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Friday

25 November, 2016

4 Agrahayana, 1938 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
RAJYA SABHA
OFFICIAL REPORT

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RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 25th November, 2016/4th Agrahayana, 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 Dipen Ghosh**, a former Member of this House, on the 13th of November, 2016, at the age of 84 years.

Born in February, 1932, at Jessore (now in Bangladesh), **Shri Ghosh** was educated at the Surendranath College, Kolkata, and the University of Calcutta.

A trade unionist, **Shri Ghosh** was associated with several trade unions as well as workers' and employees' associations. He served as the President of the Coordination Committee of Central Government Employees and of the All India State Insurance Corporation Employees' Federation. He also served as the Vice-President of the All India Defence Employees' Federation and as the Chairman of the West Bengal Surface Transport Corporation.

Shri Dipen Ghosh represented the State of West Bengal in this House for two terms – from July, 1981 to July, 1987 and again from July, 1987 to July, 1993.

In the passing away of **Shri Dipen Ghosh**, the country has lost a veteran trade union leader and an able parliamentarian.

We deeply mourn the passing away of **Shri Dipen Ghosh**.

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 member of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid....

सुश्री मायावती (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय सभापति जी, पत्रों को बाद में सभा पटल पर रखवा लीजिएगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: आप एक मिनट ठहर जाइए। ...(व्यवधान)...

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

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री रामविलास पासवान): महोदय, मैं विधिक माप विज्ञान अधिनियम, 2009 की धारा 52 की उप धारा (4) के अधीन उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय (उपभोक्ता मामले विभाग) की निम्नलिखित अधिसूचनाओं की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ :-

- (1) G.S.R. 858 (E), dated the 7th September, 2016, publishing the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) (Amendment) Rules, 2016.
- (2) G.S.R. 875 (E), dated the 9th September, 2016, publishing the Legal Metrology (General) Amendment Rules, 2016.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5345/16/16]

...(व्यवधान)...

**RE. DEMAND FOR APOLOGY BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE
ISSUE OF BLACK MONEY**

सुश्री मायावती (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय सभापति जी, अभी हाउस चल रहा है और माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने हाउस के बाहर सारी अपोजिशन पार्टिज पर जो गलत आरोप लगाया है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप इसके बाद अपनी बात कह लीजिएगा। ...(व्यवधान)...

सुश्री मायावती: माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने हाउस के बाहर सारी अपोजिशन पार्टिज पर जो गलत आरोप लगाया है कि इनके पास काला धन है, तो या तो वे साबित करें, नहीं तो उनको पूरे सदन से माफी मांगनी चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

(उपसभापति महोदय पीठासीन हुए)

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद): माननीय उपसभापति जी ...(व्यवधान)...

---(مداخلت)--- مانیئے اُپ سبھایتی جی

सुश्री मायावती: वे पिछले 10 महीने का हिसाब दें कि 10 महीने में देश के अंदर कितना पैसा जमा हुआ है? ...(व्यवधान).... धनरासेठों का कितना पैसा जमा हुआ है? ...(व्यवधान).... माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी को पूरे सदन से माफी मांगनी चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Listen to the LoP. ...(Interruptions)... आप एलओपी को सुनिए। ...(व्यवधान).... Listen to the LoP, please. ...(Interruptions)... Mayawatiji, I have allowed LoP. ...(Interruptions)... LoP is speaking.

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: माननीय उपसभापति जी, आज बुक रिलीज के फंक्शन पर माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने जो भाषण दिया, उस पर माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी को सदन से माफी मांगनी चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उन्होंने जिस तरह से आरोप लगाया है कि अपोज़िशन पार्टीज ब्लैक मनी के फेवर में हैं, यह पूरे सदन का अपमान है, सभी एमपीज का अपमान है, सभी पार्टीज का अपमान है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: مانیئے اُپ سبھایتی جی، اج بُک ریلیز کے فنکشن پر مانیئے پردھان منتری جی نے جو بھاشن دیا، اس پر مانیئے پردھان منتری جی کو سدن سے معافی مانگنی چاہیئے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔ انہوں نے جس طرح سے اروپ لگایا ہے کہ اپوزیشن پارٹیز بلیک منی کے فیور میں ہیں، یہ پورے سدن کا ایمان ہے، سبھی ایم پیز کا ایمان ہے، سبھی پارٹیز کا ایمان ہے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: LoP, please listen. ..(Interruptions).. Listen; one second. ..(Interruptions)... One second. ..(Interruptions).. Let me do this. LoP, please. ...**(Interruptions)**... Let me do this.

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: प्रधान मंत्री जी किस तरह से यह आरोप लगा सकते हैं कि अपोज़िशन पार्टियां ब्लैक मनी के फेवर में हैं? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: پردھان منتری جی کس طرح سے یہ اروپ لگا سکتے ہیں کہ اپوزیشن پارٹیاں بلیک منی کے فیور میں ہیں؟۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE — Contd.

Notifications of the Ministry of Communications

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:—

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Posts), under sub-section (4) of Section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898:—

- (1) G.S.R. 782 (E), dated the 10th August, 2016, publishing the Indian Post Office (Amendment) Rules, 2016.

