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Friday

22 July, 2016

31 Ashadha, 1938 (Saka)

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RAJYA SABHA
OFFICIAL REPORT
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[P.T.O.]

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RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 22nd July, 2016/31st Ashadha, 1938 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri F. M. Khan, a former Member of this House, on the 21st July, 2016, at the age of 78 years.

Born in July, 1938, at Somwarpet in Coorg district of Karnataka, Shri Khan was educated at Baldwin Boys High School, Bengaluru.

A coffee planter and an avid sports enthusiast, Shri Khan served as the President of the Olympic Association of Karnataka and the Bangalore Welfare Association. He was also a former Vice-President of the Indian Olympic Association. He represented the Indian team to Moscow Olympic Games in 1980 and India in the U.N.O. in 1982.

Shri Khan started his legislative career as a Member of the Karnataka Legislative Council in 1974 and was a Member of that Council from 1974 to 1976.

Shri F. M. Khan represented the State of Karnataka in this House for two terms – from April, 1976 to April, 1982, and again from April, 1982 to April, 1988.

In the passing away of Shri F. M. Khan, the country has lost a veteran parliamentarian and an able sports administrator.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri F. M. Khan.

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

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

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

PAPERS LAID ON TABLE

Notification of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): Sir, I lay on the Table, under Section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority

of India Act, 1997, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications) Notification No. G.S.R. 436 (E), dated the 22nd April, 2016, publishing the panic button and Global Positioning System facility in all mobile phone handsets Rules, 2016.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 4814/16/16]

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*)

**REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE ENFORCEMENT OF
SECURITY INTEREST AND RECOVERY OF DEBTS LAWS
AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016**

SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV (Rajasthan): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

**RECORD OF EVIDENCE GIVEN BEFORE THE JOINT COMMITTEE
ON THE ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST AND
RECOVERY OF DEBTS LAWS AND MISCELLANEOUS
PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016**

SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV (Rajasthan): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy of the record of evidence given before the Joint Committee on the Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

**MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF THE
REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE RAJYA SABHA ON
THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2013**

SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV (Rajasthan): Sir, I move the following motion:—

“That the time appointed for presentation of the Report of the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha on the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be extended up to the last day of the first week of the next session”.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): With your permission Sir, I rise to announce that the Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 25th of July, 2016, will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any items of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper consisting of:-
 - (i) The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2016, as passed by Lok Sabha;
 - (ii) The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2016, as passed by Lok Sabha;
 - (iii) The Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2016, as passed by Lok Sabha.
 2. Consideration and Passing of the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016, as passed by Lok Sabha and as reported by Select Committee;
 3. Further consideration and passing of the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Second Amendment) Bill, 2014, as passed by Lok Sabha and as reported by the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha;
 4. Consideration and passing of the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2016, as passed by Lok Sabha;
 5. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:—
 - (a) The Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2016;
 - (b) The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016; and
 - (c) The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016.
 6. Further consideration and passing of the Whistle Blower Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015, as passed by Lok Sabha;
 7. Consideration and passing of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2013, after it is reported by Select Committee; and
 8. Consideration of Resolution seeking approval of the recommendations contained in Paras 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the First Report of Railway Convention Committee (2014), appointed to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues and other ancillary matters, which was presented to both the Houses of Parliament on 22 December, 2015.
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REFERENCE BY MEMBERS

Notice under Rule 267 for discussion on threat to security of Parliament

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Ritabrata Banerjee. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया (राजस्थान): माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, एक बहुत आवश्यक निवेदन है, वह यह है कि आपने आज के बिजनेस में जो रखा है, मेरी ऐसी मान्यता है ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Have you given a notice?

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया: सर, मैंने नोटिस दिया है। ...(व्यवधान)... सर, आज सभी सांसदों की सुरक्षा पर एक संकट खड़ा हो गया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Have you given notice? ...(Interruptions)... I am only asking have you given notice?

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया: सर, मैंने नोटिस दिया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Under what rule? Which rule?

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया: सर, मैंने रूल 267 के तहत नोटिस दिया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Rule 267.

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया: सर, यह बहुत गंभीर विषय है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is Rule 267? ..(Interruptions).. Let us deal with Zero Hour business.

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया: श्रीमान्, मेरा एक निवेदन है कि जब संसद पर खतरा, सभी सांसदों पर खतरा है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री श्वेत मलिक (पंजाब): सर, यह देश की सुरक्षा पर आघात है, यह किसी कीमत पर बरदाश्त नहीं होगा। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया: सर, जब तक इस विषय पर चर्चा नहीं होगी ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: कृपया आप लोग सुनिए। Listen, listen. सुनिए, सुनिए ...(व्यवधान).... I am not overruling anything. आप सुनिए, जो आप लोग बोल रहे हैं, वह मेरी समझ में आना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान).... आप पहले सुनिए। ...(व्यवधान).... Please listen to me. Have you given notice under Rule 267? ..(Interruptions).. Whatever you speak, I will listen. ..(Interruptions).. Only one Member can speak. Who is going to speak? ..(Interruptions)..

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया: सर, वह नोटिस मैंने दे दिया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: आपने यह नोटिस कब दिया? ...(व्यवधान).... When did you give? ..(Interruptions)...

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया: सर, मैंने आज सुबह साढ़े नौ बजे नोटिस दिया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One of the Members can speak. ...**(Interruptions)**... I will listen to one Member. ...**(Interruptions)**... Other Members may sit. ...**(Interruptions)**... One Member can speak. ...**(Interruptions)**... Who is speaking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): Mr. Naresh Gujral will speak.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, Shri Naresh will speak.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (Punjab): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, once before also we faced this kind of a situation, and we must now allow ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are you speaking about Rule 267? ...**(Interruptions)**... Are you speaking about Rule 267 notice given to the Chair?

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: It is the right of every Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can always give notice.

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया: सर, यह बहुत गंभीर विषय है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, अगर आज हम इस पर विचार नहीं करेंगे, तो आने वाला समय हमें माफ नहीं करेगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, now listen. Yes, there is a notice.

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया: सर, आज के बिजनेस को सस्पेंड करके पहले इस विषय पर चर्चा की जाए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, tell me what the subject is. Who will speak?

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: I will speak.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, you can speak.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Sir, this is an extremely important issue. Once before, we had seen an attack on Parliament. How serious it was! Every day we are subjected to terrorism. Now, if an MP behaves in such a trivial manner, then action must be taken. It concerns the security of every single Member in this House and the other House. We go through security checks. He has put everything on the Face Book, where the security checks are, how to circumvent those security checks, etc. This is absolutely non-sensical. How can we allow this type of a thing to happen? ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naresh Gujral, I heard you. Nareshji, there is a technical problem. Yes, the security of the Parliament is of paramount importance. There is no doubt about it. But I have a technical problem. You see, this is an issue against a Member of the other House. So, it is for the other House to take it up. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: सर, आपने इस पर टेक्निकल इश्यू के बारे में कहा है। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि जिन सदस्य ने यह फोटोग्राफी या ऑडियो रिकॉर्डिंग की है, उन्होंने उन स्थानों की वीडियोग्राफी की है जो सुरक्षा के क्षेत्र हैं, जहां पर frisking होती है तथा जहां पर सुरक्षा के कर्मचारी बैठते हैं। पार्लियामेंट के अंदर प्रोसिडिंग से संबंधित किस तरह से काम-काज होते हैं, जिसको गुप्त रखा जाता है, उसकी उन्होंने वीडियोग्राफी की है। उन्होंने वीडियोग्राफी करने के बाद उसको सोशल मीडिया पर वायरल भी किया।

सर, आज इस संसद में जो हमारे माननीय सदस्य बैठे हुए हैं, ये उसके भुक्तभोगी हैं कि किस तरह से इस लोकतंत्र के मंदिर पर आतंकवादियों ने हमला किया था। आज लोकतंत्र का यह मंदिर अगर सुरक्षित है तो इसके लिए मैं नतमस्तक होकर अपने सुरक्षा बलों तथा यहां के कर्मचारियों को सलाम करता हूँ। लेकिन, तब उस तरह के आतंकवादियों को यहां के अंदर की सुरक्षा के पूरे ताने-बाने की जानकारी नहीं थी, इसलिए वे सफल नहीं हुए। तब उनके निशाने पर सबसे ज्यादा राज्य सभा थी। ये जो माननीय सदस्य हैं, इन्होंने उसे फेसबुक पर डाला, सोशल मीडिया पर डाला और वह वायरल हुआ। वे आतंकवादी, जो पूरी दुनिया में अपनी शैतानी हरकतें कर रहे हैं, उनको आपने वे ठिकाने बताने की कोशिश की, इस तरह से आपने उन आतंकवादियों की मदद करने की कोशिश की, जिससे वे आतंकवादी अपनी शैतानी हरकतों में कामयाब हों।

सर, दूसरी चीज़ यह कि उन्होंने बयान दिया है कि हम रोज इसी तरह संसद की सुरक्षा का जो ढांचा है, इसकी पूरी की पूरी जो व्यवस्था है, उसको शूट करेंगे, उसको सोशल मीडिया पर डालेंगे, कोई कुछ नहीं कर पाएगा। सर, यहां पर टेक्निकल इश्यू नहीं है, यह राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और इस संसद की सुरक्षा से जुड़ा हुआ मुद्दा है। इसलिए हम चाहते हैं कि इस पर चर्चा हो और इस पर चर्चा होने के साथ-साथ, जिस व्यक्ति ने इसको जिस मंशा और जिस मकसद से किया है, उसके खिलाफ कार्रवाई हो। मैं यह कहना चाहूँगा कि अगर आवश्यक हो तो उसके खिलाफ राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा क़ानून के तहत कार्रवाई हो।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, please listen. The question is, the security of the Parliament is of paramount importance and there is no doubt about it. Whether this Member or that Member or any other Member does it, it is a matter of serious concern, and it has to be taken up in that spirit. The security of the Parliament is the responsibility of the Government. So, the first thing I have to say is that the Government has to take cognizance of this security violation and take appropriate action. Whoever does it, whether it is Rajya Sabha Member or Lok Sabha Member, the Government should be seized of the matter and should take appropriate action. That is number one. With regard to security, whatever is to be done, that should be done by the Government. Number two, with regard to the person who violated the security norms, the Government certainly can take legal action or other action

should be taken. The third question is with regard to the Member. It is on that matter I said that when it comes to a Member of the other House, I have a technical problem. I had asked if we can take it up. That was my doubt. But then I am... *...(Interruptions)...* So, the solution that I am saying... *...(Interruptions)...* What I am saying is, if there should be a discussion, my suggestion is that the Government can move a Motion, initiate a discussion and the House can discuss it. Instead of... *...(Interruptions)...* Let me complete. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me complete. *...(Interruptions)...* Let me complete. *...(Interruptions)...* आप बैठिए! Therefore, I will convey your feelings, being very important, to the hon. Chairman and after discussing with the hon. Chairman, if necessary, we can have a discussion after the decision of the Chairman. *...(Interruptions)...* I cannot now.... *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: सर, issue यह नहीं है कि यह इस थाने का मामला है या उस थाने का मामला है, यह संसद की सुरक्षा का मामला है। *...(व्यवधान)...*

श्री भुपेंद्र यादव (राजस्थान): देश की सुरक्षा का मामला है। *...(व्यवधान)...*

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: अगर आप इसको technical मकड़जाल में डालेंगे तो हम न्याय नहीं कर पाएंगे। *...(व्यवधान)...* हमें unanimously, संसद की सुरक्षा के साथ जिन लोगों ने भी इस तरह का खिलवाड़ करने की कोशिश की *...(व्यवधान)...* खिलवाड़ नहीं, यह षड्यंत्र है। उस षड्यंत्र के संबंध में यदि माननीय सदस्य अपनी बात रखना चाहते हैं, उसमें resolution पास हो या कुछ भी हो। *...(व्यवधान)...* इसीलिए उन्होंने यह नोटिस दिया है। *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, what is your suggestion? *...(Interruptions)...* No; I am only saying... *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री मेघराज जैन (मध्य प्रदेश): देश में *...(व्यवधान)...* पैदा करना चाहते हैं। *...(व्यवधान)...*

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, please allow our Members also. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. *...(Interruptions)...* What is your view? *...(Interruptions)...* What is your view? *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI (Punjab): I am saying... *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री मेघराज जैन: यह देश की सुरक्षा का मामला है। देश की सुरक्षा के साथ *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me listen. *...(Interruptions)...* Let me listen to this side also. *...(Interruptions)...* Let me listen... *...(Interruptions)...* No, sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* Let me listen to this side also. *...(Interruptions)...* Yes, what is your view? *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: I am saying that the Chair has recognized the importance of this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... It concerns with the security of every Member of Parliament and the entire political system. ...*(Interruptions)*... No doubt. ...*(Interruptions)*... This has been playing on the social media since yesterday. ...*(Interruptions)*... In fact, Sir, I thought that the Government of the day should have stood up at the first stage and told us about what they have done in the last twenty-four hours and what they are going to do to ensure security. ...*(Interruptions)*... They should be telling us. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI (Uttar Pradesh): What are they doing instead of just raising it? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: You are a very senior Member. Are you protecting this person or are you opposing this person? ...*(Interruptions)*... Are you protecting this person or opposing? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): The Government has to act. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: The action of this person is absolutely wrong and it is a breach of the security of Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please condemn it. ...*(Interruptions)*... फिर वही बात आएगी। ...*(व्यवधान)*... अभी technical बात थी कि वह उस हाउस का मेम्बर है। आप क्या चाहती हैं? आप चाहती हैं कि वह इस तरह के वीडियो पोस्ट करता रहे। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप क्या चाहती हैं कि वह वीडियोज पोस्ट करता रहे? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री तपन कुमार सेन: उनके नाम की एफआईआर करिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: आप चाहती हैं कि वह आतंकवादियों को सूचना देता रहे? ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप क्या चाहती हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री तपन कुमार सेन: हम चाहते हैं कि गवर्नमेंट ...*(व्यवधान)*... पुलिस आपके हाथ में है। गिरफ्तार तो आपको करना है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Government has to act instead of spoiling the time of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the Government act. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the Government act instead of spoiling the time of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री अमर शंकर सावले (महाराष्ट्र): पहले इस पर चर्चा हो, इस विषय पर चर्चा करिए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is your suggestion? ...*(Interruptions)*... What is your suggestion? ...*(Interruptions)*... Your own Minister is speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*... Your own Minister is speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Sir, I just wish to say that

normally... *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री तपन कुमार सेन: आप अंदर आ जाइए। जो करना है, अंदर आकर करिए। *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, you speak... *...(Interruptions)...* No; your own Minister is speaking. *...(Interruptions)...* Your own Minister is speaking. *...(Interruptions)...* Please go back. *...(Interruptions)...* No; one thing... *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN : I just want to... *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, let me say. *...(Interruptions)...* See, matters raised here is very, very important. No, sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* Please sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* Sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* I will allow you. *...(Interruptions)...* Please sit down. I will allow you. *...(Interruptions)...* I will allow you. Sit down.

SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA (Punjab): Sir,...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will call you; sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* I will allow you; I will call you. See, the matter raised here is very, very serious and important. I want to take a decision. *...(Interruptions)...* I am only eliciting your views. So, please allow me to take a decision. That can only be done if you go back to your seat. See, you cannot force me to take a decision in this way. Please go back to your seat. Now, I have given the floor to Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman. Let me hear her. Then, let me hear this side.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir,...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, I will allow you also. *...(Interruptions)...* We have to take a decision on this.

श्री श्वेत मलिक: आप चर्चा कराइए। *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; चर्चा कराइए... I am not a dictator. I have to take the view of the House. आप जाइए। You go back to your seats. *...(Interruptions)...* Please understand, I am not opposing a discussion. I am not against a discussion. *...(Interruptions)...* Please allow me to come to a conclusion. Please go back. *...(Interruptions)...* Naqviji, let them go back. *...(Interruptions)...* Let them go back. *...(Interruptions)...* Now, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman. What is your view? What should be done? *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Why are they spoiling the time of the Zero Hour?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this chance to speak on this grave issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You say as to what should be done.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I am just coming to it. I am fairly new in this House; I have learnt a lot in my last two years. What I would like to submit here is, every time, anything affects the prerogative of the House, all of us have taken the matter very, very seriously. We also say in matters related to the House we have to be seen to be proactive. Now, it is surprising for me that on a matter related to the security of this House, it is being done. And which House is this? It is a House of the elected people, both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, and people's representatives are seated here.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You want a discussion.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Just a minute, Sir. It is the temple of democracy. In this, are we trying to say; oh! the Government do this; we won't do it. We are trying to protect... *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: The Government should do it. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, you have given me the time, and let me speak for just one minute. I would want the hon. Members to patiently hear me. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am listening. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I am not holding any political argument here. Please listen. Let us please have the patience to listen; the Chair has given me the permission. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please continue.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Therefore, I wish and I request the Chair to take that kind of an initiative which we normally have taken in the interest of this temple of democracy, in the national security's interest, and not to overlook a massive threat where the person who has violated, has also repeatedly said that he will do it over and over again. Are we sitting and watching here? The Government will certainly do what it is asked to do. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Give a notice. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: But are we, as a House, sitting and watching this? *...(Interruptions)...*

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

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: The Congress cannot be seen as protecting the Member. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I allowed him; you sit down.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN The Congress is protecting...
...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR (Himachal Pradesh): We are not protecting him. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir,... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, बोलिए-बोलिए। ...*(Interruptions)*... निर्मला जी, बैठिए।

श्री प्रताप सिंह बाजवा: सर, मुझे यह रिक्वेस्ट करनी है ...*(व्यवधान)*... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Malik, sit down. Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Sir, this is the security of Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. Why are you worried? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रताप सिंह बाजवा: एक मिनट प्लीज, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, बोलिए-बोलिए।

SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: This is not a question of any one party. Unfortunately, पिछले 70 साल से ऐसा अभी तक कभी नहीं हुआ कि किसी मेम्बर ऑफ पार्लियामेंट ने, just to be popular on the social media, you do these kinds of things! Had it happened somewhere else, they would have dismembered him and arrested him that very moment. I am not saying just this. We are not going for किन्तु-परन्तु, कौन क्या कर रहा है, पार्लियामेंट को इस पर एक्शन लेना चाहिए। And this man has said that he is going to go viral again. So, the Government should do something in this regard. I am going to reiterate it again whatever Ambikaji has already said. ...*(Interruptions)*... My own late father was killed during the... *(Interruptions)*... We have already suffered. ...*(Interruptions)*... We cannot allow this kind of a thing to happen. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir,...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will call you; I will call you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sit down. I heard you. I got your point. ...*(Interruptions)*... I got your point. Sit down.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: They want to create anarchy in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Now, Mr. Anand Sharma, please.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the issue is a serious one. There can't be any partisan views on a matter when it comes to the security of Parliament, the security of Parliamentarians, because our Parliament had seen a dastardly terror attack in 2001 and it was at Gate No. 12 where it all started, and where by an 'accident', they lost their way. Our Watch and Ward staff were alert and closed that door. In fact, the then Prime Minister, the entire Cabinet and all senior leaders were sitting in this House and they were at the door for firing. So, this is a serious matter. What the internal security procedures are have to be kept secret; they can't be filmed. Everywhere it happens. It is so even at the airport. This is Parliament of India. At the same time, I understand that after the terror attack, there is a Joint Committee that has been constituted, chaired by the Speaker of the other House, and Members of this House and Members of the other House are Members. Given the seriousness of the matter, I would urge Mr. Chairman to convey what we feel about it and also urge the Security Committee to take appropriate action immediately. That is one part.

Secondly, about the action to be taken under the law, it is for the Government. Thirdly, on action to be taken against the concerned individual, since that person happens to be a Member of the other House, it is for the hon. Speaker of the Lok Sabha to take appropriate action against that Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: And should we discuss it here?

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, there is no doubt that this matter is of grave concern. There is no point dilating on that or spending time on it. It is not an issue of a partisan manner of view, etc., but it is a matter of security of the House. That is important, very important. It is not only a matter of security, but also an equally important matter of privilege. What I am saying in this House is a property of this House and there is a privilege of every Member of Parliament that it shall not be made public unless so decided, etc., etc. All of us know the procedure. So, it has been both a breach of privilege and a breach of security. Now, the question is: What action should be taken? Action needs to be taken. There is no doubt. As the Chair of this House, you can convey our sentiments to the other House since he is a Member of the other House. The other House must proceed. But, the more important question is, and I would like to know, since this happened yesterday, the ruling party has a majority in the other House, you can have the Speaker to decide which Bill is a Money Bill and which is not a Money Bill when you don't want our opinion. Why can't you have the Speaker decide on what action to be taken against a Member of that House? Why is that not happening?

Secondly, the Delhi Police is under the Central Government. According to the

law, action required to be taken has to be taken. Why was this delay since yesterday till now? On that, the Government has to answer.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How do you know? They must have taken the action.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, otherwise, why would they raise it here? If action has been taken, why raise it here?

श्री प्रभात झा (मध्य प्रदेश): आप उनको बचाना चाहते हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री तपन कुमार सेन: कौन किसको बचाना चाहता है? ...(व्यवधान)... कौन किसको बचाना चाहता है? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री मेघराज जैन: उपसभापति महोदय ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: I want the strictest of action taken. I am asking the Government why action is not being taken. I am saying that the strictest of action has to be taken. Why has the action not been taken? ...(Interruptions)... Sir, you must also elicit that before conveying. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: उपसभापति जी, श्री सीताराम येचुरी जी लोक सभा की स्पीकर के फैसले पर क्वेश्चन मार्क कर रहे हैं? गवर्नमेंट ने क्या किया उस पर क्वेश्चन मार्क कर रहे हैं? आज कई ऑनरेबल मेम्बर्स ने रूल 267 पर एक नोटिस दिया हुआ है। वे चाहते हैं कि इस गंभीर मुद्दे पर चर्चा हो और सदन का जो view हो, अगर सदन चाहता है कि उसकी जो हरकतें हैं, वे राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के दायरे में आती हैं या नहीं आती हैं? ...(व्यवधान)... अगर आती हैं, तो सदन उसे रिकमंड करे, क्योंकि इस हाउस के अंदर, इस सदन के अंदर ...(व्यवधान)... लोक सभा, राज्य सभा या पूरे परिसर में कोई सदस्य कुछ करता है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: श्री शरद यादव जी ...(व्यवधान)... आप बोलिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: तो *suo motu* सरकार कुछ नहीं कर सकती है, उसके लिए सदन को रिकमंड करना पड़ेगा, सदन को कहना पड़ेगा। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Is the Government ready in this House to take action against... ...(Interruptions)...

श्री उपसभापति: शरद यादव जी, आप बोलिए। After that, I will read Rule 267. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री शरद यादव (बिहार): उपसभापति जी, जो सारी ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will read Rule 267 after this. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री शरद यादव: उपसभापति जी, ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: आप लोग बैठिए। शरद यादव जी।

श्री शरद यादव: सर, जिस मामले पर सीताराम येचुरी बोले, आनन्द शर्मा बोले, मैं मानता हूँ कि यह नादानी वाला काम जरूर है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: सुनिए, सुनिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सुनिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री शरद यादव: नादानी वाला ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: शरद जी, आप अपनी राय दीजिए। मैं क्या करूँ? इस पर डिस्कशन होना है या नहीं होना है, आप अपनी राय दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: The House is one that action should be taken. You can convey to the concerned authority, the Government and also the Speaker, that action should be taken. The House is one, in my opinion, that action should be taken. You convey this to the hon. Speaker to take action on the concerned Member and direct the Government to take action. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will read Rule 267 after this. ...**(Interruptions)**...
शरद जी, आप बोलिए।

श्री शरद यादव: ये बाजू वाले ही नहीं बोलने देते। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: आप बोलिए।

श्री शरद यादव: उपसभापति जी, जो चर्चा है, वह हो चुकी है। यह जो एक्शन है, मैं मानता हूँ कि ...**(व्यवधान)**... मेरी बात सुनिए, ...**(व्यवधान)**... नहीं-नहीं सुनिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: आप लोग इनकी बात सुनिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: आप करना नहीं चाहते हो। ...**(व्यवधान)**... He is a Member of Parliament. We want your recommendation.

श्री उपसभापति: नक़वी जी, ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री शरद यादव: उपसभापति जी, मैं नक़वी जी से कहना चाहता हूँ ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will read the rule.

श्री शरद यादव: नक़वी साहब ने जो बात कही है, मैं उसमें इतना ही निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि सदन का मालिक स्पीकर होता है और आप होते हैं।

श्री उपसभापति: मैं नहीं, ऑनरेबल चेयरमैन।

श्री शरद यादव: मैं आपके माध्यम से उनसे कह रहा हूँ। यानी यह सदन के भीतर का मामला है। मैं मानता हूँ कि पूरे सदन की राय आ चुकी है और उस सदन की जो ऑनरेबल स्पीकर हैं, यह उनके हाथ में है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह नादानी का काम है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him complete. Let him finish. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री शरद यादव: जो इनकी राय है ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं उससे असहमत नहीं हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**... कुछ लोग मान सकते हैं कि गंभीर है ...**(व्यवधान)**... लेकिन मैं एक बात जरूर कहना चाहता हूँ कि अब इसमें बहुत देर हो चुकी है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सब लोग अपनी बात रख चुके हैं। अब यदि आगे का बिजनेस चलाएँ, तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं आपके माध्यम से

इतना ही निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि स्पीकर साहब यहां सक्षम हैं। और वे एक्शन ले सकते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... पंजाब में चुनाव हैं, इसलिए इसमें ज्यादा कुछ नहीं कहूंगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will allow Ms. Badal; I have no problem. ...**(Interruptions)**... I will allow her; I have no problem. The point that I want to make is...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Anand Sharma, just one minute.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I said I have the rule. Let me read this rule.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Before you read, Sir, ...**(Interruptions)**... Please Sir, we are all of the same view. My point is, let me say something. We are all of the same view. My point is: Hon. Members of the Rajya Sabha have to express their views in this House ...**(Interruptions)**... Any Minister who is a Member of the Lok Sabha must go and express his or her views before the hon. Speaker. That is the point of order ...**(Interruptions)**... Number two is,...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I am very clear on that. We are discussing as Rajya Sabha. It is not the Government Business; it is the Zero Hour. ...**(Interruptions)**... This is my point of order ...**(Interruptions)**... This is not Government Business.

Number two is, it is on Youtube ...**(Interruptions)**... I am helping you. ...**(Interruptions)**... It is in social media. Sir, through you, I want to know and the Government to reply why action has not been taken against him. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. This is not a point of order. ...**(Interruptions)**... That is not a point of order. Now, listen. ...**(Interruptions)**... Mrs. Kaur, I will call you...**(Interruptions)**... I will allow you. ...**(Interruptions)**... I want to make a point here ...**(Interruptions)**... No. That is not a point of order...**(Interruptions)**... Now, sit down. ...**(Interruptions)**... Please, listen to me...**(Interruptions)**... If you are serious, sit down. ...**(Interruptions)**... Otherwise, I will have to adjourn the House. ...**(Interruptions)**... Please sit down...**(Interruptions)**... All of you, please, sit down...**(Interruptions)**... I am only saying one point...**(Interruptions)**... Nobody disputes the seriousness of the subject; it is very, very serious. The House is one. The House is united and unanimous and is speaking in one voice...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री तपन कुमार सेन: सर, पॉइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर पर रूलिंग दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... If you are serious ...**(व्यवधान)**... बैठ जाओ ..**(व्यवधान)**.. आप लोग बैठिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Nobody is disputing with seriousness of the subject.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am speaking, sit down ...(*Interruptions*)... Sit down ...(*Interruptions*)... No, sit down ...(*Interruptions*)... I have to decide. Sit down ...(*Interruptions*)... If you don't allow me, I will adjourn the House. ...(*Interruptions*)... I told you that I will call you ...(*Interruptions*)... Let me decide...(*Interruptions*)... Naqviji, you don't want me to decide. ...(*Interruptions*)... If you want me to decide, go back ...(*Interruptions*)... You ask your Members to go back ...(*Interruptions*)... I said that I will allow you. But, before that, I will have to give a clarification ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री भुपेंद्र यादव: सर, सब को सुन लीजिए। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री तपन कुमार सेन: एक्शन लीजिए, No चर्चा। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Naqviji, ask them to go back ...(*Interruptions*)... Go back. Please go back ...(*Interruptions*)... Sit down ...(*Interruptions*)... See, the rule 267 says ...(*Interruptions*)... I will allow you ...(*Interruptions*)... Madam, I will allow you ...(*Interruptions*)... I will name you; go back. Mr. Khan, you go back. I will name you ...(*Interruptions*)... What is this? ...(*Interruptions*)... Why are you doing like this? ...(*Interruptions*)... I am reading the rule ...(*Interruptions*)... Please listen. If you want to run the House as per rules, cooperate. Otherwise, I will adjourn the House. I am going to read the rule. Please understand the rule ...(*Interruptions*)... Now, listen ...(*Interruptions*)... Sit down ...(*Interruptions*)... Please, you understand the rules. ...(*Interruptions*)... Why are you speaking at once? ...(*Interruptions*)... No. Nothing will go on record.

SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please understand the rules. The rule is very clear ...(*Interruptions*)... The House is adjourned up to 1200 hours.

The House then adjourned at thirty-nine minutes past eleven of the clock

The House re-assembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 61. ...(*Interruptions*)... Is it your question? ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL): Sir, before you take up the Question Hour, I would like to raise a very serious issue. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; no. ...(*Interruptions*)... Just one minute. ...(*Interruptions*)... In the Question Hour, only questions can be raised. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, it is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no, one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*... गुजराल साहब, बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... No; no, sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not possible. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is Question Hour; we will take up questions only. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is no decision to dispense with it. ...*(Interruptions)*... What are you doing? ...*(Interruptions)*... आप लोग बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... You have question, raise it. ...*(Interruptions)*... You can't be heard. ...*(Interruptions)*... You have not been permitted to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... I request you to please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please allow the ...*(Interruptions)*... बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Gujral, please ...*(Interruptions)*... बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप लोग यह क्या कर रहे हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*... बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... This is not right. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no, this is not expected of you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't do this. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't do this. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Go back to your places. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please go back to your places. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया: सर, यह बहुत जरूरी है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह क्वेश्चन ऑवर है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह बहुत गंभीर विषय है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not your question which is being taken up. ...*(Interruptions)*...

The House is adjourned for thirty minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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

The House reassembled at thirty-three minutes past twelve of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

श्री नीरज शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, मैंने वीडियो देखा है, उसमें कुछ भी नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 61, Mr. Raja. ...*(Interruptions)*....

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

Uniform Civil Code

*61. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether the Ministry has asked the Law Commission to examine and prepare

a report on the issue of enacting a Uniform Civil Code in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Article 44 of the Directive Principles of the Constitution provides that State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India. In view of the importance of the subject matter and sensitivity involved, and it requiring in-depth study of the provisions of various personal laws governing different communities, the same has been referred to the Law Commission of India for its detailed and exhaustive examination of various issues relating to uniform civil code by undertaking wider consultations with all stakeholders and to make recommendations thereof.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नीरज शेखर: सर, उसमें कुछ भी नहीं है, educational है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...(Interruptions).. Please sit down. ...(Interruptions).. Question 61. ...(Interruptions)... Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Let the question be answered. ...(Interruptions)... Please allow the question to be answered. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. ...(Interruptions)... It is not your question. ...(Interruptions)... It is not your question. ...(Interruptions)... Let the hon. Law Minister answer the question. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, ...(Interruptions)...

श्री सभापति : आप मंत्री हैं, प्लीज। ...(व्यवधान).... I plead with you. Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)..

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, I am very surprised and shocked how....(Interruptions)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Monitoring projects through drone recording and CCTV coverage**

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

(a) whether Railways have decided to monitor the progress of its projects under construction with the help of drone recording and CCTV coverage, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of projects which are being monitored with the help of drones and CCTV; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) In terms of the pronouncement made in the Railway Budget Speech 2016-17 and for providing technological solutions for project management and monitoring; Ministry of Railways have decided monitoring of projects with State of the art surveillance equipments viz. (i) Drone and Geo Spatial based Satellite Technology, and (ii) Internet Protocol (IP) Based Cameras.

As an experiment, following six projects have been taken up for monitoring through drone:-

- (i) Belapur-Seawood-Uran, in Brihan Mumbai (Maharashtra) over Central Railway.
- (ii) Sultanpur-Lambhua, in Uttar Pradesh over Northern Railway.
- (iii) Mortad-Nizamabad, in Telangana over South Central Railway.
- (iv) Mudkhed-Parbhani, in Maharashtra over South Central Railway.
- (v) Durgawati-Sasaram in Bihar over East Central Railway for Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor Project.
- (vi) Neem ka Thana-Srimadhapur in Rajasthan over North Western Railway for Western Dedicated Freight Corridor Project.

In addition to this, IP based cameras are being used for monitoring of fabrication activity at one workshop on Chenab Bridge site over Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project and various other projects like road-over bridge sites, construction sheds, important/major bridge sites. DFCCIL has also decided to make use of drone all over its projects.

Benefits in the form of (i) monitoring at higher level without visiting the site, (ii) Improved productivity of resources due to online monitoring (iii) easier access to relatively inaccessible work sites are likely to accrue as a result of use of these monitoring devices.

In addition to this, Ministry of Railways has taken a number of new initiatives for adoption of state of the art technology and thereby bringing cost effective, safer and more efficient transportation solutions.

A Technology Mission for Indian Railways (TMIR) has been set up as a consortium of Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Industries on an investment sharing model for taking up identified railway projects for applied research and use on Indian Railways. TMIR will also monitor progress of the existing Railway Research Centre at Kharagpur and other 4 upcoming Railway Research Centres sanctioned in 2015-16. Thus, Railways' investment in applied research activities will be fruitfully converted to technology development for actual use in railway working.

Introduction of web-enabled IT application of track management system is helping in regular monitoring of inspections. This application has been launched pan India over all Zonal Railways.

Geo-Spatial Mapping of Railway assets like land, railway lines, bridges, stations makes it possible to view these assets in conjunction with satellite imagery.

IT enabled web based application for submission of proposals for approval of drawing for bridges of National Highway Authority of India has been commissioned. This has greatly reduced the backlog of pending drawings for Road Over Bridges and Road Under Bridges.

Indian Railways has initiated use of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) based solutions in projects like WISE (Workshop Information System) and for Production Planning and Control at ICF (Integral Coach Factory, Chennai).

Field trial for Talgo coaches over Indian Railways have been taken up. These are light weight, independent wheels and self tilting coaches which will help in providing higher speed over selected routes.

Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS) and Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) have been adopted over select routes of Indian Railways as cost effective systems for avoiding collisions. TCAS is an indigenously developed system which has been taken up on pilot project basis.

Development of TRI-NETRA has been taken up for assisting the loco pilots with improved visibility using an optical based infra-red and radar assisted enhanced terrain imaging system.

On-Board Condition Monitoring System which monitors and records health of key components of rolling stock continuously for enabling Predictive/Condition-based Maintenance has been taken up for development.

For providing new products for Indian Railways based on available technology in the World and in newer areas, Special Railway Establishment for Strategic Technology and Holistic Advancement (SRESTHA) has been envisaged.

Similarly, for arriving at optimized investment decisions and operations using detailed analytics, Special Unit for Transportation Research and Analytics (SUTRA) has been conceptualized which shall develop or source, tools and decision support system.

Further, Ministry of Railways has decided to enter into Procurement-cum-Maintenance contract with a selected bidder for 15 Electric Train Sets, comprising about 315 Rail Cars. About 70% of the quantity is expected to be "Made in India". These Train Sets have distributed power unlike locomotive hauled long distance trains currently in operation over Indian Railways network. The Train Sets would be energy efficient, provide better passenger comfort and reduce journey time.

Enforcement of Uniform Civil Code

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

(a) whether enforcing Uniform Civil Code across the country is consistent with the Constitution, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has recently sought a study report from the Law Commission on various aspects of enforcement of Uniform Civil Code in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) and (b) Article 44 of the Directive Principles of the Constitution provides that State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India. In view of the importance of the subject matter and sensitivity involved, and it requiring in-depth study of the provisions of various personal laws governing different communities, the same has been referred to the Law Commission of India for its detailed and exhaustive examination of various issues relating to uniform civil code by undertaking wider consultations with all stakeholders and to make recommendations thereof.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Tiger trail circuit train in Sunderbans

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tiger Trail Circuit Train does not pass through the Sunderbans;

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

(c) whether the Ministry will consider including Sunderbans in the itinerary of the Tiger Trail Circuit Train, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) The present itinerary of the tourist train Tiger Express covers Delhi–Katni (Bandhavgarh and Kanha)–Jabalpur (Bedhaghat and Dhuadhar Waterfall)–Delhi and does not cover Sunderbans. Presently, there is no plan to add Sunderbans on the Tiger Express itinerary. Addition of more destinations/tourist circuits to the itinerary of tourist trains is a continuous process, based on availability of resources and market demand.

MSP for Kharif crops

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

(a) whether Government has recently announced Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Kharif crops, including paddy, for Kharif season 2016-17, if so, the details thereof, crop-wise;

(b) whether Government is aware that increase in MSP of paddy is very less remunerative in comparison to the increase in its cost of production, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to review the MSP of paddy and provide remunerative price to poor farmers who are committing suicide on an alarming scale; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has announced Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of Kharif crops including paddy for 2016-17 season, Details are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops including paddy on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural

Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/ Departments and other relevant factors. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, CACP considers a number of important factors which, *inter-alia*, include cost of production, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on cost of living, effect on industrial cost structure etc. The cost of production, *inter-alia*, includes all paid out costs and imputed value of family labour.

The all India weighted average cost of production including family labour (A2+FL) for paddy for 2016-17, as estimated by CACP, is ₹ 1045 per quintal. The MSP for paddy fixed by Government for 2016-17 at ₹ 1470 per quintal for common variety and ₹ 1510 per quintal for Grade 'A' variety, provides a profit margin of 40.67% and 44.50% respectively over its cost of production (A2+FL).

In order to increase farm productivity and farmers' income Government has taken various initiatives *viz.* Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, promotion of use of Neem Coated Urea, Unified National Agriculture Markets, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) etc.

Statement

Minimum Support Price for kharif crops of 2016-17

(in ₹ per quintal)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2016-17
Kharif Crops			
1.	Paddy	Common	1470
		Grade 'A'	1510
2.	Jowar	Hybrid	1625
		Maldandi	1650
3.	Bajra		1330
4.	Maize		1365
5.	Ragi		1725
6.	Arhar (Tur)		5050^^
7.	Moong		5225^^
8.	Urad		5000^^
9.	Cotton	Medium Staple	3860
		Long Staple	4160

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2016-17
10.	Groundnut in Shell		4220*
11.	Sunflower Seed		3950*
12.	Soyabean	Black	-
		Yellow	2775*
13.	Sesamum		5000^
14.	Nigerseed		3825*

*Including Bonus of ₹ 100 per quintal.

^Including Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal.

^^Including Bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal.

Welfare schemes for farmers

*66. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers benefited from the Soil Health Card scheme in the country;

(b) whether Government is planning to launch any such new schemes for the welfare of farmers; and

(c) the details of various farmers' welfare schemes that have been launched by Government during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) The scheme targets to distribute Soil Health Cards (SHCs) to each of the 14 crore farmers once in every cycle of 2 years. As per the grid pattern adopted, a total number of 253 lakh number of soil samples are to be collected to generate the targeted number of SHCs. Since the launch of the scheme in February 2015, as many as 184.75 lakh number of samples have been collected of which 87.90 lakh have been tested and 227 lakh cards have been distributed to the farmers.

(b) Government is planning to launch a dedicated scheme on Agro forestry. A budgetary provision of ₹ 75 crore has been made for the year 2016-17 for National Project on Agro forestry.

(c) The details of various farmers' welfare schemes that have been launched during the last two years are given below:

- (i) **Soil Health Card Scheme:** The Government has introduced Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme with an aim to provide soil health cards to all farmers across

the country once in a cycle of two years. Soil Health Cards provide farmers with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for cultivation of various crops along with soil amendments. Nationally agreed norms/standards of 10 hectares for rainfed areas and 2.5 hectares for irrigated areas constitute the grid for soil sample collection. On this basis, a total of around 253 lakh samples will be collected and tested to generate about 1400 lakh Soil Health Cards in respect of every individual farmer. The target of 253 lakh samples has been redistributed as 100 lakh for 2015-16 and 153 lakh for the year 2016-17. So far, against the target of 253 lakh samples, 184.75 lakh samples have been collected. These samples at an average 5.6 SHCs per sample will result in about 1035 lakh cards. Already 227 lakh number of SHCs have been distributed. The remaining number of soil samples will be collected during the period of post-monsoon. Distribution of SHCs is dependent on completion of testing of soil samples and printing of cards and this exercise is going on.

- (ii) **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY):** The Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is a newly launched Scheme under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) to promote organic farming. Under the scheme 10,000 organic clusters of 20 hectare each are to be developed during 3 years so as to cover certified area of 2 lakh hectare. The farmer will be provided ₹ 50,000 per hectare per farmer in cluster during 3 years. The Annual Action Plan of 29 States and 01 Union Territory has been approved with total outlay of ₹ 511.67 crore out of which ₹ 226.00 crore released to the States during 2015-16 to develop 7186 clusters. An amount of ₹ 297 crore is allocated for PKVY for 2016-17 to achieve the target of 10,000 clusters.
- (iii) **Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region:** Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region has been launched with an aim to develop certified organic produce in a value chain mode to link growers with consumers to support the development of entire value chain starting from inputs, seeds, certification, to create facilities for collection, aggregation, processing, marketing and brand building initiatives. Under the scheme 30-50 thousand farmers of North Eastern Region would be empowered through creation of about 100 farmer producer organisations and equip such companies with full value chain under their ownership. During 2015-16, against the budget allocation of ₹ 158.87 crore funds release was ₹ 112.11 crore. During 2016-17, against the budget allocation of ₹ 176.75 crore fund release is ₹ 28.70 crore.

- (iv) **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY):** Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) mainly aims for rainwater conservation, its management at adoption of recent/traditional irrigation systems and also adoption of micro irrigation system for enhancing water use efficiency, which will result in enhancement in agriculture production and productivity. During 2016-17, against the budget allocation of ₹ 2340 crore fund release is ₹ 1147.20 crore.
- (v) **National Agriculture Market (NAM):** The Department has formulated a Central Sector Scheme for promotion of National Agricultural Market through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund of ₹ 200 crore to be implemented during 2014-15 to 2016-17. The scheme envisages implementation of NAM by creation of a common electronic platform deployable in selected 585 regularised wholesale markets across the country during 2015-16 to 2017-18.
- (vi) **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):** The erstwhile crop insurance schemes have been reviewed in consultation with various stakeholders including States/UTs. As a new scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' (PMFBY) has been approved for implementation from Kharif 2016 along with pilot Unified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) and restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS). In Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) insurance protection for notified food crops, oilseeds and annual horticultural/commercial crops, fixed maximum premium for all farmers Kharif season 2% of sum insured, Rabi Season 1.5% of sum insured, Annual Commercial/horticultural crops 5% of sum insured. The difference between actual premium and the rate of Insurance payable by farmers shall be shared equally by the Centre and State. Claims/Indemnity of full Sum Insured (SI), without capping of reduction in SI. If the sowing is not done due to adverse weather/climate, claims/indemnity up to 25% of sum insured will be paid for prevented sowing/planting risk. When the crop yield is less than the guaranteed yield of notified crops, the indemnity payment equal to shortfall in yield is payable to all insured farmers. On account advance payment, up to 25% of likely claims will be paid as immediate relief. Losses caused by inundation, hailstorm and landslide would be assessed at individual farm level. Post harvest losses assessment for damage to crops in cut and spread in the field up to 14 days on account of cyclonic rain and unseasonal rain in the entire country. Use of Remote Sensing Technology and drones to supplement Crop Cutting Experiments for faster settlement of claims.

Vacancies in Railway Board

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

(a) whether many posts are lying vacant in the Railway Board, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the number of female members working in the Railway Board as compared to men, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Out of 3223, 336 posts are presently vacant in the Railway Board organisation, due to retirements, promotions, deputations, transfer, death etc.

(b) There are 589 female and 2298 male employees in the Railway Board.

Enacting Uniform Civil Code

*68. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to enact a Uniform Civil Code for the country;

(b) whether Government has consulted all the stakeholders, representatives of various communities etc.;

(c) whether Government has consulted Government of Goa where the law enacted during Portuguese regime is in force and has not been repealed as the same is found to be a good law; and

(d) the feedback received by Government from various States, so far?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Article 44 of the Directive Principles of the Constitution provides that State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.

(b) to (d) In view of the importance of the subject matter and sensitivity involved, and it requiring in-depth study of the provisions of various personal laws governing different communities, the same has been referred to the Law Commission of India for its detailed and exhaustive examination of various issues relating to uniform civil code by undertaking wider consultations with all stakeholders and to make recommendations thereof.

Growing distress and declining confidence in agriculture

*69. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the land holding pattern among big, medium, small and marginal farmers in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the country is witnessing growing distress and declining confidence in agriculture as most small, marginal and landless farmers are forced to quit farming and look out for other avenues for their livelihood;

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

(d) the remedial steps taken by Government to retain such farmers in farming with attractive incentives; and

(e) the total amount allocated, disbursed and spent in the last three years for promotion of agriculture and to benefit such farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) As per the latest Agriculture Census 2010-11, Details on category-wise number of Operational Holders and Area Operated (for various States) in the country are given in Statement-I and Statement-II respectively (*See below*).

(b) and (c) According to the last two Agriculture Census, the number of marginal and small Operational Holders taken together (below 2.00 hectare) has increased from 107.62 million in 2005-06 to 117.61 million in 2010-11. Similarly, as per Population Census data, the total number of Agricultural workers in the country increased from 234.1 million in 2001 to 263.1 million in 2011. Thus there is no conclusive evidence to suggest that small and marginal farmers are quitting farming.

(d) Government is taking several steps to incentivize farmers and to retain them in their occupation. It is implementing a number of schemes giving preference to small and marginal farmers. Assistance is provided to various categories of farmers, through programmes like, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Soil Health Card Scheme, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Crop Diversification Programme etc.

In addition, the Government is also implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.* National Food Security Mission, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology, Unified

National Agricultural Markets and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, etc., under which assistance is provided to farmers.

(e) Details on the summary of Plan Allocation and Expenditure during last three years for the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare are given in Statement-III.

Statement-I
State-wise number of operational holders as per Agriculture Census 2010-11

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Number of Operational Holders							Total
		Marginal (below 1.00 ha.)	Small (1.00-2.00 ha.)	Semi-medium (2.00-4.00 ha.)	Medium (4.00-10.00 ha.)	Large (10.00 ha. and above)			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4626	2415	3137	1592	33	11803		
2.	Andhra Pradesh	8424698	2918374	1399123	397252	35653	13175100		
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	21456	19333	34038	27941	6530	109298		
4.	Assam	1831115	496574	303528	84869	4137	2720223		
5.	Bihar	14744098	948016	414664	81484	3129	16191391		
6.	Chandigarh	453	133	78	47	3	714		
7.	Chhattisgarh	2182834	831118	502989	201841	27698	3746480		
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8177	3903	1807	733	104	14724		
9.	Daman and Diu	7716	458	137	36	8	8355		
10.	Delhi	11308	4517	2979	1543	150	20497		
11.	Goa	59900	9817	5707	2010	586	78020		
12.	Gujarat	1815634	1429021	1079533	512651	48771	4885610		

13.	Haryana	778142	314818	283828	194694	45829	1617311
14.	Himachal Pradesh	670425	174596	84868	27606	3270	960765
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	1206612	167130	63681	11449	525	1449397
16.	Jharkhand	1848324	428861	282818	128683	20242	2708928
17.	Karnataka	3848834	2138208	1266829	510745	67573	7832189
18.	Kerala	6579692	180171	57028	12044	1854	6830789
19.	Lakshadweep	9854	267	130	26	8	10285
20.	Madhya Pradesh	3891016	2448652	1654834	789143	88732	8872377
21.	Maharashtra	6709034	4052317	2159109	710591	67914	13698965
22.	Manipur	76735	48850	22235	2760	40	150620
23.	Meghalaya	102714	57755	40542	8312	238	209561
24.	Mizoram	50210	29753	9922	1731	264	91880
25.	Nagaland	6476	20338	48457	77968	25172	178411
26.	Odisha	3368296	918647	311261	63688	5574	4667466
27.	Puducherry	28481	2779	1449	448	71	33228
28.	Punjab	164431	195439	324515	298451	69718	1052554
29.	Rajasthan	2511512	1511068	1335144	1127122	403590	6888436
30.	Sikkim	40476	16941	10809	5922	780	74928
31.	Tamil Nadu	6266555	1181344	502308	150646	17371	8118224
32.	Tripura	499054	55043	21544	2752	86	578479

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
33.	Uttar Pradesh	18532272	3035331	1334266	398278	25309	23325456
34.	Uttarakhand	672138	157330	64781	17302	1099	912650
35.	West Bengal	5852681	979833	267474	22657	702	7123347
	ALL INDIA	92825979	24779150	13895552	5875017	972763	138348461

Note: Total may not tally due to rounding off.

