	3995.4	4649.0	4133.0	5488.4	4622.7	4912.2	5274.0	445.7	63.59	66.74	64.11	59.13	53.51	43.56	56.97	60.35
Tamil Nadu	709.9	592.4	659.3	585.4	494.9	449.4	449.2	388.5	408.2	415.0	49.39	52.33	55.35	56.45	58.69	58.90	62.41	64.16
Telangana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Uttarakhand	35.0	28.0	30.0	26.0	29.0	27.2	30.0	32.2	31.8	32.0	25.71	24.43	22.25	26.18	29.21	27.79	25.72	26.94
Uttar Pradesh	1073.5	1234.2	1340.1	1346.2	1084.0	1105.0	1129.0	1147.0	1106.0	1127.0	54.90	48.54	44.76	55.21	45.32	45.61	47.63	50.84
West Bengal	641.1	703.4	707.1	703.7	682.6	671.6	676.1	732.1	770.3	779.4	82.94	82.32	82.40	82.20	82.40	82.53	82.60	82.57
ALL INDIA	27862.8	26512.7	26692.6	27557.7	25959.0	27224.3	26308.2	26484.4	28050.5	25596.4	28.41	29.01	27.19	27.09	25.91	24.96	27.61	28.36

Note: Details of percentage area under irrigation for 2013-14 and 2014-15 are not available due to time lag in receipt of requisite data from States.

NA: Not applicable.

(g) State-wise area under Sugarcane and percentage of Sugarcane area under irrigation

State/UT	Area Coverage ('000 Hectares)										% Irrigated Area									
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Andhra Pradesh	230.0	264.0	247.0	196.0	158.0	192.0	204.0	196.0	192.0	139.0	93.48	94.49	94.34	93.52	91.80	95.85	95.78	95.12	95.12	95.12
Assam	23.4	27.0	26.0	28.6	27.1	29.7	25.7	28.9	29.1	29.9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bihar	101.3	129.6	108.6	111.9	115.9	248.0	218.3	250.3	258.1	254.3	26.67	23.73	28.02	26.03	17.17	34.25	67.76	76.56	76.56	76.56
Gujarat	197.0	214.0	211.0	221.0	154.0	190.0	202.0	176.0	174.0	208.0	100.00	100.00	94.53	94.53	94.53	94.53	94.53	94.53	94.53	94.53
Haryana	127.0	140.0	140.0	90.0	74.0	85.0	95.0	101.0	102.0	97.0	99.18	99.32	99.24	99.15	99.54	99.63	99.71	99.74	99.74	99.74
Karnataka	219.0	326.0	306.0	281.0	337.0	423.0	430.0	425.0	420.0	480.0	99.97	99.97	99.92	99.96	99.97	99.98	99.98	99.96	99.96	99.96
Madhya Pradesh	55.5	64.3	75.2	70.5	62.1	65.1	69.2	59.5	73.1	111.0	99.77	99.80	99.85	99.64	99.81	99.86	99.53	99.48	99.48	99.48
Maharashtra	501.0	1049.0	1093.0	768.0	756.0	965.0	1022.0	933.0	937.0	1030.0	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Odisha	16.3	20.1	19.8	10.8	8.0	13.1	14.5	14.5	14.2	10.1	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Punjab	84.0	99.0	110.0	81.0	60.0	70.0	80.0	83.0	89.0	94.0	95.84	95.75	96.25	95.43	95.15	96.08	96.21	95.94	95.94	95.94
Tamil Nadu	335.4	391.2	354.2	308.9	293.2	316.0	346.4	347.2	313.3	263.1	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Telangana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	38.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Uttarakhand	101.0	121.0	124.0	107.0	96.0	106.7	108.0	109.9	104.3	101.7	97.90	97.50	98.23	98.20	98.04	98.25	98.80	98.24	98.24	98.24
Uttar Pradesh	2155.8	2246.5	2179.0	2084.0	1977.0	2125.0	2162.0	2212.0	2228.0	2140.8	92.17	93.05	93.15	93.10	93.09	93.39	93.88	94.43	94.43	94.43
West Bengal	15.0	16.6	16.9	17.6	13.8	15.0	16.1	16.1	17.0	17.7	59.31	59.31	59.31	59.31	59.31	59.31	59.31	59.31	59.31	59.31
ALL INDIA	4201.7	5150.8	5055.2	4415.4	4174.6	4884.8	5037.7	4998.9	4993.3	5066.8	93.27	93.80	93.83	93.52	93.79	92.59	94.72	95.07	95.07	95.07

Note: Details of percentage area under irrigation for 2013-14 and 2014-15 are not available due to time lag in receipt of requisite data from States.

NA: Not applicable.

(h) State-wise area under Cotton and percentage of Cotton area under irrigation

States	Area Coverage ('000 Hectares)									% Irrigated Area								
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Andhra Pradesh	1033	972	1134	1399	1467	1879	1879	2400	2389	821	20.10	21.27	19.13	18.22	16.32	16.89	18.21	13.95
Gujarat	1906	2390	2422	2353.6	2464	2633	2962	2497	2519	2773	52.19	56.67	58.73	58.73	58.73	58.73	58.73	58.73
Haryana	583	530	483	455	507	492	641	614	536	648	99.5	99.75	99.71	99.55	99.85	99.88	99.89	99.75
Karnataka	413	376	403	409	457	545	554	485	662	875	14.72	14.32	14.01	20.11	17.48	24.01	26.03	37.72
Madhya Pradesh	620.4	638.9	630.4	624.8	610.9	650	706	608	514	547	36.43	40.45	43.16	41.23	44.16	49.48	49.82	53.49
Maharashtra	2875	3107	3195	3146	3495	3942	4125	4146	4192	4190	2.71	2.71	2.71	2.71	2.71	2.71	2.71	2.71
Punjab	557	607	604	527	511	530	560	480	446	420	99.83	99.89	99.94	99.97	99.96	99.97	99.96	99.98
Rajasthan	471.6	349.6	369.2	302.5	444.4	335	470	450	393	487	94.82	94.43	95.84	93.49	91.88	93.03	93	93
Tamil Nadu	140.5	100.3	99.3	114.5	104.1	122	133	128	152	187	40.08	38.24	35.69	27.73	28.64	24.37	29.11	25.12
Telangana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1713	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
ALL INDIA	8677.1	9144.5	9413.7	9406.7	10131.7	11235	12178	11977	11960	12819	37.25	37.74	37.62	35.78	35.97	33.81	35.90	33.80

Note: Details of percentage area under irrigation for 2013-14 and 2014-15 are not available due to time lag in receipt of requisite data from States.

NA: Not applicable

White paper on agriculture in the country

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

(a) whether in view of the hardships being experienced by our farming community, there is a need to issue a White Paper on Indian Agricultural, clearly spelling out a road-map for the well being of our farmers and accelerate growth process of the agriculture sector; and

(b) if so, how does Government propose to deal with this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) There is no such specific proposal under consideration. However, 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 of farm produce. 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 fertiliser application and thus save money of farmers. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate urea use, enhance its availability to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer 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.

In addition, the Government is implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. 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); Unified National Agriculture Markets; and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Government has also recently approved a new crop Insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to replace National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified NAIS (MNAIS) from Kharif 2016 season. PMFBY has addressed all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and would be available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. This scheme would provide insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances.

Salient features of the PMFBY are:

- (a) Farmers have to pay the lowest ever premium rate.
- (b) There will be a uniform premium rate for farmers for entire country-2% maximum for Kharif food and Oilseed crops, 1.5% maximum for Rabi food and Oilseed crops and 5% maximum for Annual Horticultural/Annual Commercial crops.
- (c) The remaining financial burden will be borne by the Government.
- (d) Farmers will get full insurance cover – there will be no “capping” of the Sum Insured and consequently, claim amount will not be cut or reduced.
- (e) For the first time, inundation has been included under localized risk cover, in addition to hailstorm and landslide. Individual farm level assessment of crop loss will be done for this.
- (f) For the first time, post harvest losses arising out of cyclones and unseasonal rains through out the country have been covered.
- (g) For the first time, emphasis has been given to mobile and satellite Technology to facilitate accurate assessment and quick settlement of claims.
- (h) Crop Insurance Portal has been launched. This will be used extensively for better administration, co-ordination, dissemination of information and transparency.
- (i) Coverage of areas to be increased from 23%, at present to 50% in 3 years.

Further 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.

Use of UAV/Drone technology in farming

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

(a) whether Government is considering to use Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) or the 'Drone Technology' for precision farming, which can help in assessing the exact nature/area of crop damage during natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the scheme evolved in this regard; and

(c) whether Government is taking support from experts/institutions for availability of UAV/Drones at cheaper cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) The new Crop Insurance Scheme - Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) provides for use of UAV/Drone technology for quick estimation of crop losses and early settlement of claims under crop insurance schemes. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has launched a pilot project called KISAN [C(K)rop Insurance using Space Technology and geoinformatics] under which it is planned to use drone imaging services for better assessment of crop condition and crop losses/yield in conjunction with ground observation and satellite data in Rabi 2015-16 season.

Also under another project called CHAMAN (Coordinated Horticulture Assessment and Management using geo-iNformatics) for horticulture assessment, drone imaging services will be used for precision farming applications. Since there are no definite guidelines developed by Directorate General of Civil Aviation on use of UAV/Drone, Government has consulted some experts/institutions for availability of UAV/Drone.

(c) Yes, Sir. This Department, for the above mentioned KISAN project, is taking support from Government/semi-Government organizations such as North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) of Department of Science and Technology; North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC) for availing UAV/drone imaging services at low cost.

MSP for agricultural products

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

(a) the details of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for various agri-products fixed during last three years; and

(b) the demands of farmers pending in this regard and by when action would be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops for 2013-14 to 2015-16 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Representations are received from time to time from various organizations requesting for increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of various crops.

Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of State Governments, Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors.

Regarding the demand for fixing MSP at 50% more than the weighted average cost of production, the recommendation of National Commission on Farmers headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan in this regard has not been accepted by the Government because MSP is recommended by CACP based on objective criteria and considering variety of relevant factors. Hence, prescribing an increase of at least 50% on cost may distort market.

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

Statement

Minimum Support Prices

(₹ per quintal)

Commodity	Variety	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Kharif Crops				
Paddy	Common	1310	1360	1410
	Grade A	1345	1400	1450
Jowar	Hybrid	1500	1530	1570
	Maldandi	1520	1550	1590
Bajra		1250	1250	1275
Maize		1310	1310	1325
Ragi		1500	1550	1650

Commodity	Variety	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Arhar (Tur)		4300	4350	4425 [^]
Moong		4500	4600	4650 [^]
Urad		4300	4350	4425 [^]
Cotton	Medium Staple	3700	3750	3800
	Long Staple	4000	4050	4100
Groundnut in shell		4000	4000	4030
Sunflower seed		3700	3750	3800
Soyabean	Black	2500	2500	-
	Yellow	2560	2560	2600\$
Sesamum		4500	4600	4700
Nigerseed		3500	3600	3650
Rabi Crops				
Wheat		1400	1450	1525
Barley		1100	1150	1225
Gram		3100	3175	3425*
Masur (Lentil)		2950	3075	3325*
Rapeseed/Mustard		3050	3100	3350
Safflower		3000	3050	3300
Toria		3020	3020	3290
Other Crops				
Copra	Milling	5250	5250	5550
	Ball	5500	5500	5830
De-Husked Coconut		1425	1425	1500
Jute		2300	2400	2700
Sugarcane#		210	220	230

Note: [^]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.

\$ Single MSP of soyabean is fixed irrespective of variety.

Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP).

Amalgamation of major irrigation programmes

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the three major irrigation programmes at present are under three different Ministries *i.e.* Rural Development, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Water Resources, hampering thereby the overall growth of the irrigated area under cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures proposed to be taken to amalgamate these programmes; and

(c) the details of the total sown area of different crops and out of this the percentage of area under irrigation as on date and ten years ago?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANKJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been conceived amalgamating ongoing schemes *viz.* Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD&GR), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) of Department of Land Resources (DoLR) and On Farm Water Management (OFWM) of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. PMKSY has been operationalised from 1st July, 2015.

The overarching vision of PMKSY is to ensure access to some means of protective irrigation to all agricultural farms in the country, to produce 'per drop more crop', thus bringing much desired rural prosperity. PMKSY is strategized by focusing on end-to end solution in irrigation supply chain, *viz.* water sources, distribution network, efficient farm level applications, extension services on new technologies and information etc. based on comprehensive planning process at district/State level.

(c) The details of crop-wise sown area and proportionate coverage under irrigation for 2003-04 and that of 2012-13 is given in the Statement.

Statement*Total sown area and area under irrigation of different crops in the country*

Crops	Area under crops (Thousand ha.)		Percentage of Area Irrigated	
	2003-04	2012-13	2003-04	2012-13
1	2	3	4	5
Rice	42293.3	42757.4	52.9	58.3
Jowar	9403.0	6301.2	7.6	9.7
Bajra	10960.6	7668.0	6.3	9.1
Maize	7274.9	8562.3	19.3	25.5
Ragi/marua	1779.4	1117.2	7.2	7.1
Wheat	26963.7	30495.1	89.6	93.4
Barley	674.9	701.5	65.4	76.5
Other Cereals and Millets	1163.8	795.2	0.95	4.6
Total Cereals and Millets	100513.5	98398.0	49.6	58.5
Gram	7083.9	7974.3	30.4	36.5
Tur/Arhar	3451.4	3499.0	4.4	4.0
Other Pulses	13922.7	10485.6	7.4	9.8
Total Pulses	24457.9	21959.0	13.7	18.6
Total Food Grains	124971.4	120357.0	42.6	51.2
Sugarcane	4497.7	5442.9	92.3	95.1
Other Sugars	64.0	45.3		
Total Sugars	4561.7	5488.2		
Black Pepper	235.5	122.2		
Chillies	868.3	671.9		
Ginger	99.2	117.8		
Turmeric	157.4	204.9		
Cardamom	73.7	87.0		
Betelnuts	362.4	450.1		
Others Condiments and Spices	1398.7	1658.5		
Total Condiments and Spices	3195.1	3312.4	62.4	73.8

1	2	3	4	5
Mango	1289.8	1462.3		
Citrus fruits	374.0	477.9		
Banana	441.1	587.7		
Grapes	61.6	121.4		
Pome Fruits	101.4	94.4		
Papaya	58.8	69.3		
Apple	48.4	64.9		
Others	836.0	888.0		
Total fruits	3211.0	3765.9		
Cashew nuts	644.9	525.3		
Other dry fruits	46.4	14.8		
Total dry fruits	691.3	540.1		
Total Fruits	3902.3	4306.1		
Potato	1349.6	1650.9		
Tapioca	217.9	175.0		
Sweet Potato	123.4	81.8		
Onions	561.3	549.3		
Others	3176.1	3047.8		
Other Food Crops	69.8	205.5		
Total Food Crops	142128.8	139173.8	45.7	54.3
Groundnut	6185.2	5276.2	16.8	26.0
Castor Seed	785.5	1223.1		
Seasamum	1949.8	1786.2	9.5	10.9
Rapeseed and Mustard	5179.7	5953.9	71.5	76.5
Linseed	440.6	228.9	4.3	6.1
Coconut	1884.7	1890.4		
Nigerseed	452.9	272.8		
Safflower	467.9	241.9		
Soyabean	6528.7	10944.0	0.6	0.6

1	2	3	4	5
Sunflower	2089.4	931.6	22.7	29.7
Other Oilseeds	261.6	348.0		
Total Oilseeds	26225.9	29097.0	25.0	28.4
Cotton	8044.7	11880.9	32.3	33.8
Jute	859.5	780.1		
Mesta	173.9	74.7		
Sannhemp	50.5	19.5		
Other Fibres	38.9	37.6		
Total Fibres	9167.5	12792.8		
Indigo	3.9	1.8		
Others	42.4	50.4		
Total	46.4	52.2		
Opium	16.6	6.9		
Tobacco	444.8	431.5	50.2	55.2
Cinchona	8.6	8.6		
Indian hemp	0.0	0.2		
Tea	588.1	597.4		
Coffee	316.0	355.3		
Rubber	525.9	600.5		
Others Plantation Crops	414.1	728.9		
Total Plantation Crops	2314.0	2729.3		
Fodder Crops	8701.4	9187.8	29.3	28.7
Green Manure Crops	77.5	378.4		
Other Non-Food Crops	999.7	987.6		
Total Non-Food Crops	47532.4	55225.1	27.5	30.8
TOTAL AREA SOWN	189661.2	194399.0	41.1	47.6

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare.

Note: '0' relates to the area below 500 Hectares.

New Crop Insurance Scheme

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a new Crop Insurance Scheme has been announced by Government; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the expected coverage of the total crop area by its implementation?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has recently approved Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) which would replace the existing schemes of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) from Kharif 2016. The scheme is optional for States/UTs. So all States/UTs can notify areas and crops under the scheme. Salient features of the scheme are given in the Statement (*See below*).

In addition, a Unified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) has also been approved for implementation on pilot basis in 45 districts of the country from Kharif 2016 season to cover the other assets/activities like machinery, life, accident, house, student-safety of farmers alongwith their notified crops (under PMFBY and Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme-WBCIS).

The scheme *inter-alia* envisages to enhance the coverage from existing 23% to 50% of gross cropped area of the country in next 2-3 years.

Statement***Salient Features of PMFBY***

- (i) Provide comprehensive insurance coverage against crop loss on account of non-preventable natural risks, thus helping in stabilising the income of the farmers and encourage them for adoption of innovative practices.
- (ii) Increase the risks coverage of Crop cycle—pre-sowing to post-harvest losses.
- (iii) Area approach for settlement of claims for widespread damage. Notified Insurance unit has been reduced to Vilalge/Village Panchayat for major crops
- (iv) Uniform maximum premium of only 2%, 1.5% and 5% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops, Rabi Crops and Commercial/ horticultural crops respectively.

- (v) The difference between premium and the rate of Insurance charges payable by farmers shall be shared equally by the Centre and State.
- (vi) Uniform seasonality discipline and Sum Insured for both loanee and non-loanee farmers
- (vii) Removal of provision of capping on premium and reduction of sum insured to facilitate farmers to get claim against full sum insured without any reduction.
- (viii) Inundation has been incorporated as a localized calamity in addition to hailstorm and landslide for individual farm level assessment.
- (ix) Provision of for individual farm level assessment for Post harvest losses against the cyclone and unseasonal rains for the crops kept in the field to dry throughout the country.
- (x) Provision of claims upto 25% of sum insured for prevented sowing.
- (xi) “On-account” payment upto 25% of sum insured for mid season adversity, if the crop damage will be reported more than 50%. Remaining claims based on Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) data.
- (xii) For more effective implementation, a cluster approach will be adopted under which a group of districts with variable risk profile will be allotted to an insurance company through bidding for a longer duration upto 3 years.
- (xiii) Use of Remote Sensing Technology, Smartphones and Drones for quick estimation of crop losses to ensure early settlement of claims.
- (xiv) Crop Insurance Portal has been launched. This will be used extensively for ensuring better administration, co-ordination, transparency and dissemination of information.
- (xv) Focused attention on increasing awareness about the schemes among all stakeholders and appropriate provisioning of resources for the same.
- (xvi) The claim amount will be credited electronically to the individual Insured Bank Account.
- (xvii) Adequate publicity in all the villages of the notified districts/areas.
- (xviii) Premium rates under Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) have also been reduced and brought at par with new scheme. Further, capping on Actuarial premium and reduction in sum insured has been removed in this scheme also.

Miserable condition of farmers in Marathwada

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

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in Marathwada region are facing a catch-22 situation as they are unable to bear the growing expenses on fodder, drinking water and water for animals;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite their willingness to sell their cattle to get fodder and water for their animals to save them from starvation, there are no takers for animals;

(c) if so, the steps taken or being taken to prevent the drought situation from going bad to worse; and

(d) the detailed report thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Marathwada region had deficit rainfall and, therefore, the State Government has organised 237 cattle camps in this region and 2,01,298 animals are kept in these cattle camps.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Various fodder development schemes like fodder seed and saplings distribution, distribution of power driven chaff cutter, assistance for Hydroponic fodder production etc. are implemented.

(d) The information is given in the Statement.

Statement***Details of rainfall and various fodder development Schemes
in Marathwada region*****1. Rainfall: In Marathwada**

Normal Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall received during monsoon 2015 (Up to 30-9-2015) (mm)	Percentage of Normal Rainfall
778.88	404.0	51.86

2. Fodder situation in Marathwada Region

A. Fodder availability (as on Dec 2014) and requirement (upto June, 2015) for Livestock of Marathwada region

Total Livestock	Requirement of Dry Fodder (in MT)	Availability of Fodder (in MT)	Shortage of Fodder (in MT)	% of Fodder Shortage
6715281	6212131	4141467	2070664	33.33

B. Implementation of Fodder Development Scheme:

Seed Distribution (in kgs)	Distribution of Saplings (No.)	Approximate Area (Hectare)	Approximate Green Fodder Yield (M.T.)
495839	664285	10004	250100

C. Distribution of Power Driven Chaff-Cutters

NLM (S.C.P.)		C.S.S.		NLM (General)		Total	
No.	₹ in lac	No.	₹ in lac	No.	₹ in lac	No.	₹ in lac
181	22.44	190	21.15	1950	151.12	2321	194.71

D. Accelerated Fodder Development Programme (AFDP): (Agricultural Department)

Expenditure (₹ in lac)	Number of Demonstrations (Area in Hac.)	Seed Distribution (in Quintal)
1133.48	75190	14265

E. Establishment of Hydroponic Fodder Production Unit:

No. of Units	Subsidy Amount (₹ in lac)
5876	352.56

F. Provision of Supply of Drinking Water to Livestock:

As per “Manual for Drought Management” Published by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi in November, 2009. District Collector of Marathwada Region are executing the mitigation of Drought Situations Schemes. For providing essential drinking water for the Livestock as per Water Policy of Maharashtra State, Animal Husbandry Department had already issued letter to Collector’s *Vide* letter No. FDV/A-6(20)/5975-6098/2015, AH-14, Pune-7, Dt. 2-11-2015.

Public and private investment in agriculture

327. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of public and private investment in agriculture during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15; and

(b) the steps being planned to increase both public and private investment during the next three years?

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

(a) As per estimates released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), details of public and private investment measured in terms of Gross Capital Formation (GCF) in agriculture and allied sector during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 are given below:—

Year	GCF in Agriculture and Allied Sector (₹ crore)		
	Public	Private	Total
2012-13	36078	217230	253308
2013-14	32472	244693	277165
2014-15	36061	220434	256495

(b) As agriculture is a State subject, it is also the responsibility of States to take necessary steps for holistic development of agriculture based on local needs and priorities. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various Crop Development Schemes/Programmes and it has taken several steps for increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure, areas under protective irrigation, delivery of credit, technology, other inputs, extension, marketing etc. The steps initiated to optimize investments in agriculture sector include enhanced institutional credit to farmers; promotion of scientific warehousing infrastructure for increasing shelf life of agricultural produce; improved access to irrigation through Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana; Scheme for Soil Health Cards; setting up of Agri-tech infrastructure Fund for making farming competitive and profitable; developing commercial organic farming in North East Region, etc.

Further under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), which is a major scheme for incentivizing States to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sectors, 35% of annual outlay has been earmarked for infrastructure and asset development.

Small and marginal farmers in the country

328. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small and marginal farmers in the country as per the recent agricultural census, State-wise;

(b) whether the number of small and marginal farmers has decreased during recent years;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise with particular reference to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab for each of the last five years;

(d) the reasons identified behind decrease in the number of small and marginal farmers; and

(e) whether Government has taken concrete steps to protect small and marginal farmers, if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c) Agriculture Census collects information on operational holders, defined as the person who operates, “all land which is wholly or partly used for agriculture production, and is operated as one technical unit by one person alone or with others without regard to title, legal form, size or location.” A comparative Statement on State-wise, total number of small and marginal operational holders, in the country as per the recent Agricultural Census 2010-11 and Agriculture Census 2005-06, is enclosed (*See below*).

During 2005-06 to 2010-11, at the national level, small and marginal operational holders taken together have increased. The States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab have also maintained the same trend. Details are given in the above Statement.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) The Government has taken several measures to protect the small and marginal farmers by ensuring a fixed amount of allocation of funds for them or providing them higher subsidies, in its various schemes. Government is providing assistance to various categories of farmers, including small and marginal farmers, through programmes like Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), Sub-Mission for Seed and Planting Material (SMSP), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), Crop Diversification Programme (CDP), National

Agroforestry and Bamboo Mission (NABM), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) etc., Support is provided to farmers on seeds, bio-agents, bio-fertilizers, planting material, other improved farm implements, Agriculture Credit etc. As per revised guidelines on Priority Sector Lending issued by RBI, focus is being given on credit to small and individual farmers. Besides, the Government has approved Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for implementation from Kharif 2016.

Statement

*State-wise number of marginal and small operational holders as per
Agriculture Census 2005-06 and Agriculture Census 2010-11*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total number of small and marginal operational holders (Below 2.00 hectare)	
		2005-06	2010-11
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6941	7041
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10056571	11343072
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	47195	40789
4.	Assam	2344420	2327689
5.	Bihar	14117737	15692114
6.	Chandigarh	967	586
7.	Chhattisgarh	2678235	3013952
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	11707	12080
9.	Daman and Diu	7330	8174
10.	Delhi	19738	15825
11.	Goa	48533	69717
12.	Gujarat	2930390	3244655
13.	Haryana	1075675	1092960
14.	Himachal Pradesh	812270	845021
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	1292135	1373742
16.	Jharkhand*	NA	2277185
17.	Karnataka	5669075	5987042
18.	Kerala	6817275	6759863

1	2	3	4
19.	Lakshadweep	10078	10121
20.	Madhya Pradesh	5346641	6339668
21.	Maharashtra	10268671	10761351
22.	Manipur	125325	125585
23.	Meghalaya	167820	160469
24.	Mizoram	74462	79963
25.	Nagaland	25847	26814
26.	Odisha	3753326	4286943
27.	Puducherry	28677	31260
28.	Punjab	317824	359870
29.	Rajasthan	3394225	4022580
30.	Sikkim	56378	57417
31.	Tamil Nadu	7461759	7447899
32.	Tripura	545017	554097
33.	Uttar Pradesh	20610278	21567603
34.	Uttarakhand	821095	829468
35.	West Bengal	6680382	6832514
All India		107623999	117605129

Note: (1) * Agriculture Census 2005-06 was not conducted in Jharkhand.

(2) Total may not tally due to rounding off.

New Crop Insurance Scheme

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

(a) whether Government has recently launched a new Crop Insurance Scheme, if so, the salient features thereof;

(b) whether free crop insurance would be ensured for the small and marginal farmers of Maharashtra and rest of the country; 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 (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):

(a) Yes, Sir. Government of India has recently approved Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima

Yojana (PMFBY) which would replace the existing schemes of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) from Kharif 2016, Salient features of the scheme are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to U.S.Q. No. 325 Part (a) and (b)].

In addition, a Unified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) has also been approved for implementation on pilot basis in 45 districts of the country from Kharif 2016 season to cover the other assets/activities like machinery, life, accident, house, student-safety of farmers alongwith their notified crops (under PMFBY and Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme-WBCIS).

(b) and (c) Premium for all farmers including small and marginal farmers of Maharashtra has been fixed at the lowest level under PMFBY and restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS). It is maximum 1.5% for Rabi crops, 2% for Kharif crops and 5% for annual horticulture/commercial crops.

Development of cold chains through MIDH

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

(a) whether Government is promoting development of cold chains through the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of cold chains proposed to be developed in Maharashtra under MIDH during the ensuing three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare 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, integrated cold chain and setting up of ripening chambers.

Under Post harvest component credit linked back ended subsidy @ 35% to @ 50% of the project cost is available.

(b) The component of post harvest management including development of cold chain under MIDH is demand/entrepreneur driven from entrepreneurs, private companies, cooperatives, farmers groups etc. through commercial ventures for which Government assistance is credit linked and back ended. Allocations to States including

Maharashtra under MIDH for implementation of various components including cold chain development are based upon Annual Action Plans prepared by the States. Maharashtra has reported that 25 per cent of yearly allocations for next three years will be for development of post harvest including cold chain in the State.

Implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme

†331. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many problems are surfacing in the implementation of the Crop Insurance Scheme being run by the Central Government, as agriculture is a State subject, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Central Government is taking a special initiative to resolve those problems and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) The Crop Insurance Schemes, National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) with its three component schemes *viz.* Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS) and National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) are being implemented by the State/UT Governments concerned. Several challenges faced by State/UT Governments are—poor awareness among stakeholders including farmers, dependence of Crop Cutting Experiment for claims payment, limited infrastructure to conduct required number of CCEs, poor coordination among the stakeholders, poor density of Automatic Weather Stations, inadequate budgetary provision and delay in release of funds resulting in delay in payment of claims, inadequate claims in the risky areas etc.

(b) The existing schemes have been comprehensively reviewed and Government of India has recently approved Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) which would replace the existing schemes of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) from ensuing Kharif 2016. The scheme has been improved from earlier schemes on several counts *viz.* lowest and one premium rate on pan-India basis for farmers *i.e.* maximum 1.5%, 2% and 5% for all Rabi, Kharif and annual horticultural/commercial crops respectively; no capping on premium resulting no deduction in sum insured; inundation has been incorporated as a localized calamity in addition to hailstorm and landslide for individual farm level assessment; for more effective implementation, allocation of districts/areas

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

on cluster/group basis and for longer period to insurance companies as well as use of remote sensing technology and use of smart phone for getting images of Crop Cutting Experiments etc. for early settlement of claims have also been introduced.

WBCIS has also been restructured by making the premium of the farmers, selection of insurance company and administrative and operational structure at par with PMFBY.

In addition, a Unified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) has also been approved for implementation on pilot basis in 45 districts of the country from Kharif 2016 season to cover other assets/activities like machinery, life, accident, house, student-safety of farmers alongwith their notified crops (under PMFBY and Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme-WBCIS).

Constitution of Hindi Salahkar Samiti

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

(a) whether Hindi Salahkar Samiti of the Ministry has been constituted, the date on which its last meeting was held and since when its due constitution is awaited; and

(b) if the above Samiti has been constituted, the details of meetings of the Samiti organised so far and the members of the Samiti?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The constitution of the Hindi Salahakar Samiti is under consideration, since constitution of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha. This Committee will be constituted shortly.

Fish production in the country

333. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total fish production in the country during last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in force for enhancement of fish production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) The details of total

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

fish production in the country during the last three years, State-wise, is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Recently, the Government has accorded approval to the restructured Central Sector Scheme “Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries” by integrating the existing schemes of fisheries of the Department, with the following broad components:— National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and its activities, Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations, Strengthening of Database and Geographical Information System of the fisheries sector and National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen, with an overall objective to enhance fish production and productivity.

Statement

Fish Production during 2012-13 to 2014-15

(In tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15(P)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1808077	2018416	1876775
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3710	3625	3849
3.	Assam	254270	266700	283182
4.	Bihar	400140	432298	459014
5.	Chhattisgarh	255611	284959	302569
6.	Goa	77879	114059	121108
7.	Gujarat	788490	798493	847840
8.	Haryana	11480	105580	112105
9.	Himachal Pradesh	8561	9834	10442
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	19950	20000	21236
11.	Jharkhand	96600	104820	111298
12.	Karnataka	525566	555310	588628
13.	Kerala	679736	708645	751439
14.	Madhya Pradesh	85165	96258	102207
15.	Maharashtra	586374	602679	638925
16.	Manipur	24502	28541	30305
17.	Meghalaya	5417	5752	6107

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15(P)
18.	Mizoram	5430	5940	6307
19.	Nagaland	7130	7465	7926
20.	Odisha	410143	413785	439357
21.	Punjab	99130	104020	110448
22.	Rajasthan	55160	35100	37269
23.	Sikkim	490	420	446
24.	Tamil Nadu	620397	624296	662877
25.	Telangana*	-	-	265379
26.	Tripura	57460	61950	65779
27.	Uttarakhand	3847	3889	4129
28.	Uttar Pradesh	449750	464484	493189
29.	West Bengal	1490016	1580647	1678331
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	36620	36948	39231
31.	Chandigarh	46	113	120
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	50	50	53
33.	Daman and Diu	19012	19860	21087
34.	Delhi	690	880	934
35.	Lakshadweep	12372	18717	19874
36.	Puducherry	41066	42081	44682
TOTAL		9040337	9572270	10164449

* Telengana State was formed on 02.06.2014.

New Crop Insurance Scheme

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

(a) whether Government has launched a new Crop Insurance Scheme for farmers, if so, the details of the Scheme;

(b) how is the Scheme different from earlier schemes, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of financials, targets and coverage under the Scheme?

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

(a) Government of India has recently approved Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) which would replace the existing schemes of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) from ensuing Kharif 2016. The scheme is optional for States/UTs. So all States/UTs can notify areas and crops under the scheme. Salient features of the scheme are given in the Statement [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to U.S.Q No. 325 part (a) and (b)].

In addition, a Unified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) has also been approved for implementation on pilot basis in 45 districts of the country from Kharif 2016 season to cover the other assets/activities like machinery, life, accident, house, student-safety of farmers alongwith their notified crops (under PMFBY and Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme-WBCIS).

(b) The scheme has been improved from earlier schemes on several counts *viz.* lowest and one premium rate on pan-India basis for farmers *i.e.* maximum 1.5%, 2% and 5% for all Rabi, Kharif and annual horticultural/commercial crops respectively; no capping on premium resulting no deduction in sum insured; inundation has been incorporated as a localized calamity in addition to hailstorm and landslide for individual farm level assessment; for more effective implementation, allocation of districts/areas on cluster/ group basis and for longer period to insurance companies as well as use of remote sensing technology and use of smartphone for getting images of Crop Cutting Experiments etc. for early settlement of claims have also been introduced.

(c) The scheme envisages increase in coverage from existing 23% to 50% of the gross cropped area in next 2-3 years. For the purpose, total expenditure is expected to increase from about ₹ 6000 crore in 2015-16 to about ₹ 15500 crore by 2018-19, which would be shared by the Central and State Governments on 50:50 basis.

Spurious pesticides

335. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been reports of misuse of pesticides in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that 25 per cent of the pesticides being used across the country are spurious resulting in huge damage to crops, reducing the fertility of soil at large and creating severe environmental impact;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with action taken by Government to check this menace and punish the concerned manufacturing companies/distributing agencies; and

(d) whether Government is contemplating to enact a law in this regard and provide compensation to the affected farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) The Central Government monitors pesticides residues in various agricultural commodities etc. under the central scheme "Monitoring of Pesticides Residues at National Level" (MPRNL). The annual report of MPRNL for 2014-15 shows that 2.6% of all samples of commodities contained pesticide residues above the Maximum Residues Limits fixed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

(b) and (c) The Central and State Governments have notified 168 and 11,645 Numbers of Insecticides Inspectors respectively under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 to check the use of spurious pesticides. In 2015-16 (upto December, 2015) a total of 44139 pesticides samples were collected by pesticides inspectors for analysis, of which 1167 samples *i.e.* 2.64% of the total were found to be misbranded. Prosecution has been launched in 166 cases as per information provided by State Governments.

(d) The Pesticides Management Bill, 2008 is pending in the Parliament with a view to substitute the Insecticides Act, 1968. The Bill has proposed more stringent punishment for import, manufacture, sale etc. of spurious pesticides. Further, the Bill also proposes compensation under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

Use of drip irrigation and water soluble fertilizers

336. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more area can be irrigated by adopting drip irrigation than that by flow irrigation, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the yield of various crops using drip irrigation with water soluble fertilizers is higher than the conventional fertilizers, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of import of water soluble fertilizers during last three years and the current year, country-wise;

(d) the names of Indian companies producing water soluble fertilizers; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to promote drip irrigation and indigenous production of water soluble fertilizers?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. More area can be irrigated by adopting drip irrigation than that by flow irrigation as the water use efficiency of drip irrigation is as high as 80-95% where as it is only 30-35% in conventional/flow irrigation. There is upto 40% saving of irrigation water under drip irrigation.

(b) There is higher water and nutrient use efficiency in drip irrigation thereby comparable crop yield can be obtained with water soluble fertilizers utilizing less amount of water and fertilizers. As per report (2004) of Task force on Micro Irrigation, the yield details of various crops using drip irrigation are as under:—

Sl. No.	Crop	Average Productivity, MT/ha	
		Without Drip	With Drip
1.	Widely Spaced Crops suitable for Drip Irrigation	4.00	7.50
2.	Closely Spaced Fruit crops suitable for Drip Irrigation	40.00	70.00
3.	Crops suitable for Sprinkler Irrigation	2.00	2.75

(c) The details of import of water soluble fertilizers during 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and current year 2015-16 (up-to October, 2015) is given in the Statement-I, Statement-II, Statement-III and Statement-IV respectively (*See below*).

(d) The names of Indian companies producing water soluble fertilizers are given in the Statement-V (*See below*).

(e) This Ministry is promoting Micro Irrigation (which includes both drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation) through Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation under the component “Per Drop More Crop of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana”.

Seventeen water soluble complex fertilizers have been incorporated in the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985. The general specifications of 100% water soluble mixture of fertilizers have also been specified under the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985. Besides this, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) imparts training, organizes field demonstrations to educate farmers on advantages of use of water soluble fertilizers.

Statement-I

Details of 100 per cent water soluble fertilizers imported (2012-13)

Sl. No.	Country	Name of Fertilizer							Total
		Calcium Nitrate	Mono Potassium Phosphate (MKP)	Mono Ammonium Phosphate (MAP)	Potassium Nitrate	NPK	Urea Phosphate	Others	
1.	China	11214	7323	11836	485	601	100	0	31559
2.	Norway	15396	0	0	0	0	0	0	15396
3.	Belgium	0	144	1536	1323	288	0	0	3291
4.	Israel	0	1902	1248	1368	1272	0	0	5790
5.	Vietnam	0	0	155	0	0	0	0	155
6.	Chile	0	0	0	3000	0	0	0	3000
7.	Jordan	0	0	0	4845	0	0	0	4845
8.	Thailand	0	0	0	312	528	0	0	840
9.	UAE	10	4	149	96	3382	162	0	3803
10.	Netherland	720	0	0	0	96	0	0	816
11.	U.K.	0	48	0	0	0	0	0	48
12.	Poland	270	0	0	0	0	0	0	270

(MT)

13.	Malaysia	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	300
14.	Portugal	497	0	0	0	0	0	0	497
15.	Russia	0	0	120	0	0	0	0	120
TOTAL		28107	9721	15044	11429	6167	262	0	70730

Statement-II

Details of 100 per cent water soluble fertilizers imported (2013-14)

Sl. No.	Country	Name of Fertilizer								Total
		Calcium Nitrate	Mono Potassium Phosphate (MKP)		Mono Ammonium Phosphate (MAP)		Potassium Nitrate	NPK	Urea Phosphate	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1.	China	18549	10557	14401	149	2317	60	0	46033	
2.	Norway	18862	0	0	240	0	0	0	19102	
3.	Belgium	0	864	1056	1176	504	0	0	3600	
4.	Israel	0	1104	1128	1168	1944	0	0	5344	
5.	Chile	0	0	0	6679	0	0	0	6679	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.	Jordan	0	0	0	5688	0	0	0	5688
7.	UAE	207	297	147	99	5508	74	0	6332
8.	Netherland	672	0	0	0	336	0	0	1008
9.	U.K.	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	36
10.	Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	100
11.	Poland	92	0	0	0	0	0	0	92
12.	Malaysia	0	75	0	0	0	0	0	75
13.	Portugal	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	48
14.	Russia	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
TOTAL		38430	12897	16832	15199	10745	134	0	94237

Statement-III

Details of 100 per cent water soluble fertilizers imported (2014-15)

Sl. No.	Country	Name of Fertilizer						Total	
		Calcium Nitrate	Mono Potassium Phosphate (MKP)	Mono Ammonium Phosphate (MAP)	Potassium Nitrate	NPK	Urea Phosphate	Others	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	China	41477	16060	25184	1593	4752	28	3	89097

2.	Norway	27339	0	0	0	220	0	0	27559
3.	Belgium	0	0	0	1045	0	0	0	1045
4.	Israel	0	2380	2228	1005	960	0	0	6573
5.	Chile	0	0	0	4248	0	0	0	4248
6.	Jordan	0	0	0	10502	0	0	0	10502
7.	Thailand	0	0	0	408	0	0	0	408
8.	UAE	302	189	59	334	4875	0	0	5759
9.	Netherland	0	0	0	0	408	0	0	408
10.	Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	0	400	0	0	400
11.	Taiwan	0	0	96	0	0	0	0	96
12.	Germany	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
13.	Italy	0	0	0	0	45	0	0	45
14.	Spain	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
15.	Turkey	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
TOTAL		69118	18634	27572	19135	11664	28	3	146154

Statement-IV

Details of 100 per cent water soluble fertilizers imported (2015-16) upto october, 2015

Sl. No.	Country	Name of Fertilizer							Total
		Calcium Nitrate	Mono Potassium Phosphate (MKP)	Mono Ammonium Phosphate (MAP)	Potassium Nitrate	NPK	Urea Phosphate	Others	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	China	26779	12592	16609	4157	3440	36	26	63639
2.	Norway	18304	0	0	603	0	0	0	18907
3.	Belgium	0	240	48	1441	62	0	0	1791
4.	Israel	0	2009	2265	601	840	0	0	5715
5.	Chile	0	0	0	3754	0	0	0	3754
6.	Jordan	0	0	0	6746	0	0	0	6746
7.	Thailand	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	24
8.	UAE	285	26	25	318	7428	0	26	8108
9.	Netherland	0	0	0	0	552	0	0	552

(MT)

10.	Taiwan	0	0	0	96	0	0	0	96
11.	Poland	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
12.	Germany	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	21
13.	Russia	0	50	50	0	0	0	0	100
14.	Spain	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	7
TOTAL		45389	14917	18997	17716	12374	36	52	109481

Statement-V

Names of Indian companies producing water soluble fertilizers in the country

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1. Coromandel International Limited, Vizag, Andhra Pradesh
 2. Coromandel SQM (India) Pvt. Ltd., Andhra Pradesh
 3. Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd., Vadodara, Gujarat
 4. India Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Ltd., (IFFCO), Kandla, Gujarat
 5. Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Bangalore, Karnataka
 6. Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd., Trombay, Maharashtra
 7. Zuari Rotem Specialty Fertilizers Ltd., Maharashtra
-

**Reduction in contribution of agriculture
and allied sectors to GDP**

337. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons that the contribution of agriculture and allied sectors to GDP has come down from 18.4 per cent in 2011-12 to 17 per cent in 2014-15;
- (b) what is the figure relating to 2015-16;
- (c) the reasons behind drastic reduction of 1.4 per cent in just three years; and
- (d) how the Ministry is planning to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (c) As per estimates released by Central Statistics Office (CSO), the contribution of agriculture and allied sector in the overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the economy at current prices has declined from 18.5% in 2011-12 to 17.4% in 2014-15. Total contribution of agriculture and allied sector in the overall GDP of the country in 2015-16 is estimated at 17.0%.

The decline in contribution of agriculture and allied sector in the overall GDP of the country is mainly due to shift from traditional agrarian economy to industry and service dominated one. This phenomenon is expected in the normal development process of an economy.

(d) As agriculture is a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to take necessary steps for the holistic development of agriculture. Though, the reduction in share of Agriculture and Allied Sector in the Total Economy is a

natural phenomena in the developmental process, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various Crop Development Schemes/ Programmes such as National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture etc. to increase production and productivity of crops and the overall GDP of the country.

Financial crisis in NAFED

338. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the financial crisis in National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED);

(b) if so, the updated status of steps taken to bring it out of this crisis, especially in view of it being a Central nodal agency for procurement of oilseeds, pulses and cotton under Price Support Scheme;

(c) whether Government would consider a one time bail-out package or any other feasible action to revive this cooperative; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, especially in view of NAFED being involved in the field of farmers' welfare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):
(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government had constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to explore possibilities for revival of NAFED from its present financial crisis in consultation with the lender banks. The Committee also asked NAFED to finalise a One Time Settlement (OTS) amount with the lender banks.

Miserable condition of farmers due to continuous drought situation

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

(a) whether the condition of farmers has become miserable because of continuous drought for the last two-three years;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether farmers are facing serious problem of lack of potable water along with irrigation due to deficient rainfall, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to address this problem?

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

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is concerned with coordination of relief measures necessitated by drought. The details of financial assistance approved State-wise by the Government of India in the wake of drought from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for the last two and current years are given in the Statement (*See below*).

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

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

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

States have also been advised to ensure availability of short duration and drought tolerant varieties of seeds so as to be in a position to supply them to farmers in case such a need arises. All State Governments have also been advised to initiate advance remedial action *e.g.* constructing water harvesting structures under MGNREGA and

other such schemes, promoting agronomic practices for moisture conservation, promoting cultivation of less water consuming crops and restoring irrigation infrastructure by desilting canals, energizing tube-wells, replacing/repairing faulty pumps, etc.

Statement

*Assistance approved from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)
for drought, in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16*

(₹ in crores)

Sl. No.	State	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	254.54	237.51	433.77
2.	Bihar	931.87	-	
3.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	1276.25
4.	Haryana	-	168.87	
5.	Karnataka	226.57	200.85	1540.20
6.	Odisha	-	-	815.00
7.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	2032.68
8.	Maharashtra	-	1962.99	3049.36
9.	Uttar Pradesh	-	777.34	1304.52
10.	Telangana	-	-	791.21

Suicide by farmers

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

(a) the details of the number of farmers committed suicide in 2016 till date, State-wise;

(b) whether 89 farmers have committed suicide in the month of January, 2016 in Maharashtra alone, if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) the reasons for such a large scale of suicide by farmers in the country; and

(d) the concrete measures Government would take to mitigate farm distress and suicide by farmers?

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

(a) to (c) National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home

Affairs, Government of India, compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). ADSI report includes profile of suicide victims classified according to profession. These reports on suicide upto 2014, are available at its website. The Reports for the subsequent years (2015 and onwards) have not been published yet. These Reports, as and when published by NCRB, may be seen at its website (<http://ncrb.nic.in>). However, State Governments have been requested to furnish the required information, which would be laid on the table of the House.

(d) The Government believes, that farmers' welfare will improve if there is an increase in the 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 for farm produce. 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 fertiliser application and thus reduces fertilizer cost. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate urea use, enhance its availability to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer 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.

In addition, the Government is implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. 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); Unified National Agriculture Markets; and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Government has also recently approved a new crop Insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to replace National Agricultural

Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified NAIS (MNAIS) from Kharif 2016 season. PMFBY has addressed all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and would be available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. This scheme would provide insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances.