- (2) G.S.R. 814 (E), dated the 24th August, 2016, publishing Corrigendum to Notification No. G.S.R. 782 (E), dated the 10th August, 2016 in Hindi only. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5371/16/16]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications), under sub-section (5) of Section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, along with delay statement:—

- (1) G.S.R. 241, dated the 19th December, 2015, publishing the Indian Telegraph (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2015.
- (2) G.S.R. 653 (E), dated the 25th August, 2015, publishing the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2015.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5537/16/16]

...(Interruptions)...

RE. DEMAND FOR APOLOGY BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE ISSUE OF BLACK MONEY — *Contd.*

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: जबकि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी की presence में हमने यह बता दिया था कि हम ब्लैक मनी के खिलाफ हैं, उसके बावजूद माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने लाइब्रेरी बिल्डिंग में यह आरोप लगाया कि अपोजिशन पार्टियां ब्लैक मनी के फेवर में हैं। ... (व्यवधान)...

† جناب غلام نبی آزاد: جب کہ مانیئے پردھان منتری جی کی موجودگی میں ہم نے یہ بتادیا تھا کہ ہم بلیک منی کے خلاف ہیں، اس کے باوجود مانیئے پردھان منتری جی نے لائبریری بلڈنگ میں یہ اروپ لگایا کہ اپوزیشن پارٹیاں بلیک منی کے فیور میں ہیں۔ --- (مداخلت)---

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE — *Contd.*

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Railways

II. Reports and Accounts (2015-16) of various organisations of the Ministry of Railways and related papers

III. Reports and Accounts (2015-16) of RSPB, New Delhi and related papers

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

† Transliteration in Urdu script.

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Railways Notification No. G.S.R. 631 (E), dated the 24th June, 2016, publishing the Land Acquisition (Special Railway Projects) Rules, 2016, under Section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989, along with delay statement.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5378/16/16]

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

- (i) (a) Twenty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL), Navi Mumbai, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5374/16/16]

- (ii) (a) Fortieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Braithwaite and Company Ltd. (BCL), Kolkata, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5373/16/16]

- (iii) (a) Thirteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), New Delhi, along with that of its subsidiary company, High Speed Rail Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5376/16/16]

- (iv) (a) Forty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the RITES Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5375/16/16]

- (v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), New Delhi, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5544/16/16]
- (vi) (a) Seventeenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC), New Delhi, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5346/16/16]
- (vii)(a) Thirteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hassan Mangalore Rail Development Company Ltd. (HMRDC), Bengaluru, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5545/16/16]
- (viii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. (DFCCL), New Delhi, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5542/16/16]
- (ix) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (KMRCL), Kolkata, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5543/16/16]
- III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—
- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB), New Delhi, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Performance Review of the above Board, for the year 2015-16.
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5377/16/16]

...(Interruptions)...

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**II. Reports and Accounts (1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92) of Bihar State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited****III. Reports and Accounts (2015-16) of NIPHM and related papers**

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, तथा पंचायती राज मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री परषोत्तम रुपाला): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ :—

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare) Notification No. G.S.R. 798 (E), dated the 17th August, 2016, publishing the Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Rules, 2016, under sub-section (3) of Section 124 of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5523/16/16]

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

- (1) S.O. 3053 (E), dated the 23rd September, 2016, appointing the Assistant Director and Deputy Director in the Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute and its Regional Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories at Mumbai, Kalyani and Chennai.

- (2) S.O. 3054 (E), dated the 23rd September, 2016, publishing the Fertilizer (Control) Amendment Order, 2016.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5521/16/16]

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

- (i) (a) Twenty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Bihar State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Patna, for the year 1989-90, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5347/16/16]

- (ii) (a) Twenty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Bihar State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Patna, for the year 1990-91, together with the Auditor's Report on the

Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5348/16/16]

(iii) (a) Twenty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Bihar State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Patna, for the year 1991-92, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5349/16/16]

(2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

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

(a) Annual Report of the National Institute of Plant Health Management, (NIPHM), Hyderabad, for the year 2015-16.

(b) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Plant Health Management, (NIPHM), Hyderabad, for the year 2015-16, and the Audit Report thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5522/16/16]

...(Interruptions)...

MoU (2016-17) between Government of India and NTC Ltd.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Textiles) and NTC Limited, for the year 2016-17.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5400/16/16]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

II. Report and Accounts (2015-16) of the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers) Notification No. S.O. 3371 (E), dated the 3rd November, 2016, regarding the supplies of urea to be made by domestic manufactures of urea to States and Union Territories during the Rabi Season, 2016-2017, under sub-section (3) of Section 6 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5531/16/16]
- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) (b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:—
 - (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited, Dibrugarh, Assam, for the year 2015-16 together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5359/16/16]

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, please ...(Interruptions)... Let me finish this. ...(Interruptions)... Let me do this. This is important. ...(Interruptions)...

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

श्री दिलीपभाई पंड्या (गुजरात) : महोदय, मैं लाभ के पदों संबंधी संयुक्त समिति के तेरहवें प्रतिवेदन की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Chhattisgarh) : Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Tenth* Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways on the subject "Pending Projects" pertaining to the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board).