Statement-II

State-wise operated area (in hectare) as per Agriculture Census 2010-II

Sl. No.	State/UT	Operated Area (in hectare)						Total
		Marginal (below 1.00 ha.)	Small (1.00-2.00 ha.)	Semi-medium (2.00-4.00 ha.)	Medium (4.00-10.00 ha.)	Large (10.00 ha.and above)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2022	3464	8243	6911	1217	21856	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3727131	4119946	3684946	2208770	552474	14293266	
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	11863	25914	93944	154858	97292	383872	
4.	Assam	774796	687156	817982	437372	281763	2999070	
5.	Bihar	3668728	1185695	1072969	414941	45228	6387561	
6.	Chandigarh	208	190	223	268	33	923	

7.	Chhattisgarh	952786	1179403	1347658	1152856	451344	5084047
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4137	5344	5000	4208	1608	20297
9.	Daman and Diu	1787	622	351	226	160	3145
10.	Delhi	4800	5967	8014	8577	2270	29628
11.	Goa	28103	17591	16770	12377	14152	88994
12.	Gujarat	884823	2074884	2988660	2930432	1019668	9898466
13.	Haryana	360474	462703	814473	1185436	822519	3645606
14.	Himachal Pradesh	273270	243942	230469	156459	50510	954651
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	416427	234531	170530	62145	11727	895361
16.	Jharkhand	763906	590764	775052	724846	310715	3165283
17.	Karnataka	1850946	3020002	3393036	2903687	993786	12161457
18.	Kerala	885644	282305	159075	64063	119729	1510816
19.	Lakshadweep	1712	364	324	159	192	2751
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1915352	3466141	4510221	4544530	1399633	15835877
21.	Maharashtra	3185931	5739050	5765450	3992777	1083852	19767061
22.	Manipur	40200	62755	55250	13415	440	172060
23.	Meghalaya	46196	76833	113174	47132	3923	287258
24.	Mizoram	30168	37723	24041	8872	3985	104789
25.	Nagaland	3327	23066	124863	480758	442214	1074228

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26.	Odisha	1921842	1497752	918947	381272	132201	4852014
27.	Puducherry	9834	4068	4138	2561	1200	21801
28.	Punjab	101006	269082	855112	1712859	1028575	3966634
29.	Rajasthan	1237578	2161876	3774350	6918368	7044064	21136235
30.	Sikkim	14811	20397	26932	32238	12304	106683
31.	Tamil Nadu	2291702	1643697	1355509	847811	349652	6488370
32.	Tripura	139700	75809	54265	13942	1229	284945
33.	Uttar Pradesh	7170852	4243297	3628857	2198774	379806	17621586
34.	Uttarakhand	295556	225124	175382	94221	25401	815684
35.	West Bengal	2890646	1556602	730577	109787	221970	5509582
	ALL INDIA	35908264	35244061	37704789	33827908	16906832	159591855

Note: Total may not tally due to rounding off.

Statement-III

Summary of plan allocation and expenditure of department of agriculture, cooperation and farmers welfare for last three years (2013-14 to 2015-16)

(₹ in crore)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
2013-14	19000.00	18721.50
2014-15	19530.00	19192.48
2015-16	15500.00	15027.99*
2016-17	20400.00	-

* Provisional.

Improving facilities in trains

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are no facilities in trains despite charging high fare from the passengers;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) if not, the details of decisions taken by Government so far to provide facilities to passengers in trains and what improvement has taken place in catering services?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) No, Sir. Indian Railways does not charge high fares, on the other hand the passenger fares on Indian Railways are kept affordable for the masses.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Railways always have progressively provided better facilities for the passengers in trains for their comfortable travel. These include:

- Cushioned seats/berths, fluorescent lights, Air-conditioning, fans, toilet, dustbins and wash basin facilities, etc. in all mainline trains/coaches being manufactured.
- Looking mirrors, snack tables, magazine bags, water bottle holders, coat hooks, small luggage racks, luggage securing arrangements, mobile/laptop charging sockets, etc. in all mainline reserved coaches.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- On Board/enroute cleaning facility on identified trains.
- Seats (cushioned seats in first class coach), handholds, fans, lights etc. in sub-urban coaches and, dedicated coaches for ladies and vendors in sub-urban trains.
- Bed rolls in all mainline AC sleeper coaches.
- Water in coaches provided with toilets.

The steps taken to improve the quality of food in Railways *inter-alia* include:

(i) Phased introduction of station based e-catering at all A1 and A category stations for widening the range of options available to passengers for ordering food of their choice. (ii) Introduction of precooked food ('ready to eat' meals). (iii) Operation of centralized Catering Service Monitoring Cell (CSMC) (toll free number 1800-111-321) for prompt redressal of passenger grievances relating to the catering activities and real time assistance to travelling public. (iv) Development of modern base kitchens for supply for food to ensure quality at service. (v) Imposition of penalties in case of deficiencies detected in services. (vi) Operation of all India Helpline (No.138) for rail-users to lodge complaints/suggestions regarding food and catering services (vii) A Twitter handle with the address @IRCATERING has also been made operational to cater to the complaints/suggestions with regard to catering services.

To monitor the above, Railways have developed and operationalised an institutionalised mechanism for monitoring of quality and hygiene of catering services through regular inspections at various levels. The passenger satisfaction levels are regularly monitored through direct feedback and other means to address catering complaints.

Action plan to increase speed of trains

†*71. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is working on any action plan to increase the speed of trains;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to increase the speed of trains by improving the condition of tracks in various railway divisions;

(c) the proposed programme to run Bullet train between New Delhi and Kolkata; and

(d) the number of phases in which the Bullet train is proposed to be operated in this sector and the steps being taken to run a Bullet train between New Delhi and Varanasi?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to increasing speed of trains in Indian Railways, 'Mission Raftaar' has been announced in the Railway Budget 2016-17. The mission envisages a target of doubling of average speed of freight trains and increasing the average speed of all non-suburban passenger trains by 25 kilometre per hour (kmph) in next 5 years. The present level of average speeds in Indian Railways for non-suburban passenger trains is 46.3 kmph and for freight trains the average speeds is 24.2 kmph. In order to implement this, a cross-functional mission directorate has been created in Railway Board.

Action Plan for improving mobility and increasing average speed of trains, *inter-alia*, includes removal of speed restrictions, construction of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and Road Under Bridges (RUBs), right powering of trains, introduction of twin-pipe brake system in wagons, and replacement of conventional loco hauled commuter trains by Main Line Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) and Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) trains.

Some of the important achievements in mobility improvement in Indian Railways are;

- Two pairs of trains between Kanpur-Allahabad section, and one pair of MEMU train between Asansol-Dhanbad section in place of conventional loco hauled passenger trains have already been introduced.
- Two more pairs of trains have been scheduled for switch over to MEMU in Allahabad-Mughalsarai section in July 2016.
- Mobility study of high density Ghaziabad-Allahabad-Mughalsarai section completed. Short term Action Plan under implementation.
- Introduction of twin-pipe brake system in freight trains approved in-principle for implementation in all freight stocks. This will result in faster application and release of brake system consequent increase in speed of freight trains.
- Action Plan for Right powering of freight trains is being worked out. Optimum horse power to trailing load ratio will speed up freight trains and reduce transit time, directly benefitting the customers.
- Removal of Level Crossing Gates for achieving faster speed and improved safety for 2787 level crossing gates targeted for removal in 2016-17.

In addition, the maximum permissible speed of New Delhi-Agra Cantt. section has already been increased to 160 kmph (kilometre per hour) and the first semi-high speed train 'Gatiman Express' has been started from Hazrat Nizamuddin to Agra Cantt. Section on 05.04.2016.

Indian Railways have also identified nine corridors for feasibility of semi high speed rail, Zone-wise details are as under:

Sl. No.	Corridor	Zonal Railways	Status
1.	Delhi-Agra	Northern Central	Gatiman Express with maximum speed of 160 kmph introduced.
2.	Delhi-Chandigarh	Northern	Feasibility-cum implementation study awarded to SNCF (France) on cost sharing basis.
3.	Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysore	Southern, South Western	Feasibility Study for upgradation of speed awarded to ERYUAN Group of Chinese Railways at their cost.
4.	Delhi-Kanpur	Northern, North Central	Quantum of Technical inputs required for upgradation of speed to 160 Kmph have been identified by the concerned Zonal Railways and KONKAN Railway.
5.	Nagpur-Bilaspur	South East Central	
6.	Mumbai-Goa	Central, South Western, Konkan Railway	
7.	Mumbai-Ahmedabad	Western	
8.	Chennai-Hyderabad	Southern, South Central	
9.	Nagpur-Secunderabad	Central, South Central	

It has also been decided to undertake field trials for assessing savings in transit time by using special type Spanish Talgo Coaches on existing New Delhi-Mumbai corridor.

Besides above mentioned measures, Ministry has also announced introduction of faster train services like TEJAS which requires minimal technological inputs and aims at attaining speeds above 130 kmph.

(c) and (d) Feasibility study for a new high speed rail corridor connecting Delhi to Kolkata has been entrusted to M/s. High Speed Rail Corporation (a subsidiary of M/s. Rail Vikas Nigam Limited). Running of high speed trains on the sector including New Delhi-Varanasi is dependent on the outcome of the feasibility study and decision taken thereon.

In addition, feasibility studies of high speed corridors have been awarded to various railway companies and consultants are as under:

Sl. No.	High Speed Corridor	Consultants undertaking feasibility study
1.	Delhi-Mumbai	Consortium of M/s. The Third Railway Survey and Design Institute Group Corporation (Chinese Consultant) and Lahmeyer International (India) Private Limited, India.
2.	Mumbai-Chennai	Consortium of M/s. SYSTRA (French Consultants), RITES and Ernst and Young LLP.
3.	Delhi-Kolkata	Consortium of M/s. INECO- M/s. TYPASA- M/s. Intercontinental Consultants and Technocrats Private Limited (Spanish Consultants).
4.	Delhi-Nagpur	Government to Government cooperation with Chinese Railway Company.
5.	Mumbai-Nagpur	Government to Government cooperation with Spanish Railway companies.

Production of pulses

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

(a) the efforts being made by Government to control the increasing prices of pulses in the country;

(b) the steps taken by Government to increase the production of pulses;

(c) the reasons due to which the efforts being made by Government towards increasing the production of pulses are not yielding expected success; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Government has taken several measures to control the prices of pulses. A Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) has been established for creating a buffer stock of pulses for effective market intervention, with procurement by designated agencies. Releases from the buffer stock are made to States/Union Territories (UTs) at subsidized rates for retail. Further, States/UTs have been advised to take strict action against hoarding and black marketing under the Essential Commodities (EC)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Act, 1980. Pulses seized in raids are disposed of by auction or other means permitted under the EC Act. States have also been empowered under the EC Act to extend the stock limit on pulses till 30.09.2016.

Other steps include allowing import of pulses at zero duty and banning of exports except in kabuli channa and upto 10,000 metric tonnes per annum in organic pulses and lentils. To dampen speculation, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has banned new contracts in chana and disallowed taking fresh positions in respect of running contracts in chana. Further, the Government has recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Government of Mozambique for import of pulses through Government-to-Government sales.

(b) to (d) The long term solution to meet the demand for pulses lies in increased pulse production in the country. Pulses being mainly rain-fed crops, production is dependent on the vagaries of the monsoon. They are also prone to pest and diseases.

Government has taken various steps for increasing production of pulses. Cultivation of pulses is promoted mainly through the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), launched in 2007-08, and continued into the Twelfth Plan. From 2016-17, NFSM (Pulses) is being implemented in 638 districts in 29 States. The Mission gives financial assistance for interventions like demonstration of improved technology, distribution of quality seeds of new varieties, integrated pest management, integrated nutrient management, water saving devices and capacity building of farmers. The target is additional production of 4 million tonnes of pulses by the end of the Twelfth Plan.

Joint research on pulses by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) with the State Agriculture Universities has resulted in the release of 59 high yielding varieties of different pulses with tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses during 2011-15. Breeder seeds of pulses were produced and supplied to different seed producing agencies to produce certified quality seeds for the farmers. Establishment of seed hubs on pulses and strengthening production units of bio-fertilizers and bio-control agents for pulses are also activities undertaken by ICAR.

To increase the area under pulses, the cultivation of pulses as inter-crop with cereals, oilseeds, commercial crops and on farm bunds of paddy fields is promoted. In the Eastern Region, cluster demonstrations are done in cropping system approach to utilize rice fallows for pulses cultivation in the rabi season.

To boost production of pulses, Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of all pulses for Kharif crop of 2016-17 season have been increased and bonus of ₹ 425/- per quintal, payable over MSP, has been accorded to tur, urad and moong.

Requests for assistance from SDF

*73. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests were received from the sugar mills of Jharkhand and Gujarat seeking assistance from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the number of requests received, approved, pending, and the funds sought and allocated along with the reasons for pendency?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Postal Bank of India

*74. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is setting up Postal Bank of India;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives thereof and the details worked out so far, State-wise, including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(c) the funds allocated and spent so far, branch-wise, and the parameters adopted to set up such a Bank in each area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Department of Posts is setting up India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) with 100% Government Equity. RBI gave 'In-principle' approval to set up the India Post Payments Bank on 07.09.2015 and the Cabinet has approved the proposal of Setting up of India Post Payments Bank on 01.06.2016 with a direction to complete the roll out of all IPPB branches and their linkage with all post offices across the country by September, 2017.

(b) (i) The aims and objectives of the proposal are as follows:

- To promote financial inclusion in every corner of the country through the combined network of the Bank and the Post Office (access points)
- Provide simple financial products like current and savings accounts, payments and remittances and facilitate easy access to

third party financial products such as credit, insurance, mutual funds, pensions etc.

- Bringing a large number of individuals and small businesses into formal banking channel, with a special focus on under banked and marginalized sections of the society and the citizens of rural areas.

(ii) Details worked out so far: The payments bank will leverage the physical and IT infrastructure of the post office and be set up on a lean operating model. It will focus on low-cost, low-risk, technology based solutions to extend access to formal banking especially in rural and under-banked areas. It will set up one Headquarter and upto 650 branches co-located in District HQ post offices. All the post offices in the district will be linked to the respective IPPB branch in the district. Thus, after complete roll-out, approximately, 1.55 lac post offices will become the physical access points for the IPPB.

(iii) Exact State-wise details are yet to be finalized, however generally one IPPB branch will be set up in each district of the States including the State of Andhra Pradesh and Telengana and all post offices in the districts will be linked to the respective IPPB branches.

(c) ₹ 150 cr. has been allocated in BE 2016-17 for setting up of the IPPB. Pre-operationalisation expenses of ₹ 71,51,152/- has been incurred so far. Most of the expenditure towards technology architecture, equity infusion, etc, will be centralized. Bank branch wise fund allocation for operationalization would be worked out subsequently. IPPB will set up one Headquarter and upto 650 branches co-located in district HQ post offices. All the post offices in the district will be linked to the respective IPPB branch in the district.

Sale of Rail Neer at railway stations

*75. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are allowing only Rail Neer packaged drinking water brand at its stations and on trains and not the packaged drinking water of other brands; and

(b) whether only one litre bottles of Rail Neer are being sold and not 500 ml. as other brands do and thus, leaving no choice with the passengers but to go for one litre bottle, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Except for a few identified trains and stations where Rail Neer is to be mandatorily supplied,

other brands of packaged drinking water bottles are permitted for sale after screening, shortlisting and approval by the Zonal Railway administrations.

(b) No, Sir. Both one litre and 500 ml bottles of Rail Neer as well as other approved brands of packaged drinking water have been allowed for sale.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Employment in drought affected areas

†542. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating seriously to promote non-agricultural work in drought affected areas;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken in this regard till now; 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 S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) As per sub para (2) of paragraph 4 of Schedule 1, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), District Programme Coordinator shall ensure that atleast 60% of the work to be taken up in a districts in terms of cost, shall be for creation of productive assets directly linked to agriculture and allied activities and that it is applicable for all the districts including the districts in the drought affected areas.

Minimum living income for farmers

543. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the average monthly income of a farmer in the country, State-wise;

(b) the average agricultural debt per household;

(c) the steps taken by Government to write off the loans of farmers in the country during the last two years and the outcome thereof;

(d) whether Government intends to constitute an Income Commission that could suggest ways to ensure a minimum living income for farmers; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducted a "Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households" during NSS 70th round (January 2013-December 2013) in the rural areas of the country with respect to the agricultural year July 2012-June 2013. The survey estimated the average monthly income per agricultural household for the agricultural year July 2012—June 2013 as ₹ 6426/-. The State-wise details of estimated average monthly income per agricultural household during the agricultural year July 2012—June 2013 are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The above Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households, 2013 collected information on the amount of outstanding loans of agricultural households which includes all types of outstanding loans of the agricultural households irrespective of the purpose for which they were taken at the time of the survey, but did not estimate the average agricultural debt per household. However, as per the results obtained from the survey, the average amount of outstanding loan per agricultural household at the time of the survey was ₹ 47000/- approximately. State-wise details are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) No, Sir. However, Government of India announced an interest subvention scheme in 2006-07 to enable banks to provide short term credit to agriculture (crop loan) upto ₹ 3 lakh at 7% rate of interest to farmers. Further, to incentivize prompt repayment, Government of India announced in the Union Budget for 2009-10, an additional interest subvention of 1% to those farmers who repay their short term crop loans promptly and on or before the due date. This interest subvention was subsequently raised to 2% in 2010-11. The interest subvention of 3% since 2011-12 has been continued. Thus, farmers, who promptly repay their crop loans as per the repayment schedule fixed by the banks, are extended loans at an effective interest rate of 4% p.a. Government has extended the scheme to crop loans borrowed from private sector scheduled commercial banks in respect of loans given within the service area of the branch concerned.

(d) and (e) At present, there is no proposal for constituting an Income Commission. 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 Sinchayee 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 Oil Palm (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. The farmers will get full insurance cover as there will be no capping of sum insured and consequently the claim amount will not be cut or reduced. This scheme would provide insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances. The area coverage would be increased from 23% presently to 50% in two 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.

Statement-I

Estimated average monthly income (₹) per agricultural household during the agricultural year July 2012—June 2013 for different States/Group of UTs

State	Average Monthly Income (₹)
Andhra Pradesh	5979
Arunachal Pradesh	10869
Assam	6695
Bihar	3558
Chhattisgarh	5177
Gujarat	7926
Haryana	14434
Himachal Pradesh	8777
Jammu and Kashmir	12683
Jharkhand	4721
Karnataka	8832
Kerala	11888
Madhya Pradesh	6210
Maharashtra	7386
Manipur	8842
Meghalaya	11792
Mizoram	9099
Nagaland	10048
Odisha	4976
Punjab	18059
Rajasthan	7350
Sikkim	6798
Tamil Nadu	6980
Telangana	6311
Tripura	5429
Uttarakhand	4701

State	Average Monthly Income (₹)
Uttar Pradesh	4923
West Bengal	3980
Group of UTs	8568
ALL INDIA	6426

Source: National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

Statement-II

Estimated average amount of outstanding loan (₹) per agricultural household for different States/Group of UTs

(₹ in hundred)

State/Group of UTs*	Average Outstanding Loan
Andhra Pradesh	1234
Arunachal Pradesh	54
Assam	34
Bihar	163
Chhattisgarh	102
Gujarat	381
Haryana	790
Himachal Pradesh	280
Jammu and Kashmir	122
Jharkhand	57
Karnataka	972
Kerala	2136
Madhya Pradesh	321
Maharashtra	547
Manipur	61
Meghalaya	14
Mizoram	29
Nagaland	6
Odisha	282
Punjab	1195
Rajasthan	705

State/Group of UTs*	Average Outstanding Loan
Sikkim	99
Tamil Nadu	1159
Telangana	935
Tripura	50
Uttarakhand	356
Uttar Pradesh	273
West Bengal	178
Group of UTs	477
ALL-INDIA	470

Source: National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

* Loans included all kind of outstanding loans irrespective of the purpose for which loans were taken as on the date of survey.

Suicide by farmers in West Bengal

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of peasants have committed suicides in West Bengal in the last one year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) The Government of West Bengal has intimated recently (May, 2016) that there is no incidence of farmer suicide in the State.

Agriculture, including agricultural indebtedness, being a State subject, the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture in the State. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support.

The strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Farm viability is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The Department has been implementing various schemes to meet this objective, *viz:*

- (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. From the current year (*i.e.* 2016), the urea that is imported would also be neem coated.
- (iii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promote 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 Sinchayee 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 implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.* National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET); Unified National Agricultural Markets (NAM); and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- (vi) A new crop Insurance Scheme, namely, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is being implemented from Kharif 2016 season. PMFBY has addressed all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and is 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.
- (vii) The Government provides interest subvention @ 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2015-16, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. The benchmark for initiating relief measures by banks

has also been reduced to 33% crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management Framework.

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.

Import of refined edible oil

545. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether refined edible oil is being imported in the country in large quantity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the quantity of crude and refined edible oil imported during the last two years;
- (c) whether domestic refining companies are suffering heavy losses because of increasing import of refined edible oil, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government proposes to increase the import duty of refined edible oil and introduce other measures to support domestic industry; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The quantity of refined edible oils imported in the country is quite less as compared to quantity of crude edible oil imported. The details of crude and refined edible oil imported during last two years are tabled below:

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)

Year (Apr.-Mar.)	Crude Edible Oil	Refined Edible Oil	Total
2014-15	115.34	11.97	127.37
2015-16*	130.48	25.91	156.36

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS).

*Figures are provisional.

(c) Data relating to losses by domestic refining companies on this account is not maintained. However, imposition of export tax on the crude edible oil by certain exporting countries has resulted in additional burden on domestic refining companies.

(d) and (e) At present there is no proposal to increase the import duty of refined edible oils. Import duty on edible oils is reviewed from time to time keeping in mind the interest of oilseed farmers, consumers and the domestic edible oil industry. As per our export-import policy, import duty on refined oils is always kept higher than the duty on crude oils. The current the import duty on crude edible oils is 12.5% while import duty on refined edible oil is 20%

Improper use of pesticides and insecticides

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

(a) whether any assessment has been made by Government regarding losses incurred due to improper use of pesticides and insecticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government proposes to formulate any scheme to educate farmers about judicious use of pesticides and insecticides, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) under the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare conduct Farmers Field Schools to sensitize farmers regarding safe and judicious use of pesticides, use of bio-pesticides etc. A 'Grow Safe Food' campaign has also been initiated carrying the message of safe and judicious use of pesticides to farmers and other stakeholders. Package of practices for control of pests and diseases in 79 crops have been revised to include technique to reduce dependence on chemical pesticides and encourage use of bio-pesticides and other alternative plant protection measures.

Production of pulses

547. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of pulses in the country, during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) the details of consumption deficit of pulses; and

(c) the action taken by Government to increase the production of pulses in the country to meet their demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Details of estimated production *vis-a-vis* demand (requirement) of pulses in the country projected by the Sub-group of Working Group of erstwhile Planning Commission for the last two years *i.e.* 2014-15 and 2015-16 are as under:-

(in million tonnes)			
Year	Estimated Production	Estimated Demand	Excess (+)/Deficit (-)
2014-15	17.15	21.0	-3.85
2015-16	17.06*	21.0	-3.94

*As per Third Advance Estimate.

(c) In order to increase the production of the pulses in the country, the Government of India has been implementing through State Governments, the National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Pulses since 2007-08. From 2016-17, NFSM-Pulses has been extended to 638 districts of 29 States. From 2015-16, pulses have also been included under the scheme "Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI)" as part of demonstrations under cropping systems based approach to target rice fallow areas.

To encourage farmers to grow more pulses by ensuring remunerative prices, the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of pulses have been increased over the years. To incentivize cultivation of pulses in the country, over and above the MSPs, during 2016-17, the Government has also announced a bonus of ₹ 425/- per quintal for Kharif pulses, namely Arhar (Tur), Urad and Moong.

Doubling the income of farmers

†548. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced to double the income of farmers of the country in the next five years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether necessary steps are being taken towards increasing the income of the farmers by double and whether positive results of such steps are coming, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) During the presentation of Budget for 2016-17, Union Finance Minister has stated that "We are grateful to our farmers for being the backbone of the country's food security. We need to think beyond food security and give back to our farmers a sense of income

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

security. Government will, therefore, reorient its interventions in the farm and non-farm sectors to double the income of the farmers by 2022". To achieve the target of doubling of income of farmers by 2022, a Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare for the following aspects:-

- (i) To study the current income level of farmers/agricultural labourers.
- (ii) To measure the historical growth rate of the current income level.
- (iii) To determine the needed growth rate to double the income of farmers/agricultural labourers by the year 2021-22.
- (iv) To consider and recommend various strategies to be adopted to accomplish (iii) above.
- (v) To recommend an institutional mechanism to review and monitor implementation to realise the goal.
- (vi) To examine any other related issue.

Welfare schemes for farmers

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to introduce various beneficial schemes in the agriculture sector for the welfare of farmers, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that a provision has been made that the compensation for loss of crops to the farmers would be credited in their bank accounts; and
- (c) the details of productive schemes and the variety of new seeds which have been made available to the farmers this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Agriculture is a State subject. However, the Government of India supports the State Governments through various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for which financial assistance is provided in the sharing pattern of 60:40 to States (90:10 in case of North Eastern and Himalayan Region). The schemes being implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare are for the welfare of the farmers. List of Schemes is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) *Vide* Ministry of Home Affairs letter no. 32-7/2014-NDM-I dated 8th April, 2015, the State Governments are to take utmost care and ensure that all individual

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

beneficiary-oriented assistance is necessary/mandatory disbursed through the bank account (namely Jan Dhan Yojana etc.) of the beneficiary. These guidelines are for providing relief and not for compensation of loss of crops.

(c) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing Sub-Mission for Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP) under National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) *w.e.f.* 01.01.2014 on all India basis through State/UT Governments, State Seeds Corporation, State Seeds Certification Agencies, State Agriculture Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, National Seed Corporation, etc. During financial year 2015-16, 31 new varieties of seeds of horticultural crops and 121 of new varieties of agricultural crops have been made available to the farmers. Similarly, during 2016-17, 96 new varieties of agricultural crops have been made available to the farmers.

Statement-I

*List of Schemes being implemented by the Department of Agriculture,
Co-operation and Farmers Welfare*

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme
1.	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
2.	National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)
3.	Rainfed Area Development and Climate Change (RAD)
4.	Soil Health Management (SHM)
5.	Soil Health Card (SHC)
6.	Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
7.	Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE)
8.	National E-Governance Plan Agriculture
9.	Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization (SMAM)
10.	Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSPM)
11.	National Horticulture Mission (NHM)
12.	National Agroforestry and Bamboo Mission (NABM)
13.	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
14.	Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) [For Micro Irrigation]
15.	Horticulture Mission for North East Himalayan States (HMNE & HS)

Development of improved varieties of various crops

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 93 improved varieties of various crops have been developed in the field of agricultural research during the last eighteen months;

(b) if so, the details of crops and varieties thereof; and

(c) whether the help of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and States' Extension System has been taken to extend these improved varieties to the farmers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. More than 93 improved varieties of various field crops have been developed during the last eighteen months. A total of 245 varieties/hybrids comprising 135 of cereals, 39 of oilseeds, 28 of pulses, 23 of fiber crops, 16 of forage crops and 4 of sugarcane have been released and notified during the last eighteen months.

(c) Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), National Seed Corporation and States' Extension System including State Departments of Agriculture have been involved in creating awareness among farmers and production of foundation/certified/truthful labeled seed of these improved varieties which is being made available to farmers.

Development of technologies for enhancing agriculture productivity

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

(a) whether Government has recently signed MoUs with certain countries in the field of agriculture and allied sectors, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for development of appropriate technologies and farm practices for enhancing agriculture productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir. During last five years, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has signed 12 MoUs/Agreements with foreign countries for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sector. Details of these MoUs/Agreements are as under:-

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	Country(s)
2011	Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh;
2012	Sri Lanka, Australia, Vietnam;
2013	-
2014	Morocco, Vietnam
2015	Mongolia
2016 (till date)	Armenia, Madagascar, Lithuania

The areas for cooperation in these MoUs/Agreements *inter alia* include cooperation in research and development, increasing productivity, post-harvest management, value addition/food processing, plant protection, animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries, enhancing trade and mutual exchange, reciprocal visits of scientists, mutual exchange of technical expertise, exchange of Germ-plasm, transfer of technology, setting up of centers of excellence in different fields to demonstrate new technologies etc.

(b) Government is implementing various schemes for increasing production and productivity of the crops in the country *viz.* National Food Security Mission (NFSM) on rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals and commercial crops (cotton, jute and sugarcane); Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI) and Crop Diversification Programme (CDP).

Various technologies such as protected cultivation, integrated pest and nutrient management, quality planting material production through tissue culture, drip irrigation, cold chain development, canopy management, integrated pack houses and reefer vans are being promoted to increase the productivity of horticulture crops in the country through Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

Apart from this, precision farming development centers are also working in different Agricultural Universities for promotion of horticulture technology. Various Centres of Excellence in the areas of fruits and vegetables have been established/approved in different Indian States under the provisions of MoUs signed with Israel, Netherland etc.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a network of 645 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country for assessment and demonstration of technologies/products and its dissemination through extension programmes including training of farmers to update their knowledge and skills.

Frontline demonstrations and on site trainings and field days were organized at the demonstration sites to demonstrate the production potential of the newly released improved crop varieties/production technologies in crops/animal husbandry and other agricultural enterprises.

Bringing onion under MSP regime

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

(a) whether it is a fact that recently prices of onion in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and other parts of the country nosedived between one to two rupee per kilo forcing the onion growers to throw their crop on roads or distribute free of cost to people, whereas onion was being sold more than twenty rupee a kilo in National Capital and other parts of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to bring onion under MSP regime and compulsory market intervention in case of bumper crop, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) The Minimum wholesale price of onion was ₹ 100-200/qtls. in few markets in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and other parts of the country. However, the average modal wholesale price of onion during April-July, 2016 ranged from ₹ 650-900/qtls. in Maharashtra, ₹ 300-670/-qtls. in Madhya Pradesh, ₹ 772-1058/qtls. in Uttar Pradesh, ₹ 423-906/qtls. in Rajasthan and ₹ 389-785/qtls. in Gujarat depending on quality of produce. The average retail price of onion during the same period ranged from ₹ 20.67-22.90/kg in Delhi, ₹ 14.76-19.50/kg. in Mumbai, ₹ 16.00-19.37/kg. in Kolkata and ₹ 14.96-17.22/kg in Chennai.

(b) No, Sir. The Government is already implementing the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of perishable commodities to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production. Under the scheme, in accordance with MIS guidelines, a pre-determined quantity at the fixed Market Intervention Price (MIP) is procured by the agencies designated by the State Government for a fixed period or till the prices are stabilized above the Market Intervention Price (MIP) whichever is earlier. The area of operation is restricted to the concerned State only. Recently, DAC and FW forwarded the request to various onion producing States including Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh to send the proposal for procurement of onion under MIS. However, no proposal has been received from these State Governments so far.

Establishing regional office of Coconut Development Board in Maharashtra

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

(a) whether any regional office of the Coconut Development Board is presently functioning in coastal Maharashtra to promote production of coconuts in the State, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government proposes to establish a regional office of Coconut Development Board in Maharashtra, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir. However, the State Centre Office of Coconut Development Board (CDB) at Thane, is looking after various developmental activities of CDB in Maharashtra.

Besides, a Demonstration cum Seed Production Farm (DSP Farm) has also been established at Dapoli Village, Satpati, District Palghar in Maharashtra.

Regional Office of CDB for Western region is located at Bangalore.

(b) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

Steps to make barren land fertile

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

(a) whether Government has taken note of the report of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), according to which 105.49 million hectare land of the country has turned barren and 25 per cent area has turned into desert;

(b) whether this turning of barren land is impacting Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab the most;

(c) if so, the reasons for the land turning into barren;

(d) whether Government is taking steps to make the barren land fertile and check the further turning of land into barren, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) have not conducted study to assess the barren and desert land in the country. However, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) conducts survey from time to time for assessing the extent of soil erosion and land degradation. As per available estimates (ICAR-2010), out of a total geographical area of 328.73 million ha. about 120.40 million ha. (37%) is subjected to various kinds of land degradation which includes 94.87 million ha. of area affected by water and wind erosion in the country.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) As per available estimates, about 1.73 million ha. of areas in the States of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh are affected by alkalinity and salinity. Main reason of such problem is excess use of irrigation water, imbalance use of chemical fertilizers and non adoption of recommended crop rotation.

(d) and (e) According to the definition of land uses, barren land includes all lands covered by mountains, deserts, etc. which cannot be brought under cultivation except at an exorbitant cost. As such, there is no comprehensive programme for development of barren land into fertile land. However, Government of India is implementing various watershed development programmes for development of degraded land in the country and parts of such developed land are put to cultivation for various crops including food crops.

ILL effects of excess use of fertilizers and pesticides

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

(a) whether Government is aware that excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides is adding excessive carcinogens in both land and food produce which is causing irreparable damage to the health of the land and the people;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to prevent such practices;

(c) the amount of fertilizer subsidy disbursed during last five years, State-wise and district-wise; and

(d) whether Government has commissioned a survey to study the ill effects of excessive use of fertilizers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) There is no scientific evidence that balanced and judicious use of fertilizers and registered pesticides is adding carcinogens in land and food produce.

The Government is promoting adoption of soil test based site specific Integrated Nutrient Management envisaging conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic source of plant nutrients like, bio-fertilizers and locally available organic manures like Farm Yard Manure (FYM), Compost, Vermi-Compost and Green Manure to ensure judicious use of fertilizers.

‘Soil Health Card’ (SHC) Scheme assists all State Governments to evaluate fertility in all 14 crore farm holdings and issue soil health cards to farmers regularly

in a cycle of 2 years. Soil Health Cards provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is recommending split application and placement of fertilizers, use of slow releasing N-fertilizers and nitrification inhibitors, inclusion of legumes in cropping system and adoption of Resource Conservation Technologies (RCTs).

Under the Central Scheme 'Monitoring of Pesticides Residues at National Level (MPRNL), Government is monitoring pesticides residues in various agricultural commodities. The annual report of MPRNL is being shared with all State Governments in order to sensitize about the areas of likely pesticides over use.

In addition, the Government is implementing 'Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India' through 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) of Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage established across the country with an aim to promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. CIPMCs *inter alia*, produce biological agents for release in the fields, conserve natural bio-control agents, promote bio-pesticides as an alternative to chemical pesticides and advocate judicious and safe use of chemical pesticides as a last resort.

(c) Fertilizer subsidies are paid to manufactures/importers of fertilizers. Accordingly, the amount of fertilizer subsidy disbursed during last five years on various fertilizers are as under:

(Amount in crore)

Year	Imported Urea	Imported P and K	Indigenous P and K	Indigenous Urea
2011-12	17475.00	16571.92	20237.49	20285.42
2012-13	20016.00	14576.10	16000.00	20000.00
2013-14	15353.30	13926.86	15500.00	26500.00
2014-15	16200.00	8667.30	12000.00	38200.01
2015-16	16400.00	9968.56	11969.00	38200.00

Details showing sector-wise/unit-wise subsidy paid on indigenous urea during the year 2011-12 to 2015-16 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under All India Coordinated Research Project on 'Long-Term Fertilizer Experiments' has assessed the impact of long term use of chemical fertilizers in different soil types (fixed locations) under dominant cropping systems. The investigation over the last few

decades indicated that even in NPK fertilized system, nutritional disorders in terms of deficiency of micro and secondary nutrients surfaced after few years affecting soil health and crop productivity. Only use of organic manure along with optimal dose of NPK maintained soil health/quality with higher crop productivity.

Statement

Details showing sector-wise/unit-wise subsidy paid on Indigenous Urea during the years 2011-12 to 2015-16

(₹ in crores)

Sl. No.	Unit	State	Subsidy Paid (recovered)				
			2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Public Sector							
1.	RCF-Thai	Maharashtra	708.51	954.80	1498.15	2342.37	2595.28
2.	RCF-Trombay	Maharashtra	232.53	219.05	287.99	456.81	613.73
3.	MFL	Tamil Nadu	1768.74	1427.26	1492.63	1675.85	933.28
4.	NFL-Bhatinda	Punjab	1107.87	1201.50	1364.51	1042.48	1763.11
5.	NFL-Panipat	Haryana	1213.97	1193.59	1433.86	3015.71	1594.57
6.	NFL-Vijaipur-I	Madhya Pradesh	408.54	413.43	677.59	966.22	1098.84
7.	NFL-Vijaipur-II	Madhya Pradesh	502.98	583.53	932.43	1053.59	1364.55
8.	NFL-Nangal	Punjab	1270.69	1123.71	1345.93	660.94	1661.96
9.	BVFCL-Namrup-III	Assam	59.22	104.63	109.29	157.82	268.20
10.	BVFCL-Namrup-II	Assam	119.06	65.71	80.57	94.55	101.48
11.	GNFC (State Government)	Gujarat	196.83	134.64	200.33	318.53	311.13
12.	GSFC (State Government)	Gujarat	878.30	858.82	1119.54	1285.97	1558.47
TOTAL			8467.24	8268.67	10542.82	13070.84	13864.60
Cooperative Sector							
1.	KRIBHCO	Gujarat	591.75	660.01	1216.62	2336.81	2935.68
2.	IFFCO-Phulpur-II	Uttar Pradesh	907.11	981.90	1651.10	1863.02	1951.45
3.	IFFCO-Phulpur-I	Uttar Pradesh	583.99	804.39	1004.36	1409.72	1120.92

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	IFFCO-Kalol	Gujarat	382.09	359.69	375.54	562.36	869.92
5.	IFFCO-Anonla-I	Uttar Pradesh	439.11	539.56	953.58	2166.77	1547.07
6.	IFFCO-Anonla-II	Uttar Pradesh	481.44	528.02	682.75	978.40	1591.22
TOTAL			3385.49	3873.56	5883.95	9317.08	10016.26
Private Sector							
1.	NFCL-I	Andhra Pradesh	397.75	307.12	527.88	640.87	386.32
2.	NFCL-II	Andhra Pradesh	387.33	344.50	466.87	457.32	630.28
3.	CFCL-I	Rajasthan	689.51	701.45	1205.46	1997.36	1375.82
4.	CFCL-II	Rajasthan	751.38	889.10	1144.19	1607.43	1620.19
5.	Tata Chemicals	Uttar Pradesh	643.26	606.89	937.77	1567.91	1619.97
6.	ZACL	Goa	781.21	1101.68	1263.14	1533.95	1439.63
7.	SFC	Rajasthan	277.47	274.31	314.19	508.06	536.34
8.	Indogulf	Uttar Pradesh	717.68	648.40	1388.03	1613.43	1623.85
9.	SPIC	Tamil Nadu	2164.66	1477.96	791.90	1814.82	1137.22
10.	LSFL	Uttar Pradesh	452.42	614.02	609.91	1052.57	1433.84
11.	MCFL	Karnataka	1170.02	880.34	1221.53	1463.99	760.19
12.	KFCL	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	202.36	1554.38	1755.49
TOTAL			8432.69	7845.77	10073.23	15812.09	14319.14
GRAND TOTAL			20285.42	20000.00	26500.00	38200.01	38200.00

Projects under ICAR

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

(a) the details of allocation and utilization of funds for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) during the last five years, year-wise and project-wise;

(b) whether Government is aware that completion deadlines of several projects under ICAR have been extended midway during project execution;

(c) if so, the details of such projects along with the reasons for extension of their completion period and the cost overrun thereof, project-wise; and

(d) the details of projects initiated but not completed till date along with the date of initiation and the expected date for their completion, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) The details of allocation and utilization of funds for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) during last five years, year-wise and project-wise are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) No such projects under ICAR have been extended midway during project execution.

(d) Projects under ICAR are ongoing and long term in nature. They are in operation with due approvals of EFCs and SFCs during each plan period. The progress of projects is being reviewed at different levels of implementations during every plan period through the established review procedures.

Statement*Details of allocation and utilization of funds for the ICAR*

Sl. No.	Name of the Sector/Scheme	(₹ in lakh)									
		2012-13 (RE)	2012-13 (Actual)	2013-14 (RE)	2013-14 (Actual)	2014-15 (RE)	2014-15 (Actual)	2015-16 (RE)	2015-16 (Actual upto March, 2016)	2016-17 (BE)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
CROP SCIENCE											
1.	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi	1430.00	1429.23	1339.00	1326.69	1147.00	1125.10	1955.19	1954.95	3256.00	
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi	1100.00	1099.63	989.00	976.69	754.00	745.59	941.19	940.96	2246.00	
	AIC Research Network on Potential Crops, New Delhi	330.00	329.60	350.00	350.00	343.00	342.91	298.00	298.00	329.00	
	CRP on Agrobiodiversity					50.00	36.60	716.00	715.99	681.00	
2.	Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi	5906.90	5294.17	3839.50	3751.92	3191.28	3191.19	4523.00	4447.32	4739.00	
	Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi	4655.00	3996.48	2389.50	2343.28	1901.28	1901.25	2387.00	2386.97	2290.00	
	Network Project on Transgenics	751.90	799.98	1000.00	958.69	850.00	850.00	750.00	749.99	665.00	

NRC Biotechnology Centre for Crop Science, New Delhi	500.00	497.71	450.00	449.95	430.00	430.00	600.00	599.87	520.00
CRP on Hybrid					5.00	4.96	343.00	268.49	632.00
CRP on Molecular Breeding					5.00	4.98	443.00	442.00	632.00
3. Indian Institute of Maize Research, New Delhi.	1549.00	1549.34	1640.00	1632.75	1676.00	1674.94	2448.60	2448.28	2878.00
Indian Institute of Maize Research, New Delhi.	450.00	449.88	330.00	323.26	452.00	450.94	450.00	449.68	1295.00
AICRP on Maize, New Delhi	1099.00	1099.46	1310.00	1309.49	1224.00	1224.00	1998.60	1998.60	1583.00
4. National Research Centre for Integrated Pest Management (NCIPM), New Delhi	1546.00	1517.44	1685.50	1655.58	1519.00	1518.47	1594.00	1612.31	2198.10
National Research Centre for Integrated Pest Management (NCIPM), New Delhi	140.00	125.39	131.50	115.42	128.00	128.00	190.00	187.51	1042.00
AINP on Soil Arthropod Pests, Durgapura, Rajasthan	193.00	187.57	215.00	215.00	164.00	164.00	194.00	223.96	156.00
AINP on Agricultural Acarology	212.00	212.00	230.00	230.00	228.00	228.00	242.00	233.00	199.50
AINP on Pesticides Residues, New Delhi	545.00	536.53	614.00	600.38	525.00	525.00	526.00	525.94	407.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
AICRP on Nematodes in Cropping System, New Delhi	456.00	455.95	495.00	494.78	474.00	473.47	442.00	441.90	393.30	
5. National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack	3425.00	3250.03	3415.00	3113.00	3533.99	3039.63	4502.50	4433.33	4479.35	
National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack	537.00	536.99	430.00	430.00	509.00	509.00	933.00	933.00	990.00	
Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad	388.00	385.89	390.00	386.68	407.99	405.57	463.00	462.81	440.00	
All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project, Hyderabad	2500.00	2327.15	2595.00	2296.32	2237.00	1915.51	2542.50	2542.50	2511.40	
CRP on Biofortification, Hyderabad					380.00	209.55	564.00	495.02	537.95	
6. Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur	3818.00	3830.29	3839.00	3827.68	3525.00	3524.38	4785.00	4780.39	4225.78	
Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur	350.00	349.49	300.00	296.87	411.00	410.63	850.00	849.06	613.88	
AICRP on Chickpea, Kanpur	1019.00	1019.74	1100.00	1099.77	902.00	902.00	1159.00	1158.91	1101.50	
AICRP on MULLaRP, Kanpur	1050.00	1057.45	1150.00	1144.72	977.00	977.00	1392.00	1392.00	1222.40	
AICRP on Pigeon Pea, Kanpur	1084.00	1083.95	1072.00	1068.50	945.00	944.75	1069.00	1068.68	1005.00	
AINP on Arid Legumes, Kanpur	315.00	319.66	217.00	217.82	290.00	290.00	315.00	311.74	283.00	

7. Indian Institute for Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal	3889.00	3887.54	3839.00	3821.61	3773.36	3764.71	4891.00	4872.54	4765.00
Indian Institute for Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal	530.00	517.05	600.00	602.40	670.00	667.30	1050.00	1049.99	1060.00
AICRP on Wheat and Barley, Karnal	1840.00	1865.96	1800.00	1800.00	1675.00	1675.00	2029.00	2029.00	1927.50
Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Shala, Almora	227.00	213.00	170.00	167.14	168.00	168.00	330.00	330.00	454.00
Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi	325.00	324.57	349.00	336.17	400.36	394.79	550.00	535.74	527.50
AICRP on Forage Crops and Utilization, Jhansi	967.00	966.96	920.00	915.90	860.00	859.62	932.00	927.81	796.00
8. Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad	2776.00	2773.36	2420.00	2400.41	2191.00	2184.46	2791.01	2791.00	2514.75
Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad	285.00	284.36	270.00	264.95	235.00	228.46	551.01	551.00	355.00
AICRP Sorgum, Hyderabad	747.00	744.10	900.00	879.52	706.00	706.00	775.00	775.00	789.25
AICRP on Pearl Millets, Jodhpur	995.00	995.90	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	860.00	860.00	830.00
AICRP on Small Millets, Bangalore	749.00	749.00	500.00	505.94	500.00	500.00	605.00	605.00	540.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9.	Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow	2335.00	2322.13	1797.00	1801.15	2264.00	2259.87	2270.00	2246.72	2069.20
	Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow	355.00	354.84	397.00	393.31	469.00	464.94	500.00	492.27	460.00
	Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore	262.00	248.89	220.00	219.98	322.00	321.96	450.00	434.82	337.50
	AICRP on Sugarcane, Lucknow	1300.00	1300.42	785.00	792.96	884.00	883.97	736.00	735.63	699.20
	Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajamundry	150.00	149.98	125.00	124.90	173.00	173.00	192.00	192.00	192.50
	All India Network Research Project on Tobacco, Rajamundry	268.00	268.00	270.00	270.00	416.00	416.00	392.00	392.00	380.00
10.	Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur	2394.90	2371.86	2522.00	2499.81	2545.00	2533.52	3106.67	3100.78	2731.50
	Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur	200.00	185.81	200.00	198.41	220.00	219.57	506.00	504.51	342.50
	AICRP on Cotton, Coimbatore	1122.00	1121.90	1210.00	1209.70	1150.00	1150.00	1520.00	1519.99	1418.00
	Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore	248.90	241.93	275.00	273.02	355.00	352.24	371.00	369.47	385.00
	AINP on Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore	402.00	401.91	400.00	399.33	365.00	364.26	360.00	359.69	316.00

Technology Mission on Cotton (MM-I), Nagpur	350.00	350.66	377.00	359.37	380.00	372.48	260.00	260.00	200.00
Technology Mission on Jute (MM-I), Barrackpore	72.00	69.65	60.00	59.98	75.00	74.97	89.67	87.12	70.00
11. Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad	6215.20	6217.72	5696.00	5709.18	5305.00	5302.16	6609.06	6677.29	5723.60
Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad	405.00	404.98	410.00	423.27	345.00	345.00	570.00	569.96	425.00
Directorate of Groundnut Research, Junagarh	425.00	424.99	361.00	361.00	382.00	381.95	393.00	393.05	380.00
AICRP on Groundnut, Junagarh	956.20	956.20	870.00	870.00	698.00	697.96	789.16	875.00	831.25
Directorate of Soybean Research, Indore	290.00	289.95	225.00	224.62	220.00	219.58	300.00	274.25	290.00
AICRP on Soybean, Indore	561.00	563.20	618.00	618.29	707.00	707.00	855.76	864.00	820.80
Directorate of Rapeseed-Mustard Research, Bharatpur	285.00	285.00	175.00	175.00	167.00	166.33	250.00	249.99	249.50
AICRP on Rapeseed and Mustard, Bharatpur	1073.00	1073.00	860.00	860.00	904.00	902.34	1207.08	1207.00	951.90
AICRP on Oilseed, Hyderabad	1100.00	1100.00	957.00	957.00	806.00	806.00	960.06	960.06	642.50
AICRP on Linseed, Kanpur	500.00	500.40	550.00	550.00	573.00	573.00	697.00	697.00	702.65
AICRP on Sesame and Niget, Jabalpur	620.00	620.00	670.00	670.00	503.00	503.00	587.00	586.98	430.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12.	National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru	1526.00	1414.70	1521.00	1541.15	1654.37	1613.38	1964.65	1840.17	1462.38
	National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru	158.00	158.00	140.00	140.00	158.00	152.92	250.00	248.12	150.00
	AICRP on Biocontrol of Crop Pests, Bengaluru	315.00	311.39	320.00	320.00	397.00	397.00	475.00	475.00	431.20
	AICRP-Honeybees and Pollinators, New Delhi	341.00	267.07	423.36	446.36	469.00	468.98	594.74	445.00	385.00
	AINP on Vertebrate Pest Management, Jodhpur	410.00	377.42	384.64	373.68	451.00	415.22	420.46	447.60	389.65
	Network on Insect Biosystematics, New Delhi/Bengaluru	302.00	300.82	253.00	261.11	179.37	179.26	224.45	224.45	106.53
13.	Directorate of Seed Research, Mau	3245.00	3058.08	2827.50	2745.51	4113.67	3844.52	3663.32	3134.91	3815.50
	Directorate of Seed Research, Mau	555.00	432.73	357.50	354.96	396.00	384.19	469.62	469.29	316.00
	AICRP NSP (Crops), Mau	2140.00	2127.15	1980.00	1968.16	2526.67	2525.97	2593.70	2573.62	2779.50
	Seed Production in Agricultural Crops and Fisheries, Mau	550.00	498.20	490.00	422.39	1191.00	934.36	600.00	92.00	720.00