Salient features of the PMFBY are:

- (a) Farmers have to pay the lowest ever premium rate
- (b) There will be a uniform premium rate for farmers for entire country - 2% maximum for Kharif food and Oilseed crops, 1.5% maximum for Rabi food and Oilseed crops and 5% maximum for Annual Horticultural/Annual Commercial crops.
- (c) The remaining financial burden will be borne by the Government
- (d) Farmers will get full insurance cover – there will be no “capping” of the Sum Insured and consequently, claim amount will not be cut or reduced.
- (e) For the first time, inundation has been included under localized risk cover, in addition to hailstorm and landslide. Individual farm level assessment of crop loss will be done for this.
- (f) For the first time, post harvest losses arising out of cyclones and unseasonal rains through out the country have been covered.
- (g) For the first time, emphasis has been given to mobile and satellite Technology to facilitate accurate assessment and quick settlement of claims.
- (h) Crop Insurance Portal has been launched. This will be used extensively for better administration, co-ordination, dissemination of information and transparency.
- (i) Coverage of areas to be increased from 23%, at present to 50% in 2 years.

Further 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.

Productivity of mangoes in the country

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

(a) whether Government is aware that mango productivity per hectare in India is very low in comparison to other countries like Bangladesh, Brazil and Pakistan, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to help mango growers in increasing yields by providing new technologies such as Ultra High Density Mango Plantation (UHDMP)?

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

(a) The mango productivity in India is low in comparison to Bangladesh, Brazil and Pakistan. The major reasons for low productivity are as under:

- (i) Pre-dominance of old/senile/unproductive orchards, seedling orchards,
- (ii) Predominance of irregular bearing varieties,
- (iii) Low adoption of canopy management and crop health management practices.
- (iv) Inclement weather during flowering and hail storms often during fruiting.

(b) The Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare for the holistic development of Horticulture. The mission envisages production and productivity improvement of horticulture crops including mango through new technologies like micro irrigation, coverage of area with improved cultivars, rejuvenation of senile orchards, protected cultivation, creation of water resources, adoption of Integrated Pest Management and Integrated Nutrient Management, *in situ* production of organic inputs and establishment of high density plantation are the major components of the Mission. Financial assistance @ 40% cost upto maximum ₹ 1.50 lakhs/ha is provided for establishment of new orchards. There are options for adoption of all range of planting system from ultra high to low.

Availability of green fodder for animals

†342. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the availability of quality green fodder for animals in the country is very low and it is adversely affecting the health of animals, if so, the details thereof along with the demand and supply of the above;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the action plan formulated by Government to provide quality green fodder to the animals, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government proposes to formulate any national policy on green fodder for animals, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Sir. As per ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute vision-2050 document, at present the country faces a net deficit of 35.6% green fodder (supply of 526MT against demand of 817 MT)

(b) and (c) Government of India has already taken necessary steps to increase fodder production in various part of the country by providing financial assistance to the States/UTs under Centrally Sponsored National Livestock Mission of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) with a Sub Mission on Feed and Fodder Development. Government formulated Accelerated Fodder Development Programme in 2011-12 under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) of Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare upto 2013-14. From 2014-15 for drought affected areas, Additional Fodder Development Programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) of Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare has been formulated, which is continuing at present. Further, in addition to this, financial assistance is also provided which is supported by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries under RKVY for other fodder developmental activities planned by the States.

**Decrease in the number of peasants
in the country**

343. SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of agricultural labourers in the country for the last five years, State-wise and year-wise with male female break-up;

(b) the total number of peasants in the country for the last five years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for the decreasing trend in the number of peasants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) As per the decennial Census conducted by the Registrar General of India, the

total number of agricultural labourers have increased from 106.8 million in 2001 to 144.3 million in 2011. State/UT-wise number of agricultural workers with male female break up is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The number of peasants or cultivators in the country as per Census have decreased from 127.3 million in 2001 to 118.8 million in 2011. State-wise detail is given in the Statement-II (*See below*). The decrease in the number of peasants is ascribed to factors such as continuous sub-division of land holdings due to population pressures.

Statement-I

Number of agricultural labourers in the country as per Census 2001 and 2011

(In million)

Sl. No.	State/ UT	2001			2011		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	India	57.329	49.446	106.775	82.742	61.591	144.334
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.190	0.056	0.246	0.414	0.133	0.548
2.	Himachal Pradesh	0.056	0.039	0.094	0.103	0.072	0.175
3.	Punjab	1.104	0.386	1.490	1.239	0.349	1.588
4.	Chandigarh	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.002
5.	Uttarakhand	0.190	0.069	0.260	0.287	0.117	0.403
6.	Haryana	0.717	0.562	1.279	1.041	0.487	1.528
7.	Delhi	0.011	0.005	0.016	0.031	0.008	0.039
8.	Rajasthan	1.055	1.468	2.524	2.133	2.807	4.940
9.	Uttar Pradesh	8.246	5.155	13.401	13.803	6.136	19.939
10.	Bihar	8.730	4.687	13.418	12.571	5.775	18.346
11.	Sikkim	0.009	0.008	0.017	0.013	0.013	0.026
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.010	0.009	0.019	0.018	0.018	0.036
13.	Nagaland	0.016	0.015	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.063
14.	Manipur	0.050	0.064	0.114	0.046	0.069	0.115
15.	Mizoram	0.013	0.014	0.027	0.022	0.019	0.042
16.	Tripura	0.163	0.113	0.276	0.214	0.140	0.354
17.	Meghalaya	0.091	0.081	0.172	0.106	0.092	0.198

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Assam	0.833	0.431	1.264	1.129	0.716	1.845
19.	West Bengal	5.080	2.283	7.363	7.453	2.736	10.189
20.	Jharkhand	1.485	1.366	2.851	2.342	2.094	4.436
21.	Odisha	2.587	2.412	4.999	3.482	3.258	6.740
22.	Chhattisgarh	1.263	1.829	3.091	2.345	2.747	5.092
23.	Madhya Pradesh	3.518	3.882	7.401	6.311	5.882	12.192
24.	Gujarat	2.510	2.652	5.162	3.650	3.190	6.839
25.	Daman and Diu	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.001
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.005	0.009	0.015	0.005	0.012	0.018
27.	Maharashtra	4.924	5.891	10.815	6.775	6.712	13.486
28.	Andhra Pradesh	6.454	7.378	13.832	8.130	8.838	16.968
29.	Karnataka	2.621	3.606	6.227	3.283	3.873	7.156
30.	Goa	0.016	0.020	0.036	0.015	0.012	0.027
31.	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
32.	Kerala	1.078	0.542	1.621	0.858	0.465	1.323
33.	Tamil Nadu	4.256	4.381	8.638	4.843	4.764	9.607
34.	Puducherry	0.042	0.030	0.072	0.043	0.026	0.068
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.004	0.001	0.005	0.004	0.001	0.005

Source: PCA, Census of India, 2011

Statement-II

Number of cultivators in the country as per Census 2001 and 2011 (in Million)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2001	2011
	All India	127.313	118.809
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.592	1.245
2.	Himachal Pradesh	1.955	2.062
3.	Punjab	2.065	1.935
4.	Chandigarh	0.002	0.003
5.	Uttarakhand	1.570	1.580

Sl. No.	State/UT	2001	2011
6.	Haryana	3.018	2.481
7.	Delhi	0.037	0.033
8.	Rajasthan	13.140	13.619
9.	Uttar Pradesh	22.168	19.058
10.	Bihar	8.194	7.196
11.	Sikkim	0.131	0.117
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.279	0.303
13.	Nagaland	0.549	0.538
14.	Manipur (Excl. 3 Sub-Divisions)	0.380	0.574
15.	Mizoram	0.256	0.230
16.	Tripura	0.313	0.296
17.	Meghalaya	0.467	0.495
18.	Assam	3.731	4.062
19.	West Bengal	5.654	5.117
20.	Jharkhand	3.890	3.815
21.	Odisha	4.248	4.104
22.	Chhattisgarh	4.311	4.005
23.	Madhya Pradesh	11.038	9.844
24.	Gujarat	5.803	5.448
25.	Daman and Diu	0.004	0.002
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.039	0.028
27.	Maharashtra	11.813	12.569
28.	Andhra Pradesh	7.860	6.492
29.	Karnataka	6.884	6.581
30.	Goa	0.050	0.031
31.	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.000
32.	Kerala	0.724	0.670
33.	Tamil Nadu	5.116	4.248
34.	Puducherry	0.011	0.012
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.021	0.017

Source: PCA, Census of India, 2011

Aid to NGOs associated with farming

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

(a) whether any financial aid is provided to the NGOs associated with or involved in farming under any scheme in the country including M.P.;

(b) if so, the State/UT-wise names of the NGOs provided financial aid during the last three years and the current financial year; and

(c) the details of the financial aid provided to the States and NGOs and the amount allocated to each of them during the last three years, year-wise?

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

(a) Normally, assistance to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working in the field of Agriculture is not provided directly by the Government of India. The States are free to provide such assistance under some schemes and programmes. For example:-

Scheme for Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms (ATMA) under Sub-Mission of Agriculture Extension (SAME) provides that State Governments may use at least 10% of the allocation on recurring activities at district level which is to be incurred through Non-Governmental Sector viz. NGOs, Farmer Organizations (FOs), Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Cooperatives, Para Extension Workers, Agri-preneurs, Input Suppliers, Corporate Sectors etc.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Mission of Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) funds are released to State Governments. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture is not releasing funds directly to NGOs in the State of Madhya Pradesh. However, funds have been released under National Horticulture Mission (a sub-scheme of MIDH) to National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF), Nasik, an NGO declared as National Level Agency under MIDH for monitoring programmes relating to development of vegetables and vegetable seeds.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) had sanctioned 99 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under the administrative control of NGOs in the country including 7 KVKs in Madhya Pradesh. Funds are provided to these NGOs for implementing the KVK activities.

(b) and (c) The details of financial assistance released to NHRDF under MIDH and KVKs under ICAR is placed in the Statement (*See below*). Records of financial assistance provided to NGOs by the State Governments under Sub-Mission of Agriculture Extension (SAME) are not maintained at Government of India (GOI) level.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement*Assistance provided to NGOs in different areas of agriculture includes:*

1. Financial Assistance under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) (₹ in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name and address of NGO	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1.	National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF) under NHM	777.00	807.86	1174.30	464.00

2. State-wise and NGO-wise funds released to NGOs by ICAR for KVKs activities from 2012-13 to 2015-16. (₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	District with KVK under NGO	Host Organization (Name of NGO)	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (BE)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Haryana (2)

1.	Ambala	Society for creation for Heaven on Earth	83.96	93.48	90.58	90.00
2.	Rewari	Shri Bhagwat Bhakti Ashram	87.85	94.70	97.80	94.25
TOTAL			171.81	188.18	188.38	184.25

Bihar (5)

3.	Jamui	Shrama Bharti, Khadigram Bihar	64.25	92.10	85.15	99.90
4.	Kaimur	Vanavasi Seva Kendra, Bhabua, Bihar	79.00	86.55	93.95	110.90

5.	Madhubani	S. K. Chaudhury Education Trust, Bihar	61.00	73.75	82.95	102.90
6.	Nawada	Gram Nirman Mandal, Bihar	80.40	85.96	91.30	115.50
7.	Sitamarhi	Samata Seva Kendra, Bihar	58.40	67.25	62.04	95.20
TOTAL			343.05	405.61	415.39	524.4
Jharkhand (5)						
8.	Deoghar	Santhal Paharia, Jharkhand	140.00	107.50	103.30	133.40
9.	Godda	Gramin Vikas Trust, Jharkhand	60.28	94.85	82.70	104.50
10.	Gumla	Vikas Bharati, Jharkhand	60.43	92.25	95.83	127.50
11.	Hazaribagh	Holy Cross, Jharkhand	65.42	103.00	105.45	148.00
12.	Ranchi	Ram Krishna Mission Ashram, Jharkhand	60.62	86.15	97.20	116.50
TOTAL			386.75	483.75	484.48	629.9
West Bengal (3)						
13.	Purulia	Kalyan West Bengal	64.17	97.00	105.40	123.50
14.	South 24 Pgs.	Rama Krishna Ashram, West Bengal	68.48	115.05	123.56	149.50
15.	West Midnapore	Seva Bharati, West Bengal	52.41	73.40	71.77	91.50
TOTAL			185.06	285.45	300.73	364.5
Manipur (2)						
16.	Bishnupur	Chairman, Utlou, Bishnupur, P.O.	71.50	116.00	121.00	112.80

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Nambol, District- Bishnupur, Manipur-795134				
17.	Senapati	President, FEEDS, Hengbung, P.O. Kangpokpi, District-Senapati, Manipur-795129	71.50	141.00	119.25	143.20
TOTAL			143.00	257.00	240.25	256
Tripura (1)						
18.	West Tripura	Sri Ramakrishna Seva Kendra, 81, Bondel Road, Kolkata (WB)	71.50	124.00	112.80	130.80
TOTAL			71.50	124.00	112.80	130.80
Uttar Pradesh (10)						
19.	Sultanpur	Kamla Nehru Memorial Trust, Sultanpur	84.00	92.50	92.00	125.40
20.	Gonda	Deendayal Research Institute, New Delhi	73.70	84.80	90.50	99.55
21.	Chitrakoot	Deendayal Research Institute, New Delhi	77.40	86.80	88.90	102.30
22.	Pratapgarh	Raja Avadesh Singh Memorial Society, Pratapgarh	77.00	94.80	101.00	106.55
23.	Unnao	Kunwar Ram Bux Singh Edn. Society, Lucknow	75.00	77.90	77.00	83.20
24.	Ghazipur	Post Graduate College, Ghazipur	70.00	89.80	87.00	104.30

25.	Sitapur-I	Manav Vikas Evam Sewa Sansthan, Lucknow	66.00	76.80	80.00	91.40
26.	Kaushambi	Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Welfare and Edn. Society, Allahabad	75.50	85.80	85.00	97.55
27.	Auraiya	Sarpanch Samaj, Firozpur, Punjab	71.00	71.31	68.50	87.10
28.	Sitapur-II	Ranvir Rananjai Degree College Association, Sultanpur	107.70	72.30	80.86	89.40
TOTAL			777.30	832.81	850.76	986.75
Andhra Pradesh (8)						
29.	Chittoor	Rashtriya Seva Samithi	84.25	88.50	76.72	99.80
30.	Guntur	Vinayashram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Karimnagar	Gram Nava Nirmana Samiti	75.25	80.50	90.52	111.25
32.	Kurnool	Sri Hanumantharaya Educational and Charitable Society	88.75	96.20	117.62	109.35
33.	Mahaboob Nagar	Youth for Action	54.59	58.00	52.40	84.50
34.	Medak	Deccan Development Society	31.41	28.50	26.85	72.85
35.	Nalgonda	Sri Aurobindo Institute of Rural Development	127.75	127.00	130.93	157.73
36.	Visakhapatnam	Bhagavatula Charitable Trust	91.37	96.00	120.90	126.25
TOTAL			553.37	574.70	615.94	761.73

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Maharashtra (26)						
37.	Ahmednagar	Pravara Instt. of Res. and Edn. in Natural and Social Sciences	103.50	119.75	107.86	90.00
38.	Amaravati(D)	Shram Sadhana Amaravati	104.75	118	119.19	139.35
39.	Amaravati(G)	Shram Safalya Foundation	99.25	114	114.19	139.35
40.	Beed	Deendayal Research Institute	76.25	75.5	106.29	123.25
41.	Buldhana	Satpuda Educational Society	85.25	95.5	93.97	70.00
42.	Hingoli	Sant Namdev Sevabhavi Sanstha	74.25	82.5	92.35	118.25
43.	Jalgaon	Satpuda Vikas Mandal	79.75	77	82.99	98.85
44.	Jalna	Marathwada Sheti Sahaya Mandal	73.25	79	92.08	106.25
45.	Kolhapur	D.Y. Patil Education Society	51.75	53	49.15	72.75
46.	Latur	Manjara Charitable Trust	76.25	78.5	87.50	108.60
47.	Nanded	Jawahar Lal Nehru Institute of Education, Scientific and Technical Research	46.25	70.5	63.68	82.00
48.	Nandurbar	Dr.Hedgewar Seva Samiti	61.25	92	107.67	197.50
49.	Parbhani	Jeevan Jyoti Charitable Trust	61.25	63.5	60.72	93.75
50.	Pune	Agricultural Development Trust	90.45	109.25	103.34	118.35
51.	Sangli	Vasant Prakash Vikas Pratishthan	59.75	76	74.40	91.50

52.	Satara	Kalyani Gorakshan Trust	49.75	48	34.75	35.85
53.	Sindhudurg	Sindhudurg Zilla Krishi Pratisthan	88.75	86	95.45	135.40
54.	Solapur	Sabari Krishi Pratisthan	88.75	87	96.74	118.25
55.	Thane	Gokhale Educational Society	76.25	82.5	108.85	124.25
56.	Washim	Suvide Foundation	82.77	79.5	89.02	120.75
57.	Pune (Narayanagaon)	College of Agriculture Business Management	91.66	49.5	47.52	113.25
58.	Akola (Udegaon)	Rural Development and Research Foundation	94.25	121.75	77.52	98.25
59.	Nashik (Malegaon)	Rich Field Agro e-Research and Development Centre	75.25	48.1	66.27	84.00
60.	Nanded (Sagroli)	Sanskriti Samvardhan Mandal	58.75	117	97.36	134.00
61.	Ahmednagar (D)	Shri Marutrao Ghule Patil Shikshan Sanstha	45.25	120.5	89.50	90.00
62.	Aurangabad (G)	Mahatma Gandhi Mission	37.01	142.5	91.52	60.60
TOTAL			1931.64	2286.35	2249.88	2764.35
Rajasthan (4)						
63.	Barmer	Society of Upliftment Rural Education, Barmer	71.00	81.70	93.00	101.95
64.	Udaipur	Vidya Bhawan Society, Udaipur	96.00	117.70	150.50	162.65

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
65.	Jaipur	Pragati Trust, Jaipur	96.00	107.50	111.50	120.97
66.	Hanumangarh	Gramothan Vidyapith, Sangaria, Hanumangarh	96.50	101.75	111.50	121.40
TOTAL			359.50	408.65	466.5	506.97
Gujarat (7)						
67.	Patan	Saraswati Gram Vidyapith, Samoda	77.50	82.25	81.50	89.50
68.	Kutch	Rural Agricultural Research Development Agency, Mundra, Kutch	77.50	88.50	95.00	108.85
69.	Vadodara	Mangal Bharati, Vadodara	50.75	77.00	93.00	104.95
70.	Bharuch	Bhartiya Agro Industrial Foundation, Vadodara	36.50	45.20	57.50	63.70
71.	Mehsana	Mehsana District Education Foundation, Mehsana	74.50	82.60	92.50	109.20
72.	Junagadh	Ambuja Cement Foundation, Kodinar, Junagadh	86.00	90.75	98.00	108.25
73.	Bhavnagar	Lokbharti Gram vidyapith, Sanosara	60.00	72.75	88.00	103.03
TOTAL			462.75	539.05	605.5	687.48
Madhya Pradesh (7)						
74.	Ratlam	Kalukheda Shiksha Samiti, Ratlam	73.75	80.75	93.26	105.60

75.	Vidisha	Malwa Mahila Vikas Samiti, 32, Niyamatpura, Shajanabad, Bhopal	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.57
76.	Satna	Deen Dayal Research Institute, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi	65.75	85.00	88.40	95.60
77.	Sehore	Centre for Rural Dev. and Environment, Bhopal	48.75	65.52	83.44	120.60
78.	Raisen	Din dayal Krishi Vikashewam Anusandhan Samiti, Sahara Homes Shivaji Nagar, Bhopal	52.00	60.40	75.75	106.50
79.	Burhanpur	Lokmatas Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Social National Mission, Maszid Complex, Shanwara, Burhanpur-450331, M.P.	49.25	58.80	96.10	105.50
80.	Indore	Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Kasturva Gram, Indore	79.00	84.50	82.80	105.50
TOTAL			368.50	434.97	519.75	657.87
Karnataka (5)						
81.	KVK, Belgaum	Belgaum Integrated Rural Development Society (BIRDS), Naganur, Belgaum	85.80	97.73	78.12	91.80
82.	KVK, Belgaum - A	Karnataka Lingayat Education Society (K.L.E. Society), Belgaum	42.53	124.95	83.10	92.80
83.	KVK, Davangere	Taralabalu Rural Development Foundation (TRDF), Chitradurga	82.00	98.00	104.82	112.80

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
84.	KVK, Gadag	Agricultural Science Foundation (ASF), Hulkoti, Gadag	117.90	126.60	128.55	137.00
85.	KVK, Mysore	JSS Mahavidyapeeth (JSS), Ramanjua Road, Mysore	97.00	105.39	100.53	117.50
TOTAL			425.23	552.67	495.12	551.9
Tamil Nadu (11)						
86.	Ariyalur	Centre for Rural Education and Economic Development (CREED), Patchaimalagam, Chidambaram, Cuddalore	64.75	58.00	35.00	53.60
87.	Erode	Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency (MYRADA), Bangalore	83.75	95.56	101.40	111.00
88.	Karur	Saraswati Foundation for Rural Development and Training, Royapettah, Chennai	74.10	82.36	83.74	94.50
89.	Krishnagiri	Tamil Nadu Board of Rural Development (TNBRD), Crescent Park Street, Chennai	85.35	95.11	95.57	103.00
90.	Nilgiris	The United Planters Association of Southern India (UPASI), Glenview, Coonoor, Nilgiris	56.25	49.77	50.22	62.00
91.	Perambalur	St. Johns Sangham Trust, Elambalur, Perambalur	78.00	86.70	86.67	96.00

92.	Thanjavur	Bhaktavasala Memorial Trust (BMT), TNHB Colony, Chennai	87.20	88.69	32.76	0.00
93.	Theni	Centre for Development and Communication Trust (CENDECT), Kamatchipuram, Theni	54.10	50.75	17.81	49.75
94.	Tirunelveli	Rathanvel Subramaniam Education Trust (RVS), Dindigul	68.90	77.51	28.25	0.00
95.	Tiruvannamalai	Tamil Nadu Board of Rural Development (TNBRD), Crescent Park Street, Chennai	73.90	72.50	97.67	106.90
96.	Tuticorin	Social Change and Development (SCAD), Vannarpettai, Tirunelveli	75.25	87.10	96.17	105.90
TOTAL			801.55	844.05	725.26	1499.15
Kerala (3)						
97.	Idukki	Bapooji Sevak Samaj, Chakkupallom, Idukki	82.45	87.13	88.40	96.50
98.	Pathanamthitta	Christian Agency for Rural Development (CARD), Pathanamthitta	100.80	108.51	110.02	118.00
99.	Thiruvananthapuram	Mitraniketan, Vellanaad, Thiruvananthapuram	84.75	89.03	86.51	113.00
TOTAL			268.00	284.67	284.93	327.5
GRAND TOTAL OF ALL 99 KVKs			7249.01	8501.91	8555.67	10833.55

Findings of agricultural census

345. SHRI K. C. TYAGI:

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) the total number of Agricultural Census conducted by Government so far;

(b) the total amount spent on conducting Agricultural Census;

(c) the total financial assistance provided by the Central Government to the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh under the Agricultural Census conducted so far; and

(d) the findings of the latest Agricultural Census in respect of the aforesaid States?

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

(a) Total of nine Agriculture Censuses have been conducted by the Government of India, so far.

(b) On the basis of available records, the Government of India has spent an amount of ₹ 32925.60 lakhs during the period from 1985-86 to 19th February, 2016 for conducting Agriculture Census in the country.

(c) Total financial assistance provided by the Central Government to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh for the period 1985-86 to 19th February, 2016 under Agriculture Census is as follows :

Andhra Pradesh	-	₹ 1452.52 lakhs
Bihar	-	₹ 1123.42 lakh
Uttar Pradesh	-	₹ 3376.60 lakhs

(d) Details on findings of the latest Agriculture Census 2010-11 in respect of the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh is given in the Statement.

Statement

Major findings of Agriculture Census 2010-11 in respect of the State of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh

Name of State	Sl. No.	Size Groups (in ha.)	Number of operational holdings	Area operated (in ha.)	Avg. size of holding (in ha.)	Net area sown (in ha.)	Net irrigated Area (in ha.)	Gross irrigated area (in ha.)	Gross unirrigated area (in ha.)	Gross cropped area (in ha.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Bihar	1.	Marginal (below 1.00 ha.)	14744098	3668728	0.25	3050320	1733990	2532767	1617348	4150115
	2.	Small (1.00-2.00 ha.)	948016	1185695	1.25	981120	571745	825784	512914	1338698
	3.	Semi-medium (2.00-4.00 ha.)	414664	1072969	2.59	875784	530021	788665	429185	1217849
	4.	Medium (4.00-10.00 ha.)	81484	414941	5.09	325626	200483	304425	146475	450900
	5.	Large (10.00 ha. and above)	3129	45228	14.45	29620	16393	27649	14160	41810
ALL GROUPS			16191391	6387561	0.39	5262470	3052632	4479290	2720082	7199372
Uttar Pradesh	1.	Marginal (below 1.00 ha.)	18532272	7170852	0.39	6637066	5336281	8083343	2604319	10687663
	2.	Small (1.00-2.00 ha.)	3035331	4243297	1.4	3975963	3304268	4736210	1391974	6128184
	3.	Semi-medium (2.00-4.00 ha.)	1334266	3628857	2.72	3478856	2918801	4181785	1122570	5304355
	4.	Medium (4.00-10.00 ha.)	398278	2198774	5.52	2091432	1635462	2270450	798492	3068942
	5.	Large (10.00 ha. and above)	25309	379806	15.01	348578	231274	314818	171071	485889
ALL GROUPS			23325456	17621586	0.76	16531894	13426085	19586606	6088427	25675034

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh	1. Marginal (below 1.00 ha.)		8424698	3727131	0.44	3215474	1783919	2244189	1699847	3944036
	2. Small (1.00-2.00 ha.)		2918374	4119946	1.41	3524445	1586209	1935261	2167152	4102413
	3. Semi-medium (2.00-4.00 ha.)		1399123	3684946	2.63	3067258	1246804	1767939	1988963	3756902
	4. Medium (4.00-10.00 ha.)		397252	2208770	5.56	1726065	678823	895646	1115441	2011087
	5. Large (10.00 ha. and above)		35653	552474	15.50	367262	129438	142620	245491	388111
	ALL GROUPS		13175100	14293266	1.08	11900504	5425194	6985656	7216893	14202549

Note: 1. Total may not tally due to rounding off.

2. Detailed data of the Agriculture Census 2010-11 are also available on the website <http://agcensus.nic.in> at "Online Databases".

Implementation of crop insurance scheme

346. SHRI K. C. TYAGI:

SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) the details of the provisions of Crop Insurance Scheme in the country and the details of various situations and conditions under which farmers could become beneficiaries of this scheme; and

(b) the measures taken, so far, and proposed to be implemented to streamline the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) The existing crop insurance schemes namely, National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) with its three component schemes *viz.* Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS) and National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) provide comprehensive risk coverage against natural calamities and adverse weather conditions in respect of notified crops and notified areas. These schemes except CPIS are compulsory for loanee farmers in areas/crops notified by the State/UT Governments and voluntary for non-loanee farmers.

The existing schemes have been comprehensively reviewed and Government of India has recently approved Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) which would replace the existing schemes of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) from ensuing Kharif 2016. The scheme is optional for States/UTs. The scheme envisages insurance protection to farmers against the yield losses in the life cycle of the crop *viz.* prevented sowing due to adverse weather conditions, mid-season adversities, losses to standing crops and post harvest losses due to cyclonic/unseasonal rains. Salient features of the PMFBY are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to USQ. No. 325 Part (a) and (b)]. However, WBCIS provides claims against the deviation in notified weather parameters from the specified limits during notified risk period.

Production of pulses

347. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of production of pulses during the last three years in the country, pulse-wise and area-wise;

(b) whether there has been shortage of production of pulses during last year, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for shortage of production and whether it is a fact that the area of production of pulses has been shrinking; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to boost production of pulses in the country?

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

(a) The State-wise (area-wise) details of production of pulses in the country during the last three years *i.e.* 2012-13 to 2014-15 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The annual production of the pulses in the country has been generally lower than their requirement and the gap is met through imports. As against projected demand of 21 million tonnes of pulses during 2014-15, their production has been estimated at 17.15 million tonnes.

(c) and (d) On account of cultivation of pulses on the marginal land under rainfed conditions, low area coverage due to risk of pests and diseases, higher profitability of other competing crops etc., area and production of pulses in the country has remained low. Depending on yearly variations in weather, rainfall situation etc., area under pulses in the country during the last few years has followed a mixed trend.

In order to increase 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.

In order to increase productivity of pulses and to make the country self-reliant, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has undertaken research programmes in different pulses at commodity based research institutes. The research

programmes include basic and strategic research related to crop improvement and production technologies in different pulse crops. For developing location-specific varieties/hybrids and suitable production technologies of pulses to improve their production and quality, the research findings are validated in relevant agro-ecologies by crops-specific All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs), mostly situated in the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs). To demonstrate the potential of latest pulses production and protection technologies, extensive demonstrations under NFSM have been undertaken.

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.

Statement

State-wise and Crop-wise Estimates of Production of Pulses during 2012-13 to 2014-15

States	Production ('000 tonnes)											
	Tur (Kharif)				Gram (Rabi)				Urad (Kharif+Rabi)			
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	251.0	243.0	185.0	762.0	843.0	472.0	321.0	247.0	314.0	194.0	170.5	185.0
Assam	4.9	5.6	5.7	1.0	1.4	2.0	26.7	31.3	34.2	5.9	7.8	7.8
Bihar	47.1	36.5	28.5	86.2	70.3	57.5	12.2	14.1	14.4	99.3	105.4	100.0
Chhattisgarh	32.3	31.2	33.8	285.2	213.2	290.4	30.2	32.2	30.5	4.9	3.8	3.9
Gujarat	270.0	209.0	235.0	168.2	309.0	199.0	57.0	55.0	47.0	51.0	106.0	72.5
Haryana	16.4	11.0	6.7	53.0	75.0	42.0	0.8	0.6	0.5	53.7	33.4	3.2
Himachal Pradesh	0.0		0.0	0.5	0.5	0.4	4.3	3.6	3.6	0.1	0.1	0.1
Jammu and Kashmir				0.1			0.0	5.1	4.3	0.8	0.8	0.3
Jharkhand	202.4	205.2	199.5	162.3	181.7	186.4	93.6	88.3	83.1	17.3	10.3	15.2
Karnataka	366.3	587.5	474.0	623.0	716.0	674.0	53.0	50.0	21.0	52.0	81.0	53.0
Kerala	1.9	0.8	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Madhya Pradesh	351.0	332.0	511.0	3812.4	3299.1	2964.0	390.1	226.0	440.0	40.9	146.1	124.4
Maharashtra	966.0	1034.0	726.0	854.0	1622.0	1088.0	213.0	206.0	92.0	212.4	208.0	84.0

Odisha	128.5	124.4	123.8	31.9	36.2	36.4	37.4	26.3	27.6	87.8	88.7	105.0
Punjab	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.8	2.3	1.9	1.0	1.0	1.2	43.7	31.8	33.0
Rajasthan	14.8	9.4	9.7	1277.4	1640.4	911.1	125.3	70.6	112.2	234.3	391.2	460.6
Tamil Nadu	31.1	57.7	77.0	4.5	5.8	4.4	88.4	310.7	358.9	33.6	151.4	180.7
Uttar Pradesh	325.0	271.0	174.0	676.0	475.5	367.7	380.0	248.0	302.0	51.0	39.0	46.0
Uttarakhand	2.4	2.7	3.2	0.4	0.7	0.6	11.5	11.5	10.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
West Bengal	2.1	2.1	2.9	29.6	29.3	30.8	44.9	63.3	53.3	2.8	28.8	25.6
Others	6.7	8.7	8.5	2.0	4.5	3.4	4.9	9.7	10.9	0.7	1.8	3.3
AUL INDIA	3022.7	3174.4	2807.3	8832.5	9526.3	7332.4	1896.7	1700.2	1961.1	1186.2	1605.9	1503.4

State-wise and Crop-wise Estimates of Production of Pulses during 2012-13 to 2014-15

States	Production ('000 tonnes)											
	Other Kharif Pulses						Other Rabi Pulses					
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2014-15	2012-13	2013-14	2013-14	2014-15	2012-13	2013-14	2013-14	2014-15
1	14	15	16	16	17	17	18	19	20	21	21	22
Andhra Pradesh	7.0	11.0	12.0	12.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	45.0	1572.0	1551.0	1213.0	
Assam					45.9	58.1	58.1	61.3	84.4	104.3	111.0	
Bihar	10.2	9.5	10.1	10.1	287.8	286.3	286.3	283.4	542.8	522.0	493.8	
Chhattisgarh	14.8	14.4	15.5	15.5	281.3	187.3	187.3	362.4	648.7	482.1	736.5	

1	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Gujarat	11.0	25.0	5.0	15.0	25.0	16.0	572.2	729.0	574.5
Haryana	1.3	0.2	0.3	5.2	4.9	3.4	130.4	125.1	56.1
Himachal Pradesh	10.8	5.6	6.5	30.3	41.4	27.7	46.1	51.0	38.3
Jammu and Kashmir	11.5	5.6	2.2	1.7	2.4	2.4	14.2	13.9	9.2
Jharkhand	18.3	15.0	22.3	115.4	78.2	90.6	609.3	578.6	597.1
Karnataka	105.0	96.0	97.0	60.0	70.0	71.0	1259.3	1600.5	1390.0
Kerala	0.0	0.1	0.1	1.4	2.7	0.3	3.2	4.0	1.4
Madhya Pradesh	6.6	7.7	10.0	564.8	633.4	778.9	5165.9	4644.3	4828.3
Maharashtra	18.0	44.0	29.0	42.6	55.0	34.0	2306.0	3169.0	2053.0
Odisha	65.5	63.2	63.6	73.3	80.4	83.0	424.4	419.3	439.3
Punjab	0.0	0.0		0.7	1.9	3.1	53.0	39.6	41.6
Rajasthan	262.4	321.9	380.5	42.7	57.5	77.7	1956.8	2490.9	1951.8
Tamil Nadu	28.2	35.1	63.0	24.1	53.2	69.2	209.9	613.8	753.2
Uttar Pradesh	0.0	0.0		900.0	664.0	549.0	2332.0	1697.5	1438.7
Uttarakhand	22.9	26.4	24.1	14.0	15.2	16.3	51.3	56.5	54.6
West Bengal	0.7	0.6	0.7	112.3	117.6	123.1	192.3	241.7	236.5
Others	29.8	29.7	30.2	71.5	65.1	76.2	168.4	120.0	132.4
ALL INDIA	624.0	710.8	772.1	2727.0	2536.5	2774.0	18342.5	19254.1	17150.3

Modification of National Crop Insurance Programme

348. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to modify National Crop Insurance Programme after consultations with State Governments and other stakeholders;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the issues identified by Government after consultations; and

(c) by when the revised Crop Insurance Programme is going to be implemented?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) has been reviewed recently in consultation with various stakeholders including States, farmers, insurance companies etc. The major issues identified in the existing crop insurance schemes were high premium rates to be paid by farmers, different premium rates in neighbouring districts, capping on premium resulting in reduction in sum insured and lesser claims for farmers, delay in settlement of claims, less use of improved technologies etc.

(c) After detailed discussion Government of India has recently approved Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) which would replace the existing schemes of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) from ensuing Kharif 2016 season. Premium rates under Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) have also been reduced and brought at par with new scheme. In addition, a Unified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) has also been approved for implementation on pilot basis in selected 45 districts of the country from ensuing Kharif 2016 season to cover the other assets/activities like machinery, life, accident, house, student-safety and crops of the farmers.

Compensation package for farmers

349. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government to provide adequate Minimum Support Price (MSP) for major agricultural produces in the country;

(b) the steps taken by Government to protect the interest of millions of small and marginal farmers and the compensation package provided per acre land during any calamities or floods;

(c) whether Government has plans to increase the MSP and the compensation package provided to the farmers; and

(d) the funds allotted for assistance to farmers and compensation packages provided to Tamil Nadu from 2011 and till date, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (d) Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors. Statement showing MSPs for 2014-15 and 2015-16 are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

The objective of the Government's price policy is to ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their produce. However, farmers are free to sell their produce to Government procurement agencies or in the open market as is advantageous to them.

Government has taken several initiatives to increase production and productivity of farmers including small and marginal farmers which, *inter-alia*, includes Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme; promotion of use of Neem Coated Urea; Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY); Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY); 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 (UNAM); Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) etc.

Central assistance provided by Government under National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities (Drought, hailstorm, pest attack and cold wave/ frost etc.) to the States in 2015-16 is given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

For the State of Tamil Nadu, assistance of ₹ 624.69 crore was provided from NDRF in the wake of drought-kharif during the year 2012-13.

Funds allocated to the State of Tamil Nadu under various schemes implemented by Government between 2011-12 and 2015-16 is as below:

(₹ in crore)

Year	Funds allocated
2011-12	660.30
2012-13	945.29

Year	Funds allocated
2013-14	600.61
2014-15	625.09
2015-16	535.41

Statement-I*Minimum Support Prices*

		(₹ per quintal)	
Commodity	Variety	2014-15	2015-16
Kharif Crops			
Paddy	Common	1360	1410
	Grade A	1400	1450
Jowar	Hybrid	1530	1570
	Maldandi	1550	1590
Bajra		1250	1275
Maize		1310	1325
Ragi		1550	1650
Arhar (Tur)		4350	4425^
Moong		4600	4650^
Urad		4350	4425^
Cotton	Medium Staple	3750	3800
	Long Staple	4050	4100
Groundnut in shell		4000	4030
Sunflower seed		3750	3800
Soyabean	Black	2500	-
	Yellow	2560	2600\$
Sesamum		4600	4700
Nigerseed		3600	3650
Rabi Crops			
Wheat		1450	1525
Barley		1150	1225
Gram		3175	3425*

Commodity	Variety	2014-15	2015-16
Masur (Lentil)		3075	3325*
Rapeseed/Mustard		3100	3350
Safflower		3050	3300
Toria		3020	3290
Other Crops			
Copra	Milling	5250	5550
	Ball	5500	5830
De-Husked Coconut		1425	1500
Jute		2400	2700
Sugarcane#		220	230

Note: ^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.

\$ Single MSP of soyabean has been fixed irrespective of variety.

Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP).

Statement-II

Assistance from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for Natural Calamities (Drought, hailstorm, pest attack and cold wave/frost) in the States in 2015-16

(₹ in crore)

1.	Karnataka	Drought	1540.20
2.	Chhattisgarh	Drought	1276.25
3.	Madhya Pradesh	Drought	2032.68
4.	Maharashtra	Drought	3049.36
5.	Odisha	Drought	815.00
6.	Telangana	Drought	791.21
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Drought	1304.52
8.	Andhra Pradesh	Drought	433.77
TOTAL			11242.99

Note: The proposals for other two States *i.e.* Jharkhand and Rajasthan have also been finalized.

**Production of coconut, mango and other horticulture
produces in Tamil Nadu**

350. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects carried out to support and improve production of organically grown coconut, mango and other horticulture produces in the country;

(b) the break-up details of funds allocated, disbursed and expenditure incurred for the above purpose during the last five years;

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to provide adequate financial, logistic and technical support to Tamil Nadu to improve production of coconut, mango and other horticulture produces; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to support the revenue loss to farmers due to natural calamities like heavy winds/rainfall and subsequent floods?

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

(a) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented during Twelfth Plan *w.e.f.* 2014-15 for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo.

Under MIDH, organic farming in horticulture is being promoted to harness environmental and economic benefits by way of adoption of organic farming along with its certification for perennial and non-perennial fruits including coconut, mango and other horticulture crops. However, Government is promoting organic farming through various other schemes like National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) and Network Project on Organic Farming of ICAR.

(b) Details of funds allocated, disbursed and expenditure incurred under MIDH is as under:

(₹ in crore)

Year	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Expenditure/Release
2011-12	2036.00	1865.00	1858.00
2012-13	2212.00	1902.75	1859.86
2013-14	2556.00	2948.73	2856.79

Year	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Expenditure/Release
2014-15	2263.00	1990.07	1958.73
2015-16	2000.00	1769.59	1436.62*

*upto 23.02.16

(c) MIDH is a demand driven programme. Under the programme, funds are released to the State Horticulture Missions (SHMs) in accordance with the Physical and Financial achievements during the year, proposals made in respective Annual Action Plan and capacity of the SHM to utilize the funds.

(d) During 2012-13, Tamil Nadu Government spent ₹ 1448 lakh for flood relief for horticulture crops and ₹ 920.46 lakh to meet out the revenue loss to farmers for horticulture crops affected in an extent of 20844.1 ha. During 2015-16, an amount of ₹ 4604.67 lakh was spent towards flood relief for horticulture crops affected in an extent of 35471.4 ha. of land.

Payment of dues to sugarcane farmers

351. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of arrears due to sugarcane farmers from sugar mills/factories since 2010, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of farmers affected by such overdue payments in each State since 2010 year-wise;

(c) the number of sugar mills which have received loans from Government to pay these arrears; and

(d) the proportion of Government loan amount that has been paid to farmers as arrears?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) As on 15.02.2016, an amount of ₹ 15,949.63 crores are outstanding against the sugar mills. State-wise amount of outstanding sugarcane dues pending against the sugar mills for the current sugar season 2015-16, 2014-15, 2013-14 including earlier seasons is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Payment of sugarcane dues to farmers is an ongoing process. The dues position of farmers changes continuously on account of fresh supplies received and payment made for previous supplies. Further, farmer-wise dues position of States is not maintained by Central Government.

(c) 465 sugar mills were provided loans of ₹ 6420 crores under Scheme for Extending Financial Assistance to Sugar Undertakings (SEFASU), 2014 to clear the cane dues of farmers. Further under Soft Loan Scheme ₹ 4212 crores were credited into farmer's account by banks on behalf of 301 sugar mills towards payment of cane arrears.

(d) As indicated in reply to part (c) of the question above, ₹ 10,632 crores has been paid to farmers against their cane price arrears.

Statement

*Amount of arrears due pending during last two years and
current year (as on 15.02.2016)*

(₹ in crores)					
Sl. No.	State	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14 and Earlier Seasons	Total
1.	Punjab	465.51	0.80	0.00	466.31
2.	Haryana	451.86	10.84	0.00	462.70
3.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Uttar Pradesh	7294.44	599.01	112.26	8005.71
5.	Uttarakhand	363.35	34.53	24.92	422.80
6.	Madhya Pradesh	177.86	0.00	13.39	191.25
7.	Gujarat	486.32	1.11	13.41	500.84
8.	Maharashtra	3134.04	249.78	80.96	3464.78
9.	Bihar	0.00	29.19	40.76	69.95
10.	Andhra Pradesh	331.50	38.91	0.00	370.41
11.	Telangana	0.00	11.91	0.00	11.91
12.	Karnataka	0.00	295.30	312.48	607.78
13.	Tamil Nadu	689.61	318.13	278.49	1286.23
14.	Odisha	28.76	0.58	2.94	32.28
15.	West Bengal	0.00	1.82	0.00	1.82
16.	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	9.09	9.09
17.	Goa	1.76	0.00	0.00	1.76
18.	Chhattisgarh	44.01	0.00	0.00	44.01
TOTAL		13469.02	1591.91	888.7	15949.63

New Drugs (Prices Control) Order

352. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Drugs (Prices Control) Order notified recently has increased the number of essential drugs and capped their prices using simple average price formula, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether according to Senior Director and Life Sciences leader at consulting firm, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu's Indian arm, a string of issues, ranging from patents and drug safety to pricing and foreign direct investment norms have put the approximately ₹ 1 lakh crore Indian pharmaceutical industry in uncertainty; and

(c) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) The Government notified the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy-2012 and subsequently notified the new Drug (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013 on 15.05.2013 to control and regulate the prices of medicines in the country. The medicines of dosages and strengths as specified under National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)-2011 have been brought under price control based on a concept of Ceiling Price by having the Simple Average Price of all the branded and/or generic versions of such medicine having market share more than and equal to 1% of the total domestic market turnover of that medicine. The medicines not listed under NLEM-2011 are under monitoring and no manufacturer can increase the maximum retail price of a drug more than ten percent of maximum retail price during preceding twelve months.

(b) Regarding patent regime, the amendment in the Patent Act, in 2005, extended grant of product patent to all technologies including pharmaceuticals. Since 2005 there have been no further amendments to the Act. As such India has a stable patent regime. Regarding drug safety, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has not received any such information. The quality and safety of the drugs imported, manufactured and sold in the country is regulated under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made there under. Regarding pricing, the Government has notified Drug (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013 on 15.05.2013 to control and regulate the prices of medicines in the country. The medicines of dosages and strengths as specified under National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)-2011 have been brought under price control and the medicines not listed under NLEM-2011 are under monitoring and no manufacturer can increase the maximum retail price of a drug more than ten percent of maximum

retail price during preceding twelve months. Regarding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), at present in pharma Sector FDI upto 100% is allowed under automatic route for greenfield investment. In order to safeguard the domestic generic industry, in case of brownfield investment FDI upto 100% is allowed through Government route (*i.e.* Foreign Investment Promotion Board) in the pharma sector.

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

Redressal of grievances under Pharma Jan Samadhan

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

(a) The number of complaints received under the Pharma Jan Samadhan grievance redressal system created by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA); and

(b) The detailed break-up of the nature of complaints received and redressed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) The web portal Pharma Jan Samadhan (PJS) was launched on 12th March, 2015 for speedy and effective complaint redressal system regarding (i) availability of medicines, (ii) overpricing of medicines, (iii) sale of 'new drugs' without prior price approval, and (iv) refusal of supply or sale of medicines.

The details of complaints registered on PJS and redressal of such complaints since introduction of the PJS are as follows:

Particulars	Nos.
Overpricing	18
Shortage	134
Refusal to sell	147
Without price approval	2
TOTAL	301
Action taken/Disposed off	301

Shortage of subsidized fertilizers

354. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of subsidy being provided to farmers in the country; and

(b) the reasons for shortage of subsidized fertilizers being provided to farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) So far as urea is concerned, the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of urea is statutorily controlled by the Government. The difference between the delivered cost of fertilizers at farm gate and net market realization by the urea units is given as subsidy to the urea manufacturer/importer by the Government of India.