* Tenth Report was presented to the Speaker, Lok Sabha on 31st August, 2016 and to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha on the 5th September, 2016. The Speaker had ordered the printing, publication and circulation of the Reports.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

श्री नरेंद्र बुढानिया (राजस्थान): महोदय, मैं 'चयनित केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों (सीपीएसयू) में नैगमिक सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व' पर सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों संबंधी समिति (2015-16) के आठवें प्रतिवेदन (सोलहवीं लोक सभा) में अंतर्विष्ट समुक्तियों/सिफारिशों पर सरकार द्वारा की गई कार्रवाई संबंधी चौदहवें प्रतिवेदन की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS**Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the Twenty-sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on 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 make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the Twenty-sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2016-17) pertaining to the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications.

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): Sir, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways on Demands for Grants (2016-17) pertaining to the Ministry of Railways.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Statement regarding Government Business for the week commencing 28th November, 2016; Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप लोग सुनिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

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): Sir, I beg to announce that the Government Business in this House for the week commencing 28th November, 2016 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any items of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper consisting of:-
 - (i) The Human Immuno Deficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2014;
 - (ii) The Employees Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2016 as passed by Lok Sabha.
2. Consideration and passing of the Enemy Property (Amendment) Bill, 2016 as passed by Lok Sabha and as reported by the Select Committee of Rajya Sabha;
3. Consideration and passing of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2013;
4. Further consideration and passing of the Whistle Blowers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015 as passed by Lok Sabha;
5. Consideration and passing of the Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2016, after it is passed by Lok Sabha;
6. Consideration and passing of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016 after it is passed by Lok Sabha.

...(Interruptions)...

**RE. DEMAND FOR APOLOGY BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE
ISSUE OF BLACK MONEY — Contd.**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, please. ...(Interruptions)... Hon. lady Member... ...(Interruptions)... आप लोग सुनिए। ...(व्यवधान)... Please listen to me too. ...(Interruptions)... Give me two minutes. I will allow you. I have first a notice under Rule 267 from the hon. Leader of the Opposition. I am ready to admit that motion provided you are ready for discussion...(Interruptions)...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No discussion ...(Interruptions)...

श्री सतीश चंद्र मिश्रा (उत्तर प्रदेश): प्रधान मंत्री जी को बुलाइए। ...(व्यवधान)...

सुश्री मायावती: प्रधान मंत्री जी को बुलाइए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नीरज शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश): प्रधान मंत्री जी माफी मांगें। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, I will reply to that. मुझे reply करने दीजिए।

† قائد حزب اختلاف (جناب غلام نبی آزاد): سر، مجھے ریپلائی کرنے دیجئے۔

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Leader of the Opposition, what is your reaction? I am ready to admit your motion, if you are ready for discussion...(Interruptions)..

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, I have given the motion. There are two conditions for that. Number one, the hon. Prime Minister had promised yesterday that he would be present here...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no condition in this motion...(Interruptions)...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: If I give the condition, the Chair will reject it. It will be rejected. I know that. ...(Interruptions)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please allow me to deal with that ...(Interruptions)... Naqviji, please allow me to deal with that...(Interruptions)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: दूसरा, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि ...(व्यवधान)...

---(مداخلت)--- جناب غلام نبی آزاد: دوسرا میں یہ کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा पंचायती राज मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री परबोत्तम रुपाला): आप ही बोलते रहेंगे। यह one way traffic नहीं चलेगा। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please allow me. आप मंत्री हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: दूसरा, जब हमने कल नोटिस दिया था, कल के दिन और आज के दिन में फर्क है। आज सुबह माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने लाइब्रेरी में auditorium में book release की।

جناب غلام نبی آزاد: دوسرا، جب ہم نے کل نوٹس دیا تھا، کل کے دن اور آج کے دن میں فرق ہے۔ آج صبح مائے پردھان منتری جی نے لائبریری میں آڈیٹوریم میں بک ریلیز کی۔

श्री उपसभापति: वह तो दूसरी बात है। इसके बारे में बोलिए।

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: नहीं, नहीं। वह इस सदन से संबंधित है। ...(व्यवधान).... That is directly connected with this. जब कल प्रधान मंत्री जी आए थे, मैंने ...(व्यवधान)...

That is ---(مداخلت)--- جناب غلام نبی آزاد: نہیں، نہیں۔ وہ اس سदन سے سمبندھت ہے۔ directly connected with this. جب کل پردھان منتری جی آئے تھے، میں نے ---(مداخلت)---

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That has nothing to do with this.

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: कल जब माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी इस सदन में आए थे तो मैंने पूरी Opposition की तरफ से माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी का स्वागत किया था और माननीय चेयरमैन से कहा था ...(व्यवधान)... Unless you hear me out, you cannot take the decision.

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: کل جب مانٹے پردھان منتری جی اس سدن میں آئے تھے تو میں پوری اپوزیشن کی طرف سے مانٹے پردھان منتری جی کا سواگت کیا تھا اور مانٹے چیئرمین سے کہا تھا --- (مداخلت) --- Unless you hear me out, you cannot take the decision.