14. National Bureau of Agril. Important Micro-organisms, Mau	944.00	866.68	776.50	736.70	917.00	842.16	832.00	831.28	792.50
National Bureau of Agril. Important Micro-organisms, Mau	170.00	148.32	126.50	122.24	225.00	220.62	220.00	219.98	192.50
Application of Micro-organisms in Agriculture and Allied Sectors (AMAAS)+Microbial Genomic Resources Repository Network, Mau	774.00	718.36	650.00	614.46	692.00	621.54	612.00	611.30	600.00
15. National Institute of Biotic Stress Management, Raipur	100.00	86.27	100.00	100.00	350.00	347.57	276.00	271.86	1019.70
16. Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology, Ranchi	200.00	189.75	243.00	235.33	294.33	293.54	183.00	182.31	1105.00
<i>Budget Announcements (Incentivizing + IARI in Assam and Jharkhand)</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	9.99	3105.00	3033.00	4224.64
TOTAL (CROP SCIENCE)	41300.00	40058.59	37500.00	36898.47	38030.00	37069.59	49500.00	48658.44	52000.00
HORTICULTURE SCIENCE									
17. Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Bengaluru	2495.35	2535.37	2719.50	2648.44	2757.00	2498.79	3937.90	3946.45	4922.00
Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Bengaluru	550.00	575.78	596.50	566.31	1185.00	929.94	1738.90	1745.23	1630.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	AICRP Fruits (Tropical and Sub Tropical), Bengaluru	1526.35	1540.66	1520.00	1499.03	1130.00	1127.55	1600.00	1603.72	2325.00
	NRC Banana, Trichi	150.00	149.93	211.00	210.28	170.00	167.34	249.50	249.48	436.00
	Central Citrus Research Institute, Nagpur	269.00	269.00	392.00	372.82	272.00	273.96	349.50	348.02	531.00
	CRP on Borer (Network Mode), Bengaluru									
18.	Central Institute of Sub Tropical Horticulture, Lucknow	1327.20	1322.07	1580.75	1447.89	1145.00	1131.04	1387.56	1375.16	1544.00
	Central Institute of Sub Tropical Horticulture, Lucknow	175.00	174.21	193.75	191.93	247.00	246.10	348.50	346.17	416.00
	Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture, Srinagar	395.00	390.66	502.00	501.99	407.00	393.94	437.50	427.44	451.00
	NRC Grapes, Pune	340.00	340.00	380.00	369.12	271.00	271.00	256.06	256.04	306.00
	NRC Litchi, Muzzafarpur	417.20	417.20	505.00	384.85	220.00	220.00	345.50	345.51	371.00
19.	Central Institute of Arid Horticulture, Bikaner	1100.00	947.88	1180.00	780.51	1500.00	1425.75	1699.00	1641.35	1613.00
	Central Institute of Arid Horticulture, Bikaner	170.00	167.90	269.00	223.72	600.00	591.60	674.00	663.25	555.00

AICRP Arid Zone Fruits, Bikaner	650.00	500.00	500.00	333.74	480.00	417.75	550.00	517.28	630.00
NRC Pomegranate, Solapur, Maharashtra	280.00	279.98	411.00	223.05	420.00	416.40	475.00	460.82	428.00
20. Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi	2380.00	2438.72	2399.31	2345.70	2168.00	2141.07	2952.63	2952.58	2357.00
Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi	360.00	359.92	442.31	427.56	400.00	397.19	579.50	579.48	531.00
Directorate of Mushroom Research, Solan	120.00	119.23	145.00	132.27	98.00	97.61	393.10	393.07	386.00
AICRP Mushroom, Solan	225.00	261.51	293.00	271.16	245.00	222.10	395.19	395.19	330.00
AICRP Vegetables, Varanasi	1280.00	1282.15	1150.00	1144.10	1080.00	1079.17	1139.50	1139.50	462.00
Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research, Rajgurunagar, Pune Network Onion and Garlic (included in Directorate)	395.00	415.91	369.00	370.61	345.00	345.00	445.34	445.34	648.00
21. Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla	2390.00	2397.84	2309.75	2309.26	2064.00	1973.49	2449.41	2271.68	2602.00
Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla	960.00	959.99	931.75	931.68	984.00	981.81	815.41	815.40	1005.50
AICRP Potato, Shimla	550.00	550.00	535.00	535.00	420.00	334.30	575.00	495.42	616.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Trivandrum	500.00	499.99	528.00	528.00	360.00	359.98	509.00	509.00	526.00
	AICRP Tuber Crops, Tiruvananthapuram	380.00	387.86	315.00	314.58	300.00	297.40	550.00	451.86	454.50
	CRP on Naotechnology, Shimla									
22.	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod	1327.45	1320.53	1489.00	1350.63	1363.00	1360.44	1829.90	1824.92	2185.00
	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod	390.00	388.44	384.00	376.14	386.00	385.05	402.00	401.64	431.00
	AICRP Palms, Kasargod	386.00	393.30	450.00	450.00	390.00	389.25	528.00	528.46	540.00
	Directorate of Cashew Research, Puttur	126.45	126.32	200.00	179.64	164.00	164.00	347.15	347.15	426.00
	AICRP on Cashew, Puttur	250.00	237.47	287.00	176.87	205.00	204.14	353.25	353.25	362.00
	Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research, Pedavegi	175.00	175.00	168.00	167.98	218.00	218.00	199.50	194.42	426.00
23.	Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair	500.00	499.63	544.69	539.42	480.00	479.23	650.00	597.67	765.00
24.	Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut	1350.00	1224.45	1235.00	1141.96	1597.00	1387.68	1340.50	895.79	1586.00

Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut	600.00	485.73	653.00	564.74	945.00	736.02	636.50	192.93	591.00
AICRP Spices, Calicut	625.00	615.70	396.00	391.40	462.00	462.00	504.00	504.00	585.00
NRC Seed Spices, Ajmer	125.00	123.02	186.00	185.82	190.00	189.66	200.00	198.86	410.00
CRP on Phytochemical and High Value Compounds (in Network Mode), Calicut									
25. Directorate of Floricultural Research, Pune	1630.00	1668.68	1442.00	1424.22	1361.00	1360.55	1753.10	1689.22	2426.00
Directorate of Floricultural Research, Pune	505.00	504.39	449.00	449.28	452.00	451.72	493.60	429.72	773.00
AICRP Floriculture, Pune									
Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research, Anand	125.00	125.00	130.00	129.29	161.00	160.83	399.50	399.50	404.00
Network on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Anand	700.00	699.17	573.00	570.06	600.00	600.00	650.00	650.00	992.00
NRC Orchids, Pakyong, Sikkim	300.00	340.12	290.00	275.59	148.00	148.00	210.00	210.00	257.00
TOTAL (HORTICULTURE SCIENCE)	14500.00	14355.17	14900.00	13988.03	14435.00	13758.04	18000.00	17194.82	20000.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT										
26.	National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur	375.00	374.98	271.00	260.80	335.00	324.96	437.21	437.20	562.00
27.	Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Dehradun	300.00	299.51	308.73	308.65	365.00	359.66	470.00	458.86	525.00
28.	Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal	2270.00	2213.73	2110.00	2098.99	2045.00	2038.22	2849.60	2831.58	2860.50
	Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal	250.00	249.94	160.00	159.46	156.00	155.84	285.00	275.40	295.00
	AICRP on Micro Secondary and Pollutant Elements in Soils and Plants, Bhopal	735.00	714.38	655.00	654.75	675.00	674.96	720.00	719.99	750.00
	AINP on Biofertilizer, Bhopal	230.00	219.07	200.00	188.02	185.00	181.67	309.60	309.60	304.50
	AICRP on Soil Test Crop Response, Bhopal	675.00	663.09	720.00	713.24	680.00	679.30	655.00	654.99	685.00
	AICRP on Long Term Fertilizer Experiments, Bhopal	380.00	367.25	375.00	383.52	344.00	341.46	560.00	559.96	476.00
	CRP on Conservation Agriculture, Bhopal					5.00	4.99	320.00	311.64	350.00

29. Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal	755.00	754.91	695.00	694.86	710.00	709.93	900.00	896.32	950.00
Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal	280.00	279.92	220.00	219.87	230.00	229.93	340.00	336.33	360.00
AICRP on Salt Affected Soils and use of Saline Water, Karnal	475.00	474.99	475.00	474.99	480.00	480.00	560.00	559.99	590.00
30. ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna including Makhana	490.00	489.97	315.00	314.96	315.00	315.00	433.00	433.82	600.00
31. Indian Institute of Water Management, Bhubaneswar	1985.00	1982.74	2030.00	2025.14	2171.00	2160.01	3010.00	2906.83	3016.00
Indian Institute of Water Management, Bhubaneswar	150.00	150.00	125.00	125.00	117.00	110.83	185.00	184.87	210.00
AICRP on Irrigation Water Management Research, Bhubaneswar	1835.00	1832.74	1905.00	1900.14	2049.00	2046.70	2265.00	2265.00	2156.00
CRP on Water, Bhubaneswar					5.00	2.48	560.00	456.96	650.00
32. Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad	3205.00	2579.86	2605.00	2469.19	2600.00	2506.46	4075.64	3955.02	3586.83
Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad	250.00	248.37	215.00	204.18	225.00	220.75	738.00	737.98	635.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	AICRP Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad	2100.00	1609.09	1750.00	1630.69	1745.00	1719.15	2571.83	2560.98	2291.31
	AICRP on Agro-meteorology, Hyderabad	680.00	592.41	640.00	634.32	630.00	566.56	765.81	656.06	660.52
	Impact adaptation and vulnerability of Indian Agri. to Climatic Change (Network project on Climate Change), CRIDA Hyderabad (merged with NICRA from 2013-14)	175.00	129.99							
33.	Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur	345.00	344.25	275.00	274.79	263.00	261.39	280.59	280.20	420.00
34.	Indian Institute of Farming System Research, Modipuram	5450.00	5444.74	5079.27	5027.11	4749.00	4739.45	5192.30	5420.81	5500.17
	Indian Institute of Farming System Research, Modipuram	130.00	129.41	80.00	79.39	125.00	124.54	160.00	158.67	185.00
	AICRP on Integrated Farming System, Modipuram	2660.00	2658.14	2709.00	2709.83	2500.00	2496.92	2227.28	2465.39	2543.17
	Network Programme on Organic Farming, Modipuram	110.00	112.05	110.00	66.64	100.00	100.00	180.00	179.28	210.00
	AICRP on Agroforestry, Jhansi	1185.00	1184.59	1080.27	1078.93	984.00	981.31	1307.20	1304.40	1282.00

Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi	200.00	199.66	145.00	140.45	155.00	153.74	257.82	253.17	285.00
Directorate of Weed Research, Jabalpur	125.00	121.31	140.00	137.29	140.00	138.83	280.00	279.90	275.00
AICRP on Weed Management, Jabalpur	1040.00	1039.58	815.00	814.58	745.00	744.11	780.00	780.00	720.00
35. Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute Goa	300.00	299.99	300.00	299.65	300.00	299.92	395.00	394.74	450.00
36. ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Barapani	1465.00	1462.30	1600.00	1593.58	1320.00	1308.57	2377.66	1960.51	4379.50
Scaling up of Water Productivity in Agriculture (BA)-Completed	5.00	4.27	1.50	1.50					
37. National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management, Baramati, Maharashtra	1555.00	1554.96	1909.50	1909.36	1827.00	1826.87	2141.00	2140.35	2400.00
38. National Innovation in Climate Resilient Agriculture, Hyderabad (under CRIDA Hyderabad)	7500.00	6159.65	7000.00	5993.95	6500.00	5248.77	9500.00	8390.63	11000.00
39. NRC on Integrated Farming, Motihari, Bihar							38.00	37.78	750.00
TOTAL (NRM)	26000.00	23965.86	24500.00	23272.53	23500.00	22099.21	32100.00	30544.65	37000.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING										
40.	Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal	2578.61	2551.16	2830.00	2833.36	2953.96	2936.57	3724.00	3716.60	4722.00
	Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal									
	Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal	241.11	241.21	349.00	348.88	413.00	412.59	671.00	670.69	664.00
	AICRP on Farm Implements and Machinery, Bhopal	990.00	973.26	1047.00	1044.62	1049.00	1048.78	1304.00	1303.78	1672.00
	AICRP on Ergonomics and Safety in Agriculture, Bhopal	271.50	271.50	336.00	334.49	289.00	287.48	330.00	329.94	412.00
	AICRP on Energy in Agriculture and Agro based Industries, Bhopal	637.00	634.38	681.00	681.26	740.00	739.30	725.00	724.89	760.00
	AICRP on Utilization Animal Energy, Bhopal	439.00	430.81	417.00	424.11	462.96	448.42	520.00	519.97	584.00
	CRP on Farm Mechanisation and Precision Farming, Bhopal							66.00	60.64	310.00
	CRP on Energy from Agriculture, Bhopal							108.00	106.69	320.00
41	Central Institute on Post harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana	1604.89	1599.69	2031.00	2039.25	2510.35	2495.55	2982.20	3054.50	3748.00

Central Institute on Post Harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana	339.34	336.97	319.00	317.61	367.90	365.33	415.00	414.00	465.00
AICRP on Plasticiculture Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana	190.00	187.71	233.00	234.11	253.00	245.09	270.00	270.00	346.00
AICRP on Post Harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana	1075.55	1075.01	1479.00	1487.53	1889.45	1885.13	2010.00	2010.00	2290.00
CRP on Health Food, Ludhiana					74.07			83.31	322.00
CRP on Secondary Agri, Ludhiana					213.13			277.19	325.00
42. Indian Institute of Natural Resins and Gums, Ranchi	278.00	270.36	244.50	195.83	470.97	467.72	618.55	613.58	670.00
Indian Institute of Natural Resins and Gums, Ranchi	215.00	214.53	196.00	145.39	308.97	307.05	358.55	354.44	330.00
Network Project on Harvesting, Processing and Value Addition of Natural Resins and Gums, Ranchi	63.00	55.83	46.00	50.44	82.00	80.99	120.00	119.26	160.00
Network Project on Conservation of Lac Insect Genetic Resources, Ranchi			2.50	0.00	80.00	79.68	140.00	139.88	180.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
43.	Central Institute of Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai	410.50	410.49	210.00	207.23	295.00	294.97	555.25	492.10	500.00
	Central Institute of Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai	410.50	410.49	210.00	207.23	295.00	294.97	425.25	425.17	330.00
	CRP on Nature Fibre, Mumbai							130.00	66.93	170.00
44	National Institute of Research on Jute and Allied Fibre Technology, Kolkata	328.00	327.13	184.50	184.09	269.72	266.85	320.00	263.60	360.00
	TOTAL	5200.00	5158.83	5500.00	5459.76	6500.00	6461.66	8200.00	8140.38	10000.00
	(AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING)									
	Animal Science									
45.	National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal	390.70	391.49	346.25	345.54	450.00	416.26	495.00	491.88	430.00
	National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal	323.70	319.60	307.25	306.73	270.00	268.38	285.00	283.56	300.00
	Network project on Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal	67.00	71.89	39.00	38.81	180.00	147.88	210.00	208.32	130.00
46.	National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal	2090.00	2089.66	1519.09	1518.70	1400.00	1398.33	1110.00	1105.64	1217.00

47. Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar, Rajasthan	996.00	946.38	840.00	823.58	942.82	931.64	1166.00	1149.04	1165.00
Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar	600.00	594.26	470.00	469.58	557.82	556.64	738.00	724.91	758.00
Network on Sheep Improvement, Avikanagar	268.00	226.83	230.00	214.00	210.00	207.82	240.00	237.16	236.00
Sheep Seed Project, Avikanagar	128.00	125.29	140.00	140.00	175.00	167.18	188.00	186.97	171.00
48. Central Institute for Research on Goats	675.00	657.85	540.00	529.29	664.20	643.31	874.25	830.78	885.00
Central Institute for Research on Goats, Makhdoom	325.00	323.62	250.00	242.51	323.20	318.78	367.00	341.85	400.00
AICRP on Goat Improvement, Mathura	350.00	334.23	290.00	286.78	341.00	324.53	507.25	488.93	485.00
<i>Goat Seed Project (in CIRG)</i>									
49. Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes, Hissar	715.39	671.90	737.89	725.57	677.00	667.39	903.00	870.06	1197.00
Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes, Hissar	365.39	364.56	257.89	252.41	277.00	275.84	385.00	353.86	520.00
Network Project on Buffalo Improvement, Hissar	350.00	307.34	480.00	473.16	400.00	391.55	518.00	516.20	677.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
50.	National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology	429.00	407.69	451.00	454.00	609.78	563.62	727.00	642.51	737.00
	National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bengaluru	239.00	239.00	295.00	294.93	285.01	284.84	340.00	265.51	450.00
	AICRP on Improvement of Feed Sources and Nutrient Utilisation, Bengaluru	190.00	168.69	156.00	159.07	324.77	278.78	387.00	377.00	287.00
51.	NRC on Camel, Bikaner	247.00	246.99	260.00	259.65	222.62	222.60	308.00	307.73	325.00
52.	NRC on Equine, Hissar	921.60	908.94	740.60	732.79	640.00	607.82	696.25	681.42	668.00
	NRC on Equine, Hissar	341.60	341.59	285.60	279.92	340.00	331.68	393.00	392.67	354.00
	National Centre for Veterinary Type Culture Collection, Hissar	580.00	567.35	455.00	452.87	300.00	276.14	303.25	288.75	314.00
53.	Central Institute for Research on Cattle, Meerut	720.00	719.06	702.60	687.33	640.00	598.74	950.00	931.54	1037.00
	Central Institute for Research on Cattle, Meerut	115.00	114.57	100.00	86.78	140.00	138.54	200.00	181.54	250.00
	AICRP on Cattle Research, Meerut	605.00	604.49	602.60	600.55	500.00	460.20	750.00	750.00	787.00

54. Directorate of Foot and Mouth Disease, Mukteshwar	6484.31	6484.31	6517.44	6523.49	2354.35	2354.35	1175.00	1021.58	1665.00
Directorate of Foot and Mouth Disease, Mukteshwar	6484.31	6484.31	6517.44	6523.49	2354.35	2354.35	1175.00	1021.58	1665.00
AICRP Foot and Mouth, Mukteshwar									
55. Central Avian Research Institute, Izatnagar	1655.00	1623.82	1795.13	1725.74	1472.63	1380.75	2794.00	2793.14	2951.00
Central Avian Research Institute, Izatnagar	446.00	439.54	700.00	694.71	369.00	367.07	975.00	974.64	943.00
Directorate of Poultry Research, Hyderabad	416.00	414.45	384.00	383.08	410.00	407.81	560.00	559.50	566.00
AICRP on Poultry, Hyderabad	593.00	571.30	538.13	483.35	385.75	385.18	674.00	674.00	717.00
Poultry Seed Project, Hyderabad	200.00	198.53	173.00	164.60	307.88	220.69	585.00	585.00	725.00
56. Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar	2541.00	2523.04	2974.00	3152.50	3485.00	3262.22	7441.32	7072.98	8490.00
Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar	1881.00	1892.08	1765.00	1966.55	2475.00	2372.91	3984.40	3768.68	4464.00
Network on Gastro Intestinal Parasitism, Izatnagar	360.00	367.37	98.00	330.07	80.00	79.50	124.00	318.31	136.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Network on Haemorrhagic Septicemia, Izatnagar			113.00		90.00	85.85	100.00	in GIP	89.00
	Network Programme on Blue Tongue Disease, Izatnagar			106.00		100.00	95.54	120.00	in GIP	126.00
	National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (NIVEDI), Bengaluru	300.00	263.59	892.00	855.88	440.00	438.84	828.00	819.97	1180.00
	AICRP ADMAS, Bengaluru							1498.92	1449.40	1677.00
	CRP on Diagnostic and Vaccine, Izatnagar					200.00	99.85	200.00	185.47	189.00
	All India Network Program on Neonatal Mortality in Farm Animal (NNM), Izatnagar							586.00	531.15	629.00
	All India Network Program on Diagnostic Imaging and Management of Surgical Condition in Animals, Izatnagar							89.73		
57.	National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal					645.1	643.99	589.39	519.61	645.00

58.	NRC on Meat, Hyderabad	123.00	117.77	150.00	136.84	128.50	102.09	347.00	334.23	450.00
59.	NRC on Pig	1412.00	1374.60	1424.00	1407.48	1668.00	1605.24	3023.79	2965.70	4138.00
	NRC on Pig, Guwahati	266.00	265.94	295.00	292.73	300.00	298.98	425.00	398.59	850.00
	AICRP on Pig, Guwahati	350.00	340.53	400.00	385.82	450.00	418.78	840.00	840.00	1050.00
	Mega Seed Project on Pig, Guwahati	130.00	102.38	129.00	129.32	225.00	225.00	400.00	400.00	407.00
	NRC on Yak, Dirang	241.00	241.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	583.79	558.74	985.00
	NRC on Mithun Jharnapani, Nagaland	425.00	424.75	300.00	299.61	393.00	362.48	775.00	768.37	846.00
	TOTAL (ANIMAL SCIENCE)	19400.00	19163.50	18998.00	19022.50	16000.00	15398.35	22600.00	21717.84	26000.00
	FISHERY SCIENCE									
60.	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	2269.00	2268.12	2544.76	2544.67	1930.00	1929.80	3043.00	3036.05	3470.00
	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi	1579.00	1578.22	1819.76	1819.76	1295.00	1294.99	1882.00	1882.00	2095.00
	Central Institute Brackishwater Aquaculture, Chennai	690.00	689.90	725.00	724.91	635.00	634.81	1161.00	1154.05	1375.00
61.	Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute	1057.00	1043.41	1065.00	1051.84	1255.00	1254.35	974.00	965.13	1385.00
	Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore	662.00	655.24	705.00	691.99	915.00	915.00	520.00	511.21	755.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Project Directorate of Cold Water Fisheries, Bhimtal	395.00	388.17	360.00	359.85	340.00	339.35	454.00	453.92	630.00
62.	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kochi	739.00	738.47	627.00	626.98	715.00	714.73	943.00	942.98	1105.00
63.	Central Institute on Fisheries Education, Mumbai	1342.25	1339.89	1412.24	1395.00	1275.00	1152.58	908.00	884.04	1220.00
64.	Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar	737.75	737.11	744.00	741.70	695.00	691.80	590.00	586.44	955.00
65.	National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow	755.00	754.92	607.00	617.49	630.00	630.00	1342.00	1424.71	1865.00
	National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow	755.00	754.92	607.00	617.49	630.00	630.00	792.00	791.71	965.00
	CRP on Genomics, Lucknow							550.00	633.00	900.00
TOTAL (FISHERY SCIENCE)		6900.00	6881.92	7000.00	6977.68	6500.00	6373.26	7800.00	7839.35	10000.00
ECONOMICS, STATISTICS AND MANAGEMENT (ESM)										
66.	Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute, New Delhi+CABIN	210.00	176.35	250.00	248.17	1120.00	1011.00	1005.00	492.79	2300.00

National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NIAP), New Delhi	140.00	140.00	350.00	320.96	430.00	430.00	430.00	395.00	378.99	700.00
TOTAL (ESM)	350.00	316.35	600.00	569.13	1550.00	1441.00	1400.00	1400.00	871.78	3000.00
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION										
67. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (including ERNET, Farmer's First, Disaster Mgmt)	43538.75	41089.00	52725.00	49909.72	53360.77	52350.62	65650.00	64503.26	74500.00	
68. Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture, New Delhi	170.00	159.94	160.00	157.89	139.23	138.70	350.00	298.47	500.00	
Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture, New Delhi	170.00	159.94	160.00	157.89	139.23	138.70	350.00	298.47	500.00	
Establishment of Indian Agricultural Extension Research Institute, New Delhi										
TOTAL (AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION)	43708.75	41248.94	52885.00	50067.61	53500.00	52489.32	66000.00	64801.73	75000.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION										
69.	Strengthening and Development of Higher Agril. Education in India	41350.00	50053.35	39418.00	35007.98	35747.00	35202.89	35900.00	35797.73	44300.00
70.	National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad	1250.00	1249.98	982.00	980.81	1178.00	1166.94	1451.50	1449.70	1600.00
	National Agricultural Education Project, New Delhi			100.00						
71.	Central Institute for Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneswar	1291.25	1289.69	1115.00	1113.74	1075.00	1074.88	2148.50	2086.58	3100.00
	Central Institute for Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneswar	141.25	139.33	180.00	179.32	150.00	149.94	848.50	787.37	1400.00
	AICRP Home Science	1150.00	1150.36	935.00	934.42	925.00	924.94	1300.00	1299.21	1700.00
	Budget Announcements (6 SAUs, 2AUs, 2HUs)	12000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5000.00	0.00	16500.00	15624.00	11000.00
TOTAL (AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION)		55891.25	52593.02	41615.00	37102.53	43000.00	37444.71	56000.00	54958.01	60000.00

CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES										
72.	CAU Imphal +CAU Barapani	8559.38	12000.00	11999.00	15000.00	11900.00	16600.00	16599.00	17000.00	
	Rani Lakshmi Bai CAU, Jhansi	99.00	1.00	200.00	20.72	1000.00	921.00	7000.00		
	RCAU Samastipur, Bihar	1.00	1.00	1.00	1000.00	300.00	242.00	300.00		
	DARE (NAAS and IAUA)									
	TOTAL	8650.00	8559.38	12002.00	11999.00	15401.00	11920.72	18900.00	17762.00	30000.00
ICAR HEADQUARTERS										
73.	Strengthening of ICAR Headquarters	8900.00	5943.84	9300.00	6465.63	15350.00	8589.96	13680.00	12514.37	37500.00
	Swimming Pool									
74.	National Agriculture Innovation Fund (NAIF), New Delhi	700.00	480.64	700.00	610.39	750.00	510.77	1320.00	1349.45	2500.00
	TOTAL	9600.00	6424.48	10000.00	7076.02	16100.00	9100.73	15000.00	13863.82	40000.00
	National Agriculture Innovation Project	15000.00	15073.78	23500.00	25554.64	9465.00	9465.00			
75.	National Agricultural Science Fund	5500.00	3672.86	11000.00	8928.82	6000.00	3835.07	4500.00	3727.15	7000.00
	GRAND TOTAL	252000.00	237472.68	260000.00	246916.72	250000.00	226856.66	300000.00	290079.97	370000.00

*Tentative expenditure

KVKs in Telangana

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

(a) whether it is a fact that three proposals from State Government of Telangana for starting Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in Medak, Adilabad and Khammam have been received in the Ministry;

(b) if so, when the proposals were received and the action Ministry has taken on each of such proposal; and

(c) the status of functioning of the existing KVKs in Telangana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in Medak, Adilabad and Khammam districts of Telangana. The Government has also approved for establishment of additional KVKs in Medak, Adilabad and Khammam districts during 12th Plan. For this purpose, proposals have been received from three State Agricultural Universities (Prof. Jayshankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Sri PVNR Veterinary University and Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticultural University) and NGOs. Site Selection Committee visited Khammam district of Telangana State.

(c) There are 13 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) functioning in the Telangana State. The details of KVKs in Telangana with the Host organization and year of establishment are given in the Statement (*See below*).

During the last year, KVKs in Telangana assessed 121 technologies by conducting 768 on-farm trials, 1023 demonstrations on different thematic areas of agriculture, horticulture, livestock management and other allied enterprises, imparted 623 training programmes benefited 22058 farmers, rural youth and extension personnel, KVKs also produced 1341.01 quintal seed, 607133 planting material, 877 quintal bio-product and bio-agent to the farmers of Telangana State. A total number of 9536 samples including soil (9515), water (21), were analyzed by the KVKs benefitting 14035 farmers of 346 villages. 12597 soil health cards have been distributed by KVKs of Telangana.

Statement*Details of KVKs in Telangana with the Host and year of establishment*

Sl. No.	KVK/District	Location in the district	Host organization (NGO/ICAR/AU)	Year of Establishment
1.	Adilabad	Adilabad	PJTSAU	2000-01
2.	Karimnagar	Jammikunta	NGO (Grameen Nav Nirman Samiti)	1992
3.	Karimnagar	Ramgirikilla	KLBTSHU	2010
4.	Khammam	Khammam	PJTSAU	2003-04
5.	Mahaboobnagar	Madanapuram	NGO (Youth for Action)	1992-93
6.	Mahaboobnagar	Palem	PJTSAU	2011
7.	Medak	Medak	NGO (Deccan Development Society)	1991
8.	Nalgonda	Kampasagar	PJTSAU	2011
9.	Nalgonda	Gaddipalli	NGO (Sri Aurobindo Institute of Rural Development)	1984
10.	Nizamabad	Nizamabad	PJTSAU	2003-04
11.	Ranga Reddy	CRIDA	ICAR	1976
12.	Warangal	Warangal	PJTSAU	1989
13.	Warangal	Mamnoor	PVNRTSV and AU	2010-11

Integration of agriculture markets

558. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of agriculture markets in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed to integrate all agriculture markets by March, 2018;
- (c) if so, details of the road-map prepared for their integration; and
- (d) how Government plans to achieve the goal set for integrating agriculture markets in the absence of a provision for electronic trade in agriculture produces in many States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) State-wise details of regulated wholesale markets for agricultural produce are given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The Government has proposed to initially to integrate 585 selected wholesale regulated markets to National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) portal by March, 2018. As per road-map to integrate markets with the e-NAM portal, 200 markets are to be linked by September, 2016, another 200 markets by March, 2017 and rest 185 markets are to be integrated by March, 2018.

(d) As far as achieving the set goal of integrating 585 markets to the e-NAM portal by March, 2018 is concerned, 12 States (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh) with total 3649 markets have already amended their marketing laws to provision all the three mandatory reform pre-requisites including e-trading/auctioning to be eligible to integrate to the e-NAM. Further, the Government is working with rest of the States also to persuade them to amend their marketing regulations to meet the mandatory reform provisions so as to develop a unified National Agriculture Market for agricultural produce by linking all the markets to the portal.

Statement

State-wise details of regulated markets in the country

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Principal Market Yards	Sub-Market Yards	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	190	157	347
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3.	Assam	20	206	226
4.	Bihar	APMR Act Repealed		
5.	Chhattisgarh	69	118	187
6.	Goa	01	07	08
7.	Gujarat	213	187	400
8.	Haryana	107	174	281
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10	44	54
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	11	0	11
11.	Jharkhand	28	173	201

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Karnataka	157	356	513
13.	Kerala	APMR Act not enacted		
14.	Madhya Pradesh	254	284	538
15.	Maharashtra	305	603	908
16.	Manipur	APMR Act not enacted		
17.	Meghalaya	02	00	02
18.	Mizoram	APMR Act not implemented		
19.	Nagaland	18	00	18
20.	Odisha	54	382	436
21.	Punjab	150	274	424
22.	Rajasthan	134	312	446
23.	Sikkim	APMR Act not implemented		
24.	Tamil Nadu	277	06	283
25.	Telangana	150	110	260
26.	Tripura	21	0	21
27.	Uttar Pradesh	250	365	615
28.	Uttarakhand	26	32	58
29.	West Bengal	20	464	484
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	APMR Act not enacted		
31.	Chandigarh	01	00	01
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	APMR Act not enacted		
33.	Daman and Diu	APMR Act not enacted		
34.	Lakshadweep	APMR Act not enacted		
35.	Delhi	07	08	15
36.	Puducherry	04	05	09
TOTAL		2479	4267	6746

Amendments in APMC Act

559. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States which have amended their Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Acts so as to allow electronic trading;

(b) whether in the absence of such amendment in many States, they are not able to sell the farmers' produce through electronic sale in mandis;

(c) if so, how Government is planning to persuade the States to amend their respective APMC Acts for win-win situation for farmers and sellers; and

(d) whether Government will consider giving single licence to anyone willing to trade through National Agriculture Markets (NAM) in local mandis, if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) The States, which have undertaken reforms in their respective Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Acts in respect of (i) a single license to be valid across the State; (ii) single point levy of market fee; and (iii) provision for electronic auction as a mode for price discovery, as pre-requisites, are eligible for electronic trading under National Agriculture Market (e-NAM). States eligible under the e-NAM Scheme are-Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) In the absence of such amendments in respect of above three areas, States will not be able to sell the farmers' produce electronically through e-NAM portal.

Government is already working with the States to persuade them to amend their marketing regulations to meet the mandatory reform requirements for integration of their markets with e-NAM portal.

(d) The State Governments, which have amended their Marketing Acts and are willing to join e-NAM, are expected to give single unified licence to anyone willing to trade through e-NAM in the mandis of the State.

Use of Geo-Spatial technology in agriculture sector

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

(a) whether Government has signed any MoU with ISRO to use Geo-Spatial technology in agricultural sector, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how this technology will help to increase the crop yield and profitability of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) to (c) Sir, There

is no formal MoU signed between Government and ISRO. However, there is collaboration between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Government for use of Geospatial Technology in Agriculture Sector, including Crop Forecasting, Drought Assessment, Horticultural Inventory and Development, Technology for Crop Insurance.

ISRO has supported Government in the establishment of Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC) as an Attached Office under Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers, in form of human resources and technology transfer.

Geospatial technology is being used for various applications in agriculture such as crop damage assessment, crop condition monitoring, yield estimation, crop cutting experiment planning, horticultural development, identification of rice fallow areas etc. These technologies are useful and beneficial for adopting appropriate and suitable interventions by farmers for improving their crop productivity.

Revamping the mechanism for MSP

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

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to revamp the current mechanism of MSP declaration of crops;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the proposed key changes to make this mechanism more farmer friendly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) to (c) Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the major agricultural produce on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of the State Governments, concerned Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, CACP considers various important factors that include cost of cultivation, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc. CACP also holds consultation with all the stakeholders including farmers before formulating its recommendations.

Methodology for estimating the cost of production is reviewed from time to time. Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Director, National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy (NCAP) in 2013, to examine the methodological issues in fixing Minimum Support Prices. One of

the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Committee was to examine the cost concepts for the purpose of fixing Minimum Support Prices and suggest various factors for improvement so as to make more realistic. The report has been submitted and is under consideration of the Government.

Implementation of NHM

562. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of districts covered under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) across the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to expand the NHM to noncovered districts as well, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has received a representation from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in this regard, if so, the action taken by Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) A total of three hundred and eighty four (384) districts under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) are covered in 23 States/UTs. State-wise number of districts covered under NHM is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) No such proposal is under consideration. However, references from Tamil Nadu State Government have been received requesting for inclusion of all districts of the state under NHM.

On this issue consistent view of the department is that while finalizing/identifying districts for inclusion under NHM, a cluster approach for developing potential horticultural crops while ensuring backward and forwarded linkages was adopted. The selection of the district was decided on the comparative advantage of crops based on agro climatic conditions, potential for developing marketing opportunities were taken into consideration. No new districts are being added as this may result in thinning out of already limited resources.

However, there is a provision under NHM scheme for setting up of infrastructure units relating to post harvest management, marketing and other project based activities in non NHM districts, provided there is a clear linkage of the units with the horticulture produce. Apart from this, activities for development of horticulture in non-NHM districts can be carried out under other Government Schemes like Rashtriya Krishi

Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) etc.

Above view of the department was conveyed to the State Government.

Statement

Details showing State-wise Districts covered under National Horticulture Mission under MIDH.

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	No. of Districts
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Two (2)
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Eleven (11)
3.	Bihar	Twenty Three (23)
4.	Chhattisgarh	Nineteen (19)
5.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	One (1)
6.	Delhi	One (1)
7.	Goa	Two (2)
8.	Gujarat	Fifteen (15)
9.	Haryana	Eighteen (18)
10.	Jharkhand	Seventeen (17)
11.	Karnataka	Thirty (30)
12.	Kerala	Fourteen (14)
13.	Lakshadweep	One (1)
14.	Maharashtra	Thirty Three (33)
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Thirty Nine (39)
16.	Odisha	Twenty Four (24)
17.	Punjab	Eighteen (18)
18.	Puducherry	Four (4)
19.	Rajasthan	Twenty Four (24)
20.	Tamil Nadu	Twenty (20)
21.	Teleangana	Nine (9)
22.	Uttar Pradesh	Forty Five (45)
23.	West Bengal	Fourteen (14)
TOTAL		384

Note: Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH): All the districts of North-Eastern and three Himalayan States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir are covered under HMNEH Scheme.

Allocation of funds under National Livestock Mission

563. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the animal husbandry sector is rapidly emerging as the largest incremental contributor to farm incomes across the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has received proposals from State Governments for the increased allocation of funds under the National Livestock Mission, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has received a representation from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in this regard, if so, the action taken by Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) No such information is available.

(b) The Department has received proposals from various States including Tamil Nadu for release of funds under National Livestock Mission. The tentative fund allocation to the State of Tamil Nadu is ₹ 704 lakhs as Central share for the financial year 2016-17 and the amount of ₹ 704 lakhs has been released.

(c) No such representation has been received.

Implementation of Soil Health Card Scheme

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

(a) whether the Soil Health Card scheme launched by Government is running with a very slow pace, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of Soil Health Cards issued so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) The Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme was launched on 19th February 2015. Under the Scheme, Soil Health Cards (SHCs) will be provided to all farm holdings in the country at the interval of two years so as enable farmers to apply appropriate recommended dosages of nutrients for crop production and improving the soil health and its fertility.

In 1st cycle, 253 lakh soil samples to be collected and after testing the samples 1400 lakh Soil Health Cards to be distributed among the farmers by 31st March, 2017.

As on 19th July 2016, 184.75 lakh soil samples have been collected against the target of 253 lakh *i.e.* more than 70% of the target. The testing of soil samples is under progress and about 87.90 lakh soil samples have been tested up to the date and accordingly printing of about 4.50 lakh Soil Health Cards is under progress for distribution among the farmers.

(b) So far 226.99 lakh Soil Health Cards have been issued. The State-wise details of soil samples collected, tested and soil health cards issued/distributed among the farmers in the country are given in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of Soil Samples Collected, Tested and Soil Health Cards issued/distributed

Sl. No.	State	No. of Samples Collected	No. of Samples Tested	No. of SHCs issued/ Distributed
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1197923	1089104	2224083
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11642	1818	1392
3.	Assam	74700	16795	19875
4.	Bihar	692320	424591	1511915
5.	Chhattisgarh	627156	226628	753302
6.	Goa	21824	19585	19585
7.	Gujarat	1579319	1366016	1366016
8.	Haryana	747301	192913	113000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	71300	69061	214374
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	76986	31573	88047
11.	Jharkhand	101791	44835	101649
12.	Karnataka	952498	421488	123256
13.	Kerala	84206	66162	72497
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1971500	584757	2115282
15.	Maharashtra	2195000	970000	3707000
16.	Manipur	3198	2015	1478
17.	Meghalaya	31920	24641	24913
18.	Mizoram	8897	7666	7666

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Nagaland	22445	15175	26900
20.	Odisha	478548	299193	948632
21.	Punjab	418271	214397	467689
22.	Rajasthan	1839898	530704	1444061
23.	Sikkim	13217	13217	27000
24.	Tamil Nadu	1088029	523689	2433269
25.	Telangana	899398	555724	2156198
26.	Tripura	12214	10228	11228
27.	Uttarakhand	104179	71931	314206
28.	Uttar Pradesh	2613063	863560	2244958
29.	West Bengal	531480	129700	160500
Union Territories				
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1762	1324	0
31.	Dadar Nagar and Haveli	As per Road Map, Collection and Testing of Samples will be done after August 2016		As per Road Map, Distribution of SHC will be done after August 2016
32.	Puducherry	2550	1673	0
33.	Chandigarh	544	0	0
TOTAL		18475169	8790163	22699971

Expenditure of funds allocated under Price Stabilization Fund

565. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funds allocated under the Price Stabilization Fund are not put to proper use in spite of skyrocketing prices of agri-horticultural commodities, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the State-wise allocation and expenditure particulars of the fund during last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The requisite details are as below:-

Details of expenditures in 2015-16 under PSF

State/Agencies	Amount in ₹ lakhs	Refunded by States/Agencies	Net Amount with States/Agencies
SFAC	9355.000		9355.000
FCI	15000.000		15000.000
NAFED	20282.980	875.00	19407.98
MMTC	14436.135	10834.39	3601.75
Government of Andhra Pradesh	2500.000		2500.000
Government of West Bengal	250.000		250.000
Government of Telangana	915.000		915.000
TOTAL	62739.115	11709.39	51029.73

Source: Fund Manager, SFAC

Effect of Neem coated urea on Indian soil

566. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any country-wide study has been made with regard to the impact of Neem coated urea on Indian soil; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) A study titled 'Impact of Neem Coated Urea on production, Productivity and Soil Health in India' has been assigned to Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore, covering six States namely, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Assam and Punjab. The study is scheduled to be completed by October, 2016.

Allocation of funds for micro irrigation scheme

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

(a) whether micro irrigation scheme has gained acceptance amongst the farming community across the country;

(b) whether the said scheme is being implemented in the ratio of 60:40, i.e. 60 per cent by Central Government and 40 per cent by State Governments;

(c) whether Government has received proposals from State Governments to allocate more funds for the said scheme;

(d) whether Government has also received a representation from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir. Micro Irrigation Scheme has been accepted amongst the farming community in the States namely; Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Haryana. In other States, especially in North Eastern Region (NER) and Himalayan States implementation of Micro Irrigation Scheme is still to take off on major scale.

(b) Yes, but for NER and Himalayan States, the funding pattern is of 90:10 between Central and State Governments respectively.

(c) Specific proposals have been received from various States for implementation of the programme during 2016-17.

(d) and (e) Yes. Request for higher allocation from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has been received. Based on available resources higher allocation has been made to State from ₹ 63.90 crore of 2014-15 to ₹ 95.0 crore during 2016-17.

MSP for agricultural produces

568. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken appropriate measures to provide adequate MSP for major agricultural produces in the country, including pulses of various kinds;

(b) if so, the details of MSP for various produces, as-on-date;

(c) whether Government has any plans to increase the MSP and compensation packages provided for farmers;

(d) the funds allocated from 2011 to till date for support of farmers and compensation packages provided to Tamil Nadu, year-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to protect the interests of millions of small and marginal farmers and compensation package, per acre land, during any calamity or floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) to (e) Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the major agricultural produce on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of the State Governments, concerned Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors. Details of MSPs of major agricultural commodities fixed for 2016-17 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

Funds allocated to the State of Tamil Nadu under various schemes implemented by Government between 2011-12 and 2016-17 is as below:

(₹ in crore)

Year	Funds allocated
2011-12	660.30
2012-13	945.29
2013-14	600.61
2014-15	625.09
2015-16	530.13
2016-17	588.99

The financial assistance of ₹ 624.69 crore was provided to Tamil Nadu from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) in the wake of drought in Kharif season during the year 2012-13. The assistance provided to the State is for all the farmers including small and marginal farmers.

Statement

Minimum Support Price for 2016-17

(in ₹ per quintal)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2016-17
1.	Paddy	Common	1470
		Grade 'A'	1510
2.	Jowar	Hybrid	1625
		Maldandi	1650
3.	Bajra		1330
4.	Maize		1365
5.	Ragi		1725

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2016-17
6.	Arhar (Tur)		5050^^
7.	Moong		5225^^
8.	Urad		5000^^
9.	Cotton	Medium Staple	3860
		Long Staple	4160
10.	Groundnut in Shell		4220*
11.	Sunflower Seed		3950*
12.	Soyabean	Black	-
		Yellow\$\$	2775*
13.	Sesamum		5000^
14.	Nigerseed		3825*
15.	Copra	Milling	5950
		Ball	6240
16.	De-Husked Coconut		1600
17.	Jute		3200

\$\$ Minimum Support Price of Soyabean yellow is also applicable to black variety during 2016-17

*Including Bonus of ₹ 100 per quintal.

^Including Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal.

^^Including Bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal.

Umbrella projects for SC/ST farmers

†569. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of umbrella projects running in agriculture sector for farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) the details of allocated budget and amount spent under the said projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Agriculture is a State subject. However, the Government of India supports the State Governments, through various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for which Financial

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Assistance is provided in the sharing pattern of 60:40 between the Centre and the States (90:10 in case of 8 North Eastern and 3 Himalayan States). The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare implements various schemes through the State Governments for the welfare of farmers under which support is provided to all farmers including farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. A list of Schemes being implemented by the Department is given in Statement-I [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to USQ No. 549 Part (a)].