In respect of Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) Fertilizers, the Government is implementing Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy *w.e.f.* 1.4.2010. Under the policy, a fixed amount of subsidy, decided on annual basis, is provided on subsidised P&K fertilizers depending on their nutrient content. Under this policy, MRP is fixed by fertilizer companies as per market dynamics. The details of the subsidy being provided to the P&K fertilizer companies are as under:

Sl. No.	Nutrients	NBS (₹ Per Kg of Nutrient)
1.	N	20.875
2.	P	18.679
3.	K	15.500
4.	S	1.677

The details of per MT subsidy on various grades of P&K fertilizers covered under NBS Scheme is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of fertilizers	NBS Rates for 2015-16 (₹ Per MT)
1.	DAP : 18-46-0-0	12350
2.	MAP : 11-52-0-0	12009
3.	TSP : 0-46-0-0	8592
4.	MOP : 0-0-60-0	9300
5.	NPS 16-20-0-13	7294
6.	NPS 20-20-0-13	8129
7.	NPK 10-26-26-0	10974
8.	NPK 12-32-16	10962
9.	NPK 14-28-14	10323
10.	NPK 14-35-14	11630

Sl. No.	Name of fertilizers	NBS Rates for 2015-16 (₹ Per MT)
11.	NPK 15-15-15	8258
12.	AS: 20.6-0-0-23	4686
13.	NP 28-28-0-0	11075
14.	NPK 17-17-17	9359
15.	NPK 19-19-19	10460
16.	SSP 0-16-0-11	3173
17.	NPK 16-16-16-0	8809
18.	NPKS 15-15-15-09	8409
19.	NP 24-24-0-0	9493
20.	NP 20-20-0-0	7911
21.	NPS 24:24-0-8	9493

The details of subsidy provided to the Importers/Manufacturer of fertilizers during the last three years and current year is as under:

(in crores of rupees)

Year	Imported Urea Expenditure	Imported P&K Expenditure	Indigenous P&K Expenditure	Indigenous Urea Expenditure
2012-13	20,016.00	14,576.10	16,000.00	20,000.00
2013-14	15,353.30	13,926.86	15,500.00	26,500.00
2014-15	16,200.00	8,667.30	12,000.00	38,200.01
2015-16 (upto 31.01.2016)	15,948.29	8,911.72	11,388.39	37,852.10

(b) The availability of all the subsidized fertilizers (Urea, DAP, MOP and NPK) has been sufficient and comfortable both in Kharif as well as in Rabi season 2015-16 (upto January, 2016), the details of which are in tabular form as under:

Fertilizers	Kharif 2015 (LMT)			Rabi 2015-16 (upto January) (LMT)		
	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales
Urea	154.50	157.68	154.79	129.52	124.77	114.20
DAP	50.93	59.98	50.62	43.70	41.45	28.26
MOP	18.31	16.87	12.60	13.38	13.01	8.18
NPK	52.73	54.22	44.94	38.37	39.03	28.56

Direct Cash Transfer in place of subsidized urea

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

(a) whether the Government has planned any schemes to move from subsidized urea to selling it in open market through Direct Cash Transfer to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the time-frame by which the various schemes relating to these plans, will be rolled out; and

(c) the mechanism used to identify the beneficiaries of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) No, Sir. There is no plan to move from subsidized urea to selling it in open market through direct cash transfer to farmers.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Capping the share of margins on sale of medicines

356. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MRP of medicines often include a huge share of margin which goes to the chemists, distributors and wholesalers for pushing particular brands, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has any plan to cap the margin of chemists, distributors and wholesalers to bring down the prices of medicines to the consumers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) The Drug Price Control Order, 2013 provides that 16% of price as a margin to retailer shall be allowed, while fixing the ceiling prices of Scheduled formulations and retailed prices of new drugs. There is no prescribed margin for non scheduled formulations.

(b) A Committee was constituted by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to look into the issue of trade margins. The Committee has since submitted its recommendations which are being examined.

Supply of essential medicines at affordable prices

357. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any specific plans to ensure supply of medicines used for the treatment of cancer and cardio-vascular diseases at affordable prices is in place; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (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. 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 (including 47 for cancer and 53 for cardiovascular diseases).

Subsequently, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has announced National List of Essential Medicines, 2015 (NLEM, 2015). The Government is in the process of amending the first Schedule of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 so that NPPA can fix prices of medicines appearing in NLEM, 2015. This would result in reduction in prices of Essential Medicines appearing in NLEM, 2015 including those used for cancer and cardiovascular diseases.

Medicines for treatment of cancer

†358. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the number of cancer patients in the country is increasing steadily and it is expected to increase by 30 per cent by the year 2020;

(b) whether Government is also aware that the medicines for cancer are still very expensive and the new medicines are not available in Indian markets;

(c) if so, whether steps are being taken by Government in the interest of cancer patients; and

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

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) As per the report of the Task Force constituted by Department of Pharmaceuticals regarding Development of Manufacturing Capabilities in each Medical Vertical, India is experiencing rapid demographic and epidemiological transitions with a rising burden on Non-Communicable Diseases including Cancer. As per the report, India's share in worldwide deaths due to cancer is 5%.

(b) The New Drugs used for treatment in cancer are mainly patented drugs which are costly. However, cheaper generics of the same therapeutic category compared to the patented medicines are available.

(c) and (d) NPPA has fixed the ceiling prices of medicines appearing in various strength/dosages form in NLEM, 2011 which includes 47 anti-cancer medicines which are included in First Schedule of Drug (Prices Control) Order (DPCO). Further, the Government has issued a compulsory license for a drug "NEXAVAR" used for the treatment of cancer. The patent is held by M/s Bayer Corporation. After the issue of the compulsory license, the Indian company M/s Natco Pharma Ltd. has been able to sell the medicine at a price of ₹ 8880/- for a pack of 120 tablets, which were earlier costing the patients ₹ 2,80,428/- for one month treatment.

Closure of fertilizer plants for non-supply of natural gas

359. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eight fertilizer plants in the country are closed for many years and are not producing urea due to non-supply of natural gas, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the measures being taken to operationalise these fertilizer plants and ensure supply of urea to farmers at reasonable rates; and

(c) by when re-starting of these plants would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) No, Sir. Though Government of India (GoI) decided in 2002 to close operations of all eight fertilizer units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL), none of these plants had natural gas as its feedstock. FCIL and HFCL had been consistently incurring losses due to a variety of reasons and both companies were declared sick by the Board for Industrial and Financial Restructuring (BIFR) in 1992.

(b) Cabinet Committee Economic Affairs (CCEA) in 2007 gave 'in principle' approval to examine the feasibility of revival of the closed units of FCIL and HFCL. Cabinet in 2008 accorded approval for revival of the closed units of FCIL and HFCL subject to non recourse to Government funding. CCEA in 2011 approved revival of Talcher, Sindri and Ramagundam units of FCIL on nomination basis by Public Sector undertakings and revival of Gorakhpur and Korba units of FCIL and Barauni, Durgapur and Haldia units of HFCL through 'bidding route' by setting up new plants.

In order to facilitate the revival of closed units of FCIL, CCEA in 2013 approved waiver of GoI loan and interest on FCIL to make the net worth of FCIL positive and to seek its de-registration from BIFR. CCEA also decided that proposal/ action plan on revival of HFCL units will be taken up once revival of FCIL units is on track.

Recently the Cabinet in its meetings held on 31.3.2015 approved revival of Gorakhpur and Barauni units and on 21.05.2015 approved revival of Sindri unit through bidding route on revised terms in accordance with the framework approved by CCEA in 2011.

Bid process for Gorakhpur and Sindri was initiated. There was lukewarm response to RFQ for Gorakhpur and Sindri and only one application each was received at the first stage *i.e.* for qualification. It has been decided not to proceed further with the bidding process. Government is considering revision in the terms and conditions of bidding for Gorakhpur and Barauni units to make the offer more attractive for prospective investors and also to revive Sindri unit by FCIL itself through joint venture of Public Sector Undertakings.

(c) Ramagundam unit is due to commence commercial operations by end of September 2018.

Rehabilitation scheme for HAL

360. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a modified rehabilitation scheme for Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL), Pimpri is pending consideration of Government, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for delay in approval of the draft scheme; and

(c) by when the scheme is likely to be approved and production activities of HAL are started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND

FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A Modified Draft Rehabilitation Scheme (MDRS) for Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL), Pimpri, is under active consideration of the Government. The Comments of various stakeholders have been called for. On receipt of the comments, the MDRS for HAL would be submitted before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for consideration.

Efforts to reduce over-consumption of urea

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

(a) whether rising consumption of highly subsidized urea has resulted in declining consumption of other fertilizers;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering a revision in prices of urea or undertaking any other efforts to reduce the over-consumption of urea and the imbalanced use of soil nutrients, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the current unpaid subsidy bill of the urea sector and whether Government plans to cut subsidy on chemical fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the time-line for the same and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. However, disparity between prices of urea and P&K fertilizers is one of the reasons for decline in consumption of P&K fertilizers.

(b) No, Sir. The Government of India is promoting the use of Neem Coated Urea and also promoting soil test based balanced use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with bio fertilizers and organic fertilizers.

(c) and (d) The current unpaid subsidy bills for imported urea is ₹ 1164.47 crore and for indigenous urea is ₹ 17513.30 crore.

Steps to reduce prices of medicines

362. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been engaged in the process of bringing down the prices of medicines for such ailments which call for lifelong medication and also those medicines which are meant for serious diseases like cancer and are very costly;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken so far or proposed to be taken for the said purpose; and

(c) the achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (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.

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 (including 6 medicines for diabetes, 47 for cancer, 53 for cardiovascular diseases, 20 for HIV/AIDS, 24 for Tuberculosis and 6 for kidney disease).

NPPA has also fixed prices of 106 non-scheduled medicines under paragraph 19 of Drugs Prices Control Order, 2013, out of which 84 are used for treatment of cardiovascular diseases and 22 for diabetes.

(c) The reduction in prices of 530 scheduled formulations effected under DPCO, 2013 after price fixation of scheduled drugs by NPPA as compared to the highest price prevailing prior to the announcement of DPCO, 2013 is given in the Statement-I (*See below*). The reduction in prices effected as compared to the highest price prevailing prior to price capping for 106 non-scheduled medicines fixed under Para 19 is given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

Statement-I

Reduction in price of Scheduled Medicines with respect maximum price

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

Statement-II

Reduction with respect to Highest prevailing MRP under para 19 of DPCO, 2013

% reduction with respect to Highest prevailing MRP (No. of Drugs)

	Diabetic	Cardiovascular	Total
0 <= 5%	7	10	17
5 <= 10%	2	10	12
10 <= 15%	1	11	12
15 <= 20%	1	8	9
20 <= 25%	2	12	14
25 <= 30%	2	7	9
30 <= 35%	2	7	9
35 <= 40%	1	4	5
Above 40%	4	15	19
TOTAL	22	84	106

Withdrawal of exemption on customs duty on bulk drugs

363. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has withdrawn exemption on customs duty on certain bulk drugs;

(b) if so, whether life-saving imported drugs to treat cancer, HIV and cardiac failures will become costlier;

(c) whether the industry is unhappy with the move;

(d) whether the withdrawal of exemption will impact imported drugs and those made in SEZs; and

(e) whether this is a part of Make in India strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As the Notification was issued on 28.01.2016, it is too early to know the impact.

(d) Following the withdrawal of exemptions/concessions, imported drugs/bulk drugs (including those cleared from SEZ to domestic tariff area) would attract applicable customs duties.

(e) The above action of the Government to withdraw exemption also contributes to the 'Make in India' strategy.

Measures to supply superior quality fertilizers

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

(a) whether superior quality of fertilizer is absolutely essential to maintain the fertility of soil for sustained growth of agricultural production;

(b) whether Government has received various complaints from farmers regarding improper mixing in DAP fertilizer;

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure that good quality fertilizers are provided to farmers; and

(d) the measures taken to make testing of fertilizers mandatory at every possible level right from the factory level till it reaches the farmers?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) To ensure availability of quality fertilizer to the farmers, the fertilizer has been declared as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, (ECA), 1955 and the Fertilizer (Control) Order (FCO), 1985 has also been promulgated to regulate quality, price, trade and distribution of fertilizer to the farmers. Specifications of all the fertilizers are prescribed in the said order. No person shall manufacture/import for sale, sell, offer for sale, stock or exhibit for sale or distribute any fertilizer which is not notified in the FCO or not of standard prescribed in the FCO. Sample of fertilizers are drawn periodically by the Fertilizer Inspectors of the State Government from dealers/wholesalers and manufactures to check their quality as per the parameter prescribed in FCO, 1985. In case of imported fertilizer, the Fertilizer Inspectors of the Central Government draw samples from ship/container at port and analyze in their laboratories at Faridabad, Kalyani, Chennai and Mumbai. Presently, there are 78 notified Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories in the country including 4 laboratories under Central Government for analysis of fertilizer samples.

Sale of medicines at pre-revised rates

365. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has made a downward revision in the prices of certain drugs;

(b) if so, the details of drugs whose prices were revised by NPPA including the earlier prevalent prices of these drugs;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the pharmaceutical companies are still selling these drugs at the pre-revised rates; and

(d) if so, the names of such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (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.

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 (including 6 medicines for diabetes, 47 for cancer, 53 for cardiovascular diseases, 20 for HIV/AIDS, 24 for Tuberculosis and 6 for kidney disease). Details are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement-I Appended to the Answer to USQ. No. 362 Part (a) and (b)].

NPPA has also fixed prices of 106 non-scheduled medicines under paragraph 19 of Drugs Prices Control Order, 2013, out of which 84 are used for treatment of cardiovascular diseases and 22 for diabetes. Details are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement-II Appended to the Answer to USQ. No. 362 Part (c)].

(c) and (d) Most of the manufacturing/marketing pharmaceutical companies have complied with the revised ceiling price. However, wherever non-compliance of the revised ceiling price is reported, overcharging notices are issued by NPPA.

Jan Aushadhi stores

†366. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jan Aushadhi Stores opened so far or proposed to be opened

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in the country to make generic medicines easily available to the common man, State-wise/district-wise;

(b) the number of such centres opened in the AIIMS, major hospitals and medical colleges coming under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the time-frame stipulated for all of them; and

(c) the number of Jan Aushadhi Stores planned to be opened in Assam and Uttar Pradesh and the procedure adopted therefor along with the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) As on 23.02.2016, 248 Jan Aushadhi Store sare functional across the country of which 152 Jan Aushadhi Stores commenced operations during the current Financial Year 2015-16. Another 50 Jan Aushadhi Stores are likely to be opened by the end of the current Financial Year. However, number of stores to be opened depends upon the number of valid applications received. The State-wise break-up is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) No, Jan Aushadhi Stores have as yet been opened in the AIIMS, Major Hospitals and Medical Colleges coming under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(c) 7 applications from Assam and 25 from Uttar Pradesh have been approved for opening of new Jan Aushadhi Stores. Once the Drug Licenses are obtained by the applicants, these stores will be opened immediately.

Statement

The number of Jan Aushadhi Stores

Sl. No.	States Name	No. of Jan Aushadhi Stores
1.	Bihar	1
2.	Chandigarh	3
3.	Chhattisgarh	106
4.	Delhi	5
5.	Gujarat	8
6.	Haryana	4
7.	Himachal Pradesh	12
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	11
9.	Jharkhand	12

Sl. No.	States Name	No. of Jan Aushadhi Stores
10.	Karnataka	1
11.	Kerala	2
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6
13.	Maharashtra	11
14.	Mizoram	1
15.	Odisha	23
16.	Punjab	21
17.	Rajasthan	1
18.	Telangana	1
19.	Tripura	7
20.	Uttar Pradesh	8
21.	Uttarakhand	4
TOTAL		248

Regulating the prices of medical devices

367. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether efforts have been made to regulate prices of medical devices in the country to ensure health security to all, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether specifications, standardization and price-range of various medical devices will be made available in the Government website for taking a prudent decision and best choice for the patients and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) Some medical devices are covered under Schedule I of Drugs (Price Control) Order, 2013. As such the ceiling prices of these medical devices are fixed by NPPA and all the manufacturers of these devices are supposed to sell their product equal to or lower than to ceiling price. Further, a meeting of Committee of Secretaries, to discuss the mechanism for a separate price control order and a separate vertical within National pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) for medical devices, was held under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary. After deliberation, certain decisions were taken. In pursuance of the decision taken in the meeting, the Department of Pharmaceuticals had called a

meeting with the representatives of various leading manufacturers of medical devices. After detailed deliberations the following decisions were taken:-

- (i) All manufacturers of stents/implants will provide the information regarding 'Price to retailer' and 'Maximum Retail Price' in Form V appended to Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013, to NPPA positively by 30th Nov., 2015.
- (ii) In the first week of December, the manufacturers will voluntarily propose a reduction in the marketing expenses of these products and consequentially on the MRP.

The Government had taken up with the leading manufacturers of stents and implants to reduce the prices voluntarily. Subsequently, some of these companies have intimated the reduction in prices of stents and implants/joints.

(b) Suggestive specifications along with safety standards for medical devices have been approved by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and uploaded on the website of National Health Systems Resource Centre (www.nhsrindia.org) and no price range has been declared by the Government for medical devices.

Uniform policy for pricing of drugs

368. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI K. C. TYAGI:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to formulate a uniform policy at the national level on the pricing and availability of drugs to do away with discrepancies in prices of medicines and to prevent sale of spurious drugs;

(b) whether disparities in price of medicines is benefiting the middlemen and affecting the poor patients; and

(c) the early steps proposed to check the exploitation of patients by the druggists by taking advantage of variance in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) In pursuance of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012 (NPPP-2012), the Government has notified Drugs (Prices Control/Order, 2013 (DPCO-2013). As per the provisions of DPCO, 2013, the ceiling price of all medicines fixed by NPPA appearing in various strength/dosages form in National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2011, the ceiling prices fixed by NPPA are uniform throughout the country. All the manufacturers of these devices are supposed to sell their product equal to or lower than the ceiling price.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to (a) above, does not arise.

Capping the prices of orthopaedic implants

369. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to cap prices of orthopaedic implants keeping in view sharp spike in prices of these implants, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the prices increase of orthopaedic implants is less than 10 per cent annually in accordance with the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Drugs (Price Control) Order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) A meeting of Committee of Secretaries, to discuss the mechanism for a separate price control order and a separate vertical within National pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) for medical devices, was held under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary. After deliberation, certain decisions were taken. In pursuance of the decision taken in the meeting, the Department of Pharmaceuticals had called a meeting with the representatives of various leading manufacturers of medical devices. After detailed deliberations the following decisions were taken:—

- (i) All manufacturers of stents/implants will provide the information regarding 'Price to retailer' and 'Maximum Retail Price' in Form V appended to Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013, to NPPA positively by 30th Nov., 2015.
- (ii) In the first week of December, the manufacturers will voluntarily propose a reduction in the marketing expenses of these products and consequentially on the MRP.

The Government had taken up with the leading manufacturers of stents and implants to reduce the prices voluntarily. Subsequently, some of these companies have intimated the reduction in prices of stents and implants/joints.

(b) At present, 22 medical devices including orthopaedic implants are covered under Drugs and Cosmetic Act. As per the provision of Drugs (Price Control) Order, 2013, the manufacturers of these devices are not permitted to increase the prices of these products beyond 10% per annum.

Penalty on service providers for call drops

370. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that call drops in mobile telephony is a serious problem in Delhi and other places;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the provisions in this regard;
- (c) whether any penalty has been imposed on service providers for deficiency in service; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Several complaints and references related to instances of call drops in Delhi and other places came to notice of the Government in the recent months. During the technical audit of the Cellular Mobile Services Network in Delhi and several other parts of India, it was observed that Quality of Services (QoS) parameters as prescribed by TRAI could not be adequately met by some of the service providers in the respective Service Areas.

Keeping in view the emerging position, TRAI has made the financial disincentives more stringent in case of continuous non-compliance. The penalties amounting to ₹ 10,70,35,000/- (Rupees Ten Crores, Seventy Lakhs and Thirty Five Thousand Only) has been imposed so far on defaulting service providers for not meeting the Quality of Service benchmarks as prescribed.

TRAI has also notified the Telecom Consumer Protection (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2015 on 16th October, 2015 which comes into effect from 1st January, 2016. As per these Regulations, it has been provided that a maximum of 3 call drops per day per subscriber are required to be compensated in favour of caller by the related service provider at the rate of ₹ 1/- per call drop in the given service area. These Regulations have been challenged by some of the service providers and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) *vide* Petition dated 9th December, 2015 in the High Court of Delhi, the judgement is reserved by the Court after the hearings.

In the meanwhile, the number of defaulting service providers for both 2G and 3G services have reduced owing to the efforts made in the recent months.

New cyber space policy

371. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made it mandatory to keep a copy of all their communications in the Cyber space, including e-mails and chats for a period of 90 days and be able to make it available to security agencies when demanded, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has made it clear that this policy initiative will not impact the common man; and

(c) whether according to cyber law experts, the proposed steps would find almost everyone using the Internet in violation of these rules and that this policy is detached from the ground realities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) A High Level Expert Committee's draft recommendations on Encryption Policy were put up on the website of Department of Electronics and IT (DeitY) for public comments. The draft recommendations included keeping a copy by the users of all communications encrypted by the users. Government noted the public sentiments *viz-a-viz* the draft recommendations. Government clarified that the draft recommendations are not the final view of the Government on the matter. Further, Government took note of the ambiguity in some portions of the draft that may have led to misgivings. Hence, the draft recommendations of the policy were withdrawn. The Government fully respects the upholding of right to privacy of citizens and acknowledges the need for protection of private data against misuse. There is no intention by the Government to implement an encryption policy breaching the right to privacy of public. The encryption has been recognized by the Government as means to securing data/transactions and the provision in the Information Technology Act, 2000 enables the use of encryption for such purposes. Government has initiated steps to revise the Encryption policy recommendations with wide consultation with stakeholders.

Plan to turn BSNL profitable

372. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

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

(b) whether BSNL has prepared a detailed plan to turn profitable in 2018-19;

(c) whether the target set by BSNL is to increase its revenue from ₹ 28,999 crore now to ₹ 42,000 crore in 2018-19 to turn profitable;

(d) whether, as of now, BSNL is paying salaries to its staff and managing operational maintenance expenses from its own resources; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) Revenue of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the last financial year (2014-15) was ₹ 28,645 crores. Being a

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

In addition, due to continuous efforts of BSNL, it has also achieved the following:-

- income from services has increased by 4.16% in 2014-15 as compared to previous financial year.
- Till June, 2015 the average monthly gross mobile connections used to be in the range of 8 lacs. From July, 2015 this has gone up to an average of 15 lacs.
- BSNL has reversed the trend of operating loss and earned operating profit of ₹ 672 crores in FY 2014-15.
- BSNL has obtained mobile number portability (MNP) positive in the months of July, August, September, 2015 and January, 2016.
- BSNL has launched various customer centric initiatives like Night free calling, Free Roaming, increased minimum speed of broadband to 2 Mbps etc.

As of now BSNL is paying salaries to its staff and managing operational maintenance expenses from its own resources.

Financing indigenous projects of high-end technologies

373. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry will finance indigenous projects working on developing 5G, wearable computers, Internet of Things and other high-end technologies, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Convergence Communications and Broadband Technologies has invited proposals for financial support from scientists, academic and R&D institutions among others, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. DeitY is supporting projects in the areas of 5G, Internet of Things (IoT), wearable computing, and other high end technologies through call for proposals amongst academia, R&D institutions and industry associations which results in development of indigenous technologies. A collaborative research project on 5G by premier academic institutes - IISc, IITs & CEWiT (Centre of Excellence in Wireless Technology) has been recently initiated for the development of advanced simulators and prototype. A Centre for Excellence for IoT in partnership between Education and Research Network (ERNET) and NASSCOM has been set up by the department with matching funding from both agencies.

(b) Yes, Sir. More than 40 R&D project proposals have been received in the area of Convergence, Communications, Broadband Technologies and Strategic Electronics. The proposals received are presented before the group of experts for evaluation and recommendations for financial support.

Internet connectivity in villages

374. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that despite its campaign of Digital India, several villages in the country do not possess internet connectivity and the ones which possess, have extremely poor internet speeds;

(b) the number of villages which are not connected with internet connectivity in the country, especially in West Bengal, State-wise and District-wise;

(c) the expected time-limit by which each and every village in the country is expected to get high speed internet connectivity; and

(d) the measures being taken to improve the poor internet speed provided to the villages?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project, which is one of the pillars of Digital India Programme, will provide broadband infrastructure to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) for utilization by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis including Internet Service Providers. First phase of NOFN project to cover one lakh GPs is targeted

for completion by December, 2016. The status of NOFN, as on 31.01.2016, is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

State-wise and District-wise details of villages in the country without internet connectivity are not available. Service Area-wise rural/urban subscriber base of Internet and Broadband for the quarter ending September, 2015 are, however, given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise status of NOFN (BharatNet) as on 31.01.2016

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)-Phase-I	Pipe laid (kms.)	Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid (in kms.)	No. of GPs where OFC laid	No. of GPs lit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	624	93	69	47	0
2.	Himachal Pradesh	283	201	75	14	0
3.	Punjab	6128	4432	3280	2055	0
4.	Haryana	6090	4775	4340	2776	45
5.	Rajasthan	6967	11281	10065	3092	71
6.	Chandigarh	12	18	19	12	12
7.	Uttarakhand	1767	1190	862	554	46
8.	U.P. (West)	8040	8095	4290	2055	65
9.	U.P. (East)	14474	14634	10545	4764	36
10.	Bihar	5202	6416	5303	1936	124
11.	West Bengal	2713	1933	1683	619	0
12.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Assam	1013	1751	1359	515	23
14.	Jharkhand	1388	2600	1862	770	84
15.	Odisha	3388	4086	2960	1355	12
16.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	69	0	0	0	0
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	256	272	69	10	0
18.	Nagaland	743	1160	509	154	0
19.	Manipur	24	71	73	24	0
20.	Meghalaya	638	737	210	47	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21.	Tripura	1021	1277	951	434	40
22.	Mizoram	163	183	0	0	0
23.	Madhya Pradesh	10516	15531	12134	3898	26
24.	Chhattishgarh	2110	4368	3913	1258	171
25.	Gujarat	5735	5508	3572	1648	91
26.	Maharashtra	12055	11078	7826	3478	37
27.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Karnataka	5599	9596	9248	4348	2283
30.	Andhra Pradesh	0	1913	19	0	0
31.	Telangana	2097	3912	2883	1296	5
32.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Kerala	977	746	810	1129	1129
34.	Puducherry	98	82	92	98	101
35.	Lakshadweep	10	0	0	0	0
36.	Goa*	-	-	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL		100200	117939	89021	38386	4401

*All Gram Panchayats in Goa have already been connected through Optical Fibre Cable.

Statement-II

Service Area-wise, Rural/Urban subscriber-base of Internet for the quarter ending September, 2015 as reported by the service providers

(Subscribers in Millions)

Telecom Service Area	Narrowband		Broadband		Total Internet	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	5.90	8.54	2.91	6.65	8.80	15.19
Assam	2.84	1.74	0.59	0.86	3.43	2.60
Bihar	7.12	7.46	1.40	2.50	8.52	9.96
Delhi	0.61	8.23	0.51	10.09	1.12	18.32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gujarat	4.61	7.83	1.68	6.47	6.29	14.30
Haryana	2.31	2.35	0.74	2.05	3.05	4.40
Himachal Pradesh	1.13	0.70	0.63	0.38	1.77	1.08
Jammu and Kashmir	1.28	1.01	0.50	0.57	1.78	1.58
Karnataka	3.92	7.67	1.74	8.38	5.67	16.05
Kerala	3.38	3.46	3.08	4.42	6.46	7.88
Kolkata	0.20	4.84	0.27	3.34	0.47	8.18
Madhya Pradesh	5.57	7.15	0.68	5.50	6.26	12.65
Maharashtra	7.19	9.16	2.56	8.80	9.74	17.97
Mumbai	0.16	7.06	0.12	7.94	0.27	15.01
North East	1.57	1.22	0.44	0.61	2.01	1.83
Odisha	3.16	3.11	0.38	1.14	3.54	4.25
Punjab	4.03	4.82	0.72	3.50	4.75	8.31
Rajasthan	5.49	6.35	1.66	3.20	7.15	9.55
Tamil Nadu	4.24	10.61	2.87	9.15	7.11	19.76
UP (East)	9.11	7.45	1.22	2.95	10.34	10.40
UP (West)	4.88	5.73	0.97	3.29	5.86	9.02
West Bengal	5.60	3.27	1.52	1.90	7.12	5.17
TOTAL	84.31	119.76	27.20	93.68	111.51	213.44
	204.07		120.88		324.95	

Regulation of installation of mobile towers

375. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking necessary steps to regulate the illegal and unregulated installation of mobile towers in residential areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that mobile towers have harmful and fatal effect on health; and

(d) if so, the specific precautionary measures being taken to reduce the effect of harmful Electromagnetic Field (EMF) radiation on health?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Sir, Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) are established by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs)/Infrastructure Providers (IPs) 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. Prior to installation of mobile towers, the TSPs have to obtain siting clearance from Standing Advisory Committee on Frequency Allocation (SACFA) of DoT for every site from the point of view of interference with other wireless users, aviation hazards and obstruction to any other existing microwave links. However, siting clearances of DoT are issued without prejudice to other applicable by-laws, rules and regulations of local bodies such as municipal corporation, Gram Panchayat etc. TSPs have also to obtain necessary right of way related clearances from concerned local authorities before installation of tower. Various local bodies/State Governments have formulated their own policy regarding grant of such permissions for installation of mobile towers. DoT, has issued advisory guidelines to State Governments on 01.08.2013 for issue of clearance for installation of mobile towers. These guidelines to State Governments do not place any restriction on installation of mobile BTSs in residential areas. As per terms and conditions of access service licenses, the licensee is required to ensure that the Telecommunication installation carried out by it should not become a safety hazard and is not in contravention of any statute, rule or regulation and public policy.

(c) and (d) In the area of biological effects of non-ionizing radiation, World Health Organization (WHO) has referred approximately 25,000 articles that have been published over the past 30 years and based on in-depth review of the scientific literature, WHO has concluded that “current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to low level electromagnetic fields”. Several High Courts in the country have given judgements whereby they have dismissed petitions, where the mobile tower installations were challenged on grounds of ill health effects of EMF radiations.

Further, DoT has laid down stricter precautionary norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions), which is ten times more stringent than the existing limits prescribed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiations Protection (ICNIRP) and recommended by WHO. Keeping the precautionary EMF safe exposure limits for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) as 1/10th of the safe limits prescribed by ICNIRP for all areas in India, eliminates the need for fixing lower limits for specific areas like schools, hospitals, residential premises, children playgrounds.

In order to ensure compliance to the prescribed stricter precautionary norms of EMF radiation from mobile towers, the extensive audit of self-certificates being

submitted by TSPs and BTSs sites is carried out by Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring (TERM) field units of DoT. All new BTS sites starts radiating commercially only after self certificate has been submitted to corresponding TERM Cells. In case, any BTS site is found to violate the prescribed EMF norms, actions are taken to put a penalty of ₹ 10 lakh per BTS per incidence including closing of BTS site, if the violation persists. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints are also tested by TERM Cells.

**Clarifications from TRAI on compensating
subscribers for call drops**

376. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecoms have sought clarifications from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) regarding compensating subscribers for call drops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that operators want to know the details of implementation, refund mechanism, who will get penalized, time-frame required and who will fund the capital expenditure; and

(d) if so, the clarifications made to them by TRAI?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The telecommunication service providers through their Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India (AUSPI) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) requested TRAI on 27th October, 2015 to withdraw the Telecom Consumers Protection (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2015 citing following reasons:

- (i) Wireless network cannot be designed for zero call drops;
- (ii) Inherent flawed assumptions and impractical regulation;
- (iii) Will increase disputes consumer mistrust and costs;
- (iv) Service providers are worst affected by call drops;
- (v) No basis for compensations; and
- (vi) Regulation unprecedented in other service industry.

TRAI responded to AUSPI and COAI on 4th November, 2015 and informed that extensive consultations were held with the stakeholders including an open house discussion in New Delhi on measures to provide relief to the consumers in the event

of call drops. TRAI has taken into consideration the discussions in the open-house session as well as written comments including the ones that were submitted by AUSPI, COAI or member service providers. Therefore, the request to withdraw the Regulations dated 16th October, 2015 was not been agreed to. Consequently, the said Regulations have been challenged in the High Court of Delhi where the judgement is reserved after conclusion of hearings.

(c) and (d) TRAI Regulations dated 16th October, 2015 has provided that in effect from 1st January, 2016, every originating service provider providing cellular mobile services 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 hours);
- (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.

Sealing of mobile towers

377. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of mobile towers have been sealed in many cities across the country by local body Governments for violation of operating norms, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that thousands of such towers are under scanner with the local body Governments across the country;

(c) whether closure of mobile towers will intensify the call drops; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard to enforce compliance of operating norms by the telecom service providers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) It may be true that installation or operations of mobile towers in the jurisdiction of respective local body Governments leads to various operational issues on account of norms prescribed from time to time. This may include denial of permission for the site proposed, delay in granting the permission, non-availability of electrical supply as requested and sealing of the sites on different grounds.

In order to facilitate streamlining of the process of clearance for installation of mobile towers in various States, the Government has provided the inclusive guidelines so that the concerns of different nature at local level could be adequately handled.

As per the Guidelines issued by the Department to all State Governments, the approach taken is to streamline the overall process of clearance. As per the request, it may include single window clearance, nominal one time administrative fees, electricity connection on priority and no sealing of BTS tower or disconnection of electricity without the consent of respective field offices of the Department (TERM Cells) in respect of the EMF related issues.

In order to ensure public health and safety, the Department undertakes periodic inspection of all cellular mobile towers to keep a check on radiation-level of electromagnetic field (EMF). These measures are important in public interest since closure of each mobile tower site impacts three to four neighboring sites while could result in increased call drops at such locations.

Shortage of fixed WLL telephone equipments

378. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortage of fixed WLL telephone equipments has been noticed by Government, which is hampering the quality of WLL phone service by BSNL all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government is taking any specific steps to address it in a time-frame; and

(c) the total number of customers who have discontinued usage of BSNL's fixed WLL phone during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is not facing shortage of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) telephone equipments.

(c) Total number of BSNL subscribers who have disconnected usage of BSNL's fixed WLL phone during the last three years are as below:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Number of WLL disconnections	17,09,984	7,93,920	4,85,605

Strengthening of communication system

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is determined to strengthen the communication system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the schemes formulated by Government in order to improve the communication system and IT sector in Bihar till date, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Unclaimed money in various savings schemes of post office

380. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an enormous amount of unclaimed money is lying with post offices under various saving schemes;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to return such money under various schemes to their depositors; and

(d) whether complaints have been received regarding embezzlement of such unclaimed money by post office officials, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Scheme-wise figures for the year 2014-15 are given in the Statement (*See below*). The main reasons for unclaimed amount are non withdrawal/encashment of money by the depositors/investors after maturity of investment in small savings schemes which were discontinued long back.

(c) Efforts are made to make people aware about their unclaimed savings lying in post offices.

(d) No, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

*Amount of unclaimed money lying in various saving schemes with
Post Offices for 2014-15*

Sl. No.	Name of schemes	₹ in crores
1.	Mahila Samriddhi Yojana	2.98
2.	Fixed Deposit	24.20
3.	15 years Commulative Time Deposit	14.12
4.	Indira Vikas Patras	885.57
5.	National Defence Bond	0.11
6.	12 years National Defence Certificate	0.22
7.	10 years National Defence Deposit Certificate	0.54
8.	10 years National Plan Savings Certificates	0.27
9.	5 Years National Savings Certificate	60.00
10.	National Savings Certificate (III issue)	0.92
11.	National Savings Certificate (IV issue)	3.56
TOTAL		992.49

Review of service conditions of Gramin Dak Sevaks

381. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any review of the existing wage structure and service conditions of Gramin Dak Sevaks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to improve the working conditions and pay structure and other facilities extended to them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has successively constituted Committees for revision of their wage structure and other service conditions from time to time after each successive Central Pay Commission. The Government had set up one man Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri R.S. Nataraja Murti, Retired Member, Postal Services Board,

to examine the wage structure and other conditions of Gramin Dak Sevaks in the year 2007. The Committee examined the memorandum submitted by the Gramin Dak Sevaks and submitted its report to the Government on 29th October, 2008. After considering the report and recommendations of the Gramin Dak Sevaks Committee, the Department issued the order on the revised wages, other allowances and Service Discharge Benefits. Salient features of the said order are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government has constituted one man Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Kamlesh Chandra, Retired Member, Postal Services Board, to review the remuneration, wage structure and other service conditions of the Gramin Dak Sevaks, *vide* this Directorate Order No.17-13/2013-GDS dated 19.11.2015 (e-Gazette No.310 of 19.11.2015). The tenure of the Committee is of one year. As and when, the Committee submits its report, the recommendations made will be considered by the Government adopting the usual procedure.

Statement

*Salient features of Department's Order on increase in wages, etc.
of Gramin Dak Sevaks*

1. Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) of Gramin Dak Sevaks [Implemented w.e.f. 01.01.2006]

Sl. No.	Category of GDS	Existing TRCA	Revised TRCA w.e.f. 01.01.2006	Work load in hours
1	GDS Sub Postmaster	₹ 2125-50-3125	₹ 4575-85-7125	4 - 5 hours
2	GDS Branch Postmaster	₹ 1280-35-1980	₹ 2745-50-4245	Up to 3 hours work
		New TRCA slab	₹ 3200-60-5000	More than 3 hours up to 3 hrs.30 min
		₹ 1600-40-2400	₹ 3660-70-5760	Up to 4 hours.
		New TRCA slab	₹ 4115-75-6365	More than 4 hours up to 4 hour 30 min
		New TRCA slab	₹ 4575-85-7125	More than 4 hrs 30 min up to 5 hours
3	GDS Mail deliverer/ Stamp vendor	New TRCA slab	₹ 2665-50-4165	For work up to 3 hrs for new entrants
		₹ 1375-25-2125	₹ 3330-60-5130	For Work load Up to 3 hours 45 minutes
		₹ 1740-30-2640	₹ 4220-75-6470	More than 3 hours 45 minutes up to 5 hours
4	GDS Mail Carrier/Packer/ Mailman	New TRCA slab	₹ 2295-45-3695	For work up to 3 hrs for new entrants
		₹ 1220-20-1600	₹ 2870-50-4370	More than 3 hrs up to 3 hrs 45 min
		₹ 1545-25-2020	₹ 3635-65-5585	More than 3 hours 45 minutes up to 5 hours.

2. Other Allowances (implemented w.e.f. 9.10.2009)

Nature of Allowance	Existing allowance	Revised allowances
Office Maintenance Allowance (OMA)	₹ 50 per month for GDS Sub Postmaster/Branch Postmaster	₹ 100 per month for GDS Sub Postmaster/Branch Postmaster
Fixed Stationery Charge	₹ 10 for GDS Sub Postmaster/Branch Postmaster and ₹ 5 for other categories of GDS	₹ 25 p.m. for GDS Sub Postmaster/Branch Postmaster and ₹ 10 for other categories of GDS like GDS Mail Deliverer/Stamp vendor and Mail Carrier doing delivery work.
Boat Allowance	₹ 10 per month	Actual charges paid to the Boatman subject to a maximum of ₹ 50 per month for Conveyance of Mail
Cash Conveyance Allowance	₹ 10 per occasion plus Bus fares for conveyance of cash from Branch office to Account office	₹ 50 per month
Cycle Maintenance Allowance (C.M.A)	₹ 30 per month provided the Gramin Dak Sevak travels a distance of 10 kms per day	₹ 60 per month for GDS Mail Deliverer/Mail Carrier who use their own cycle for discharge of Duty. Present Minimum Distance Condition of 10 kms for grant of cycle maintenance allowance stands withdrawn
Combined Duty Allowance (CDA) for Branch Postmasters	₹ 100 per month for performing delivery or conveyance or both	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GDS Branch Postmasters performing delivery or conveyance duties or both will be paid ₹ 500 P.M. for each item of work separately. 2. If the Branch Postmaster is performing delivery at the BO village only, it will be restricted to ₹ 250 P.M.

3. BPM exchanging Mails at Bus stand or at Railway Stations will be compensated at the rate of ₹ 250 P.M.

Allowances for combination of duties ₹ 75 per month for GDS Mail Deliverer/
for Mail Delivery/Mail Conveyance. Mail Carrier for performing additional
duty

GDS MD/MC attached with the additional duty of
another post, revised rate of allowance will be at
the rate of ₹ 25 per day subject to a Maximum of
₹ 625 P.M.

3. Service discharge benefits [effective from 9.10.2009]

Nature of benefit	Present benefit paid	Revised benefits
Ex-gratia Gratuity	Granted at the rate of half months basic allowance drawn immediately before discharge of service for each completed year of service subject to a maximum of ₹ 18,000 or 16.5 months basic allowance last drawn whichever is less. Minimum service prescribed is 15 years.	Continuance of the existing formula for grant of Ex-gratia Gratuity subject to a Maximum of ₹ 60,000
Severance Amount	A lump sum severance amount of ₹ 30,000/- is paid on discharge provided a GDS has completed 20 years of continuous service. In case of a GDS completing 15 years of service but less than 20 years of continuous service the severance amount paid is ₹ 20,000	Severance Amount shall be paid at the rate of ₹ 1500 for every completed year of service subject to a Maximum of ₹ 60000 with reduction in Minimum eligibility period to 10 years.

4. Maternity Grant [effective from 09.10.2009]

Women GDS will be provided Maternity Grant equivalent to three months TRCA with DA for the birth of two children out of the welfare fund of the Department. This will take effect from the date of issue of the order.

Revenue loss to MTNL due to mobile number porting

382. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that call drop rate has increased manifold in Government-owned MTNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof for last two years;

(c) the number of MTNL customers who have ported their numbers from MTNL to private operators during the last two years; and

(d) the details of revenue loss incurred during this period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has laid down two parameters viz. “call drop rate/Circuit Switch Voice drop rate (benchmark $\leq 2\%$)” and “worst affected cells having more than 3% TCH (Traffic Channel) drop/Circuit Switched Voice drop rate: CBBH (Cell Bouncing Busy Hour) (benchmark $\leq 3\%$).” From the monitoring of performance of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in 2G and 3G Services for the quarter ending March 2014, June 2014, September 2014, December 2014, March 2015, June 2015, September 2015 and December 2015, it is seen that MTNL is meeting both the above parameters in all the above eight quarters.

(c) The number of MTNL customers who have ported their numbers from MTNL to private operators are 76,986 and 75,670 during FY 2013-14 and FY 2014-15 respectively.

(d) Details of revenue loss of MTNL due to porting out of its subscribers, worked out on the basis of Average Revenue Per User (ARPU), during the last two years are as follows:

	(₹ in crores)	
	2013-14	2014-15
Revenue loss	7.14	7.00

Job insecurity in IT industry

383. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IT industry, particularly MNCs based in Hyderabad and Bengaluru, are adopting hire and fire practices leading to lack of job security and high levels of frustration, often resulting in suicides;

(b) if so, the steps Government is contemplating to change the scenario;

(c) whether it is a fact that long working hours in IT companies, involving regular night shifts, has become a health hazard; and

(d) if so, whether Government is considering to intervene for putting in place corrective measures?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. According to National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), the Indian Information Technology & Information Technology Enabled Services (IT-ITES) industry continues to be the largest private sector employer and a net hirer of personnel, having created over 1.1 million jobs directly in the last 5 years.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The employers in the IT-ITES sector, like other sectors in India is governed by the Government of India and State Government's rules and laws related to labour/employee welfare. According to NASSCOM, most large and established IT-ITES companies offer Recreation and Gym facility for enabling a healthy life style within office premises. The IT sector has educated employees, where increasingly flexi hours, work from home practices are being introduced to help employees maintain work life balance.

Increase in cyber breaches and crimes

384. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cyber breaches and cyber crime threats have increased in the country;

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

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to curb cyber breaches and cyber crimes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) With the proliferation of Information

Technology and related services there is a rise in number of cyber breaches and cyber crime threats in the country like elsewhere in the world.

(b) Information relating to Cyber Crime cases, cyber incidents and banking frauds are registered/ maintained in the country by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) respectively. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) also registers such cases.

- (i) As per the latest cyber crime data made available by NCRB, a total of 2876, 4356 and 7201 Cyber Crime cases were registered under Information Technology Act 2000 (IT Act 2000) during 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively. A total of 601, 1337 and 2272 cases were registered under Cyber Crime related Sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) during 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively.
- (ii) As per the information reported to and tracked by CERT-In, a total no. of 41319, 44679 and 49455 cyber security incidents including phishing, scanning, malicious code, website intrusion, Denial of Service etc., were reported during the year 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively. In addition, 54677, 85659 and 61628 spam (unsolicited email) incidents were reported to CERT-In. Over a period, the nature and pattern of incidents have become more sophisticated and complex.
- (iii) As per the data made available by RBI, 8765, 9500, 13083 and 11997 cases related to ATM/ Credit/ Debit Cards and Net Banking related frauds were reported by the banks during 2012-13, 13-14, 14-15 and 15-16 (upto December 2015) respectively.
- (iv) CBI has registered 56 cases (regular cases and Preliminary enquiry) during the last three years. This includes 11, 20 and 25 cases in the year 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively.

(c) Government has taken various steps in the form of awareness, training, legal framework, emergency response and implementation of best practices to prevent occurrence of cyber breaches and cyber crime threats. Such steps include:

- (i) The Information Technology Act, 2000 provides a comprehensive legal framework to address the issues connected with cyber crime, cyber attacks and security breaches of information technology infrastructure.
- (ii) Government is implementing a Framework for Enhancing Cyber Security, with a multi-layered approach for ensuring defence-in-depth and clear demarcation of responsibilities among the stakeholder organizations in the country.
- (iii) Government has established National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) as per the provisions of Section 70A of the

Information Technology Act, 2000 for protection of Critical Information Infrastructure in the country.

- (iv) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats and countermeasures on regular basis. CERT-In has published guidelines for securing IT infrastructure, which are available on its website (www.certin.org.in). In order to detect variety of threats and imminent cyber attacks from outside the country, periodic scanning of cyber space is carried out.
- (v) Government has formulated Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism for implementation by all Ministries/Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.
- (vi) Cyber security mock drills are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors.
- (vii) Efforts towards setting up of National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive and protective actions by individual entities.
- (viii) CERT-In, Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DEITY) has initiated action with active participation of Service Providers and Industry to set up a Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis centre for detection of computer systems infected by malware and to notify, enable cleaning and securing systems of end users to prevent further malware infections.
- (ix) Cyber Crime Cells have been set up in all States and Union Territories for reporting and investigation of Cyber Crime cases.
- (x) Government has set up cyber forensic training and investigation labs in the States of Kerala, Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir for training of Law Enforcement and Judiciary in these States.
- (xi) Industry associations such as Data Security Council of India (DSCI), NASSCOM, Cyber Forensic Labs, set up in certain States, have taken up tasks of awareness creation and training programmes on Cyber Crime investigation.
- (xii) Academia like National Law School, Bangalore and NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad are also engaged in conducting several awareness and training programmes on Cyber Laws and Cyber crimes for judicial officers.
- (xiii) Number of Cyber forensics tools for collection, analysis, presentation of

the digital evidence have been developed indigenously and such tools are being used by Law Enforcement Agencies.