श्री शरद यादव (बिहार): उनकी पूरी बात सुननी चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: उस वक्त चेयर पर माननीय चेयरमैन साहब थे, मैंने request की थी कि पहले यह स्पष्ट किया जाए कि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी डिबेट में हिस्सा लेने के लिए आए हैं या Question Hour में आए हैं?

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: اس وقت چیئر پر مانٹے چیئرمین صاحب تھے، میں ریکویسٹ کی تھی کہ پہلے یہ واضح کیا جائے کہ مانٹے پردھان منتری جی ڈبیٹ میں حصّہ لینے کے لئے آئے ہیں یا کوئشنن آور میں آئے ہیں؟

श्री उपसभापति: वे कल एक घंटे के लिए आए थे। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर (हिमाचल प्रदेश): डिबेट के लिए नहीं आए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: कल एक घंटे के लिए आए थे। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, during Zero Hour, you have to listen to me.

श्री शरद यादव: उनको सुनना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

सुश्री मायावती: हाउस चल रहा है, प्रधान मंत्री जी ने इस हाउस के बाहर जो बोला है ...(व्यवधान)... उनको हाउस में आकर माफी मांगनी चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have no problem. ...(Interruptions)... I am not objecting to it ...(Interruptions)... I am allowing you. But one thing I have to make clear. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Please hear me first. Unless you hear me out ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will listen to you. I will hear you. But listen to me also. I have to make one point. Yesterday, it was clarified by the Leader of the House 'that you resume the discussion, the hon. Prime Minister will come and intervene' ...(Interruptions)...

श्री शरद यादव: जो प्रधान मंत्री जी ने आज कहा है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री तपन कुमार सेन (पश्चिमी बंगाल): वे आएँ और माफी मांगें। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सतीश चंद्र मिश्रा: कल और आज में बहुत फर्क हो गया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी): सर, हम Leader of the Opposition को इतना कहना चाहते हैं उनसे अपील करना चाहते हैं, हमें मालूम है कि उनके तथ्यों और तत्वों के तरकश में तीर बिल्कुल खत्म हो गए हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: सर, डिबेट कल शुरू हो गयी।

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: سر، ڈیٹ کل شروع ہو گئی۔

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, what are you saying? He has to come and apologise here ...(Interruptions)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: इसलिए अब उनके ये * चल रहे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: सर, डिबेट शुरू हो गई। ...(व्यवधान).... डिबेट को किसने derail किया? ...(व्यवधान)...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: سر، ڈیٹ کل شروع ہو گئی --- (مداخلت) --- ڈیٹ کو کس نے derail کیا؟ --- (مداخلت) ---

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: हमारा यह कहना है कि हम चर्चा के लिए तैयार हैं, discussion के लिए तैयार हैं। ...(व्यवधान).... हमारा आपसे अनुरोध है कि आप तत्काल चर्चा शुरू करवा दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: सर, डिबेट को Opposition ने derail नहीं किया, डिबेट को सरकार ने derail कर दिया। ...(व्यवधान).... क्योंकि हमारे साथ promise किया गया था कि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी डिबेट खत्म होने तक सदन में रहेंगे। ...(व्यवधान)...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: سر، ڈیٹ کو اپوزیشن نے derail نہیں کیا، ڈیٹ کو سرکار نے derail کر دیا۔ --- (مداخلت) --- کیوں کہ ہمارے ساتھ promise کیا گیا تھا کہ مائے پردھان منتری جی ڈیٹ ختم ہونے تک سدن میں رہیں گے --- (مداخلت) ---

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: लेकिन रोज़ *, रोज़ नए-नए बहाने नहीं चलेंगे। ...(व्यवधान).... दूसरी चीज़, हर दिन आपका यह कहना ...(व्यवधान).... ये किसी न किसी बहाने से डिबेट नहीं करेंगे ...(व्यवधान).... यह बात ठीक नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान).... सर, हर दिन कोई न कोई नया ...(व्यवधान)....

† Transliteration in Urdu script.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी सदन में नहीं रहे। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, हमें इस बात पर आपत्ति है कि आज सुबह माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा कि the Opposition is favouring black money ...**(Interruptions)**...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: مائے پردھان منتری سدن میں نہیں رہے۔۔۔**(مداخلت)**۔۔۔ سر، ہمیں اس بات پر آپ تئی ہے، کہ آج صبح مائے پردھان منتری جی نے کہا کہ the Opposition is favouring black money۔۔۔**(مداخلت)**۔۔۔

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: इनके पास तर्क नहीं है, ये तथ्यों और तत्वों के दिवालियेपन में जूझ रहे हैं, इसलिए ये तुम्हारे और * चल रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: यह पूरे सदन का अपमान है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह पूरी Opposition का अपमान है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: یہ پورے سدن کا ایمان ہے۔۔۔**(مداخلت)**۔۔۔ یہ پوری اپوزیشن کا ایمان ہے۔۔۔**(مداخلت)**۔۔۔