(b) During 2016-17, 8% and 15%-16.2% of the total funds allocated to the Department is earmarked for Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) and Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) respectively for the growth of agriculture in Tribal and Scheduled Caste dominated areas. Accordingly funds under various schemes are apportioned under SC Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan. The details of budget allocated and amount released during the year 2016-17 scheme-wise are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

Statement-II

(A) *Details of State-wise funds allocated, released and expenditure under schemes being implemented by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare during 2016-17*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)		National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palms (<i>Erstwhile</i> Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize)		Rainfed Area Development and Climate Change (<i>Erstwhile</i> Rainfed Area Development)		Soil Health Management (SHM) (<i>Erstwhile</i> National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility)		Soil Health Card (SHC) 10.06.2016				
		Alloc.	Rel.	Exp.	Alloc.	Rel.	Exp.	Alloc.	Rel.	Exp.	Alloc.	Rel.	Exp.	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	72.04	0.00	0.00	52.43	13.11	15.00	9.00	7.50	0.00	0.00	13.94	6.97	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13.05	5.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	2.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	4.10			0.00	0.00	1.00		3.64	0.00	0.00	6.19	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	61.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00		6.18	0.00	0.00	12.89	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	66.29	32.14	0.00	10.48	4.00	4.00		6.20	0.00	0.00	6.85	3.43	0.00
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.45	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	48.21	0.00	0.00	39.64	0.00	5.00		14.38	0.00	0.00	10.57	5.29	0.00
8.	Haryana	19.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.50		3.69	0.00	0.00	4.40	0.00	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	16.00	0.00	0.00			7.00	3.50	0.98	1.41	0.00	0.59	0.00	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	14.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00		2.21	0.00	0.00	3.26	0.00	0.00

11. Jharkhand	36.12	0.00	0.00	3.81	0.00	10.00	4.00	1.58	0.00	0.00	1.28	0.64	0.00
12. Karnataka	133.55	69.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.00		13.59	0.00	0.00	20.60	10.30	0.00
13. Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	2.50		3.13	0.00	0.00	1.32	0.00	0.00
14. Madhya Pradesh	276.98	0.06	0.00	96.58	25.78	10.00		16.02	0.00	0.00	27.47	13.74	0.00
15. Maharashtra	198.01	97.18	0.00	59.34	29.67	30.00	16.22	25.73	0.00	0.00	24.30	12.15	0.00
16. Manipur	14.79	7.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	2.50	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.63	0.00	0.00
17. Meghalaya	6.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00		1.30	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.00
18. Mizoram	2.26	1.13	0.00	14.48	7.24	5.00	2.50	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.00	0.00
19. Nagaland	21.80	10.90	0.00	5.74	0.00	7.00	4.20	1.20	0.00	0.00	0.74	0.00	0.00
20. Odisha	67.96	0.00	0.00	6.02	0.00	14.00	7.00	7.78	0.00	0.00	6.09	3.04	0.00
21. Punjab	19.09	0.00	0.00	0.62	0.00	3.00		6.50	0.00	0.00	9.58	0.00	0.00
22. Rajasthan	207.29	103.44	0.00	60.20	15.00	5.00		19.65	0.00	0.00	22.17	11.08	0.00
23. Sikkim	7.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00		4.29	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00
24. Tamil Nadu	50.82	25.10	0.00	9.01	4.50	24.00	14.40	6.01	0.00	0.00	12.90	0.00	0.00
25. Telangana	40.09	0.00	0.00	10.97	0.00	12.00	7.20	8.07	2.09	0.00	9.37	4.68	0.00
26. Tripura	10.48	0.84	0.00	1.04	0.00	6.00	3.60	0.36	0.00	0.00	0.79	0.00	0.00
27. Uttar Pradesh	186.28	0.00	0.00	16.60	0.00	15.00	6.00	22.68	0.00	0.00	48.84	24.42	0.00
28. Uttarakhand	21.54	9.75	0.00	0.70	0.00	5.00	3.00	1.03	0.00	0.00	2.37	0.00	0.00
29. West Bengal	54.78	25.80	0.00	10.94	4.00	7.00	4.20	7.93	0.00	0.00	14.60	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	1669.87	388.17	0.00	398.74	103.30	0.00	220.00	192.90	3.49	0.00	263.47	95.74	0.00

(B) Details of State-wise funds allocated, released and expenditure under schemes being implemented by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare during 2016-17

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)		Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (Erstwhile Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms) (SMAE)		National E-Governance Plan (NEGP-A) Phase-II 31.05.2016		Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanisation (SMAM) 06.06.2016		Sub Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP)		
		Alloc.	Rel.	Exp.	Rel.	Exp.	Rel.	Alloc.#	Rel.	Exp.	Rel.	Exp.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22.57		11.22	5.61	1.24	0.62	0.00	12.00	12.00	0.00	8.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.47		9.35	0.00	0.81	0.00	0.00	1.90	1.33	0.00	0.25
3.	Assam	15.01		11.66	0.00			0.00	1.40	0.00	0.00	12.85
4.	Bihar	17.66		30.74	15.37	3.65	0.00	0.00	14.00	0.00	0.00	7.58
5.	Chhattisgarh	9.98		12.77	6.39	1.28	0.64	0.00	10.00	9.29	0.00	3.43
6.	Goa	0.32		0.55	0.27	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04
7.	Gujarat	13.17		17.93	8.97	1.99	0.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	2.40
8.	Haryana	3.22		6.68	3.34	1.08		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.45
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5.78		8.66	4.33			0.00	2.50	2.50	0.00	5.05
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.54		13.57	0.00	1.15	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	8.53
11.	Jharkhand	6.89		16.53	8.27			0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.08

(₹ in crore)

12. Karnataka	24.88	17.88	16.82	8.41	0.00	4.00	3.27	0.00	6.40						
13. Kerala	26.25		10.07	5.04	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.71						
14. Madhya Pradesh	47.20	17.88	29.70	14.85	0.00	20.00	12.00	0.00	18.00						
15. Maharashtra	50.53		27.66	13.83	0.00	15.00	15.00	0.00	8.95						
16. Manipur	1.60		6.10	3.05	0.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.70						
17. Meghalaya	4.49		2.41	1.21	0.43	0.22	0.90	0.00	0.50						
18. Mizoram	2.21		3.54	1.77	0.33	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.25						
19. Nagaland	1.73		7.75	3.88	0.63	0.32	2.40	0.00	2.25						
20. Odisha	17.72	6.50	28.42	14.21	2.25	0.00	13.50	12.00	0.80						
21. Punjab	4.82		12.73	0.00	1.20	0.00	3.00	0.00	3.36						
22. Rajasthan	47.43		20.43	10.22	1.98	0.00	8.50	3.66	8.36						
23. Sikkim	6.86		2.64	0.00	0.29	0.00	2.40	1.44	0.00						
24. Tamil Nadu	8.71		34.18	17.09	2.97	0.00	9.00	9.00	9.12						
25. Telangana	12.92		7.54	3.77	0.77	0.38	2.00	0.00	7.60						
26. Tripura	3.01		1.54	0.00	0.44	0.22	2.00	2.00	0.20						
27. Uttar Pradesh	29.85		61.75	30.87	5.87	0.00	15.00	9.00	19.35						
28. Uttarakhand	26.24		8.45	4.23	0.79	0.00	3.50	2.00	6.28						
29. West Bengal	9.50		23.60	11.80	2.39	0.00	4.00	4.00	0.75						
TOTAL	424.58	24.38	0.00	445.00	196.75	0.00	32.29	2.39	0.00	163.00	109.39	0.00	143.74	26.83	0.00

(C) *Details of State-wise funds allocated, released and expenditure under schemes being implemented by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare during 2016-17*

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	National Horticulture Mission			Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana			Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (Erstwhile National Mission on Micro Irrigation)			Other Interventions		
		Alloc.	Rel.	Exp.	Alloc.	Rel.	Exp.	Alloc.	Rel.	Exp.	Alloc./Release	Exp.	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	64.03	29.10	220.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	220.00	132.00	0.00	0.00	43.00	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	32.30	0.00	37.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	
3.	Assam	28.00	0.00	88.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.00	
4.	Bihar	26.31	11.96	104.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36.00	
5.	Chhattisgarh	69.23	31.47	80.81	40.41	0.00	0.00	20.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	28.00	
6.	Goa	2.52	0.00	51.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	
7.	Gujarat	71.39	32.45	205.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	220.00	132.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	
8.	Haryana	61.84	28.11	109.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	24.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	32.00	0.00	29.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.00	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	46.00	0.00	33.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.00	
11.	Jharkhand	40.18	18.27	57.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	31.00	
12.	Karnataka	72.97	33.17	401.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	130.00	78.00	0.00	0.00	60.00	

13.	Kerala	46.42	0.00	108.13	0.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	23.00	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	45.35	20.62	310.27	155.13	0.00	140.00	84.00	0.00	62.00	
15.	Maharashtra	88.97	40.44	427.27	200.24	0.00	250.00	150.00	0.00	97.00	
16.	Manipur	32.00	0.00	24.48	0.00	0.00	3.75	0.00	0.00	6.00	
17.	Meghalaya	25.50	0.00	19.45	0.00	0.00	0.75	0.00	0.00	6.00	
18.	Mizoram	31.50	0.00	19.55	0.00	0.00	6.50	0.00	0.00	4.00	
19.	Nagaland	31.50	0.00	29.72	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	9.00	
20.	Odisha	49.91	22.68	227.39	45.86	0.00	18.00	10.80	0.00	29.00	
21.	Punjab	39.86	0.00	165.90	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	
22.	Rajasthan	50.89	23.13	397.41	0.00	0.00	120.00	72.00	0.00	95.00	
23.	Sikkim	30.50	0.00	28.66	0.00	0.00	6.50	0.00	0.00	3.00	
24.	Tamil Nadu	55.03	0.00	305.73	152.87	0.00	95.00	0.00	0.00	47.00	
25.	Telangana	32.90	14.96	152.91	0.00	0.00	115.00	69.00	0.00	24.00	
26.	Tripura	33.00	0.00	25.35	0.00	0.00	2.50	0.00	0.00	8.00	
27.	Uttar Pradesh	37.27	16.94	330.53	0.00	0.00	20.00	12.00	0.00	49.00	
28.	Uttarakhand	31.00	0.00	47.12	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
29.	West Bengal	24.91	0.00	234.31	0.00	0.00	6.50	0.00	0.00	32.00	
TOTAL		1233.28	323.30	0.00	4274.21	594.51	0.00	1499.00	787.80	814.00	0.00

Production of Kharif crops

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

(a) whether Government has any report on good production of kharif crops this year as compared to last year;

(b) if so, production report for this year, sector-wise; and

(c) the action proposal of Government to cope up with negative situation, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) to (c) First Advance Estimates of production (covering only Kharif crops) are normally released in September and, therefore, it is too early to have firm assessment of production of Kharif crops for the current year. However, as per latest reports based on eye assessment of area coverage by State Agriculture Departments, total area coverage under most of Kharif crops during the current year *i.e.* 2016-17 (as on 15.07.2016) has been higher than the area coverage during the corresponding period of last year. At all India level, total area sown under Kharif crops during 2016-17 (as on 15.7.2016) has been higher by 11.38 lakh hectares as compared to Kharif area coverage during the same period of last year.

In view of better progress of sowing of Kharif crops, if rainfall conditions during the remaining period of current monsoon season continues to be favourable as per prediction of India Meteorological Department, this year's production scenario of Kharif crops should be better than the last year.

Compulsory licence and royalty on sale price of seeds

571. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has withdrawn the notification calling GM developers to compulsorily license their proprietary traits on demand;

(b) whether Government has also rolled back the decision not to charge any royalty exceeding 10 per cent of the maximum sale price of seeds;

(c) the key features of Licensing and Formats for GM Technology Agreement Guidelines; and

(d) by when does Government propose to put out a formal confirmation on compulsory licence and royalty on sale price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has withdrawn on 24th May, 2016 the Notification of Licensing and Formats for GM Technology Agreement Guidelines.

(c) Key features of the Licensing and Formats for GM Technology Agreement Guidelines include Fair, Reasonable and Non-Discriminatory (FRAND) allocation, a cap on maximum trait value, no right to refuse grant of license to any eligible seed company fulfilling the eligibility criteria, in case of loss of efficacy trait value to be zero, no restrictive condition in the agreement for alternative GM technology, etc.

(d) These draft Licensing Guidelines and Format for GM Technology Agreement have been uploaded on the website of the Department. Decision on these draft Licensing guidelines will be taken after receiving comments/suggestions from all stakeholders after completion of 90 days.

Policy to improve agriculture sector

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

(a) whether Government has formulated any special policy to improve the worsened situation of agriculture and to promote agriculture sector through achievement of white and blue revolutions and fast pace of horticulture; and

(b) whether any steps are to be taken to improve mandi system and to improve dilapidated expansion system of basic infrastructure under this policy to provide fair prices to farmers for their produces, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Government of India is already running several schemes for the upliftment of agriculture and its allied sectors in the country. New Schemes have also been introduced in the recent past such as National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), Soil Health Card (SHC), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) etc.

In so far as white revolution is concerned, the Government is implementing the following schemes in which assistance is provided for development of dairying sector-(i) National Dairy Plan (Phase-I); (ii) National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development; (iii) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme; and (iv) Supporting State Cooperative Dairy Federations.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has restructured the Fisheries Scheme as Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries, 2016 which encompasses following components:-

- (i) National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB);
- (ii) Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture;
- (iii) Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post-Harvest Operations;
- (iv) National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen,
- (v) Strengthening of Database and Geographical Information System of the Fisheries Sector; and
- (vi) Issuance of Biometric Identity Cards to Coastal Fishermen.

The Blue Revolution, with its multi-dimensional activities, focuses mainly on increasing production from aquaculture and fisheries resources, both inland and marine. Blue Revolution visualizes “Creating an enabling environment for an integrated and holistic development and management of fisheries keeping in view the sustainability, bio-security and environmental concerns”.

The main objectives of the scheme are:-

- (i) To increase the overall fish production in a responsible and sustainable manner for economic prosperity;
- (ii) To modernize fisheries with special focus on new technologies;
- (iii) To ensure food and nutritional security;
- (iv) To generate employment and export earnings;
- (v) To ensure inclusive development and empower fishermen and aquaculture farmers.

The Administrative approval of the restructured scheme was issued on 22.12.2015 with revised funding norms. The guidelines of the scheme has been revamped and issued on 30.06.2016 with revised cost norms for the entire gamut of activities in the fisheries sector.

Under the revised scheme unit cost of Fishermen houses has been increased to ₹ 120,000/- in plain areas and ₹ 130,000/- in North-East Himalayan States from existing ₹ 75,000/-. Similarly for saving-cum-relief, financial assistance to be provided to each Fishermen has been increased to ₹ 3,000/- from existing ₹ 1,800/-.

Government of India is implementing National Horticulture Mission (NHM) Scheme for development of post harvest management and market infrastructure.

(b) In order to improve the marketing system being carried out by existing physical mandis and to provide maximum benefit to the farmers by enhancing transparency, price discovery, competition and farmers' access to numerous markets and buyers, the Government has launched National Agricultural Market Scheme (e-NAM) on 14th April, 2016 in 21 mandis across 8 States. Under the Scheme, a PAN India electronic portal has been developed to be deployable in 585 mandis by 2018. Further, to modernize the existing mandis under e-NAM, the Government will provide e-NAM portal free of cost and will also meet expenses on software and its customization for the States. Apart from this, the Government will give grant as one time fixed cost subject to the ceiling of ₹ 30.00 lakhs per Mandi for hardware including equipment/infrastructure and assaying equipments, etc.

The component of market infrastructure in NHM includes rural primary markets, wholesale markets and terminal market complexes. For rural primary markets credit linked back ended subsidy @ 40% in general areas and @ 55% in hilly and tribal areas of the maximum project of ₹ 25.00 lakh is available. For wholesale markets credit linked back ended subsidy @25% in general areas and @ 33.33% in hilly and tribal areas of the maximum project cost of ₹ 100.00 crore/project is available. For terminal market complex, under PPP mode, assistance @25% to 40% (limited to ₹ 50.00 crore) of project cost of ₹ 150.00 crore/project, which includes 25% as floor subsidy plus 15% as subsidy on bidding is available.

Formation of national policy for co-operative societies

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

(a) the details of co-operative societies functioning in the country at present, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to formulate a National Policy for the development and up gradation of co-operative societies, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the same is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) The State/UT-wise details of Multi State Cooperative Societies registered under Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, the Act administered by the Government of India, are given in the Statement (*See* below). Details of Societies registered in States under their respective Cooperative Societies Acts are not maintained by the Government of India.

(b) and (c) In the year 2002, a “National Policy on Cooperatives” has been declared by the Government. The main objective of the National Policy on Cooperative is to facilitate all round development of the Cooperatives in the country. The Policy seeks to achieve, *inter-alia*; ensuring functioning of the Cooperatives based on basic Cooperative values and principles; revitalization of Cooperative structure particularly in the sector of agriculture credit; reduction of regional imbalances through provision of support measures; strengthening of the Cooperative Education and Training and Human Resource Development for professionalization of the management of the Cooperatives; and greater participation of members in the management of Cooperatives and promoting the concept of user members.

Statement

Total number of Cooperative Societies registered under Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 as on 12.07.2016 are 1419.

State-wise details of number of Multi-State Cooperative Societies since 1986:

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Societies (1986 onwards)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	01
3.	Assam	05
4.	Bihar	16
5.	Chandigarh	01
6.	Chhattisgarh	08
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	01
8.	Goa	02
9.	Gujarat	33
10.	Haryana	12
11.	Himachal Pradesh	02
12.	Jharkhand	09
13.	Karnataka	24
14.	Kerala	20
15.	Madhya Pradesh	26
16.	Maharashtra	554
17.	Manipur	01
18.	Nagaland	01

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Societies (1986 onwards)
19.	New Delhi	130
20.	Odisha	19
21.	Puducherry	05
22.	Punjab	23
23.	Rajasthan	72
24.	Sikkim	01
25.	Tamil Nadu	84
26.	Telangana	01
27.	Uttar Pradesh	132
28.	Uttarakhand	04
29.	West Bengal	47
TOTAL		1252
No. of registered societies under MSCS, 2002 before 1986		167
GRAND TOTAL		1419

Implementation of national Policy for Farmers, 2007

574. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the National Policy for Farmers, 2007 and the status of its implementation in Telangana;

(b) the role assigned to State Governments in implementation of this policy; and

(c) whether this policy has taken into account recommendations of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Committee, if so, the details of the recommendations covered by the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Government had constituted the National Commission on Farmers (NCF) under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in 2004. The Commission submitted five reports to the Government. The major recommendations of the Commission contained in the five reports were included in the 'Draft National Policy for Farmers' submitted by the Commission itself in 2006 alongwith fifth report. Based on the 'Draft National Policy for Farmers' submitted by the Commission, the Government approved the National

Policy for Farmers (NPF)-2007, which aims to improve economic viability of farming and increase net income of farmers.

The Policy provisions in NPF-2007 include, *inter-alia*, (i) asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; (ii) supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material, (iii) issue of soil health passbooks to the farmers and integrated pest management system; (iv) region and crop specific implements and machinery; (v) support services for women; (vi) timely, adequate and easy reach of institutional credit at reasonable interest rates and farmer-friendly insurance instruments; (vii) support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies; (viii) agricultural bio-security system; (ix) use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and setting up of farm schools to revitalize agricultural extension; (x) coverage of farmers under a comprehensive national social security scheme; (xi) effective implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) across the country and establishing community foodgrain banks; (xii) development of agricultural market infrastructure and terminal markets for agriculture; (xiii) curriculum reforms in agricultural universities; (xiv) special categories of farming like organic farming and contract farming; (xv) rural non-farm employment initiative for farm households; and (xvi) integrated approach for rural energy, etc.

The National Policy for Farmers be adapted and operationalised to suit the local needs in different States and Union Territories. State Governments would be supported to convert national goals into local action points by preparing operational plans for implementing this policy taking into account the agro-climatic and other local conditions. Such operational plans be prepared at the district level by a multi-disciplinary professional group and integrated at the State level. State would be encouraged to have an effective mechanism for continuous feedback from the farmers to ensure that measures taken under the policy address the problems of the farmers.

All the State Governments including undivided Andhra Pradesh were requested to operationlise the Policy with specific reference to the existing Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/Programmes as well as State-specific schemes from the perspective of local needs. The status of implementation of NPF-2007 has been sought from the Government of Telangana.

Investment in agriculture and allied sector

575. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment in agriculture and allied sector under public and private during 2014-15 and 2015-16;

- (b) the subjects included in the allied sector;
- (c) the investment in agriculture and allied sector, sector-wise; and
- (d) the amount invested in Telangana during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) As per estimates released on 29.01.2016 by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), the details of Public and Private Investment in terms of Gross Capital Formation (GCF) in agriculture and allied sector (at 2011-12 prices) during 2014-15 (latest available) are as under:

(₹ in crore)

Year	Investment (GCF) in Agriculture and Allied Sector		
	Public	Private	Total
2014-15	36061	220434	256495

Estimates of investment in agriculture and allied sector for 2015-16 are due for release in January 2017.

(b) The subjects included in agriculture and allied sector are crop (including horticulture), livestock, forestry and logging and fishery and aquaculture.

(c) Details of sub-sector-wise estimates of investment in terms of Gross Capital Formation (GCF) in agriculture and allied sector (at 2011-12 prices) during 2014-15 (latest available) are as under:

(₹ in crore)

Year	Investment				Total
	Crops (incl. horticulture)	Livestock	Forestry and logging	Fishery and Aquaculture	
2014-15	211861	25868	2338	16429	256496

Source: Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)

(d) State-wise estimates of investment in agriculture and allied sector are not compiled by the Central Statistics Office.

Regulation of excessive use of pesticides

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

- (a) the details of pesticides being used in the country;

(b) the regulatory mechanism that the country has to regulate the excessive use of pesticides;

(c) the details of agencies that are working to control use of pesticides and maintain residuary levels of pesticides in various foods;

(d) whether these agencies are working under different Ministries thereby causing problem in co-ordination; and

(e) if not, the coordination mechanism that these agencies have and to what extent they have succeeded in containing excessive use of pesticides in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) There are 272 technical pesticides registered under section 9(3) of the Insecticides Act, 1968. The list is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) The Insecticides Act, 1968 has been enacted to regulate the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides with a view to prevent risk to human beings or animals, and for matters connected therewith. As per provision under Section 5 of the Act, the Government has constituted a Registration Committee (RC). This Committee registers pesticides after considering the data on different parameters such as chemistry, bio-efficacy, toxicity, packaging and processing to ensure efficacy and safety to human beings and animals. If pesticides are used as per approved label claims they do not cause any hazard to human beings, live-stock etc.

(c) Implementation of the Insecticides Act, 1968 is the responsibility of both, Central and State Governments. The Central Government is responsible for registration of insecticides whereas, the State Governments are responsible for enforcement of the provisions relating to manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides. The Central Government and State Governments are jointly responsible for quality control.

Further, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) fixes Maximum Residues Limits (MRLs) of specific crops. No pesticide is registered without fixation of 'Maximum Residue Limit' (MRL) for the crop on which it is intended to be used. In addition, the Central Government has started a Central sector scheme, "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" (MPRNL) under which samples of food commodities are collected and analysed for the presence of pesticide residues.

(d) and (e) Zonal/National Conferences are held annually wherein the State Agriculture authorities are sensitized on judicious use of pesticide and to enforce regulatory provisions with regard to pesticides. In addition, regular meetings are organized by FSSAI to discuss. These are related matters.

Statement

*Insecticides/Pesticides Registered under section 9(3) of the
Insecticides Act, 1968 for use in the country*

Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide
1.	2,4-D Amine salt
2.	2,4-Dichlorophenoxy Acetic Acid
3.	Acephate
4.	Acetamiprid
5.	Alachlor
6.	Allethrin
7.	Alphacypermethrin
8.	Alphanaphthyl Acetic Acid
9.	Aluminium Phosphide
10.	Ametroctradin
11.	Ametryn
12.	<i>Ampelomyces Quisqualis</i>
13.	Anilophos
14.	Atrazine
15.	Aureofungin
16.	Azadirachtin (Neem Products)
17.	Azimsulfuron
18.	Azoxystrobin
19.	<i>Bacillus sphaericus</i>
20.	<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> var. <i>galleriae</i>
21.	<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> var. <i>israelensis</i>
22.	<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> var. <i>kurstaki</i>
23.	Barium Carbonate
24.	Beauveria Bassiana
25.	Bendiocarb
26.	Benfuracarb
27.	Benomyl
28.	Bensulfuron Methyl

Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide
29.	Bentazone
30.	Beta Cyfluthrin
31.	Bifenazate
32.	Bifenthrin
33.	Bispyribac Sodium
34.	Bitertanol
35.	Boscalid+Pyraclostrobin
36.	Bromadiolone
37.	Buprofezin
38.	Butachlor
39.	Captan
40.	Carbaryl
41.	Carbendazim
42.	Carbofuran
43.	Carbosulfan
44.	Carboxin
45.	Carfentrazone Ethyl
46.	Carfentrazone Ethyl+Chloropropionic Acid
47.	Carpropamid
48.	Cartap Hydrochloride
49.	Chlorantraniliprole
50.	Chlorfenopyr
51.	Chlorfluazuron
52.	Chlorimuron Ethyl
53.	Chlormequat Chloride (CCC)
54.	Chlorothalonil
55.	Chlorpropham
56.	Chlorpyriphos
57.	Chlorpyriphos Methyl
58.	Chlothianidin
59.	Chromafenozide

Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide
60.	Cinmethylen
61.	Clodinafop-propargyl
62.	Clodinafop-propargyl+Sodium Acifluorfen
63.	Clomazone
64.	Clothianidin
65.	Copper Hydroxide
66.	Copper Oxychloride
67.	Copper Sulphate
68.	Coumachlor
69.	Coumatetralyl
70.	Cuprous Oxide
71.	Cyantraniliprole
72.	Cyazofamid
73.	Cyflumetofen
74.	Cyfluthrin
75.	Cyhalofop-butyl
76.	Cymoxanil
77.	Cypermethrin
78.	Cyphenothrin
79.	Dazomet
80.	Deltamethrin (Decamethrin)
81.	Diafenthiuron
82.	Diazinon
83.	Dichloro Diphenyl Trichloroethane (DDT)
84.	Dichloropropene and Dichloropropane Mixture (DD Mixture)
85.	Dichlorvos (DDVP)
86.	Diclofop-Methyl
87.	Diclosulam
88.	Dicofol
89.	Difenoconazole
90.	Diflubenzuron

Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide
91.	Dimethoate
92.	Dimethomorph
93.	Dinocap
94.	Dinotefuron
95.	Dithianon
96.	Diuron
97.	Dodine
98.	D-trans Allethrin
99.	Edifenphos
100.	Emamectin Benzoate
101.	Endosulfan*
102.	Epoxyconazole
103.	Ethephon
104.	Ethion
105.	Ethiprole
106.	Ethofenprox (Etofenprox)
107.	Ethoxysulfuron
108.	Ethylene Dichloride and Carbon Tetrachloride Mixture (EDCT Mixture 3:1)
109.	Etoxazole(FI)
110.	Famoxadone
111.	Fenamidone
112.	Fenarimol
113.	Fenazaquin
114.	Fenitrothion
115.	Fenobucarb (BPMC)
116.	Fenoxaprop-p-Ethyl
117.	Fenpropathrin
118.	Fenpyroximate
119.	Fenthion
120.	Fenvalerate

Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide
121.	Fipronil
122.	Flonicamid
123.	Fluazifop-p-butyl
124.	Flubendiamide
125.	Fluchloralin
126.	Flufenacet
127.	Flufenoxuron
128.	Flufenzine
129.	Fluopicolide
130.	Fluopyram and its Metabolite
131.	Flusilazole
132.	Fluvalinate
133.	Fomesafen
134.	Forchlorfenuron
135.	Fosetyl-Al
136.	Gibberellic Acid
137.	Glufosinate Ammonium
138.	Glyphosate
139.	Helosulfuron Methyl
140.	Hexaconazole
141.	Hexazinone
142.	Hexythiazox
143.	Hydrogen Cyanamide
144.	Imazamox
145.	Imazethapyr
146.	Imidacloprid
147.	Imiprothrin
148.	Indoxacarb
149.	Iprobenfos (Kitazin)
150.	Iprodione
151.	Iprovalicarb

Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide
152.	Isoprothiolane
153.	Isoproturon
154.	Kasugamycin
155.	Kresoxim Methyl
156.	Lambdacyhalothrin
157.	Lime Sulphur
158.	Linuron
159.	Lufenuron
160.	Magnesium Phosphide Plates
161.	Malathion
162.	Mancozeb
163.	Mandipropamid
164.	Mepiquate Chloride
165.	Mesosulfuron Methyl + Iodosulfuron Methyl Sodium
166.	Metaflumizone
167.	Metalaxyl
168.	Metalaxyl-M
169.	Metaldehyde
170.	<i>Metarhizium Anisopliae</i>
171.	Methabenzthiazuron
172.	Methomyl
173.	Methoxy Ethyl Mercury Chloride (MEMC)
174.	Methyl Bromide
175.	Methyl Chlorophenoxy Acetic Acid (MCPA)
176.	Methyl Parathion
177.	Metiram
178.	Metofluthrin
179.	Metolachlor
180.	Metribuzin
181.	Metsulfuron Methyl
182.	Milbemectin

Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide
183.	Monocrotophos
184.	Myclobutanil
185.	Novaluron
186.	Nuclear Polyhydrosis Virus of <i>Helicoverpa Armigera</i>
187.	Nuclear Polyhydrosis Virus of <i>Spodoptera litura</i>
188.	Orthosulfamuron
189.	Oxadiargyl
190.	Oxadiazon
191.	Oxycarboxin
192.	Oxydemeton-Methyl
193.	Oxyfluorfen
194.	Paclobutrazol
195.	Paraquat Dichloride
196.	Penconazole
197.	Pencycuron
198.	Pendimethalin
199.	Penoxsulam
200.	Permethrin
201.	Phenthoate
202.	Phorate
203.	Phosalone
204.	Phosphamidon
205.	Picoxystrobin
206.	Pinoxaden
207.	Prallethrin
208.	Pretilachlor
209.	Primiphos-methyl
210.	Profenophos
211.	Prohexadione Calcium
212.	Propanil
213.	Propaquizafop

Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide
214.	Propergite
215.	Propetamphos
216.	Propiconazole
217.	Propineb
218.	Propoxur
219.	<i>Pseudomonas Fluorescens</i>
220.	Pymetrozin (FI)
221.	Pyraclostrobin
222.	Pyraclostrobin+Epoxiconazole
223.	Pyrazosulfuron Ethyl
224.	Pyrethrin (Pyrethrum)
225.	Pyridalyl
226.	Pyriproxyfen
227.	Pyrithiobac Sodium
228.	Quinalphos
229.	Quizalofop Ethyl
230.	Quizalofop-P-Tefuryl
231.	S-bioallethrin
232.	Sodium Cyanide
233.	Sodium Paranitro Phenolate
234.	Spinetoram
235.	Spinosad
236.	Spiromesifen
237.	Streptomycin + Tetracycline
238.	Sulfosulfuron
239.	Sulphur
240.	Tebuconazole
241.	Tembotrione
242.	Temephos
243.	Tetraconazole (FI)

Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide
244.	Thiacloprid
245.	Thifluzamide
246.	Thiobencarb (Benthiocarb)
247.	Thiocyclam Hydrogen Oxalate
248.	Thiodicarb
249.	Thiomethoxain
250.	Thiometon
251.	Thiophanate-Methyl
252.	Thiram
253.	Tolfenpyrad
254.	Topramezone
255.	Transfluthrin
256.	Triacntanol
257.	Triadimefon
258.	Triallate
259.	Triasulfuron
260.	Triazophos
261.	Trichlorfon
262.	<i>Trichoderma Harzianum</i>
263.	<i>Trichoderma Viride</i>
264.	Tricyclazole
265.	Tridemorph
266.	Trifloxistrobin
267.	Trifluralin
268.	Validamycin
269.	<i>Verticillium Lecanii</i>
270.	Zinc Phosphide
271.	Zineb
272.	Ziram

*:- Endosulfan has been banned by the Supreme Court of India w.e.f. 13.05.2011 for production, use and sale, all over India, till further orders *vide ad-interim* order in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 213 of 2011.

Small and marginal farmers in Puducherry

577. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Agriculture Census 2010-11 the number of small and marginal farmers in Puducherry have gone up from 28,000 to 31,000 compared to 2005-06;

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken to protect these small and marginal farmers in Puducherry; and

(c) the annual income of these farmers during the last five years, year-wise and the efforts being made to double their income in the next five years as promised in the Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir. As per Agriculture Census 2010-11, the number of small and marginal operational holders taken together have increased from 28677 in 2005-06 to 31260 in 2010-11.

(b) and (c) As per the information received from the Department of Agriculture, UT of Puducherry, the annual income of the farmers for the last 5 years ranges from ₹ 15,000/- to ₹ 20,000/- for farmers growing seasonal crops and ₹ 30,000/- to ₹ 50,000/- for those growing annual and cash crops depending upon the yield and market prices. However, Government is assisting farmers to get remunerative prices for their produces through regulated markets, farmers mandis and direct sale to the consumers.

The Government is taking several measures to protect farmers and to double their income in the next five years in the country including Puducherry, some of which are as under:-

- Special focus on irrigation with sufficient budget, with the aim of “Per Drop More Crop”.
- Provision of quality seeds and nutrients based on soil health of each field.
- Investments in Warehousing and Cold Chains to prevent post-harvest crop losses.
- Promotion of value addition through Food Processing.
- Creation of National Agriculture Market, removing distortions and e-platform.
- Introduction of a New Crop Insurance Scheme to mitigate risks at affordable cost.
- Promotion of ancillary activities like Poultry, Beekeeping and Fisheries etc.

Decontrol of sugar sector

578. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the farmers' body has pitched for decontrol of the sugar sector; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central Government has already decontrolled the sugar sector in April, 2013 by removing the levy obligation on sugar mills and doing away with the regulated release mechanism of open market sale of sugar.

Organic farming

579. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

- (a) whether Government has decided recently to give a boost to organic farming by implementing various schemes;
- (b) if so, the details of the schemes to be introduced;
- (c) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research has initiated methodologies in organic farming; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Realizing the potential and benefits of organic farming particularly in areas like hilly, tribal and also in rainfed areas where utilization of chemical fertilizers and pesticides is relatively lower, the Government of India is promoting organic farming in country through the dedicated Schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).

Under PKVY Scheme, the assistance is provided to the farmers for cluster formation, mobilization of farmers, PGS certification and quality control, residue analysis of samples in NABL, conversion of land to organic farming, establishment

of production units (Pachagavya)/Beejamruth/Jeevamruth), green manuring/biological nitrogen harvest planting, botanical abstracts production units, liquid bio-fertilizers (Nitrogen/Fixing/Phosphate Solubilizing/Potassium mobilizing bio-fertilizers), liquid biopesticides (Trichoderma Viridae, Pseudomonas, Fluorescens, Matarhizium, Beaviourie Bassiana, Pacelomyces, Verticillium), Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM), establishment of vermi-compost unit, supply of improved agricultural implements, transportation of organic products, packing, labeling and branding of organic products etc. Under this scheme, an area of 2 lakh ha will be covered under organic farming from 2015-16 to 2017-18. The organic certification is provided under PGS certification. The pattern of assistance is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

Under MOVCNDR Central Sector Scheme, the assistance is provided for cluster development, on/off farm input production, supply of seeds/planting materials, setting up of functional infrastructure, establishment of integrated processing unit, refrigerated transportation, pre-cooling/cold stores chamber, branding labeling and packaging, hiring of space, hand holdings, organic certification through third party, mobilization of farmers/processors etc. Under this scheme, an area of 0.50 lakh ha. will be covered under organic farming in North Eastern Region of the country during next three years. The pattern of assistance is given in the Statement-II (*See* below). The detail guidelines are uploaded on the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation website www.agricoop.nic.

(c) and (d) Indian Council of Agricultural Research is promoting organic Farming in the country, through Plan Scheme “Network Project on Organic Farming” (NPOF) and is undertaking research to develop location specific organic farming package of practices for crops and cropping systems. Presently, the project is being implemented in 20 Centres covering 16 States. Organic farming package of practices for 42 crops/cropping systems have been developed to provide technical backstopping to Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) Scheme being implemented in the country.

ICAR has recently established National Organic Farming Research Institute (NOFRI) at Tadong, Gangtok (Sikkim). Further, a Network Project on Organic Farming of Horticulture Crops is also started by ICAR with lead centre at ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut from 2014. The ICAR also imparts training to educate farmers on organic farming practices.

Statement-I*PKVY Guidelines*

Name of Component	Assistance
A. Cluster Approach	
Cluster Formation	One cluster 50 acres (20 ha.) contiguous area. Assistance eligibility to farmer maximum one ha. @ ₹ 20,000/- acre (₹ 50,000/- per ha.) Total ₹ 10.00 lakhs for three years. ₹ 4.95 lakh for mobilization and PGS certification. Total ₹ 14.95 lakh per cluster.
Meetings and Discussions of Farmers	@ ₹ 200/- per farmer (₹ 10,000/- for 3 years).
Exposure visit for Farmer	@ ₹ 200/- per farmer (₹ 10,000/- for 3 years).
Training of Cluster member (3 Trainings)	@ ₹ 20,000/- per training (Total ₹ 60,000 for one cluster for 3 years).
TOTAL	₹ 80,000/-
B. PGS Certification and Quality Control	
Training on PGS Certification (2 days)	@ ₹ 200/- per Lead Resourceful Person (LRP) Total ₹ 400/- for 3 years.
Training of Trainers (LRP) (3 days)	@ ₹ 250/- day (Total ₹ 750/- for 3 years).
Online Registration of Farmer	@ ₹ 100/- per member (Total ₹ 10,000/- for 2 years).
Soil Sample Collection and Testing (21 Samples/year/cluster)	@ ₹ 190/- per sample (Total = 21X190 = ₹ 3990/- per year). (Total ₹ 11970/- for 3 years).
Process Documentation—inputs used, Organic Manures and Fertilizer used etc. for PGS Certification	@ ₹ 100/- per member (Total ₹ 5000/- per year) (Total ₹ 15000/- for 3 years).
Inspection of Cluster Member Fields (3 inspections)	@ ₹ 400/- per inspection (Total ₹ 1200/- per year and ₹ 3600/- for 3 years).
Residue Analysis of Samples in NABL (8 Samples/year/cluster)	@ ₹ 10,000/- per sample (Total ₹ 80,000/- per year). (Total ₹ 160,000/- for 2 years).
Certification Charges	@ ₹ 2000/- for 3 years.

Name of Component	Assistance
Administrative expenses for certification	@ ₹ 59950/- (Salary and maintenance)- for 3 years
TOTAL	₹ 2,63,670/-

C. Adoption of Organic Village

Conversion of Land to Organic	@ ₹ 1000/- per acre (Total ₹ 50,000/- per year) (Total ₹ 1,50,000/- for 3 years)
Organic Seed/nursery Raising, Procurement	@ ₹ 500/- per acre/(Total ₹ 25000/- per year) (Total ₹ 75000/- for 3 years).
Production Units <i>i.e.</i> Pachagavya/ Beejamruth/Jeevamruth etc.	@ ₹ 1500/- per unit/acre (Total ₹ 75000/- for one cluster for 3 years).
Green Manuring/Biological Nitrogen Harvest Planting.	@ ₹ 2000/- per acre (Total ₹ 1.00 lakh for 3 years).
Botanical Extracts Production Units	@ ₹ 1000/- per unit/acre (Total ₹ 50,000/- for 3 years).
TOTAL	₹ 4,50,000/-

D. Integrated Manure Management

Liquid Bio-fertilizers	@ ₹ 500/- per acre (Total ₹ 25000)- for one cluster for 3 years.
Liquid Bi-pesticides	@ ₹ 500/- per acre (Total ₹ 25000/- for one cluster for 3 years.
Natural Pest Control Mechanism	@ ₹ 500/- per acre (Total ₹ 25000/- for one cluster for 3 years.
Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM)	@ ₹ 1000/- per acre (Total ₹ 50,000/- for one cluster for 3 years.
Vermi-compost (Size 7'X3X1')	@ ₹ 5000/- per unit, 50 unit for one cluster (Total ₹ 2,50,000/- for one cluster for 3 years).
TOTAL	₹ 3,75,000/-

E. Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) Charges

Agriculture Implements	@ ₹ 15,000/- per year (Total ₹ 45,000/- for 3 years)
Walk in Tunnels for Horticulture Crops	As per MIDH Guidelines.

Name of Component	Assistance
Cattle Shed/Poultry/Piggery for Animal compost	As per Gokhul guidelines.
TOTAL	₹ 45000/-

F. Packing, Labelling and Branding

Packing Material with PGS Logo+Hologram	@ ₹ 2500/- per acre (Total ₹ 1,25,000/- for 3 years).
Transportation of Organic Products (Four Wheeler 1.5 Ton Capacity)	@ ₹ 1,20,000/- total for one cluster.
Organic Fairs	@ ₹ 36330/- per cluster total for 3 years.
TOTAL	₹ 281,330/-
GRAND TOTAL	₹ 14,95,000/-

Statement-II

MOVCDNER guidelines

Sl. No.	Components	Rate (₹)
A.1.1.	Clusters development and formation of Farmer producer Companies, as per SFAC norms.	4075/- per farmer.
A.1.2	Assistance for on-farm input production infrastructure (@ ₹ 3750/ha.) and off-farm inputs (@ ₹ 3750/ha.)	7500/ha x 2 =15000/ha.
A.1.3	Assistance for quality seed and planting material (50% of maximum ₹ 35000/ha limited to the actual cost as per crop)	17500 per ha.

A.2 Support for extension services, input facilitation, training handholding and certification

A.2.1	Assistance for setting up of input delivery, distribution and argil-machinery custom hiring centre through State lead agencies	10 lakh/FPO
A.2.2	Support and extension services for training, handholding and certification at production stage	
A.2.2.1	Training, hand holding, documentation and certification of crop production through service providers (As per MIDH)	10,000/- per ha

B. Value Chain processing (for FPC and Private Entrepreneur through Bank credit linked)

B1. Value Chain Post harvest—Setting up of collection, aggregation, grading facilities

Sl. No.	Components	Rate (₹)
B.1.1	Setting up of functional infrastructure for collection, aggregation and grading units @ ₹ 15 lakh (75% subsidy)	11.25 lakh (175 No. total)
B2. Setting up of value addition and processing units including packaging, storage and transportation		
B.2.1	Financial assistance for setting up of integrated processing units With TFO of ₹ 800 lakh or more limited to 75% to FPCs and 50% to private as credit linked back ended subsidy	600.00 lakh/unit (10 No. total)
B.3 Value Chain packaging, storage and transportation		
B.3.1	Integrated pack house 75% subsidy to FPCs on TFO of ₹ 50 lakh or more and 50% to private limited to ₹ 37.50 lakh	37.50 lakh/unit (20 No. total)
B.3.2	Transportation/4 wheeler up to TFO of ₹ 12 lakh (50%)	6.00 lakh/FPC. (25 No. total)
B.3.3.1	Refrigerated transport vehicle up to TFO of ₹ 25 lakh (75% subsidy to FPC and 50% to private)	18.75 lakh/unit (16 No. total)
B.3.3.2	Pre-cooling/cold stores/ripening chambers. FPOs	18.75 lakh/unit (16 No. total)
C. Value Chain Marketing—Branding, labelling, certification, quality control, retail outlets, awareness and publicity through lead agencies		
C.1	Branding, labelling, packaging, publicity and certification of processing units etc.	₹ 1100 lakh L.S. total
C.2	Seminars/conferences, workshops, Buyer-seller meets, Auction meetings, festivals.	₹ 400 lakh L.S. total
C.3	Consumer awareness Information dissemination through publicity, printed literature films and local advertisements	₹ 400 lakh L.S. total
C.4	Hiring of space in prime markets	₹ 600 lakh L.S. total
D. Value Chain Support Agencies		
D1. Setting up of Lead agency/Organic Commodity Board/ Organic Mission for scheme implementation and market facilitation. To be set up at State level		
D.1.1	Staff, Manpower, Travel and contingencies, Institutional strengthening and hire/purchase of machinery and equipments	5% of total scheme budget

Sl. No.	Components	Rate (₹)
D.1.2	Setting up of organic certification bodies. One time assistance will be provided for hiring consultants for preparation of operating manuals, training and exposure of manpower and facilitating institutional set up. Cost of manpower to be borne by the State	₹ 500 lakh L.S. total

Study visit on agricultural activities

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

(a) whether a delegation of the University of Wisconsin of USA visited Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University in Hyderabad to study the aspects of agriculture related activities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dr. Rami A. Reddy, Coordinator and Professor of Agribusiness Programme, University of Wisconsin, Platteville, Wisconsin, USA and Mr. Steve Vale, President of Ag. Council from USA visited the Acharya N.G. Ranga University, Hyderabad on 12th October 2015, and again on 2nd January, 2016 along with a group of students from Agri-business Division, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Wisconsin, USA as a part of the course of study entitled "Agriculture and food market in India" to explore the possibility of collaboration between the two Universities for students as well as faculty exchange programme and collaborative activities.

Sale of unsafe and spurious aluminium foils

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

(a) whether Government has laid down parameters for the manufacturing of aluminium foils for wrapping food items and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that unsafe and spurious aluminium foils are being sold openly in Delhi;

(c) the number of aluminium foil samples lifted by Government for checking during the last two years and how many of them have been found impure and unfit for wrapping food items; and

(d) the details of measures taken by Government to educate consumers about ill effects of using sub-standard/spurious/impure aluminium foils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Sir, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has formulated following Indian Standards for Aluminium foils:

- IS 15392:2003—Aluminium and Aluminium Alloy Bare Foil for Food Packaging
- IS 10257:1982—Aluminium Foil Stock
- IS 8970:1991—Aluminium Foil Laminates for Packaging
- IS 7161:1973—Vegetable Parchment or Grease Proof Paper/Aluminium Foil Laminate for Wrapping Butter
- IS 16011:2012—Aluminium and Aluminium Alloy Foil for Pharmaceutical Packaging

These Indian Standards are not under mandatory Certification and presently no manufacturer has obtained BIS licence for use of Standard Mark for the above product.

However, the material which are to be used for packaging of food items shall have to adhere to packaging requirement as prescribed under Regulation 2.1 of the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011 which is being handled by FSSAI.

(d) FSSAI is creating awareness among the general public about adulteration in food products. FSSAI also joins awareness campaigns under “Jago Grahak Jago” with the Department of Consumer Affairs in respect of food items. BIS give publicity and also organizes programmes for consumers to make them aware of quality of ISI marked products and the activities of BIS in general.

Improving the farming of pulses and oilseeds

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

(a) whether Government has formulated any special plan to promote the cultivation of pulses and oilseeds and to increase the productivity thereof;

(b) whether oilseed crops have been exhibited in the Krishi Vigyan Kendras of 300 districts of the country under this scheme;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether seeds and technical assistance has been provided to the farmers under this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details of assistance given to the farmers and efforts made to increase the productivity under the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, during 2015-16, a total of 299 ICAR-KVKs were engaged for cluster demonstration on oilseeds. In 2016-17, 423 ICAR-KVKs will demonstrate improved varieties, crop production, protection technologies of oilseeds.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In order to enhance the production and productivity of pulses and oilseeds, Government of India is implementing Schemes like National Food Security Mission-Pulses (NFSM) from 2007-08 and National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) from 2014-15 in the country.

Under NFSM-Pulses and NMOOP financial assistance are provided to farmers through State Government for various interventions like:

- Production and distribution of quality seeds of new varieties
- Demonstration of improved technologies
- Distribution of bio-pesticides, weedicides, micronutrients, gypsum, lime, bio-fertilizer
- Farm machinery and implements
- Water carrying pipes, drip, sprinkler
- Capacity building of farmers.

Besides, minikits of pulses and oilseeds are distributed to the farmers free of cost mainly to introduce new varieties through State Government and Central seed agencies.

Under NFSM few new initiatives have been taken up for increasing production and productivity of pulses during 2016-17.

- 93 Seed Hubs have been created through ICAR, State Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras for ensuring the availability of new variety seeds.
- 15% of the allocation of pulses under NFSM is earmarked for production of quality seeds through State Government.
- To increase the availability of breeder seed of pulses, ICAR Institute and State Agricultural Universities have been supported.

Apart from NFSM and NMOOP, under Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP) of National Mission of Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) a component namely "Seed Village Programme" is in operation to upgrade the quality of farm saved seed. Similarly under the component "certified seed production of pulses, oilseeds through seed village" financial assistance is available for distribution of foundation/certified seeds of pulses and for production of certified seeds of oilseeds.

Utility of e-NAM for farmers

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

(a) whether Government has launched any programme named as E-NAM (E-National Agriculture Market) in recent past;

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

(c) the details of terms and conditions, plan outlay and funds allocation in this regard along with its utility for the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has launched National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM) on 14.04.2016 in 21 mandis of 8 States namely Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Telangana. Subsequently, 02 more mandis from Haryana have been integrated with e-NAM.

(c) The e-NAM Scheme has been approved on 01.07.2015 with a budget of ₹ 200 crore. Under the Scheme, a pan India electronic trading portal is being deployed in selected regulated wholesale markets in States across the country and 585 markets are proposed to be integrated with e-NAM by March, 2018.

For integration with e-NAM, States are required to complete certain pre-requisite reforms in their respective Agriculture Produce Marketing (Regulation) Acts to provide for (i) A single licence to be valid across the States, (ii) Single point levy of market fee, and (iii) Provision for electronic auction as a mode of price discovery. Under the scheme, the Government is providing software free of cost and grant up to ₹ 30 lakh per mandi for related infrastructure/equipments including for assaying to the States who have carried all the three above mentioned pre-requisite reforms in their marketing regulations for integration of their mandis with e-NAM.

e-NAM is expected to benefit the farmers through enhanced market access by way of allowing remote online bidding for their produce, removal of information asymmetry

between buyers and sellers, real-time price discovery based on the actual demand-supply gap through transparent online auction, uniform marketing procedures, remuneration according to quality of produce and online payment directly to farmer's account.

Launching of NAMS in the country

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has launched 21 National Agriculture Markets (NAMs) in the country;

(b) if so, details of the States where NAMs have been launched;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry is planning to integrate four hundred mandis across the country by August this year; and

(d) if so, the progress of the same, with a particular reference to Telangana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Prime Minister has launched National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM) on 14.04.2016 in 21 mandis of 8 States. Subsequently, 02 more mandis from Haryana have been integrated with e-NAM.

(b) State-wise list of mandis where e-NAM has been launched is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) No, Sir. The target is to integrate 200 Mandis across the country by September, 2016 and total 585 markets by March, 2018.

(d) Proposals from 12 States for integration of 365 mandis with e-NAM have been approved out of which 23 mandis have been integrated with e-NAM.

For Telangana State, 44 mandis have been approved for integration with e-NAM, out of which 5 mandis have been integrated with e-NAM so far.

Statement

State-wise list of mandis for Pilot launch

Sl. No.	State	APMC	District	Commodity proposed
1.	Gujarat	Patan	Patan	Castor Seed
2.	-do-	Botad	Bhavnagar	Chana (Black Gram)
3.	-do-	Himmatnagar	Sabarkantha	Wheat

Sl. No.	State	APMC	District	Commodity proposed
4.	Telangana	Tirumalgiri	Nalgonda	Paddy
5.	-do-	Nizamabad	Nizamabad	Turmeric
6.	-do-	Badepally	Mahboobnagar	Maize
7.	-do-	Hyderabad	Hyderabad	Onion
8.	-do-	Warangal	Warangal	Maize
9.	Rajasthan	Ramganj Mandi	Kota	Chana (Black Gram)
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Karond, Bhopal	Bhopal	Chana (Black Gram)
11.	Uttar Pradesh	Sultanpur	Sultanpur	Wheat
12.	-do-	Lakhimpur	Lakhimpur Kheri	Wheat
13.	-do-	Lalitpur	Lalitpur	Wheat
14.	-do-	Bahraich	Bahraich	Wheat
15.	-do-	Saharanpur	Saharanpur	Wheat
16.	-do-	Mathura	Mathura	Wheat
17.	Haryana	Ellanabad	Sirsa	Mustard
18.	-do-	Karnal	Karnal	Wheat
19.	Jharkhand	Pandra, Ranchi	Ranchi	Mahua Flower and Tamarind
20.	Himachal Pradesh	Fruit Mandi, Solan	Solan	Shelling Peas
21.	-do-	Dhali, Shimla	Shimla	Shelling Peas

Subsequent additions

1.	Haryana	Ambala	Ambala	Sunflower Seed
2.	-do-	Shahbad	Shahbad	Sunflower Seed

Special package for fisheries sector

585. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to provide comprehensive special package to State Governments for diversification of fisheries;

(b) whether Government has received any proposals from State Governments for reduction of trawling pressure in the Palk Bay;

(c) whether the scheme for diversification of bottom trawlers to Tuna Long liners has been pending with the Government for nearly a year; and

(d) whether Government has received a representation from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in this regard, if so, the action taken by Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) to (d) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare provides financial assistance for development of fisheries under the Central Plan Scheme on 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries'.