- (xiv) Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) are involved in providing basic and advanced training to Law Enforcement Agencies, Forensic labs and judiciary on the procedures and methodology of collecting, analysing and presenting digital evidence.
- (xv) Government has formulated a set of investigation manuals with procedures for Search, Seizure Analysis and Presentation of digital evidence in courts. The manuals have been circulated to Law Enforcement Agencies in all States.
- (xvi) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issues Circulars/advisories to all Commercial Banks on phishing attacks and preventive/detective measures to tackle phishing attacks. RBI also issues advisories relating to fictitious offers of funds transfer, remittance towards participation in lottery, money circulation schemes and other fictitious offers of cheap funds.
- (xvii) Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DEITY) is conducting programs to generate information security awareness. Specific books, videos and online materials are developed for children, parents and general users about information security which are disseminated through Portals like “www.infosecawareness.in”, “www.secureyourelectronics.in” and “www.cert-in.org.in”.

Reasons given by TRAI for call drops

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

- (a) whether TRAI has cited network configuration and synchronization, inadequate mobile signal strength and transmission problems for call drops;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether TRAI has urged to add more towers to bolster 2G networks;
- (d) if so, whether adequate number of towers have been provided by telecoms, particularly VSNL and MTNL, to improve the quality of mobile services in the country; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) TRAI has indicated network configuration, synchronization, inadequate mobile signal strength and transmission

problems among the possible reasons for call drops in its Technical Paper on Call Drop as published in the first week of November 2015.

The actions taken so far to improve the instances of call drop are as follows:

- Drive tests were conducted by the independent agencies in Mumbai, Delhi in June-July of 2015 and consequent meetings with the Chief Executive Officers of the cellular mobile companies were held to finalise the action points for improvement of network conditions to reduce instances of call drops.
- The drive tests were again taken-up in these cities along with a few more cities such as Kolkata, Pune, Surat, Indore and Bhubaneswar in September to October, 2015 to assess the improvement in network conditions. Some improvements were observed but it required further efforts on part of the service providers to reduce call drops.
- To create further deterrent against consecutive non-compliance with the benchmarks, TRAI had recently notified “The Standards of Quality of Service of Basic Telephone Service (Wireline) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2015” on 15th October 2015, providing for increased Financial Disincentives in such cases.
- TRAI, after due consideration with the stakeholders, has notified the Telecom Consumer Protection (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2015 on 16th October, 2015 which came in effect from 1st January, 2016. These regulations mandate originating cellular mobile service providers to credit ₹ 1/- for a dropped call to the calling consumers as notional compensation, limited to three call drops in a day. The service providers and the associations have filed a case in the High Court of Delhi where the judgment is reserved after completion of hearings.
- TRAI has urged the service providers to augment the current network so that the surge of user generated traffic especially on account of data/video services could be adequately handled without causing diminishing effect upon the operational networks.
- The service providers have been facing problem in installation of new towers on account of right-of-way issues, issues by local bodies, resistance by Resident Welfare Associations on account of fear of EMF radiation, permission from defense authorities etc.
- In order to facilitate the installation and operations of cellular mobile towers in different areas of India, the Department has consulted with the concerned stakeholders including State Governments. The guidelines to streamline the process of clearance for installation of mobile towers through single window clearance have been issued.

- The Department as well as TRAI has been spreading the awareness amongst the general public and mobile users that the radio emissions from mobile equipments have no potential health hazards.
- In the last six months, the total number of sites added by the service providers, including BSNL and MTNL, are around 20 thousand for 2G services and around 45 thousand for 3G services. The efforts are underway to add further sites at the required locations determined through the drive test. BSNL, in particular, has added around 1600 additional cell-sites. MTNL has also made a few additions.

Policy on differential data pricing

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

(a) whether Government has finally spelt out its policy on the differential pricing on the Internet, declaring that differential pricing for data services through the Internet will not be allowed;

(b) whether the telecom regulator has chosen to impose a penalty of ₹ 50,000 for each day of contravention, subject to a maximum of ₹ 50 lakh to be paid by the errant service provider; and

(c) whether the current ruling of TRAI will protect small content providers and start-ups by providing them a level playing field in competition with the telecom majors?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued the “Prohibition of Discriminatory Tariffs for Data Services Regulations, 2016” on 8th February 2016, wherein following is *inter-alia* mandated:

- (i) No service provider shall offer or charge discriminatory tariffs for data services on the basis of content.
- (ii) No service provider shall enter into any arrangement, agreement or contract, by whatever name called, with any person, natural or legal, that has the effect of discriminatory tariffs for data services being offered or charged by the service provider for the purpose of evading the prohibition in this regulation.
- (iii) Reduced tariff for accessing or providing emergency services, or at times of public emergency has been permitted.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

Non-implementation of penalty for call drops

387. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for not implementing penalty on call drops;
- (b) whether it is a fact that telecom companies are defying Government and TRAI order by taking shelter under court;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor and how Government is planning to look at this maneuvering tactics by private telecom players; and
- (d) the efforts being made by Government to request the court to hear the case early?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) TRAI has imposed certain financial disincentives on cellular mobile services (2G and 3G) for failure to comply with “The Standards of Quality of Service for Basic Service (Wireline) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Regulations 2009” dated 20th March 2009. The service providers have so far paid ₹ 8,74,65,000/- (Rupees Eight crores, seventy four lakhs and sixty five thousand only).

TRAI *vide* its Regulations dated 15th October, 2015 has made the financial disincentives more stringent in cases of continuous non-compliance.

TRAI has also notified Telecom Consumer Protection (Ninth) Amendment Regulations, 2015 dated 16th October, 2015 which came into effect from 1st January 2016. It provides that a maximum of 3 call drops per day per subscriber are required to be compensated in favour of the caller by the related service provider at the rate of Re. 1/- per call drop in the given Service Area. Some of the telecommunications service providers and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) moved a petition against these Regulations on 9th December, 2015 in High Court of Delhi. In view of the public interest involved, the Court heard the matter on daily basis and the judgment is reserved. TRAI has not taken any coercive action within the scope of these Regulations so far. However, TRAI has expected from the service providers that they would have taken all necessary steps to implement the provision of the Regulations subject to the outcome of the judgment from the Court.

Results of TRAI's call drop tests

388. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether results of the telecom regulator's call drop tests are refuted by the telecom operators who have asked TRAI to withdraw the report;

(b) if so, reaction of the Ministry thereto; and

(c) whether to ensure a comprehensive view of the network, drive tests would be conducted within the municipal boundaries of the city and cover all the major routes, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The telecom operators, through their respective associations, namely Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) and Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India (AUSPI) have submitted their representations to TRAI regarding Independent Drive Tests conducted during December, 2015 to January, 2016 in the seven cities of India. In the representations, request for immediate withdrawal of test reports, as published on 04.02.2016, has been submitted.

(b) In reference to the Independent Drive Test conducted during December 2015 to January 2016 in the seven cities, TRAI has considered the representations submitted on behalf of telecom operators and observed that:

- TRAI officials were also present to supervise the Drive test for proper conduct as per QoS Regulations. The logs were properly verified by technical team of TRAI.
- TRAI has offered to show and explain the results in case any of the service providers has any issue with the results published.
- TRAI has clarified that such Independent Drive Tests were undertaken from a point of view of assessing the Quality of Service parameters rather than for assessment of roll-out coverage. These have been conducted separately for 2G and 3G services. The parameters chosen are in line with assessment of voice quality.
- After meeting with the operators in Oct., 2015, TRAI has added 300 kilo meter route in Delhi and Mumbai. However, the recent tests undertaken were not meant to conduct the drive test in all areas/localities of the city selected.
- The comments of the operators were sought before publishing the results and the same have been considered while publishing the results.

(c) Depending upon the objective of drive test to be conducted, it may include all areas within the municipal boundaries of the city and cover all the major routes. This may essentially relate to drive test undertaken for planning, quality assessment or ensuring fulfilment of Rollout obligations.

Health hazards from EMF emission of telecom towers

389. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the success achieved by Government for issues relating to health hazards from Electromagnetic Field (EMF) emission of telecom towers and mobiles; and

(b) the details of major representations received by Government and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Sir, on the issue of health hazards from Electromagnetic Field (EMF) emission, World Health Organization (WHO) has referred to approximately 25,000 articles that have been published over the past 30 years and based on in-depth review of the scientific literature, WHO has concluded that “current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to low level electromagnetic fields”.

Further, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has laid down stricter precautionary norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions), which is ten times more stringent than the existing limits prescribed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiations Protection (ICNIRP) and recommended by WHO. DoT has also adopted one of the most stringent guidelines for Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) norms that are for radiation emitted by a mobile phone. As per the guidelines issued to the mobile handset manufacturing/importing companies in India, the SAR Value for Mobile Handset has been fixed as 1.6 Watts per Kg averaged over a mass of 1 gram human tissue. A laboratory has been set-up in the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) Delhi for testing of SAR value of mobile handsets.

In order to ensure compliance to the prescribed stricter precautionary norms of EMF radiation from mobile towers, the extensive audit of self-certificates being submitted by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Base Transceiver Station (BTS) sites is carried out by Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring (TERM) field units of DoT. All new BTS sites start radiating commercially only after self certificate has been submitted to corresponding TERM Cells. In case, any BTS site is found to violate the prescribed EMF norms, actions are taken to put a penalty of ₹ 10 lakh per BTS per incidence including closing of BTS site, if the violation persists. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints are also tested by TERM Cell so as to build confidence in general public.

As on 31.12.2015, out of total of 2,57,457 number of BTSs tested by various

TERM Cells, a total of 2,57,265 BTSs (*i.e.* more than 99.9 %) were found compliant to EMF radiation exposure norms.

(b) Several representations have been received by Government on health hazards from EMF emissions of telecom towers and mobiles. The apprehensions raised in the representations have been mostly related to setting up of mobile towers in vicinity of residential areas, schools, hospitals etc. However, as explained above, EMF radiations from a mobile tower, which are below the safe limits prescribed by ICNIRP and recommended by WHO, have no convincing scientific evidence of causing adverse health effects. DoT has prescribed stricter precautionary norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) which are ten times more stringent than the existing limits prescribed by ICNIRP and recommended by WHO. Further, Government of India has taken adequate steps to ensure that TSPs strictly adhere to these prescribed norms.

Various court cases have also been filed in this regard. However, several High Courts have dismissed petitions, where the mobile tower installations were challenged on grounds of health effects of EMF radiations.

As on 31.01.2016, TERM Cells have received around 2964 representations/complaints regarding perceived health hazards from EMF emission of telecom towers and mobiles from various sources such as online Public Grievance (PG) Portal, postal letters, e-mails, District Telecom Committee meetings etc. Out of these complaints/representations, as on 16.02.2016 a total of 2941 number of complaints/representations have been suitably disposed off by TERM Cells. TERM Cells carried out EMF testing to ascertain the level of EMF radiation preferably in the presence of complainant and it was observed that in most of the cases, the EMF radiation levels are within safe EMF limits as prescribed by DoT. In all these cases, the complainants have been suitably advised.

Poor mobile network coverage of BSNL

390. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has lost about two crore wireless and wireline subscribers during last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for poor mobile network coverage capacity and quality of services of BSNL; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase its subscriber base by improving network coverage and quality of services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has added a total of 61,34,732 mobile subscribers and lost 18,81,673 Wireline subscribers during the last one year from Feb., 2015 to Jan., 2016.

(c) and (d) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) monitors the Quality of Service (QoS) of all the telecom service providers including Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). As per the performance monitoring report of TRAI for the quarter ending December, 2015, for cellular mobile telephone services 2G, BSNL's performance is generally comparable with other service providers. As regards Basic services (Wireline), BSNL is meeting all the parameters in all the service areas.

So far as the enhancement of mobile network coverage, capacity and quality of services is concerned, BSNL upgrades and augments its network on techno-economical consideration on a continuous basis. BSNL has taken several steps to improve its network and quality of service. Some of the steps are as follows:

- BSNL has planned to install 10,510 3G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) and 14,232 2G BTSs under Phase-VII GSM expansion for 15 Million lines. It has also planned to install additional 9600 3G BTSs and 5300 old BTSs in North and South Zone. This will also include replacing of 5300 old BTSs of GSM Phase I, II and III. An approximate capacity of 5 million shall be added in the GSM network of North Zone and South Zone. BSNL has already commissioned over 16.42 million lines. Out of the planned BTSs, 9829 (3G) BTSs and 12,491 (2G) BTSs are radiating (Total 22,320). This will improve 2G and 3G network coverage and data capability of 3G network.
- BSNL has planned to implement ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) as one of the important IT initiative in two phases *i.e.* Phase-I Proof of Concept (POC) and Phase-2 Rollout. The ERP has been implemented in all the 49 units including eight Proof of Concept (POC) Circles .
- During this Five Year Plan (2012-17), BSNL has planned to make the entire wire line customer base network IP enabled. Next Generation Network (NGN) equipment based on the latest architecture are planned to be deployed gradually to replace the entire Circuit Switched equipments/ Digital Telephone Exchanges.
- BSNL has set wireline call centres for the customers of landline and broadband at Dehradun, Ajmer and Bangalore and traffic from all circles has been migrated to these call centres. These call centres are accessible through toll free number 1500 (from BSNL number) and 18003451500 (from other operator numbers).
- BSNL has launched various customer centric initiatives like Night free calling, Free Roaming, increased minimum speed of broadband to 2 Mbps etc.

In addition, Department of Telecommunication (DoT) has also taken up several projects to improve the telecom network in rural and remote areas through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Some of these projects are as follows:

- To provide better mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas, USOF has awarded to BSNL to install 2199 (BTSs).
- USOF is implementing a comprehensive telecom developing plan for the North East Region (NER) at the estimated cost of ₹ 5336.18 crores. This NER scheme has following components:
 - (i) Provision of mobile services in uncovered villages.
 - (ii) Provision of seamless mobile coverage along the National Highways.
 - (iii) Augmentation of Transmission media.
- USOF is augmenting the telecom network in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands.
- National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) is being implemented to connect 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats with broadband.

Auction of spectrum in 2016-17

391. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is proposing auction of spectrum in the Financial Year 2016-17;

(b) how is Government ensuring that the design of the auction is such that it receives maximum receipts; and

(c) the projected receipt for Government from auction of spectrum during 2016-17?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The Government has not yet decided the dates for conduct of next round of auction of spectrum.

(b) The Government had set itself the following objectives in last auction held in March, 2015:

- Obtain a market determined price of spectrum through a transparent process;
- Ensure efficient use of spectrum and avoid hoarding;
- Stimulate competition in the sector;
- Promote rollout of the respective services;
- Maximise revenue proceeds from the auctions within the set parameters.

(c) The projected receipt of Government from Auction of Spectrum during 2016-17 would depend on the bands and quantum of spectrum put to auction, the same is yet to be decided by the Government.

**Agreement with a social media company to
provide internet in rural areas**

†392. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has entered into an agreement with a foreign social media company to provide internet facility in rural India or contemplating any such scheme, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the item-wise details of budget earmarked for this purpose and the share of the above social media company in the budget;

(c) whether local entrepreneurs would have to bear losses on account of the use of the foreign social media company; and

(d) whether our country's resources and technology are inadequate for implementation of Digital India scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Sir, Government has not entered into agreement nor the same is being contemplated at present with any foreign social media company to provide internet facility in rural India.

(d) No Sir, country's resources and technology are adequate for implementation of Digital India scheme.

Review of existing cyber laws

393. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reviewed the existing cyber laws in view of the discussion on Conference on Cyber Crime and Cyber Security, if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the laws would be updated to meet the challenges in view of the emerging new kinds of cyber crimes; and

(c) Whether any specific legislation would be brought to deal with the challenge of rise of “dark net” where illegal data sharing takes place by individuals, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Various national and international conferences are regularly organised on the subject of Cyber Crime and Cyber Security by different forums. Government considers the recommendation and views emerging out of such conferences.

(b) and (c) The Information Technology Act, 2000 provides a legal framework for addressing all types of prevailing cyber crimes as reported in the country. However, challenges are faced by Law Enforcement Agencies, when dark net/ dark web technologies are used by cyber criminals, as they provide restricted access as well as prevent monitoring through encryption. In view of increasing use of dark net to carry out malicious activities, evolving effective legal solution has been drawing the attention of Governments/legal communities worldwide. Government is in touch with international organisations and keeps track of developments by other nations to evolve suitable legal mechanism.

**Expanding network of common
service centres in villages**

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

(a) whether as part of the mission Digital India, Government proposes to expand the network of Common Service Centres in villages to develop ancillary units in textiles and handicrafts helping employment generation; and

(b) whether Government has roped in e-commerce companies to make use of the 1 lakh strong network of Common Service Centres across the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) CSC 2.0 Scheme under Digital India-Pillar 3-Public Internet Access Programme–National Rural Internet Mission envisages to establish self sustaining network of 2.5 lakh Common Services Centres (CSCs) at Gram Panchayat (GP) level and deliver a large bouquet of Government and non-Government services including services under e-Commerce.

(b) CSC e-Governance Services India Limited–SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) has tied up with Snapdeal, Flifkart and Infibeam—the major e-Commerce companies for enabling delivery of e-commerce services through CSCs.

Privacy and security of data under Aadhaar

395. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the measures undertaken by Government to ensure the privacy and security of data collected under the Aadhaar programme;

(b) the details of regulatory measures implemented to ensure that the data collected under Aadhaar is not misused; and

(c) whether Government plans to introduce legislation to give Aadhaar a legal basis and introduce legal privacy and security requirements, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The architecture of Aadhaar ecosystem has been designed to ensure data security, privacy, non-duplication, data integrity and other related management aspects of data in Aadhaar database. Government is fully alive to the need to maintain highest level of data security and integrity and is constantly upgrading the technology and infrastructure. For this purpose, a well-designed and robust data security system is in place. Security is an integral part of the system from the initial design to the final stage and security audits are conducted periodically. Security of data is monitored at all the times *i.e.* at rest, in transit and in storage. Security and privacy of personal data are fully ensured, without sacrificing the utility of the project. Recently, UIDAI has been declared ISO 27001:2013 certified by STQC with respect to Information Security which has added another layer of IT security assurance. In pursuance of sub-section (1) of Section 70 of the IT Act 2000, UIDAI data has also been declared as protected system by National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre. Additionally, various policies and procedures have been defined clearly which are reviewed and updated continually thereby appropriately controlling and monitoring any movement of people, material and data in and out of UIDAI premises, particularly the data centres. Further strengthening of security and privacy of data is an ongoing process, and all possible steps are being taken to make the data safe and protected.

(c) Yes, Sir. The National Identification Authority of India Bill (NIDAI Bill), 2010 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd December, 2010. A Notice for introduction of the Official Amendments was moved in the Rajya Sabha on 28-11-2013, subsequent to the report of the Standing Committee on Finance. The Bill is presently pending for consideration of Rajya Sabha.

Rice and wheat distributed through PDS

396. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of rice and wheat distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS) during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, the State-wise details thereof;
- (b) whether the allocation made was as per their demand;
- (c) if so, the State-wise demand thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The State-wise details of foodgrains allocated by the Government of India and lifted by the States/Union Territories (UTs) for distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during the last three years are given in the Statement-I and II (*See below*).

(b) to (d) Under TPDS the allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs is not based on demand. The allocation of foodgrains to the States/UTs where National Food Security Act (NFSA) has been implemented is made @ 5 kg per person belonging to priority category and @ 35 kg per family per month belonging to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) category. Under the Act 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population of the country as per 2011 population censuses will be covered to receive subsidised foodgrains under TPDS *i.e.* @ ₹ 3.00 per kg, ₹ 2.00 per kg for wheat and ₹ 1 per kg for coarse grains.

The States/UTs, which have not implemented NFSA, are allocated foodgrains under TPDS @35 kg per family per month for all accepted Below Poverty Line (BPL) families (including AAY families) and @10-35 kg per family per month for Above Poverty Line (APL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of erstwhile Planning Commission and March 2000 population estimates of Registrar General of India. Further the States/UTs which have not implemented NFSA have been given additional allocation of foodgrain as per Statement-II indicated against part (a) above.

Statement*Allocation and offtake of rice and wheat for the year 2012-13 to 2014-15 under TPDS*

(In thousand tons)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
		Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3822.816	3130.234	3822.816	2688.167	2629.793	1587.263
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	101.556	98.376	101.556	100.162	101.556	96.646
3.	Assam	1886.856	1830.998	1886.856	1788.041	1890.094	1840.293
4.	Bihar (NFSA)	3703.872	2639.407	3804.791	3195.481	4914.9	3938.148
5.	Chhattisgarh (NFSA)	1244.112	1178.578	1255.803	1232.282	1337.466	1329.701
6.	Delhi (NFSA)	598.92	566.777	554.894	521.49	356.693	360.925
7.	Goa	63.036	62.909	63.036	64.063	63.148	57.239
8.	Gujarat	2085.108	1265.504	2085.108	1505.321	2087.795	1885.738
9.	Haryana (NFSA)	756.012	465.415	632.504	486.102	795	732.473
10.	Himachal Pradesh (NFSA)	527.94	524.927	517.968	502.905	507.996	498.365
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	756.804	760.644	756.804	756.635	756.804	666.045
12.	Jharkhand	1358.652	977.751	1358.652	1022.392	1359.442	958.781
13.	Karnataka (NFSA)	2806.928	2304.402	2456.382	2467.432	2542.657	2313.096

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14.	Kerala	1472.688	1473.184	1472.688	1466.713	1474.349	1441.726
15.	Madhya Pradesh (NFSA)	2736.426	3551.778	2743.016	2519.347	3194.247	2911.381
16.	Maharashtra (NFSA)	4819.044	3724.189	4716.136	4307.369	4527.492	4045.779
17.	Manipur	170.952	172.661	170.952	160.435	171.379	172.281
18.	Meghalaya	188.58	189.6	188.58	188.567	188.858	188.197
19.	Mizoram	70.14	66.538	70.14	66.393	70.14	67.419
20.	Nagaland	126.876	135.953	126.876	125.048	126.876	137.329
21.	Odisha	2194.266	2120.509	2191.872	2073.182	2192.981	2008.221
22.	Punjab (NFSA)	827.976	613.964	781.044	587.37	870.12	191.434
23.	Rajasthan (NFSA)	2179.5	2149.291	2485.536	2399.933	2791.572	2723.6
24.	Sikkim	44.28	45.046	44.28	45.932	44.283	42.789
25.	Tamil Nadu	3722.832	3634.495	3722.832	3010.254	3722.832	3082.407
26.	Telangana	0	0	0	0	1196.445	425.164
27.	Tripura	304.836	289.291	303.24	311.409	303.249	300.224
28.	Uttar Pradesh	7268.52	6568.015	7268.52	6755.502	7274.773	6213.857
29.	Uttarakhand	617.992	596.557	511.992	511.274	512.647	539.743
30.	West Bengal	3857.196	3616.745	3857.196	3560.451	3860.971	3752.948
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	34.02	14.908	34.02	32.045	34.02	24.727

32.	Chandigarh (NFSA)	36.78	33.429	35.852	24.725	31.212	27.018
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	10.464	10.499	10.464	13.192	10.47	12.436
34.	Daman and Diu	5.652	4.53	5.652	0.725	5.661	2.266
35.	Lakshadweep	6.62	5.706	4.62	3.09	4.62	5.044
36.	Puducherry	60.312	53.313	60.312	33.427	60.372	5.95
	TOTAL	50468.564	44876.123	50102.99	44526.856	52012.913	44586.653

Above allocation and offtake includes addl. APL allocation and offtake also. The above allocation includes allocation made under NFSA also

Offtake Source: FCI

Statement-II

Allocation and offtake of foodgrains (Rice+Wheat) of ad hoc additional BPL allocations made during 2012-13 to 2014-15 under TPDS

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
		Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	325.814	280.718	311.57	235.079	216.797	155.653
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.899	7.449	7.592	0.000	7.703	6.474
3.	Assam	217.067	204.234	140.794	97.900	142.828	129.636
4.	Bihar	1095.608	635.578	500.213	256.181	0	0

(In thousand tons)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Chhattisgarh	451.058	407.182	143.784	0.000	0	0
6.	Delhi	31.364	0	31.364	0.000	0	0
7.	Goa	3.68	3.985	3.68	0.000	3.734	2.239
8.	Gujarat	342.927	269.542	162.572	153.925	164.918	144.355
9.	Haryana	67.668	63.575	60.504	0.000	0	0
10.	Himachal Pradesh	50.953	38.657	39.416	0.000	0	0
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	70.695	65.959	56.44	0.000	57.244	44.962
12.	Jharkhand	315.365	241.348	183.584	106.167	186.237	149.255
13.	Karnataka	271.341	269.188	239.946	49.716	0	0
14.	Kerala	307.336	265.431	119.168	51.010	120.89	120.926
15.	Madhya Pradesh	522.944	0	316.324	1.189	0	0
16.	Maharashtra	501.059	272.404	501.059	0.000	0	0
17.	Manipur	13.111	13.104	12.73	9.120	12.914	12.93
18.	Meghalaya	14.033	14.02	14.033	12.002	14.238	14.317
19.	Mizoram	9.753	9.258	5.214	0.000	5.288	4.789
20.	Nagaland	17.325	17.329	9.51	0.000	9.646	9.75
21.	Odisha	457.553	304.857	252.906	137.015	256.561	143.403
22.	Punjab	37.727	0	35.888	0.000	0	0

23.	Rajasthan	267.698	255.945	186.42	0.000	0	0
24.	Sikkim	3.738	3.738	3.298	0.475	3.346	3.307
25.	Tamil Nadu	549.866	546.431	372.918	250.064	378.306	367.467
26.	Telangana	0	0	0	0.000	99.273	38.515
27.	Tripura	35.817	36.233	22.622	22.624	22.951	22.954
28.	Uttar Pradesh	978.435	837.884	818.879	71.989	830.707	552.287
29.	Uttarakhand	39.869	36.96	38.188	0.000	38.736	4.676
30.	West Bengal	656.467	419.985	397.152	85.182	402.889	218.486
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2.146	0.667	2.146	0.000	2.177	0
32.	Chandigarh	1.764	0.588	1.764	0.000	0	0
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.382	0.493	1.382	0.037	1.404	1.091
34.	Daman and Diu	0.268	0.178	0.268	0.048	0.2711	0.208
35.	Lakshadweep	0.23	0.207	0.23	0.000	0.233	0.188
36.	Puducherry	6.442	3.835	6.442	0.000	6.536	0
GRAND TOTAL		7121.237#	5526.962	5000	1539.723	2985.8271	2147.868

#The total in certain cases may not add upto the Grand total shown of allocation made to the States due to reallocation made from the unlifted savings within the overall allocations.

#The allocation and offtake for the year 2012-13 includes allocation made for the poorest districts.

Offtake source: FCI

Seizure of pulses from hoarders

397. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lakhs of tonnes of pulses have been seized from hoarders in various States during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details of the quantity of pulses seized;

(c) the steps taken for disposal of such seized pulses; and

(d) whether the same has been helpful in containing the spiralling prices of pulses in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The quantity of pulses seized and disposed, State-wise is given in the Statement (*See below*). Being a statutory process, the disposal of seized pulses is done as per the relevant provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(d) Yes, Sir. The rising trend of prices of pulses has been contained.

Statement

Details of pulses seized from hoarders in various states during last three months

(As on 23.02.2016)

Sl. No.	State	Raids conducted, quantity seized and quantity disposed (MT)			
		Raids	Qty seized	Qty disposed	Balance
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Chhattisgarh	112	5447.93	5320.56	127.37
2.	Haryana	1669	14.60	0.80	13.80
3.	Karnataka	1351	25545.83	23708.34	1837.49
4.	Madhya Pradesh	969	3144.74	2056.60	1088.14
5.	Maharashtra	5250	80167.44	78232.35	1935.02
6.	Telangana	1924	6712.51	2923.25	3789.26
7.	Rajasthan	875	2614.21	1895.27	714.94
8.	Jharkhand	140	282.02	0	282.02
9.	Odisha	180	1410.26	1403.86	6.40

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Andhra Pradesh	1300	1361.52	352.50	1009.02
11.	Gujarat	212	54.11	0	54.11
12.	Himachal Pradesh	500	3.42	0	3.42
13.	NCT Delhi	01	81.29	81.29	0
14.	Bihar	299	360.03	360.03	0
TOTAL		14482	126758.59	116334.85	10860.99

Implementation of the National Food Security Act

398. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Food Security Act has been implemented throughout the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Before implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA), States/UTs are required to identify eligible households and complete other preparatory activities. Based on the preparedness and identification of beneficiaries reported by 28 States/UTs, foodgrains under the Act are being allocated to them. Remaining 8 States/UTs, namely Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Gujarat, Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tamil Nadu, are also at an advanced stage of preparedness. Foodgrains allocation under erstwhile TPDS is continuing in these States/UTs.

Sugar factories in Maharashtra

399. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar factories in Maharashtra under various sectors/category, namely, Government, private and co-operative sector;

(b) how many factories are sick or profit making; and

(c) whether Government is planning to have a uniform price for sugarcane under the new Sugar/Agriculture policy all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) As on 31.12.2015, out of 235 installed sugar factories are in Maharashtra, 169 are in cooperative and 66 in private sector. State Government of Maharashtra has informed that 31 sugar factories are profit making as per the audited balance sheets of Financial Year 2014-15. Two sugar factories in private sector are declared as sick units by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

(c) The Central Government fixes Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane having regard to the factors mentioned in Clause 3(1) of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966. The FRP so fixed is based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and after consultations with State Governments and other stakeholders. FRP of sugarcane is uniform throughout the country and linked to recovery rate.

Malpractices in printed MRP

400. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are large number of products and commodities in the market where the actual 94 sale price is far less than the MRP printed on the product thereby circumventing the requirement of MRP;

(b) if so, the preventive action available under the law or otherwise to check such malpractices; and

(c) the action Government contemplates to prevent such practices?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No Sir, prices of the products and commodities are determined by the market forces. It is not feasible for the Government to fix the cost price and sale price of such commodities which are sold through open market competition. Therefore, the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of such products sold in the country are determined by the manufactures/packers/importers themselves.

(b) and (c) The Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 provide that commodities in packaged form can not be sold at a price higher than MRP, in order to protect the interest of consumers. Monitoring whether the commodities are being sold at more than MRP is done by the enforcement authorities of the State Governments. The penalty provisions are made under section 36 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 for the violations of the provisions of Act and Rules.

Raid campaign against hoarders of pulses

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that prices of pulses have increased exorbitantly due to their hoarding in the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any action against the hoarders;
- (c) if so, the number of such traders against whom action has been taken so far;
- (d) whether Government would allow to carry out a countrywide raid campaign to reduce the prices of pulses; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The rise in prices of pulses is due to several factors leading to demand and supply mismatch. Hoarding is one such factor. De-hoarding operations are carried out by the State Governments under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. All the States have been requested to enforce the Act effectively. Action taken during 2015 is given in the Statement-I and II.

Statement-I

*Details of pulses seized from hoarders in various States
during last three months*

(As on 23.02.2016)

Sl. No.	State	Raids conducted, quantity seized and quantity disposed (MT)			
		Raids	Qty seized	Qty disposed	Balance
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Chhattisgarh	112	5447.93	5320.56	127.37
2.	Haryana	1669	14.60	0.80	13.80
3.	Karnataka	1351	25545.83	23708.34	1837.49
4.	Madhya Pradesh	969	3144.74	2056.60	1088.14
5.	Maharashtra	5250	80167.44	78232.35	1935.02

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Telangana	1924	6712.51	2923.25	3789.26
7.	Rajasthan	875	2614.21	1895.27	714.94
8.	Jharkhand	140	282.02	0	282.02
9.	Odisha	180	1410.26	1403.86	6.40
10.	Andhra Pradesh	1300	1361.52	352.50	1009.02
11.	Gujarat	212	54.11	0	54.11
12.	Himachal Pradesh	500	3.42	0	3.42
13.	NCT Delhi	01	81.29	81.29	0
14.	Bihar	299	360.03	360.03	0
TOTAL		14482	126758.59	116334.85	10860.99

Statement-II

Action taken against hoarders and violators of orders under the E.C. Act during 2015.

(Updated as on 22.2.2016)

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	2287	0	23	23	1056.51
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	1	-	-	0.01
3.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NR
4.	Bihar	299	Nil	Nil	Nil	NR
5.	Chhattisgarh	168	0	0	0	5.04
6.	Delhi	20	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Goa	96	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Gujarat	8551	25	16	-	112.31
9.	Haryana	1744	123	138	-	120.38
10.	Himachal Pradesh	32818	-	-	-	27.13
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
12.	Jharkhand	140	NR	NR	NR	NR

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Karnataka	3005	145	0	6	16.71
14.	Kerala	8454	18	7	1	63.98
15.	Madhya Pradesh	38648	-	111	6	92.46
16.	Maharashtra	5906	707	242	2	4362.03
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	2291	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.02
22.	Punjab	10443	-	-	-	-
23.	Rajasthan	840	NR	NR	NR	Nil
24.	Sikkim	71	-	-	-	Nil
25.	Tamil Nadu	29	41	41	0	0.09
26.	Telangana	4434	321	2	0	595.33
27.	Tripura	199	NR	1	NR	57.13
28.	Uttarakhand	5	9	9	1	2.5
29.	Uttar Pradesh	2045	107	121	17	274.46
30.	West Bengal	780	174	52	-	96.15
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	86	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
32.	Chandigarh	2	1	17	3	-
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
34.	Daman and Diu	NR	NR	NR	NR	Nil
35.	Lakshadweep	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
36.	Puducherry	741	1	2	-	0.63
TOTAL		124290	1675	782	59	6882.87

Rise in prices of essential food items

402. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of essential food items have shown upward trend during last three months and all measures taken by Government have failed to check the price rise in the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of various kind of pulses imported by Government during 2015 and 2016, so far, to check the price rise; and

(c) the rates at which pulses were imported, import date-wise along with the details of countries from where they were imported?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. Because of the measures taken by the Government and fresh arrivals, the prices of essential food items have registered a decline/remained under control over the last three months. Details are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The requisite information is given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Trend in monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of major essential food items during last three months.

Commodities	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	% change Jan. 16 over Nov. 15
1	2	3	4	5
Cereals	236.2	237.1	236.7	0.21
Rice	237.4	237.3	235.9	-0.63
Wheat	221.3	222.7	223.5	0.99
Pulses	380.2	378.2	370.1	-2.66
Gram	311.9	311.8	304.4	-2.40
Arhar	417.3	421.3	410.7	-1.58
Moong	441.2	418.4	413.6	-6.26
Masur	369.7	350.8	347.1	-6.11
Urad	509.6	520.1	507.8	-0.35
Vegetables	330.7	318.4	289.4	-12.49
Potato	201.0	174.8	151.5	-24.63
Onion	505.5	435.4	348.4	-31.08
Tomato	534.1	384.6	357.4	-33.08
Milk	250.8	250.9	250.8	0.00
Sugar	167.8	169.8	178.4	6.32

1	2	3	4	5
Edible Oils	150.6	151.5	149.6	-0.66
Vanaspati	114.9	116.0	110.0	-4.26
Groundnut Oil	192.2	193.8	192.2	0.00
Palm Oil	120.6	120.1	120.7	0.08
Rice Bran Oil	150.4	149.8	147.5	-1.93
Mustard and Rapeseed Oil	192.2	193.0	188.7	-1.82
Soyabean Oil	150.3	150.4	150.4	0.07
Sunflower Oil	134.3	132.4	133.6	-0.52

Source: DIPP

Statement-II

*Import of pulses by Government through MMTC during 2015 and 2016
(as on 24.2.2016)*

Date	Variety	Price (US\$)	From	Qty (in MT)	
				Approved	Delivered
24.7.2015	Tur	1078	Malawi	5000	4927
31.12.2015	Tur	1170	Myanmar	1000	Delivery is expected
15.2.2016	Tur	1165	Myanmar	5000	Delivery is expected
15.2.2016	Urad	1214.75	Myanmar	2500	Delivery is expected

Source: MMTC

Functioning of consumer courts

†403. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that provisions of the Consumer Protection Act are not being implemented properly in the country;

(b) the number of cases filed in consumer courts during the financial year 2014-15 and the number of cases pending so far, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Supreme Court has suggested to the Government to constitute a committee to improve the condition of consumer courts, if so, the details of the progress made in this regard?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. The provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are being implemented in the country.

(b) As per information provided by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, during the year 2014-15, 3,06,712 cases have been filed in the Consumer Courts and 2,85,445 cases have been disposed of.

(c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* order dated 14.1.2016 in Civil Appeal NO. 2740/2007 has directed the constitution of a Committee to look into the functioning of the Consumer Fora on aspects such as infrastructural requirements, vacancy position, need for additional benches, conditions of eligibility of Non-Judicial Members, administrative powers of Presidents of State Commissions and District Fora, service conditions, minimum staff required, and a separate cadre for staff. The Government has accordingly issued a notification on 16.2.2016 constituting the Committee.

Payment of outstanding dues of sugarcane growers

†404. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

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

(a) the steps being taken for making payment and providing fair rates of sugarcane for sugarcane crushing season 2015-16 and for the payments of outstanding dues to the sugarcane farmers and whether its outcome will prove beneficial in future in fulfilling the interests of sugarcane farmers;

(b) the details of the quantum of outstanding sugarcane arrears of the farmers, State-wise; and

(c) the names of products being manufactured from sugarcane in sugar mills at present, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Central Government fixes the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and after consultation from the State Governments and other stake holders. The FRP, so fixed, is the bench mark price below which no sugar mill can purchase cane from cane growers.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Clause 3(3) of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 stipulates payment of cane price within 14 days of supply of sugarcane failing which interest @ 15% per annum on amount due for the delayed period beyond 14 days is payable.

The Central Government has taken the following steps which are likely to improve the liquidity position of sugar mills enabling them to clear outstanding dues of farmers and make timely payment of cane price dues to them:-

- (i) Notified a scheme on 2.12.2015 to extend performance based production subsidy @ ₹ 4.50 per quintal of cane crushed to sugar mills to offset the cost of cane.
- (ii) Fixed remunerative prices for supplies of ethanol to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for blending with petrol; waived excise duty on ethanol supplies to OMCs during 2015-16 and scaled up blending targets from 5% to 10%.

(b) The details of quantum of outstanding sugarcane arrears of the farmers state-wise are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) 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.

Statement

State-wise details of quantum of outstanding sugarcane arrears of the farmers

(₹ in crores)

(As on 15.02.2016)

Sl. No.	State	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14 and Earlier Seasons	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Punjab	465.51	0.80	0.00	466.31
2.	Haryana	451.86	10.84	0.00	462.70
3.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Uttar Pradesh	7294.44	599.01	112.26	8005.71
5.	Uttarakhand	363.35	34.53	24.92	422.80
6.	Madhya Pradesh	177.86	0.00	13.39	191.25
7.	Gujarat	486.32	1.11	13.41	500.84
8.	Maharashtra	3134.04	249.78	80.96	3464.78

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Bihar	0.00	29.19	40.76	69.95
10.	Andhra Pradesh	331.50	38.91	0.00	370.41
11.	Telangana	0.00	11.91	0.00	11.91
12.	Karnataka	0.00	295.30	312.48	607.78
13.	Tamil Nadu	689.61	318.13	278.49	1286.23
14.	Odisha	28.76	0.58	2.94	32.28
15.	West Bengal	0.00	1.82	0.00	1.82
16.	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	9.09	9.09
17.	Goa	1.76	0.00	0.00	1.76
18.	Chhattisgarh	44.01	0.00	0.00	44.01
TOTAL		13469.02	1591.91	888.7	15949.63

Effectiveness of consumer fora

405. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been carried out about the effectiveness of Consumer Fora, if so, the main findings thereof; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to revisit the same?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government had initiated a study through Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi. The study revealed the following:

- (i) Involvement of lawyers in District Forum;
- (ii) Inadequate lab testing facility;
- (iii) Problem in execution of the orders of the District Forum;
- (iv) Because of small compensation, consumers lose interest in the case;
- (v) Lack of capacity of the members to adjudicate the case;
- (vi) Inadequate infrastructure/man-power

(b) The Government has constituted a Committee on the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 2740/2007 which will look into the functioning of the Consumer Fora on aspects such as infrastructural requirements, vacancy position, need for additional benches, conditions of eligibility of Non-Judicial

Members, administrative powers of Presidents of State Commissions and District Fora service conditions, minimum staff required, and a separate cadre for staff for the Consumer Fora.

Packaging of food items in non-standard denomination

406. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that market is flooded with confectionary, eatables and food items which have been packaged in non-standard denominations of weight or volume and besides that, such packages also carry schemes of extra or free contents in terms of percentage of content of the package;

(b) whether such non-standard denomination packages are permissible under Government's rules/guidelines, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would agree that such practices are misleading and consumer unfriendly; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to ensure that consumers are not misguided by resorting to such practices?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) Sir. Under Second Schedule of Rule (5) of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 there are only 19 commodities which are required to be packed in prescribed sizes. These 19 commodities are Baby Food, Weaning food, Biscuits, Bread including brown bread but excluding bun, un-canned packages of butter and margarine, cereals and pulses, coffee, tea, materials which may be constituted or reconstituted as beverages, edible oils vanaspati, ghee, butter oil, milk powder, non-soapy detergents (powder), Rice (powdered), flour, atta, rawa, and suji, salt, soaps (laundry soap, non-soapy detergent cakes/bars, toilet soap including all kinds of bath soap, cakes), aerated soft drinks, non-alcoholic beverages, mineral water and drinking water, cement in bags, paint varnish etc. [paint (other than paste paint or solid paint) varnish, varnish stains, enamels, Paste paint and solid paint, Base paint].

Apart from these 19 commodities all other commodities may be packed in any quantity as decided by the manufacturer/packer/importer. Further, under the said schedule it is also allowed for smaller quantities to pack in any quantity below a certain value. Also under sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the said rules value based packages from ₹ 1.00 to ₹ 10.00 are allowed irrespective of the quantity prescribed in the second schedule.

Further, under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 there is no provisions to give extra or free contents in terms of percentage of the content of the package. The penalty provisions are also made under section 36 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 for the violations of the provisions of Act and Rules. The enforcement of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and Rules made thereunder is done by the Legal Metrology Department of States/UTs.

Status of food processing industry in Maharashtra

407. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of Food Processing Industry in Maharashtra;
- (b) whether the existing Food Processing Units have the capacity to process fruits and vegetables available in the State; and
- (c) if not, the details of specific steps taken to increase the processing capacity by establishing more food processing units in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) The status of Food Processing Industries in Maharashtra as per Annual Survey of Industries 2012-13 is as follows:

Parameters	Maharashtra	% to All India
No. of registered Food Processing Industries	3077	8.28
Fixed Capital (₹ in crore)	27577.08	17.36
Employment (Persons)	217124	12.85
Gross Value Added (₹ in crore)	10633.98	13.17

(b) No, Sir. As per a recent study by NABARD submitted to Government of Maharashtra, less than 1.2 per cent of fruits and vegetables are processed. Out of the total yield, 60 per cent vegetables and 70 per cent fruits are consumed fresh. The report further states that despite being the leading State in the Agro Industry, Maharashtra, with 1 lakh metric ton processing capacity, falls well below the required capacity by International Standards.

(c) Government has approved setting-up of 4 Mega Food Parks in Maharashtra out of which 2 are functional. It is expected that 25-30 Food Processing units would be set-up in functional Mega Food Parks. Government has also assisted 27 Cold Chain Projects in Maharashtra out of which 17 have been completed and others are in advanced stage of completion. Government has further assisted setting-

up of 545 units and released ₹ 7772.8 lakhs as grant-in-aid since April, 2012 till date. Government has also set-up a corpus of ₹ 2000.00 crores with NABARD for providing concessional credit to Mega Food Park, Designated Food Parks and units to be set-up therein.

Steps taken to reduce post harvest food losses

408. SHRI A.U.SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of food wastage and post-harvest losses of farm produce incurred across the country due to lack of integrated logistics and cold-chains during last three years;

(b) whether Government has taken or proposes to take measures to reduce food losses, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has established modern supply chains for perishable food items, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government provides incentives to entrepreneurs and investors for development of cold-chain infrastructure components, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) Sir, the Government has got a study done on “Assessment of Quantitative Harvest and Post-Harvest Losses of Major Crops and Commodities in India” by ICAR-Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana. The study was commissioned in 2012 and the final report submitted on 31.03.2015. The study has estimated that annual value of harvest and post-harvest losses of major agricultural produces at national level was of the order of ₹ 92,651 crore calculated using production data of 2012-13 at 2014 wholesale prices. The percentage of post-harvest losses as assessed by the study is as under:

Crops	Cumulative wastage (%)
Cereals	4.65–5.99
Pulses	6.36–8.41
Oil Seeds	3.08–9.96
Fruits and Vegetables	4.58–15.88
Milk	0.92
Fisheries (Inland)	5.23

Crops	Cumulative wastage (%)
Fisheries (Marine)	10.52
Meat	2.71
Poultry	6.74

(b) to (d) It has been the endeavor of the Government to promote food processing industry in the country to reduce wastage of agricultural produce and minimize post-harvest losses. With the above in view, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) 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 and (ii) Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, Research and Development and Other Promotional Activities.

In order to arrest post harvest losses of horticulture and non-horticulture produce and to provide integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure facilities from the farm gate to the consumer or from the production site to the market, MoFPI is implementing the 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 and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 75% for NE region and difficult areas (North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, 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 135 Cold Chain projects in the country to reduce the cold chain gap.

In addition, 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 are also providing assistance for setting up cold storages under their respective schemes.

Various other incentives provided by the Government to promote creation of cold chain infrastructure are given in the Statement.

Statement-I***Details of various other incentives provided by the Government to the cold chain sector***

- Services of pre-conditioning, pre-cooling, ripening, waxing, retail packing, labeling of fruits and vegetables have been exempted from Service Tax in Budget 2015-16.
- Loans to food and 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.

Vacancies in judicial posts

409. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the vacancies in judicial posts, as on date;

(b) the steps being taken to fill up all the vacant posts in a time-frame particularly those of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) the other steps being taken to dispose of the pending cases expeditiously?

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

(a) to (c) As per information available, there exist 464 vacancies against a sanctioned strength of 1056 in the higher judiciary as on 19.02.2016 and 4998 vacancies against a sanctioned strength of 20358 in the subordinate judiciary as on 30.06.2015.

Appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts are made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. The Government has, however, been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts from time to time that while sending proposals for appointment of judges, suitable candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women be taken into consideration.

Recruitment, appointment, promotion etc. of judicial officers in the district and subordinate courts in the country falls within the purview of the State Governments. As per information received from State Governments and High Courts, most of the States have provisions for reservation of posts in State Judicial Services for eligible candidates belonging to SC/ST category. The recruitment against all vacancies in the District/Subordinate Courts is monitored by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in C.A. No. 1867 of 2006 (Arising out of SLP(C) No.22523 of 2005)—in the matter of Malik Mazhar Sultan and Anr. *Vs* U.P. Public Service Commission and Ors.