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: इसलिए immediately discussion कराया जाए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... जहाँ तक प्रधान मंत्री जी का सवाल है, प्रधान मंत्री माफी क्यों मांगें? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: कल हमने प्राइम मिनिस्टर की presence में बता दिया था कि हम ब्लैक मनी के खिलाफ हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... हमने जब बताया कि entire Opposition ब्लैक मनी के खिलाफ है तो फिर प्रधान मंत्री जी आज कैसे कह सकते हैं कि Opposition parties ब्लैक मनी के favour में हैं, इसके लिए माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी को सदन में Opposition से माफी मांगनी चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: کل ہم نے پرائم منسٹر کی presence میں بتا دیا تھا کہ ہم بلیک منی کے خلاف ہیں۔۔۔**(مداخلت)**۔۔۔ ہم نے جب بتایا کہ entire Opposition بلیک منی کے خلاف ہے تو پھر پردھان منتری جی آج کیسے کہہ سکتے ہیں کہ اپوزیشن پارٹیز بلیک منی کے میور فیور میں ہیں، اس کے لئے مائے پردھان منتری جی کو سدن میں اپوزیشن سے معافی مانگنی چاہئے۔۔۔**(مداخلت)**۔۔۔

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: जब आप काले धन के खिलाफ हैं तो ...**(व्यवधान)**... प्रधान मंत्री जी इसलिए माफी मांगें कि जो * हैं, जो भ्रष्टाचारी हैं, उन पर उन्होंने चोट मारी है ...**(व्यवधान)**... क्या वे इसलिए माफी मांगें? ...**(व्यवधान)**... प्रधान मंत्री जी इसलिए माफी मांगें कि देश के गरीब, देश के कमज़ोर, देश के किसानों की तरक्की के लिए ...**(व्यवधान)**...

† Transliteration in Urdu script.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

सुश्री मायावती: सर, प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा है कि यदि अपोजिशन को कुछ घंटे का समय मिल जाता, तो ये मेरा विरोध नहीं करते, ये मेरी तारीफ करते। ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह बात माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कही है।...**(व्यवधान)**... एक मिनट रुको भाई ...**(व्यवधान)**...

माननीय उपसभापति जी, मेरा यह कहना है कि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी हाउस के अंदर न बोल कर हाउस के बाहर बार-बार यह कह रहे हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**... और आज भी उन्होंने इस बात को दोहराया है कि इस फैसले को लेने से पहले यदि अपोजिशन को 72 घंटे का समय दे दिया जाता, तो शायद ये मेरा विरोध नहीं करते, मेरी तारीफ करते। यह एक तरीके से अपोजिशन पर हमला बोला है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उन्होंने यह कहा है कि हम लोग काले धन का समर्थन कर रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... क्या हमारे पास काला धन है? ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं समझती हूँ कि प्रधान मंत्री जी को हाउस में आना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: क्या आप डिस्कशन के लिए तैयार हैं? ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप इसके बारे में बताइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

सुश्री मायावती: उनको काले धन के बारे में भी बताना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... प्रधान मंत्री जी को माफी मांगनी चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उनको स्पष्ट करना चाहिए कि किसके पास काला धन है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... प्रधान मंत्री जी सदन में आकर माफी मांगें। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव जी, आप अभी डिस्कशन के लिए तैयार हैं? ...**(व्यवधान)**... प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव जी, आप अभी डिस्कशन के लिए तैयार हैं? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, प्रधान मंत्री जी ने सारे विपक्ष को * बता दिया। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; let me listen. ...**(Interruptions)**... What is this? ...**(Interruptions)**...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव: आप उस मीटिंग में शामिल थे। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आपके सामने यह हुआ। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री शरद यादव: उपसभापति महोदय, आज के दिन लाइब्रेरी में ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am listening to Ram Gopalji, please. ...**(Interruptions)**... राम गोपाल जी, अभी डिस्कशन होगा या नहीं? ...**(व्यवधान)**... What is your view? ...**(Interruptions)**... शरद जी, मेरे लिए आपको सुनना मुश्किल है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री शरद यादव: सर, आप के सामने लाइब्रेरी में यह कहा गया कि यदि पूरे अपोजिशन को हम बता देते, तो सारा अपोजिशन अपना काला धन बचा लेता। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आपके साथ बैठकर जो यह बात कही गई है ...**(व्यवधान)**... सारा अपोजिशन इस काले धन के बारे में इसलिए नाराज है कि इनको बताया नहीं गया, यह बहुत गंभीर आरोप है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इसलिए प्रधान मंत्री जी को सदन में आकर इस मामले में ...**(व्यवधान)**...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव: सर, प्रधान मंत्री जी ने सारे विपक्ष को एक तरीके से * बता दिया है। सारे विपक्ष पर आरोप लगा दिया कि यह काले धन का समर्थन करने वाला है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सारे विपक्ष पर यह आरोप लगा दिया कि यदि इनको मौका मिल जाता, तो ये काले धन को... **(व्यवधान)**... इससे ज्यादा * कोई बात नहीं हो सकती। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, ... **(Interruptions)**...