DADF has received a representation from Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu which includes a special package for diversification of fisheries at a total cost of ₹ 1520 crore, with a component on diversification of Bottom Trawlers into Deep Sea Tuna Long Liners for reduction of travelling pressure in the Palk Bay.

The DADF after examination of the proposal, in consultation with the Government of Tamil Nadu, has formulated a Scheme for replacement of fishing trawlers in the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar Region. However, this scheme was not supported by various appraisal Ministries/Departments in the Government of India, in view of the shared marine fishery resources and the proposal being a single-State based scheme. It was further suggested to extend the scheme to other maritime States also. Keeping in view the requirement of the marine fisheries sector, the DADF has initiated a proposal for preparation of a national level scheme on promotion of traditional fishers for deep sea fishing, to empower traditional fishers of all maritime States including Tamil Nadu for deep-sea fishing.

Online registration of drug producers with NPPA

586. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain top drug producers have not registered their products on the online database of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and have failed to submit the mandatory disclosures;

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

(c) the action taken by Government against defaulting drug producers for violation of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (c) The Integrated Pharmaceutical Database Management System (IPDMS) was launched as a comprehensive online system providing a platform to all pharmaceutical manufacturers/marketers/importers/distributor companies to file mandatory returns prescribed in Forms II, III, and V of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013).

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority *vide* notices dated 16.11.2015, directed all pharmaceutical manufacturing/marketing companies to register themselves in IPDMS and file all mandatory forms as required under the DPCO, 2013 on or before 15th December 2015 and *vide* notice dated 21.12.2015 directed pharma companies to file details before 15th January, 2016 respectively.

Several meetings were also held with pharmaceutical companies by NPPA on this subject, followed by one-to-one interaction with the representatives of the companies.

Large number of companies have still not registered their products nor filed all mandatory returns online. General notice was again issued to all the companies on 10.06.2016, followed by specific Show Cause notice to 88 top companies in June-July, 2016 directing them to file mandatory forms online in IPDMS.

As on date, 660 pharmaceutical companies have registered in IPDMS, and 58027 products details have been entered.

Capping the cost of essential medicines

587. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of 42 essential medicines, used in treatment of various ailments, have been capped by the Government thereby reducing their cost by upto 15 per cent; and

(b) if so, the names and other details of these medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) The Government has reduced the ceiling prices of 42 medicines on 23.06.2016 under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013. The details are given in the Statement.

Statement

List of the 42 medicines for the ceiling prices has been reduced by the NPPA on 23.06.2016

Sl. No.	Medicines	Dosage form and Strength	Ceiling price	Existing Ceiling Price, NLEM 2011	% change in the ceiling prices
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Tramadol	Capsule 50 mg	4.20 Per Capsule	6.48 Per Capsule	-35.19%
2.	Leflunomide	Tablet 10 mg	9.30 Per Tablet	16.22 Per Tablet	-42.66%
3.	Leflunomide	Tablet 20 mg	18.13 Per Tablet	30.75 Per Tablet	-41.04%
4.	Methotrexate	Tablet 10 mg	10.81 Per Tablet	14.98 Per Tablet	-27.84%
5.	Methotrexate	Tablet 7.5 mg	10.32 Per Tablet	12.1 Per Tablet	-14.71%
6.	Prednisolone	Tablet 20 mg	1.81 Per Tablet	1.85 Per Tablet	-2.16%
7.	Carbamazepine	Tablet 200 mg	1.28 Per Tablet	1.48 Per Tablet	-13.51%
8.	Phenobarbitone	Tablet 30 mg	1.12 Per Tablet	1.59 Per Tablet	-29.56%
9.	Sodium Valproate	Tablet 200 mg	2.75 Per Tablet	3.3 Per Tablet	-16.67%
10.	Sodium Valproate	Tablet 500 mg	6.43 Per Tablet	7.71 Per Tablet	-16.60%
11.	Albendazole	Tablet 400 mg	7.15 Per Tablet	10.02 Per Tablet	-28.64%
12.	Diethylcarbamazine	Tablet 50 mg	0.50 Per Tablet	0.51 Per Tablet	-1.96%
13.	Metronidazole	Tablet 200 mg	0.40 Per Tablet	0.45 Per Tablet	-11.11%
14.	Pyrazinamide	Tablet 500 mg	3.77 Per Tablet	4.05 Per Tablet	-6.91%

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Pyrazinamide	Tablet 750 mg	5.73 Per Tablet	7.42 Per Tablet	-22.78%
16.	Pyrazinamide	Tablet 1000 mg	8.39 Per Tablet	8.91 Per Tablet	-5.84%
17.	Ethambutol	Tablet 800 mg	3.77 Per Tablet	4.02 Per Tablet	-6.22%
18.	Fluconazole	Tablet 200 mg	17.43 Per Tablet	27.78 Per Tablet	-37.26%
19.	Griseofulvin	Tablet 250 mg	1.48 Per Tablet	1.56 Per Tablet	-5.13%
20.	Acyclovir	Tablet 200 mg	6.29 Per Tablet	7.84 Per Tablet	-19.77%
21.	Acyclovir	Tablet 400 mg	11.42 Per Tablet	12.51 Per Tablet	-8.71%
22.	Quinine	Tablet 300 mg	5.09 Per Tablet	5.48 Per Tablet	-7.12%
23.	Mefloquine	Tablet 250 mg	47.31 Per Tablet	53.77 Per Tablet	-12.01%
24.	Propranolol	Tablet 10 mg	1.07 Per Tablet	1.17 Per Tablet	-8.55%
25.	Methotrexate	Tablet 2.5 mg	4.26 Per Tablet	5.07 Per Tablet	-15.98%
26.	Cyclosporine	Capsule 100 mg	91.21 Per Capsule	114.18 Per Capsule	-20.12%
27.	Cyclosporine	Capsule 50 mg	46.85 Per Capsule	51.84 Per Capsule	-9.63%
28.	Ondansetron	Tablet 8 mg	9.06 Per Tablet	11.89 Per Tablet	-23.80%
29.	Amitriptyline	Tablet 25 mg	2.10 Per Tablet	2.28 Per Tablet	-7.89%
30.	Fluoxetine	Capsule 20 mg	3.38 Per Capsule	3.73 Per Capsule	-9.38%
31.	Warfarin	Tablet 5 mg	2.20 Per Tablet	2.4 Per Tablet	-8.33%

32. Diltiazem	Tablet 30 mg	2.23	Per Tablet	2.43	Per Tablet	-8.23%
33. Diltiazem	Tablet 60 mg	4.53	Per Tablet	5.15	Per Tablet	-12.04%
34. Amiodarone	Tablet 100 mg	5.30	Per Tablet	7	Per Tablet	-24.29%
35. Amlodipine	Tablet 2.5 mg	1.53	Per Tablet	1.92	Per Tablet	-20.31%
36. Atenolol	Tablet 50 mg	1.66	Per Tablet	2.22	Per Tablet	-25.23%
37. Enalapril	Tablet 2.5 mg	1.78	Per Tablet	1.91	Per Tablet	-6.81%
38. Enalapril	Tablet 5 mg	2.97	Per Tablet	3.18	Per Tablet	-6.60%
39. Domperidone	Tablet 10 mg	2.24	Per Tablet	2.42	Per Tablet	-7.44%
40. Medroxyprogesteroneacetate	Tablet 10 mg	4.99	Per Tablet	5.62	Per Tablet	-11.21%
41. Nifedipine	Tablet 10 mg	1.15	Per Tablet	1.22	Per Tablet	-5.74%
42. Salbutamol	Tablet 4 mg	0.17	Per Tablet	0.18	Per Tablet	-5.56%

Online disclosures with NPPA by pharma companies

588. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several top pharmaceutical companies have violated the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 by not providing the necessary disclosures on the online database;

(b) if so, the names of all such defaulting companies;

(c) whether such a violation defeats the price regulation exercise carried out by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and is against consumers interests; and

(d) the steps taken by NPPA to bring these violators to book along with response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) The Integrated Pharmaceutical Database Management System was launched as a comprehensive online system providing a platform to all pharmaceutical manufacturers/marketers/importers/distributor companies to file mandatory returns prescribed in Forms II, III, and V of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO,2013). The Authority *vide* decision dated 13.07.2015 notified that pharmaceutical companies should mandatorily file information/data as specified in Forms listed in Schedule II of DPCO, 2013 under para 9(2) of Drugs (Price Control) Order, 2013. As on date, 660 pharmaceutical companies have registered in IPDMS, and 58027 products details have been entered. Large number of companies have still not registered their products nor filed all mandatory returns online for all products and are in the process of filing.

(c) NPPA price regulation exercise is continuously being done based on market data provided by market data specialized companies and not entirely dependent on IPDMS data and so consumer interest is being fully protected.

(d) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority *vide* notice dated 16.11.2015, directed all pharmaceutical manufacturing/marketing companies to register themselves in IPDMS and file all mandatory forms as required under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 2013 on or before 15th December 2015 and *vide* notice dated 21.12.2015 directed pharma companies to file details before 15th January, 2016 respectively, followed by notices dated 25.02.2016.

Several meetings were also held with pharmaceutical companies on this subject, followed by one-to-one interaction with the representatives of the companies. General

notice was again issued to all the companies on 10.06.2016, followed by specific Show Cause notice to 88 top companies in June-July, 2016 directing them to file mandatory forms online in IPDMS.

Operationalising closed fertilizer factories

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

(a) the number of employees of closed down fertilizer factories who have been paid their dues and salaries;

(b) the number of fertilizer factories lying closed at present and the total expenditure likely to be incurred on their revival; and

(c) the present status of re-operationalising closed down fertilizer factories in Sindri and Barauni and the investment required therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) At present eight fertilizer units are lying closed. Out of these eight fertilizer units five fertilizer units namely Gorakhpur, Sindri, Talcher, Ramagundam and Korba are of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and three fertilizer units namely Sindri, Barauni and Haldia are of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL). 5695 employees of FCIL and 4667 employees of HFCL have been paid their dues and salaries.

(c) As decided by the Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 13.07.2016 both Sindri as well as Barauni units are to be revived by means of Special Purpose Vehicle of Public Sector Units (PSUs) namely, National Thermal Power Corporation, Coal India Limited (CIL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited and FCIL/HFCL, through nomination route. The expenditure likely to be incurred for revival of each of the unit would be around ₹ 6000 crore.

Supply of chemicals and fertilizers to the State of Odisha

590. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Odisha has forwarded a request in the recent past for supply of chemicals and fertilizers for the use of farmers in the State:

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has provided the chemicals and fertilizers as requested for, if not, the reasons therefor; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that if farmers are not supplied with adequate chemical and fertilizers on time during the season, the production and the productivity will suffer severely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) In the current agriculture season no such request has come.

(b) Adequate fertilizers have been provided.

(c) Question does not arise.

Production and use of liquid fertilizers

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

(a) whether Government proposes to provide any assistance/facilities for production of liquid fertilizers in the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether Government also proposes to launch any campaign to encourage widespread use of liquid fertilizers across the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof as also the achievements made as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to provide any assistance/facilities for production of liquid fertilizers in the country.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(c) The question does not arise.

Collaboration of PSUS in revival of fertilizer plants

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

(a) whether Government is considering to involve Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to collaborate in the revival of fertilizer plants in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of fertilizer plants presently under consideration of the Government for such collaboration and revival along with the steps taken for revival of those plants which are left out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 13.07.2016 has approved to revive three defunct fertilizer units, namely Gorakhpur, Sindri Units of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and Barauni Unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL), by means of Special Purpose Vehicle of Public Sector Units (PSUs) namely, National Thermal Power Corporation Coal India Limited (CIL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited and FCIL/HFCL, through nomination route.

Earlier Government had approved revival of closed Talcher and Ramagundam Units of FCIL on nomination basis by interested PSUs. Talcher is being revived by Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Gail (India) Ltd, CIL and FCIL while Ramagundam is being revived by National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), Engineers India Limited (EIL) and FCIL.

New urea policy

†593. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has implemented a new policy regarding urea supply so that adequate and time-bound supply of urea may be ensured in the far-flung areas of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is helping in maintaining a balance between demand and supply of urea at Block level throughout the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Department of Fertilizers is making adequate availability of fertilizers through the following process:-

- (1) The month-wise demand is assessed and projected by the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation and Farmers Welfare (DAC and FW) in consultation with the State Governments before commencement of each cropping season,
- (2) On the basis of month-wise and State-wise projection given by DAC and FW, Department of Fertilizers allocates sufficient/adequate quantities of fertilizers to States by issuing monthly supply plan and continuously monitors the availability through following system:-

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (i) The movement of all major subsidized fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system (www.urvarak.co.in) also called as Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS);
- (ii) The State Governments are regularly advised to coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies through timely placement of indents for railway rakes through their State institutional agencies like Markfed etc.
- (iii) Regular Weekly Video Conference is conducted jointly by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC and FW), Department of Fertilizers (DoF), and Ministry of Railways with State Agriculture Officials and corrective actions are taken to dispatch fertilizer as indicated by the State Governments.
- (iv) The gap between demand (requirement) and production is met through import.
- (v) Distribution within the State as per requirement is the responsibility of the concerned State Government.

Due to above measures the availability of urea during last 2 years and current year upto June, 2016 was adequate against the requirement. Details are given below:

(Figures in LMT)

Year	Requirement	Availability
2014-15	306.70	310.42
2015-16	313.35	329.00
2016-17	66.74	75.41
(Upto June, 2016)		

Non-framing of guidelines on net neutrality

594. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the reasons for not framing guidelines on Net Neutrality by Government despite passage of a considerable time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): Government has asked Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to provide its recommendations on net neutrality for policy formulation. Various issues pertaining to Net Neutrality are currently under TRAI consultation.

In this regard, TRAI has released pre-consultation paper on Net Neutrality on 30.05.2016 and a consultation Paper titled "Regulatory Framework for Over The Top (OTT) Service" on 27.03.2015. Also, TRAI has already released its regulation

“Prohibition of discriminatory tariffs for data services, Regulations, 2016” on 8th Feb, 2016, which *inter-alia*, prohibits any service provider from offering or charging discriminatory tariffs for data services on the basis of content.

Policy to permit and support digital mobile payments

595. SHRI DEREK O’ BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering regulation or a national policy to permit and support digital mobile payments in India; and

(b) if so, the expected completion date for such a policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued Operative Guidelines for Mobile Banking Transactions in India. The mobile banking guidelines issued by RBI are applicable to all Scheduled Commercial Banks including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)/Urban Co-operative Banks/State Co-operative Banks/District Central Co-operative Banks.

In order to facilitate easy customer registration for Mobile Banking, RBI has issued instructions to all Banks including RRBs/Urban Co-operative Banks/State Co-operative Banks/District Central Co-operative Banks to allow for customer registration through Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) connected to National Financial Switch (NFS) while striving to facilitate registration through other channels including internet banking, Interactive Voice Response System (IVR), phone banking as well and creating awareness for the same among the customers.

Recently, RBI has given in-principle approval to National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to set up Unified Payment Interface (UPI) which will enhance customer convenience and inter-operability in mobile banking transactions.

(b) The expected completion date for carrying out necessary changes by all the participating banks in NFS were developing capability of customer registration for mobile banking at all their ATMs was 31st March 2016. Information regarding achieving this target is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

TV white space

596. SHRI DEREK O’BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether unused/underused TV spectrum or TV ‘white space’ exists in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the future potential of it;

(c) whether Government has entered into agreements with private organizations or has plans to do so far the utilisation of this spectrum, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has any plan to link this TV white space with the Digital India initiative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) There exists unused TV spectrum in the 470-698 MHz frequency band currently used by Doordarshan for terrestrial television broadcast in the country.

(b) It has been decided that part of the spectrum in the band 470-698 MHz, after coordination with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, will be put to use for International Mobile Telephony (IMT) services, when ecosystem for IMT services is developed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Steps taken by Government to reduce call drops

597. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has carried out tests to ascertain the call drop rate;

(b) whether there are plans to carry out tests on a pan-India basis, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce the rate of call drops;

(d) whether Government has allowed installation of telecom towers at Government buildings to reduce call drops; and

(e) the number of such towers installed at Government buildings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), through agencies appointed by it, has conducted Independent Drive Tests of mobile networks in Delhi, Mumbai, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Darjeeling and Sikkim, Bhopal, Ranchi, Trivandrum and Ahmedabad during May-June 2016. There is no plan to carry out tests on a pan-India basis. However, TRAI through agencies appointed by it, shall carry out similar Independent Drive Tests, in select cities throughout the country and publish results on its website *www.trai.gov.in* from time to time.

(c) TRAI has been pursuing with service providers for improving Quality of Service and in this regard regular interactions are held with the service providers. TRAI has also engaged independent agencies for auditing and assessing the quality of service and surveys are being done regularly through independent agencies to assess the customer perception of service. The results of the audit and assessment of quality of service and surveys are published for the information of stakeholders, which also force the service providers to improve the quality of service. Wherever the quality of service benchmarks are not met, TRAI has also been imposing financial disincentives on service providers, for failure to comply with the benchmarks, in accordance with the provisions of the regulations.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Urban Development has agreed to permit installation of mobile towers/in-building solutions in the Government buildings under their control subject to structural safety and payment of appropriate Licence fee by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). Such mobile towers/in-building solution shall be a shared facility for all TSPs. As on 15th July 2016, allotments for installation of 18 towers in Delhi have been processed and lead operators have been asked to install such towers. In addition, two mobile BTSs and one pole mounted BTS have been installed in Parliament House and 06 mobile BTSs have also been installed in the Lutyens Zone, Delhi (New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)'s jurisdiction), which are shared by multiple operators.

Recruitment of Gramin Dak Sevaks

598. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Gramin Dak Sevaks proposed to be recruited in Jharkhand and in the country during the financial year 2016-17;

(b) the action being taken against agents who are allegedly collecting large sums of money from people with the promise of facilitating appointments as Gramin Dak Sevaks in Jharkhand; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure a transparent and non-discretionary system of recruitment of Gramin Dak Sevaks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Circle-wise requisite information is given in the Statement (*See below*). However, 391 Gramin Dak Sevaks are proposed to be recruited in Jharkhand, and 31361 Gramin Dak Sevaks, in total, in the country during Financial Year 2016-2017.

(b) As per the information received from office of Chief Postmaster General, Jharkhand Circle, Ranchi; “No such case has come to notice”.

(c) Selection process is done through open notification duly following the provisions of Recruitment Rules for Gramin Dak Sevaks issued by the Directorate from time to time to ensure transparency and non-discretion in the process of recruitment of GDS.

Statement

Circle-wise requisite information

Sl. No.	Circle	No. of GDSs proposed to be recruited during F.Y. 2016-17
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1472
2.	Telangana	805
3.	Assam	348
4.	Bihar	1266
5.	Chhattisgarh	1380
6.	Delhi	237
7.	Gujarat	3915
8.	Haryana	385
9.	Himachal Pradesh	496
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	218
11.	Jharkhand	391
12.	Karnataka	1173
13.	Kerala	473
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1932
15.	Maharashtra	2126
16.	North East	381
17.	Odisha	1433
18.	Punjab	472
19.	Rajasthan	958
20.	Tamil Nadu	1155
21.	Uttar Pradesh	3991
22.	Uttarakhand	681
23.	West Bengal	5673
TOTAL		31361

Technology provided to private companies by BSNL/MTNL

†599. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether private telecom companies operating in the country are provided transponder/technology through MTNL and BSNL;

(b) if so, the reasons that their own mobile phone services are not working properly in the rural areas of the country whereas the private mobile operators are making profits using the technology of the said State companies; and

(c) whether it is a fact that State operated mobile services are hampered with a view to extend profits to private-operated mobile services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have reported that they are not providing transponder/technology to private telecom companies.

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

(c) No, Sir.

Time-limit for delivery of speed post

†600. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time-limit has been fixed for Speed Post to be delivered from one location to its destination in the country;

(b) if so, whether different time-limits have been fixed for Speed Post to be delivered to its destination in rural areas and metropolitan cities in the country;

(c) if so, whether there is any provision to ascertain the responsibility for Speed Post not being delivered to its destination on time; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department has fixed norms for delivery of Speed Post articles within the City (local), within the same State, between the Metro Cities, between the State capitals and the rest of country. These details have been included in the Department's Citizen's Charter and are available at www.indiapost.gov.in/Citizen_Charter.aspx.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Yes, Sir. The performance of Speed Post from booking to delivery is closely monitored. However, in case it is found that Speed Post article has not been delivered or delayed due to dereliction of duty by any erring officials, responsibility is fixed and punitive action is taken against the officials at fault as per the prescribed rules apart from refund of Speed Post charges.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Unclaimed money lying in post offices

601. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to return the unclaimed money lying in Post Offices under various schemes to their actual owners; and

(b) whether complaints have been received regarding embezzlement of such unclaimed money by Post Office officials, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The following steps have been taken:

(i) When an account becomes inoperative (lying inactive for 3 continuous financial years) notice is issued to the customer while deducting the stipulated fee, to reactivate his silent account.

(ii) Instructions are issued to the Postal Circles while allotting financial targets to take special efforts to revive the silent accounts.

(b) No, Sir.

Survey of TRAI on call drops

602. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per survey conducted by TRAI between 3 May and 6 May, 2016, nearly all operators in the NCT of Delhi had call drops beyond the stipulated benchmark of two per cent of all calls;

(b) if so, whether Government would bring this to the notice of the Supreme Court since operators are taking shelter under the order of the Supreme Court; and

(c) the findings of TRAI on call drops relating to other cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, survey was conducted by TRAI. However,

TRAI has conducted Independent Drive Test, through agencies from 3rd May to 6th May, 2016, in Delhi service area, wherein it was noticed that most of the service providers are not meeting the stipulated benchmark of less than or equal to 2 per cent for call drop rate. The facts have been brought to the notice of the Supreme Court by TRAI during arguments and the Supreme Court has already passed its order on 11.05.2016 in the Civil Appeal No. 5017 and 5018 of 2016.

(c) TRAI, through agencies appointed by it, has also conducted Independent Drive Tests in Mumbai, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Darjeeling and Sikkim, Bhopal, Ranchi, Trivandrum and Ahmadabad during May-June 2016. In Mumbai, these drive tests were a repeat of the drive test undertaken earlier in December 2015. The drive test result in Mumbai shows that there is improvement in the performance on call drop rate. The drive tests results at Hyderabad, Bhopal, Ahmadabad and Ranchi show that most of the service providers are not meeting the benchmark for call drop rate in the areas covered by the drive test. In Sikkim and Darjeeling all the service providers failed to meet the benchmark for call drop rate. However, in Chandigarh, Lucknow, Kanpur and Trivandrum, most of the service providers are meeting the benchmark for call drop rate. Detailed reports of these Independent Drive Tests are published on TRAI's website www.trai.gov.in.

Upgrading post offices

603. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of Post Offices has decreased considerably during the past twenty years, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the Ministry would consider upgrading Post Offices to a multi facility provider unit like ATM/Money transfer/foreign exchange etc., to attract more people to make it economically viable and avoid its extinction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. The use of Post Offices has not decreased during the past twenty years.

(b) The Department has already upgraded Post Offices as multi-facility provider units by providing ATMs, micro-ATMs, money remittance services (iMO and eMO), Core Banking Solutions (CBS), international money transfer services (Western Union and moneygram). The Post Offices have been leveraged for various retailing products and services like booking of Railway and bus tickets, recruitment forms, gold bonds, Ganga Jal, bill payments etc. The Post Offices are also upgraded to function as an arm of Government (Central as well as State) in disbursement of

social sector payments under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The Department of Posts has recently got in-principle approval for setting up of payments bank which will promote financial inclusion in every corner of the country and provide simple financial products like current and savings accounts, payments and remittances, and facilitate easy access to third party financial products such as credits, insurance, mutual fund, pensions etc.

Norms for radiations from mobile towers

604. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced more norms for radiations from mobile phone towers and hefty penalty for non-compliance of electro-magnetic field standards in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the new norms have been implemented and the achievements made as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Madam, Government of India adopted the International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines in the year 2008 for limiting reference levels of Electromagnetic radiation from Mobile towers. Further, based on the recommendations by an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), these norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) have been made 10 times more stringent than the existing limits prescribed by ICNIRP and recommended by World Health Organisation (WHO). The new norms for radiation from mobile phone towers have been implemented throughout India with effect from 01.09.2012. Presently the limits for EMF radiations from Base Station in India are as below:-

Frequency Range	E-Field Strength (Volt/Meter)	H-Field Strength (Amp/Meter)	Power Density (Watt/Sq.Meter)
400MHz to 2000MHz	$0.434f^{-1/2}$	$0.0011f^{-1/2}$	$f/2000$
2GHz to 300GHz	19.29	0.05	1

(f = frequency in MHz)

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.

As on 31.05.2016, a total of 3,02,350 number of BTSs have been tested by various TERM Cells to cross-check EMF radiation exposure norms, out of which a total of 192 BTSs have been found non-compliant to EMF radiation norms. A total penalty of Rupees 10,80,34,274/- have been imposed on these BTSs.

Introducing philately as a subject in secondary level curriculum

605. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has mooted a proposal for inclusion of Philately in curriculum of lower secondary level to create awareness as a hobby and boost sale of stamps among younger generation;

(b) whether, in view of rapid advancement of communication systems, both through telecom and internet, the present postal transmission and delivery system is fast becoming obsolete and out of sync, as borne out by closure of telegram services long back; and

(c) whether Ministry would abandon above proposal and concentrate on sprucing up services under Speed Post meant to carry commercial promotional material and documents by surface/air?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes Sir. The Department of Posts has requested the Ministry of Human Resource Development for inclusion of a chapter on the philately in the curriculum for school children who are studying in classes V to VII to promote philately and to create awareness among younger generation.

(b) No, Sir. The present postal transmission and delivery system is very much relevant and is constantly adapting to the changing mail profile in the country. While the internet may have impacted personal mail under the letter mail category to some extent, Speed Post and Registered Post traffic has been steadily growing. In addition to this, the boom in e-commerce has also resulted in an increase in the traffic of products such as Express Parcel Post, Registered Parcel, Insured Parcel, Value Payable Parcel and Unregistered Parcel.

(c) No, Sir. The Department of Posts reviews its services and products from time to time in view of the changing market scenario, customer needs, industry benchmarks etc, and takes steps to modify service features accordingly to improve the postal services including Speed Post, Express Parcel, Business Parcel, Logistics Post, e-Post etc.

Delivery of Gangajal by post

606. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to send Gangajal by post to the public; and
 (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Gangajal is being sent by post to the public.

The Department since 10th July 2016 has made arrangement for delivery of Gangajal, sourced from Rishikesh and Gangotri in 200 ml and 500 ml bottles, from post offices. The same are available through Head Post Offices across the country and can also be ordered online at *www.epostoffice.gov.in*.

The packaging and handling charges of delivery of Gangajal are as follows:

(in ₹)

Size	Source	Post Office counters	Online	Doorstep Delivery
200 ml	Rishikesh	15	101	28
500 ml	Rishikesh	22	151	38
200 ml	Gangotri	25	101	38
500 ml	Gangotri	35	151	51

Online cost includes Speed Post charges.

Doorstep delivery means a customer can place an order in the nearest post office and the Gangajal is delivered at his doorstep. The cost excludes Speed Post charges.

Supreme Court order on call drops

607. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken note of the Supreme Court order on call drops raising questions on TRAI's powers and working; and
 (b) the steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Ministry has taken note of the Supreme Court order on call drops raising questions on TRAI's powers and working.

(b) In order to strengthen its role as an effective Telecom Sector Regulator, TRAI has proposed a review of the existing TRAI Act, 1997 governing its functions for which Government is at present examining a comprehensive legislative proposal to review and harmonise the legal framework.

Use of radio link technology by telecom companies to hide call drops

†608. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of hiding call drops and frauds against customers through Radio Link Technology by telecom companies have come to light;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is being examined by the telecom regulator; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) through agencies appointed by it, has conducted Independent Drive Tests of mobile networks in Delhi, Mumbai, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Darjeeling and Sikkim, Bhopal, Ranchi, Trivandrum and Ahmadabad during May-June 2016. The results of these drive tests have shown that some of the service providers in these cities have high Radio Link Timeout (RLT) values, which indicate that the call can be sustained even during poor quality for a longer time, resulting in the poor customer experience. Detailed reports of these Independent Drive Tests are published on TRAI's website www.trai.gov.in.

TRAI has sought detailed information from the service providers on the RLT values in their network. After examination of the information received from the service providers, necessary action will be taken.

Increase in incidents of call drops

†609. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecom operators are using Radio Link Technology (RLT) to hide call drops;

(b) whether Government has carried out investigation in this regard;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is aware that incidents of call drop have increased in last few months; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by Government to protect the consumers from losses due to call drops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) through agencies appointed by it, has conducted Independent Drive Tests of mobile networks in Delhi, Mumbai, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Darjeeling and Sikkim, Bhopal, Ranchi, Trivandrum and Ahmadabad during May-June 2016. The results of these drive tests have shown that for some of the service providers in these cities have high Radio Link Timeout (RLT) values, which indicates that the call can be sustained even during poor quality for a longer time, resulting in poor customer experience. Detailed reports of these Independent Drive Tests are published on TRAI's website www.trai.gov.in. TRAI has sought detailed information from the service providers on the RLT values in their network.

(d) and (e) TRAI has laid down the Quality of Service standards for cellular mobile telephone service through regulations issued, from time to time. For assessing the performance of service providers on call drop, both for 2G and 3G services, TRAI has laid down two parameters *viz.* (i) "call drop rate/Circuit Switch Voice drop rate (benchmark-less than or equal to 2%)" and (ii) "worst affected cells having more than 3% TCH (Traffic Channel) drop/Circuit Switched Voice drop rate: CBBH (Cell Bouncing Busy Hour) (benchmark-less than or equal to 3%)."

As per the performance monitoring reports for the quarter ending December 2015 and March 2016, submitted by service providers for 2G and 3G Services, it is seen that for "call drop rate/Circuit Switch Voice drop rate (benchmark - less than or equal to 2%)" only BSNL in North East Service area has not met the benchmark for this parameter in 2G services and number of instances of non-compliance has increased from 2 in December 2015 to 3 in March 2016 for 3G services, whereas for the parameter "worst affected cells having more than 3% TCH drop rate (benchmark-less than or equal to 3%)", the instances of non-compliance have come down from 39 in December 2015 to 27 in March 2016 for 2G services and from 18 in December 2015 to 15 in March 2016 for 3G services for this parameter.

From the point of view of compensating consumers for dropped calls, TRAI notified "The Telecom Consumers Protection (Ninth Amendment) Regulations,

2015 (9 of 2015) on 16th October 2015, to be effective from 1st January 2016. These regulations mandate originating CMTSPs (Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Providers) to credit one Rupee for a dropped call to the calling consumers as notional compensation, limited to three dropped calls in a day. The service providers and their associations filed a case in Hon'ble High Court of Delhi against this regulation. The Hon'ble High Court pronounced its verdict in TRAI's favor and TRAI issued instructions to service providers for the compliance of the regulation. The service providers then appealed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the orders of the Hon'ble High Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* its order dated 11.05.2016 pronounced its verdict in Service Provider's favour, quashing the said regulations.

TRAI has been pursuing with service providers for improving Quality of Service and in this regard regular interactions are held with the service providers. TRAI has also engaged independent agencies for auditing and assessing the quality of service and surveys are being done regularly through independent agencies to assess the customer perception of service. The results of the audit and assessment of quality of service and surveys are published for the information of stakeholders, which also force the service providers to improve the quality of service. Wherever the quality of service benchmarks are not met, TRAI has also been imposing financial disincentives on service providers, for failure to comply with the benchmarks, in accordance with the provisions of the regulations.

Demand and production of sugar

†610. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a high possibility of decrease in the production of sugar in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any step to increase the production of sugar and to fulfill its demand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The production of sugar during current sugar season 2015-16 (October-September) is estimated to be at about 250 Lac Tons as against 284.63 Lac Tons during last sugar season 2014-15. Taking in to account 90 Lac Tons carry

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

over stock of the last season and estimated production of 250 Lac Tons during the current season, the total availability of sugar would be about 340 Lac Tons which is sufficient to fulfill the estimated domestic demand of about 256 Lac Tons for the current sugar season. In order to conserve the sugar stocks in the country and discourage sugar export, the Government has recently imposed 20% basic customs duty on export of sugar.

Rise in price of tomatoes

611. SHRI K. T. S. TULSI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether price of tomatoes has risen sharply in the past months; and
- (b) if so, the prices of the same from 1 July, 2015 to 1 July, 2016?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The detailed trend in prices of tomato from 1st July, 2015 to 1st July, 2016 are given below:

All India average retail prices of tomatoes (Rs/kg)

Price As On	Retail Price (₹/Kg)
1.7.2015	27.62
3.08.2015	28.03
1.9.2015	25.11
1.10.2015	26.47
1.11.2015	24.88
1.12.2015	38.09
1.1.2016	28.74
1.2.2016	22.7
1.3.2016	17.48
1.4.2016	17.57
1.5.2016	21.78
1.6.2016	30.11
1.7.2016	42.14

Bringing brand ambassadors within purview of consumer Protection Act

†612. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of misleading claims in the advertisements of several popular products have come to light recently even as these products are being endorsed by famous personalities/brand ambassadors, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the brand ambassador does not come under the ambit of Consumer Protection Act currently, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to bring the brand ambassadors within the purview of Consumer Protection Act, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir. 1046 complaints relating to misleading advertisements have come to notice of the Department of Consumer Affairs between March, 2015 and March, 2016.

(b) The existing Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides for making a complaint against unfair trade practice in a Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission/Forum. As per section 2(1) (r) (1) (i) of the said Act, the practice of making any statement, whether orally or in writing or by visible representation which falsely represents that the goods are of a particular standard, quality, quantity, grade, composition, style or model, is treated as an unfair trade practice, against which a consumer can make a complaint in a Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission.

(c) On the Consumer Protection Bill, 2015, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution has recommended stringent punishment to check misleading advertisements and to fix responsibility of celebrities and brand ambassadors.

Help desk for consumer under PDS

613. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the huge nationwide network of PDS is inter-connected through computer;

(b) if so, whether all information about the availability of stock of all items supplied through PDS is uploaded in the public domain and updated regularly;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether there is any proposal to launch 24x7 Call Centres/Help Desks for consumers to seek any kind of information about the availability of stock or to make any complaint against any PDS functionary regarding their services or otherwise; and

(d) if not, how does the Ministry propose to provide information to the consumers about its departments for their benefit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Department of Food and Public Distribution is implementing a Plan Scheme on 'End-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations' during Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17). Under this scheme, financial and technical assistance is being provided to States/UTs by this department for digitization of ration cards/beneficiaries and other data bases, online allocation, computerization of supply chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms. Under this scheme NIC is a technical partner for the development and maintenance of PDS related common application software, etc. .

Distribution of foodgrains is responsibility of the State. All States/UTs have completed digitization of ration cards. Presently 25 States/UTs have implemented Online Allocation module. Under Supply Chain Management, States have to display stock position at Godowns, movement of foodgrains, etc. on State PDS portal. 15 States/UTs have already completed Supply Chain Automation.

Under this scheme, Toll Free Helpline Number and Online Grievance Redressal System has been implemented by 32 and 35 States/UTs respectively.

Digitization of ration cards

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

(a) whether digitization of ration cards has been completed by all States in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether some States are unable to meet the deadline set by the Centre, if so, the details of those States; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to give more time to those States to complete the digitization drive of ration cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) During the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17), Government has approved a plan scheme on

'end-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations' under which 100% digitization of ration cards under NFSA has been completed by all 36 States/UTs.

(b) and (c) The question does not arise.

Misleading advertisements

†615. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Advertising Standards Council of India has received complaints against one thousand advertisers;

(b) the kind of complaints received against advertisers and the segments for which maximum complaints were received; and

(c) whether companies provided any kind of help to consumers fallen in trap of misleading advertisers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir. 1046 complaints have been received by Advertising Standards Council of India between March, 2015 and March, 2016.

(b) The complaints against the advertisers relate to false and misleading claims about products and services. Maximum complaints pertain to healthcare and education sectors.

(c) The remedy against any defective goods or deficient services purchased/availed of in pursuance of such misleading advertisements, is available to a consumer under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 through the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions/Forum.

Difference between farm gate and retail prices of foodgrains

616. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a wide difference between production cost/farm gate price and retail prices of foodgrains in the market;

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

(c) the remedial steps taken/being taken by Government to check the retail prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Difference between production cost/farm gate price and retail price of foodgrains depends on factors such as number of intermediaries in the supply chain, transportation cost, loading/unloading expenses, grading/shorting, wholesaler's margin, wastages during movements/weighting, location of retail shop, fixed overhead expenses of retailers and margins of retailers etc.

(c) Government has launched National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) on 14th April, 2016 with the objective to reduce the farm gate and retail price gap, induce competition and transparency in sale transactions through integration of mandis to e-NAM portal. This would facilitate on-line trading of agricultural produce and help reduce the supply chain in the physical marketing of food grains in the Mandi System.

Digitization of records under PDS

617. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States that have digitized the records of beneficiaries of Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country;

(b) whether there has been a delay in digitization of records, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated and utilized for end-to-end computerization envisaged under the Twelfth Five Year Plan of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in last three years in Uttar Pradesh and the targets achieved for the same, district-wise and component-wise; and

(d) the details of number of households who receive subsidies *via* cash transfers through Aadhaar in the country, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) All the 36 States/UTs have digitized the records of beneficiaries/ration cards under TPDS.

(b) Initially, the implementation of the project was uneven across the country due to delay in finalization of action plans by States/UTs, late submission of their proposal for financial assistance, finalization of criteria for identification of NFSA beneficiaries from the erstwhile TPDS beneficiaries and practical problems faced during implementation of the project.

(c) The total project cost for implementation of "End-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations" scheme during the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) in Uttar Pradesh is ₹ 108.52 crores which is shared between Centre and State in the ratio of 50:50.

Out of which an amount of ₹.48.81 crores has been released against ₹ 54.26 crores as central share of funds to the State Government during last three years and an amount of ₹ 29.07 crores has been utilized by the State Government. The Component-I of scheme comprises activities namely digitization of ration cards/beneficiaries and other data bases, online allocation, computerization of supply chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms. As per the information, transparency portal has been setup and digitization of ration cards/beneficiaries' database, online allocation upto FPS level, toll free/online grievance have been completed in all districts. However, computerization of supply chain management has not been implemented.

(d) The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for food-grains has been implemented on pilot basis only in 3 UTs *i.e.* Chandigarh and Puducherry and partially in Dadra and Nagar Haveli. During the month of July, 2016 the payments have been made to 1,97,103 households through Aadhaar out of 2,04,376 households. The detail is given in the Statement.

Statement

Status of DBT households and Aadhaar bridge payment

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Households	Aadhaar Bridge Payment Households
1.	Chandigarh	47,250	47,250
2.	Puducherry	1,49,735	1,49,732
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli*	7,391	121
TOTAL		2,04,376	1,97,103

Note: *DBT in Cash Transfer mode has been implemented for 14 FPS areas (*i.e.* Silvassa Municipal and Dadra Panchayat areas) of Dadra and Nagar Haveli UT.

Containing the prices of pulses

†618. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering to contain the prices of pulses and to take action against hoarders of pulses;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any action in this regard till now;

(c) if so, the details of action taken and the results thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the manner in which Government desires to contain the increasing prices of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has set up a Group of Officers involving various enforcement agencies for regular monitoring and exchange of information on hoarding, cartelization, etc. During 2015-16, domestic searches and surveys were conducted on some importers, traders and financiers engaged in the pulses trade. The prices of pulses *inter-alia* is also influenced by hoarding and black-marketing. The regular monitoring and coordinated action of the Government helps moderate the prices through disincentivising such hoarding/black-marketing.

The details of raids, seizure and disposal of pulses are given in the Statement-I (See below).

(d) The measures taken by Government to contain the prices of pulses are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Enforcement data for pulses under Essential Commodities Act, 1955

[period: from October, 2015 till date (19.7.2016)]

Sl. No.	State	Raids conducted, quantity seized and quantity disposed (MT)			
		Raids	Qty seized	Qty disposed	Balance
1.	Chhattisgarh	112	6566.62	6439.25	127.37
2.	Haryana	1669	14.60	14.60	Nil
3.	Karnataka	1351	25545.83	23710.94	1834.94
4.	Madhya Pradesh	969	3273.60	2201.90	1071.60
5.	Maharashtra	5250	87167.37	87167.37	Nil
6.	Telangana	1924	9534.40	3261.03	6173.37
7.	Rajasthan	875	2610.21	2298.81	311.00
8.	Jharkhand	140	282.02	0	282.02
9.	Odisha	180	1410.26	1410.26	-
10.	Andhra Pradesh	1352	1720.30	452.50	1277.80
11.	Gujarat	214	54.39	0	54.39
12.	Himachal Pradesh	500	3.42	0	3.42
13.	NCT of Delhi	76	14.16	8.26	6.34
TOTAL		14612	138197.18	126964.92	11142.25

Statement-II

Steps taken by the Government to improve the availability and to contain prices of Tur and Urad:

1. Approved creation of buffer stock of pulses for effective market intervention and designated agencies have procured around 1.75 lakh MT of pulses through domestic procurement and imports. 5000 MT of Tur were also imported during 2015.
2. The Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mozambique for import of pulses Tur and other pulses on Government-to-Government (G2G) basis.
3. Released Tur and Urad from the buffer stock to States/UTs/Central Agencies at subsidized rates for its retailing by them at not more than ₹ 120/-per kg.
4. To boost production of pulses, largest increase in MSP (including bonus) raised for Kharif crop of 2016-17 season has been accorded to Tur and Urad and Moong.
5. Advisory were issued to State Governments to take strict action against hoarding and black marketing and effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
6. About 1.38 lakh tonnes of pulses seized from 14,612 raids and disposed off 1.27 lakh tonnes either by auction or other means permitted under EC Act, 1955
7. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has banned new contracts in Chana to dampen speculative activities in Chana and in respect of running contracts in Chana disallowed taking fresh positions to reduce speculative activities.
8. Export of all pulses is banned except Kabuli channa and up to 10,000 MTs in Organic pulses and Lentils.
9. Import of pulses are allowed at zero import duty.
10. Stock limit on pulses extended till 30.9.2016.
11. Set up a mechanism for regular monitoring and exchange of information on hoarding, cartelization etc. amongst the concerned agencies.
12. Strict vigilance by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence to prevent importers from mis-using the facilities of Customs Bonded Warehouse facility.

Rise in prices of pulses

†619. SHRI K. T. S. TULSI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of Urad and Tur dal have shown a steep increase in March, 2016 as compared to that in March, 2015; and

(b) if so, the steps taken, if any, by Government to control the prices of these pulses, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The requisite details are as below:

All-India Monthly Average Retail Prices (₹/kg)

Item	Mar-15	Mar-16	% Variation
Tur dal	81.75	135.27	65.47
Urad dal	79.62	135.29	69.92

Source: States/UTs Civil Supplies Deptts.

(b) The requisite details are given in the Statement [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No. 618 Part (d)].

Rise in prices of essential commodities

620. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether there has been a steep rise in the prices of essential commodities like foodgrains, edible oils, vegetables, milk etc. during the recent few months;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken, including importing foodgrains and releasing them in open market, to check the constant price-rise; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Over last six months All India Average Retail Prices of wheat in cereals, Tur and Moong in pulses, Mustard and Sunflower in Edible Oil and Onion in Vegetables have declined while there has been increase in the prices of Gram and Urad Dal in pulses, Groundnut and Palm Oil in Edible oils and Potato and Tomato in Vegetables. The prices of other commodities were either stable or rose marginally over the same period. Details are given in the Statement-I (*See* below). Rise in the prices of essential food items are due to factors such as shortfall in production owing to adverse weather conditions, seasonality in production and availability, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints like lack of storage facilities and hoarding and black marketing.

(c) and (d) Government took various steps to contain price rise, details are given in the Statement-II (*See* below). These steps *inter-alia* helped moderate the prices of essential commodities.

Statement-I

Rise in prices of essential commodities

Commodities	All India Average Retail Price (₹ Kg.)						
	Price As	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	% Variation over		
	On	Ago	Ago	Ago	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months
	18.7.2016	18.6.2016	18.4.2016	18.1.2016			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rice	27.25	27.28	26.47	27.07	-0.11	2.95	0.66
Wheat	23.21	23.93	22.49	23.34	-3.01	3.2	-0.56
Gram Dal	94.57	80.12	68.23	67.73	18.04	38.6	39.63
Tur Dal	139.29	140.3	137.07	145.53	-0.72	1.62	-4.29
Urad Dal	151.33	154.23	140.1	138.63	-1.88	8.02	9.16
Moong Dal	97.15	98.01	101.07	105.64	-0.88	-3.88	-8.04
Masoor Dal	85.92	83.71	80.51	83.72	2.64	6.72	2.63
Groundnut Oil	133.87	132.42	124.36	123.85	1.1	7.65	8.09
Mustard Oil	108.17	109.77	104.42	112.95	-1.46	3.59	-4.23
Vanaspati	74.75	74.03	70.94	72.01	0.97	5.37	3.81
Soya Oil	82.84	81.42	82.02	82.79	1.74	1	0.06
Sunflower Oil	96.66	94.46	97.15	97.87	2.33	-0.5	-1.24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Palm Oil	70	69.53	67.38	63.05	0.68	3.89	11.02
Potato	22.97	21.81	16.35	15.14	5.32	40.49	51.72
Onion	17.29	15.43	16.53	22.46	12.05	4.6	-23.02
Tomato	40.86	48.99	19.08	28.66	-16.6	114.15	42.57
Milk (per ltr.)	40.77	40.05	39.85	40.05	1.8	2.31	1.8

Source: State Civil Supplies Department.

Statement-II

Steps taken by the Government to improve the availability and to contain prices of essential food items:

General Measure:

1. National Consultation Meeting of Ministers of States and UTs in charge of Food and Consumer Affairs, on prices of food items was held on 21.5.2016 at New Delhi to take steps to keep prices of essential commodities including Pulses, Edible Oils etc. under control.
2. Advisory were issued to State Governments to take strict action against hoarding and black marketing and effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
3. Regular review meeting on price and availability situation is being held at the highest level including at the level of Finance Minister, Committee of Secretaries, Inter-Ministerial Committee, Price Stabilization Fund Management Committee and other Departmental level review meetings.
4. Higher MSP has been announced so as to incentivize production and thereby enhance availability of food items which may help moderate prices.
5. A Plan Scheme titled Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) is being implemented to regulate price volatility of agricultural commodities.

Specific Measures: Pulses

6. Export of all pulses is banned except Kabuli Channa and up to 10,000 MTs in organic pulses and lentils.
7. Import of pulses are allowed at zero import duty.
8. Stock limit on pulses extended till 30.9.2016.
9. MSP raised for kharif pulses of 2016-17 for Tur, Urad and Moong as well as for Rabi pulses of Gram and Masoor for season 2015-16.

10. Government has approved creation of buffer stock of pulses for effective market intervention. Procurement of around 1.75 lakh tonnes have already been made toward building the stock.
11. Government has released around 21,000 MT of pulses from the buffer stock (consisting of Tur and Urad) to States/UTs at subsidized rates for retailing by them at not more than ₹ 120/-per kg to improve availability and stabilise prices.
12. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has banned new contracts in Chana to dampen speculative activities in Chana and in respect of running contracts in Chana disallowed taking fresh positions to reduce speculative activities.
13. Strict vigilance by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence to prevent importers from mis-using the facilities of Customs Bonded Warehouse facility.
14. Setting up of a Group of Officers for regular monitoring and exchange of information on hoarding, cartelization etc.
15. About 1.38 lakh tonnes of pulses seized from 14650 raids and disposed of 1.27 lakh tonnes either by auction or other means permitted under EC Act, 1955.

Edible Oils

16. Export of edible oils in bulk is prohibited except coconut oil and other edible oils in branded consumer packs of up to 5 kg. is permitted with a minimum export price of USD 900 per MT.
17. MSP (including bonus) increased for various rabi and kharif oil seeds.