Disposal of cases pending in the Courts is within the domain of judiciary. Government has set up a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in manpower strength of judiciary, suggesting policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, recommending re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

Chief Justices' Conference, 2015 held on 3rd and 4th April, 2015 resolved that each High Court shall establish Arrears Committee and prepare an action plan to clear backlog of cases pending for more than five years.

Funds for Legal Aid Schemes

410. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Legal services Authority (NALSA) provides funds to all State Legal Aid Authorities for implementation of the legal aid schemes, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of funds allocated and sanctioned by NALSA to different State Legal Aid Authorities during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) provides funds to the State Legal Services Authorities during each financial year for implementation of various legal aid schemes/programmes framed under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

Details showing State-wise details of funds provided by NALSA to different State Legal Services Authorities and Supreme Court Legal Services Committee during the last three financial years viz. 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 is given in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of the funds provided by NALSA to different State Legal Services Authorities during the last three financial years i.e. 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State Authority	Financial Years		
		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	300	215	300
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	122	97	83.89
3.	Assam	122	97	200
4.	Bihar	300	215	50
5.	Chhattisgarh	222	163	200
6.	Goa	147	113	50
7.	Gujarat	257	187	250
8.	Haryana	277	855.68	50

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	172	130	800
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	172	130	200
11.	Jharkhand	142	110	200
12.	Karnataka	247	180	250
13.	Kerala	272	347	150
14.	Madhya Pradesh	182	137	100
15.	Maharashtra	172	130	200
16.	Manipur	172	130	50
17.	Meghalaya	122	97	50
18.	Mizoram	147	113	75
19.	Nagaland	172	130	100
20.	Odisha	222	163	200
21.	Punjab	172	130	300
22.	Rajasthan	182	137	200
23.	Sikkim	122	97	75
24.	Tamil Nadu	182	137	240
25.	Telangana	-	215	150
26.	Tripura	122	97	100
27.	Uttar Pradesh	152	115	100
28.	Uttarakhand	147	113	100
29.	West Bengal	147	113	250
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	30	35	50
31.	U.T. Chandigarh	122	97	50
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	30	35	50
33.	Daman and Diu	30	35	50
34.	Delhi	172	130	331
35.	Lakshadweep	30	35	50
36.	U.T. Puducherry	97	80	50
37.	Supreme Court Legal Services Committee	200	135	250
GRAND TOTAL		5878	5475.68	5954.89

Irregularities in Judicial Services Examination

411. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that irregularities have been reported in the Judicial Services Examinations held across various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of such irregularities, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Ministry to check such irregularities in the Judicial Services Examinations?

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

(a) to (d) Government had received grievances/complaints from the general public about irregularities in the Delhi Judicial Services Examination, 2014. Some instances of irregularities in the Judicial Services Examination in Odisha and Punjab and Haryana had also been reported. Since High Courts of the States are the concerned authorities to look into the matter, these grievances are forwarded to respective High Court for action, as appropriate. No data in this regard is maintained.

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of district and subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court. Further, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government frames the Rules and Regulations in consultation with the High Court. Accordingly, the issues of recruitment, appointment, etc. of judicial officers in the district/subordinate courts are decided by the respective State Government under the Rules and Regulations.

Fast Track Courts

412. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Fast Track Courts functioning in the country;
- (b) the details of the number of cases disposed of and the number of cases pending in these courts, State/Union Territory-wise;
- (c) the total funds allocated and spent for setting up of these Courts during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(d) whether Government proposes to increase the number of Fast Track Courts in the country and if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c) Setting up of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government had funded the setting up of Fast Track Courts in the year 2000 through the 11th Finance Commission award and the funding continued upto 31.3.2011. A statement indicating the number of FTCs approved for 11th Finance Commission funding in the year 2000, functioning as on 31.03.2005, 31.03.2011 and as per the latest available reports is given in the Statement-I (*See below*). As per the information available, a Statement indicating the number of cases transferred, disposed of and pending in FTCs is given in the Statement-II (*See below*). A Statement indicating the State/UT-wise grant released by the Government for Fast Track Courts is given in the Statement-III. Central funding for these FTCs has been discontinued with effect from 1st April, 2011.

(d) The 14th Finance Commission has endorsed the proposal to strengthen the judicial system in States which includes, *inter-alia*, establishing 1800 FTCs for a period of five years for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children, disabled and litigants affected with HIV/AIDS and other terminal ailments; and civil disputes involving land acquisition and property/rent disputes pending for more than five years at a cost of ₹ 4144 crore. The 14th Finance Commission has urged State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the tax devolution to meet such requirements.

Statement-I

Number of Fast Track Courts approved for Eleventh Finance Commission funding in 2000, functional as on 31.3.2005, 31.3.2011 and as on the date mentioned

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Approved no. of FTCs as in 2000	No. of FTCs functional as on 31.03.2005	No. of FTCs functional as on 31.3.2011	No. of FTCs functioning	As on
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	86	86	108	72	April, 14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	3	3	0	March, 14
3.	Assam	20	20	20	0	July, 15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Bihar	183	150	179	0	July, 15
5.	Chhattisgarh	31	31	25	21	July, 15
6.	Goa	5	5	5	3	July, 15
7.	Gujarat	166	166	61	61	Feb., 11
8.	Haryana	36	16	6	6	Dec., 10
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9	9	9	0	June, 14
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	-	-	5	June, 14
11.	Jharkhand	89	89	39	11	March, 14
12.	Karnataka	93	93	87	0	July, 15
13.	Kerala	37	31	38	0	July, 15
14.	Madhya Pradesh	85	66	84	0	July, 15
15.	Maharashtra	187	187	51	80	July, 15
16.	Manipur	3	2	2	2	July, 15
17.	Meghalaya	3	3	3	0	July, 15
18.	Mizoram	3	3	3	3	March, 11
19.	Nagaland	3	2	2	2	Oct., 12
20.	Odisha	72	41	35	0	July, 15
21.	Punjab	29	18	15	20	March, 14
22.	Rajasthan	83	83	83	0	July, 15
23.	Sikkim	3	-	-	1	July, 15
24.	Tamil Nadu	49	49	49	32	June, 14
25.	Tripura	3	3	3	0	July, 15
26.	Uttar Pradesh	242	242	153	80	Feb., 15
27.	Uttarakhand	45	45	20	0	July, 15
28.	West Bengal	152	119	109	64	April, 15
29.	Delhi	-	-	-	10	May, 15
TOTAL		1734	1562	1192	473	

Statement-II

*Number of cases transferred to Fast Track Courts (FTCs), disposed by
FTCs and pending in FTCs*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of cases transferred to FTCs since inception	No. of cases disposed off since inception by FTCs	No. of cases pending in FTCs	As on
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	265545	248457	17088	April, 14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4162	1660	2502	March, 11
3.	Assam	84098	72240	11858	Oct., 12
4.	Bihar	239278	159105	80173	March, 11
5.	Chhattisgarh	94670	76575	18095	March, 11
6.	Goa	10185	8590	1595	Feb., 14
7.	Gujarat	537636	434296	103340	Feb., 11
8.	Haryana	38359	33590	4769	Dec., 10
9.	Himachal Pradesh	54651	47480	7171	Dec., 12
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	NA	NA	NA	
11.	Jharkhand	110027	87789	22238	March, 11
12.	Karnataka	218402	184067	34335	Aug., 10
13.	Kerala	135839	116843	18996	Aug., 13
14.	Madhya Pradesh	360602	317363	43239	Dec., 10
15.	Maharashtra	423518	381619	41899	Feb., 11
16.	Manipur	3512	3287	225	Oct., 12
17.	Meghalaya	1288	973	315	Oct., 12
18.	Mizoram	1868	1635	233	March, 11
19.	Nagaland	845	786	59	Oct., 12
20.	Odisha	73093	67700	5393	March., 12
21.	Punjab	58570	46347	12223	Dec., 10
22.	Rajasthan	149447	123024	26423	March, 11
23.	Sikkim	NA	NA	NA	
24.	Tamil Nadu	411957	371336	40621	Aug., 10

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Tripura	5812	5591	221	March, 11
26.	Uttar Pradesh	464775	411658	53117	March, 11
27.	Uttarakhand	112726	103208	9518	June, 12
28.	West Bengal	202944	173299	29652	April, 15
29.	Delhi	NA	NA	2028	May, 15

NA : Not Available

Statement-III*Central Grants released to States for Fast Track Courts*

(₹ in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Grant released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4864.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	143.89
3.	Assam	1133.30
4.	Bihar	9326.70
5.	Chhattisgarh	1675.90
6.	Goa	262.70
7.	Gujarat	7574.98
8.	Haryana	807.90
9.	Himachal Pradesh	334.56
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	300.60
11.	Jharkhand	3943.67
12.	Karnataka	4938.80
13.	Kerala	1757.65
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4067.20
15.	Maharashtra	8801.60
16.	Manipur	150.80
17.	Meghalaya	181.20
18.	Mizoram	184.48
19.	Nagaland	124.28
20.	Odisha	2978.60
21.	Punjab	1205.30

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Grant released
22.	Rajasthan	5116.69
23.	Sikkim	29.70
24.	Tamil Nadu	2641.60
25.	Tripura	108.36
26.	Uttar Pradesh	13596.61
27.	Uttarakhand	3168.62
28.	West Bengal	7590.40
TOTAL		87010.60

Designating Advocates as Senior Advocates

413. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Advocates who were designated as Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court as per Section 16(2) of the Advocates Act, 1961, category-wise; and

(b) the details of Advocates who were designated as Senior Advocates by all the High Courts across the country as per Section 16(2) of the Advocates Act, 1961, State-wise and category-wise?

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

(a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Action plan to clear pendency of court cases

414. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of cases pending in various courts in the country have been going up unabatedly;

(b) the current number of pending cases in various courts of the country; and

(c) whether Government has worked out some action plan to dispense justice to the aggrieved parties expeditiously, 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 59,468 cases as on 19.02.2016.

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.

Disposal of cases pending in courts is within the domain of judiciary. Government has set up a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in manpower strength of judiciary, suggesting policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, recommending re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

Promoting the use of Hindi in court proceedings

†415. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased:

(a) whether the Ministry proposes to take steps for relaxing article 348 that hinders filing of petition and its hearing in Hindi in Supreme Court so that petitions may be filed in Hindi without any hesitation; and

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to appoint people qualified to work in Hindi and for other necessary action, along with the factual position thereof?

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

(a) No, Madam. The 18th Law Commission of India (LCI) in its 216th Report on “Non-Feasibility of Introduction of Hindi as Compulsory Language in the Supreme Court of India” (2008) has, *inter-alia*, recommended that the higher judiciary should not be subjected to any kind of even persuasive change in the present societal context. The Government has accepted the stand of the Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Pending cases *vis-a-vis* vacant posts of Judges

†416. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of Judges on a large scale in the country due to which imparting of justice is delayed;

(b) the details of pending cases in various courts at present;

(c) the suggestions of Law Commission regarding appointment of Judges and the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) whether there is a decline in disposal of pending cases due to shortage of Judges, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d) The sanctioned and working strength of Judges/Judicial Officers in the High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts at the end of 2013, 2014 and 2015 are given below:

Court/Year	2013		2014		2015	
	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
High Courts	906	639	984	639	1044	601
District/Subordinate Courts	19,518	15,115	20,214	15,634	20,502	16,070

As per information made available by Supreme Court of India, 59,468 cases were pending in the Supreme Court of India as on 19.02.2016. As per information made available by High Courts, 41.53 lakh cases were pending in High Courts and 2.64 crore cases were pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.2014.

The Supreme Court, in the case of *Imtiyaz Ahmed versus State of Uttar Pradesh and Others*, *inter-alia*, asked the Law Commission of India to evolve a method for scientific assessment of the number of additional courts to clear the backlog of cases. The Law Commission in its 245th Report recommended 'Rate of Disposal Method' for calculating adequate judge strength for District and Subordinate Courts. The Supreme Court has directed the State Governments and High Courts to file their response in the matter in the above case.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Number of cases disposed off in Supreme Court, High Courts and District/ Subordinate Courts during 2012, 2013 and 2014 are given below:

Court/Year	Number of cases disposed		
	2012	2013	2014
Supreme Court	68,744	77,085	92,722
High Courts	17,86,170	17,72,917	17,34,542
District/Subordinate Courts	1,81,97,153	1,87,83,546	1,90,19,658

Disposal of pending court cases

417. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending before the Subordinate Courts and High Courts across the country for the past three years;

(b) whether there is a substantial number of judicial vacancies, if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) whether Government plans to introduce a time-bound programme to clear pending cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the time-line for implementation of the same and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (d) Data on pendency of cases is maintained by the High Courts and the Supreme Court. As per the information available, details of cases pending in High Courts and District/Subordinate Courts at the end of 2012, 2013 and 2014 are given below:

Court/Year	Number of cases pending		
	2012	2013	2014
High Courts	44,34,191	44,62,705	41,53,957
District/Subordinate Courts	2,68,89,203	2,68,38,861	2,64,88,405

As per the information available, details of vacancies position of Judges in High Courts and Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts at the end of 2013, 2014 and 2015 are given below:

Court/Year	Number of vacant posts of Judges/Judicial Officers		
	2013	2014	2015
High Courts	267	345	443
District/Subordinate Courts	4403	4580	4432

Disposal of cases pending in courts is within the domain of judiciary. Government has set up a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in manpower strength of judiciary, suggesting policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, recommending re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

Online voting by defence and para-military personnel

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

(a) whether online voting through PIN by the defence and para-military personnel would be considered as they are invariable on duty at remote areas during all kind of elections;

(b) if so, by when the Ministry would consider implementing such measures; and

(c) if not, how the Ministry proposes to resolve the issue in order to ensure that the defence and para-military personnel are able to exercise their right of adult franchise?

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

(a) to (c) 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 this issue involves in-depth deliberation with various stake-holders, no specific time frame can be indicated.

Effect of Pancheshwar dam on Tanakpur-Bageshwar railway line

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

(a) whether the Pancheshwar dam being constructed in Champawat district of Uttarakhand is likely to affect the Tanakpur Ghat-Bageshwar railway line badly;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has received directions to suspend further action on this railway line; and

(c) if so, the level from which these directions have been received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Survey for Tanakpur Ghat-Bageshwar railway line *via* Pancheshwar was carried out in the year 2010-11.

(b) and (c) As per available records, no intimation regarding interference of the dam project with railway alignment, has been received.

Limiting the number of online bookings per user ID

420. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are limiting online booking of tickets from the existing 10 to 6 on one user ID, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether such restrictions would not impact frequent travellers; and

(c) if so, how the Ministry is contemplating to address this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The monthly limit of booking of tickets through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) website by an individual user has now been revised to 6 tickets in a month instead of 10 tickets in a month. This has been done as an additional measure to curb possible unfair practice of cornering rail tickets as it has come to notice that most of the individual users book 6 tickets online per month. However, passengers can purchase reserved tickets from Computerized Passenger Reservation Centres without any limit.

Special team to attend to suburban railway accident victims

421. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mumbai High Court has suggested Railways to have a special team to attend to suburban railway accident victims and provide them with medical assistance;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the response of Railways thereto; and

(c) the steps Railways are taking to set up the special dedicated team instead of the Station Master?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble High Court at Mumbai had directed Railways to consider the establishment of Emergency Medical Centres at each of the stations where more than 100 accidents have taken place in the year 2012. Accordingly Indian Railways has setup Emergency Medical Centres at 04 suburban stations.

Railway stations being run by local people

422. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many railway stations in the country are being run by local people instead of railway employees, if so, the details thereof along with the number of such stations;

(b) whether it is a beneficial for Government to let local people run the stations, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons for Government not running the stations itself; and

(c) whether Government has a permanent policy in this regard, if so, the details thereof, if not, whether Government intends to formulate such a policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. Operations on all stations on Indian Railways are controlled through railway employees. However, based on annual passenger earnings, some of the stations defined as halt stations, are generally manned by halt agents appointed by the Railways from local people on contract basis for issuing tickets on commission basis.

(b) and (c) As regards halt stations, which are stations with limited stoppages of trains and quantum of traffic, sourcing halt agents from local area for selling the tickets or operating minimal services at such stations, is relatively more economical than deployment of regular railway employees. Therefore, Ministry of Railways as a matter of policy is deploying halt agents on contract basis at such stations.

MoU between Government of Odisha and Railways

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Odisha is the first to sign an MoU with Railways on 4 November, 2015, the planned programme details and the detailed terms and conditions of the MoU;

(b) whether any other State has also followed Odisha in this respect;

(c) whether it is a time-bound programme;

(d) whether the Lanjigarh-Junagarh line will be extended to Jeypore and Khariar road to Nabarangpur, Kesinga to Bhawanipatna line be taken up, if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Government of Karnataka was the first State to set up Joint Venture (JV) Company with Ministry of Railways (MoR) for taking up Railway projects in their State. Later, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up JV Companies by Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Telangana have also been signed. Salient features of the MoU between MoR and State Government of Odisha are as below:

- (i) A JV Company having 49% equity of MoR and 51% equity of Government of Odisha to be set up.
- (ii) JV Company to undertake project development, financing and implementation of identified railway projects.
- (iii) The JV to have corporate headquarter at Bhubaneswar.
- (iv) The land acquisition to be done by Government of Odisha and project implementation by concerned Zonal Railway or any other agency as decided by the project specific Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in consultation with MoR.
- (v) Operations and maintenance of the project to be done by Indian Railways, cost of which to be chargeable to the project SPV.
- (vi) Project SPVs to arrange financial support and resources from various stakeholders of the projects, and if feasible, in the form of debt from banks/multi-lateral agencies/financial Institutions as debt funding.

(c) All the other State Governments have been requested to conclude the signing of MoUs in a time bound manner.

(d) and (e) Lanjigarh to Junagarh line is already commissioned. Survey for new line from Junagarh-Jeypore-Malkangiri-Bhadrachalam (390 km.) has been taken up which covers Junagarh-Jeypore. Survey for a new line from Kantabanji-Rajkhariar-Ampani-Navarangpur-Jeypore (220 km.) has also been taken up. Kesinga and Bhawanipatna are already connected by a rail line *via* Lanjigarh.

Slow pace of works under North-Eastern Railway

424. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALLYAWI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that work progresses at a slow pace under North-Eastern Railway;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this zone has been neglected and is not on priority of the Railway Board; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to make this zone a vibrant one and to complete the pending works and projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Sonnagar-Dankuni section of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor

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

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that despite passage of several years, the Sonnagar-Dankuni section of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) has not been completed, leading to the incompleteness of the EDFC and severely hampering growth prospects in West Bengal;

(b) the State-wise details of progress of EDFC, including Sonnagar-Dankuni section, along with issues faced and the expected deadline for its completion; and

(c) the details of funding pattern for EDFC project, including loan component received from World Bank and expenditure incurred till date, year-wise, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Implementation of the Sonnagar-Dankuni section of

Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) project has been delayed due to a number of factors including delay in land acquisition and alignment finalisation in Sonnagar-Gomoh section. However, it does not affect the commissioning or operation of section of EDFC from Sonnagar to Ludhiana.

(b) The project is not monitored State-wise, but Section-wise. The status is as under:

Sl. No.	Section	Status
1.	Ludhiana-Khurja (402 km.)	Target date of commissioning—December, 2019.
2.	Khurja-Dadri (43 km.)	Target date of commissioning—June, 2019.
3.	Khurja-Sonnagar (469 km.)	Target date of commissioning for different sections are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Khurja-Bhaupur—March, 2018 (ii) Bhaupur-Mughalsarai—December, 2018 (iii) Mughalsarai-Durgawati—December, 2017 (iv) Durgawati-Sasaram—June, 2016 (v) Sasaram-Sonnagar—December, 2018
4.	Sonnagar-Dankuni (538 km.)	This section is identified for implementation through Public Private Partnership (PPP) route in two phases—Dankuni-Gomoh and Gomoh-Sonnagar. Bids for the works are expected to be invited in December, 2016 based on the progress achieved in land acquisition. The expected period of completion is 5 (five) years from the date of appointment of concessionaire.

(c) EDFC is funded through a combination of Gross Budgetary Support (GBS), debt from World Bank and Public Private Partnership (PPP). The commitment of World Bank loan is for US \$ 2725 Million (₹ 16812 crore). As on 31.01.2016, ₹ 921.49 crore have been received as loan from World Bank. State-wise expenditure details are not maintained.

Year-wise expenditure on Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor project till 31.12.2015 is given as under:

Year	Amount (₹ in crore)	Year	Amount (₹ in crore)
2006-07	0.35	2011-12	1618.87
2007-08	3.49	2012-13	1287.35
2008-09	82.40	2013-14	721.90
2009-10	130.63	2014-15	1103.47
2010-11	237.27	2015-16	1532.26
(up to Dec., 2015)			
TOTAL			6717.99

Cost sharing of railway projects by Government of Maharashtra

426. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has agreed to share financial burden of certain railway projects in the State, if so, project-wise details of such projects; and

(b) whether Railways have decided to complete these on priority basis, if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Three New Line projects falling partly or fully in the State of Maharashtra, *viz.* Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli-Vajinath (250 km.), Wardha-Nanded *via* Yavatmal-Pusood (270 km.) and Wadsa-Gadchiroli (50 km.) have been taken up on cost sharing basis with the Government of Maharashtra. In addition, Nagpur-Nagbhir Gauge Conversion project (106 km.) and Karad-Chiplun New Line project (112 km.) have also been included in the Budget in 2013-14 and 2015-16 respectively on cost sharing basis with the Government of Maharashtra subject to requisite approvals.

The projects where State Governments have agreed to share the cost are given due importance keeping in view the stage of progress of various projects, the overall availability of funds, capacity enhancement works etc. However, completion of projects including those with cost sharing by State Governments depends on a number of other factors *viz.* land acquisition, forestry clearances, law and order conditions etc. in addition to availability of funds. Many of these factors are beyond the control of Railways.

Semi high-speed train services in South India

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

(a) whether Government has decided to introduce semi high-speed train services between various cities in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any routes are being considered in Southern India covering cities of Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Chennai, Bengaluru, Coimbatore etc., the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) It has been decided to introduce passenger train services at 160 kmph on New Delhi–Agra Section.

(b) The routes in Southern India identified for study of feasibility for upgrading speeds to 160 kmph are Nagpur–Secunderabad, Chennai–Hyderabad and Mysore–Bengaluru–Chennai.

Safety audit to prevent accidents

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

(a) whether safety audits at all levels are being conducted in Railways with a view to prevent rising number of accidents, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any road-map and comprehensive safety plan is prepared to improve supervision, inspection, monitoring and periodical review of safety measures;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the funds needed for the purpose; and

(d) whether cheaper technology methods to ensure safety are being explored, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Two types of Safety Audits are being conducted by Railways regularly, *viz.*:

(i) Bi-monthly safety audit by the individual Zonal Railway of its own divisions; and

(ii) An inter-railway safety audit/inspection conducted twice a year in blocks of January to June and July to December by a multi-disciplinary team of Railway officers.

(b) and (c) Review of Safety measures in connection with train operations is an ongoing process. The Safety Organisation has been structured as a 3-tier organisation *i.e.* Ministry of Railways, Zonal Railways and Divisional level. All Railways' assets have a codified periodic schedule of inspections and safety checks to be done by different level of Railway officials-starting from supervisors to the highest level of officers. There is periodic review and supervision through safety seminars, meetings, inspections and audits at each level on all aspects of train operation. The outcome is analysed by the Railway Board and instructions as and when necessary are given.

The necessary cost of the various safety plans and periodic review is part and parcel of Railway activity.

(d) The research wing of Ministry *viz.* RDSO continuously explores/strives for development/adoption of newer, better and cheaper technology as is appropriate to Railways needs.

Misuse of senior citizen concession and quota

429. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to prevent the misuse of senior citizen 'concession' as well as senior citizen 'quota';

(b) whether any changes have been introduced in the current policy of railway travel concessions recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) With a view to reduce misuse of both senior citizen concession as well as senior citizen quota by false declaration of age, a provision has been made that if any such passenger without being a senior citizen is found travelling in the train he/she will be treated as travelling without ticket and charged accordingly. Similarly, the passenger found misusing senior citizen concession alone will be required to pay difference of fare and penalty.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Paperless unreserved and platform tickets

430. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have launched facilities for booking of paperless unreserved tickets as well as platform tickets to cut down queues at station counters; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are considering to launch more IT enabled passenger services, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) With a view to cut down queues at counters at Railway stations and to facilitate convenient booking of tickets by passengers, Indian Railways have introduced the facility of paperless unreserved tickets through mobile phone over suburban sections of Central, Western, Southern, Northern (New Delhi-Palwal section), Eastern and South Central Railways. Further, a pilot project of booking of platform tickets through mobile phones has also been introduced on some stations of these Zonal Railways.

Leveraging new technologies to facilitate passengers is a continuous and ongoing process.

Pending railway projects in Bihar

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

(a) whether it is a fact that several railway projects in Bihar have been pending for a long time, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for broad gauge line from Sakri Station *via* Nirmali *via* Kosi Mahasetu to Bhaptiyahi, inaugurated by the former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has still been lying incomplete for several years;

(c) whether requisite funds have not been allocated or Government is ignoring it; and

(d) by when train services will be made operational on Kosi Mahasetu, the details thereof including time-limit therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) At present Railways have taken up 49 major projects

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

comprising 34 New Lines, nine Doublings and six Gauge Conversions falling fully/partly in Bihar at an anticipated cost of ₹ 50701 crore. An expenditure of ₹ 11531 crore has been incurred till March' 2015. Railways have a huge throwforward and limited resource availability for completion of new line projects. Hence a focussed approach has been adopted for completing these projects by prioritising.

(b) to (d) The Sakri-Laukaha Bazar-Nirmali and Saharsa-Forbesganj (206km) Gauge Conversion project was included in the year 2003-04 at an anticipated cost of ₹ 356 crore. As per the agreement with Ministry of Defence (MoD), this project was to be funded by MoD and accordingly the project has been progressing as per the funds released by them. Now to fast track this project, Ministry of Railways have decided to fund it through its own sources.

Construction of bridge over Kosi is already completed. However, it can be commissioned for railway traffic only after completion of Sakri-Nirmali and Saharsa-Forbesganj Gauge Conversion project. No time frame has been fixed for commissioning of train services on this section.

Train service from Samastipur to New Delhi

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Samastipur is a divisional office under Hazipur zone in Bihar but even being a major junction of Northern India, it has not been provided with a superfast train for New Delhi, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has formulated a plan to run a new train from Samastipur to New Delhi, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Samastipur is a division under East Central Railway zone having its head-quarters at Hajipur. At present, Samastipur is connected to Delhi by 13 pairs of Express trains including the services like Rajdhani Express and Garib Rath Express.

(b) At present, there is no proposal to run a new train from Samastipur to New Delhi. However, introduction of train services is an ongoing process on Indian Railways keeping in view traffic demand, operational feasibility, availability of resources etc.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Norms for expiry of railway coaches

433. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any norms exist regarding expiry of railway coaches used in long distance trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. However, passenger coaches are withdrawn from service after completion of their permitted service life irrespective of their use in different types of trains.

(b) Coaches are condemned on age-cum-condition basis after attaining their codal life which is generally 25 years for conventional type Integral Coach Factory (ICF) design coaches, 30 years for Stainless Steel Bodied coaches and 35 years for Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) design coaches.

Refreshment and toilet breaks for locomotive drivers

434. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any demand from locomotive drivers for refreshment and toilet breaks;

(b) whether their demands have not been accepted by Railway Board;

(c) whether Indian Railway Loco Running Men's Organization has now approached the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on the issue;

(d) whether NHRC has given any observation in the matter;

(e) whether Metro drivers get a break of 40 minutes after every three hours' duty; and

(f) if so, whether the locomotive drivers could be brought at par with the Metro drivers in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) On the instructions of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), a Committee comprising of Director level officers was formed to look into the grievances

of Locomotive Drivers. The Committee had deliberated that in case of freight and passenger trains, breaks are already inbuilt as there are a number of halts, which allows the crew to take refreshments as also “call of nature”. The Committee’s deliberation was accepted by Railway Board and the same was conveyed to the NHRC also.

(e) No, Sir. The working of crew in Metro Railway, Kolkata is as per the crew links prepared according to Hours of Employment Rules, 2005 which has the provision for split duty with break of 30 minutes or more between two spells of duty as per the operational requirements. These Rules, however, do not provide breaks of 40 minutes after 3 hours duty for all trips.

(f) Loco Pilots and Motormen of Kolkata Metro are governed by same Hours of Employment Rules.

Setting up of new medical college at Ahmedabad

435. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways plan to set up a new medical college at Ahmedabad as announced by the then Minister of Railways in her Budget speech in 2009;

(b) if so, by when the new medical college, attached to the existing railway hospital, is likely to be set up;

(c) the number of undergraduate students proposed to be admitted in the initial stage; and

(d) whether the proposed medical college would give admissions as per admission rules of the State Government or as per the new policy under consideration of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) The then Hon’ble Minister of Railways during her Budget speech 2009-10 had announced that Medical colleges were planned to be established attached to existing railway hospitals through Public Private Partnership (PPP), to give higher education facilities to new generation of railway children at 18 locations including Ahmedabad. As per Medical Council of India rules, Public Private Partnership (PPP) with Government (Railway) hospital is not permitted. This Ministry have, therefore, dropped the proposal of setting up of Railway Medical Colleges.

Representation for new railway projects

436. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received representation from Member of Parliament for gauge conversion, new and doubling of railway lines including doubling of railway line between Ahmedabad and Ajmer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the work is likely to start along with the probable time-frame for completion of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Requests from public representatives including Hon'ble MPs for new lines, gauge conversion and doubling, both formal as well as informal, are received by Railways at various levels *i.e.* Railway Board, Zonal Railways and Divisional Headquarters, etc. As receipt of such requests/suggestions is a continuous and dynamic process, centralized compendium of such requests is not maintained.

As regards doubling Ahmedabad-Ajmer Railway line, the same has been sanctioned in phases. Out of these, doubling in Keshavganj-Swaroopganj (27 Km) section has been commissioned and works in all the remaining sections taken up. However, completion of projects depends on several factors like land acquisition, various statutory, shifting of services, construction of ROBs/RUBs, etc. in addition to availability of funds. As many of these factors are beyond the control of Railways, no time frame has been fixed for their completion.

Proposed railway projects in Gujarat

437. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Gujarat has proposed railway projects for new railway lines, doubling of tracks, gauge conversion, new trains and extension of railway stations etc. for completion in a stipulated time;

(b) whether these proposals have been forwarded to the Ministry for consideration; and

(c) the present status of the railway projects undertaken/to be undertaken in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Requests for new lines, gauge conversion and doubling, both formal as well as informal, are received by Railways at various levels i.e. Railway Board, Zonal Railways and Divisional Headquarters, etc. As receipt of such requests/suggestions is a continuous and dynamic process, centralized compendium of such requests is not maintained. However, such demands from State Government public representatives, etc. form an important basis for sanction of surveys and new projects.

Two new lines, eight gauge conversion and nine doubling projects covering a length of 363 km., 1467 km and 984 km and costing ₹ 3766 crore, ₹ 6510 crore and ₹ 6477 crore respectively falling fully/partly in the State of Gujarat have been sanctioned. On these projects, an expenditure of ₹ 3688 crore has been incurred upto March, 2015, with an outlay of ₹ 3078 crore for the year 2015-16.

Completion of these projects are dependent upon many factors such as land acquisition, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life clearances, shifting of services, cutting of trees, construction of road over bridges and road under bridges by road maintaining agencies, apart from availability of adequate funds. Since many of these factors are beyond the control of Ministry of Railways, timelines for completion of all the projects are not feasible to be fixed.

Deployment of modern/luxury coaches in important trains

438. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have got the first model rake of luxury 'Make in India' coaches recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether such new modern/luxury coaches would be deployed in the existing important trains under various zonal railways in the country;

(c) if so, the details of trains on which these new modern coaches would be provided; and

(d) by when these trains will get such new coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) First model rake was despatched recently by Carriage Rehabilitation Workshop (CRWS), Bhopal and the same have been inducted into Mahamana Express running between New Delhi & Varanasi. Additional amenities and pleasing colour scheme has been provided for a more delightful experience by the passengers of Air-conditioned as well as non Air-conditioned classes.

(b) to (d) Zone-wise deployment of new coaches/refurbished coaches is generally done both for new trains as well as for existing trains depending on operational feasibility, maintenance practices and passenger demand.

Refurbished/model rake coaches are inducted into trains as and when these are despatched from nominated Workshops/Production Units, which in turn depends upon availability of requisite material and despatch priorities of various other types of coaches.

Problems of women employees

439. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 92 women employees of IRCTC lost their job for going to toilet to attend the call of nature, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that some officers had dictated the women employees not to attend the call of nature, if so, the action Government has taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. These 92 personnel (35 males and 57 females) were not the employees of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) but were engaged at the call centre of Internet Ticketing Centre through manpower service provider M/s JMD Consultants. At that point of time, the operation of call centre was being managed by IRCTC. The call centre activities have since been handed over to a third party and IRCTC is not managing the call centre. These personnel were, therefore, withdrawn by the concerned manpower service provider.

Maintenance and improvement of toilets in trains

†440. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that toilets in all types of trains remain in a filthy state;

(b) whether it is also a fact that toilets of even Rajdhani Express also remain in a filthy state; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government for maintenance and improvement of toilets in trains, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Does not arise. However, coach toilets of all type of trains including Rajdhani Express are being maintained during their prescribed maintenance schedule of coaches in coaching depots. Besides, Schemes viz. On Board Housekeeping Services (OBHS), Clean Train Stations (CTS) and Mechanised Coach Cleaning in coaching depots have also been launched for ensuring cleanliness in trains including toilets.

Unmanned level crossings

†441. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 12582 unmanned level crossings in the country at present;

(b) the number of unmanned level crossings proposed to be closed by Government in the financial year 2016-17 and 2017-18, respectively; and

(c) the number of unmanned level crossings proposed to be closed would be replaced by bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) There are 10,440 unmanned level crossings in the country as on 01.04.2015.

(b) and (c) It is the endeavor of Ministry of Railways to eliminate all unmanned level crossings, in a phased manner, by either of the following:

- **Closure** - Closing unmanned level crossings having NIL/negligible Train Vehicle Unit (TVU).
- **Merger** - Merger of unmanned level crossing to nearby manned/unmanned level crossing or subway/Road Under Bridge (RUB)/Road Over Bridge (ROB) by construction of diversion road.
- Provision of Subways/RUBs.
- **Manning** - Phased manning of unmanned level crossings which cannot be eliminated by above means.

2,867 unmanned level crossings have been identified for their elimination by construction of Subways/RUBs.

Funds for elimination of level crossings come from Central Road Fund (CRF) as a percentage of cess collected on Petrol and Diesel by Ministry of Finance. The Average Annual Allocation to Railways from Central Road Fund is approximately ₹ 1,100 crore against throwforward of ₹ 31,700 crore. In view of this, no target has been fixed for 2016-17 and 2017-18.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Working expenses of Railways

442. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that working expenses of Railways are going up year after year;

(b) if so, the rate of increase thereof; and

(c) the percentage of such expenses in Railways' earnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The rate of increase of working expenses for the last three years is as under:

Year	Amount (₹ in crore)	% age increase over previous year
2012-2013	111744.21	13.11%
2013-2014	130885.03	17.13%
2014-2015	143331.11	9.51%

(c) The percentage of working expenses to total gross earnings (*i.e.* operating ratio) for the last three years is as under:

Year	% age
2012-2013	90.19%
2013-2014	93.60%
2014-2015	91.25%

Decline in traffic and earnings of Railways

443. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the traffic and earnings of Railways are declining continuously every year;

(b) if so, the figures in this regard for the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for such decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) There is no decline in freight traffic or earnings. As for passenger

traffic, the number of passengers has decreased, but earnings have increased. The figures for the last three years are given below:-

Year	Earnings (₹ in crore)	Passengers (Million)
2012-2013	31323	8421
2013-2014	36532	8397
2014-2015	42190	8224

(c) 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.

Arrangements for Simhashta Kumbh Mela

†444. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of various special arrangements made for trains and extension of passenger facilities in addition to the existing railway services available under Western Railway, in view of the forthcoming Simhashta Kumbh Mela at Ujjain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): To cater to the expected influx of pilgrims during Simhashta Kumbh Mela at Ujjain, Indian Railways has planned to run special trains including DEMU/MEMU, augmentation of load of existing trains and, also, providing of temporary stoppage on Mail/Express trains to the extent justified and feasible.

In view of the importance and based upon the anticipated volume and pattern of rail traffic during the forthcoming Kumbh Mela in 2016, the following passenger amenities at Ujjain Railway Station and adjoining satellite stations such as Nagda, Vikramnagar, Shipra Bridge, Fatehabad, Naikheri, Chintaman Ganesh, Pingleshwar, Indore, Ratlam, Pawasa, Mohanpura etc. have been sanctioned at various stations.

The details of works completed/works taken up at Ujjain and adjoining stations viz. Vikramnagar, Pawasa, Mohanpura, Nagda, Indore, Ratlam, Naikheri, Pingleshwar etc. are as under:

1. Ujjain Railway Station

(i) The following works have been completed:

- Improvement to shelter at Platform No.2/3, 4/5 & 6/7

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- Raising of platform Nos.1, 2/3 & 4/5
- Extension of platform shelter at Platform No.1, 4/5 & 8
- Improvement to circulating area
- Development of sitting space with shed at Nagda end on platform No.1
- Additional Foot Over Bridge (FOB) at Bhopal end
- Extension of existing FOB at Nagda end
- Additional entry and development of circulating area at Neel Ganga Colony side

(ii) The following works have been taken up:

- Provision of out to out FOB
- Augmentation of drinking water arrangements
- Provision of Multiline train arrival/departure display board

2. Vikram Nagar Railway Station

The following works have been completed:

- Augmentation of drinking water arrangements and toilet facilities
- Improvement to circulating area

3. Works for Provision of temporary halt stations at Pawasa and Mohanpura have been taken up.

The following works have been completed at Pawasa:

- Development of rail level platform
- Provision of toilet facility

Work of provision of drinking water facility at Pawasa has been taken up.

The following works have been completed at Mohanpura:

- Development of rail level platform
- Provision of drinking water and toilet facilities

4. Nagda Railway Station

The following works have been taken up:

- Replacement of interconnecting FOB at Kota end
- Provision of Multiline train arrival/departure display board
- Raising of platform No.4/5 from medium level to high level
- Extension of covered shed on Platform No.4/5.

5. Indore Railway Station

The following work has been taken up:

- Provision of Multiline train arrival/departure display board

6. Ratlam Railway Station

(i) The following work has been taken up:

- Extension of FOB
- Augmentation of drinking water facility

In addition, provision of additional facilities namely drinking water taps and toilets has been completed at Naikheri and Pingleshwar stations.

Vacant posts related to safety

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of safety related posts are lying vacant;

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

(c) by when Railways plan to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The total number of vacancies in safety category posts in Group 'C' and erstwhile Group 'D' in Zonal Railways as on 01.04.2015 (Provisional) is as under:-

Railway	Vacancy
Central	10570
East Coast	7138
East Central	10529
Eastern	9980
North Central	7228
North Eastern	4049
Northeast Frontier	3511
Northern	13633
North Western	4976
South Central	9702
South East Central	5473

Railway	Vacancy
South Eastern	9755
Southern	4337
South Western	2773
West Central	7129
Western	13418
TOTAL	124201

The Region-wise details are not maintained.

(c) Filling up of vacancies is a continuous process through various modes of intake. There is always a time lag between occurrence of vacancies and processing the same for filling up, which involves notification of vacancies, holding examinations, finalization of select panels and issue of appointment letters.

Introduction of double decker trains in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

446. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering introduction of double decker trains on Vijaywada-Guntur-Narasaraopet and Vijaywada-Rajahmundry-Vizag sections in Andhra Pradesh and Hyderabad-Warangal and Ramagundam-Kazipet-Warangal sections in Telangana; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal for introduction of Double Decker trains on Vijaywada-Guntur-Narasaraopet and Vijaywada-Rajamundry-Vizag sections in Andhra Pradesh and Hyderabad-Warangal and Ramagundam-Kazipet-Warangal sections in Telangana due to operational and resource constraints. However, introduction of new trains including Double Decker trains is an ongoing process over Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources, etc.

Executive lounges at railway stations

447. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Northern Railway has set up executive lounges at New Delhi Railway station, providing value added services to passengers, if so, the complete details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has any plans to set up similar lounges at capital cities of Mumbai and Ahmedabad, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) An Executive Lounge with value added services at a charge, has been set up at New Delhi railway station through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). Services offered are wifi, soft beverages, meals, recliners, Newspaper and magazines, train information display and announcement, TV, wash and change, toilets and urinal, computer with internet and printing/scanning facilities etc.

(b) IRCTC has been entrusted the work of setting up Executive Lounges at 48 other locations, including Mumbai Central, Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Bandra Terminus and Ahmedabad railway stations.

Multiple security agencies for security to Railways

448. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that involvement of multiple security agencies like GRP, RPF, State police, etc. in providing security to Railways causes a lot of discomfort to passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for involvement of multiple security agencies for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure seamless policing and security to Railways network by giving adequate and absolute powers to RPF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police (GRP), a separate wing of State Police responsible for prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of law and order over Railways. Besides sharing 50% cost on GRP, Railways, through the Railway Protection Force (RPF), are also supplementing efforts of States for strengthening of security in station premises and trains. In addition, concerned District Police is responsible for security of railway tracks, bridges and tunnels. As a result of the presently prevailing three tier security system of RPF, GRP and District Police over Indian Railways, issues concerning coordination among these agencies may sometime occur, which may cause discomfort to passengers, especially with regard to registration of cases.

(c) To ensure effective and seamless passenger security over Indian Railways, a proposal for amendment in the RPF Act, 1957 has been moved by the Ministry of Railways with the concurrence and approval of the Ministries of Law and Justice and Home Affairs to empower RPF to register and investigate passenger related criminal offences in passenger area. Comments of States have been solicited on the proposed amendments in the RPF Act. Comments have so far been received from 25 States. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs has recently conveyed certain observations on the above proposal. Matter is under consideration in the Ministry of Railways.

Semi high-speed train services

449. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to introduce semi high-speed train services between various cities in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any routes are being considered in the Delhi-Kalka and Delhi-Amritsar sectors, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) It has been decided to introduce Semi-High Speed train services on 160 kmph on New Delhi-Agra Corridor.

(b) An agreement has been signed with French Railways (SNCF) on 50:50 percent cost sharing basis to carry out feasibility study for upgrading speeds to 200 kmph on Delhi-Chandigarh Section of the Delhi-Kalka Sector.

Wi-Fi facility at railway stations

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had promised to provide Wi-Fi facility at several important railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, names of the stations where this facility has been made available and by when this facility will be made available at remaining railway stations; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Initially, the Wi-Fi services have been proposed to be provided at 400 railway stations covering almost all 'A1' and 'A' category stations,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

after which the facility is proposed to be provided at remaining 'A' and 'B' category stations.

Presently, Wi-Fi facility is available at 12 railway stations *viz.* Bengaluru, New Delhi, Chennai, CST Mumbai, Mumbai Central, Ahmedabad, Agra Cantt., Secunderabad, Varanasi, Howrah, Madgaon and Ghazipur.

Wi-Fi facility is proposed to be provided at 709 major railway stations, in A1, A and B category. The number-wise break up of the 709 stations *i.e.* A1-75, A-332 and B-302.

(c) Does not arise.

Food/refreshment served on premium trains

451. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether considering the widespread complaints received over the quality of food served on-board, Railways are considering delinking the cost of the food/refreshment served on-board premium trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi etc. thereby making travel by them cheaper;

(b) whether passengers on these premium trains will now have the option to carry their own food or to order the same from pantry; and

(c) whether Railways propose to engage IRCTC to run pantry services aboard premium trains, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No instructions have been issued regarding delinking the cost of the food/refreshment served on board of premium trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi etc. However, in order to widen the range of food options available to passengers and to mitigate passenger's complaint in regard to catering services, E-catering service has been introduced, through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) in trains without pantry car or Train Side Vending as well as on 45 designated stations from where passengers of originating/passing trains can avail of this facility. IRCTC has tied up with renowned, reputed and established brands in the field of catering services so that the passengers can order good quality and hygienic food of their choice on payment basis.

(c) A Committee has been set up to examine the entire gamut of issues relating to catering services on Indian Railways.

Hoisting national flag on train engines

452. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had announced during Budget Session for hoisting/installation of Indian national flag Tricolor on the train engines running in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has issued instructions to authorities for hoisting/installation of the Tricolor on the train engines;

(c) how many train engines have Tricolor hoisted/installed on them so far; and

(d) the time-frame to hoist/install the Tricolor on all train engines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) As per provisions of the Flag Code of India, when the President travels by special train within the country, the National Flag should be flown from the driver's cab on the side facing the platform of the station from where the train departs. The Flag should be flown only when the special train is stationary or when coming into the station where it is going to halt. No instructions have been issued for hoisting/installation of the Tricolor on train engines.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Freight train operator schemes

453. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have unveiled a policy to implement Dedicated Freight Corridor Scheme (DFCS) and Special Freight Train Operator Scheme (SFTO);

(b) if so, details thereof and the performance details under them since their inception;

(c) the list of container train operators given license to operate under these schemes and their performance in container traffic;

(d) whether Governments' innovative Automobile Freight Train Operator Scheme, to increase Railways' market share in transportation of automobile, has attracted adequate investments from private players; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and investments made by automobile companies under this scheme since introduction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Presently two Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC), one on the

Western route (Jawaharlal Nehru Port to Dadri) and another on the Eastern route (Ludhiana to Dankuni), have been taken up for implementation.

To increase rail share of the non-traditional commodities like molasses, fly ash, edible oil, caustic soda, chemical, petrochemicals, alumina and bulk cement, Special Freight Train Operator (SFTO) Scheme was launched in the year 2010 and amended in the years 2013 and 2014.

M/s. Fourcee Infrastructure Equipment Private Limited and M/s. Jindal Steel and Power Limited have been registered under SFTO Scheme. Three rakes have been inducted by M/s. Jindal Steel Power Limited.

Container Train Operators cannot operate under SFTO Scheme. However, 17 container train operators including CONCOR have been licensed for container operation.

Container rail traffic has grown at an average rate of 12.7% per annum from 2007-2008 to 2014-2015.

(d) and (e) Two firms viz. M/s Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. and M/s. APL Logistics Vascor Automotive Pvt. Ltd. have registered under the Automobile Freight Train Operator (AFTO) Scheme and have been given approval for procurement of six rakes each of Automobile carrier wagons (BCACBM) involving an investment of ₹ 80 crores approximately. So far, three rakes procured by M/s Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. and five rakes by M/s. APL Logistics Vascor Automotive Pvt. Ltd. have been put up to use on Indian Railways system.