श्री उपसभापति: मैं क्या करूँ? ...**(व्यवधान)**... Shri Tapan, I can't hear anything. ...**(Interruptions)**...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव: इसके लिए प्रधान मंत्री जी को unconditional माफी मांगनी चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री तपन कुमार सेन: काले धन को व्हाइट करवाने का चक्कर चलाया। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Tapan, I cannot hear. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री तपन कुमार सेन: यह अपोजिशन पर लांचन लगाया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes; you can speak. ...**(Interruptions)**... I cannot hear. ...**(Interruptions)**... What is your problem? ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री तपन कुमार सेन: काले धन को व्हाइट करवाने का सारे देश में चक्कर चलाया। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I want the discussion. ...**(Interruptions)**... Are you for discussion or disruption? ...**(Interruptions)**... If you are for discussion, say that. ...**(Interruptions)**....

SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Sir, listen to what I am saying. ...**(Interruptions)**... I said this yesterday. Sir, we were having a good debate. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; say only whether you want a discussion or not. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Sir, I am giving you a suggestion. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If 'yes', then ask your Members to go back. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: I said this yesterday. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You ask your Members to go back. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Nobody is saying. ...**(Interruptions)**... If anyone is opposing this policy, then it does not mean he is a saint and others are all devils. Why is he having this problem?

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That means nobody wants a discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*... मैं क्या करूँ? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Sir, we are opposing it on the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is said, "The whole Opposition is bad." ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, he has to come and apologize. ...*(Interruptions)*... He should come and apologize to this House. ...*(Interruptions)*... माफी मांगो। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nareshji, are you for discussion or not? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, आप भी उस मीटिंग में मौजूद थे। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You ask your colleagues to go back. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने जिस तरह से विपक्ष को काले धन का संरक्षक बताया ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह * है। प्रधान मंत्री जी को माफी मांगनी चाहिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE — *Contd.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri P. P. Chaudhary. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE;
AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just lay it on the Table. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please lay it on the Table. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Notifications of the Ministry of Law and Justice

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY: Sir, I lay on the Table:—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice), under sub-section (1) of Section 30 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, along with delay statement:—

- (1) No. L/61/2010-NALSA, dated the 25th August, 2012, notifying the National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Amendment Regulations, 2012.
- (2) No. L/61/10/NALSA, dated the 18th October, 2014, publishing the National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Amendment Regulations, 2014.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

- (3) No. L/08/11-NALSA, dated the 6th December, 2014, publishing the National Legal Services Authority (Legal Aid Clinics) Amendment Regulations, 2014.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (3) See No. L.T. 5380/16/16]

- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department), under sub-section (3) of Section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951:-

- (1) S.O. 2969 (E), dated the 16th September, 2016, publishing the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2016.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5381/16/16]

- (2) S.O. 3263 (E), dated the 21st October, 2016, publishing the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2016.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5746/16/16]

- III. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) Notification No. S.O. 2968 (E), dated the 16th September, 2016, publishing the Registration of Electors (Amendment) Rules, 2016, under sub-section (3) of Section 28 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5381/16/16]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned up to 12.00 hrs.

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

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

RE. DEMAND FOR APOLOGY BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE ISSUE OF BLACK MONEY — Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 106. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: माननीय चेयरमैन साहब, मेरा आज के लिए भी नोटिस है, लेकिन इस बीच में दो चीजें हुई हैं। कल हमने सदन की कार्यवाही शुरू की थी, हमने प्रधान मंत्री जी का धन्यवाद भी किया था और वे सदन में भी आए थे। मैंने माननीय चेयरमैन साहब की अध्यक्षता में पूछा था कि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी Question Hour के लिए आए हैं या demonetisation पर discussion के लिए आए हैं? हमने विपक्ष की तरफ से और अपनी तरफ से यह भी कहा था कि अगर वे Question Hour के लिए आए हैं, तो फिर सदन का चलना या Opposition का cooperate करना शायद असंभव होगा और यदि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी demonetisation पर discussion करने और हमारे विपक्ष के जो 22-24 एमपीज़ हैं, उनको सुनने और intervene करने

[श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद]

के लिए आए हैं तो अभी discussion शुरू होना चाहिए। माननीय Leader of the House और Finance Minister ने कहा कि आप शुरू करिए, पी.एम. रहेंगे। ..(व्यवधान)।

†**قائد حزب اختلاف (جناب غلام نبی آزاد):** مانیئے چئیرمین صاحب، میرا ا ج کے لیے بھی نوٹس ہے، لیکن اس بیچ میں دو چیزیں ہوئی ہیں۔ کل ہم نے سدن کی کارروائی شروع کی تھی، ہم نے پردھان منتری جی کا دھنیواد بھی کیا تھا اور وہ سدن میں بھی آئے تھے۔ میں نے مانیئے چئیرمین صاحب کی ادھیکشتا میں پوچھا تھا کہ مانیئے پردھان منتری جی کوئشنج اور کے لیے آئے ہیں یا demonetisation پر ڈسکشن کے لیے آئے ہیں؟ ہم نے وپکش کی طرف سے اور اپنی طرف سے یہ بھی کہا تھا کہ اگر وہ کوئشنج اور کے لیے آئے ہیں، تو پھر سدن کا چلنا یا اپوزیشن کا cooperate کرنا شاید ناممکن ہوگا اور اگر مانیئے پردھان منتری جی demonetisation پر ڈسکشن کرنے اور ہمارے وپکش کے جو ایم پیز 22-24 ہیں، ان کو سننے اور intervene کرنے کے لیے آئے ہیں تو ابھی ڈسکشن شروع ہونا چاہیئے۔ مانیئے لیڈر آف دی ہاؤس اور فائننس منسٹر نے کہا کہ آپ شروع کرئیے، پی ایم رہیں گے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर): Intervene करेंगे।