Exorbitantly high prices of pulses

621. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM:

DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that prices of pulses are exorbitantly high in the market;
- (b) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to curb the high price-rise of pulses, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the various reasons for the steep rise in prices of pulses; and

(d) whether stringent action has been initiated against the hoarders and black marketeers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The price trend of the five major pulses over the last one year is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Yes, Sir. The requisite details are given in the Statement-II [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No. 618 Part (d)].

(c) The recent rise in prices of pulses is mainly on account of shortfall in domestic production due to adverse weather conditions and increase in demand because of rise in population and per capita income and change in food habits. In addition, speculation, cartelization, black-marketing/hoarding also put pressure on prices.

(d) Yes, Sir. The details of raids, seizure and disposal of pulses are given in the Statement-III [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No. 618 Part (a) to (c)].

Statement-I*Price trend of the five major pulses over the last one year*

Items	All-India Daily Average Retail Prices of Pulses (Rs/kg)								
	Price As On	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago	1 Year Ago	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Gram Dal	19.07.2016	19.06.2016	19.04.2016	19.01.2016	17.07.2015	18.81	41.15	41.78	59.25
Tur/Arhar Dal	139.56	140.77	138.71	145.9	98.68	-0.86	0.61	-4.35	41.43
Urad Dal	151.72	151.89	141.81	139	99.51	-0.11	6.99	9.15	52.47
Moong Dal	97.04	99.06	101.36	105.36	98.29	-2.04	-4.26	-7.9	-1.27
Masoor Dal	86.29	84.02	82.38	83.48	81.95	2.7	4.75	3.37	5.3

Source: States/UTs Food and Civil Supplies Deptts.

Procurement, storage and distribution of foodgrains by FCI

622. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) the total amount received by Food Corporation of India (FCI) as food subsidy allocation from Ministry of Finance in the last three years and the current year;

(b) the outstanding dues of FCI by the end of financial year 2015-16 and estimated for the year 2016-17;

(c) the amount spent in financial year 2015-16 and estimated for the current year, for carrying out foodgrains' procurement, storage and distribution operations; and

(d) the measures taken to ensure that FCI meets its financial commitments without hindrance and carry out smooth operations of foodgrains' procurement, storage and distribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Details of food subsidy released to Food Corporation of India (FCI) during last three years and current year are as under:

(₹ in crore)

Year	Subsidy allocation	Subsidy released
2013-14	75500.00	75500.00
2014-15	91995.35	91995.35
2015-16	112000.00	112000.00
2016-17	103334.61	50833.65
		(as on 19.07.2016)

(b) The outstanding dues of FCI by the end of 2015-16 Revised Estimate (RE) and estimated for the year 2016-17 Budget Estimate (BE) are as under:

(₹ in crore)

Year	Amount Outstanding
2015-16 (RE)	61209
2016-17(BE)	93277

(c) The amount spent by FCI in Financial year 2015-16 and estimated for the current year, for carrying out foodgrains procurement, storage and distribution operations is as under:

(₹ in crore)

Year	Subsidy Incurred
2015-16 (RE)	114555
2016-17 (BE)	135402

(d) In order to ensure that operations of FCI are not affected due to short subsidy allocations, Government is assisting FCI by extending Guarantee for mobilizing funds from different sources. As on date, Government has extended Guarantee for mobilizing funds from the cash credit limit provided by a consortium of 65 banks to the extent of ₹ 54495 crores. Government has also provided Guarantee for mobilizing funds through issue of long term bonds of ₹. 13000 crores by FCI. In addition, Government has also provided a loan of ₹.10000 crore in the current year in the form of “Ways and Means Advance” to FCI. To meet short term fund requirement, FCI takes unsecured short term loans from Banks from time to time upto a maximum limit of ₹ 30000 crores.

Rise in prices of tomato

623. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of tomato have risen upto 200 to 300 per cent during April to June, 2016;

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

(c) the reasons for failure of Government to check rise in prices of tomato, pulses and other edible items in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) As per the data received from State Civil Supplies Departments, the all India average retail price of tomato has increased by 113.21% during April to June, 2016. The rise in price of tomato is because of lower production in major tomato producing States like Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana due to drought like conditions this year. Further, during the period April to June, the arrival of tomato is mainly from hilly areas like Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand and these States contribute only 3 to 4% of total production.

(c) Government has taken various initiatives that helped moderate prices in spite of low production due to adverse weather conditions and two consecutive years of drought. Rise in prices of specific food items may be on account of shortfall in production owing to adverse weather conditions, seasonality in production, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints like lack of storage facilities and artificial shortage created by hoarding and black marketing.

Cancellation of fake ration cards

†624. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has cancelled 1.6 crore fake ration cards so far, which would result in an estimated saving of 10,000 crore annually in subsidy bill;

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

(c) the total number of ration cards in the country and the number of fake ration cards out of it, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) As per the information received from State/UT Governments, a State-wise Statement showing the number of de-duplicated/ghost/ineligible/fake/forged ration cards deleted by the State/UT Governments in year 2013 to 2016 (upto 13.07.2016) are given in the Statement (*See* below).

As per relevant clauses of the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 and Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2015, State Governments/UT Administrations are required to review the lists of beneficiaries every year for the purpose of deletion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families. The exercise of deletion of bogus/ineligible cards and inclusion of eligible families is a continuous process and State Governments/UT Administrations are to periodically carry out the same.

Detection and deletion of de-duplicated/ghost/ineligible/fake/forged cards does not mean reduction in allocation and savings in subsidy but results in selection of deserving beneficiaries and issuance of ration cards to them leading to better targeting of subsidy.

(c) As per the information received from State/UT Governments the total number of ration cards as on 12.07.2016 are 24,01,61,531. Information in respect of de-duplicated/ghost/ineligible/fake/forged ration card has already been given in reply to parts (a and b) of question.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Updated Data* of Deleted Ration Cards** (as on 13.07.2016)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2013	2014	2015	2016#	State-wise Total
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	37		37
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0	8,49,000	0		8,49,000
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	13,875	993	43		14,911
4.	Assam	0	0	0	11,366	11,366
5.	Bihar	0	21,712	16,401		38,113
6.	Chandigarh (on DBT)	0	0	0		0
7.	Chhattisgarh	1,03,000	7,10,000	1,43,000		9,56,000
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0		0
9.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0		0
10.	Delhi	0	0	22,171		22,171
11.	Goa	1,782	93	1,17,801		1,19,676
12.	Gujarat	0	0	0		0
13.	Haryana	0	0	0		0
14.	Himachal Pradesh	235	0	0		235
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0		0
16.	Jharkhand	0	19	7,914		7,933

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2013	2014	2015	2016#	State-wise Total
17.	Karnataka	0	0	17,52,749		17,52,749
18.	Kerala	0	0	0		0
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0		0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0		0
21.	Maharashtra	1,00,543	85,160	8,20,780		10,06,483
22.	Manipur	0	0	0		0
23.	Meghalaya	0	0	0		0
24.	Mizoram	743	98	48	94	983
25.	Nagaland	0	0	0		0
26.	Odisha	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Puducherry (on DBT)	54	17,392	9,507		26,953
28.	Punjab	0	0	93,627		93,627
29.	Rajasthan	0	0	26,329	11,79,118	12,05,447
30.	Sikkim	0	0	0		0
31.	Tamil Nadu	1,23,956	96,406	1,14,175		3,34,537
32.	Telangana	3,21,372	11,75,354	10,27,000	2,60,000	27,83,726

33.	Tripura	0	0	66,580	66,580
34.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	6,38,152	6,38,152
35.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0
36.	West Bengal	27,51,981	19,77,311	18,34,284	65,63,576
	GRAND TOTAL	34,17,541	49,33,538	66,90,598	1,64,92,255

* The Data are prepared as per details/information by States/UTs through weekly proformas; and emails

** Cards deleted due to detection of Ghost/fraudulent/duplicate/ineligible/migration/deaths, etc. during the process of digitization, de-duplication, Aadhaar seeding in run up /implementation of NFSA

Up to 30th June 2016

Creation of additional storage capacity for foodgrains

625. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement and availability of storage capacity along with quantum of foodgrains reported damaged during last three and current year for lack of proper maintenance and rodent infestation, State-wise, including Jharkhand and Gujarat;

(b) whether Government has made any action plan for creation of additional storage capacity through farmers' participation under subsidy scheme, if so, details thereof;

(c) whether additional funds are proposed to be provided by various agencies, including NAFED, for the purpose, if so, details thereof; and

(d) steps taken to ensure better coordination between various agencies involved in procurement and storage of foodgrains to check damage to foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The requirement and availability of storage capacity for foodgrains with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies during the last three years and current year is given as below:

(Fig. in Lakh MT)

As on	Required storage capacity based on Stock position	Storage capacity with FCI	Storage with agencies capacity State	Total Storage capacity available
01.06.13	676.59	397.02	354.28	751.30
01.06.14	622.31	383.05	375.47	758.52
01.06.15	568.34	368.75	357.68	726.43
01.06.16	534.29	362.47	449.47	811.94

State-wise details including that of Jharkhand and Gujarat are given in the Statement-I (*See below*)

Details showing State-wise quantities of foodgrains reported damaged with FCI due to negligence of staff (lack of proper maintenance) during the last three years are given in the Statement-II (*See below*). Suitable disciplinary action is invariably taken against the defaulters, wherever found guilty.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Before the start of marketing season, Government of India convenes meeting of State Food Secretaries and FCI to formulate the State-wise procurement plan, which include procurement estimates, opening of purchase centres and the time period for procurement. This is followed by State level meetings between Secretary Food of the State with General Manager (Region) FCI where detailed plan is chalked out.

Similarly at district level, the planning for procuring foodgrains, allocation of mandies, transportation, milling and storage of foodgrains is done by district administration of that district by coordinating all with concerned departments and stakeholders.

The monitoring of procurement operations is done on a continuous basis. Regular interactions are held between FCI and State Government officials for smooth functioning of procurement operations.

Detailed guidelines for smooth procurement operations and safe storage and preservation are issued by FCI Headquarter to field offices before the commencement of every marketing season.

Steps taken by FCI to preserve the quality of procured foodgrains during storage are given in Statement-III (*See* below).

Statement-I*State-wise details of storage capacity and stocks held on 1st June for Central Pool foodgrains*

(Figures in Lakh MT)

State	As on 01.06.2013		As on 01.06.2014		As on 01.06.2015		As on 01.06.2016	
	Total capacity	Stocks Held*	Total Capacity	Stocks Held	Total Capacity	Stocks Held	Total Capacity	Stocks Held
Bihar	13.9	21.64	15.07	2.91	10.41	3.97	15.11	8.49
Jharkhand	1.35	3.35	1.78	1.11	2.24	1.75	2.53	1.42
Odisha	12.49	27.18	12.94	8.79	10.46	4.32	11.84	8.39
West Bengal	15.31	11.44	14.84	8.92	16.69	11.89	18.05	10.55
Assam	5.42	2.45	3.15	2.20	5.93	1.77	6.23	3.18
Arunachal Pradesh	0.28	0.14	0.28	0.14	0.33	0.13	0.24	0.13
Meghalaya	0.26	0.3	0.26	0.16	0.28	0.27	0.23	0.11
Mizoram	0.82	0.13	0.26	0.16	0.67	0.2	0.67	0.15
Tripura	0.94	0.25	0.38	0.16	0.84	0.13	0.67	0.15
Manipur	0.43	0.26	0.32	0.13	0.32	0.21	0.32	0.29
Nagaland	0.40	0.21	0.33	0.29	0.40	0.26	0.49	0.33
Delhi	3.67	2.74	3.67	2.71	3.67	1.99	3.67	2.32

Haryana	110.58	123.77	131.01	89.69	116.99	83.1	107.12	88.24
Himachal Pradesh	0.35	0.26	0.35	0.25	0.48	0.28	0.49	0.39
Jammu and Kashmir	2.66	0.94	3.26	1.24	2.41	1.14	2.47	1.41
Punjab	244.2	281.49	258.32	249.09	240.25	200.53	254.12	198.8
Rajasthan	29.95	24.9	27.74	25.29	27.1	20.37	26.5	17.29
Uttar Pradesh	58.42	32.22	44.62	28.73	63.46	41.05	64.83	37.07
Uttarakhand	3.96	1.97	3.76	2.12	3.67	2.06	3.82	2.29
Andhra Pradesh	61.35	54.83	46.39	42.63	27.49	16.29	26.04	22.9
Kerala	5.37	10.68	9.48	6.06	6.52	5.58	5.55	6.52
Karnataka	16.48	5.47	14.98	5.17	29.14	5.91	29.52	4.32
Tamil Nadu	17.02	19.42	17.23	13.3	16.58	12.34	27.89	10.05
Gujarat	11.26	6.96	11.72	6.91	9.90	6.08	9.07	4.25
Maharashtra	29.46	18.86	34.48	14.55	30.19	15.31	31.7	15.3
Madhya Pradesh	81.87	81.06	80.16	84.49	58.09	91.73	121.29	55.3
Chhattisgarh	23.1	36.48	21.74	8.86	24.1	14.14	24.09	16.4
Telangana	-	-	-	-	17.82	13.91	17.39	8.20
TOTAL	751.3	769.4	758.52	606.06	726.43	556.71	811.94	524.24

*includes paddy with millers (not stored in godowns).

Statement-II

*State-wise details of damaged foodgrains due to negligence of staff
(lack of proper maintenance)*

(Figures in MT)

Name of the region	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (upto 01.06.16)
1	2	3	4
East Zone			
Bihar	0	0	0
Jharkhand	0	0	0
Odisha	0	7	0
West Bengal	0	0	0
ZONE TOTAL	0	7	0
North East Zone			
Assam	32	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura	0	0	0
Manipur	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	0	0
ZONE TOTAL	32	0	0
North Zone			
Delhi	2	0	0
Haryana	0	0	0
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0
Punjab	38	0	0
Rajasthan	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	187	0	0
Uttarakhand	0	0	0
ZONE TOTAL	227	0	0
South Zone			
Andhra Pradesh	0	57	0

1	2	3	4
Kerala	5	40	0
Karnataka	662	0	0
Tamil Nadu	198	15	0
ZONE TOTAL	865	112	0
West Zone			
Gujarat	0	0	2
Maharashtra	0	0	4319
Madhya Pradesh	4	0	0
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0
ZONE TOTAL	4	0	4321
COUNTRY TOTAL	1128	119	4321

Statement-III

Steps taken to preserve the quality of procured foodgrains to avoid damage

The following precautionary and remedial steps are mandated to be followed by Food Corporation of India and State Government agencies for proper upkeep and quality to check damages to Central Pool stocks of foodgrains:

- (i) All godowns are to be constructed as per specifications.
- (ii) Foodgrains are to be stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.
- (iii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are to be used to check migration of moisture from the floor to the foodgrains.
- (iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are to be provided in all the godowns.
- (v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are to be carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.
- (vi) Effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are to be used.
- (vii) Foodgrains in CAP storage are to be stored on elevated plinths and wooden

crates are to be used as dunnage material. Stacks are to be properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water -proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.

- (viii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are to be undertaken by qualified and trained staff and all senior officers.
- (ix) The principle of “First in First Out” (FIFO) is to be followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (x) Only covered rail wagons are to be used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.
- (xi) Damage Monitoring Cells have been set up at District, Regional and Zonal levels to regularly monitor quality of stocks and reduce damages.

Implementation of NFSA

626. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of States currently implementing the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, the district-wise details for each State;
- (b) the amount of funds allocated for implementation of this Act since 2013 and the actual expenditure incurred, year-wise details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for incomplete implementation of this Act in majority of States; and
- (d) the time-line set by Government for universal implementation of this Act and steps being taken to expedite its implementation by all States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY) (a) The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is being implemented in 34 States/UTs, list of which is given in the Statement (*See* below). In Nagaland, implementation of the Act has started in two districts, namely Dimapur and Kohima and in all the districts in the remaining States/UTs.

(b) Funds are allocated in the budget of the Department of Food and Public Distribution for food subsidy to meet the difference between economic cost of foodgrains and their sales realization at Central Issue Prices under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS). Details of food subsidy allocated and released during the years 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are as under:

(₹ in crores)

Year	Subsidy	
	Allocated	Released
2013-14	89740.02	89740.0
2014-15	113171.16	113171.16
2015-16	134919.00	134919.00
2016-17*	130334.61	60932.99

*as on 20.07.2016

Further, for providing Central assistance to States/UTs for meeting expenditure towards intra-State movement and handling of foodgrains and FPS dealers' margin under NFSA, the Food Security (Assistance to State Governments) Rules, 2015 was notified in August, 2015 and for the first time budget allocation was made in 2015-16. The amount of ₹ 279.01 lakh provided in Revised Estimates (2015-16) was fully released. During the current year, an allocation of ₹ 250000 lakh has been made, out of which ₹ 86341.63 lakh has been released. Also, for assistance to States/UTs for non-building assets for State Food Commission, allocation of ₹ 20000/-, ₹ 1 crore and ₹ 2 crore were made in the BE for years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively, but no expenditure was incurred. The provision for this purpose in BE (2016-17) is ₹ 1 crore.

(c) and (d) Under NFSA, main responsibility for implementation, which *inter-alia* includes identification of eligible households, issuing ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrain entitlements to eligible households through Fair Price Shops (FPS), setting up effective grievance redressal mechanism, necessary strengthening of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), rests with the States/UTs.

Implementation of the Act is reviewed on regular basis through meetings with States/UTs at various levels. As a result of regular review, implementation of the Act has started in all the States/UTs except Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Recently, a meeting of Food Ministers and Food Secretaries of States/UTs was held on 21.05.2016 at New Delhi, to review implementation of NFSA and progress in end-to-end computerization, wherein Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu were requested to ensure implementation of NFSA at the earliest.

Statement

List of States/UTs implementing NFSA

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT
1.	Haryana

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT
2.	Rajasthan
3.	Delhi
4.	Himachal Pradesh
5.	Punjab
6.	Karnataka
7.	Chhattisgarh
8.	Maharashtra
9.	Chandigarh
10.	Madhya Pradesh
11.	Bihar
12.	West Bengal
13.	Lakshadweep
14.	Tripura
15.	Puducherry
16.	Uttarakhand
17.	Jharkhand
18.	Telangana
19.	Daman and Diu
20.	Odisha
21.	Assam
22.	Goa
23.	Andhra Pradesh
24.	Sikkim
25.	Uttar Pradesh
26.	Meghalaya
27.	Jammu and Kashmir
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
29.	Mizoram
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli
31.	Gujarat

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT
32.	Arunachal Pradesh
33.	Manipur
34.	Nagaland

Hallmarking of gold and silver items

627. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps for mandatory hallmarking of gold and silver items, if so. the details thereof;

(b) to what extent it will ensure purity of the metal items;

(c) whether Government has set up recognized Hallmarking Centres all over the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 has enabling provisions for making hallmarking of precious metal articles mandatory by the Central Government.

(b) The objective of the hallmarking scheme is to ensure purity of precious metal articles.

(c) and (d) Sir, no hallmarking centre has been set up by Central Government or by Bureau of Indian Standards. Hallmarking Centres are generally set up by private entrepreneurs. As on 30th June 2016 there are 376 BIS recognized hallmarking centres across the country, State-wise details of which are given in the Statement.

Statement

The State-wise distribution of the BIS recognized Assaying and Hallmarking Centres as on 30th June 2016

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Assaying and Hallmarking Centres
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20
2.	Assam	2
3.	Bihar	3
4.	Chandigarh	3

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Assaying and Hallmarking Centres
5.	Chhattisgarh	1
6.	Delhi	31
7.	Gujarat	37
8.	Haryana	7
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2
10.	Jharkhand	3
11.	Karnataka	26
12.	Kerala	39
13.	Madhya Pradesh	7
14.	Maharashtra	51
15.	Odisha	7
16.	Puducherry	1
17.	Punjab	12
18.	Rajasthan	16
19.	Tamil Nadu	51
20.	Telangana	10
21.	Uttar Pradesh	16
22.	West Bengal	31
TOTAL		376

Procedure for cancellation of Aadhaar registration

628. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a procedure for residents to cancel their Aadhaar registration and delete the collected biometric data;

(b) if so, the details of steps involved; and

(c) the number of people who have cancelled their Aadhaar registration till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY) (a) There is no such procedure under which resident can cancel his own Aadhaar.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Setting up of Common Service Centres

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

- (a) the aims and objectives of Common Service Centres (CSC) aimed to be set up in every Gram Panchayat (GP);
- (b) whether the target to set up CSCs in GPs in Phase I has been achieved;
- (c) if not, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether it is a fact that recently, Government has approved CSC Phase II to set up 2.5 lakh CSCs in various States and UTs;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and by when they are likely to be set up; and
- (f) the services that are likely to be provided through CSCs in GPs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Common Service Centres (CSCs) aim to bridge the existing digital divide created due to low ICT intervention by providing individual access to the internet and computer devices for the citizens in rural India. CSCs being well equipped ICT enabled centres, necessarily play a game changing role in enabling universal access to plethora of eServices for citizens and acting as cornerstone for the citizens' digital empowerment.

The primary objective of the CSC is to provide e-Governance services within the reach of the citizen, by creating the physical service delivery ICT infrastructure. It helps in making a transparent service delivery mechanism and eliminating citizens' effort in visiting Government offices.

(b) The Phase I of CSC Scheme launched in September 2006, targeted to cover all 6 lakhs census villages by one lakh CSCs, as per 1:6 ratio equitably spread across rural India. Accordingly, the total number of CSCs which were made operational till November, 2015 (prior to launch of CSC 2.0 Project under Digital India) was 144,875, out of which 93,554 CSCs were at GP level.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Government of India has approved CSC Phase II to set up at least one CSC at every Gram Panchayat level in various States and UTs. The number of CSCs to be set up in various States/UTs is given in the Statement-I (See below). These are likely to be set up by December, 2019.

(f) The list of services being provided through CSCs is given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

Statement-I

Number of CSCs to be setup in various States/UTs

The State/UT-wise target to cover Gram Panchayats with CSC is as follows:

Sl. No.	States/UTs	GPs to be covered by 2019
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12833
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1779
3.	Assam	2196
4.	Bihar	8463
5.	Chhattisgarh	9734
6.	Goa	189
7.	Gujarat	13735
8.	Haryana	6155
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3243
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	4128
11.	Jharkhand	4423
12.	Karnataka	5628
13.	Kerala	979
14.	Madhya Pradesh	23012
15.	Maharashtra	27920
16.	Manipur	165
17.	Meghalaya	1463
18.	Mizoram	776
19.	Nagaland	1123
20.	Odisha	6234
21.	Punjab	12800
22.	Rajasthan	9946
23.	Sikkim	165
24.	Tamil Nadu	12618
25.	Telangana	8787

Sl. No.	States/UTs	GPs to be covered by 2019
26.	Tripura	1038
27.	Uttar Pradesh	51914
28.	Uttarakhand	7555
29.	West Bengal	3351
TOTAL		242352
Union Territory		
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	69
31.	Chandigarh	17
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	11
33.	Daman and Diu	14
34.	Delhi	0
35.	Lakshadweep	10
36.	Puducherry	98
TOTAL		219
GRAND TOTAL		242571

Statement-II

List of Services available through CSC network

(A) G2C Services

1. Issue of various certificates, such as Caste, Income, Birth and Death, Land records, Domicile, etc.
2. Employment Registration.
3. Application for Ration Card, Application for Pension (old age, widow etc.), Application for Minority Scholarship/Girls Education Scholarship.
4. PAN Card Services, UIDAI Services, Election Commission of India (EC) Services, Passport Services.

(B) B2C Services

1. Mobile/Data Card/DTH Recharge and Mobile Bill Payment.
2. Electricity Bill Payment.
3. Tour and Travel (Booking for Air and Bus), IRCTC Service (through IRCTC authorized centres).
4. e-Commerce Service (Purchase of Various Products).

(C) Educational Services

1. Digital Literacy under National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM)/Digital Saksharata Abhiyan (DISHA).
2. Animation Course, English Speaking
3. NIELIT Services and NIOS Services.

(D) Financial Inclusion Services

1. Banking Services through Business Correspondents Agents.
2. Insurance Services of most of Insurance Companies as approved by IRDA (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority).
3. Pension Services of PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority of India) and Other Government Schemes.

(E) Other Services

1. Agriculture Service and Skill Development.
2. Income Tax Filing and Know Your TDS Service.
3. Health Care Services: Telemedicine, Jan Aushadhi and Diagnostic.
4. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan: Registration for Toilet Scheme.
5. Registration of Workers and Submission of Claims for Building and Other Construction.

Pillars of Digital India campaign

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

- (a) the details of each pillar envisaged under the Digital India campaign;
- (b) the details of schemes proposed to be pooled under the Digital India campaign;
- (c) the short and long-term plans to implement each of the above pillars;
- (d) whether any international cooperation has been sought for Digital India campaign, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether any agreement has been signed between India and the USA relating to Digital India during the recent visit of the PM to USA, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The Government of India is implementing the Digital India programme to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. There are nine pillars of

growth areas under the Digital India programme. The details of each pillar, schemes under each pillar and their implementation plan are as follows:

Pillar 1: Broadband Highways

This covers three sub components, namely Broadband for All Rural, Broadband for All Urban and National Information Infrastructure. Under Broadband for All Rural, 2,50,000 Village Panchayats would be covered under National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) Project. Under Broadband for All Urban, Virtual Network Operators would be leveraged for service delivery and communication infrastructure in new urban development and buildings would be mandated. National Information Infrastructure would integrate the networks like State Wide Area Network (SWAN), National Knowledge Network (NKN) and NOFN along with cloud enabled National and State Data Centres.

Pillar 2: Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity

The initiative is to focus on network penetration and fill the gaps in connectivity in the country. All together 55,669 uncovered villages will be covered for providing universal mobile connectivity in the country.

Pillar 3: Public Internet Access Programme

- Common Service Centres would be strengthened and its number would be increased to 250,000 *i.e.* one CSC in each Gram Panchayat. CSCs would be made viable, multi-functional end-points for delivery of Government and business services. The Government is implementing Digital Seva Kendra (Common Services Centre–CSC 2.0) scheme.
- 150,000 Post Offices are proposed to be converted into multi service centres. The implementation of Core Banking Solution (CBS) and Core Insurance Solution (CIS) and installation of ATMs are being done in Post Offices.

Pillar 4: e-Governance–Reforming Government Through Technology

- Government Business Process Re-engineering using IT to improve transactions would be implemented by all Ministries/departments.
- Electronic Databases – all databases and information would be electronic and not manual.
- Workflow Automation Inside Government – The workflow inside Government departments and agencies would be automated.
- Public Grievance Redressal – IT would be used to automate, respond and analyze data to identify and resolve persistent problems.

- Data Digitization and Aadhaar seeding have been initiated in various Departments.
- e-Office is being implemented in Government offices.

Pillar 5: e-Kranti – Electronic delivery of services

There are 44 Mission Mode Projects under different stages of e-governance project lifecycle covering wide domains including Health, Education, Passport Seva, Trade, Income Tax, Excise and Customs, Corporate Affairs, India Post, e-Police, Land Records, e-courts etc. and are being implemented by various Central Ministries/Departments and State/UT Governments.

Pillar 6: Information for All

- Open Data platform and online hosting of information and documents would facilitate open and easy access to information for citizens.
- Government shall pro-actively engage through social media and web based platforms to inform citizens. MyGov.in has been implemented as a medium to exchange ideas/suggestions with Government. It will facilitate 2-way communication between citizens and Government.
- Online messaging to citizens on special occasions/programs has been facilitated through emails and SMSes.

Pillar 7: Electronics Manufacturing–Target NET ZERO Imports

- Target NET ZERO Imports is a striking demonstration of intent. This ambitious goal requires coordinated action on many fronts such as taxation, incentives, economies of scale, eliminate cost disadvantages, Focus areas – Big Ticket Items like FABS, Fab-less design, set top boxes, VSATs, mobiles, consumer and medical electronics, Smart Energy meters, Smart cards, micro-ATMs, incubators, clusters, skill development and Government procurement
- Several Schemes are being implemented *e.g.* Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS), Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) Scheme, Semiconductor Wafer Fabrication (FAB) Facilities and Electronics Development Fund etc.

Pillar 8: IT for Jobs

- 1 Cr students from smaller towns and villages have been envisaged to be trained for IT sector jobs over 5 years.
- BPOs would be set up in every north-eastern State to facilitate ICT enabled growth in these States.

- 3 lakh service delivery agents would be trained as part of skill development to run viable businesses delivering IT services.
- 5 lakh rural workforce would be trained by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) to cater to their own needs.
- Several Projects/Schemes are being implemented *e.g.* North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS) to incentivize 5000 seats BPO/ITES operations in NER for creation of employment opportunities and growth of IT-ITES sector, India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) to incentivize 48,300 seats for BPO/ITES operations distributed among States.

Pillar 9: Early Harvest Programmes

Under this pillar, the Government is implementing IT Platform for Messages, Government Greetings to be e-Greetings, biometric attendance in Government offices, Wi-Fi in all universities, secure email within Government, public Wi-Fi hotspots, SMS based weather information, disaster alerts and National Portal for Lost and Found children.

Some other projects being implemented under Digital India are:

- Jeevan Pramaan to digitize the whole process of securing the life certificate for Pensioners.
- Digital Locker as an ecosystem with collection of repositories and gateways for issuers to upload the documents in the digital repositories.
- National Scholarships Portal (NSP) as a one-stop solution to implement end-to-end disbursement of the scholarship to the beneficiaries.
- e-Hospital - Online Registration System (ORS) which includes online appointment and registration by new patients, viewing of lab reports, checking the status of blood availability.
- Localization Projects Management Framework (LPMF) to undertake surface localization of the user interface and static information on a given website and internal localization of online applications including linked databases.
- Vikaspedia as a multilingual collaborative content creation platform that promotes access and sharing of e-knowledge for empowerment of underserved communities through provision of relevant information in various domains including Agriculture, Education, Health, Social Welfare, Energy and e-Governance in 22 scheduled languages of the country, besides English.
- e-Sign framework to facilitate issuing a Digital Signature Certificate and performing signing of requested document by authenticating the Aadhaar card holder.

- Open Government Data (OGD) Platform to expose Government data to citizens while increasing transparency in Government function.
- Mobile Governance to deliver Government services over mobile devices using mobile applications installed on the user's mobile handsets.
- e-Taal to provides quick view of the number of transactions performed by various e-Governance applications on a real time basis. Several new initiatives have been undertaken by the Government such as:
- Unified Mobile App for New-age Governance (UMANG) to build a common, unified platform and mobile app to facilitate single point of access for Government services through mobile.
- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) to facilitate on line procurement of Goods and Services required by various Government Departments/Organizations/ PSUs.
- Rapid Assessment System (RAS) as a continuous feedback system for e-services delivered through various Digital India platforms and various e-Gov applications.
- National Centre of Geo-informatics (NCoG) for development of GIS platform for sharing, collaboration, location based analytics and decision support system for Departments.
- New National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM) scheme, target is to make 6 crore people digitally literate in 3 years.

(d) Yes, Sir. On the sideline of the Indo-US ICT Working Group held during 12th-16th January, 2015 in Washington DC USA, a workshop on Digital India was organized on 16th January, 2015, so as to apprise the US industry on various opportunities for collaboration under Digital India programme.

(e) No, Sir.

Transformation of National Informatics Centre

631. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for transformation of National Informatics Centre (NIC);

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether a High Level Committee has been set up in this regard which has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(d) whether Government has accepted the findings of the Committee for implementation;

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

(f) whether the transformation of NIC would result in employment generation in the electronics and computers field, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (f) The Committee for transformation of National Informatics Centre (NIC) to NIC 2.0 was constituted by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

However, NIC has put up the final report on the recommendations of the Committee to the Hon'ble Minister on 24th June, 2016 for acceptance.

Research centres for development of handicraft market

632. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open Research Centres for development of handicraft market in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the places identified for opening such Research Centres, including the time by when these Centres are likely to be opened; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for making the handicrafts competitive in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) The Government has initiated a proposal for establishment of a Hastkala Academy at New Delhi under which research work on development of handicrafts will be taken up.

(c) The steps taken by the Government for making the handicrafts as well as handmade carpets and other floor coverings competitive in international market include: participations in fairs/exhibitions abroad; thematic display and live demonstration of handicrafts in exhibitions abroad; organizing buyer-seller meets in India and abroad; brand image promotion of Indian handicrafts abroad through seminars and publicity, awareness programmes about technology, packaging and export policies in India to exporters; organizing Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fairs, product specific shows and Made in India show and providing assistance under Market Development Assistance and Market Access Initiative Schemes of Ministry of Commerce to exporter members.

Legal boundary for cyber crimes

633. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to define any legal boundaries for cyber crimes, trespassing and breaching under sections of Information Technology Act, 2000 and existing cyber laws and to curb cyber crimes, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the effective steps taken by Government to provide legal strength to State Governments and Courts to book and prosecute those who commit cyber crimes;

(c) whether Government is formulating any new guidelines for Cyber Regulation Appellate Tribunal (CRAT); and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total number of pending cases in CRAT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) As defined in the Information Technology Act (IT Act), 2000 itself, the boundaries extend to the whole of India. It also applies to any offence or contravention (details of which are stated in the act) committed outside India by any person if the act or conduct constituting the offence or contravention involves a computer, computer system or computer network located in India.

(b) Since law and order is a State subject, almost every State police has a specialized cybercrime cell to file, investigate and prosecute cybercrime cases. From time to time Central Government has been undertaking capacity building exercise to train police and judicial officers in cyber crime and related issues, including IT Act, 2000.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A total number of 68 appeals have been filed and are pending in Cyber Appellate Tribunal (CyAT).

Financial, technological and logistic support to FPIs

634. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is providing financial, technological and logistic support for setting up of food processing units using herbal, horticulture and floriculture produces, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the funds allocated, disbursed and utilized for setting up of such food processing units in the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the various methods adopted by the Centre to promote and develop herbal, horticulture and floriculture produces; and

(d) the funds allocated, disbursed in the last five years in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) For setting up of food processing units in the country including those units which utilize herbal, horticulture and floriculture produces for making food, Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been implementing the following schemes:

- (i) Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries.
- (ii) Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure.
- (iii) Mega Food Parks.

The details of these scheme are given in the Statement-I (*See* below). Under these schemes, financial assistance is provided in the form of grant-in-aid to eligible entrepreneurs in the Food Processing sectors to make their units adequately equipped with appropriate food processing technology and suitable logistics:

In addition, the Government has also announced certain fiscal incentives for food processing sector, which include – (i) exemption of all Refrigeration Machineries from Excise Duty, which includes the parts used for installation of Cold storage, Cold room or Refrigerated Vehicle for preservation, storage, transport or processing of agricultural, apiary, horticultural, dairy, poultry aquatic and marine produce and meat; and (ii) Exemption of machineries involved in Pasteurizing, drying, evaporating, etc. in Dairy Sector from Excise Duty; and (iii) Reducing excise duty on food processing and packaging machinery from 10% to 6%. Further, under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) implemented by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare for holistic development of Horticulture in the country *w.e.f.* 01.04.2014, assistance is being provided for development of processing units for horticulture crops in North Eastern State and Himalayan States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand.

The Government has created a special fund of ₹ 2000 crore created under National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for providing affordable credit to entrepreneurs for setting up of food processing units in designated

Food Parks with the stipulation that new units as well as modernization of existing units would be eligible for loan from the Special Fund, to the extent of 75% of the project cost.

(b) The State-wise details of funds disbursed by Ministry of Food Processing Industries for setting up of Food Processing Units during the last five year are given in the Statement-II (*See below*). Under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), implemented by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare for holistic development of Horticulture in the country *w.e.f.* 01.04.2014, State-wise processing units sanctioned in North Eastern State and Himalayan State of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand since April, 2014 are as under:

Sl. No.	Year of sanction	State	No. of Units	Project cost (in lakhs)	Subsidy (in lakhs)
1.	2015-16	Uttarakhand	10	10096.17	3933.87
2.	2015-16	Assam	1	1411.00	400.00
3.	2015-16	Himachal Pradesh	1	857.75	400.00
TOTAL			12	12364.92	4733.87

(c) and (d) The methods like area expansion of fruits, vegetables, spices and flowers, protected cultivation of vegetable and flowers, promotion of integrated nutrient management and integrated pest management, organic farming, promotion of integrated post-harvest management and Human Resource Development through Trainings and exposure visits are adopted through Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture all over the country to promote and developed horticulture crops. The funds allocated and disbursed during the last five year under the programmes under the mission of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) are given in Statement-III.

Statement-I*Details of financial, technological and logistic support to FPIs*

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Objective	Pattern of assistance	Remarks
1.	Mega Food Parks	The admissible grant under the scheme for Mega Food Park is in the form of grant-in-aid @ 50% of eligible project cost in general areas and @ 75% of eligible project cost in NE Region and difficult areas (Hilly States and ITDP areas) subject to maximum of ₹ 50 crore per project.		(a) The Ministry is implementing Plan Scheme of Mega Food Parks to provide state of the art infrastructure facilities for the food processing along the value chain from the farm to the market with a cluster based approach based on a hub and spokes model by establishing Mega Food Parks. It includes creation of infrastructure for primary processing and storage near the farm in the form of Primary Processing Centres (PPCs) and Collection Centres (CCs) and common facilities and enabling infrastructure like roads, electricity, water, ETP facilities etc. At Central Processing Centre (CPC). These PPCs and CCs act as aggregation and storage points to feed raw material to the processing units located in the CPC. The Scheme is demand-driven and would facilitate food processing units to meet environmental, safety and social standards. The Scheme is expected to facilitate the efforts to increase the level of processing of perishables in the country. Development of such processing clusters will also help in latest technology adoption in the production systems and help in increasing the farm production and enhancing the income of farmers.

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Objective Pattern of assistance	Remarks
2.	Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure	Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided in the form of grant-in-aid of maximum ₹ 10 crore per project for setting up of integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure facilities without any break from the farm gate to the consumer	Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing the Central Sector Scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure with the objective of arresting post-harvest losses of horticulture and non-horticulture produce and providing remunerative price to farmers for their produce. The 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. The scheme is primarily private sector driven and proposals under this scheme are invited through Expression of Interest (EOI). The scheme is available in rural and urban areas in all States/UTs.
3.	Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries up to 31.03.2012	Financial assistance was at the rate of 25% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of ₹ 50 lakhs in case of General areas and for difficult areas, the same was at rate of 33.33% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and	This Scheme was subsequently subsumed in the Centrally Sponsored (CSS)-National Mission on Food Processing (NMFPP) with effect from 01.04.2012 till 31.03.2015. Thereafter, the said scheme got delinked from Government of India's assistance and it was left to the State Governments to decide on its continuance from their increased resource as per recommendation of fourteenth Finance Commission.

Technical Civil Works subject As a part of the Committed/Spillover liabilities of 11th Plan period to a maximum of ₹ 75 lakhs. during the 12th Plan period also, Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been releasing grant-in-aid to eligible entrepreneurs under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries.

Statement-II

(a) Details of Number of units and amount assisted in last five year under scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries are as under:

Sl. No.	State	2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
		Nos.	Amount (in crore)	Nos.	Amount (in crore)	Nos.	Amount (in crore)	Nos.	Amount (in crore)	Nos.	Amount (in crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	99	17.90	225	43.45	145	29.40	144	25.85	38	7.05
2.	Assam	12	2.43	18	3.76	10	2.14	2	0.40	4	0.53
3.	Bihar	5	0.90	2	0.36	2	0.27	6	0.72	3	0.59
4.	Chandigarh	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	0.33	1	0.08	0	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	75	8.42	149	17.54	68	8.01	57	6.91	22	2.48
6.	Daman and Diu	1	0.25	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.25	1	0.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
7.	Delhi	1	0.25	2	0.50	6	1.18	2	0.50	2	0.50
8.	Goa	2	0.50	1	0.19	5	0.93	6	1.05	1	0.07
9.	Gujarat	107	19.92	52	8.34	80	14.31	70	11.75	54	9.86
10.	Haryana	66	9.15	88	11.58	34	5.66	27	5.12	26	5.45
11.	Himachal Pradesh	17	4.88	5	1.33	10	2.60	11	2.52	9	2.19
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	6	0.98	2	0.16	3	0.55	3	0.48	9	2.22
13.	Jharkhand	1	0.17	6	1.24	2	0.38	5	1.18	3	0.67
14.	Karnataka	61	8.85	78	12.19	68	8.40	74	10.84	49	7.44
15.	Kerala	49	8.66	14	2.44	43	7.40	21	3.55	20	2.93
16.	Madhya Pradesh	24	4.02	31	4.27	30	4.05	23	3.57	17	3.25
17.	Maharashtra	200	27.96	136	18.35	171	24.17	144	21.01	100	15.07
18.	Manipur	10	1.85	21	4.67	36	7.93	0	0.00	0	0.00
19.	Meghalaya	0	0.00	1	0.05	3	0.72	1	0.38	0	0.00
20.	Nagaland	0	0.00	2	0.14	1	0.08	0	0.00	1	0.13
21.	Odisha	9	1.14	15	2.59	5	0.73	14	2.59	7	1.19
22.	Puducherry	1	0.25	6	1.50	1	0.25	0	0.00	0	0.00

23. Punjab	142	16.40	231	24.45	83	9.49	42	4.68	27	3.64
24. Rajasthan	96	12.57	44	6.71	50	5.45	76	12.42	84	15.64
25. Tamil Nadu	78	14.25	46	7.23	58	9.97	62	11.69	31	6.74
26. Uttar Pradesh	56	9.82	38	5.97	59	10.58	64	10.96	33	6.31
27. Uttarakhand	6	1.76	7	1.72	7	2.25	6	1.56	4	0.96
28. West Bengal	19	3.20	6	1.39	18	3.90	27	4.67	17	4.09
TOTAL	1143	176.48	1226	182.12	1000	161.13	889	144.73	562	99.25

(b) *State-wise and year-wise funds released under the scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure*

(₹ in crore)

Name of the State	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Andhra Pradesh	1.87	0	0	0	4.00
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	0	0	0	6.54	2.27
Bihar	1.85	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	5.15	6.99	3.49	12.05	10.31
Haryana	0	21.5906	21.69	19.35	10.28
Himachal Pradesh	6.74	3.458	6.70	6.57	18.02
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	4.80	16.06
Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0
Karnataka	5.84	1.6812	2.08	7.38	1.97
Kerala	2.17	6.70	10.85	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	0	0	2.37	5.50	3.89
Maharashtra	24.00	19.134	10.97	27.66	36.84
Manipur	0	2.50	5.00	2.45	0
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0
Mizoram	0.75	1.515	8.00	2.49	0
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0
Odisha	0	0	0	0.566	0.92
Punjab	9.35	4.95	13.67	10.32	12.67
Rajasthan	0	0	0	2.02	9.22
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	1.79	0	0	0	0
Telangana	0	0	0	0	0
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	11.96	4.132	7.87	7.50	10.69
Uttarakhand	5.53	1.536	2.75	37.43	14.52
West Bengal	6.14	6.97	7.56	0.433	7.3

Name of the State	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi	0	0	0	0	0
Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	83.14	81.1568	103.00	153.059	158.96

(c) State-wise details of funds released and utilized under the scheme of Mega Food Parks during the last five years and the current year (as on 19.07.2016)

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State with Projects	Status of Grant Released to Mega Food Park Projects				
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.92
2.	Assam	13.50	1.80	0.00	10.00	05.00
3.	Bihar	05.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	05.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Gujarat	05.00			05.00	4.71
6.	Haryana	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	05.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	05.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	01.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	05.00
9.	Jharkhand	0.00	10.00	0.00	15.00	13.78
10.	Karnataka	01.78	11.00	24.11	05.89	0.00
11.	Kerala	01.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	01.51	12.43	17.57	15.00	
13.	Maharashtra	01.16	01.00	05.00		15.00
14.	Manipur	1.00	01.54			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15.	Mizoram					15.00
16.	Nagaland		0.97			
17.	Odisha		05.00			
18.	Punjab	15.00	15.00	15.00		
19.	Rajasthan	1.05	0.85			14.69
20.	Tamil Nadu					
21.	Tripura	05.00	15.79			
22.	Telangana					
23.	Uttarakhand			15.00		20.00
24.	West Bengal	10.00	15.00	15.00		
GRAND TOTAL		79.04	90.37	91.68	60.89	123.10

Statement-III

The details of funds allocated and disbursed during the last five year under the programmes under the MIDH

(₹ in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Release
Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH)			
2011-12	500.00	490.00	493.13
2012-13	500.00	450.68	442.26
2013-14	550.00	530.00	532.99
2014-15	549.00	350.00	402.02
2015-16	350.00	300.00	325.99
2016-17	320.00		27.00
National Horticulture Mission (NHM)			
2011-12	1200.00	1150.00	1049.99
2012-13	1350.00	1104.40	1089.27
2013-14	1600.00	1867.60	1809.55
2014-15	1399.00	1199.00	1143.11
2015-16	1070.00	938.31	851.15
2016-17	890.00		338.70

Year	BE	RE	Release
National Bamboo Mission (NBM)			
2011-12	100.00	81.60	85.6797
2012-13	90.00	85.00	87.00
2013-14	100.00	128.00	128.00
2014-15	100.00	80.00	80.0806
2015-16	80.00	70.00	68.9291
2016-17			
National Horticulture Board (NHB)			
2011-12	150.00	144.00	144.00
2012-13	175.00	158.50	140.65
2013-14	190.00	236.91	202.77
2014-15	190.00	250.00	206.44
2015-16	340.00	310.54	286.60
2016-17	275.00		95.00
Coconut Development Board (CDB)			
2011-12	50.00	50.00	50.00
2012-13	55.00	55.00	55.00
2013-14	70.00	70.00	70.00
2014-15	107.00	105.00	123.00
2015-16	151.00	142.00	161.75
2016-17	130.00		30.00
Replanting and Rejuvenation of Coconut Gardens			
2011-12	35.00	35.00	35.00
2012-13	32.00	42.55	42.55
2013-14	35.00	110.00	110.00
2014-15	0.00	0.00	0.00
2015-16	0.00	0.00	0.00
2016-17	0.00	0.00	0.00
Coconut Palm Insurance			
2011-12	1.00	1.00	1.00
2012-13	1.00	1.00	0.50

Year	BE	RE	Release
2013-14	1.00	0.50	0.50
2014-15	0.00	0.00	0.00
2015-16	0.00	0.00	0.00
2016-17	0.00	0.00	0.00
Central Institute of Horticulture (CIH)			
2011-12	15.00		2.25
2012-13	9.0	5.62	2.63
2013-14	10.00	5.72	2.98
2014-15	8.00	6.00	4.08
2015-16	9.00	8.74	4.7478
2016-17	5.00		0.00

Voting rights to NRIs

635. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to give voting rights to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs);

(b) whether the Election Commission has made any recommendations to this effect;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Election Commission;

(d) whether Government has examined security angle in this respect; and

(e) whether any demand to this effect was made by NRIs during PM's visit to USA or otherwise, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Section 20A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 provides for the registration of the Indian citizens residing outside India, according to which any such citizen, whose name is not included in the electoral roll; who has not acquired the citizenship of any other country; and who is absenting from his place of ordinary residence in India owing to his employment, education or otherwise outside India shall be entitled to have his name registered in the electoral roll in the constituency in which his place of residence in India as mentioned in his passport is located.

(b) to (e) Based on the recommendation of the Election Commission a proposal is under examination of the Government to introduce proxy voting, postal ballot including e-postal ballot system for overseas electors. e-Postal ballot 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.

Funds for e-Courts project of High Courts

636. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) the total funds allocated to various States in the Budget for e-Courts project of their respective High Courts in the last three years;

(b) the number of States which have released funds to their respective High Courts for buying new hardware and also for adequate technical manpower;

(c) the progress made in respect of modernization of various High Courts;

(d) the total amount that remained unspent so far due to non-implementation of the project; and

(e) the details of the States in which the project has not made any progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (e) During Phase I of the e-Courts project, National Informatics Centre (NIC) was the implementing agency to whom funds were provided for procurement of new hardware, technical manpower etc. for district and subordinate courts of the country. Funds released to NIC during the last three years under Phase I are given below:

Financial Year	Amount (₹ in crore)
2013-14	56
2014-15	9.70
2015-16	2

Under phase II of the project which began in August, 2015, procurement of hardware has been decentralised to the High Courts. High Courts-wise break up of funds released under this phase in 2015-16 is given in the Statement (*See below*). Since the project is to be completed by 2019, the amount remaining unspent due to non-implementation does not arise.

As a result of the hardware and software provided under the project, 13,672 district and subordinate courts have been computerised and case data and cause lists are now available online for the litigants and lawyers.