Projects under PPP mode in Andhra Pradesh

454. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of each of the project taken up under PPP mode in Andhra Pradesh during last five years and the current year;

(b) the status of each of the project; and

(c) by when all the projects are likely to be completed and what would be the formula for revenue sharing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) In Andhra Pradesh, only Obulavaripalle- Krishnapatnam New line project has been taken up under Joint Venture model during last five years.

(b) and (c) Phase-I of the project (Venkatchalam- Krishnapatnam) was completed in June, 2009. Target for completion of Phase-II of the project (Obulavaripalle-Venkatchalam) is December 2018. The Joint Venture Company gets apportioned revenue of freight on distance basis.

Concession in railway fare

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

(a) the category-wise details of the persons provided concession in railway fare, so far;

(b) the details of the amount received by Railways after withdrawing the concession to railway passengers in different categories;

(c) whether Railways propose to restore the concession to railway passengers under special/odd conditions in future; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Indian Railways extend travel concessions in various classes of travel to more than 50 categories of travellers, such as patients, students, senior citizens, certain categories of disabled persons, doctors, artists, sports-persons, Press-correspondents, Kisans and others. The element of concession ranges from 10% to 100%. The details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) to (d) At present, there is no proposal to withdraw all concessions being given to various categories of passengers.

Statement

Details of major concessions granted to different categories of persons on Indian Railways along with class and element of concession

Sl.No.	Category of Persons	Percentage of concession*
I. Disabled Passengers		
1.	Orthopaedically Handicapped/ Paraplegic persons who cannot travel without escort—for any purpose.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 75% in second, sleeper, First, AC-3 tier, AC Chair Car. ● 50% in First AC and AC-2 tier.
2.	Mentally retarded persons who cannot travel without escort—for any purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 25% in AC-3 tier and AC Chair Car of Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains. ● 50% in Monthly season tickets and Quarterly season tickets.
3.	Blind persons travelling alone or with an escort—for any purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One escort is also eligible for same element of concession.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl.No.	Category of Persons	Percentage of concession*
4.	Deaf and Dumb persons (both afflictions together in the same person) travelling alone or with an escort-for any purpose.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% in 2nd, SL and 1st Class • 50% in Monthly season tickets and Quarterly season tickets. • One escort is also eligible for same element of concession
II. Patients		
5.	Cancer patients travelling alone or with an escort for treatment/periodic check-up.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% in second, First class and AC Chair Car. • 100% in Sleeper and AC-3tier. • 50% in First AC and AC-2tier. • One escort eligible for same element of concession (except in sleeper and AC-3 tier where escort gets 75%)
6.	Thalassemia patients travelling alone or with escort for treatment/periodic check-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% in second, Sleeper, First class, AC-3 tier and AC Chair Car.
7.	Heart patients travelling alone or with an escort for heart surgery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% in First AC and AC-2 tier. • One escort is also eligible for same element of concession.
8.	Kidney patients travelling alone or with an escort for kidney transplant Operation/Dialysis	
9.	Haemophilia Patients—severe and moderate form of disease-travelling alone or with an escort for treatment/periodical check up.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% in second, Sleeper, First class, AC-3 tier and AC Chair Car. • One escort is also eligible for same element of concession.
10.	T.B./Lupas Valgaris patients travelling alone or with an escort for treatment/periodical check-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% in second, Sleeper and First class. • One escort is also eligible for same element of concession
11.	Non-infectious Leprosy patients-for treatment/periodical check-up.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% in second, Sleeper and First class. • One escort is also eligible for same element of concession
12.	AIDS patients-for treatment/check-up at nominated ART Centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% in Second Class.
13.	Ostomy patients-travelling for any purpose.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% in Monthly season tickets and Quarterly season tickets.

Sl.No.	Category of Persons	Percentage of concession*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One escort is also eligible for same element of concession.
14.	Sickle cell Anaemia-for treatment/ periodical check-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% In Sleeper, AC Chair Car, AC 3-tier and AC 2-tier classes.
15.	Aplastic Anaemia-for treatment/ periodical check-up.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% In Sleeper, AC Chair Car, AC 3-tier and AC 2-tier classes.

III. Senior Citizens

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|-----|---|--|
| 16. | Men-60 years and above. Women-58 years and above. travelling for any purpose. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40% in all classes 50% in all classes Also in Rajdhani/Shatabdi/ Duronto trains. |
|-----|---|--|

IV. Awardees

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|-----|--|--|
| 17. | Recipients of age 60 years and above, of:-
(i) President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service,
(ii) Indian Police Award for Meritorious service.
- travelling for any purpose | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% for men 60% for women In all classes and also in Rajdhani/ Shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi trains. |
| 18. | Shram Awardees-Industrial Workers awarded the Prime Minister's Shram Award for Productivity and Innovation-travelling for any purpose. | 75% in Second and Sleeper classes. |
| 19. | National Awardee Teachers-honoured with National Award by the President of India for exemplary service in the field of education-travelling for any purpose. | 50% in Second and Sleeper classes. |
| 20. | Either of parents accompanying the Child Recipients of National Bravery Award-travelling for any purpose. | 50% in Second and Sleeper classes |

V. War Widows

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|-----|--|-----------------------------------|
| 21. | War Widows-travelling for any purpose. | 75% in Second and Sleeper classes |
| 22. | Widows of I.P.K.F. Personnel killed in action in Sri Lanka - travelling for any purpose. | 75% in Second and Sleeper classes |

Sl.No.	Category of Persons	Percentage of concession*
23.	Widows of Policemen and Paramilitary personnel killed in action against Terrorists and Extremists-travelling for any purpose.	75% in Second and Sleeper classes
24.	Widows of defence personnel killed in action against terrorists and extremists-travelling for any purpose.	75% in Second and Sleeper classes
25.	Widows of Martyrs of Operation Vijay in Kargil in 1999-travelling for any purpose.	75% in Second and Sleeper classes

VI. Students

26.	Students going to hometown and educational tours -General Category- -SC/ST Category- -Girls upto Graduation Boys upto 12th standard (including students of Madrasa) between home and school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 50% in Second and Sleeper classes. ● 50% in Monthly season tickets and Quarterly season tickets. ● 75% in Second and Sleeper classes. ● 75% in Monthly season tickets and Quarterly season tickets. Free second class Monthly season tickets
27.	Students of Government schools in rural areas-for study tour-once a year.	75% in second class
28.	Entrance exam-Girls of Government schools in rural areas-for national level for medical, engineering, etc. entrance exam.	75% in second class
29.	Concession to students appearing in main written examination conducted by UPSC and Central Staff Selection Commissions.	50% in second class
30.	Foreign students studying in India-travelling to attend camps/seminars organised by Government of India and also visit to places of historical and other importance during vacations.	50% in Second and Sleeper classes
31.	Research scholars upto the age of 35 years-for journeys in connection with research work.	50% in Second and Sleeper classes

Sl.No.	Category of Persons	Percentage of concession*
32.	Students and non-students participating in Work Camps	25% in Second and Sleeper classes
33.	Cadets and Marine Engineers apprentices undergoing Navigational/Engineering training for Mercantile Marine-for travel between home and training ship.	50% in Second and Sleeper classes

VII. Youths

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| 34. | Youths attending National Integration Camps of:-
(a) National Youth Project
(b) Manav Uththan Sewa Samiti | 50% in Second and Sleeper classes
40% in Second and Sleeper classes |
| 35. | Unemployed youths:-
(i) to attend interview for job Statutory Bodies, Municipal Corporation, Government Under-taking, University or Public Sector Body.
(ii) to attend interviews for jobs in Central and State Government. | 50% in Second and Sleeper classes
100% in second class
50% in Sleeper class |
| 36. | Bharat Scouts and Guides-for scouting duty. | 50% in Second and Sleeper classes |

VIII. Kisans

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| 37. | Kisans and Industrial Labourers-for visit to agricultural/industrial exhibitions. | 25% in Second and Sleeper classes |
| 38. | Kisans travelling by Government sponsored Special trains | 33% in Second and Sleeper classes |
| 39. | Kisans and Milk Producers-visit to National level Institutes for learning/ Training | 50% in Second and Sleeper classes |
| 40. | Delegates for attending Annual Conferences of:
(i) Bharat Krishak Samaj and
(ii) Sarvodaya Samaj, Wardha. | 50% in Second and Sleeper classes |

IX. Artists and Sportspersons

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| 41. | Artistes-for performance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 75% in Second and Sleeper Class. ● 50% in First, AC Chair Car, AC-3tier and AC-2tier. |
|-----|---------------------------|--|

Sl.No.	Category of Persons	Percentage of concession*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% in Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi AC Chair Car, AC-3tier and AC-2tier.
42.	Film technicians-travelling for film production related work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% in Sleeper class. • 50% in First, AC Chair car, AC-3tier and AC-2tier. • In Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi also.
43.	Sportsmen participating in: (i) All India and State tournaments (ii) National tournaments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% in Second and Sleeper Class • 50% in First class • 75% in Second, Sleeper and First class. • 50% in First class
44.	Persons taking part in Mountaineering Expeditions organised by IMF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% in Second and Sleeper Class • 50% in First class
45.	Press Correspondents accredited to Headquarters of Central and State Governments/Union Territories/Districts-for press work. Spouse/ompanion/dependent children (upto 18 yrs)	50% in all classes of Mail/Express/Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi trains. 50% concession twice every financial year.

X. Medical Professionals

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| 46. | Doctors–Allopathic-travelling for any purpose. | 10% in all classes and also in Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi trains. |
| 47. | Nurses and Midwives-for leave and duty. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% in Second and Sleeper Class |

XI. Others (Conference, Camps, Tours etc)

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| 48. | Delegates for attending Annual Conferences of certain All India bodies of social/cultural/educational importance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% in Second and Sleeper Class |
| 49. | Bharat Sewa Dal, Bangalore—for attending camps/meetings/rallies/trekking programmes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% in Second and Sleeper Class |
| 50. | Volunteers of Service Civil International - for social service. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% in Second and Sleeper Class |
| 51. | Teachers of Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools-for educational tours. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% in Second and Sleeper Class |

Sl.No.	Category of Persons	Percentage of concession*
52.	Members of St. John Ambulance Brigade and Relief Welfare Ambulance Corps, Calcutta-for ambulance camps/competitions.	● 25% in Second and Sleeper Class
XII. Izzat MST		
53.	Izzat MST to persons with monthly income not exceeding ₹ 1500/-, working in unorganised sectors – for journeys upto maximum 150 Kms.	₹ 25/-

*All the concessions are applicable in Basic Mail/Express fares, unless otherwise stated.

Expenditure on salaries, allowances etc. of employees of Railways

†456. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of employees in Railways;
- (b) the total expenditure incurred on salaries, allowances and other facilities for these employees;
- (c) the total expenditure incurred on pensions; and
- (d) the amount left for development of Railways after incurring all above expenses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) As on 01.04.2015, the total number of regular employees in all Groups is 1326584 (provisional) on Indian Railways.

(b) The total expenditure incurred on salaries and allowances on Railways in the year 2014-15 is ₹ 67209.54 crore.

(c) The total expenditure incurred on pension to the employees of Railways in the year 2014-15 is ₹ 28642.08 crore.

(d) Appropriation to Railway funds for development of Railways is done from Railway surplus, which is the sum left from total receipts of the Railways after meeting total revenue expenditure including appropriation to Pension Fund and Depreciation Reserve Fund and payment of Dividend to General Revenues. The surplus generated by Indian Railways during 2014-15 is ₹ 7664.94 crore, which has been appropriated to Development Fund (₹ 1374.94 crore), Capital Fund (₹ 6233.36 crore) and Debt Service Fund (₹ 56.64 crore).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

High speed rail corporation

457. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has formed High Speed Rail Corporation of India Limited;
- (b) if so, the objectives for which it has been formed; and
- (c) the details of the projects, if any, undertaken by this Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of Ministry of Railways had formed a subsidiary named High Speed Rail Corporation of India Limited in 2013, inter alia, to undertake feasibility studies pertaining to High Speed corridors. It has awarded feasibility studies for (i) Delhi-Mumbai, (ii) Mumbai-Chennai, (iii) Delhi-Kolkata, (iv) Delhi-Chennai (v) Mumbai-Kolkata, (vi) Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridors and pre-feasibility study for Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar High Speed Rail Corridor.

Ministry of Railways have now formed National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRC) in February, 2016 to implement Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor with Japanese financial and technical assistance.

Status of new railway projects in Karnataka

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

- (a) the present status of action taken on the survey report for new railway line projects in Karnataka;
- (b) the estimated cost of the projects;
- (c) the time-frame set for completion of the said projects; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by Railways to expedite the work on the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) During last five years (from 2011-12 to 2015-16), total 19 number of surveys have been completed for new railway line projects falling partly or fully in Karnataka, out of which following new line projects have been included in Railway Budget:-

Project	Year of inclusion	Estimated cost (₹ in crore)	Status
Chickballapur-Gowribidanur (44 Km)	2013-14	368	Project included in Budget subject to requisite approvals. However, it could not be taken forward due to its unremunerative nature and huge throwforward of ongoing projects.
Gadag-Wadi (252 Km)	2013-14	2617	Final location survey completed and land acquisition papers for 161 Km stretch submitted to the State Government. So far, no land has been handed over to Railways.

(c) Completion of projects depends on a number of factors such as acquisition of land, forestry and wildlife clearances, shifting of various services, construction of Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges by road maintenance departments, apart from availability of adequate funds. Since many of these factors are beyond the control of the Ministry of Railways, therefore, it is not feasible to give time lines for completion of all the projects.

(d) Various measures taken to expedite completion of projects include substantial increase in allocation of funds, prioritisation of projects, delegation of powers at field level, inviting the State Governments to participate with Railways for resource mobilisation for projects, nomination of nodal officers for improved co-ordination with the State Governments etc.

Broad gauge connectivity to Amreli in Gujarat

459. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the updated status of action taken by Railways to provide broad gauge connectivity to Amreli in Gujarat; and

(b) whether Railways intend to convert Bilimora-Waghai narrow gauge railway line in Gujarat into broad gauge railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Surveys for gauge conversion of Khijadiya-Amreli-Visavadar-Junagarh (146 km) and Bilimora-Waghai with extension upto Manmad (254 km) have been completed. As per survey reports, the cost have been assessed as ₹ 597.70 crore and ₹ 3538.02 crore with negative rate of return of 1.51% and 2.27% respectively. These projects could not be taken forward due to their unremunerative nature and huge throwforward of ongoing projects.

Green toilets in trains and at stations

460. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to build green toilets in the running trains and on the stations/railway premises in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether this process has since been initiated on the Indian railway system, if so, the details with progress of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways are installing green toilets namely bio-toilets in passenger coaches.

However, at present, there is no proposal to install Green - toilets at the Railway stations/premises.

(b) Yes, Sir. The process has been initiated on Indian Railways. Bio-toilets, based on the indigenously developed design/technology in association with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) are being proliferated by Indian Railways. Till date, more than 29,000 bio-toilets have been installed in passenger coaches of Indian Railways.

Discontinuance of passenger trains

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to discontinue passenger trains;

(b) if so, whether Government is contemplating to provide some other mode to passengers travelling in these passenger trains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New railway lines in North Purvanchal

†462. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in north Purvanchal where new railway lines are being laid; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) by when these lines will become fully functional and the work on the same will be completed, State-wise and Zone-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Projects are not sanctioned State-wise, area-wise or region-wise. However, there are 12 new line ongoing projects covering a length of 1594 Km falling partly/fully in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The details of these projects are as under:

Sl.No.	Project Name	Length in Km.
1.	Anandnagar-Ghughli <i>via</i> Maharajganj	50
2.	Chittauni-Tumkhuhi Road	59
3.	Deoband (Muzzafar Nagar)-Roorkee	27
4.	Etawah-Mainpuri	55
5.	Faizabad-Lalganj <i>via</i> Akbarganj, Maharajganj and Raibareilly	116
6.	Hathua-Bhatni	80
7.	Kapilvastu-Basti <i>via</i> Bansi	91
8.	Lalitpur- Satna, Rewa-Singrauli and Mahoba-Khajuraho	541
9.	Mau-Ghazipur-Tarighat	51
10.	Unchhar-Amethi	66
11.	Agra-Etawah <i>via</i> Fatehabad and Bah	110
12.	Guna-Etawah <i>via</i> Shivpur-Gwalior-Bhind	348

Out of these, 2 new line projects *i.e.* Agra-Etawah (110 Km.) and Guna-Etawah (348.25 Km) have been completed and commissioned.

(b) Completion of the projects is dependent upon many factors such as land acquisition, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life clearances, shifting of services, cutting of trees, construction of road over bridges and road under bridges by road maintaining agencies, apart from availability of adequate funds. Since many of these factors are beyond the control of Ministry of Railways, timelines for completion of all the projects are not feasible to be fixed.

Transportation of coal in open goods wagons

463. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal is invariable transported in open goods wagons to all parts of the country;

(b) whether any loss of coal has been reported during transit or transportation due to utilizing open goods wagons;

(c) the quantum of loss of coal reported for being transported in open goods wagons for the past three years;

(d) the steps taken to check such losses; and

(e) how is the loss compensated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Coal is predominantly transported in BOXN and BOBR type of open wagons.

(b) to (e) Details regarding loss of coal due to transit/transportation in open wagons are not maintained by the Zonal Railways. Coal is booked under "Owner's risk rate", and as per section 97 of the Railways Act 1989, Zonal Railways have no liability for any transit loss in open wagons unless it is due to negligence or misconduct on its part or on the part of any of its servants.

No compensation has been paid on Indian Railways in the last 3 years on account of transit losses due to transportation of coal in open wagons.

Revenue forgone on account of concessions

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways' revenue forgone on account of concessions to children for 2014-15 stands at ₹ 569 crore, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways' revenue forgone on account of concessions to disabled persons also stands at above amount during the year under reference; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) As per revised provisions, if a berth/seat is sought for a child between the age of 5 and 12 years, full fare will be charged, however, if no berth/seat is required, the child can travel on payment of half fare. Since no berth/seat is booked in case of unreserved class, this provision is not applicable in case of unreserved passengers. Revenue foregone on account of child fare for both reserved and unreserved classes for the year 2014-15 is approximately ₹ 688 crores. Out of 8.31 crore child passengers who availed this facility during financial year 2014-15, 6.20 crores passengers were unreserved to whom this provision is not applicable.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Revenue foregone due to Child fare is maintained separately. Railways provide concessions to more than 50 categories of passengers. The revenue

foregone due to concession being given to various categories of passengers during 2014-15 is approximately ₹ 1423 crores including approximately ₹ 105 crores for certain categories of disabled persons.

Concession for children in train fare

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

- (a) whether Railways have decided to collect full adult fare for children aged between 5 and 12, who want a berth or seat in reserved classes;
- (b) whether parents, who used to travel paying half the adult fare for accompanying children in reserved class, would have to pay full adult fare from April 1, 2016;
- (c) whether 50 per cent concession for children between 5 and 12 years in unreserved class of journey will continue; and
- (d) whether this is part of the efforts to cut down on subsidies to augment revenues and minimize revenue loss on account of child travel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In case of children of age 5 years and under 12 years of age for whom full berth/seat in reserved class is sought at the time of reservation, full adult fare for such child is charged. However, if berth is not sought for children of this age group at the time of reservation, then half of adult fare is charged. This has been implemented for journey commencing from 21.04.2016 onwards.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Child fare has been rationalised in view of the following:-

- (i) This will add 20 million additional berths in a year for passengers without any additional input.
- (ii) Upto 20 million additional passengers, including senior citizen and women, could travel by train on confirmed berths every year which is equivalent to about 20,000 additional trains in a year/54 additional trains in a day.
- (iii) Optimum utilisation of available accommodation.
- (iv) Generating additional revenue for the Railways.

Improving amenities for patients and differently-abled passengers

466. SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to improve passenger amenities in Railways,

especially for the differently-abled, patients etc., as the availability of wheel chairs and stretchers are limited and are in bad condition even at important railway stations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Improvement/augmentation of amenities at stations, including those for differently abled and patient passengers is a continuous process. In order to provide better accessibility to differently abled and patient passengers, short term facilities as detailed below have been planned at all stations, beginning with 'A-1', 'A' & 'B' category stations:

- Standard ramp for barrier free entry.
- Earmarking at least two parking lots.
- Non-slippery walk-way from parking lot to building.
- Signages of appropriate visibility.
- At least one toilet (on the ground floor).
- At least one drinking water tap suitable for use by differently-abled persons.
- 'May I help you' Booth

In addition, long term facilities, as detailed below, have been planned at 'A-1', 'A' and 'B' category stations:

- Provision of facility for inter-platform transfer.
- Engraving on edges of platform.

Further, as per the existing guidelines, 'A-1' category stations qualify for provision of escalators/elevators while 'A' category, 'C' category and stations of tourist importance qualify for provision of escalators under desirable amenities. 277 escalators and 112 lifts have been provided at various stations till November, 2015.

Instructions also exist for provision of Wheel Chairs at stations. This facility is provided, duly escorted by porters (on payment) as per present practice. Moreover, Zonal Railways have been authorized to introduce 'Battery Operated Vehicles' at major railway stations for disabled, old aged and sick passengers on first come first served basis through sponsorship from individuals, NGOs, trusts, charitable institutions, corporates and PSUs/corporate houses under their Corporate Social Responsibility with no charge to passenger or to the Railway.

Improving condition of second class and sleeper class coaches

†467. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that except in case of some special trains, the condition of second class and sleeper class coaches is very poor in all other trains;

(b) whether Government has any plan to improve the condition of passenger train coaches, especially the second class and the sleeper class coaches;

(c) if so, by when improvement/upgradation of these coaches is likely to take place; and

(d) the steps taken by Railways for this work and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. Coaches are generally being maintained as per prescribed standards and only fit coaches are inducted into train service.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Improvement/upgradation in the condition of the coaches, including Second class and Sleeper class coaches, is a continual process.

(d) Improvement/upgradation of coaches for benefit of the passengers is being done either through refurbishing as done in case of Mahamana Express coaches with additional amenities and pleasing colour scheme or through gradual replacement of conventional Integral Coach Factory Design (ICF) coaches with safer and more comfortable Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches in Mail and Express trains.

Cancellation charges for confirmed railway tickets

†468. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount being deducted by Railways for cancellation of confirmed railway tickets of various classes at present and the amount received by Railways by such cancellations during the last three years;

(b) the previous charges for cancellation of confirmed railway tickets, the details thereof; and

(c) whether extra coaches are proposed to be added or any other option is being considered to provide seats to passengers holding waitlisted tickets?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Revised and pre-revised cancellation charges for confirmed tickets are as under:-

Sl.No.	Pre-revised	Revised w.e.f. 12.11.2015
(i)	48 hours before the scheduled departure of the train, minimum cancellation charge was levied as under:- 1st AC/executive class: ₹ 120 2AC/1st class: ₹ 100 3AC/ACC: ₹ 90 Second sleeper class: ₹ 60 Second class: ₹ 30	48 hours before the scheduled departure of the train, minimum cancellation charge is levied as under:- 1st AC/executive class: ₹ 240 2AC/1st class: ₹ 200 3AC/ACC: ₹ 180 Second sleeper class: ₹ 120 Second class: ₹ 60
(ii)	Between 48 hours and 6 hours before the scheduled departure of the train cancellation charge was 25% of the fare subject to minimum charge as per (i) above.	Between 48 hours and 12 hours before the scheduled departure of the train cancellation charge is 25% of the fare subject to minimum charge as per (i) above.
(iii)	Between 6 hours before the scheduled departure of the train and upto 2 hours after the actual departure of the train, cancellation charge was 50% subject to minimum charge as per (i) above.	Between 12 hours and 4 hours before the scheduled departure of the train cancellation charge is 50% subject to minimum charge as per (i) above.
(iv)	No refund after the above time limit was permissible.	No refund after the above time limit is permissible.

Cancellation charges are accounted under the head “Miscellaneous Coaching Receipts” and are not captured separately. Miscellaneous coaching receipts for the last three years are as under:-

Year	Misc. Coaching Receipts (₹ in crores)
2012-2013	635.32
2013-2014	928.70
2014-2015	989.58

(c) The waiting list on trains is monitored on regular basis and wherever required, extra coaches are attached in the existing trains, composition of more popular trains is enhanced, special trains are run etc. subject to operational feasibility.

Augmentation of trains with coaches is a continuous process based on operational feasibility, availability of coaches and passenger demand. During periods of festival/holidays, such special trains are run and temporary augmentation of coaches in trains is done to clear the surge in passenger demand.

Measures to tackle morning fog

469. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA:

SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have geared up to tackle early morning fog to ensure smooth running of trains, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that security measures like mapping signals on the GPS installed in engines and planting detonators along the tracks to make the loco-pilots aware of the approaching signals have also been put in place, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Guidelines are already in place instructing Zonal Railways to take action during foggy season to deal with train operations as under:-

- (i) To provide safeguard in train operation in Automatic Block System during foggy weather by restricting the number of trains to two between two stations.
- (ii) Reduce the speed of train.
- (iii) Deputing additional staff to alert the Loco Pilot through placement of detonators before the First Stop signal.
- (iv) Improving the visibility of signals.
- (v) Loco Pilot to take precautions, be vigilant and alert and to observe Special Rules and instructions regarding speed limits under foggy conditions.

Technological options are being pursued by Indian Railways for prevention of accidents during conditions of poor visibility by installing notably Fog Safe Device, which is a Global Positioning System (GPS) based device installed to assist the Loco Pilot during poor visibility condition. Currently, a total of 1381 Fog Safe Devices are under trial on Northern, North Eastern and North Western Railways in fog prone areas. In addition, Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS) are also under various stages of trial.

Strengthening of railway bridges

470. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have evolved any parameters for reconstruction/strengthening of railway bridges in the country if so, the details thereof;

(b) the funds allocated/earmarked for the said purpose in the current financial year, Zone-wise including the tribal areas of the country;

(c) whether any inspections are carried out by Railways in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Railways for strengthening of railway bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Repair/strengthening/reconstruction of bridges is undertaken based on their physical condition as ascertained during various inspections. There is a well established system of inspection of railway bridges on Indian Railways. All the bridges are inspected twice a year—once before the onset of monsoon and once after the monsoon. In addition, depending upon the condition of bridges, certain bridges are inspected more frequently. Repair/strengthening/reconstruction of the bridge is planned if the condition of the bridge so warrants. The work is taken up through Works Programme and in urgent cases, through out-of-turn sanction. If the corrective/remedial measures are expected to take a long time due to the complexity of the site situation, etc., suitable safety measures like imposing speed restriction and keeping such bridge under close watch, are taken till the bridge is repaired/strengthened/reconstructed. During last five years, 4338 bridges have been repaired/strengthened/reconstructed on Indian Railways.

The funds allocated for repairing/strengthening/reconstruction of bridges during current financial year 2015-16 are ₹ 491.39 crores. Allocation of funds is done zone-wise and not area-wise or region-wise, break up of which for the current financial year is as under:

Zonal Railways	Central	Eastern	East Central	East Coast	Northern	North Central	North Eastern	Northeast Frontier
Fund allocated (₹ in crores)	13.4	85.59	75.4	21.53	34.07	15.13	20.25	18.87

Zonal Railways	North Western	Southern	South Central	South Eastern	South East Central	South Western	Western	West Central
Fund allocated (₹ in crores)	20.09	47.38	25.77	17.31	11.37	28.2	27.76	29.27

Increase in number of coaches of sleeper class trains

†471. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that owing to high volume of passengers a large number of passengers have to travel inconveniently in the sleeper class with wait-listed tickets in many railway zones, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is being proposed to increase the coaches of sleeper class in the trains of those railway zones, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The overall average occupancy of sleeper class in all reserved trains operated by Indian Railways is more than 100%. There is unsatisfied demand on some routes which is reflected in the waiting lists of popular trains. The demand for reserved accommodation exceeds availability during peak periods such as festivals, summer holidays, winter holidays, etc.

(b) Augmentation of trains of various class of coaches including Sleeper coaches is a continuous process based on operational feasibility, availability of coaches and passenger demand. During periods of festival/holiday, such special trains are run and temporary augmentation of coaches in trains done to clear the surge of passenger demand.

Accidents at unmanned level crossings

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

(a) whether it is a fact that accidents at unmanned level crossings have increased in the last one year;

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

(c) the remedial measures being adopted by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There were 50 unmanned level crossing (UMLC) accidents in 2014-15 and in the current year from 1st April, 2015 to 31st January,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2016, UMLC accidents decreased from 42 to 26 in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous year. Zone-wise number of Unmanned Level Crossing Accidents are as under:-

Zonal Railway	2014-15	2014-15 (up to 31.01.2015)	2015-16 (up to 31.01,2016)
Central	0	0	0
East Coast	2	1	0
East Central	5	4	0
Eastern	0	0	0
North Central	1	1	1
North Eastern	6	3	5
Northeast Frontier	0	0	1
Northern	9	7	9
North Western	8	8	7
South Central	2	2	0
South East Central	1	1	0
South Eastern	2	2	1
Southern	2	2	0
South Western	5	5	1
West Central	1	1	0
Western	6	5	1
TOTAL	50	42	26

(c) Various measures taken by Indian Railways to prevent accidents at level crossings are as under:

- Progressive elimination of unmanned level crossings by (i) closing unmanned crossings having NIL/negligible Train Vehicle Units (TVUs), (ii) merger of unmanned level crossing with nearby unmanned/manned gates or Road Under Bridge or Road Over Bridge or Subway by construction of diversion road, (iii) provision of Subways/Road Under Bridges and (iv) phased manning of unmanned level crossings which cannot be eliminated by the above means based on the volume of rail road traffic (TVU), visibility conditions, etc.
- Provision of basic infrastructure at unmanned level crossings, including appropriate visibility, width, gradient, level surface on either side from centre of the nearest track, whistle boards, road warning boards, surface of the approach road and speed breakers/rumble strips as per laid down standards.
- Social awareness campaigns to educate road users with the use of various

print and electronic media for observance of safe practices prescribed in Motor Vehicle Act and Indian Railways Act and joint ambush checks along with civil police to counter misadventure in front of approaching trains.

- SMS Campaigns to create awareness amongst road users.
- Zonal railways have also been advised to deploy Gate Mitra/Gate Counselors to counsel the road vehicle users for observance of safe practice while negotiating UMLCs. Till date about 3000 Gate Mitra/Counselors have been deployed on Indian Railways.

Railway line between Ujjain and Fatehabad

†473. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the meter gauge railway line established between Ujjain and Fatehabad (Western Railway) and the period when the railway line was uprooted and railway service discontinued, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of narrow gauge and meter gauge railway lines being operated at present in the country along with their distance of operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Ujjain-Fatehabad meter gauge railway line was commissioned in the year 1876 and consequent to broad gauge conversion of Ratlam-Fatehabad-Indore section, the train services on Ujjain- Fatehabad metre gauge section have been discontinued from 24.02.2014 as it is not technically feasible to run trains on this isolated metre gauge section.

(b) As on 01.04.2015, Indian Railways have 4907 Route Km of Meter Gauge (MG) and 2297 Route Km of Narrow Gauge (NG) lines. Out of these, 3208 Km of MG and 1153 Km of NG have been sanctioned for gauge conversion.

Zero accident mission

474. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have launched a zero-accident mission envisaging renewal of railway tracks, more railway bridges, better signalling and rolling out accident-proof coaches and engines, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of investment planned during next five years towards this mission along with the source of funding?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being used to prevent accidents include Electrical/Electronic Interlocking with centralised operation of points and signals, Multiple Aspect Colour Light Signalling with LED Signals, Complete Track Circuiting of the station, Block Proving by Axle Counters, Interlocking of Level Crossing Gates, Vigilance Control Device (VCD), usage of 60kg rails and Pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers, long rail panels, better welding technology, progressive use of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) Coaches, Centre Buffer Couplers with Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Coaches, etc. Unmanned level crossings are progressively eliminated by (i) closing unmanned crossings having NIL/negligible Train Vehicle Units (TVUs), (ii) merger of unmanned level crossing with nearby unmanned/manned gates or Road Under Bridge or Road Over Bridge or Subway by construction of diversion road, (iii) provision of Subways/Road Under Bridges and (iv) phased manning of unmanned level crossings which cannot be eliminated by the above means based on the volume of rail road traffic (TVU), visibility conditions, etc. Resources required for improving Safety will be provided as and when required.

Shortage of raw jute

475. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that severe shortage of raw jute is affecting the production and supply of finished jute from mills in West Bengal, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by Government to resolve the issue;

(c) the steps taken by Government to discourage import of jute to protect jute growers and mill workers; and

(d) the details of revenue earned through jute industry and funds allocated and spent on the jute industry during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) As per the estimates of all stakeholders of the Jute Advisory Board (JAB), the estimated crop size for 2015-16 jute year was 80 lakh bales. However the production of raw jute has been affected due to decline in the area of cultivation and by the early onset of rains and later due to the floods, which affected the jute growing areas in South Bengal and Assam.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Government to resolve the raw

jute crisis, through its Office of Jute Commissioner, Kolkata:

- (i) It has been made mandatory for all raw jute traders to register their units.
- (ii) All jute mills have been directed to submit raw jute stock position.
- (iii) Orders have been issued under clause 5(A)(1) (iii) of the Jute and Jute Textiles Control (Amendment) Order, 2005; directing all traders or dealers or agencies that not to stock more than 1,700 quintals of raw jute on own account and/or on account of third parties. This was later reduced to 500 quintals *w.e.f.* 9th February, 2016.
- (iv) Jute mills have also been directed not to hold more than two months' consumption requirement of raw jute.
- (v) The officials of Enforcement Branch of Government of West Bengal have been empowered under Section 7 of the Jute and Jute Textiles Control Order, 2000 to inspect, search and seize raw jute beyond the specified limit.

The Government, through the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, is also implementing jute development programme under the National Food Security Mission-Commercial Crops (NFSM-CC) for enhancing the production and productivity *w.e.f.* 2014-15 in 9 States including West Bengal.

(c) The Government, has made it mandatory for the entire chain from importers and traders to the level before the end-users, to register with the Office of Jute Commissioner, and furnish monthly reports on the imported goods. The raw jute imported from Bangladesh is used for manufacturing of Jute Diversified Products, a large share of which is exported. The Government of Bangladesh has however banned the export of raw jute *w.e.f.* November, 2015.

(d) A cess of 1% on all jute manufactures is collected by the Central Excise and deposited in the consolidated fund of India under Jute Manufactures Cess Act 1983. The cess collection figure for the last three years and fund allocated to National Jute Board (NJB) under the Act for the purpose of development and promotion of jute are as follows:

Cess Fund Allocation and Utilisation Details

(In ₹ lakhs)

Year	Grants released to and utilized by NJB
2012-13	3551.00
2013-14	3551.00
2014-15	4510.00
2015-16 (up to Nov'15)	2800.00

NJB does not make any State-wise allocation of funds and its activities are not State specific.

Proposal to extend MGNREGA to weavers

476. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has sent a proposal to the Ministry of Rural Development to extend MGNREGA to weavers also, if so, the details of the proposal;

(b) whether any response from the Ministry of Rural Development has been received in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for approaching the Ministry of Rural Development again, after it had rejected the earlier proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In order to enhance the wage earning of the handloom weavers and to impart them retraining on their traditional weaving activities, Ministry of Rural Development was requested to cover handloom activity as one of the permissible activities under MGNREGA. There have been Inter Ministerial correspondence on this proposal. According to present view, weavers are skilled workers whereas MGNREGA is for unskilled workers. Moreover weavers normally sell their produce whereas MGNREGA is primarily aimed to give employment and to create permanent assets. "MGNREGA is demand-driven right-based wage employment programme which envisages provision of a guaranteed 100 days of wage employment to the rural households who are willing to do unskilled manual work. Weaving activity is a self-employment and skilled activity. Thus, handloom weaving activity will not come within the purview of MGNREGA 2005".

Promotion of traditional textiles of tribal people

477. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be please to state:

(a) the plan to help and encourage traditional textiles of tribal people alongwith the details of its implementation in various States and the number of beneficiaries thereof;

(b) whether such traditional textiles are exported also; and

(c) if so, the details and the volume of such trade with specific information on how such profit is transferred to tribal weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Government of India has been

implementing following schemes during the 12th Plan to help and encourage traditional textiles of tribal weavers, development of handloom sector and welfare of weavers throughout the country:—

1. National Handloom Development Programme
2. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
3. Yarn Supply Scheme.
4. Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme

As per Handloom Census (2009-10), there are 43.31 lakh persons engaged in weaving and allied activities in the handloom sector. To encourage all traditional textiles including tribal people various exhibitions such as National Handloom Expos, Special Handloom Expos, District Level Events, Buyer-Seller-Meet and Fashion shows etc. under the marketing assistance component of National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) are being organized. Funds are being released to Nodal Agency identified by the State Governments for preparing conditions, which are conducive to marketing of handloom products. The agency is expected to use this amount towards activities that would attract the consumers in order to gear up overall sales of handloom goods.

(b) No export data is available for traditional textiles since the existing data is made available on HS Code-wise and these products do not have a separate HS Code in international market.

(c) Does not arise.

Funds to improve conditions of weavers

†478. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds made available by the Ministry for improving the financial condition of weavers in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of steps taken to impart training to the weavers and make them skilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Government of India has been implementing following schemes during the Twelfth Plan for development of handloom sector and welfare of weavers throughout the country:—

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1. National Handloom Development Programme
2. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
3. Yarn Supply Scheme
4. Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme

For improving the financial condition of weavers in the country, the Ministry has made available funds as given below:—

(₹ in crore)

Year	Amount allocated
2012-13	3253.00
2013-14	608.00
2014-15	597.00

In the case of Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme and Yarn Supply Scheme, State-wise releases are not available as the funds are released to implementing agencies. The State-wise releases of funds under other schemes is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Through 28 Weavers Service Centers, Government of India playing a vital role in imparting training to the weavers to upgrade their skill and increase productivity in the handloom sector. For the purpose, various short terms stipendiary and non-stipendiary training courses in the field of weaving, designing and dyeing, printing are provided in the centers concerned. Under the National Handloom Development Programme, financial assistance is being provided for skill up-gradation for the cluster in a Block for imparting training in technical and managerial areas. Training provided to the handloom weavers is for upgrading their skills in weaving, dyeing/printing and design development area so as to enable them to produce a diversified range of products in keeping with the latest market trends.

Statement

*The State-wise detail of funds released during the last three years
(2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15)*

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of States	2012-13 Fund released	2013-14 Fund released	2014-15 Fund released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9.81	5.55	1.51

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.25	1.32	0.35
3.	Assam	15.31	20.07	4.96
4.	Bihar	0.43	0.04	0.24
5.	Chhattisgarh	2.25	1.78	0.51
6.	Delhi	0.26	0.00	0.04
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	1.36	0.50	0.53
9.	Haryana	0.05	0.10	0.31
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2.20	0.55	0.18
11.	J&K	1.44	0.56	1.53
12.	Jharkhand	0.05	0.82	2.52
13.	Karnataka	1.77	2.69	1.66
14.	Kerala	2.34	1.64	0.19
15.	Madhya Pradesh	4.75	0.85	0.83
16.	Maharashtra	2.65	2.20	1.68
17.	Manipur	5.09	10.80	2.41
18.	Meghalaya	0.92	1.16	0.37
19.	Mizoram	0.72	0.30	0.28
20.	Nagaland	6.40	3.89	2.65
21.	Odisha	7.51	2.94	0.66
22.	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Rajasthan	0.60	0.85	0.57
25.	Sikkim	0.69	0.72	0.60
26.	Tamil Nadu	32.86	32.64	10.17
27.	Telangana	0.00	0.00	0.84
28.	Tripura	4.89	2.63	3.47
29.	Uttar Pradesh	18.73	13.50	28.16
30.	Uttarakhand	0.90	0.57	0.71
31.	West Bengal	4.68	4.68	5.77

Promoting chikan fabric industry

†479. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the dearth of skilled artisans is adversely affecting Lucknow's Chikankari industry;

(b) whether the Chikan fabrics made with the help of machines by China are 30 per cent cheaper than Indian fabrics;

(c) whether Government is also aware that only 5 per cent of the total handcrafted Chikan fabric produced in the country is being exported;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to save Lucknow's Chikan fabric industry; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government is aware. A sector specific analysis has been done by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham).

(d) and (e) Government of India has declared Lucknow as Mega Cluster for Chikan Crafts with an objective to create modern infrastructure and integrate the production chain enabling improvement in quality production and to compete in global market.

A brief of the activities initiated by office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India for the development and promotion of Chikankari craft of Lucknow are as detailed below:

Hon'ble Minister of Finance in budget speech 2014-15 announced Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh as one of the new Mega Cluster besides Bareilly and Kutch (Bhuj). The basic objective are to assist the stakeholders in availing the facilities set up with modern infrastructure at block levels, latest technology, design innovations, adequate training and Human Resource Development (HRD) and appropriate market linkages.

Various activities have been initiated for the development and promotion of the Chikankari craft of Lucknow:—

- Baseline survey cum diagnostic study has been conducted for 25000 artisans.
- Setting up of Common Facility and Common Service Centres.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- Soft Interventions *i.e.* Skill training, marketing and Design and Product Development.
- Direct Assistance to Artisans.
- A budget of ₹ 28.50 crores has been allocated to Lucknow Mega Cluster for initiating the activities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid the question hour is over.

PAPERS LAID ON TABLE — Contd.

Economic Survey, 2015-16 (Volumes-I and II)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE; THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Economic Survey, 2015-16 (Volumes-I and II). [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 4103/16/16]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at one minute past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty minutes past two of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

GOVERNMENT BILL

The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, ...(Interruptions)...

श्री वीर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, पहले रिप्लाय हो। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री के. सी. त्यागी (बिहार): सर, मंत्री महोदया कहां हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Listen. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Veer Singh, please. In the morning meeting, it was decided that the Bill will be taken up first.

श्री वीर सिंह: सर, मंत्री महोदया आ गई हैं, पहले रिप्लाय होना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी): सर, morning में ऑनरेबल चेयरमैन और आपके सामने यह तय हुआ था कि यह जो बंगलादेश वाला बिल, 'The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016' है, इस बिल को without discussion पास किया जाए। ...(व्यवधान).... उसके बाद मायावती जी

ने तथा और माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, उसका रिप्लाइ माननीय मंत्री जी देंगी।
So, I request you to first take up the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, and, pass it. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please listen. ...(*Interruptions*)... In the morning, in the presence of hon. Chairman, leaders had agreed that firstly, the Bill would be taken up on a consensus and passed without discussion. Because of that, I am taking up the Bill. Shri D. V. Sadananda Gowda to move the motion for consideration of the Bill.

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

Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Delimitation Act, 2002, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: As there is a consensus that we will pass this Bill without discussion, I am taking it up. ...(*Interruptions*)...

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)...

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, Shri D. V. Sadananda Gowda, to move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Bill is passed.

...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, hon. Minister, Shrimati Smriti Irani, first, you have to... ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): What is this, Sir? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): What is this going on, Sir? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नीरज शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, यह बिल ऐसे कैसे पास हो जाएगा? ...*(व्यवधान)*...
What is this, Sir? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That was the consensus arrived at. ...*(Interruptions)*...
But it is passed. You sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: What is this, Sir? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Why, Sir? ...*(Interruptions)*... सर, हम लोग चिल्ला रहे हैं और आपने बिल पास कर दिया? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If ten Members want to take the House for a ride, how can it continue? ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot take the House to ransom. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is the decision taken in the presence of hon. Chairman and it was decided that since it was a consensus Bill, it was an urgent Bill, it will be passed at 2.30 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)*... It was decided by your leaders. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K. C. TYAGI: In this way? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: But not in this way, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, we are not against the contents of the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*... Every consensus has to be implemented subject to the House being in order. ...*(Interruptions)*... Can you question this statement? ...*(Interruptions)*... Subject to the House being in order, every consensus can go through.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I accept that. That means... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: But can you say that the House is in order? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, since you have put that question, out of 245 Members, if 240 agree and 5 do not want it, will everything be blocked? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: I am raising the issue of propriety? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What democracy is that? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: It is not five people, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are questioning the passage of this Bill in din. We are not questioning the contents of the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: After we have arrived at the consensus, nobody should block it. You should say that. Why don't you say that? ...*(Interruptions)*... Why do you close your eyes to that?

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: We are not questioning the content of the Bill. But the manner in which it has been done ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tapan Kumar Sen, I am telling you there is a limit to everything. ...*(Interruptions)*... Everybody knows this Bill is very important, especially in West Bengal. I know that the Bill for agreement between India and Bangladesh was brought to this House when the previous Government was there. At that time, it could not be passed. Now, that Bill ...*(Interruptions)*... Listen. Sit down, I am speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*... That Bill was passed with consensus. Everybody agreed. ...*(Interruptions)*... In the morning, it was agreed that it would be passed without discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*... Then what should I do?

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, the only thing is the House should be in order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is it my fault? ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: It should not be done in din. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What din? Five people are shouting slogans. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री के. सी. त्यागी: सर, इस बिल के लिए हमारी सहमति थी। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: That is the issue; not the content of the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; that way, the House will not function. ...*(Interruptions)*... Five people shouting slogans, whether it is Congress or this side or that side, and stifling the voice of 240 Members, is it democracy? I am not in agreement with that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री के सी त्यागी: सर, हम इनके साथ हैं, ...*(व्यवधान)*... सारा हाउस इनके साथ है, लेकिन तरीके के खिलाफ है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is a decision taken in the morning.

श्री के सी त्यागी: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If people like you do not obey, what do I do?

SHRI K. C. TYAGI: I am not like that. मैं आपकी हर बात मानता हूँ। ...*(व्यवधान)*... मैं इस बिल के साथ हूँ और मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि यह और अच्छा होता कि सारा सदन इसको पास करता। यह कोई तरीका है क्या? ...*(व्यवधान)*... इस बिल के खिलाफ कौन था? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति: मैं क्या करूँ? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री के. सी. त्यागी: आपने इस बिल को ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: मुझे क्या करना है? ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI D. RAJA: We all support this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Anyway, the Bill is passed. You can disapprove me. That is the only way.

श्री के. सी. त्यागी: हमने नेता सदन को, आपको, चेयरमैन साहब को, तीनों को यह आश्वासन दिया था कि हम इस बिल को पास कराएंगे। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Put a Resolution that we disapprove the action of the Deputy Chairman! That is the only way. Bill is passed.

That is over. ...(Interruptions)... No, no. ...(Interruptions)... Bill is passed.

That is over. ...(Interruptions)... No, no. ...(Interruptions)... Bill is passed.

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, please call the hon. Minister.

श्री उपसभापति: अब बिल पास हो गया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: हाँ बिल पास हो गया। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Smriti Iraniji, let me ...(Interruptions)... There, I want to tell ...(Interruptions)... के. सी. त्यागी जी, बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री के. सी. त्यागी: सर, मैं नेता सदन से भी यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can criticize me. I will listen to that.