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: Intervene भी करेंगे और रहेंगे। ..(व्यवधान)।

†**جناب غلام نبی آزاد:** Intervene بھی کریں گے اور رہیں گے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

श्री सभापति: कल तो discussion हुआ था। ..(व्यवधान)।

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: सर, अब मैं उस विषय पर वापस नहीं जाता, लेकिन जैसा कि हमें शक था, शंका थी, doubt था कि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी सिर्फ सदन में क्वेश्चन ऑवर के लिए आए हैं, उसके बाद वे नहीं आए।

सर, हम ने आज के लिए नोटिस दिया था, लेकिन आज इस बीच में एक दूसरी घटना हुई कि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी सुबह लायब्रेरी में 'Book release' कर रहे थे और वहां उस 'Book release' function में उन्होंने विपक्ष पर बहुत गंभीर आरोप लगाया, पूरे विपक्ष पर लगाया। सर, विपक्ष में राज्य सभा के एम.पी.जी. भी आते हैं, लोक सभा के एम.पी.जी. भी आते हैं, पूरे देश की विधान सभाओं के एम.एल.एज./एम.एल.सी.जी. भी आते हैं ... (व्यवधान)।

†**جناب غلام نبی آزاد:** سر، اب میں اس وشنے پر واپس نہیں جاتا، لیکن جیسا کہ ہمیں شک تھا، شنکا تھی، ڈاؤٹ تھا کہ مان گئے پردھان منتری جی صرف سدن میں کوئشنج اور کے لئے آئے ہیں، اس کے بعد وہ نہیں آئے۔

سر، ہم نے آج کے لئے نوٹس دیا تھا، لیکن آج اس بیچ میں ایک دوسری گھٹنا ہوئی کہ مان گئے پردھان منتری جی صبح لائبریری میں Book release کر رہے تھے اور وہاں اس Book release function میں انہوں نے وپکش پر بہت گمبھیر آروپ لگایا، پورے وپکش پر لگایا۔ سر، وپکش میں راجیہ سبھا کے ایم۔پیز۔ بھی آتے ہیں، لوک سبھا کے ایم۔پیز بھی آتے ہیں، پورے دیش کی ودھان سبھاؤں کے ایم۔ایل۔ایز/ایم۔ایل۔سیز۔ بھی آتے ہیں۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: वे बाहर बात कर रहे थे ...**(व्यवधान)**... इस सदन में बात नहीं कर रहे थे। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute, the hon. Minister... **(Interruptions)**...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: जब वे विपक्ष पर आरोप लगाएंगे ...**(व्यवधान)**... क्या विपक्ष के एम.पी.ज. चुप रहेंगे? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: جب وہ وپکش پر آروپ لگائیں گے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔ کیا وپکش کے ایم۔پیز۔ چپ رہیں گے؟۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

श्री सभापति: एक मिनट, आप सुन लीजिए। ..**(व्यवधान)**..

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: सर, मैंने उस समय भी कहा था कि हम आज भी चर्चा के लिए तैयार हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कोई policy decision की बात नहीं कही है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप प्रधान मंत्री जी को बाहर बोलने से नहीं रोक सकते। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: सर, हम यह पहली दफा सुन रहे हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**... उन्होंने आरोप लगाया है कि ये ब्लैक मनी को favour करते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उनको माफी मांगनी चाहिए, प्रधान मंत्री जी माफी मांगें, देश से माफी मांगें। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: سر، یہ پہلی دفعہ سن رہے ہیں۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔ انہوں نے آروپ لگایا ہے کہ یہ بلیک منی کو فیور کرتے ہیں۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔ ان کو معافی مانگنی چاہئے پردھان منتری جی معافی مانگیں، دیش سے معافی مانگیں۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go back to your seats. ...**(Interruptions)**... आप बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: आप क्यों चिल्ला रहे हैं? ...**(व्यवधान)**... माफी मांगने का सवाल ही पैदा नहीं होता। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आपको माफी मांगनी पड़ेगी ...**(व्यवधान)**... देश आपको माफ नहीं करेगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

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

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Adoption of PMFBY by States**

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

(a) the details of the amount insured under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether some States have capped the insurance benefit of land at seven hectares, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details regarding loanee and non-loanee farmers who have availed PMFBY scheme, State-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the total number of States that have opted for PMFBY scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (d) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) alongwith Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) have been introduced from Kharif 2016 season in the country. PMFBY has been opted by 21 States and WBCIS by 12 States during Kharif 2016 season. The Scheme-wise details are given in the Statement-I (*See below*). As per the provisions, the Schemes are available to all categories of farmers (both loanee and non-loanee including sharecroppers, tenants etc.) irrespective of their land holding. However, to benefit maximum number of farmers and to ensure judicious use of the subsidy, Rajasthan State Government has capped the premium subsidy to all eligible farmers upto a maximum land extent of 7 hectares only for the notified crops in notified areas under schemes. Farmers can insure their crops above 7 hectares also by paying full premium. State-wise details of amount insured and number of loanee and non-loanee farmers who availed PMFBY/WBCIS during Kharif 2016 are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise details of notifications made by the States for implementation of PMFBY and WBCIS during Kharif 2016 season