Statement

High Courts-wise break up of funds released under Phase-II

(₹ in crore)

Name of High Court	Amount
Allahabad	31.14
Bombay	30.39
Calcutta	12.14
Chhattisgarh	3.82
Delhi	5.87
Guahati (Arunachal Pradesh)	0.59
Guahati (Assam)	5.19
Guahati (Mizoram)	0.71
Guahati (Nagaland)	0.77
Gujarat	11.23
Himachal Pradesh	1.79
Jammu and Kashmir	1.84
Jharkhand	3.2
Karnataka	11.86
Kerala	5.53
Manipur	0.53
Madhya Pradesh	9.73
Meghalaya	0.19
Madras	10.24
Odisha	7.57
Patna	8.04
Punjab and Haryana	11.63
Rajasthan	9.97
Sikkim	0.18

Name of High Court	Amount
Telangana and Andhra Pradesh	13.9
Tripura	1.2
Uttarakhand	2.98
TOTAL	202.23*

*The above amount is only for hardware and no amount has been given as yet for technical manpower.

Uniform Civil Code

†637. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to adopt Uniform Civil Code in the country in the last two years; and

(b) whether suggestions have been invited from the members of various communities and organisations in order to consider all aspects of the action being taken to adopt Uniform Civil Code, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Article 44 of the Directive Principles of the Constitution sets implementation of uniform civil code as duty of the State. The matter had been examined in this Department and having regard to the importance of the subject matter and sensitivity involved, and requiring in-depth study of the provisions of various personal laws governing different communities, the same has been referred to the Law Commission of India for detailed examination of various issues relating to uniform civil code and to make recommendations thereof.

Demand for constitution of AIJS

638. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 1000 universities/colleges are imparting legal education;

(b) if so, the number of graduates/postgraduates coming out of these colleges;

(c) the percentage of students joining the profession of advocacy;

(d) whether there is a demand for constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) to attract more and more people towards legal profession;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the outcome of the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Court held in April, 2013; and

(f) the details of views expressed by each State and High Court on AIJS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vacant posts of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts

639. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any post of Judge is presently vacant in the Supreme Court and High Courts, if so, how many, court-wise;

(b) when did these posts become vacant;

(c) whether there is any unusual delay in appointment to these posts; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Details indicating the existing vacancies in Supreme Court and High Court-wise as on 20.7.2016 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) to (d) The Collegium system of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts ceased to exist consequent upon the coming into force of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 *w.e.f* 13.04.2015. However, the Constitutional validity of both the Acts was challenged in Supreme Court. While the case was being heard and till the Judgement was pronounced, only those Additional Judges whose terms were expiring were given extensions of three months as per the Supreme Court Orders dated 12.05.2015 and 15.07.2015. No other appointments were made. The Supreme Court struck down the Constitutional Amendment Act and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act in October 2015 and passed an order regarding improving the Collegium System in December 2015.

Filling up of the vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous process, as it requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and increase in

Judge strength. There are no proposals for filling up of posts of Judges of Supreme Court with the Government of India.

In view of the large number of vacancies and the fact that the process of supplementing the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for improvement in the “Collegium System” as per Supreme Court Order dated 16.12.2015 was likely to take some time, on the initiative of Government of India, the matter was taken up with the Supreme Court and the process of appointment of Judges has been resumed. During 2016, 110 Additional Judges have been made Permanent and 52 fresh appointment of Judges have been made.

Statement

Details indicating the existing vacancies in Supreme Court and High Courts

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Vacancies as on 20.07.2016
A.	Supreme Court of India	02
B.	High Courts	
1.	Allahabad	83
2.	High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad	36
3.	Bombay	30
4.	Calcutta	31
5.	Chhattisgarh	14
6.	Delhi	25
7.	Gauhati	11
8.	Gujarat	19
9.	Himachal Pradesh	02
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	08
11.	Jharkhand	11
12.	Karnataka	35
13.	Kerala	14
14.	Madhya Pradesh	19
15.	Madras	37
16.	Manipur	01
17.	Meghalaya	01

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Vacancies as on 20.07.2016
18.	Odisha	08
19.	Patna	26
20.	Punjab and Haryana	39
21.	Rajasthan	19
22.	Sikkim	01
23.	Tripura	0
24.	Uttarakhand	05
TOTAL		475

Legal Aid Clinics

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

(a) whether all Law Colleges/ Universities are required to have Legal Aid Clinics under Section 24 of the regulations relating to National Legal Services Authority (NLSA);

(b) if so, whether all these have such clinics;

(c) if not, the details thereof; and

(d) what is being done about it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) The National Legal Services Authority (Legal Aid Clinics) Regulations, 2011 provide for setting up legal aid clinics in the law colleges, law universities and other institutions as a part of the clinical legal education. As on 31.01.2016, 1575 such clinics have been set up in schools/colleges/universities in the country. Legal Services Authorities are encouraging the schools/colleges/universities for setting up such clinics.

Since all the colleges/universities do not have such clinics, it was resolved in the 14th All India Meet of the State Legal Services Authorities held on 9-10 April, 2016 at Hyderabad that a Legal Services Clinic shall be established in every Law College/University in terms of NALSA (Legal Services Clinics in universities, law colleges and other institutions) Scheme, 2013. Accordingly, all State Legal Service Authorities have been requested to set up legal aid clinics in all law colleges and law universities.

Empowering the Election Commission to revoke/countermand elections

641. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from the Election Commission seeking legal powers to revoke any election (Assembly/Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha etc.) in case there is credible evidence of use of money to bribe voters; and

(b) if so, whether Government is ready to bring in an amendment to Section 58A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to empower the poll watchdog with statutory powers to enable it to countermand polls in case it is established that money has been used to influence voters, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) A proposal to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 empowering the Election Commission to postpone polling or to declare polling already taken as void, on the basis of the report of the Returning Officer regarding bribery and misuse of money power in affected areas, has been received from the Election Commission. The proposal is under examination of the Government.

Speedy disposal of cases of undertrials

642. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the population of undertrials in prisons has been recorded as 50 lakhs across the country;

(b) if so, the status/details of court backlogs in this regard, State-wise;

(c) whether Government is aware of the very low disposal rates of cases in different courts of the country; and

(d) if so, the plan/proposal of Government to dispose of the Cases of undertrials speedily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the latest data compiled by National Crime Records Bureau, the total number of undertrial prisoners were 2,82,879 at the end of 2014.

(c) and (d) An advisory has been issued by the Central Government on 17.01.2013 to all States/UTs regarding use of Section 436A of the Criminal Procedure

Code to reduce overcrowding of prisons by taking up cases of under trials. In addition, under sub-section (g) of Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, anyone in custody is eligible for legal services including filing of bail petitions.. Accordingly, all State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) have been issued instructions to set up an Under Trial Review Committee in each district of the State. The Committee shall meet once in a quarter to review the cases of all under trials who have completed half of the maximum sentence provided for the offence they are charged with. The District Level Services Authorities have been requested to take up the matter of such under trials on urgent basis so that they are released on bail without any further delay.

The SLSAs have established legal services clinics in 986 Jails out of total 1193 jails in the country to interact with the inmates and to arrange for legal representation for all those who have not engaged private counsel. Para Legal Volunteers have been trained for this purpose and Panel Lawyers also visit these clinics regularly. Awareness programmes are also carried out at regular intervals to inform the inmates about their legal rights including right to bail.

Strike by Judges of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

643. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Judges of the Subordinate Courts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana went on strike recently by taking mass leaves, if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(b) the action Government has taken or proposes to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad, 127 Judicial Officers had submitted leave applications on various grounds including medical leave/earned leave/casual leave, and around 100 of them were rejected by the Hon'ble High Court in the interest of the litigant public. The High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad wrote to the State Administration to provide adequate security in all subordinate courts to enable the smooth functioning of the courts and instructions were issued by the State Administration accordingly.

Appointment of Judges by High Court of Telangana

†644. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 130 Judges have been appointed by the High Court of Hyderabad in Telangana;

(b) whether mass leave of fifteen days has been taken by 200 Judges in protest of the suspension of 11 Judges by the High Court of Hyderabad;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the step taken by Government for the compliance of the orders of High Court of Hyderabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) In compliance of the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in case of Malik Mazar Sultan, the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad selected 129 candidates pursuant to Notification for appointment of Civil Judges (Junior Division) for the Years 2014 and 2015 and forwarded the list to the Governments of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for issuing appointment orders after verification of antecedents. Appointment Orders are awaited. Further, after the decision to divide the *erstwhile* State of Andhra Pradesh into Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and pursuant to the order dated 29.04.2016 in PIL 31 of 2015 of the Division Bench of the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad, revised options for allocation of Judicial Officers to the two States were received from all the 906 Judicial Officers, out of which about 121 Judicial Officers opted for their allocation to Telangana State although they had declared their Districts in the parent State of Andhra Pradesh at the time of entry to the service. The Bifurcation Committee of the High Court referred the matter to the Full Court which on 29.04.2016 resolved by majority to provisionally allocate Judicial Officers. A provisional allocation list was prepared and placed on the official website of the High Court on 03.05.2016.

(b) According to the information received from the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad, 127 Judicial Officers had submitted leave applications on various grounds and around 100 of them were rejected by the Hon'ble High Court.

(c) and (d) The High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad wrote to the State Administration to provide adequate security in all subordinate courts to enable the smooth functioning of the courts and instructions were issued by the State Administration accordingly.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Protests by judicial officers in Telangana

645. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of protests by judicial officers in Telangana over allocation of lower court Judges to the Telangana State without bifurcating the Andhra Pradesh High Court;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to resolve the issue;

(c) whether the residuary State of Andhra Pradesh has allocated land and provided infrastructure for a separate High Court in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Central Government to expedite the same as also to settle the issue amicably in consultation with the High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Hyderabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. As per the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014 the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad shall be the common High Court for the State of Telangana and State of Andhra Pradesh till a separate High Court for the State of Andhra Pradesh is constituted. The Hon'ble Chief Justice informed that he has requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to respond with regard to the infrastructure ready for the functioning of its new High Court in all aspects. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed the High Court in October, 2015 that the Government has proposed to establish High Court for Andhra Pradesh at Amravathi, where the new capital of Andhra Pradesh is proposed to be established. The full Court approved the location to establish the High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Amravathi and conveyed it to Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Reforms in Election Commission of India

646. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received proposals for reforms in the Election Commission of India (ECI);

(b) whether ECI has demanded constitutional protection for all the three Election Commissioners;

(c) whether ECI has demanded that its financial budget be charged to Consolidated Fund of India;

(d) whether ECI has demanded an independent secretariat for itself;

(e) the reasons given by ECI for these demands;

(f) the stand taken by the Ministry on these demands along with the reasons therefor; and

(g) if the Ministry has made no decision so far, by when it is likely to decide on these demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Sir, as per records available no such proposal has been received.

(b) to (g) Question does not arise.

Reservation for women in legislatures and Urban Local Bodies

647. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government for consideration of a bill providing 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and in State Assemblies; and

(b) the steps taken in the past one year to provide for 50 per cent reservation for women in the Urban Local Bodies, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) It has been the endeavor of the Government to provide for reservation of one-third seats for women in the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies. The issue involved needs careful consideration on the basis of consensus among all political parties before a Bill for amendment in the Constitution is brought before Parliament.

(b) The matter to provide 50% reservation for women in Urban Local Bodies is under consideration of the Government.

Vacancies in High Courts

648. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are huge vacancies in various State High Courts;

(b) if so, the details of the vacancies existing in various States, including the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the time-frame, if any, fixed by Government to fill up those vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Details indicating existing vacancies in High Court-wise including High Court of Madras as on 20.7.2016 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Filling up of the vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous process, as it requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and increase in Judge strength. After striking down the constitutional validity of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014, the Supreme Court passed an order regarding improving the Collegium System in December, 2015 by supplementing the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP). As the process was likely to take some time, at the initiative of the Government of India, the matter was taken up with the Supreme Court and the process of appointment of Judges has been resumed. During 2016, 110 Additional Judges have been made Permanent and 52 fresh appointment of Judges have been made.

Statement

Details indicating existing vacancies in High Courts

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Vacancies as on 20.07.2016
A. High Courts		
1.	Allahabad	83
2.	High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad	36
3.	Bombay	30
4.	Calcutta	31
5.	Chhattisgarh	14
6.	Delhi	25
7.	Gauhati	11
8.	Gujarat	19
9.	Himachal Pradesh	02
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	08
11.	Jharkhand	11
12.	Karnataka	35

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Vacancies as on 20.07.2016
13.	Kerala	14
14.	Madhya Pradesh	19
15.	Madras	37
16.	Manipur	01
17.	Meghalaya	01
18.	Odisha	08
19.	Patna	26
20.	Punjab and Haryana	39
21.	Rajasthan	19
22.	Sikkim	01
23.	Tripura	0
24.	Uttarakhand	05
TOTAL		475

Simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies

649. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is examining the feasibility of conducting assembly and Lok Sabha polls simultaneously on the basis of the opinion of Central Election Commission that the proposal is not insurmountable;

(b) whether apart from provisioning additional funds of around ₹ 10,000 crore for procuring additional EVMs and Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) Systems, there is a need for a constitutional amendment to make it possible to synchronise the elections both in States and the Lok Sabha; and

(c) whether holding both elections together will provide political parties to dovetail the local/regional issues with the policies at the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The matter regarding conduct of simultaneous election for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies was examined by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice. The Committee in its 79th Report has given certain recommendations which are under examination of the Government.

Steps to reduce the burden of pending cases on courts

650. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government proposes to take to unburden the High Courts and the Supreme Court from huge load of pending cases;

(b) whether Government mulls increasing the age of superannuation for High Court Judges from the present 62 to 65 years and for the Supreme Court Judges from 65 to 67 years, if so, the details thereof, if not the reasons therefor; and

(c) the other steps Government proposes to take for quick disposal of pending cases in higher courts and even in lower courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The strength of the Judges of the Supreme Court was increased from 25 to 30 (excluding the Chief Justice of India) in the year 2009 to address the increasing workload of cases in the Supreme Court. The sanctioned strength of High Court Judges has increased from 906 judges in June 2014 to 1079 judges in June 2016. There is no proposal at present for increasing the age of superannuation for the Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts. Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerisation, increase in strength of judges of High Courts, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development.

Pending Railway project in Bihar

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

(a) whether Government has planned to convert the railway line from Kosi railway bridge to Saraigarh *via* Sakri to Nirmali into broad gauge but the work is still incomplete after so many years;

(b) whether there is no operation of trains from Ghoghardiha station to Nirmali station of Samastipur division for several years, the reasons therefor;

(c) the length of bridge in metres proposed to be constructed over Bhutahi Balan river, flowing in the east of Kisnipatti Kosi embankment situated in the east of Ghoghardiha station, details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) time-limit to start broad gauge line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Sakri-Laukaha Bazar-Nirmali and Saharsa-Forbesganj (206 km) Gauge Conversion Project was included in the year 2003-04 at an anticipated cost of ₹ 356 crore. Earlier this project was to be funded by Ministry of Defence and accordingly the project had been progressing as per the funds released by them. In the meantime, Ministry of Defence did not fund this project. Therefore, to fast track this project, Ministry of Railways have decided to fund it through its own sources. Construction of Kosi Bridge is already completed. However, Railway traffic from Sakri to Saraigarh through Kosi Bridge can be commissioned only after completion of Sakri-Nirmali and Saraigarh to Forbesganj Gauge Conversion Project.

(b) Operation of trains between Nirmali and Ghoghradiha has been stopped since April 2016 to raise the level of Nirmali yard by 5.00 meter to raise the rail level so as to meet the rail level of Kosi Bridge.

(c) A Railway bridge measuring 10 X 30.48 meter span over river Bhutahi Balan is planned to be constructed.

(d) No time-frame has been fixed for commissioning of this Broad Gauge Project.

Track capacity for operation of express trains

†652. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for coming three years in respect of track capacity of Railways for operation of express trains in the country and the status of section-wise annual programme and implementation according to it; and

(b) in the above context, the annual programme of coming three years in respect of supply of new coaches according to the express railway passenger trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) For Commissioning of Railway Projects, targets are fixed on annual basis. For 2016-17, target of 400 Km New Line, 800 Km Gauge Conversion and 1600 Km of Doubling have been targeted. Targets for next year shall be fixed at the time of preparation of Budget for 2017-18.

Annual Production Programme of production of coaches for the years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 is for 4627, 4312 and 4358 coaches respectively.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Emergency quota in trains of Bihar

†653. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was considerable emergency quota in sleeper class and the third AC class in train nos.12558, 12566, 12554, 12562, 12204, 12394, 12402, 12368 and other trains, moving to and from Bihar before the year 2009, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether emergency quota has been reduced in these trains by discriminating against Bihar, if so, the extent of quota reduced in these trains from 2009 till now; and

(c) whether a letter from an MP has been received to increase the emergency quota, if so, the steps taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Distribution of reservation quota including Emergency Quota is done by Zonal Railways on the basis of demand pattern and availability of accommodation. Reservation quota so earmarked is reviewed on periodical basis and adjustments made, wherever required based on utilization. This is a continuous and ongoing process. However, it is clarified that Emergency Quota so earmarked in the trains mentioned in the question was revised in the year 2009 only in respect of Sleeper class in six trains. The details of the quota in these trains prior to 2009 and at present is as under:-

Sl. No.	Train No.	Number of berths earmarked as Emergency Quota	
		Prior to 2009	At Present
1.	12558	60	24
2.	12554	44	26
3.	12562	40	24
4.	12394	60	24
5.	12402	40	24
6.	12368	40	24

In train number 12566 New Delhi-Darbhanga Sampark Kranti Express trains, reservation quota has been reviewed from time to time based on demand pattern. However, the quota so earmarked in the year 2009 in this train in different classes was 2 berths in 1A, 20 berths in 2A, 24 berths in 3A and 52 berths in Sleeper

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

class. This quota at present is 4 berths in 1A, 20 berths in 2A, 16 berths in 3A and 36 berths in Sleeper class.

In 12204 Amritsar-Saharsa Garib Rath Express train, the Emergency Quota ex Delhi in 2009 was 24 berths in 3AC and 18 berths in Chair Car, which at present is 24 berths each in 3A as well as air-conditioned Chair Car classes.

References are received from time to time for earmarking/enhancement of Emergency Quota. Whenever such references are received the same are examined based on the utilisation of reservation quota at existing quota holding stations and availability of accommodation and needful is done. However, a specific reference regarding restoration of Emergency Quota in Bihar bound trains was received in 2010 from an Hon'ble Member of Parliament and it was advised that reduction in Emergency Quota was only in sleeper class due to poor patronization, whereas there was no change in upper class.

Vacancies in safety-related posts

654. 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 in Railways;

(b) if so, the Zone-wise vacancies in this regard; and

(c) what are the plans 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 01.04.2016 (Provisional) is as under:-

Railway	Vacancy
Central	9910
East Coast	6085
East Central	10034
Eastern	9577
Metro	303
North Central	9223
North Eastern	4646

Railway	Vacancy
North-East Frontier	4809
Northern	14442
North Western	6689
South Central	8422
South East Central	5247
South Eastern	9967
Southern	3682
South Western	3100
West Central	8140
Western	8487
TOTAL*	122763

* Provisional

(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.

Facilities for passengers of sleeper and general coaches

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

(a) whether it is a fact that despite promises by the Government, no facilities are available for the passengers of sleeper as well as general coaches in almost all the trains, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) if not, the facilities announced by Government for passengers of sleeper and general bogies wherein implementation has also started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Following are the facilities announced by the Government for passenger of sleeper and general second class coaches wherein implementation has already started:

1. Provision of cushioned seats in General Second Class coaches.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2. Magazine bags, bottle holder and snack table in non-air conditioned sleeper class coaches.
3. Provision of dustbins in all sleeper and general class coaches.
4. Provision of braille signages.
5. On-board house keeping services wherein internal cleaning of sleeper class coaches on identified trains is carried out on run.
6. Cleaning of coaches under Clean Train Station scheme at nominated stations including non-AC sleeper class coaches.
7. Mobile charging points in all new coaches.

Unmanned railway level crossings

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

- (a) the number of unmanned railway level crossings in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of unmanned railway level crossings upgraded as manned railway level crossings during the last two years, State-wise; and
- (c) the number of unmanned railway level crossings to be converted into manned railway level crossings in the next two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Number of unmanned level crossings existing in the country, State-wise, as on 01.04.2016 and manning of unmanned level crossings done, State-wise, during last two years (2014-16) is as below:

State	Number of unmanned level crossings in the country (as on 01.04.2016)	Number of unmanned level crossings manned during last two years (2014-16)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	361	65
Assam	225	48
Bihar	898	56
Chhattisgarh	61	11
Delhi	1	0

1	2	3
Gujarat	1985	20
Haryana	159	23
Himachal Pradesh	6	0
Jammu and Kashmir	1	0
Jharkhand	172	29
Karnataka	300	49
Kerala	7	0
Madhya Pradesh	452	33
Maharashtra	335	67
Odisha	370	96
Puducherry	3	0
Punjab	395	57
Rajasthan	940	30
Tamil Nadu	611	68
Telangana	72	14
Tripura	0	3
Uttar Pradesh	1357	124
Uttarakhand	47	1
West Bengal	582	96
TOTAL	9340	890

(c) Number of unmanned level crossings to be converted into manned level crossings in next two years (2017-19) will depend upon the availability of funds. So far, 91 unmanned level crossings have been manned in 2016-17 (upto June, 2016).

Wi-Fi facility in Rajdhani trains

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

(a) how many Rajdhani Express trains have been provided with Wi-Fi facilities by Railways so far, the State-wise and zone-wise details thereof;

(b) whether Government has any plan to extend this facility to rest of the Express trains like Shatabdi, Duronto etc.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) 12301/12302 Howrah – New Delhi – Howrah Rajdhani Express is provided with Wi-Fi facility. This train travels over Eastern, East Central, North Central and Northern Railway covering the States of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

(b) and (c) Satellite Communication Technology used in 12301/12302 Howrah–New Delhi–Howrah Rajdhani Express is capital intensive with annual recurring costs in the form of bandwidth charges.

A pilot project to provide Wi-Fi facility in 6 rakes of Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains has been undertaken to explore cost effective solution. All Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto category trains will be provided with Wi-Fi facility after identifying suitable cost effective technology.

Freight dues to be paid to Railways

658. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the dues for freight transport to be paid to Railways during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for huge sums to be collected according to CAG reports;

(c) whether there is a laxity in collecting such dues and whether there is a mechanism to ensure its collection, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Railways have freight dues every year; and

(e) what was the annual average amount due in recent years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The dues for freight transport to be paid to Railways during the last three years are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Dues (₹ in crore)
1.	2013-14	1848.40
2.	2014-15	2209.43
3.	2015-16	1666.89

(b) Issues highlighted by CAG in their report are summarized below:

(i) Reconciliation of the differences in the figures of traffic suspense has not been done in the zones.

- (ii) Year-wise break-up of the outstanding amount lying under suspense heads are not being prepared in each zone.
- (iii) Old outstanding are not cleared in a target time frame
- (iv) Outstanding are allowed to accrue for long time and a suitable action plan to clear the old outstanding amount has not been prepared by all the zones/units.

(c) No, Sir. There is no laxity. Steps taken by Railways to liquidate the outstandings are:

- (i) Special drive for clearance of station outstanding dues by forming teams of accounts and commercial officials are launched from time to time.
 - (ii) Extension of facility of electronic payment gateway to all major customers introduced including SEBs to realize the freight at source.
 - (iii) Power houses are being encouraged to follow the scheme for prepayment of freight for carriage of coal.
 - (iv) Close monitoring of recovery of outstanding dues from SEBs by holding meetings wherever necessary.
 - (v) The realization of traffic suspense is monitored by operating a dedicated suspense head set up especially for the purpose of traffic dues realization.
- (d) Yes, Sir.
- (e) On the basis of last three years, average amount in respect of dues is ₹ 1908 crore.

Commercial utilization of railway station premises

659. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that premises/buildings of railway stations are proposed to be utilized commercially, if so, the details and status thereof; and

(b) whether it would be covered under existing Rail Development Authority regulations or it would have to be amended for that purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Indian Railway has advertised its plan to redevelop 'A-1' and 'A' category stations (about 400 in number) on 'as is where is' basis, by inviting proposals from developers with their designs and business ideas. The entire cost of station redevelopment is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the stations.

In addition to above, redevelopment of eight stations viz., Anand Vihar, Bijwasan, Chandigarh, Gandhinagar, Habibganj (Bhopal), Shivaji Nagar (Pune), SAS Nagar (Mohali) and Surat has been entrusted to Indian Railway Station Development Corporation Ltd., which is subsidiary of Rail Land Development Authority and IRCON. Letter of Acceptance has been issued for Habibganj station and Request for Qualification (RFQ) for Anand Vihar has been finalized. RFQ for Bijwasan station has been opened.

This is already covered under RLDA regulations.

Elevated corridors to overcome congestion and land acquisition process

660. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways propose to construct elevated corridors to overcome rail traffic congestion and get rid of the protracted land acquisition processes, if so, the details and status thereof; and

(b) where and by when the pilot project is likely to start for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Construction of elevated corridor is planned on case to case basis depending upon availability of land, encroachment along the alignment, density of built up area etc. so as to keep land acquisition to minimum.

Possibility of elevated alignment for high speed rail between Mumbai-Ahmedabad is being explored on safety consideration and to reduce land acquisition requirement.

Further to minimize the requirement of land acquisition and construction of approach road underneath the elevated corridor, Railways has planned to construct 3.31 km. of elevated corridor at Agartala, as part of Agartala-Akhaura cross border rail link project.

Development of railway stations

†661. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is working on a plan to develop railway stations situated in various regions and making them Wi-Fi enabled;

(b) if so, the names of the railway stations to be developed, State-wise/division-wise; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the funding source available with Government for this action plan and steps being taken to make this programme successful by making commercial use of railway properties and private sector participation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Indian Railway has advertised its plan to redevelop 'A-1' and 'A' category stations on 'as is where is' basis, by inviting proposals from developers with their designs and business ideas. The entire cost of station redevelopment is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the stations. The State-wise list of 'A-1' and 'A' category stations is given in the Statement (*See below*).

Indian Railway has framed a separate policy for provision of Wi-Fi facility at all 'A-1', 'A' and 'B' category stations. So far, this facility has already been commissioned at more than 30 stations.

Statement

State-wise list of 'A-1' and 'A' category stations

Sl.No.	Name of Station	Sl.No.	Name of Station
Andhra Pradesh		16.	Eluru
1.	Visakhapatnam	17.	Gudur Jn.
2.	Secunderabad Jn.	18.	Guntakal Jn.
3.	Vijayawada	19.	Guntur Jn.
4.	Hyderabad	20.	Kakinada Town
5.	Tirupati	21.	Kazipet Jn.
6.	Kacheguda	22.	Khammam
7.	SSP Nilayam	23.	Kurnool Town
8.	Palasa	24.	Manchiryal
9.	Srikakulam Road	25.	Nellore
10.	Vizianagaram	26.	Nizamabad
11.	Anantpur	27.	Ongole
12.	Anakapalle	28.	Rajahmundry
13.	Bhimavaram Town	29.	Renigunta
14.	Chirala	30.	Samalkot Jn.
15.	Cuddapah	31.	Tadepalligudem

Sl.No.	Name of Station	Sl.No.	Name of Station
32.	Tenali Jn.	60.	Jamui
33.	Tuni	61.	Jayanagar
34.	Warangal	62.	Khagaria Jn.
Assam		63.	Kiul Jn.
35.	Guwahati	64.	Madhubani
36.	Barpeta Road	65.	Mokama
37.	Bongaigaon	66.	Bapudham
38.	Dibrugarh Town	67.	Motihari
39.	Jorhat Town	68.	Narkatiaganj Jn.
40.	Kamakya	69.	Patna Sahib Jn.
41.	Lumding	70.	Rajendra Nagar (T)
42.	Rangiya Jn.	71.	Raxaul Jn.
43.	Tinsukia	72.	Sagauli Jn.
44.	Silchar	73.	Saharsa Jn.
Bihar		74.	Samastipur Jn.
45.	Darbhanga Jn.	75.	Sasaram Jn.
46.	Gaya Jn.	76.	Sivan Jn.
47.	Muzaffarpur Jn.	77.	Jogbani
48.	Patna Jn.	78.	Katihar Jn.
49.	Chhapra Jn.	79.	Kishanganj
50.	Bhagalpur	80.	Purnea Jn.
51.	Anugraha Narayan Road	81.	Raiganj
52.	Ara Jn.	82.	Jamalpur
53.	Bhaktiarpur Jn.	Chhattisgarh	
54.	Barauni Jn.	83.	Raipur
55.	Betiah	84.	Bilaspur Jn.
56.	Buxar	85.	Bhilai Power House
57.	Danapur	86.	Champa Jn.
58.	Dehri-on-Sone	87.	Durg
59.	Hajipur Jn.	88.	Raigarh

Sl.No.	Name of Station	Sl.No.	Name of Station
89.	Rajnandgaon	116.	Valsad
Delhi		117.	Vapi
90.	Delhi Jn.	118.	Veraval
91.	New Delhi	119.	Viramgam
92.	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Haryana	
93.	Anand Vihar Terminal	120.	Ambala Cantt.
94.	Adarshnagar Delhi	121.	Ballabgarh
95.	Delhi Cantt.	122.	Faridabad
96.	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	123.	Gurgaon
97.	Delhi Shahdara	124.	Jagadhri
Goa		125.	Kalka
98.	Vasco-Da-Gama	126.	Karnal
Gujarat		127.	Panipat
99.	Ahmedabad	128.	Rohtak
100.	Vododara	129.	Sonipat
101.	Rajkot	130.	Bhiwani
102.	Surat	131.	Hisar
103.	Anand	132.	Rewari
104.	Ankleshwar	Jammu and Kashmir	
105.	Bharuch	133.	Jammu Tawi
106.	Bhavnagar Terminus	134.	Udhampur
107.	Gandhidham	Jharkhand	
108.	Jamnagar	135.	Dhanbad Jn.
109.	Mehsana	136.	Tatanagar
110.	Nadiad	137.	Daltonganj
111.	Navsari	138.	Gomoh Jn.
112.	New Bhuj	139.	Koderma
113.	Palanpur	140.	Parasnath
114.	Surendranagar	141.	Jasidih
115.	Udhana	142.	Madhupur

Sl.No.	Name of Station	Sl.No.	Name of Station
143.	Bokaro Steel City	171.	Aluva
144.	Hatia	172.	Chengannur
145.	Ranchi	173.	Ernakulam Town
Karnataka		174.	Kanhangad
146.	Bangalore City	175.	Kannur
147.	Yashwantpur	176.	Kasargod
148.	Gulbarga	177.	Kayankulam Jn.
149.	Mangalore Central	178.	Kollam Jn.
150.	Mangalore Jn.	179.	Kottayam
151.	Bangalore Cantt.	180.	Palakkad Jn.
152.	Bangarpet	181.	Payyannur
153.	Belgaum	182.	Shoranur Jn.
154.	Bellary	183.	Thalassery
155.	Bijapur	184.	Tirur
156.	Davangere	185.	Tiruvalla
157.	Dharwad	186.	Vadakara
158.	Hospet	Madhya Pradesh	
159.	Hubli	187.	Bhopal
160.	Kengri	188.	Jabalpur
161.	Krishnarajapuram	189.	Singrauli
162.	Mysore	190.	Morena
163.	Shimoga Town	191.	Gwalior
164.	Raichur	192.	Indore
165.	Yadgir	193.	Nagda
Kerala		194.	Ratlam
166.	Trivandrum Central	195.	Ujjain
167.	Ernakulam Jn.	196.	Burhanpur
168.	Thrisur	197.	Khandwa
169.	Kozhikkode	198.	Betul
170.	Alappuzha	199.	Bina

Sl.No.	Name of Station	Sl.No.	Name of Station
200.	Damoh	229.	Manmad
201.	Habibganj	230.	Miraj
202.	Hoshangabad	231.	Nasik Road
203.	Itarsi	232.	Panvel
204.	Katni	233.	Sai Nagar Shirdi
205.	Maihar	234.	Shegaon
206.	Pipariya	235.	Ahmednagar
207.	Rewa	236.	Daund
208.	Satna	237.	Kolhapur
209.	Saugor	238.	Kopergaon
210.	Vidhisha	239.	Lonavla
Maharashtra		240.	Ballarshah
211.	CST Mumbai	241.	Chandrapur
212.	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	242.	Wardha
213.	Pune	243.	Nanded
214.	Nagpur	244.	Aurangabad
215.	Kalyan	245.	Jalna
216.	Dadar	246.	Nagarsol
217.	Thane	247.	Parbani Jn.
218.	Solapur	248.	Gondia
219.	Mumbai Central	Nagaland	
220.	Bandra Terminus	249.	Dimapur
221.	Akola	Odisha	
222.	Amravati	250.	Bhubaneswar
223.	Badnera	251.	Puri
224.	Bhusawal	252.	Bhadrak
225.	Chalisgaon	253.	Brahampur
226.	Jalgaon	254.	Cuttack
227.	Kurduwadi	255.	Jajpur-Keonjhar Road
228.	Latur	256.	Khurda Road

Sl.No.	Name of Station	Sl.No.	Name of Station
257.	Rayagada	285.	Bikaner
258.	Sambalpur	286.	Falna
259.	Balasore	287.	Gandhinagar (Jaipur)
260.	Jharsuguda	288.	Hanumangarh Jn.
261.	Rourkela	289.	Lalgarh
Punjab		290.	Marwar Jn.
262.	Amritsar	291.	Nagaur
263.	Beas	292.	Pali Marwar
264.	Chakki Bank	293.	Phulera
265.	Firozpur Cantt.	294.	Rani
266.	Jalandhar Cantt.	295.	Sri Ganganagar
267.	Jalandhar City	296.	Suratgarh
268.	Pathankot	297.	Udaipur City
269.	Patiala	298.	Jaisalmer
270.	Phagwara	299.	Bharatpur
271.	Rajpur Jn.	300.	Chittorgarh Jn.
272.	Sirhind	Tamil Nadu	
273.	Ludhiana	301.	Chennai Central
274.	Bhathinda Jn.	302.	Chennai Egmore
Rajasthan		303.	Coimbatore Jn.
275.	Jaipur	304.	Madurai Jn.
276.	Jodhpur	305.	Arakkonam Jn.
277.	Ajmer	306.	Chengalpattu Jn.
278.	Kota	307.	Dindigul Jn.
279.	Sawai Madhopur	308.	Erode Jn.
280.	Abu Road	309.	Jolarpettai Jn.
281.	Alwar	310.	Kanyakumari
282.	Bandikui	311.	Karur Jn.
283.	Barmer	312.	Katpadi
284.	Bhilwara	313.	Kovilpatti

Sl.No.	Name of Station	Sl.No.	Name of Station
314.	Kumbakonam	343.	Etawah
315.	Mayiladuthurai	344.	Fatehpur
316.	Mettupalaiyam	345.	Lalitpur
317.	Nagercoil Jn.	346.	Mahoba
318.	Rameshwaram	347.	Orai
319.	Salem Jn.	348.	Phaphund
320.	Tambaram	349.	Raja Ki Mandi
321.	Thanjavur Jn.	350.	Tundla
322.	Trichy Jn.	351.	Mirzapur
323.	Tirunelveli	352.	Azamgarh
324.	Tiruppur	353.	Ballia
325.	Tuticorin	354.	Basti
326.	Villupuram	355.	Belthara Rd.
327.	Virudhunagar	356.	Deoria Sadar
Uttar Pradesh		357.	Gondia Jn.
328.	Mughalsarai	358.	Khalilabad
329.	Allahabad	359.	Mau Jn.
330.	Kanpur Central	360.	Akbarpur
331.	Jhansi	361.	Ayodhya
332.	Agra Cantt.	362.	Barabanki
333.	Mathura Jn.	363.	Bhadohi
334.	Gorakhpur Jn.	364.	Chandausi
335.	Lucknow Jn.	365.	Faizabad
336.	Lucknow	366.	Ghaziabad
337.	Varanasi	367.	Hapur
338.	Bareilly	368.	Hardoi
339.	Agra Fort	369.	Janghai
340.	Aligarh	370.	Jaunpur
341.	Banda	371.	Meerut Cantt.
342.	Chitrakut Dham Karvi	372.	Meerut City
		373.	Moradabad

Sl.No.	Name of Station	Sl.No.	Name of Station
374.	Muzaffarnagar	391.	Kharagpur
375.	Pratapgarh	392.	Asansol
376.	Rae Bareli Jn.	393.	Bandel
377.	Rampur	394.	Barddhaman
378.	Saharanpur Jn.	395.	Howrah
379.	Sahganj	396.	Durgapur
380.	Shahjahanpur	397.	Kolkata Terminal
381.	Sultanpur	398.	Malda Town
382.	Unnao	399.	Naihati Jn.
Uttarakhand		400.	New Farakka
383.	Haridwar	401.	Rampurhat
384.	Kathgodam	402.	Alipurduar Jn.
385.	Rudrapur City	403.	Coochbehar
386.	Dehradun	404.	New Alipurduar
387.	Kathgodham	405.	New Coochbehar
388.	Rudrapur City	406.	Siliguri Jn.
389.	Roorkee	407.	Digha
West Bengal		408.	Shalimar
390.	New Jalpaiguri		

Electrification of railway lines in Uttarakhand

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

(a) whether there is any proposal for electrification of Moradabad-Ramnagar and Rampur-Kathgodam railway lines located in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, since when this proposal is pending and at what level; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Railways does not consider this railway line as profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. At present, there is no proposal for electrification of

Moradabad-Ramnagar and Ramnagar-Kathgodam railway lines. However, electrification of railway lines is decided on the basis of financial viability, traffic volumes and operational feasibility.

Collaboration with France for makeover of New Delhi Railway Station

663. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether New Delhi Railway Station (NDRS) is likely to get French makeover to decongest and manage the high daily footfall and operation of about 350 trains;

(b) whether a delegation of French Government and railway officials had visited Delhi Division of Northern Railways and surveyed the NDRS with the intent to collaborate with Indian Railways to redevelop the station on the lines of airports, if so, a detailed report on outcome of the visit; and

(c) whether Government intends to redevelop main stations in each of the metropolitan cities, including Mumbai, on the same pattern, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Indian Railway has advertised its plan to redevelop 'A-1' and 'A' category stations which are generally located in metros, major cities, pilgrimage centres and important tourist destinations on 'as is where is' basis, by inviting proposals from interested parties with their designs and business ideas. The entire cost of station redevelopment is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the stations.

Derailment of coaches on Guwahati-Silchar railway route

664. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has received several complaints of derailment of coaches on the Guwahati-Silchar broad-gauge line;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received since the inauguration of railway services thereon;

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government has any study report on the technical deficiency of the said railway line; and

(e) if so, the safety report details and the planning for smooth run of Silchar-Lumding train services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, there have been two cases of derailment since opening of Lumding-Badarpur-Silchar Section. The details of two derailments are given below:

1. On 23.04.2015 at 21.30 hrs. front trolley two wheels of Train Engine of 15601 Poorvottar Sampark Kranti Express derailed between Ditokcherra-Bandarkhal at KM-129/3. No injury to Passengers and Crew took place.
2. On 26.04.2016 at 01.50 hrs. two wheels of Front SLR of 15602 Poorvottar Sampark Kranti Express derailed at KM-83/3-1 at Phiding Station. No injury to Passengers and Crew took place. These accidents took place subsequent to boulder falling and distortion of track parameters due to heavy rain fall.

(c) Subsequent to submission of reports by enquiry Committees following action have been taken:

1. Improved monitoring of railway track particularly at critical locations and
2. Improved drainage system at critical locations.

(d) The Lumding-Silchar section passes through series of hills with a fragile geology and has got large areas of shales which are unstable on contact with water. Problems of track maintenance are, therefore, magnified during the rainy season. It was anticipated that there would be problems during the monsoon even when the line was envisaged and appropriate actions have been taken wherever considered necessary. However, this line has been commissioned only in March, 2015 and weak locations identified and strengthened. The line has been examined by large number of experts both from the reputed institutes such as IITs/NITs/IISc(Bangaluru)/RDSO etc. and by private consultants. Various remedial measures suggested by them have been incorporated as far as considered feasible. In addition instrumentation of the critical locations has been taken up so that advance corrective action may be planned and executed. Even during the meter gauge period these features were present and were affecting train operations from time to time.

(e) Action as appropriate and feasible is taken from time to time depending upon need by the concerned departments. Further, precautions have been taken in terms of posting of stationary watchman round the clock at identified vulnerable landslip locations, issue of detailed working guidelines to the concerned staff including action to be taken during emergency etc.

PPP mode in dedicated rail freight corridor project

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

(a) whether the Ministry is going to adopt PPP mode in Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor Project, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether fixation of responsibility would be ensured for unnecessary delay in the project, resulting in time and cost overrun?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Sonnagar-Dankuni Section (538 Km.) of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) is identified for implementation through Public Private Partnership (PPP) route in two phases - Dankuni-Gomoh and Gomoh-Sonnagar.

(b) In the PPP framework, there is clear allocation of responsibility between Government and the concessionaire to prevent delay and fix responsibility.

Deaths due to train accidents

666. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deaths caused due to train accidents, the State-wise, cause-wise, year-wise details for the last five years;

(b) the major causes of deaths due to train accidents;

(c) the number of deaths caused due to accidents on the Mumbai local trains, station-wise, year-wise details of the last five years; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to curb such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) State-wise data of consequential train accidents are not maintained. Zone-wise, year-wise, and cause-wise details of consequential train accidents (excluding incidents at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users) and loss of lives involved therein during the last five years and the current year (upto 30th June, 2016), are given below:

Railways	2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
	Accident	Death	Accident	Death	Accident	Death	Accident	Death	Accident	Death	Accident	Death
Central	5	0	7	1	7	4	10	26	7	2	1	0
Eastern	6	6	4	0	5	1	4	0	4	1	4	1
East Central	7	11	7	1	7	0	14	38	12	15	4	0
East Coast	8	10	8	0	4	0	6	1	2	0	2	0
Northern	9	1	7	9	10	2	11	44	11	7	2	0
North Central	9	71	6	1	2	1	6	0	3	3	0	0
North Eastern	2	1	2	10	1	0	8	42	4	1	0	0
Northeast Frontier	7	0	3	0	3	0	4	0	2	0	2	0
North Western	4	0	1	0	4	3	3	0	4	0	0	0
Southern	3	11	1	0	3	1	0	0	6	0	3	0
South Central	5	0	4	30	4	2	2	2	2	0	0	0
South Eastern	1	0	2	1	6	2	4	0	2	1	0	0
South East Central	1	0	3	2	6	1	0	0	3	0	1	0
South Western	2	0	6	26	3	28	6	9	7	5	0	0
West Central	7	4	3	0	1	0	2	0	2	29	0	0
Western	1	0	4	0	4	9	1	0	6	0	1	0
Konkan	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	0
Kolkata Metro	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	77	115	69	81	71	54	85	162	78	64	20	1

Major causes of the consequential train accidents (excluding incidents at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users) which took place during the last five years and the current year (upto 30th June, 2016), are given below:

Cause	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (Up to June, 2016)
Failure of Railway Staff	52	46	51	60	54	11
Failure of other than Railway staff	9	6	10	8	9	2
Failure of equipment	5	6	3	4	2	0
Sabotage	6	3	3	3	1	0
Combination of factors	1	0	0	0	1	2
Incidental	3	7	4	8	9	5
Could not be established/non-held	1	1	0	2	1	0
Under Investigation	0	0	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	77	69	71	85	78	20

(c) Details of consequential train accidents (excluding incidents at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users) and loss of lives involved therein on the Mumbai local trains during the last five years and the current year (upto 30th June, 2016), are given below:

Year	Central Railway		Western Railway	
	Accidents	Deaths	Accidents	Deaths
2011-12	1	0	0	0
2012-13	4	1*	1	0
2013-14	2	1**	0	0
2014-15	5	0	0	0
2015-16	2	0	2	0
2016-17 Upto 30th June, 2016	0	0	0	0

*between Kasara and Ambarnath stations of Mumbai Division.

**between Titwala and Ambivali stations of Mumbai Division.

(d) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being used to prevent accidents include complete track circuiting, provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Colour Light LED Signals, Vigilance Control Device (VCD), usage of 60 kg. 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.

Meeting of Joint Committee on high speed rail project

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a Joint Committee held talks with Japanese authorities very recently regarding country's ambitious high speed rail project, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has requested for drawing up of a schedule of project implementation and appointment of a General Consultant before finalization of the loan agreement for the said project; and

(c) if so, the response received from the Japanese authorities in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Joint Committee held meeting with Japanese authorities on 16th May, 2016 at Tokyo. It was agreed that the General Consultant for the project shall be appointed by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to fast-track work relating to design, preparation of bid documents and assistance in tender process.

Changes in Tatkal booking system and waitlist system

668. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have made changes in Tatkal booking tickets and waitlist system in railway reservations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Following changes have been made in recent past, in Tatkal Scheme and waiting list system in general reservation:

- (i) With effect from 15.06.2015, timings of booking of Tatkal accommodation in Air-conditioned and non-Air-conditioned classes were staggered to 1000 hours and 1100 hours respectively on the previous day of journey from train originating station.
- (ii) With effect from 25.12.2015, minimum and maximum Tatkal charges were revised.
- (iii) Instructions have been issued to Zonal Railways to fix Tatkal quota upto a maximum of 30% of capacity of coach depending on the utilization of this quota during the last six month period. Instructions have also been issued to review this quota preferably twice a year.
- (iv) With effect from 07.10.2015, the ratio of updation of Tatkal waiting list against cancellation of confirmed general accommodation, which was earlier 1:1, has been revised to 1 (General): 2 (Tatkal).
- (v) For waiting list limit in general reservation, although no change has been made in current waiting list limit, instructions have been issued to zonal Railways to define adequate waiting list limit so that no inconvenience is caused to the passengers in obtaining waiting list tickets against Pooled quota and remote quota.

Bullet trains

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is committed to strengthen Railways;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that a plan for operating Bullet trains has been formulated in the country;
- (c) the time by when the Bullet train is likely to be operated in the country and the number of trains that have been decided to be operated in the first phase; and
- (d) whether a Bullet train passing through Patna, Bihar has been provisioned, if so, the details thereof and the time-frame for its operation?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a): Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to implement Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project with financial and technical assistance from Government of Japan.

(c) As per Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) report, high speed services are scheduled to commence in 2023-24 with 35 trains per day each way in the first phase.

(d) As of now, except for Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed project, no other high speed project has been sanctioned for implementation.

Pathankot-Jogindernagar railway line

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

(a) whether Government proposes to convert Pathankot-Jogindernagar railway line into broad gauge railway line;

(b) if so, by when the said work is likely to be started;

(c) whether Government proposes to lay a new railway track from Pathankot to Jogindernagar; and

(d) if so, the budget allocated for the purpose and by when the work for laying this new railway track is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The survey for gauge conversion of Pathankot-Jogindernagar Section was completed in 2010-11. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of this 181 km. long project was assessed as ₹ 3280 crore (with electric traction)/ ₹ 2888 crore (with diesel traction) (2011 price level) with negative rate of return of 7.35% (with electric traction) and 6.09% (with diesel traction). The project could not be taken forward due to its unremunerative nature, large throwforward of ongoing projects and limited resources of Railways.

However, to re-assess its viability, a Preliminary Engineering and Traffic Survey for gauge conversion of Pathankot-Jogindernagar Section (181 km.) has been sanctioned at a cost of ₹ 70.59 Lakhs in the Railway Budget 2016-17.

(d) Since the project is not sanctioned, the question of laying track and allocation of budget does not arise.

Railway projects in Himachal Pradesh

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

(a) the details of railway projects undergoing/proposed to be started soon in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether some of these projects have been delayed and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the length of new railway lines announced in the last two Railway Budgets for Himachal Pradesh;

(d) the details of projects on which work has been started and the quantum of work that has been completed; and

(e) the steps being taken to expedite the work on new railway line projects undergoing/proposed to be started in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Railways have a large shelf of ongoing new line projects and limited overall availability of funds for their completion. Therefore, it is not possible to provide adequate funds for all the projects and funds are allotted depending on availability of land and progress of work. Despite this, the outlay for ongoing projects in Himachal Pradesh has been substantially enhanced in 2016-17. The details of ongoing major projects falling fully/partly in Himachal Pradesh are as under:

(₹ in crores)

Sl. No.	Project Name	Latest Cost	Expenditure as on 31.03.2016	Outlay 2016-17
1.	Nangal Dam-Talwara (83.74 km) new Broad Gauge line and taking over siding of Mukerian-Talwara (29.16 km)	2100	484	100
2.	Chandigarh-Baddi (33 km) new line	1672	160	80
3.	Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri (63 km) new line	5000	58*	120
TOTAL		8772	702	300

*Expenditure upto March, 2015.

(e) Completion of the ongoing projects depends on several factors like fund allotment, land acquisition, forestry clearances, shifting of utilities, etc. and many of these are beyond the control of Railways. However, for expeditious completion of the projects, sufficient funds have been provided in the current year.