श्री के. सी. त्यागी: यहां से लेकर वहां तक एक भी पार्टी, एक भी मेम्बर इस बिल के खिलाफ नहीं है, लेकिन* और जिन हालातों में बिल पास किया है, उससे इस बिल की ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: खुद को साबित करने के लिए मुझे समझ में नहीं आता, मैं क्या करूँ? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री के. सी. त्यागी: सर, आप हमसे बैठने के लिए कहिए, हम बैठने के लिए तैयार हैं। इस बिल के खिलाफ कोई नहीं था। ये गलत परम्पराएं पड़ रही हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: ठीक है, अब मैं क्या करूँ? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री के. सी. त्यागी: फिर सदन के अंदर हमारी क्या जरूरत है? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: हो गया, अब आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI K. C. TYAGI: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is expunged. *...(Interruptions)...* Now, Smritiji, first you *...(Interruptions)...* Smritiji, I can give you time *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI K. C. TYAGI: Sir, we want to pass it with one voice. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is over.

SHRI K. C. TYAGI: No, Sir; this is not over. *...(Interruptions)...* I oppose this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You oppose this; no problem. That is over. *...(Interruptions)...* Sit down; sit down. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, you had assured me *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is what I am saying.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, you had assured me *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know. *...(Interruptions)...* I know certain things were read here against you. So, you have a right to explain. I know. *...(Interruptions)...* Sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* Let her start.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: But where is the time?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am hearing. *...(Interruptions)...* Before I say anything, you are asking questions. You take your seat.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: You assured me time. Don't say suddenly 'Private Members' Bill'.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: See, even otherwise, it is your right; I know.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: No Private Members' Bill can be taken up. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am coming to that. Sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* You please take your seat. I will come to you. Now, let me *...(Interruptions)...* I take note of *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री रामदास अठावले (महाराष्ट्र): सर, आपको हाउस चलाने का पूरा अधिकार है। *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* Ask him to sit down. What is this? *...(Interruptions)...* I take note of *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री रामदास अठावले: सर, मैं आपसे पूछ रहा हूँ। *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* आप लोग क्या कर रहे हैं? *...(व्यवधान)...* आप उनको बैठने के लिए कहिए।

श्री रामदास अठावले: सर, आपको हाउस चलाने का पूरा अधिकार है। *...(व्यवधान)...* हम आपका पूरा सपोर्ट करते हैं। *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: See, I take note of ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Members, I take note of all what has been expressed here. ...*(Interruptions)*... I take note of that. ...*(Interruptions)*... However, the Bill is already passed. Now, what remains is the reply by the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... I want to request the Minister, first you respond to Kumari Mayawati's demand. First you respond to that if you are responding or if the Leader of the House is responding, whoever is responding, I have no problem. If the Leader of the House is responding, that is also, for example, okay or better. Now, let me. ...*(Interruptions)*... No. I am coming. Why are you not allowing me to say it? Now, listen. So, first, Minister has to respond to that because that is the commitment here. After that, if you need time to continue your reply,. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; listen. Let me.. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why are you not allowing me? ...*(Interruptions)*... You are such a senior Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... I told you already. Why are you asking again and again? You are such a senior Member. So, after that, if the Minister wants, a little more time can be given. But the only thing is, being Private Members' Day, we can maximum go up to 3.00 p.m., not beyond that. That is what was the understanding in the morning. Therefore, Minister may give a reply to Kumari Mayawatiji, and then five minutes or, if you want.....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Why does she not give a reply to me also? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am telling you; I am coming to that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: No; where are you coming to? ...*(Interruptions)*... I am saying why does she not give the reply to me also. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Explanation is after the reply. I know it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: She has taken my name nine times. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is what I am saying. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Nine times she has taken my name. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know that. Mr. Yechury, why do you not sit down? ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Yechury. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, you have already put the ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yechury. ...(*Interruptions*)... Listen to me. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, you have already put the Damocles sword. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: You said, at 3 o' clock Private Members' Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; I am telling you. Let me come to that. Yechuryji, I myself said – please, you are a senior Member – your name was taken and something was read against you. So, you have a right to explain. I myself said that. I said Minister may take five minutes. After that, we will have enough time up to 3.00 p.m. After Minister is over, then is the time for explaining or we can take ten more minutes. The House can decide. But after Minister speaks, you will reply, you will give explanation. How can you do that before inbetween? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: No, no. Let her answer mine also. ...(*Interruptions*)... If she wants to answer what I say ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That you already spoke. Now, what remains is your explanation on what you said. You already spoke. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: But I am going to ask questions. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: After her, you say. That is the procedure. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: You assure me.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I told you already.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: In front of the House?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why do you not trust your Deputy Chairman?

Therefore, I would say maximum up to 3.00 p.m. or 3.15 p.m., if the House agrees. Smritiji, now you can take the time as you assured and then five more minutes. That you can do. After that, you can give explanation. And by 3.15 p.m. we will take up Private Members' Bill.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION**Situation Arising in Central Institutions of Higher Education with
Specific reference to Jawaharlal Nehru University
and University of Hyderabad**

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): Thank you, Sir. This is in response to Adarniya Mayawatiji's statement in the House and that of her Party with regard to the incident in Hyderabad Central University. In the expressions made, there was one concern that this child was devoid of his fellowship. In a response to that expression by Mayawatiji's Party, I would like to here, for the record, state that close to ₹ 3,19,029/- were given and the last fellowship was given to this child on the 20th of November, 2015 of ₹ 54,000/-. There was some money pendency which is true, which was reflected in his last note. But that arose from some paperwork that the deceased was yet to file and I will only say this, that this impression created that he was devoid of any fellowship or money is an incorrect impression. ...(Interruptions)... Sir, I would here read, as I had said in my response to Mayawatiji, as you have told me to respond to her singularly, that a Proctorial Board on the 10th of August, 2015, where decisions were taken, did have a representative of the SC/ST community and also a woman representative.

Secondly, the Executive Council on the 27th of November, 2015, which made the decision of not allowing certain students to stay in the hostel also had and specially, co-opted a member of the SC community, who additionally was also the dean of students welfare. Hence, the indication that nobody from the SC community was co-opted in any of the processes within the University system is also an incorrect charge. I would here also state that ...(Interruptions)... I will also state, I think, that child is deceased. Hence, the charges against him, it is best if we seek to honour his memory and I do not read out the FIR against him in detail. That is my humble submission, Sir. I will also say this that the Executive Council which had a Member of the SC community ...(Interruptions)...

सुश्री मायावती (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभापति जी...

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: I have not finished, Sir. मायावती जी, मैं पूरा पढ़ लूँ? The Executive Council, which had the Member of the SC Community, also took cognisance of the fact that the decision of theirs is also subject to the verdict in a case filed regarding the incident which took place between certain students in the case filed W.P. No.28073 of 2015 and the case registered in Gachibowli Police Station vide FIR No.296/2015 under sections 448, 341, 506 and 323 of the Indian Penal Code.

[Shrimati Smriti Zubin Irani]

I would also like to say here, Sir, that the Ministry post this incident sent two officers to enquire into the incident, hear from the academic community and the students, including the students who were the friends of Rohit. They took statement of everybody. Close to 70 people were interviewed. Photographs and submissions were taken from everybody in the university. The officers who went there, I am today compelled to even say that the officer leading the delegation is from the minority community and had another officer to assist from the backward community.

I would also like to state that once that report was submitted to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, before I publicly released the details of the Judicial Commission to the people at large, I specifically spoke online, an open line to Rohit's mother. Her only plea to me was that a judicial enquiry be made into the child's death. I assured her that justice will be done because a Judicial Commission is being appointed.

I would also like to state here that the Judge who has thus been appointed, Sir, served in the Allahabad High Court till the year 2010, I believe, and you can correct me if I am wrong. Whatever administrative history I remember of the State of Uttar Pradesh, *Behenji* herself was Chief Minister there while the Judge, who has been appointed in the one-man Judicial Commission, served. I am sure that this is the only response that I can give to Mayawatiji. Since this is a Judge, who has served diligently in Uttar Pradesh, I am sure she will have absolutely no challenge to the fact that this Judge is capable, within his capacities, to deliver justice.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Is this one-man Commission? ...(*Interruptions*).... Okay.

सुश्री मायावती: माननीय उपसभापति जी, 24 फरवरी को माननीय चेयर से मुझे यह आश्वासन दिया गया था कि श्री रोहित वेमुला प्रकरण में चर्चा के जवाब में सरकार की ओर से इस सवाल का जवाब जरूर दिया जाएगा कि श्री रोहित की आत्महत्या के मामले में केंद्र सरकार द्वारा गठित किए गए न्यायिक जांच आयोग में एक दलित सदस्य को रखा है या नहीं रखा है। मान्यवर, मुझे खेद के साथ यह कहना पड़ता है कि मेरे इस सवाल का जवाब मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री ने सही नहीं दिया है। ...(**व्यवधान**)... आप मेरी बात ध्यान से सुनिए, यह बहुत important मामला है। हालांकि जब मैंने 24 फरवरी को माननीय सदन में रोहित का मामला उठाया था, उसी दिन मुझे ऐसा लग रहा था कि यदि इन्होंने जांच आयोग में एक भी दलित सदस्य को रखा होता तो उसी दिन, मेरे बार-बार इस सवाल को पूछने का जवाब इन्हें तुरन्त ही माननीय सदन के सामने रखना चाहिए था, लेकिन उस दिन ऐसा नहीं किया गया। जबकि इस मामले में सच्चाई यह है कि इन्होंने जांच आयोग में एक भी दलित सदस्य को नहीं रखा है, इसलिए संबंधित मंत्री उस दिन इस बात को इधर-उधर की बातें कहकर टालती रहीं और आज भी इन्होंने मेरे इस सवाल का जवाब सही नहीं दिया है क्योंकि इस मामले में वास्तविकता यह है कि इन्होंने जिस जांच

आयोग का गठन किया है, उसमें एक भी दलित सदस्य नहीं है। जिस अकेले सेवानिवृत्त न्यायमूर्ति श्री अशोक कुमार रूपनवाल की अध्यक्षता में यह जांच आयोग बना, वह भी अपर कास्ट समाज का है, वह सिंगल मैन की अध्यक्षता में बना था, वह भी अपर कास्ट समाज का है। इस बात का सबूत दिनांक 2 फरवरी को मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी किया गया, इनका खुद का गज़ेट है। उसके मुख्य अंश में माननीय सदन के सामने रख रही हूं और इसकी एक कॉपी मैं माननीय चेयर को भी दे रही हूं और अन्य नेतागण को भी मैं इसकी कॉपी दे रही हूं।

मान्यवर, मुख्य अंश इस प्रकार से हैं कि केंद्रीय सरकार, जांच आयोग अधिनियम, 1952 (1952 का 60) की धारा 3 द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए हैदराबाद विश्वविद्यालय में घटनाओं जो श्री चक्रवर्ती आर. वेमुला की मृत्यु का कारण बनी, की जांच करने के लिए न्यायमूर्ति श्री अशोक कुमार रूपनवाल सेवानिवृत्त की अध्यक्षता में जांच आयोग की नियुक्ति करती है।

- (i) उन तथ्यों और परिस्थितियों की जांच करना जो हैदराबाद विश्वविद्यालय में एक शोध विद्वान श्री चक्रवर्ती आर. वेमुला की मृत्यु का कारण बने हैं और इस चूक, यदि कोई हो, के लिए उत्तरदायित्व नियत करना।
- (ii) विश्वविद्यालय में छात्रों के लिए विद्यमान शिकायत निवारण व्यवस्था का पुनर्विलोकन करना और सुधार संबंधी सुझाव देना।
- (iii) आयोग अपनी जांच करेगा और केंद्रीय सरकार को अपनी रिपोर्ट और सिफारिशें इसकी नियुक्ति के तीन मास के भीतर प्रस्तुत करेगा। इस प्रकार इस जांच आयोग में एक भी दलित सदस्य नहीं रखा गया है।

इससे इनकी रोहित को न्याय देने की मानसिकता हमें पूरे तौर से कोरी बेईमानी व दलितों को धोखा देने वाली ही नजर आती है। इसके साथ ही, यहां मैं यह भी कहना चाहती हूं कि जो यह जांच कमीशन बनाया भी गया है, यह बहुत important बात है। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... सर, यह सारा रह जाएगा, जिसके लिए आपने मुझे समय दिया है। जो यह जांच कमीशन बनाया भी गया है, वह Section 3 of the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952 के तहत बनाया गया है। मैं बहुत ही important बात माननीय सदन के सामने रख रही हूं। इस कमीशन में इलाहाबाद हाई कोर्ट के एक सेवानिवृत्त जज को सिंगल मेम्बर बनाया गया है, जो कि हमारी जानकारी के हिसाब से अनुसूचित जाति के नहीं हैं।

हमारी पार्टी का यह भी कहना है कि जब सेक्शन 3 के अनुच्छेद (2) में यह प्रावधान है...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is a time-constraint. प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिल को भी लेना है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

सुश्री मायावती: सर, मेन तो यही बात है। सर, आप मेरी बात सुन लीजिए।

श्री उपसभापति: प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिल भी लेना है। आप दो मिनट में समाप्त करिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

सुश्री मायावती: सर, दो मिनट नहीं, यह बहुत important बात है।

श्री उपसभापति: बहन जी, रिप्लाइ हो गया। मंत्री जी का रिप्लाइ हो गया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

सुश्री मायावती: सरकार कमीशन में एक से ज्यादा ...(व्यवधान)... भाई, आप मुझे अपनी बात तो रखने दो। सरकार कमीशन में एक से ज्यादा सदस्य बना सकती है, तो फिर सरकार रोहित के मामले में कमीशन को बनाते समय एक से ज्यादा सदस्य बना सकती थी और अब भी बना सकती है, लेकिन सरकार अभी तक भी इस मामले में अपनी चुप्पी साधे हुए है। इससे इनकी दलित विरोधी मानसिकता हमें साफ नज़र आती है।

उपसभापति महोदय, इसके अलावा इस संबंध में, मैं यह भी कहना चाहती हूँ कि सेक्शन 3 (1) कमीशन ऑफ इन्क्वायरी एक्ट, 1952 का, जिसके तहत कमीशन नियुक्त किया गया है, में यह जरूरी शर्त रखी गई है कि कमीशन नियुक्ति करने का अध्यादेश गज़ेट में प्रकाशित करने से पहले केंद्र सरकार को इस बात की कानूनी बाध्यता है कि वह संसद के दोनों सदनों में एक प्रस्ताव कमीशन बनाने के लिए लाकर उसे पास कराएगी और उसके बाद ही फिर उसका "गज़ेट नोटिफिकेशन" जारी करेगी। परन्तु इस मामले में केंद्र की सरकार कोई भी प्रस्ताव संबंधित कमीशन को बनाने के लिए संसद के किसी भी सदन में नहीं लाई है और इसके बिना ही सीधे उसका "गज़ेट नोटिफिकेशन" दिनांक 2 फरवरी, 2016 को जारी कर दिया गया है, जबकि उस समय संसद भी नहीं चल रही थी।

ऐसी स्थिति में हमारी पार्टी का इस संबंध में यह कहना है कि ऐसा केंद्र की सरकार द्वारा जान बूझकर एक सोची-समझी साजिश के तहत किया गया है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now please conclude.

सुश्री मायावती: उपसभापति जी, आप मेरी बात तो सुन लीजिए। यह साजिश के तहत किया गया है।

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR (Nominated): Sir, I also have a clarification.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now please conclude.

सुश्री मायावती: प्लीज़, आप मेरी बात सुन लीजिए। महोदय, जिससे कि आगे चलकर यह कमीशन ऑफ इन्क्वायरी गैर-कानूनी घोषित हो जाए और फिर कमीशन द्वारा दी गई रिपोर्ट अवैध व गैर-कानूनी करार कर दी जाए। महोदय, यह सब केंद्र की सरकार की दलित विरोधी मानसिकता व नीयत को साफ तौर पर दर्शाता है। इस के साथ ही हमारी पार्टी का इस बारे में यह भी स्पष्ट कहना है कि यह गैर-कानूनी अध्यादेश केवल रोहित की आत्महत्या के मामले को दबाने व ठंडा करने तथा इसके मुख्य दोषियों को बचाने आदि की नीयत से किया गया है, न कि रोहित तथा यूनिवर्सिटी में पढ़ रहे अन्य दलित छात्रों को न्याय दिलाने के लिए किया गया है। ऐसा इसलिए किया गया है क्योंकि इस प्रकरण के अधिकांश दोषी लोग आरएसएस के कट्टर समर्थक बताए जा रहे हैं, जिन्हें केंद्र की सरकार अंदर-अंदर पूरी जी-जान से बचाने में लगी हुई है। इसके अलावा हैदराबाद यूनिवर्सिटी में बाबा साहेब अम्बेडकर से जुड़े छात्र संगठन को माओवादी बताना ...(समय की घंटी)... सर, आप थोड़ा सा सुन तो लें।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to go to Private Members' Business. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have to allow Mr. Yechury and then Private Members' Business.

सुश्री मायावती: केंद्र सरकार व इनके आरएसएस संगठन ...(व्यवधान)... की बहुत बड़ी साजिश नजर आती है, ताकि बाबा साहेब की सोच से ये लोग दूर रहें। ऐसी स्थिति में केंद्र सरकार द्वारा किसी भी मामले में ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude.

सुश्री मायावती: बाबा साहेब अम्बेडकर की कही बातों का उदाहरण देना इनके मुंह से शोभा नहीं देता है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: *Behenji*, please conclude. ...(Interruptions)... *Behenji*, please conclude.

सुश्री मायावती: इसलिए अब इन्हें यह* बंद कर देना चाहिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: *Behenji*, please cooperate.

सुश्री मायावती: प्लीज 5 मिनट।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You understand my situation.

सुश्री मायावती: सर, अब मैं मेन बात कहने वाली हूं। इसके अलावा रोहित के मामले में संबंधित मंत्री द्वारा यह कहना कि जाति के आधार पर ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to take up Private Members' Bills. Because it is your issue, I have allowed. But you are taking too much time.

सुश्री मायावती: माननीय उपसभापति जी, मैं केवल 5 मिनट का समय देने के लिए रिक्वेस्ट कर रही हूं। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You sit down. Don't create problems. Let me try to solve. You don't create problems. I am trying my best. Then, why do you create problems?

सुश्री मायावती: इसके अलावा सम्बंधित मंत्री का रोहित के मामले में इस सदन में और लोक सभा में भी यह कहना कि जाति के आधार पर ...(व्यवधान)... कभी न्याय नहीं होता है, लेकिन इस बारे में मेरा इन्हें यह कहना है कि पूरे देश में खासकर दलितों, आदिवासियों व अन्य पिछड़े वर्ग के लोगों के साथ आजादी के बाद से लेकर अभी तक जाति के आधार पर हर मामले में व हर स्तर पर जो अन्याय व अत्याचार हो रहा है, इस बात को भी ध्यान में रखकर मंत्री जी को जब यह बात सदन में कहनी चाहिए थी ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Kumariji, please cooperate. You made your point. आप बहुत बोल चुकी हैं और क्या फायदा है?

सुश्री मायावती: तो वह ज्यादा अच्छा होता। सर, थोड़ा सा समय और दीजिए।

3.00 P.M.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I want to speak.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have promised you. Why are you, again and again, repeating? ...*(Interruptions)*...

सुश्री मायावती: इसके साथ ही सम्बंधित मंत्री ने रोहित की आत्महत्या पर जो अपने भाषण में, एक मिनट मैं मंत्री जी के बारे में कहना चाहती हूं, बहुत अच्छी बात कहना चाहती हूं। इसके साथ ही मान्यवर संबंधित मंत्री ने रोहित की आत्महत्या पर जो अपने भाषण में कई बार अपनी भावुकता दिखायी है, तो इसका* करने के बजाय इन्हें अपने मंत्रालय में रोहित के छोटे भाई को कोई सरकारी नौकरी दे देनी चाहिए थी, तो यह ज्यादा अच्छा होता जिसके लिए उसकी मां दिल्ली सरकार के मुख्यमंत्री से फरियाद कर रही है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:* word is expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is expunged.

सुश्री मायावती: और इस सम्बंध में यहां मैं यह भी कहना चाहूंगी कि यदि उत्तर प्रदेश में हमारी पार्टी की सरकार होती, तो फिर हमारी सरकार रोहित की मां की बिना फरियाद के ही उनके छोटे बेटे को अब तक सरकारी नौकरी भी जरूर दे देती। इस ओर भी सरकार को ध्यान देने की जरूरत है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... सर, एक मिनट। इस मामले में सीएमओ और वहां के पुलिस प्रशासन के बारे में भी सदन में गलत बयानबाजी की गई है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... बस समाप्त कर रही हूं। इसलिए इन सब बातों को ध्यान में रखकर हमारी पार्टी श्री रोहित प्रकरण मामले में संबंधित मंत्री के जवाब से बिल्कुल भी सहमत नहीं है, जबकि इस संबंध में इन्होंने 24 फरवरी को यह भी कहा था कि यदि बसपा मुखिया उनके जवाब से संतुष्ट नहीं हुई तो फिर वह अपना सिर काटकर उनके चरणों में रख देंगी। ...*(व्यवधान)*... *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now Shri Sitaram Yechury. बैठिए, बैठिए, प्लीज मायावती जी बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

सुश्री मायावती: इसलिए मेरा सलाह के तौर पर ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति: मायावती जी, बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... हो गया। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्रीमती स्मृति जूबिन इरानी: सर, आप उसे निकाल लीजिए, मैंने बसपा के कार्यकर्ताओं के बारे में ...*(व्यवधान)*...

सुश्री मायावती: सर, दो मिनट। ...*(व्यवधान)*... भस्मासुर नहीं हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... प्रधान मंत्री जी को भी मजबूर होकर अपनी सरकार को बदनामी से बचाने के लिए ...*(व्यवधान)*... लाना होगा। 24 फरवरी को मेरे व विपक्ष के अन्य सदस्यों के प्रति व्यवहार कोई अच्छा नहीं रहा है, जिसके लिए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति: मायावती जी हो गया।

सुश्री मायावती: आप सुनें, यथार्थ में आने की जरूरत है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं कहना चाहती हूं और इतना ही नहीं माननीय मंत्री का 24 फरवरी को मेरे प्रति व विपक्ष के अन्य सदस्यों के प्रति भी व्यवहार कोई खास अच्छा नहीं रहा है, जिसके लिए मंत्री जी ने मुझ से कल लॉबी में आकर माफी भी मांगी थी और फिर ...**(व्यवधान)**... इनसे बड़े होने के नाते कल तो मैंने इनको माफ भी कर दिया, लेकिन ऐसी गलती ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Kumari Mayawati, that is enough. ...**(Interruptions)**... How can you do like this? This is too much. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्रीमती स्मृति जूबिन इरानी: मायावती जी ...**(व्यवधान)**...

सुश्री मायावती: लेकिन ऐसी गलती से ...**(व्यवधान)**... भविष्य में मेरा समाज ...**(व्यवधान)**... मेरी पार्टी ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्रीमती स्मृति जूबिन इरानी: मैं कह रही हूं अगर देश ...**(व्यवधान)**...

सुश्री मायावती: दलितों के ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Kumari Mayawati, that is enough. Please. ...**(Interruptions)**... No, no. That is enough now. ...**(Interruptions)**... Kumari Mayawati, please. ...**(Interruptions)**... This cannot be allowed. ...**(Interruptions)**...

सुश्री मायावती: शोर मचाना है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्रीमती स्मृति जूबिन इरानी: सर ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is enough. ...**(Interruptions)**... No, no. That is all. ...**(Interruptions)**... That is enough. ...**(Interruptions)**... Now, please. ...**(Interruptions)**...

सुश्री मायावती: खास तौर से रोहित के आत्महत्या करने के मामले में हमारी पार्टी का यही कहना है कि इस मामले की अलग से चर्चा कराने के बजाए, इसे 'जे.एन.यू' के साथ होने वाली चर्चा के साथ ही ले लिया गया यानी उसके साथ इकट्ठा ले लिया गया। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इससे खास कर बीजेपी व केंद्र की सरकार ...**(व्यवधान)**... दलित विरोधी ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No more ...**(Interruptions)**... Now, please stop. ...**(Interruptions)**... Kumari Mayawati, please stop. ...**(Interruptions)**...

सुश्री मायावती: सर, दो मिनट। इनकी दलित विरोधी मानसिकता साफ नजर आती है। इतना ही नहीं बल्कि कल जो मंत्री जी ने 'दुर्गा व महिषासुर' के इतिहास को तोड़-मरोड़कर, हिन्दू पौराणिक कथाओं में दिए गए इतिहास का उदाहरण देकर ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If Members behave like this, what do I do? ...**(Interruptions)**... She has spoken for 30 minutes. ...**(Interruptions)**...

सुश्री मायावती: खास कर दलितों व आदिवासियों का अपमान किया गया है, यह बहुत शर्मनाक है और निन्दाजनक भी है अर्थात् तोड़-मरोड़कर दर्शाये गये इतिहास के मुताबिक, हिन्दुओं की पौराणिक कथाओं के मुताबिक 'दुर्गा मां व महिषासुर' की आड़ में ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is holding the House to ransom. ...(*Interruptions*)...

सुश्री मायावती: कल देश के दलितों व आदिवासियों का अपमान किया गया है। हमारी पार्टी इसे कतई भी बरदाश्त नहीं करेगी। मैं यह बात पूरे दावे के साथ कह सकती हूँ कि हिन्दू संस्कृति का इतिहास लिखने वाले लोगों ने ...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Please. That is all. ...(*Interruptions*)... Okay. Nothing will go on record. ...(*Interruptions*)... रिकॉर्ड में नहीं जा रहा है, बस। This is not going on record. ...(*Interruptions*)... मायावती जी, आप बैठिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)... ...(*Interruptions*)... It is not going on record. ...(*Interruptions*)... Shri Yechury. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please; I have called Mr. Yechury. ...(*Interruptions*)... हो गया। ...(**व्यवधान**)... No, please. ...(*Interruptions*)...

सुश्री मायावती: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yechury to speak, for explanation on personal things, on what has been stated against him. Please, Mr. Yechury. ...(*Interruptions*)... आप बैठिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)... मुझे आप सब लोगों का सपोर्ट चाहिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)... आप बैठिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I am talking about personal as well as some other wrong facts that have been ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You may speak. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, let me talk about personal things first.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Altogether, you may take five minutes. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I do not want to be personal at all. If the hon. Minister wants to be personal, it is her business; it is not mine. And I don't stoop to that level. I am asking you this, as you are the Deputy Chairman, sitting on the Chair. Today, on *Facebook*, on *Twitter*, there are various accounts that could be there. In my name, there are six accounts on *Facebook*. Can I read them out and present them here without any authentication? Can I say that is the evidence? I am asking you; can you give a ruling or do you want to consult your staff? Do you wish to do that and then give a ruling? But you must give a ruling on this. This is important; otherwise such canards and such obscene level of arguments will remain. Second, the question is that what Rohith Vemula is supposed to have written to me on his facebook post — why I am saying this is not personal — is that from that post the Minister has read out. There is a date where Rohith Vemula was part of

a public meeting in the University of Hyderabad. That was a large public meeting where this issue was openly discussed, where the question of 'Lal Salaam' or 'Jai Bhim' was an issue that was discussed and where, I had said it is 'Lal Salaam', 'Jai Bhim' and 'Inquilab Zindabad'. That is what we are working for. That argument was on with Rohit Vemula. I would have argued because my tradition is, 'let a hundred flowers bloom, let a thousand thoughts contend.' My tradition is not creating circumstances that will leave that child to commit suicide. That is what you have done. You had pushed the child to commit murder. ...(*Interruptions*)... It was virtually a murder. You had done that and you give this as the evidence. And, Sir, what is this great evidence and points scoring? About Rohit, there are so many things here; there is a letter that is written one month before he committed suicide authenticated by the University where he says, 'Give us some rope and give us poison so that we can commit suicide.' I am asking you, Sir, in this one month did anybody from the authorities talk to the Dalit students, talk to Rohith Vemula? Is that how they are now justifying the administration? With regard to JNU, they said that the security guards have given the evidence that the slogans were shouted. There was one security guard appointed by the university and that is taken as evidence. There is a committee that was formed, the Proctorial Committee by the JNU that settled that issue. After that it was reopened again by the Ministry. And, then, the rest of it follows, what we have all described yesterday. So, all is based on untruths. I am sorry to say. They are all based on untruths, department of manufactured things. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do not comment.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY : Just now, the hon. Minister has said that there was a Dalit in that Inquiry Committee in the Hyderabad University. Yes, there was a Dalit Professor who is the Dean of Students' Welfare. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, don't make such comments.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: As the Dean of Students' Welfare there, he gave his dissenting note and he quit that committee. Therefore, don't hold the Dalit teacher to be responsible for that action that is being recommended. These are all distortions of facts and I must beseech to you that without any of these facts being established, nothing should go on the record of this Parliament. Nothing should go on the record of this Parliament, otherwise give us that adequate amount of time. Are you permitting any quotes from cyber space to be treated as evidence? Are you permitting such untruths to be said and gotten away with because there is no time for discussion? Are you going to permit this sort of a thing? And, Sir, what about *Mahishasura*? You come from a State called Kerala. You observe a festival called

[Shri Sitaram Yechury]

Onam. Do you know what Onam stands for? Malayalees think that Onam is the day when Mahabali comes back to life, to spend one day with the Malayalees and all the Malayalees, out of sheer joy, celebrate Onam. And, who is Mahabali in the other tradition of the same Hinduism? He was the king of the *Asuras*, the *Rakshasas*. In order to kill him, Vishnu comes in the Vamana Avatara and he says, 'I want three feet of land.' One Vishnu, in his full form, comes and occupies heaven; one occupies the earth. Then he says, 'where do I put my third feet?' And he puts his feet on Mahabali's head and he pushes him to Patal Loka. Onam, the same day is being celebrated because Mahabali is being killed by Vishnu. The same day you also have wonderful feast and food. The same day you celebrate in Kerala because Mahabali comes back to life. These traditions are there with us. That is Indian diversity. Now who is a good Hindu? Malayalees go to the Ayyappa Temple. Who is a good Hindu? Will they give certificates to tell who is a good Hindu? Why is all this being brought up here creating mayhem in the country? Why in this august House of Parliament, you bring in all these stories of Mahishasura, Durga, etc.? Let me remind them that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister, after the Bangladesh war, called Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Maa Durga in this very House. In this very House, Shrimati Indira Gandhi refused to accept the title saying that there are many Bahujans, many Dalits who worship Mahishasura, so I will not accept this title of Maa Durga. There is a record in this House. You get them out. Why are you bringing in all that here? Whose pamphlet are you quoting? What are you authenticating?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE; THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sitaramji, please get the record. Since you are speaking only on record, please get the record of this debate. A lot of what you are saying ...(*Interruptions*)... Every word that the Minister has spoken, she has it authenticated by the Registrar of University what were the kinds of pamphlets which were circulated. She is not coming out with fiction. You are. Therefore, you have said something about Atalji and Indiraji. Find a record of the House and please bring it out.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, all these pamphlets were examined by a Committee in JNU, a Proctorial Committee in JNU. They settled this issue and after that it was reopened. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा (हिमाचल प्रदेश): सर, हम भी बोलेंगे। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The pamphlet is here. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: That is also on record here.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The Registrar ...(Interruptions)... that this pamphlet was distributed. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: That is also on record here. Please examine that. I am also saying. That is also on record here. ...(Interruptions)... The Proctorial Committee ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: So, you are saying that ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, the Proctorial Committee has examined it. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Sir, is he justifying ...(Interruptions)... Denigrating the name of Maa Durga ...(Interruptions)... Is that what Sitaramji is trying to say? Is he now giving respectability ...(Interruptions)... for denigrating the name of Maa Durga? ...(Interruptions)... वहां बच्चों का क्या हाल है? क्या समझ लिया है आपने? ...(व्यवधान)... देश में मां दुर्गा के भक्तों की आस्था का ख्याल किया आपने? ...(व्यवधान)... सीताराम येचुरी जी, आपने इस देश में मां दुर्गा की बात कही ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All of you, please take your seats. ...(Interruptions)... All of you, please take your seats. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Yechury, please conclude. ...(Interruptions)... Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Yechury, please conclude. ...(Interruptions)... After that, the Leader of the House...(Interruptions)... Please sit down. Let him conclude. ...(Interruptions)... Let him conclude. ...(Interruptions)... Yechuryji may please conclude. ...(Interruptions)... All of you, please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... It is 3.15 p.m. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, can the authentication of newly appointed Vice-Chancellors, Registrars, be accepted as authentication of Members of Parliament and Ministers under oath of this Constitution? Will you accept that as authentication here, if somebody has authenticated to the Minister? I am saying without the authentication here. Under the Constitution under which they have taken oath as Ministers, will they present anything here on the basis of that authentication? And on what basis are you ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Sir, I was asked time and again to authenticate ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, this is a very serious ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Sir, yesterday, I was charged to prove whether what I was saying was right or wrong. ...(Interruptions)... Yesterday, the debate was not allowed ...(Interruptions)... I kept on begging ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. *...(Interruptions)...* There is constraint of time. *...(Interruptions)...* Please sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* Smritiji, please sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* Let him complete. Smritiji, please sit down. Let him complete. *...(Interruptions)...* Let him finish. *...(Interruptions)...* Please sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* What is this? I can't hear all of you *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, she has quoted Macbeth to say fair is foul and foul is fair, and she is making all sound fair without any authentication. Now, who gave that authentication? *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, *...(Interruptions)...* Yechuriji, *...(Interruptions)...* I will go through the records. *...(Interruptions)...* Now listen. *...(Interruptions)...* Let me say. *...(Interruptions)...* I will decide it. *...(Interruptions)...* Mr. Tapan Sen, it is not going on record. *...(Interruptions)...* Your leader is speaking. *...(Interruptions)...* What is this? *...(Interruptions)...* No, no. *...(Interruptions)...* I will go through. *...(Interruptions)...* Now, please *...(Interruptions)...* Mr. Tapan, sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* Minister, please, *...(Interruptions)...* Sit down, Minister. *...(Interruptions)...* Please take your seat. *...(Interruptions)...* I will go through the record. *...(Interruptions)...* Minister, please *...(Interruptions)...* Please don't do this. *...(Interruptions)...* I will go through the records and see if the document which she has quoted authenticated, and subject to rules, if the authentication is valid or not, I will come back to the House. So now, you conclude, please. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Yes, Sir. Let me say. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, you conclude please. *...(Interruptions)...* It is already 3.15 pm. *...(Interruptions)...* I have already said. *...(Interruptions)...* I already said, at 3.15 p.m. we have to switch over to Private Members' Bills. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Yes, Sir. But the point is *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, you conclude. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Let me conclude. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have made your point. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I am making the point. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You conclude. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, we don't quote all these things as evidence without verification.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That you have already said. *...(Interruptions)...* I will go through. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, the final point I want to make is, and I am beseeching, through you, to the Government, please do not pass off unauthenticated, unverified statements of this nature as evidence and try to argue your case.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will go through and come back to you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Not come back to me, but you will have to take action. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, I will take action*(Interruptions)*... Yes, I will do that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Yes, you take action.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: If the document is proved to be right, then what action will be taken? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Can we switch over to Private Members' Business? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I think the core of the debate was some anti-India slogans. As a final point, Mr. Yechury can condemn them also. We will be very grateful. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I have also said ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, hon. Leader of the House asked me a question. I am going to answer him. I have answered it already. We have condemned all these anti-India acts, but prove them. Prove them.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yechuriji, please conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now you cooperate. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, kindly make the record of my speech available to the Leader of the House and please underline those lines where I have condemned this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have already condemned it. I know... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: No, no. I have also said one thing. I cannot accept a situation, Sir, when Nathuram Godse will be a national hero and ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; you have said all this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Of course, you said it. ...*(Interruptions)*... of course, you all said it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. ...(Interruptions)... Now, I take Private Members' Business. ...(Interruptions)... Now listen ...(Interruptions)... Now please. ...(Interruptions)... Sit down ...(Interruptions)... Now, we take up Private Members' Business...(Interruptions)... We have already taken 48 minutes. ...(Interruptions)... Please listen. ...(Interruptions)... Now, sit down. ...(Interruptions)... We have already taken 48 minutes of the Private Members' time. ...(Interruptions)... Therefore, we start the Private Members' Business now and after 5.00 p.m., 48 minutes will be added to the Private Members' Bills so that the Private Members' Business will be over at 5.48 p.m. only. Now, we take up Private Members' Business. Bills for introduction. ...(Interruptions)... I have already said Private Members' Business. Now, it cannot be. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I have a clarification to seek from you. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. I have announced. ...(Interruptions)... Now it cannot be. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I have a clarification to seek from you, from the Chair. ...(Interruptions)... You said that we would have Private Members' Business up to 5.48 p.m. After that, that is all.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: After that, we will adjourn. What else should we do?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: That is the clarification which I wanted so that the Government does not bring through the backdoors any business.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: After that, the House will be adjourned, whether I am in the Chair or any Vice-Chairman is in the Chair. Now, Private Members' Legislative Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2015

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI (Maharashtra): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya. Not present. He has two more Bills in his name. Now, Shri Rajkumar Dhoot.

**The Distressed Widows and Single Women (Protection,
Rehabilitation and Welfare) Bill, 2016**

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT (Maharashtra): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protective measures with need based rehabilitation and welfare to be undertaken by the Government for the distressed, infirm, neglected, abandoned and disowned widows and single women by providing financial assistance, pension, medical care, housing and other facilities through a Welfare Board to such widows and single women and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Special Financial Assistance to the State of Maharashtra Bill, 2016

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT (Maharashtra): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for special financial assistance to the State of Maharashtra for containing growing desertification in Marathwada, Madhya Maharashtra and Vidarbha regions caused by consistent deficit rainfall and drought conditions by way of traditional water conservation through lakes, ponds, wells, rainwater harvesting and afforestation involving villagers and their Panchayats and for the implementation of development works such as housing, drinking water, roads, sanitation, creation of grain and fodder Banks, skill development and welfare schemes for the women, children, senior citizens and poor people living in these regions of the State and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Promotion of Cycling and Provision of Compulsory Dedicated
Cycle Corridor along Major Roads and Highways Bill, 2016**

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT (Maharashtra): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the promotion of cycling by way of giving incentives to the employees by employers including Government, providing subsidy on purchase of bicycles to the general public and for the provision of compulsory dedicated cycle corridor along major public roads and highways in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016
(Amendment of Articles 343 and 348)**

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Amendment of
Articles 246, 248, 254 and Seventh Schedule)**

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2016

SHRI AVINASH PANDE (MAHARASHTRA): Sir, move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 2013.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy. Not present.

Now, we take up further consideration of the motion moved by Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad on the 24th April, 2015.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) order (Amendment) Bill, 2014

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, क्योंकि इसमें ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nishadji, I suppose, you have already spoken.

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद: महोदय, 24 अप्रैल को जब मैंने यह बिल प्रस्तुत किया था, तो इसमें काफी विस्तार से चर्चा हो चुकी थी। मैंने बताया था कि ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: नहीं, आप मेरी बात सुनिए। उस दिन आपने बोल दिया था। ...(व्यवधान)...

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी): सर, ये तो बोल चुके हैं। ...(व्यवधान).... वोटिंग करानी है।
...(व्यवधान)...

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद: मान्यवर, मैं उसी बात को कह रहा हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: सर, ये बोल चुके हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... वोटिंग के लिए करना है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद: मान्यवर, मैं एक सदस्य की हैसियत से अपना एक प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिल लाया हूँ। मुझे अपनी बात रखने का पूरा अधिकार है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: वह तो आप बोल चुके हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, ये बोल चुके हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... ये अपनी बात रख चुके हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सिर्फ वोटिंग करानी है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Put it for vote.

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद: मान्यवर, मैंने संवैधानिक तरीके से अपना यह बिल प्रस्तुत किया है। अभी कुछ दिन पहले पूरे देश में जाट आन्दोलन हुआ, तो भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार ने तुरंत कमेटी बना दी और उसके लिए तुरन्त संवेदनशीलता जाहिर कर दी। ये जो हमारी मछुआ समुदाय की जातियाँ हैं, वे उत्तर प्रदेश में अनुसूचित जाति में पहले से हैं, लेकिन उनको प्रमाण पत्र जारी नहीं किया जा रहा है। उसी तरह से पिछड़ी जाति में क्रम संख्या 67 पर मोची जाति है जो बैक वर्ड में है उसको अनुसूचित जाति का सर्टिफिकेट जारी किया जाता है। जो विसंगतियाँ हैं, उसको दूसर करने का काम भारत सरकार करेगी। इसलिए हम प्राइवेट मेम्बर बिल लाए हैं और हम चाहते हैं कि उसको सर्वसम्मति से पास किया जाए, यही हम अनुरोध करना चाहते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Listen, the last day you completed your speech and we were asking you whether you will withdraw the Bill. You were insisting that you will not withdraw it. That was the position. So, there will not be a speech again. The simple question is: Are you withdrawing the Bill or not?

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद: नहीं सर, हम यह निर्णय करना चाहते हैं कि सरकार इसको पास कराए या मतदान कराए। हम मतदान की मांग करते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are you not withdrawing?

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: No, I am not withdrawing.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, if you are not withdrawing, then, I will put it to vote. That is the only way.

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद: मैं प्रेस कर रहा हूँ, मतदान की मांग करता हूँ। इससे पता तो चलेगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is the Minister saying? Can you give him an assurance?

श्री जावेद अली खान (उत्तर प्रदेश): मैं बोलना चाहता हूँ।

† جناب جاوید علی خان: میں بولنا چاہتا ہوں

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nobody can speak, but if you have a question, you can put.

SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Why nobody can speak?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is because the discussion is over. ...(*Interruptions*)... That is a different thing. That is not the issue. ...(*Interruptions*)... You see the procedure. Listen to me. You should also know the rules. Here is a Bill for which discussion is over and the person concerned has replied also. The mover of the Bill has replied also. After that, there is no scope for anybody to speak. If in a Short Duration Discussion somebody speaks, there is no specific rule for Short Duration Discussion.

SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Then, you directly put it to vote.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will do that. I want to know whether the Minister can give him an assurance and on the basis of that he can withdraw. Can you do that?

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR (Uttar Pradesh): No, no; we don't want any assurance.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay; then, that is not needed. So, I am putting it to vote. I shall now put the motion for consideration of the Bill to vote. The Question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, be taken into consideration".

SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, we want division. We need division.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have already said that it is negative.

SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: We want division.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Let us go in for division. ...(*Interruptions*)... Let the lobbies be cleared. We shall have division.

The House divided.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Ayes : 05

NOES — 26

Abstain : 1

Ayes : 5

Shri Javed Ali Khan

Shri Kiranmay Nanda

Chaudhary Munvvar Saleem

Shri Neeraj Shekhar

Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad

Noes : 26

Shri Rangasayee Ramakrishna

Shri Tarun Vijay

Shri Ajay Sancheti

Shri Amar Shankar Sable

Shri Anil Madhav Dave

Shri Avinash Rai Khanna

Shri Bhupender Yadav

Shrimati Bimla Kashyap Sood

Shri Dilipbhai Pandya

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda

Shri Lal Sinh Vadodia

Shri Meghraj Jain

Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi

Shri Nazir Ahmed Laway

Shri Piyush Goyal

Shri Prabhat Jha

Shri Rajkumar Dhoot

Shri Ram Narain Dudi

Shri Ramdas Athawale

Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya

Mahant Shambhuprasadji Tundiya

Shri Shamsheer Singh Manhas

Shri Shankarbhai N. Vegad

Shrimati Smriti Zubin Irani

Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot

Shri V.P. Singh Badnore

Abstain : 1

Dr. K. Keshava Rao

The motion was negatived.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will now take up the next Bill—The Exploited, Indebted and Poverty Stricken Farmers (Protection, Prevention of Suicide and Welfare) Bill, 2014—to be moved by Shri Rajkumar Dhoot. You may move the Bill for consideration. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री राजकुमार धूत (महाराष्ट्र): सर, मुझे एक बात कहनी है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please wait for a moment. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Dhoot, there is a technical problem. The technical problem is, for every Bill, the recommendation of the Rashtrapati has to be there. The Secretariat is saying that the recommendation is still to come.

श्री राजकुमार धूत: सर, चूंकि महामहिम राष्ट्रपति जी ने अनुच्छेद 117 के अन्तर्गत अपनी सिफारिश नहीं भेजी है, अतः मैं आपसे अनुरोध करता हूँ कि मुझे मेरे निजी विधेयक को विचार करने के लिए मूव करने दिया जाए और इस पर चर्चा डेफर कर दी जाए। इस प्रकार मेरी प्राथमिकता बनी रहेगी। इस दौरान मंत्रालय राष्ट्रपति महोदय की परमिशन सचिवालय को भेज सकता है। माननीय, मैं अपने विधेयक को चर्चा के लिए प्रस्तुत करता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your point is this may be deferred till it comes. I will go through the rules. If the rule allows, I can do that. But I have to see the rules. We never expected such a situation. If the rules permit, it will be done. Okay?

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. K. K. Ragesh, the Self-Financing Professional Educational Institutions (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2015. One minute. Mr. Ragesh, I am sorry. I gave you the hope and in one minute I have to disappoint you because for your Bill also President's recommendation has not come. They have said that this is subject to receiving President's recommendation. So, if rule permits, we will keep it alive.

SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN (Kerala): Sir, it is not his fault that his Bill is listed for today.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to examine. I am nobody to comment on that point of whose fault it is. So I am helpless. Shri C.P. Narayanan, I told you, if the rule permits...(Interruptions)...

SHRI K. K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, what will happen to this Bill now?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I said, 'if the rule permits, it will be alive'.

The Pathological Laboratories and Clinics (Regulation and Control) Bill, 2010

श्री विजय जवाहरलाल दर्डा (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि विकृति-विज्ञान प्रयोगशालाओं और क्लिनिकों को किसी समुचित प्राधिकरण में पंजीकरण अनिवार्य करके तथा कोई विकृति-विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला अथवा क्लिनिक खोलने के लिए मानदण्डों तथा मानकों को विहित करके विनियमन और नियंत्रण किए जाने तथा तत्संसक्त और उसके आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने वाले विधेयक पर विचार किया जाए।

माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं सबसे पहले आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि आज मुझे इस सदन में देश के स्वास्थ्य से संबंधित अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण निजी विधेयक को पेश करने का मौका मिला है। यों तो बहुत ही rare occasions होते हैं जब निजी विधेयक कानून का रूप ले ले, लेकिन कम से कम हम सदस्यगण देश के महत्वपूर्ण विषयों पर अपनी सरकार के सामने दस्तक दे सकते हैं, दरवाजे खटखटा सकते हैं और मंत्री जी से आग्रह कर सकते हैं। माननीय मंत्री जी यहां हैं और मुझे विश्वास है कि वे इस विषय पर मेरी और सदन की आवाज को जरूर तरजीह देंगे और गम्भीरता से लेंगे।

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY) *in the Chair*.]