Railway crossings on National Highways in Himachal Pradesh

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

(a) the number of railway crossings on the National Highways (NHs) in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Railways propose to construct Rail over/under bridges at these crossings;

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

(d) the status of the under-construction and proposed to be constructed bridges in Himachal Pradesh; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to complete under-construction bridges and construct new bridges at the crossings which are being manually operated in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) There are 07 level crossings on National Highways in Himachal Pradesh. As per Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) on 10.11.2014, MORTH/National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) will replace all level crossings on National Highway (NH) Corridors by Road Over Bridges (ROBs)/Road Under Bridges (RUBs) at their cost in next five years subject to availability of funds.

(d) No ROB/RUB, in lieu of level crossing, is under construction or proposed for construction on cost sharing basis in Himachal Pradesh, at present.

(e) There are 49 manned level crossings in Himachal Pradesh. Out of 49 manned level crossings, 7 manned level crossings are on National Highways. None of the balance 42 manned level crossings qualifies for its replacement with ROB/RUB on cost sharing basis as traffic density at all these level crossings is less than 1 lakh TVU (Train Vehicle Unit) per day.

Alternate sources of energy generation

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to generate 500 MW of solar energy through rooftop solar panels and 500 MW through land mounted solar panels;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are aiming to generate 312 MW of energy through windmill plants with the help of Railway Energy Management Corporation Limited; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways are considering to meet 10 per cent of their energy requirement *via* renewable energy by 2020, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways proposes to harness 1000 Mega Watt (MW) solar power by 2020. As part of this, about 500 MW solar plants are planned on rooftop and about 500 MW through land mounted panels.

(b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways proposes to harness about 150 MW wind energy, by itself or through Railway Energy Management Company Limited (REMCL).

(c) Yes, Sir. Vision 2020 Document provides for Indian Railways sourcing of at least 10% of electricity used from renewable energy sources. A total of about 50 MW renewable energy capacity has been installed till date, including approximately 13 MW solar and 37 MW wind plants.

Market share of railways in passenger traffic

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

(a) whether the move to cap air fares to tier II and tier III cities at ₹ 2,500 is likely to further erode market share of Railways in passenger traffic;

(b) whether Railways have witnessed a decline in passenger bookings from ₹ 839 crore in financial year 2014 to ₹ 818 crore in financial year 2016;

(c) whether the number of passengers travelling in higher classes have fallen considerably;

(d) whether reduction in travel time and better facility can only restrict eroding trend of rail passengers; and

(e) if so, steps proposed to be taken up by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Railways and Airlines are not strictly comparable as they serve largely different passenger market segments. Indian Railways are lifeline of the nation, carrying 22.53 million passenger per day including 12.34 million suburban passengers during 2014-15. Every day, Railways run around 13098 trains, including 9711 suburban/passenger trains. Railways are more energy efficient and environment-friendly. There is a long waiting list of passengers in most of the trains. Hence, capping of air

fare for tier II and tier III cities at ₹ 2,500 is not likely to impact railway share in passenger traffic.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The details of Passenger Earnings and Number of Passengers Booked during the financial year 2015-16 *vis-à-vis* 2014-15 is as under:

	2015-16	2014-15
Passenger Earnings (₹ in crore)	45374.48	42862.68
Number of Passenger (in millions)	8151.90	8229.67
Number of Passenger in Higher classes (1st AC, AC 2-Tier and AC 3-Tier) (in millions)	113.85	106.25

(d) Passenger traffic is subject to a number of factors. Travel time and better facilities are some of the factors.

(e) Indian Railways continuously strive to attract Passenger Traffic through following measures:

- (i) Augmentation of on-board capacity by attachment of additional coaches, running of special trains during festivals and holidays, running of Suvidha trains etc.
- (ii) Organising intensive ticket checking drives including fortress checks etc. to discourage ticketless travel.
- (iii) Augmentation of ticket selling capacity through operation of Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM), Mobile Ticketing, Utilising the services of ticketing agents like Jan Sadharan Ticket Booking Sewaks (JTBS), Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBA), Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendra (YTSK) etc.
- (iv) Providing alternative train accommodation to waitlisted passengers through innovative Schemes like the “Vikalp Scheme” introduced on 2 sectors with effect from 1st November, 2015 and further extended to 5 more sections in May, 2016.
- (v) To cater to different sectors of passengers special train such as Suvidha and Gatiman are being run.

Free Wi-Fi facility at railway stations

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

- (a) the number of railway stations having free Wi-Fi facility, State-wise;

(b) the number of railway stations proposed to be provided with Free Wi-Fi connectivity in next two years; and

(c) whether any MoU has been signed with Department of IT in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) At present Wi-Fi facility is available at 32 stations—*viz.* Bengaluru (Karnataka), New Delhi (NCT), Chennai Central (Tamil Nadu), CST Mumbai (Maharashtra), Mumbai Central (Maharashtra), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Agra Cantt. (Uttar Pradesh), Secunderabad (Telangana), Varanasi (U.P.), Howrah (West Bengal), Madgaon (Goa), Ghazipur (U.P.), Kacheguda (Telangana), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Patna (Bihar) Pune (Maharashtra), Ernakulam (Kerala), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh), Guwahati (Assam), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Allahabad (U.P.), Lucknow (U.P.), Lucknow Jn. (U.P.), Gorakhpur (U.P.), Sealdah (West Bengal), Puri (Odisha) and Kalyan (Maharashtra).

(b) Year-wise plan for provision of Wi-Fi in next two year is –

2016-17 = 100 stations

2017-18 = 200 stations

(c) No, Sir.

Railway projects in Tamil Nadu

676. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects, *viz.*, gauge conversion, doubling, electrification, signalling, laying of new routes currently being undertaken in the State of Tamil Nadu, project-wise;

(b) the details of tentative date of their completion, project-wise; and

(c) the details of the project costs, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Details of New Line, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Electrification and Signaling Projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are as under:

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Ongoing Project	Cost	Expenditure incurred upto March, 2016	Outlay 2016-17	Target date for completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
New Line					
1.	Tindivanam-Gingee-Tiruvannamalai (70 Km)	490	67.61	10	No target date for completion is fixed.
2.	Tindivanam-Nagari (179.2 Km)	1080	195.75	10	No target date for completion is fixed.
3.	Attipattu-Puttur (88.30 Km)	528	3.07	0.10	No target date for completion is fixed.
4.	Erode-Palani (91.05 Km)	603	1.74	0.01	No target date for completion is fixed.
5.	Madurai-Tuticorin (143.5 Km)	800	4.06	20	No target date for completion is fixed.
6.	Chennai-Cuddalore via Mahabalipuram (179.28 Km)	1200	4.67	5	No target date for completion is fixed.
7.	Bangalore-Satyamangalam (260 Km)	1524	5.79	20	No target date for completion is fixed.
8.	Sriperumbudur-Guduvanchery with Spur to Irungattukottai-Avadi-(60 Km) Sriperumbudur	1500	0.74	0.25	No target date for completion is fixed.
9.	Morappur-Dharmapuri (36 Km)	134	-	0.01	No target date for completion is fixed.
Gauge Conversion					
1.	Madurai-Bodinayakkanur (90.41 Km)	450	20.82	25	No target date for completion is fixed.
2.	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudhunagar (357 Km)	1122	921.22	101	308 Km falling in Tamil Nadu and Kerala area commissioned.

1	2	3	4	5	6
					Sengottai-Punalur (49 Km) falling in Kerala area are in advance stage.
3.	Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat and Podanur-Coimbatore (224.88 Km)	1215	919.31	80	181 Km. Section has already been commissioned. Track linking of balance portion completed.
4.	Mayiladuturai-Tiruvarur-Karaikudi and Tiruturaipundi-Agastiyampalli (224 Km) including restoration of Needamanagalam-Mannargudi and Mannargudi-Pattukottai	1384	470.93	85	Mayiladuturai-Tiruvarur gauge conversion and Needamangalam-Mannargudi new line commissioned. Balance gauge conversion taken up where work on Karaikudi-Pattukottai (73 Km) are in advance stage. No target date for completion of Mannargudi-Pattukottai and Thanjavur-Pattukottai new lines is fixed.
5.	Tiruchchirappalli-Nagore-Karaikal (200 Km) with extension of Nagapattinam-Velankanni-Tiruturaipundi <i>via</i> Tirukuvalai (43 km.)	980	600.15	40	Tiruchchirappalli-Nagore gauge conversion and Nagore-Karaikal and Nagapattinam-Velankanni new lines commissioned. No target date for

1	2	3	4	5	6
					completion of Nagapattinam-Tiruturaipundi new line is fixed.
6.	Cuddalore-Salem via Vriddhachalam (191 km) with Chinnasalem-Kallakurichi new line	377.71	268.64	5	Cuddalore-Salem gauge conversion commissioned. No target date for completion of Chinnasalem-Kallakurichi new line is fixed.
7.	Mysore-Chamarajanagar with extension to Mettupalayam (148 Km)	608	207.78	4.50	Gauge conversion of Mysore-Chamarajanagar falling in Karnataka area has been commissioned. Work on new line extension partly falling in Tamil Nadu area is held up for want of requisite clearances.
Doubling					
1.	Chennai Beach-Korukkupet 3rd line (4.1 Km)	140	7.83	60	Targeted for commissioning during 2016-17.
2.	Chennai Beach-Attipattu 4th line (22.1 Km)	120	57.18	55.10	Attipattu-Ennore (4.3 km) commissioned and Ennore- Korukkupet (12 km) targeted for commissioning during 2016-17.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Chengalpattu-Villupuram (103 Km) including Tambaram-Chengalpattu 3rd line by gauge conversion of existing MG line alongwith electrification (30 Km)	931.98	631.14	50	Chengalpattu-Villupuram (103 Km) commissioned. No target date for completion of Tambaram-Chengalpattu 3rd line is fixed.
4.	Thanjavur-Ponmalai (46.96 Km) with a bye-pass line before Ponnallai (1.13 Km)	490	11.92	158	Bye-pass line commissioned. No target date for completion of Thanjavur-Ponmalai doubling is fixed.
5.	Villupuram-Dindigul with electrification (273 Km)	1281	1236.75	480	Track linking of entire length completed out of which 160 Km commissioned.
6.	Omalur-Mettur Dam with electrification (29.03 Km)	234	12.66	90	No target date for completion is fixed.
7.	Chennai Central-Basin Bridge Junction – 5th and 6th line (2.2 Km)	25	0.1	8.41	No target date for completion is fixed.
8.	Madurai-Maniyachi-Tuticorin (159 Km)	800	..	100	Requisite clearances not received.
9.	Maniyachi-Nagercoil (104 Km)	1700	..	120	Requisite clearances not received.
10.	Trivandrum-Kanniyakumari (85 Km)	900	..	320	Requisite clearances not received.

Railway Electrification

1.	Erode-Karur-Tiruchchirappalli and	362.23	0.20	16.51	Work has been entrusted to Central
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1	2	3	4	5	6
	Salem-Karur-Dindigul (300 RKM)				Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE) for execution.
2.	Tiruchchirappalli- Nagapattinam-Karaikal Port (153 RKM)	224.11	0.20	20.01	Work has been entrusted to Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE) for execution.

Depending upon the overall availability of resources, the targets for commissioning of Railway Electrification projects are fixed on yearly basis.

Signalling Works Costing ₹ 10 crore and above

1.	Basin Bridge-Ambattur and Ambattur- Pattabiram-Audio frequency track circuits in lieu of conventional DC track circuits	21.21	19.67	0.5	Targeted for completion by July, 2016.
2.	Chennai Division- Replacement of electro mechanical signalling arrangements (1 station) (B-route) and (3 stations) (E-route)	14.14	1	2	Targeted for completion by August, 2017.
3.	Chennai Egmore- Tambaram-Replacement of Existing AFTC on A and B lines by MSDAC in Auto Section of Chennai Egmore (MS)- Tambaram (TBM) Section.	13.64	0	0.01	Targeted for completion by March, 2018.

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Doddampatti, Lokur and Tinnappatti-Replacement of panel interlocking arrangements with electronic interlocking (B-route)	12.88	0	0.25	Targeted for completion by March, 2018.
5.	Ennore-Gummidipundi- Replacement of conventional DC track circuit by audio frequency track circuit including replacement of signalling cables (32 km)	11.53	9.58	3	Targeted for completion by December, 2016.
6.	Jolarpettai-Replacement of route relay interlocking and A, B and C cabins	15.43	0	1	Targeted for completion by September, 2017.
7.	Mankara, Mannanur, Ottappalam, Parli and Lakkiti-Replacement of panel interlocking arrangement by route setting type panel interlocking (B-route)	16.37	8.05	4	Targeted for completion by December 2016.
8.	Salem Division- Replacement of signalling gears by route setting type panel interlocking (6 stations) (D-route)	16.09	9.24	4	Targeted for completion by December, 2016.
9.	Southern Railway- Integrated Power Supply (131 left over stations)	16.72	0.29	3	Targeted for completion by March, 2017.
10.	Vellianai, Palaiyam and Eriodu-Replacement of	12.63	0	0.25	Targeted for completion by

1	2	3	4	5	6
	panel interlocking with electronic interlocking (D-route)				March, 2018.
11.	Basin Bridge Jn-Arakkonam (Slow Line)-Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) on high density network route	30.81	17.94	5	Targeted for completion by December, 2016.
12.	Chennai Beach-Tambaram-Chengalpattu-Train protection and warning system (60 RKM)	63.39	0	1	Targeted for completion by December, 2018.
13.	Chennai Beach-Villupuram, Arakkonam-Jolarpettai and Chennai-Gudur-Backup Power Supply for Auto sections	18.99	0.01	2	Targeted for completion by March, 2017.

Railway stations under encroachment

†677. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the main railway stations of the capital of the country *viz.*, Delhi, Nizamuddin etc., are under encroachment;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to do away with this encroachment; and

(c) the number of such railway stations in the country which are under encroachment, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The encroachments are in the approaches of the Stations in big cities and Metro including Capital of the country and stations are generally not encroached. For these encroachments, Railways carry out regular surveys and take action for their removal. If the encroachments are of temporary nature (soft encroachment) in the shape of jhuggies, jhopries and squatters, the same is got removed in consultation and with the assistance of Railway Protection Force and Local Civil Authorities. For

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

old encroachments, where party is not amenable to persuasion, action is taken under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 (PPE Act, 1971), as amended from time to time. Actual eviction of unauthorized occupants is carried out with the assistance of State Government and Police. During the last three years, 89 hectares of encroached land has been retrieved.

In order to safeguard Railway land, regular inspections are carried out at various levels. In case, any trespass is noticed which may eventually lead to encroachment, it is removed there and then. The land records are regularly updated and got verified from revenue authorities. Besides these regular measures, keeping in view the seriousness of the issue, the digitized mapping of land records has been initiated and it has been decided to fix responsibility on officials for any encroachments. To protect Railway land, Railway also takes measures like provision of boundary wall, tree plantation at vulnerable locations, Grow More Food Scheme etc.

Covering railway stations under CCTV surveillance

678. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have plan to cover major railway stations of the country under the surveillance of CCTV cameras in order to ensure safety and security of passengers;

(b) if so, the details of the stations where CCTV camera installation has been completed by the end of May, 2016; and

(c) the allocation of funds towards CCTV projects during the financial year 2016-17?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Close Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV) have already been provided at 344 stations over Indian Railways. Railways have also planned to install Video Surveillance System (VSS) at 1000 stations under Nirbhaya Fund.

(c) Total estimated cost of VSS at 1000 stations chargeable to Nirbhaya Fund stands at ₹ 500 crore and outlay to the tune of ₹ 54.91 crore has been proposed for Integrated Security System (ISS), which includes CCTV works, for the year 2016-17.

Adarsh railway stations

†679. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the stations which are to be developed under Adarsh Station scheme in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the amount proposed by Government for Adarsh Station scheme;

(c) the State-wise and Railway Zone-wise details of the funds released under this scheme; and

(d) the details of works done on the stations identified under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Development/upgradation of Passenger Amenities at stations is a continuous process. Such upgradation of identified stations in various States is undertaken under various station upgradation schemes including 'Adarsh Station Scheme'. At present, 1252 Stations have been indentified for development under this scheme. State-wise number of Adarsh Stations identified is as under:-

State	No. of Stations identified	State	No. of Stations identified
Andhra Pradesh	44	Madhya Pradesh	44
Assam	28	Maharashtra	110
Bihar	59	Nagaland	01
Chhattisgarh	17	Odisha	47
Delhi	04	Puducherry	02
Goa	02	Punjab	32
Gujarat	32	Rajasthan	40
Haryana	16	Telangana	25
Himachal Pradesh	02	Tamil Nadu	48
Jammu and Kashmir	05	Tripura	01
Jharkhand	30	Uttar Pradesh	151
Karnataka	44	Uttarakhand	08
Kerala	77	West Bengal	383

(b) to (d) Out of 1252 Stations identified for development under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme, 988 Stations have been developed under this scheme.

The expenditure on development of stations under 'Adarsh Station Scheme' is generally funded under Plan Head-'Passenger Amenities'. ₹ 1838.28 crores have been allocated under this Plan Head during the current year.

The State-wise Budget allotment under Passenger Amenities is not maintained. However, the Railway-wise Budget Allotment under Passenger Amenities for the current *i.e.* 2016-17 is as under:-

(₹ in crore)

Zonal Railway	Budget Allotment
Central	61.55
Eastern	55.44
East Central	50.53
East Coast	40.60
Northern	1075.06
North Central	56.67
North Eastern	47.79
Northeast Frontier	51.35
North Western	43.48
Southern	63.36
South Central	65.58
South Eastern	49.81
South East Central	33.49
South Western	41.28
Western	53.29
West Central	42.07
Metro Rail	6.92
TOTAL	1838.28

Depending upon category of the station, various Passenger Amenities such as improvement to the facade, waiting room, signage, pay and use toilets, foot over bridge, water coolers, etc. are provided at stations under 'Adarsh Station Scheme'.

Tejas and Antyodaya trains

680. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have launched/propose to launch high speed trains-Tejas and Antyodaya, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any routes, in the State of Odisha, have been selected for running of the said high speed trains, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the highest and the average speed of these trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Introduction of Tejas and Antyodaya train services has been announced in Railway Budget 2016-17. Tejas trains will be train services operating at speed of 130 KMPH and above and offering onboard services such as entertainment, local cuisine, Wi-Fi, etc. through one service provider. Whereas Antyodaya trains will be fully unreserved long-distance train services to be operated on dense routes.

(b) At present, routes of Tejas and Antyodaya trains have not been finalized. Moreover, Indian Railways do not introduce new trains on State-wise basis as railway network and train operations cut across State boundaries.

(c) The highest and the average speed of these trains cannot be ascertained as of now since the trains have not been introduced.

Ready-to-eat food pouches by IRCTC

681. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IRCTC is now trying out ready-to-eat food, packed in sealed airtight pouches, originally developed by DRDO for high altitude defence posts and later commercially developed by private companies;

(b) whether IRCTC has plans to manufacture its own food packets based on DRDO technical know-how at half the market cost; and

(c) whether with its adequate infrastructure, manpower and cooking expertise, IRCTC will be given exclusive catering rights in Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is in the process of manufacturing the ready-to-eat food packets on trial basis in collaboration with Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL) at Mysore. For this purpose, IRCTC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DFRL for transfer of technology of Retort Pouch Processed Foods. Cost price of the package shall be substantially less than the market price, which will be determined after completion of trials.

(c) At present, no exclusive catering rights in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains have been given to IRCTC. However, as announced in Rail Budget 2016-17, it has been decided that IRCTC would begin to manage catering services in a phased manner through unbundling catering services by creating a distinction between food preparation and food distribution.

Lease of railway land at throw away prices

†682. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an information has come to light that Provident Investment Company Limited (PICL), responsible for maintenance of about 250 acres of railway land in Thane district of Maharashtra, has given railway land on lease at throw away prices;

(b) the details thereof and the amount received by Railways as a result of giving land on lease by PICL or whether this amount is with PICL itself; and

(c) the actual status thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) In Thane district of Maharashtra, no land has been given for any purpose to Provident Investment Company Limited (PICL).

Railway projects running behind schedule in Telangana

683. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects running behind schedule in Telangana under the South Central Railway (SCR);

(b) the details of each of the above projects such as cost, time-limit, etc;

(c) the progress of Peddapalli-Nizamabad railway line and by when it would be completed: and

(d) the amount allocated in the current year to this project, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Due to high throwforward, timeline for completion of projects are not decided at the time of sanction. Further, many items like land acquisition, forestry clearances, relocation of utilities, law and order etc. are beyond the control of Railways. Therefore based on availability of land and progress of work, fund allotments are done and targets for completion are fixed on yearly basis.

(c) and (d) The present status of Peddapalli-Nizamabad (177.5 Km), New Line Project is as under:-

Peddapalli-Morthad (131.5 Km) section is already commissioned. Work has been taken up on balance length of Morthad-Nizamabad (46 Km). For the financial year 2016-17, an allotment of ₹ 70 crore has been made for this project.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Curbing cheating in railway recruitment board examinations

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously contemplating to check cheating in examination of Railway Recruitment Board subsequent to certain cases of cheating having surfaced in the said examination;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) To curb the attempts of cheating and other malpractices, review of the system of Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) examinations is carried out at regular intervals. In last such review which was followed by a technical audit of the system of examinations by RRBs, necessary changes in the system of printing, transportation, storage and distribution of question papers for examinations were made to make the system foolproof. Recently, as a step towards enhancing the objectivity, transparency, security, integrity and credibility of RRB exams further, pilot project of Computer Based Test (CBT)/Online Examination have been initiated. Advertisements are also published in newspapers to warn people to beware of malpractices.

Stray cases of cheating, whenever reported, are referred to Investigation Agencies like Special Task Force (STF), Local Police etc. Necessary changes in the system of RRB examination and action against candidates indulging in cheating is taken on the basis of reports received from the investigation agency(ies).

Reduction in Tatkal Quota

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

(a) whether Government has any proposal to reduce the Tatkal booking quota to benefit the common man and increase the normal booking quota because there are many reported cases of its misuse; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this direction, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Although Zonal Railways can earmark a maximum of 30% of available accommodation as Tatkal, yet Tatkal Quota like all other reservation quotas

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

is reviewed on a periodical basis so as to earmark it based on realistic demand pattern, by reducing it if required. In 2015-16, approximately 18.20% of the total accommodation has been earmarked as Tatkal Quota (including Premium Tatkal). Moreover, adequate safeguards have been built in the scheme and various steps have been taken to avoid misuse of the Tatkal Scheme, some of which are as under:

- (i) No refund is granted on cancellation of confirmed Tatkal ticket.
- (ii) The facility of change of name is not permitted on the booking made under Tatkal Scheme.
- (iii) The timings of opening of booking under Tatkal Scheme on the opening day of reservation have been staggered to 1000 hours and 1100 hours on the previous day of journey from train originating station for AC and non-AC classes respectively.
- (iv) Authorised ticketing agents have been restricted from booking Tatkal Tickets during the first thirty minutes of opening of Tatkal booking *i.e.* from 1000 hours to 1030 hours and from 1100 hours to 1130 hours.
- (v) Web service agents have been permitted to book only one Tatkal Ticket per train per day.
- (vi) Maximum four passengers per PNR are permitted for Tatkal Tickets. Individuals are allowed only 2 Tatkal Tickets per IP Address from 1000 hours to 1200 hours and maximum number of tickets allowed to an individual user is limited to 6 per month.
- (vii) CCTVs are installed at important PRS locations to monitor the activity of touts. Regular inspections/drives are conducted to unearth activity of malpractice.

Separate budget for railways

686. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to abolish separate budget for Railways;
- (b) whether any expert body has made such recommendation;
- (c) which body Committee has made the recommendation and what are the grounds given therefor;
- (d) whether the Ministry agrees with the recommendation; and
- (e) whether Government has examined the proposal, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (e) The NITI Aayog Committee headed by Shri Bibek Debroy has

recommended merger of the Rail Budget with General Budget mainly on the ground that separate Railway Budget has failed to deliver intended objective of funding its financial requirements and making it accountable for delivery. The recommendation is under consideration of the Ministry of Finance and a decision in regard to the same is still to be taken.

CCTV cameras at railway stations

687. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up a plan to install CCTV cameras at major railway stations, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the estimated cost thereof and whether it comes under Nirbhaya Fund;

(c) whether this facility would be extended to all stations, including category 'C' and suburban stations in towns and cities; and

(d) whether the present system of having CCTVs at major stations would be strengthened and put on the network for surveillance and passengers safety, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Close Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV) have already been provided at 344 railway stations over Indian Railways. Railways have further planned to install Video Surveillance System (VSS) at 1000 stations under Nirbhaya Fund. Total estimated cost of VSS chargeable to Nirbhaya Fund stands at ₹ 500 crore. Installation of CCTV cameras also forms part of Integrated Security System (ISS) and total estimated cost at 202 stations stands at ₹ 252.76 crore.

(c) The facility would be extended to 1000 stations, including Category 'C' suburban stations.

(d) Strengthening and upgradation of security infrastructure is an ongoing process. Strengthening of CCTV surveillance system at the major stations is being done as per requirement. Round the clock surveillance is being kept through CCTV cameras for the passenger safety.

Time table for goods trains

688. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced time table for goods trains in Railways for freight train operation, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether customers can send their goods and parcels in such trains and if so, the terms and conditions therefor; and

(c) whether such freight trains would be introduced covering all Zonal Railways, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways has introduced time tabled goods container train (Cargo Express) on 15.06.2016 and time tabled automobile trains on 12.07.2016.

The time tabled container goods trains are running between

(i) Okhla (Delhi) and Whitefield (Bengaluru), and

(ii) Okhla (Delhi) and Tondiarpet (Chennai).

In both the directions.

The time tabled automobile trains are running between

(i) Gurgaon (Haryana) and Nidvanda (Karnataka), and

(ii) Kathuwas (Rajasthan) and Melpakkam (Tamil Nadu).

In both the directions.

(b) Yes Sir. The customers can send goods/parcels in such trains through the services offered by Container Train Operators on payment of the charges for transportation of their goods.

(c) Such freight trains are not confined only to one Zonal Railways, but they traverse over a number of Zonal Railway systems. Time tabled freight trains have been introduced on demand and based on feasibility of running them between pairs of stations on an available path. At present based on demand and feasibility the above two container and two automobile trains have been introduced.

Revamping railway stations under PPP model

689. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to revamp railway stations in the country under Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Viability Gap Funding (VGF) will also be provided to reduce the risk of investors;

(c) whether model concession agreements have been finalized, if so, the main features thereof; and

(d) how many projects have come through under PPP and what is the present status, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Indian Railways has advertised its plan to redevelop 'A-1' and 'A' category stations (about 400 in number) on 'as is where is' basis, by inviting proposals from developers with their designs and business ideas. The entire cost of station redevelopment is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the stations. The general guidelines have been issued to Zonal Railways in this regard.

In addition to above, redevelopment of eight stations viz., Anand Vihar, Bijwasan, Chandigarh, Gandhinagar, Habibganj (Bhopal), Shivaji Nagar (Pune), SAS Nagar (Mohali) and Surat has been entrusted to Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd. (IRSDC). Model Development Agreement has been finalized by IRSDC, which envisages redevelopment of stations, associate real estate development and their operation and maintenance (O&M) through a developer, to be appointed following a transparent bidding process. Bids for redevelopment of Habibganj Station have been finalized and development agreement signed. Request for Qualification (RFQ) for Anand Vihar Station has been finalized and RFQ for Bijwasan Station has been opened.

The business model of station redevelopment project is such that generally there is no requirement of Viability Gap Funding (VGF). However, in the case of Gandhinagar Station VGF has been agreed to by Ministry of Railways.

Connecting Gandhinagar with important towns of Gujarat

690. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains running from/or passing through each State;

(b) whether Railways intend to increase the number of trains running from/or passing through Gandhinagar; and

(c) whether Railways are planning to start trains to connect Gandhinagar with the important towns of the State under the "Rajya Rani" Scheme announced in the Budget of 2011-12?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Indian Railways do not run trains on State-wise basis as Railways network and train operations run across State boundaries.

(b) and (c) Presently, Gandhinagar Station is being served by 5 pairs of trains, including 3 pairs of Mail/Express trains and 2 pairs of MEMU trains, connecting other parts of the country. Further, at present, there is no proposal to introduce new trains to connect Gandhinagar with important towns of the State, and also under the 'Rajya Rani' Scheme announced in the Budget of 2011-12.

Train frequency for Gandhinagar

691. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gandhinagar is the only State capital served by negligible train frequency;

(b) if so, whether Government intends to provide more trains and eliminate discrimination to the State capital of Gujarat;

(c) how many trains connect Gandhinagar with rest of the country; and

(d) whether Railways have any plans to increase this number?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Presently, Gandhinagar Station is being served by 5 pairs of trains, including 3 pairs of Mail/Express trains and 2 pairs of MEMU trains, which are as under:

19309/19310 Gandhinagar - Indore Shanti Express (daily),

12215/12216 Bandra (T) - Delhi Sarai Rohilla Garib Rath Express (4 days a week) *via* Jaipur,

19031/19032 Ahmedabad - Haridwar Yoga Express (daily) *via* Delhi,

69131/69132 Gandhinagar - Ahmedabad MEMU (daily),

69191/69192 Gandhinagar - Anand MEMU (daily).

(d) At present, there is no proposal to introduce additional trains for Gandhinagar, due to operational and resource constraints. However, introduction of new train service is an ongoing process on Indian Railways, subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification, availability of resources, etc.

Concepts for non-stinking toilets in trains

692. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the crowdsourcing concepts for a non-stinking toilet in trains that require less water have generated public response with more than 650 entries on workable solutions;

(b) whether the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) has shortlisted the responses and finally chosen a concept submitted by a group of engineers from Coimbatore; and

(c) whether the winning concept involves water usage being next to nil, just about a litre, and arresting the particles that produce odour, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The crowd-source concept for non-stinking toilet has generated 677 entries as received at RDSO.

(b) RDSO has shortlisted the responses, presentations from 10 participants were made at RDSO on 31.05.2016 and the first prize was declared in favour of a group of Engineers from Coimbatore. Railways has not yet implemented the concept.

(c) The first prize winning concept envisages use of 0.75 litres of water per flush.

Opening of new railway reservation centres in Uttarakhand

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

(a) whether Railways would contemplate opening new reservation centres at Dharchula, Jauljibi, Munsiyari, Thal, Kanalichhina, Berinag and Gangolihat of Pithoragarh district and Pati and Lohaghat of Champawat district, keeping in view the geographical condition of Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, by when these reservation centres would be opened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Computerised Reservation Centre is already functional at Dharchula Post Office since 15.12.2011. As regards other locations, computerised reservation

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

centres are provided as per policy at stations where reservations related workload is 75 transactions per day or at District Headquarters, important hill stations/tourist and pilgrimage centres/post offices on the basis of proposals received from public/public representatives and Zonal Railways.

Presentation of separate rail budget

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

(a) whether Niti Aayog has recommended for the abolition of presentation of separate Rail Budget, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action Government has taken or proposes to take on the recommendation of Niti Aayog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The NITI Aayog Committee headed by Shri Bibek Debroy has recommended merger of the Rail Budget with General Budget. The recommendation is under consideration of the Ministry of Finance and a decision in regard to the same is still to be taken.

Revision of TUFs and provision of capital subsidy to textile units

695. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has revised the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFs);

(b) if so, the new features of the TUFs; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to provide capital subsidy to new and existing textile units to enable them to bring in modern machinery and increase their output?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An "Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (A-TUFs)" in place of the existing Revised Restructured Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (RRTUFs) for technology upgradation of the textiles industry has been introduced which has become effective from 13.01.2016. The salient features of the scheme are given below:-

(i) The scheme is for a period of seven years from 13.01.2016 to 2021-22.

(ii) The scheme will be bank credit linked with emphasis on promotion of exports, import substitution and generation of employment.

- (iii) It provides for one time capital subsidy for eligible machinery.
- (iv) An allocation of ₹ 17,822 crore has been approved for seven years to meet the committed liabilities of ₹ 12,671 crore and ₹ 5151 crore for new cases under ATUFS.
- (v) The rates of subsidy and caps for different segments under ATUFS are given below:

Sl. No.	Segment	Rate of Capital Investment Subsidy (CIS)	CIS per individual entity
1.	Garmenting, Technical Textiles	15% on eligible Machines	₹ 30 crore*
2.	Weaving for brand new Shuttle-less Looms (including weaving preparatory and knitting), Processing, Jute, Silk and Handloom.	10% on eligible Machines	₹ 20 crore*
3(a).	Composite unit/Multiple Segments-If the eligible capital investment in respect of Garmenting and Technical Textiles category is more than 50% of the eligible project cost.	15% on eligible Machines	₹ 30 crore*
3(b).	Composite unit/Multiple Segments-If the eligible capital investment in respect of Garmenting and Technical Textiles category is less than 50%,	10% on eligible Machines	₹ 20 crore*

*In case the applicant had availed subsidy earlier under RRTUFS, he will be eligible for only the balance amount within the overall ceiling fixed for an individual entity. The maximum subsidy for overall investment by an individual entity under ATUFS will be restricted as indicated above for respective segments.

Guidelines of ATUFS have been issued on 29.02.2016 which lays down the financial and operational parameters and implementation mechanism. A web based claims monitoring and tracking mechanism, “i-ATUFS” has been made operational with effect from 21st April, 2016 for online implementation and monitoring of A-TUFS which provides a transparent MIS platform to all the stakeholders, the beneficiaries, banks, Office of Textile Commissioner and the Ministry of Textiles for smooth implementation of the scheme.

Government has recently approved additional production linked incentive of 10% under TUFs for promoting employment in garmenting segment.

Plan to boost textile sector/industry

696. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any plan to boost the Textile sector/industries in the country like Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the budget provisions made and the incentives being offered to handloom sector for the said purpose in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to provide a boost to the Textile sector, the Government approved the "Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (A-TUFS)" in Dec 2015 for technology upgradation, with provision for one time capital subsidy for eligible benchmarked machinery in different sectors including Technical Textiles, Garmenting, Weaving and Processing. The scheme is expected to attract an investment of ₹ 1,00,000 crore and generate employment of 30.51 lakhs.

The Government have also recently announced a special package for the garment sector containing a slew of measures for employment generation and enhancing exports. The package provides for Government funding of the entire 12% employers contribution to the EPF in the next 3 years; option to employees earning less than ₹ 15000 for contributing to EPF; increasing overtime caps; fixed term employment; additional incentives for garmenting under ATUFS; enhanced duty drawbacks to include refund of State levies; reduction in the provision of 240 days to 150 days under 80 JJA to claim tax relief for garment industry. The special package is expected to generate employment to the tune of ₹ 100 lakhs, investment of ₹ 74000 crore and increase exports by 30 billion US\$.

(b) A provision of ₹ 612 crore has been made for handlooms at the BE stage in the year 2016-17. This accounts for 18.26% of the Ministry's budget and provides an enhancement of 24% over the budget provided at the BE stage in 2015-16. The Ministry of Textiles implements the National Handloom Development Scheme, the Yarn Supply Scheme and Welfare Schemes for promoting Handlooms. Under NHDP, a marketing incentive @10% of the average sales is given to handloom agencies such as handloom corporations, cooperative societies, primary handloom weaver societies for preparing conditions conducive to marketing. To incentivize the handloom sector, it has been decided to provide capital subsidy @ 10% with a cap of ₹ 20 crores to eligible machinery in the handloom sector under the recently approved ATUFS.

Opening of textile parks

697. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Textile Parks opened during the last two years;

(b) the number of Textile Parks to be opened in the next two years, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government proposes to make any alternate use of vacant land of National Textile Corporation, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Textiles has sanctioned a total of 25 Textile Parks under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) during last two years. SITP is a demand driven scheme therefore number of parks to be sanctioned in next two years depends upon the response of the investors.

(c) Land of NTC mills can be utilized as per the provision of various Nationalization Acts.

Effect of automation on employment in textile sector

698. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that due to increasing automation in Textile sector, which is the second largest employment provider after agriculture, scope of employment is dwindling in this sector;

(b) if so, the details of loss of employment occurred in Textile sector during the last five years; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to arrest this trend, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) to (c) Increased automation in the textile sector may result in reducing employment in the textile units to some extent. However, no study is undertaken about the details of the loss of employment occurred in textile sector during the last five years due to automation. To arrest the potential trend, Government has enhanced allocation of funds to schemes including Technology Upgradation Fund (TUFS) and a new package of incentives to promote apparel sector etc. which will expand capacity in existing units and promote setting up of new units. These interventions are estimated to more than compensate for the reduction in employment due to mechanization.

Steps to revive textile sector and to boost production

699. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to revive the Textile sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to provide incentives to boost production?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken several steps to revive the textile sector.

1. Firstly, it has approved a special package for boosting the employment generation and export potential of the Textile and Apparel Sector. The salient features of the package are:

Labour Law Reforms

- (a) Government shall bear 3.67% of employer's Employee Provident Fund (EPF) contribution for new workmen in addition to existing reimbursement of 8.33% employer contribution under Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) for 3 years.
- (b) EPF will be made optional for employees earning less than ₹ 15,000 per month; thus, leaving more money in the hands of the workers.
- (c) Overtime cap will be raised from 50 hours per quarter to 100 hours per quarter leading to increased earnings of workers.
- (d) Considering the seasonal nature of the industry, fixed term employment will be introduced for the garment sector. A fixed term workman will be considered at par with permanent workman in terms of working hours, wages, allowances and other statutory dues.

Additional incentives under ATUFS

- The subsidy provided to garmenting units, under Amended-TUFS, is being increased from 15% to 25%, providing a boost to employment generation.
- The package breaks new ground in moving from input-based to outcome-based incentives; a unique feature of the scheme will be to disburse subsidy only after expected jobs have been created.

Enhanced duty drawback coverage

- In a first-of-its-kind move, a new scheme will be introduced to refund the State levies which were not refunded so far.

- This move will greatly boost the competitiveness of Indian exports in foreign markets
- Drawback at All Industries Rate will be given for domestic duty paid inputs even when fabrics are imported under Advance Authorization Scheme.

Enhancing scope of Section 80JJAA of Income Tax Act

- Looking at the seasonal nature of garment industry, the provision of 240 days under Section 80JJAA of Income Tax Act would be relaxed to 150 days for garment industry.
2. Secondly, Government has approved Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme with an outlay of ₹ 17,822 crore. Incentivizing new investments in garmenting, weaving, processing and technical textiles.
 3. Thirdly, a total of 25 integrated textile parks are sanctioned in the last two years with an estimated investment of ₹ 7048 crore, employment of 71000 and subsidy of ₹ 1000 crore.

Textile booster package

700. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently announced a Textile booster package, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any assessment/survey has been done to assess the existing plight of Textile sector in the country;

(c) if so, the details of outcome thereof; and

(d) to what extent the Textile booster package will help the ailing Textile sector and generate employment, investments, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has recently announced a booster package for apparel sector. The details of said package are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) and (c) A series of consultations have been held with all the stakeholders by the Ministry to assess the existing plight of textile industry in the country. Studies [as per Statement-II (*See below*)] have also been conducted by the Ministry.

(d) The expected impact of the Textile booster package on textile and apparel sector are:

- The new package is expected to boost up employment generation, exports and investment in textile and apparel industry.

- Improve the attractiveness of garment manufacturing for new investments and exports. The current investment in the sector which is growing at 8% year on year is expected to grow substantially.
- Larger manufacturing set-ups will become feasible thereby leading to economies of scale in the sector.
- More and more garment units will become compliant with respect to statutory dues and more jobs will be generated in formal sector.
- Pro labour reforms like optional EPF, increased overtime limits and fixed term employment will lead to more cash in hand with workers, provide opportunity to earn more and put them at par with permanent workers in terms of working hours, wages, allowances and other statutory dues respectively.

Statement-I

Details of the booster package for Apparel Sector

The Government has approved a special package for boosting the employment generation and export potential of the Textile and Apparel Sector. The salient features of the package are:

Labour Law Reforms

- (a) Government to bear 3.67% of employer's Employee Provident Fund (EPF) contribution for new workmen in addition to existing reimbursement of 8.33% employer contribution under Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) for 3 years.
- (b) EPF will be made optional for employees earning less than ₹ 15,000 per month; thus, leaving more money in the hands of the workers.
- (c) Overtime cap will be raised from 50 hours per quarter to 100 hours per quarter leading to increased earnings of workers.
- (d) Considering the seasonal nature of the industry, fixed term employment will be introduced for the garment sector. A fixed term workman will be considered at par with permanent workman in terms of working hours, wages, allowances and other statutory dues.

Additional incentives under ATUFS

- The subsidy provided to garmenting units, under Amended-TUFS, is being increased from 15% to 25%, providing a boost to employment generation.
- The package breaks new ground in moving from input-based to outcome-

based incentives; a unique feature of the scheme will be to disburse subsidy only after expected jobs have been created.

Enhanced duty drawback coverage

- In a first-of-its-kind move, a new scheme will be introduced to refund the State levies which were not refunded so far.
- This move will greatly boost the competitiveness of Indian exports in foreign markets
- Drawback at All Industries Rate will be given for domestic duty paid inputs even when fabrics are imported under Advance Authorization Scheme.

Enhancing scope of Section 80JJAA of Income Tax Act

- Looking at the seasonal nature of garment industry, the provision of 240 days under Section 80JJAA of Income Tax Act would be relaxed to 150 days for garment industry.

Statement-II

Studies commissioned by the Ministry to assess the plight of textile sector

Studies commissioned on different subjects by Ministry of Textiles are:

- (i) Study on existing and prospective FTAs.
- (ii) Foreign Direct Investment Scenario in Indian Textile Sector.
- (iii) Study on Garment Sector to understand their requirement for capacity building.
- (iv) Review of the Scheme on Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) with a view to gauge the impact on production, employment and success in intended objective to clusterization.
- (v) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) relating to the Textile Sector to study its scope for future.
- (vi) Implication of Goods and Service Tax (GST for Indian Textile Sector) etc.

Provision of incentives to traditional weavers

701. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the weavers engaged in traditional weaving industry have become unemployed due to increase in production cost/power tariff in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to provide electricity at concessional rate and loan from banks to the weavers in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Traditional weaving on handlooms is manual activity for which power is not required. To enable handloom sector compete with machine produced items, Government of India is implementing Yarn Supply Scheme to provide yarn at mill gate price at the door step of weavers and is also giving 10% subsidy on cotton hank yarn, domestic silk yarn and wool with quantity caps.

(c) and (d) The Government is implementing a scheme to provide subsidized loan to handloom weavers at the rate of 6% for a period of three years. The interest subsidy is borne by the Government of India. Provision of electricity at concessional rates comes within the jurisdiction of the State Governments.

The House then adjourned at thirty-four minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled at thirty minutes past two of the clock

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

RE. DEMAND FOR INTRODUCING PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Private Members' Legislative Business. Bills for introduction. ...(*Interruptions*)... Bills for introduction. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL): Sir, I want to raise a ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, let me do this formal business. ...(*Interruptions*)... First I have to do this 'Bills for Introduction'. ...(*Interruptions*)... Bills for introduction. ...(*Interruptions*)... Shri B. K. Hariprasad. ...(*Interruptions*)... Shri B. K. Hariprasad. Mr. Hariprasad, are you moving? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA (Punjab): She should go to Lok Sabha. इनका यहां पर कोई काम ही नहीं है। ...(*व्यवधान*)... ...(*Interruptions*)...

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

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

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी: सामान्यतया यह देखा जाता है कि सत्ता पक्ष सदन को शांतिपूर्वक चलाना चाहता है, लेकिन यहां विपक्ष चाहता है कि आंध्र प्रदेश के लिए जो प्राइवेट मेम्बर बिल आया है, वह पारित हो। ...*(व्यवधान)*... ये चाहते हैं कि यह बिल न पारित हो, इसलिए जानबूझ कर यह वातावरण पैदा कर रहे हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... इनका यह आचरण निन्दनीय है कि सत्ता पक्ष में होते हुए भी ये सदन को नहीं चलने दे रहे हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... They are blocking the interests of Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is why they are behaving like this. I accuse them. I charge them. ...*(Interruptions)*... She is a Member of Lok Sabha and the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now she wants to state here... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I would like to know from the Minister what her demand is. ...*(Interruptions)*... What does she want? ...*(Interruptions)*... They have their Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*... What action do they want? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir,... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me get the Bills introduced and, after that, I will listen to you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY (Odisha): Please get the House in order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes. I want the House in order. ...*(Interruptions)*... After introduction of the Bills, I can allow anybody. ...*(Interruptions)*... But I have to get these Bills introduced. ...*(Interruptions)*... If all of you do like this, what do I do? ...*(Interruptions)*... I am only requesting you to go back to your seats. Let me do the formal introduction. ...*(Interruptions)*... After that, I will listen to you. ...*(Interruptions)*... But, first, I have to dispose of this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, what I want to... ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति: पहले इंट्रोडक्शन होगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*... No; I have to do this first. ...*(Interruptions)*... After that only, I can allow anybody. ...*(Interruptions)*... After that, I can allow. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is what I am saying. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is a procedure. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is a procedure. ...*(Interruptions)*... Listen, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is a procedure. ...*(Interruptions)*... First, the introduction; and after that, I can hear anybody. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have no problem. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are a Minister. You cannot compel like this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, she is not a Member of this House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But she is a Minister. The Minister can speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... She is a Minister. The Minister can speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am making only one point. First, I have to dispose of introduction of the Bills. Only after that I can listen to anybody. ...*(Interruptions)*... But it is not good to insist that you want to speak now. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Sir, please bring the House to order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. That is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*... See, I am telling you, I have to first introduce the Bills. After that I can allow anybody. ...*(Interruptions)*... But if Treasury Benchers are doing like this, what do I say? ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me listen to Mr. Anand Sharma. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, we have a fundamental objection. (a) Ruling Party Members are disrupting the House; (b) A Minister who is not a Member of this House intervening and interrupting repeatedly on a matter that was raised during the Zero Hour... ...*(Interruptions)*... A Minister can intervene in a discussion or a debate, or for that matter, when any Government Business is being discussed. This is not Government business. This is not a Government agenda. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am only saying that I have to first dispose of this introduction of Bills. After that only I can listen to anybody, whether it is a Minister or a Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not fair. You cannot do that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, this is a political issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... They don't want the Bill to be passed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Yechury. Use the mike. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, they are making a political point. ...*(Interruptions)*... They are denying Andhra Pradesh their right to the package that has been promised in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*... That right is being denied. They don't want that Bill to be passed. This is a political issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... They are depriving the State of Andhra Pradesh politically. They are standing against the interests of the people of Andhra Pradesh. That is a political point that you cannot

allow. ...(*Interruptions*)... You cannot allow that. You will have to protect the rights of the House to Private Members' Legislation. ...(*Interruptions*)... You have to protect the rights of the Members to Private Members' Business. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is Private Members' Business. Why do you do this? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Sir, please protect the Private Members' Business. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir, it is their Government. They should arrest... ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Go to your seat and speak into the mike. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir, they are demanding the arrest of Mr. Mann. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is their Government. Why don't they arrest him? To whom are they demanding? ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is Private Members' Business. First you allow the Motion. Why do you do this? ...(*Interruptions*)... Why do you do this? ...(*Interruptions*)... I don't see any rationale here. Why do you do this? ...(*Interruptions*)... You are the Government, the Treasury Benchers. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is unfair. Don't do this. ...(*Interruptions*)... Why are you doing like this? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Ruling Party Members are demanding arrest. ...(*Interruptions*)... We would like to know from the Leader of the House what his response to his party Members' demand is. ...(*Interruptions*)... The Leader of the House is present here. ...(*Interruptions*)... Let him respond to their demand. ...(*Interruptions*)... The Leader of the House must respond to the demand of his colleagues in the Government and Members of Parliament. ...(*Interruptions*)... They want arrest. ...(*Interruptions*)... You cannot order arrest; he cannot order arrest; arrest can be done by the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)... Let the Leader of the House inform, through you, what action they are taking. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI C. M. RAMESH (Telagana): Sir, ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramesh, I cannot hear you. ...(*Interruptions*)... I am not hearing anything. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Sir, you keep the House in order. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your own people are troubling. ...*(Interruptions)*... What can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*... Your own people are troubling. ...*(Interruptions)*... You speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Sir, this Bill is very important for Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please keep the House in order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You talk to them. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C. M. RAMESH: That is your responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your own people are creating problem. ...*(Interruptions)*... What can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C. M. RAMESH: You keep the House in order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your own people are creating problem. ...*(Interruptions)*... What can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C. M. RAMESH: You please keep the House in order. ...*(Interruptions)*... This Bill is very important for Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Even the Congress did nothing for Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*... Even though we support this Bill, you keep the House in order. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is a very important important Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please keep the House in order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why do you do like this? ...*(Interruptions)*.. What is your purpose? ...*(Interruptions)*... Why do you do like this? ...*(Interruptions)*.. Treasury Benches are obstructing. ...*(Interruptions)*... Usually, it is the opposition. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, today, you are doing it. ...*(Interruptions)*... The House is adjourned till 11.00 a.m. on Monday, the 25th July, 2016.

*The House then adjourned at forty-four minutes past
two of the clock till eleven of the clock on
Monday, the 25th July, 2016.*