मैं साहिर लुधियानवी के उस शेर की तरफ ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ—

"कुछ और बढ़ गए हैं अंधेरे तो क्या हुआ
मायूस तो नहीं हैं, तुलु-ए-सेहर से हम
माना कि इस जमीं को गुलज़ार न कर सके
कुछ खार तो कम कर गए, गुजरे जिधर से हम"

माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, pathological प्रयोगशालाएं, स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में सबसे अधिक महत्वपूर्ण रोल अदा करती हैं। Allopathic System में किसी भी तरह के रोग के उपचार और पहचान के लिए यह प्रथम कड़ी होती है। आज देश में स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को नियंत्रित करने के लिए और उन्हें regular करने के लिए तमाम Councils हैं। जैसे कि Medical Council of India, आयुर्वेद एवं यूनानी आदि के लिए Council, Dental Council और Nursing Council आदि बनी हुई हैं तथा उनके लिए अनेक legislations और regulations पार्लियामेंट में पास हुए हैं, लेकिन

[श्री विजय जवाहरलाल दर्डा]

Pathological प्रयोगशाला के बारे में तथा उनकी क्वालिटी के बारे में अभी तक कुछ नहीं हुआ है कि वे कैसी होनी चाहिए और उनकी क्वालिटी कैसी होनी चाहिए और उन्हें संचालित करने वाले लोग कौन हैं तथा उनकी क्वालिफिकेशन क्या होनी चाहिए। इसके बारे में कोई भी समुचित कानून नहीं बना है, जिसे पूरे देश में एक समान रूप से लागू किया जा सके। देश के कुछ प्रदेशों में इस संबंध में अभी कुछ दिशानिर्देश जारी किए गए हैं, लेकिन उन Guidelines का ढंग से पालन नहीं हो रहा है।

माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, प्रस्तुत विधेयक का उद्देश्य Pathological प्रयोगशालाओं और क्लीनिकों को किसी समुचित अथॉरिटी में रजिस्ट्रेशन अनिवार्य कर के तथा कोई Pathological प्रयोगशाला अथवा क्लीनिक खोलने के लिए मापदंडों और मानकों का निर्धारण करके उनका रेगुलेशन और कंट्रोल किए जाने के संबंध में उपायों का प्रबन्ध करने के संबंध में है। पिछले दो दशकों से Indian health care industry के काम में काफी बढ़ोतरी हुई है। India Brand Equity Foundation के अनुमान के अनुसार यह सैक्टर 17 फीसदी के हिसाब से बढ़ते हुए सन् 2020 तक 280 बिलियन डॉलर का हो जाएगा। Private health care का हिस्सा health care में 72 फीसदी है। पिछले दो दशकों में diagnostic market में 20 फीसदी की दर से वृद्धि हुई है। वर्ष 2012 से लेकर वर्ष 2020 तक यह मार्केट लगभग 32 बिलियन डॉलर की हो जाएगी। देश में लगभग 1 लाख diagnostic laboratories हैं, जिनमें से 70 परसेंट pathological labs हैं। इन लैब्स और diagnostic centers की स्थापना में अभी तमाम corporate तथा organized sectors के लोग लगे हुए हैं, लेकिन लगभग 92 परसेंट लैब्स unauthorized sector में हैं। जो लैब्स organized sector या बड़े healthcare system के माध्यम से establish हो रहे हैं, उन लैब्स का accreditation हो रहा है, लेकिन जो लैब्स unauthorized sector के अन्दर काम कर रहे हैं, ऐसे 92 परसेंट लैब्स किसी भी तरह से regulate नहीं किए जा रहे हैं। एक अमेरिकन एजेंसी के अनुसार सिर्फ 1 फीसदी लैब्स WHO accredited हैं। अगर हम हमारे देश के स्वास्थ्य की स्थिति को देखें तो ये लैब्स अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं और हर चीज के अंदर laboratories का बहुत अहम हिस्सा है।

केंद्र ने 'The Clinical Establishment Act' 2011 में पास किया था जिसमें लैब्स तथा सम्पूर्ण healthcare को regulate करने की बात की थी, लेकिन आज पांच साल होने के बावजूद इस एक्ट को लागू नहीं किया गया है। स्टेट के लिए voluntary होने के कारण इसके प्रावधानों को अभी तक ठीक से लागू नहीं किया गया है। इस एक्ट के तहत सारी healthcare facilities को रजिस्टर करवाना था तथा यह देखना था कि इसके अंतर्गत minimum standards of facilities और सेवाएं हैं या नहीं। इसके साथ ही हर establishment अपने यहां मिलने वाली सुविधाएं, जैसे treatment तथा लैब्स आदि के बारे में तथा इनके रेट्स के बारे में जानकारी देगा, लेकिन इसकी कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है और अभी तक न तो अस्पताल अपने यहां इस तरह की जानकारी दे रहे हैं और न ही ट्रीटमेंट से लेकर diagnostic centers और pathological labs के लिए रेट्स तय किए गए हैं, इसकी कोई रेटिंग नहीं है। इस तरह से मरीजों को ठगा जा रहा है। हर pathological lab के अंदर test का शुल्क अलग-अलग है। इसमें इतना variation होता है कि बीमार व्यक्ति को समझ में ही नहीं आता कि किस लैब में test कराया जाए। इसके अतिरिक्त इसकी reliability

कितनी है, वह भी नहीं पता होता। उदाहरण के तौर पर MRI का शुल्क 1,000 रुपए से लेकर 6,000 रुपए तक है। इन सारे लैब्स के standard और practices में काफी अंतर है।

इस समय pathological labs और diagnostic centers, 'Shops and Establishment Act' के अन्तर्गत स्थापित किए जा रहे हैं। ये प्रयोगशालाएं हमारे स्वास्थ्य के क्षेत्र में बहुत महत्वपूर्ण रोल अदा करती हैं, फिर भी सरकार इन्हें सामान्य दुकानों और establishment की श्रेणी में रखती है। इसके लिए न तो कोई standard है और न ही कोई norms हैं। इस समय जो pathological labs और diagnostic centers चल रहे हैं, उनकी स्थिति बहुत भयंकर है।

सबसे खेदजनक और चिंता की बात यह है कि diagnostic centers और pathological labs को shops और अन्य सामान्य establishment की तरह ट्रीट किया जा रहा है। इसी वजह से इन प्रयोगशालाओं में unqualified professional proxy signatories होते हैं तथा इनमें sub-standard equipments होते हैं जिनकी वजह से कई बार गलत रिजल्ट्स आते हैं। पूरे महाराष्ट्र में एक अनुमान के अनुसार सिर्फ 1,500 practicing MD Pathologists हैं। कभी यह संख्या कम होती है और कभी ज्यादा हो जाती है। नागपुर जैसे बड़े शहर में 15 के आसपास practicing pathologists हैं, जो MD हैं। मुम्बई और ठाणे को छोड़कर पूरे देश में सिर्फ 850 के आसपास practicing pathologists MD हैं जिससे यह सिद्ध होता है कि पूरे देश में qualified pathologists की कितनी कमी है। एक अनुमान के मुताबिक डिप्लोमाधारी pathologists की संख्या 10,000 से भी ज्यादा है जो कि पूरी रिपोर्ट तैयार करके अक्सर proxy signature करते हैं, जो कि गैर-कानूनी है। सैम्पल कलेक्शन से लेकर सैम्पल ट्रांसपोर्ट, रजिस्ट्रेशन आदि टैस्ट के पहले के ऐसे स्टेप्स हैं, अगर सैम्पल ठीक से correct नहीं हुआ या पहुंचा तो रिजल्ट्स के गलत होने की संभावनाएं रहती हैं। इसीलिए सैम्पल कलेक्शन से लेकर रिपोर्ट डिलिवरी तक में highest standard की जरूरत होती है। अगर Pathologist qualified नहीं है, तो रिजल्ट भी कभी ठीक नहीं हो सकता, यह हम सब जानते हैं।

हमारे समाचार-पत्रों में अक्सर खबरें छपती हैं और ऐसे मरीजों का जिक्र होता है कि जिनकी रिपोर्ट Pathological labs गलत दे देते हैं। मलाड, मुम्बई में एक ऐसा ही किस्सा हुआ, जिसमें वहीं की एक labs ने किसी की गलत HIV+report दे दी। देश में कई labs ऐसे हैं, जो कि गलत रिपोर्ट्स के लिए notorious हैं। महाराष्ट्र के जलगांव में ऐसे कुछ सेंटर्स को बंद किया गया था। इंडस्ट्री के एक्सपर्ट्स का मानना है कि अगर भारत को हैल्थकेयर में एक मुकाम हासिल करना है, तो सरकार को सबसे पहले Clinical Establishment Act को लागू करना होगा। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि बिल को पास हुए पांच साल हो गए, लेकिन देश के स्वास्थ्य से जुड़े हुए इस विधेयक को लागू क्यों नहीं किया गया? इसके पीछे वास्तव में कौन-सी कठिनाई है या industry का pressure है? क्या वजह है कि देश के clinical establishments इसके प्रावधानों का पालन करने में असमर्थ हैं? इसी की वजह से देश के करोड़ों लोगों को लाखों करोड़ रुपये का चूना लग रहा है और साथ ही साथ उसकी हैल्थ के साथ खिलवाड़ हो रहा है। भारत के diagnostic laboratories और विदेशों में इस उद्योग में काफी अन्तर है। अभी विकसित देशों में प्रयोगशालाओं का registration आवश्यक है। बिना registration और certification के कोई प्रयोगशाला शुरू नहीं हो सकती है। ब्राजील जैसे देश में भी 90 फीसदी से ज्यादा यह industry well organized है।

[श्री विजय जवाहरलाल दर्डा]

हाल के वर्षों में देखा गया है कि देश में प्रयोगशालाओं की संख्या काफी बढ़ी है तथा आज की तारीख में इनकी संख्या लाखों में है। इनके पंजीकरण का कोई प्रावधान नहीं है और न ही इसके बारे में स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने कोई गणना कराई है, जिससे पता चल सके कि समूचे या अलग-अलग प्रदेशों में या शहरों में कितनी प्रयोगशालाएं काम कर रही हैं। इसकी वजह से छोटे-छोटे शहरों और गांव-देहातों में ये प्रयोगशालाएं मिल जाएंगी, जो कि किसी समुचित building में न होकर कहीं motor garage में, कहीं टेन्टों में, तो कहीं छोटे-छोटे कमरों या झोपड़-पट्टियों में खुली हैं। इन प्रयोगशालाओं में न तो कोई trained technician होता है, न कोई डॉक्टर होता है और न ही सही प्रकार के उपकरण होते हैं, जिनसे आप टेस्ट करवा सकें।

इन प्रयोगशालाओं में blood sample इकट्ठा करने का तरीका बेहद खतरनाक होता है। देखा यह गया है कि एक सिरिंज से कई लोगों का blood लिया जाता है और यह सिरिंज भी दूषित होती है, इसके इस्तेमाल से दूसरे मरीजों की सेहत पर भी असर होता है। इसकी जानकारी न तो डॉक्टर को होती है और तथाकथित टेक्नीशियन, जो कि इस blood sample को लेता है, उसकी कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं होती है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक बार सरकार ने कुछ साल पहले Good Laboratory Practices के norms लगाकर देश की तीन महत्वपूर्ण प्रयोगशालाओं को बंद कराया था। ये प्रयोगशालाएं vaccines बनाती थीं। इसके पश्चात् देश में vaccines की काफी कमी हो गई थी तथा हमें दूसरे देशों से vaccines मंगानी पड़ी थीं। यह मामला संसद में कई बार उठा था। जब सरकार Good Laboratory Practices के norms पर अपनी प्रयोगशालाएं बंद करवा सकती है, तो इन फर्जी और unhealthy conditions में चलने वाली प्रयोगशालाओं को क्यों चलने दिया जा रहा है? हमारे यहां की pharma industry विश्व की सबसे बड़ी pharma industry है। हमें लोगों ने Switzerland में कहा कि आप अपने यहां अच्छे pathology labs क्यों स्थापित नहीं कर पा रहे हैं? हम लोगों के लिए यह बहुत ही शर्म की बात है कि तमाम स्वास्थ्य योजनाओं में अच्छी और qualitative pathology labs स्थापित करने का कोई प्रावधान नहीं है। मंत्री जी, यह हमारे देश के स्वास्थ्य से जुड़ी मूलभूत आवश्यकता है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, देश के कई भागों में देखा गया है कि वहां पर ये प्रयोगशालाएं लोगों ने सरकारी डॉक्टरों की सांठगांठ से सरकारी अस्पतालों के आस-पास ही खोल रखी हैं। सरकारी डॉक्टर एक अलग पर्ची लिखकर उस प्रयोगशाला में टेस्ट के लिए recommend करते हैं तथा प्रयोगशालाओं के लोग इन डॉक्टरों को कमीशन देते हैं। यह बहुत बड़ा रैकेट है, जिसका कई बार महाराष्ट्र, उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार और गोवा में बीते दिनों में भंडाफोड़ हो चुका है, लेकिन इसके बावजूद भी इन घटिया और फर्जी प्रयोगशालाओं को न तो बंद किया जा रहा है और न ही ऐसे डॉक्टरों के खिलाफ किसी प्रकार की कोई कार्रवाई हुई है।

देश में आए दिन मलेरिया, डेंगू तथा तरह-तरह के injections से बीमारियां होती रहती हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में evidence-based treatment की सख्त जरूरत होती है। सही evidence न मिलने से मरीजों को सही ट्रीटमेंट नहीं मिल पाता है। इसका सबसे ज्यादा शिकार गांव-देहातों के लोग

होते हैं, क्योंकि उन्हें पता नहीं होता है कि उन्हें किस तरह से tests कराने होते हैं तथा ये लोग फर्जी डॉक्टरों तथा इस तरह की प्रयोगशालाओं के शिकार होते हैं।

हमारे यहां एक National Accreditation Board for Testing Calibration Laboratories (NABL) के नाम की संस्था है, जो labs को पंजीकृत करने का काम करती है। यहां पर registration पूरी तरह से voluntary है। इसकी वजह से कोई भी registration करना वाजिब नहीं समझता है। देश के शहरों में लगभग एक लाख Pathological labs काम कर रही हैं, लेकिन accreditation के लिए सिर्फ 400 प्रयोगशालाओं ने अभी तक एप्लाइ किया है। इस संदर्भ में अगर दूसरे देशों को देखा जाए, तो वहां बिना accreditation के कोई भी laboratory यूज नहीं कर सकता और न ही वहां पर वह चल सकती है। ऐसा करने वालों पर भारी जुर्माने के साथ-साथ कड़ी सजा का भी प्रावधान किया गया है, लेकिन हमारे देश में हेल्थ के साथ खिलवाड़ हो रहा है और पांच साल पूर्व बिल आने के बावजूद भी अभी तक वह कार्यान्वित नहीं हुआ है, यह बड़े खेद की बात है। मुझे विश्वास है कि मंत्री महोदय काफी सेंसेटिव हैं और आप इस ओर अवश्य ध्यान देंगे।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे यहां यह बीमारी सिर्फ इसी बात तक सीमित नहीं है कि तमाम प्रयोगशालाएं diagnostic centres या clinic बिना किसी proper structure, बिना प्रशिक्षित रोग विज्ञानियों के अस्वास्थ्यकर परिस्थितियों में चल रहे हैं। सच तो यह है कि शहरों में जो प्रयोगशालाएं या diagnostic centres हैं, वे दूसरे तरीकों से consumers को परेशान कर रहे हैं। कभी भी कोई डॉक्टर या consultant कोई pathology, radiology, X-ray, MRI वगैरह का टेस्ट लिखता है, तो वह पेशेंट को labs का नाम भी दे देता है और कहता है कि आप इस lab में जाइए और इस consultant से मिलिए। इन consultants/doctors को 40 से लेकर 60 फीसदी तक कमीशन मिलता है। मैंने सुना है कि मुम्बई के कई इलाकों में काफी डॉक्टर्स इस ढंग से कमा रहे हैं और उनकी कमाई प्रैक्टिस से ज्यादा कमीशन से होती है। कुछ ऐसे टेस्ट होते हैं, जिनकी जरूरत नहीं होती है, लेकिन कमीशन के लिए डॉक्टर लोग prescribe कर देते हैं। इन tests को sink test कहते हैं। इन टेस्ट को pathology वाले लोग समझते हैं और ये टेस्ट होते ही नहीं हैं तथा सैम्पल को फेंक दिया जाता है और मरीजों को बिल दे दिया जाता है और उसके अंदर डॉक्टर अपना कमीशन ले लेता है। मरीज इन सब चीजों से अनजान होता है। उसको कोई जानकारी नहीं होती है और वह इनकी मनमानियों का शिकार बन जाता है।

एक और issue जो इस हाउस में बार-बार उठाया जाता रहा है, वह unauthorised diagnostic labs का है। आज पूरे देश में लड़कियों का अनुपात लगातार गिर रहा है, जिसके लिए लिंग परीक्षण जिम्मेदार है, जो कि इस तरह की प्रयोगशालाओं में किए जा रहे हैं। हरियाणा, पंजाब और उत्तर प्रदेश जहां पर अभी तक स्वास्थ्य की मूलभूत सुविधाएं नहीं पहुंची हैं, वहां पर mobile ultrasound machines पहुंच गई हैं। वहां डॉक्टर लिंग परीक्षण करने के बार अगर लकड़ी है, तो abortion करा देते हैं। इसके बारे में देश में कानून भी बना है, लेकिन कानून पर अमल नहीं हो रहा है और न ही सख्ती से कार्रवाई हो रही है। मेरा माननीय मंत्री जी से अनुरोध है कि इस कानून के तहत कम से कम फर्जी diagnostic labs पर तो कार्रवाई की जा सकती है, वरना देश में गायब हो रही लड़कियों की संख्या में लगातार वृद्धि होती रहेगी। माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस विधेयक के माध्यम सरकार से अनुरोध करूंगा कि सरकार Pathological प्रयोगशालाओं

[श्री विजय जवाहरलाल दर्डा]

के बारे में जल्दी से जल्दी सख्त norms बनाए तथा उन्हें लागू करे। सरकार एक बहुत अच्छा Nation Rural Health Mission चला रही है। इस मिशन के माध्यम से देश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में प्रयोगशालाएं स्थापित की जा रही हैं। छत्तीसगढ़, विदर्भ व नागपुर के एरिया में sickle-cell जैसी बीमारियां हैं तथा tribal क्षेत्रों में तमाम तरह की बीमारियां फैली हैं, जिनका उपचार सही प्रयोगशालाओं के बिना असंभव है। मैंने bill में अनुरोध किया है कि एक Authority बनाई जाए तथा इसके तहत देश में स्थापित होने वाली सारी प्रयोगशालाओं को register किया जाए तथा फर्जी और unhealthy conditions में चलने वाली प्रयोगशालाओं पर सख्त कार्रवाई की जाए। यह देश के स्वास्थ्य से जुड़ा प्रश्न है। अगर देश का स्वास्थ्य ठीक होगा, तो उसका भविष्य भी ठीक होगा। माननीय मंत्री जी ने pregnant महिलाओं की सुविधा के लिए काफी कदम उठाए हैं। मैं आशा करता हूं कि आप हमारे बिल का समर्थन करके, इसे पूर्ण रूप से कानून का रूप देंगे तथा देश के स्वास्थ्य की जो जिम्मेदारी आपने ली है, उसको निभाएंगे।

The question was proposed.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa): Sir, I stand here to support the Bill introduced by my friend and colleague, Shri Vijay Darda. I have no objection to any of the provisions of the Bill except to the fact that he wants that the Headquarters of this lab should be in Nagpur. My contention is, why in Nagpur alone? Why not in any other State? Why in Nagpur alone?

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Sir, I already said about Goa. I said about Punjab.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: You said that it should be in Nagpur.

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: No, no, I said 'in Goa'. I said about Punjab, I said about Bihar. I think, when I was in Nagpur, you were in Goa.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY): It is all right. Whether it is Goa or Nagpur, it is all right.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: The question is, today, doctors normally do not prescribe medicine even for common cold unless they send a patient to laboratories for various tests. This is the reality. Sometimes, they may give one or two tablets for immediate relief but most of the time even when common cold occurs, doctors refer patients to laboratories of their choice. Now, the point is whether there is any way by which you can prevent such unscrupulous act on behalf of doctors. See, this is a very questionable thing. It is not that easy to ask a doctor not to refer. Then, he will say, 'who is going to take risk?'. There will be all these questions. Therefore, counselling is required. In medical conferences that are being held from

4.00 P.M.

time-to-time, counselling is required and advice is required. In earlier times, people, just by looking into the pulse, used to determine what type of disease you had and, therefore, this aspect has to be considered, although I would not say that doctors should not insist on medical tests in every case. This is now all the more required in view of diseases like Dengue and others because in these cases a patient comes with fever and fever is something which may be caused by various types of viruses. So, no medical practitioner would like to take risk with his patient who has come with fever or temperature. Therefore, it is possible that in areas where people are affected by Dengue doctors may be taking extra precautions. There may be rare cases where doctors are aware that a particular State or a district has a high incidence of Dengue fever. I can understand that, but it does not happen in all cases. I would like to know whether the Government, the Ministry of Health, carries out timely inspections and raids on pathological labs. Vijay Dardaji referred to the fact that there are thousands of labs without proper facilities and located in dingy places all over the country. I want to know whether you have got any figures to show where the State Governments or the Central Government have conducted raids on such labs, for the safety of the patients who come there for a blood test. This is very essential. You need to do it on a war footing. Maybe, you would have to take the help of the State Governments in this respect. You have to do it because unless they are aware that raids are going to take place, they will not set up their labs in a clean and proper surrounding. Again, even if the Ministry of Health or the State Governments had done it, there is no doubt that there would have been hundreds of cases of criminal negligence and other such offences. Will you please tell us how many cases of negligence and malpractices have been registered against pathologists, who were found to have been carrying out tests without following the norms or illegally, or where labs have not been registered? This is very important. And if there are no such figures, or the figures are very low, then it is a very serious matter and this aspect needs to be considered very seriously by you.

Secondly, in many district headquarters in various States, samples are sent by air, or other means of transport, to bigger cities for getting them tested and later, they are received by the main doctor. In such cases, the time-lag is very important. If the time-lag is big, what is the guarantee that the sample has been tested on time? So, we must have some method to ensure that samples are sent properly and tested on time, so that there are no malpractices or incorrect figures as far as the result of tests are concerned. Nowadays, they follow a good practice; in important labs, they convey the results of the tests through Internet or online. That gives you immediate results, but there is no way of knowing whether it has been tested on time or not. Here is

[Shri Shantaram Naik]

an appeal to you, and you have done it in the past I suppose. Whenever deadly diseases, of the kind that occur during famine, take place, the unscrupulous owners of lab charge a very high fee. In such a scenario, I feel that you have stepped in at an appropriate time. There is an absolute need to see to it that the rates charged for tests are properly monitored and patients are not irresponsibly charged a heavy fee by the lab owners. This should be a continuous process. In poor families, when such things happen, the patients die even before any test is carried out. Now the question is that there is an authority which Dardaji has recommended. I think there is a need to have a legislation of this type with proper notification by which this regulatory body should be established with proper offices in every State, possibly in some important districts, in the country. You can also subsidize these labs in the beginning because people may not be coming forward for the purpose. I would suggest that cleanliness of these labs should be the first priority. We have got enough labs in the country. Even if those labs are maintained properly with cleanliness and requirement of registration is obtained from them, to start with, we will have a proper mechanism and machinery for the purpose. Thereafter, you can think of a legislation and further action. If proper steps are taken, this thing can be achieved. With these words, I once again congratulate my friend, Mr. Dardaji, for introducing this legislation. It was the sheer luck of Mr. Darda that two other Bills could not be taken up and this Bill of Dardaji was taken up by the House. Thank you.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH (Odisha): Thank you, Vice-Chairman, Sir. As you know that in a welfare State it is the duty of the Government to see that every life is important. Human life is very much important and every individual is the property of the State till he passes away. It is very timely and I must thank and congratulate my colleague, Dardaji, that he has brought this Bill to this House. It is a Private Member's Bill, but history has its record that till 1972 Private Member's Bill, either in this House or in the Lok Sabha, had been accepted by the Government unanimously and the whole House unanimously adopted that. Now the time has changed, but the House remains the same and the Members are elected in the same way. Members coming to the House, both here and in the Lok Sabha, are very educated Members. I feel honoured the other day, as a Member, when we had passed one Private Member's Bill of Mr. Siva in the last Session. सर, जो हमारे मान्यवर स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी हैं, इनकी कोशिश है और दिल से ये चाहते हैं कि देश में स्वास्थ्य की सेवा सब लोगों को कैसे ठीक तरह से पहुंचे। यहां यह भी बात है, आप भी जानते हैं, हम लोग सुनते आ रहे हैं, मैं यहां पर किसी सरकार के उपर कोई आक्षेप लगाकर बात नहीं करना चाहता और न यहां कोई पोलिटिकल बात करने का मुद्दा है। यह स्वास्थ्य से रिलेटेड मुद्दा है और

चूँकि स्वास्थ्य से रिलेटेड है, इसलिए यह एक मानवीय कर्तव्य भी है। आज जो लोग डॉक्टर हैं, मैं उनसे भी इस हाउस के माध्यम से निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि हमारा देश मानवीयता का एक देश है, यहां मानव को सबसे ज्यादा सम्मान मिलता है। कम से कम वे जो भी ट्रीटमेंट करते हैं, जो भी डायग्नोस्टिक सेंटर्स खोले हैं या पैथोलॉजिकल सेंटर्स खोले हैं, पहली बात तो अभी तक हमें यह भी पता नहीं चली है कि उनमें से कितने अनऑथोराइज्ड हैं? नागपुर, मुम्बई, विदर्भ, झारखंड और दूसरी स्टेट्स की बात तो छोड़िए, दिल्ली के अन्दर ही जो अल्ट्रासाउंड की मशीनें हैं, जिनके लाइसेंस का दो साल के बाद रिन्युअल होना चाहिए, वह नहीं हुआ है। मुझे विश्वास है कि मंत्री जी की नज़र में भी यह आया होगा, चूँकि सभी नेशनल न्यूजपेपर्स की हेडलाइन्स में इसका जिक्र आया था। जहां तक मुझे जानकारी है, जो Clinical Establishment Act है, उसके तहत भारत सरकार या यूनियन गवर्नमेंट का इसके ऊपर ज्यादा कंट्रोल नहीं है। हम चाहते हैं कि यूनियन गवर्नमेंट के पास इसकी अथॉरिटी रहे। इसके लिए एक regulatory authority बनाई जाए, जैसे इस देश के अन्दर जो real estate है, आज तक उसका कोई भी मां-बाप नहीं है, वे जो चाहते हैं, वही करते हैं। उनको कंट्रोल करने वाला कोई नहीं है। क्या Government of India के पास, मिनिस्ट्री के पास इससे सम्बन्धित कुछ ताकत है या नहीं? कम से कम इस सेशन के अन्दर दिल्ली और मुम्बई के अन्दर या जितनी मेट्रो सिटीज़ हैं, pathological centres के ऊपर Government of India का कंट्रोल हो जाए। ऐसे-ऐसे pathological centres खुले हुए हैं, जिनके पास कोई सर्टिफिकेट नहीं है। किसी तरीके से और उन्होंने सिर्फ एक दुकान खोलकर रख दी है कि आपका ब्लड वहां से लिया जाएगा और उसको दूसरी जगह भेज दिया जाएगा, जहां से वह टेस्ट होकर आएगा। मैंने ultrasound machine की बात इसलिए उठाई है, क्योंकि जिन्होंने यह बिल मूव किया है, विजय जी ने भी यह बात कही है और आप भी जानते हैं कि ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुखेन्दु शोखर राय): एक सेकेन्ड। हमारे पास जो लिस्ट है, उसके मुताबिक आपका समय खत्म हो गया है, लेकिन फिर भी अगर आप कुछ सुझाव देना चाहते हो, तो दो मिनट में बुलेट प्वाइंट्स में अपने सुझाव दे दीजिए।

श्री भूपिंदर सिंह: मैं यही चाहूंगा कि कम से कम जितनी जल्दी हो सके यह अथॉरिटी बन जानी चाहिए और इसके ऊपर Government of India का कंट्रोल होना चाहिए। आजकल दुकानों में pathology के जो भी instruments या chemicals मिलने लग गए हैं, जिनसे आज हम घर बैठे जो blood test कर लेते हैं और यहां पर भी लॉबी के बार निकल कर साथ ही साथ टेस्ट करवा लेते हैं, उनमें 5% या 10% का डिफरेंस तो आता ही है। Government of India के पास इतनी authority तो है ही कि हम लोग जो टैस्ट करवाते हैं, blood pressure की मशीनें यूज की जा रही हैं, वे किस कम्पनी की हैं। कम से कम लोगों को इतना अवश्य मालूम होना चाहिए कि किस-किस कम्पनी को इसकी manufacturing का सर्टिफिकेट मिला हुआ है या कौन सी कम्पनी authentic है।

जहां तक ultrasound या दूसरे pathological centres का सवाल है, उनमें से जिनका renewal नहीं हुआ है, मेरा निवेदन है कि कम से कम हाउस को और पूरे देश को इसकी जानकारी अवश्य होनी चाहिए। ऐसे सेंटर्स के ऊपर कुछ नज़र रखी जानी चाहिए, उनको scot-free नहीं छोड़ा जाना चाहिए, क्योंकि यह किसी की लाइफ का सवाल है। Pathological tests के आधार

[श्री भूपिंदर सिंह]

पर ही आदमी दूसरे टेस्ट्स करवाता है। मान लीजिए अगर किसी ने biopsy test करवाया है, आपने देखा होगा कि कई बार वह wrongly diagnose होकर आ जाता है कि आपको कैंसर है। वह व्यक्ति आधा तो वहीं पर खत्म हो जाता है। अगर उनमें से किसी के पास हिम्मत होती है, तो वह देहात से मुम्बई या दिल्ली तक पहुंचता है और वहां जाकर उसे पता चलता है कि this report is totally wrong and he is not a patient of cancer. ...**(समय की घंटी)**... ऐसी जो घटनाएं घट रही हैं, उनको कैसे कंट्रोल किया जा सकता है? मैं उम्मीद करूंगा कि मंत्री जी इसे ऊपर ध्यान देंगे। आज विजय जी यह प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिल लाए हैं। सरकार अपनी तरफ से इसको लाए और जो बिल यहां पास हुआ था, उसको भी इम्प्लीमेंट करे, उसको भी लाकर उसको रेग्युलेट करे, जिसके तहत कम से कम ऊपर कोई एक कार्यवाही हो सकेगी, धन्यवाद।

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री (श्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा): महोदय, अभी माननीय विजय दर्डा जी ने Pathological Laboratories and Clinics (Regulation and Control) Bill, 2010 को हाउस के सामने रखा है। उस पर बहुत अच्छी चर्चा हुई है। शान्ताराम नायक जी ने भी चर्चा की, भूपिंदर जी ने भी चर्चा की। चर्चा में जो एक बात सामने आई वह यह कि laboratories की जो testing facilities और laboratories से संबंधित उनके रजिस्ट्रेशन और उनके सारे विषयों के बारे में चिंता जताई गई है, मैं उनकी चिंता को जायज मानता हूं और उस चिंता को सरकार संवेदनशील तरीके से देख रही है और प्रयासरत है तथा जो उन्होंने इश्यूज उठाए हैं, they are relevant issues, which need to be addressed. मैं एक बात ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूं कि 2010 में जब इस बिल को दर्डा जी ने रखे हैं, जिन ऑब्जेक्ट्स को लेकर उन्होंने बिल बनाया था, उसमें एक तो इफेक्टिव लॉ बने, जो laboratories को कंट्रोल कर सके और laboratories की working और testing facilities के बारे में मापदंड बन सके, इसका standardization हो, उसकी चैकिंग हो, उसकी मॉनिटरिंग हो और इफेक्टिवली हम laboratories की वर्किंग को मॉनिटर कर सकें, यह उसका उद्देश्य था। दूसरा था कि ये जो diagnostics में क्या स्टैंडर्ड रखते हैं, कौन इसका diagnosis करेगा, कौन उसकी रिपोर्ट देगा, इसके बारे में 2010 में सच में ऐसी स्थिति थी जब इसके बारे में कुछ भी ब्लैक एंड व्हाइट में नहीं था। तो यह ऑब्जेक्ट उन्होंने रखा। जब उन्होंने रखा तो उसी समय सरकार ने 2010 में, जो 2011 में बन करके आया और उसमें जिन कंसर्नस को रखा है, उन कंसर्नस को address किया। जैसे जो सरकार का Act है, it says, "Unless the context otherwise requires, 'authority' means the District Registration Authority set up under section 10" So, registration की फैसिलिटी के बारे में कहा गया है। 'Certificate' means certificate of registration issued under section 30. तो रजिस्ट्रेशन की भी बात हुई और सर्टिफिकेशन की भी बात हुई। और सबसे महत्वपूर्ण विषय था 'Clinical Establishment' जिसके बारे में आपने pathological establishments and laboratories की बात की, उसके बारे में कहा गया, 'Clinical Establishment' means "a hospital, maternity home, nursing home, dispensary, clinic, sanatorium or an institution by whatever name called that offers services, facilities requiring diagnosis, treatment or care for illness, injury, deformity, abnormality or pregnancy in any recognized system of medicine established and administered or maintained by any person or body of persons, whether incorporated

or not." So, they also defined the 'clinical establishment', and, secondly, it says, "a place established as an independent entity or part of an establishment referred to in sub-clause (i) in connection with the diagnosis or treatment of diseases where pathological, bacteriological, genetic, radiological, chemical, biological investigations or other diagnostic or investigative services with the aid of laboratory or other medical equipment, are usually carried on, established and administered or maintained by any person or body of persons, whether incorporated or not." यानी, आपने जो अपना कर्सन ऑब्जेक्ट्स में रखा था, Clinical Establishment Act, 2010 में उसको आत्मसात कर लिया गया। It has become an Act. जो आप कह रहे हैं, वे सारी चीजें एक्ट के रूप में आ चुकी हैं, कानून के रूप में आ चुकी हैं। उसी तरीके से आपने कहा कि इसको govern करने के लिए क्या सिस्टम है? There will be a National Council. The National Council shall compile and publish the national registry of clinical establishments within two years from the date of commencement of this Act, develop the minimum standards and period review. So, develop the minimum standards and period review हो, इस बात को कहा गया। इस एक्ट के लिए चार स्टेट्स की तरफ से रिक्वेस्ट आई। क्लिनिकल एक्ट बना, क्लिनिकल एक्ट बनने के बाद इसको 10 स्टेट्स ने लागू किया। यूनियन टेरिटरीज़ में दिल्ली को छोड़ कर बाकी सबने इसको लागू किया। पहली बात तो यह है कि जो आपकी मंशा, जो आपकी इच्छा, जो आपके कहने की बात है, उसको सरकार एक्ट के रूप में black and white में पहले ही ला चुकी है। That is now in force and it has come in ten States.

दूसरी बात यह है कि कुछ इश्यूज ऐसे हैं, जिनको आपने भी रखा तथा अन्य माननीय सदस्यों ने भी रखा। उनमें एक है, National Council for Clinical Establishments at the Central level, इसको डीजीएचएस मॉनिटर करती है। उसी तरीके से State Council of Clinical Establishments are headed by the State Health Secretary और यह जहां-जहां लागू हुआ है, वहीं पर है। जहां लागू नहीं हुआ है, वहां नहीं है। आपने कहा कि वह नागपुर हो, गोवा हो, पंजाब हो, आपने सभी के बारे में कहा, वह हमने जो District Registration Authority, chaired by District Magistrate है, उसको डिस्ट्रिक्ट लेवल पर ही कर दिया है। You need not have any head office. हमें नेशनल लेवल पर उसकी information मिलती है। State Secretary उसको रजिस्टर करते हैं और डिस्ट्रिक्ट लेवल से उसको registration मिलता है। Each district has a District Registration Authority. So, this is not required. एक बात यह बतानी थी। यह कहा गया कि हम raid करें। हम सेंट्रल लेवल पर raid नहीं कर सकते हैं। Health is a State Subject. We can assist them; we can ask them to do. The implementation part is with the States and the States have to do it. आपके सेंटिमेंट्स के लिए इसको कैसे किया जा सकता है और कैसे enforce किया जा सकता है, इस पर हम विचार कर सकते हैं कि how we can make it more effective. इसके मेज़र्स क्या हो सकते हैं, क्योंकि यह concern बहुत genuine है? इसको करने की जरूरत है। उसी तरीके से रजिस्ट्रेशन के बारे में section 14 of Chapter IV में बताया गया है कि कैसे इसका रजिस्ट्रेशन होगा। क्वालिफिकेशन के बारे में भी minimum standard for clinical establishment भी डिफाइंड है। यह Clinical Establishments Act के तहत कवर होता है। इसको वेबसाइट पर दिखाया गया है।

[श्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा]

मैं एक ही बात कहना चाहूंगा कि हमारी कोशिश है कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा स्टेट्स इसको adopt करे। कल भी स्वास्थ्य मंत्रियों की बैठक होने वाली है, उसमें भी मैं इस विषय को रखने वाला हूँ। Adopt तो उनको करना पड़ेगा और forceful enforcement उनको करना पड़ेगा। I fully share the sentiments of my friends, and this is a very important concern. Methodology क्या हो सकती है, so that we see to it that the States go for it. स्टेट्स इसको adopt करे, इसके लिए हम प्रयासरत रहेंगे।

मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि चूंकि हमारा Clinical Establishments Act बन गया है, जो आपकी सारी चीजें हैं, रिजस्ट्रेशन का विषय, standardisation का विषय, मॉनिटरिंग का विषय, authority का विषय, ये सारे इसमें कवर होते हैं। जो कानून बनना था, जिसके लिए आपने रिक्वेस्ट की है, वह कानून बन चुका है और उसके implementation का पार्ट स्टेट्स के पास है। 10 स्टेट्स ने इसको implement किया है, यूनियन टेरिटरीज़ में दिल्ली को छोड़कर सबने इसको implement किया है। दिल्ली वालों से भी मैं रिक्वेस्ट कर रहा हूँ कि इसको आप जल्दी-से-जल्दी लागू करें। मैं इसके लिए सबसे रिक्वेस्ट करूंगा और इसके लिए सबसे बातचीत भी करूंगा। मैं माननीय सदस्य से निवेदन करूंगा और इसके लिए सबसे बातचीत भी करूंगा मैं माननीय सदस्य से निवेदन करूंगा कि चूंकि यह एक्ट बन चुका है, जो उनकी मंशा है, उसको सरकार ने पूरा कर दिया है, इसलिए इसको अगर ये वापस लेंगे, तो अच्छा रहेगा।

श्री भूपिंदर सिंह: वाइस चेयरमैन सर, आप जानते हैं कि देश की स्थिति कैसी है, इसलिए मैं मंत्री जी से निवेदन करूंगा कि जहां पर सब-डिविज़नल हॉस्पिटल्स हैं या ब्लॉक लेवल पर जहां अच्छे हॉस्पिटल्स हैं, वहां पर एनआरएचएम के तहत या किसी अन्य स्कीम के तहत कम से कम अल्ट्रासाउंड की सुविधा शुरू करवाई।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुखेन्दु शेखर राय): दर्डा जी, आप क्या करना चाहते हैं? Are you withdrawing the Bill?

श्री विजय जवाहरलाल दर्डा: सम्माननीय मंत्री जी, आपने काफी हद तक मेरा समाधान किया और वर्ष 2010 में मैंने जो 'The Pathological Laboratories and Clinical (Regulation and Control) Bill' introduce किया था, उसका काफी हद तक कानून आपने बना लिया है, जिसके माध्यम से आपने पूरे देश के अंदर Good Laboratories Practices के नॉर्म्स लागू कर दिए हैं।

आपके वक्तव्य से एक बात मेरे ध्यान में यह आई है कि आपने कानून तो बना दिया है, लेकिन राज्य इसको सही ढंग से इम्प्लीमेंट नहीं कर रहे हैं। मैं आपको परेशान करने के लिए या मिनिस्ट्री को परेशान करने के लिए यह नहीं कह रहा हूँ, लेकिन आप यह मानेंगे कि आपका या मेरा, किसी का भी भाई हो सकता है, बहन हो सकती है या माँ हो सकती है। आज यह बात सत्य है कि लेबोरेटरीज़ और लैब्स कितने महत्वपूर्ण हैं। आप देखिए कि जो National Accreditation Board for Testing Calibrations Laboratories (NABL) है, उसे भारत सरकार ने स्थापित किया हुआ है। पूरे देश में लगभग एक लाख पैथोलॉजिकल लेबोरेटरीज़ चल रही हैं, जिनमें से केवल 400 ने accreditation के लिए अप्लाई किया है। इसी से आप समझ सकते हैं

कि हालात कितने गम्भीर हैं। इसी प्रकार, स्विट्जरलैंड या अमेरिका ने — हमारा देश वर्ष 2020 तक पूरी दुनिया में हेल्थकेयर में करीब ढाई सौ बिलियन डॉलर अर्जित करने वाला देश बनने जा रहा है। मेरी आपसे एक ही दरखास्त है। मुझे आपकी sincerity पर फख्र है और मैं यह जानता हूँ कि आप कितने सम्बेदनशील हैं, किन्तु यह विषय बहुत गम्भीर है और पूरे देश के स्वास्थ्य के साथ जुड़ा हुआ है, इसलिए मैं आपसे विनम्रतापूर्वक एक ही निवेदन करना चाहूँगा। मैं यह जानता हूँ कि यह स्टेट सब्जेक्ट है, मगर बिना सेंटर के स्टेट भी कुछ नहीं कर पाता है। अब आप देखिए कि दिल्ली ने इसे अभी तक लागू नहीं किया है। ऐसे कई राज्य हैं। आप स्वयं यह जानते हैं कि लिंग-परीक्षण के नाम पर पंजाब, हरियाणा, महाराष्ट्र, बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश में क्या-क्या हो रहा है। यह सभी जगहों पर हो रहा है और इससे बच्चियों की संख्या लगातार कम होती जा रही है। मेरा आपसे एक ही नम्र निवेदन है कि आप कृपा करके उन सब लोगों पर इसके लिए जोर दें और इसको resist करवाएँ। फर्जी झोलाछाप डॉक्टर्स, जो लेबोरेटरीज़ साइकिल पर रख लेते हैं और गाँव-गाँव में घूमते हैं, टेंटों में चलाते हैं, उनके लिए सख्त कानून होने चाहिए। आप प्रधानमंत्री जी से कहिए, कैबिनेट सेक्रेटरी से कहिए, हेल्थ सेक्रेटरी से कहिए और ड्रग कंट्रोलर से कहिए कि उनके लिए सख्त से सख्त सज़ा हो। हमारे गाँव में रहने वाला जो व्यक्ति है, जो कि पढ़ा-लिखा नहीं है, उसके बारे में आप स्वयं जानते हैं, क्योंकि हम सब लोग किसी न किसी गाँव से जुड़े हैं। आप देखिए कि वहाँ आज हॉस्पिटल्स की क्या हालत है, वहाँ हमारे सरकारी हॉस्पिटल्स की क्या हालत है और किस प्रकार से हम अपने संसाधनों को बन्द करके रखते हैं, ताकि प्राइवेट डॉक्टर्स को फायदा मिले। अगर ऐसे लोग जो जानकार नहीं हैं, वे मरीज को infected injection देकर, ब्लड निकालकर, sink test के नाम पर ऐसी धाधली मचा रहे हैं, तो यह हम सब के लिए एक गम्भीर विषय है। मुझे आप पर पूरा विश्वास है कि आप इसको निश्चित रूप से करेंगे। मैं जाते-जाते आपसे एक और बात कहना चाहूँगा। इसका संबंध इससे नहीं है, लेकिन फिर भी जब मुझे मौका मिला है तो मैं आपके सामने एक निवेदन करना चाहूँगा कि हमारा “एम्स” एक महत्वपूर्ण institution है, लेकिन वहाँ अभी तक गाउंसिल बॉडी नहीं बनी है। पहले एक जमाना था, जब प्रोफेसर पद पर नियुक्ति के लिए पूरी दुनिया से आवेदन आते थे और साल भर में दो-ढाई सौ प्रोफेसर बनते थे, लेकिन आज हम वहाँ पर उनको सिर्फ प्रमोट कर रहे हैं। मैं आपके ध्यान में कम से कम यह बात लाना चाहता हूँ कि पहले यहाँ तक होता था कि हमारे प्रधान मंत्री अमेरिका और इंग्लैंड में फोन करते थे कि आप यहाँ पर आइए और काम कीजिए। आज हमारे देश में हालत यह है कि वे लोग उस competition में हैं ही नहीं। हम केवल उन्हें प्रमोट करते जा रहे हैं। इसलिए मेरा एक बार फिर से आप से नम्र निवेदन है कि कृपया आप इस ओर देखें और हमारे देश की जो स्वास्थ्य सेवाएँ हैं विशेष रूप से गाँव में रहने वाले छोटे और अनपढ़ आदमी की ओर ध्यान दें।

महोदय, इस विधेयक को विदड़ों करने से पहले मैं माननीय स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्री जी से एक निवेदन और करना चाहता हूँ कि आप मुझे यह एश्योरेंस दे दीजिए कि आप शीघ्र देश के स्वास्थ्य मंत्रियों की एक कॉफ्रेंस बुलाएंगे और कॉफ्रेंस में उन्हें इस संवेदनशील विषय को अधिक गंभीरता से लेकर कानून बनाने के लिए कहेंगे।

महोदय, मैं अपने विधेयक को विदड़ों करता हूँ।

The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY): The next Bill is the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2015. Dr. K. V. P. Ramachandra Rao.

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Thank you very much, Sir.

श्री शंकरभाई एन. वेगड़ (गुजरात): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सदन में quorum नहीं है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY): Have your seat. If quorum is there, then your Bill will be taken up.

Hon. Members, since there is no quorum, the House stands adjourned till 1.30 p.m. on Monday, the 29th February, 2016.

*The House then adjourned at forty minutes past
four of the clock till thirty minutes past one of the clock on
Monday, the 29th February, 2016.*

The Promotion of Cycling and Provision of Compulsory Dedicated Cycle Corridor along Major Roads and Highways Bill, 2016 — *Introduced* (page 315)

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Amendment of Articles 343 and 348) — *Introduced* (page 316)

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Amendment of Articles 246, 248, 254 and Seventh Schedule) — *Introduced* (page 316)

The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2016 — *Introduced* (page 316)

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2014 — *Negatived* (pages 316-321)

The Pathological Laboratories and Clinics (Regulation and Control) Bill, 2010 — *Withdrawn* (pages 321-334)