Sl. No.	States/UTs	PMFBY	WBCIS
1.	Assam		√
2.	Andhra Pradesh	√	√
3.	Bihar	√	
4.	Chhattisgarh	√	

Sl. No.	States/UTs	PMFBY	WBCIS
5.	Goa	√	
6.	Gujarat	√	
7.	Haryana	√	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	√	√
9.	Jharkhand	√	
10.	Karnataka	√	√
11.	Kerala		√
12.	Madhya Pradesh	√	√
13.	Maharashtra	√	√
14.	Manipur	√	
15.	Meghalaya	√	
16.	Odisha	√	
17.	Rajasthan	√	√
18.	Tamil Nadu	√	
19.	Telangana	√	√
20.	Tripura	√	
21.	Uttar Pradesh	√	√
22.	Uttarakhand	√	√
23.	West Bengal	√	√

Statement-II

State-wise details of sum Insured and Loanee and Non-Loanee farmers covered under PMFBY and WBCIS (combined) during Kharif 2016*

Sl. No.	Name	Sum Insured (₹ in crores)	No. of Farmers Insured (lakhs)	Loanee (lakhs)	Non Loanee (lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam	94.46	0.51	0.51	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	14401.11	15.09	14.42	0.67
3.	Bihar	6422.61	13.98	13.75	0.23
4.	Chhattisgarh	6764	13.26	11.69	1.57
5.	Goa	5.76	0.007	0.007	

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Gujarat	11249	11.91	11.89	0.02
7.	Haryana	6732	6.96	6.90	0.06
8.	Himachal Pradesh	275.22	0.97	0.95	0.02
9.	Jharkhand	1827.83	8.49	1.61	6.88
10.	Karnataka	7369	10.59	8.33	2.26
11.	Kerala	105	0.22	0.22	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	20076	36.54	32.60	3.94
13.	Maharashtra	16964.18	66.79	20.95	45.84
14.	Manipur	Data not available			
15.	Meghalaya	0.3	0.0006	.0006	
16.	Odisha	6859.31	17.46	17.17	0.29
17.	Rajasthan	12207	53.05	53.05	0.005
18.	Tamil Nadu	153.81	0.13	0.13	
19.	Telangana	3621.00	6.55	6.00	0.555
20.	Tripura	3.57	0.02	.01	0.01
21.	Uttar Pradesh	13920.93	30.04	30.03	0.01
22.	Uttarakhand	524.04	1.28	1.17	0.11
23.	West Bengal	7959.00	32.40	17.31	15.09
TOTAL		137535.10	326.25	248.70	77.56

*Provisional

Alleged irregularities in BSNL's purchase order

*107. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities have been reported in BSNL's purchase order no. CT/PO/20/2015 for expansion of National Internet Backbone and in annual maintenance contract along with purchase of new hardwares, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has inquired into the alleged scam involving more than ₹ 300 crore and has fixed responsibilities in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) News items have reported irregularities in BSNL's

procurement of items for expansion of National Internet Backbone and in annual maintenance contract. The matter is under examination in the Department.

Optical fibre cable/internet to villages

†*108. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made so far with regard to the scheme relating to connecting all the villages with optical fibre cable/internet under the Digital India programme;

(b) the number of villages of all States/Union Territories which are connected with optical fibre cable/internet, district-wise; and

(c) the details of targets set by Government to achieve this milestone, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) BharatNet is planned to create network infrastructure for providing Broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. The Project is being implemented in a phased manner, with Phase-I to connect 1,00,000 GPs being implemented currently and which is targeted to be completed by March, 2017. Status of Bharat Net Phase-I as on 20.11.2016 is as under:

Items	Achievement
Pipe laid (Kms)	1,69,967
Pipe laid (GPs)	75,028
Optical Fibre Cable pulled (Kms)	1,45,693
Optical Fibre Cable pulled (GPs)	63,631
GPs provided with connectivity	14,009

(b) The list of GPs, which have been connected by optical fibre cable under BharatNet, is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) On 30.04.2016, Telecom Commission approved a modified strategy to implement BharatNet in three phases:-

Phase-I 1,00,000 GPs under implementation, being executed by 3 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), RailTel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) targeted to be completed by March, 2017.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Phase-II Balance 150000 GPs using an optimal mix of underground/aerial optical fibre cable, radio and satellite, to be executed by 3 CPSUs and State Governments through their Discoms or any other agency, targeted to be completed by September, 2018.

Phase-III Futuristic network with ring topology between districts and blocks and, blocks and GPs is targeted to be completed by 2023.

Statement

District-wise list of Gram Panchayats provided with broadband connectivity

State	District	Number of Gram Pachayats provided with broadband connectivity
1	2	3
Assam	Cachar	124
	Dibrugarh	57
	Kamrup	119
	Kamrup metro	23
	TOTAL	323
Bihar	Begusarai	52
	Kishanganj	127
	Munger	53
	Patna	29
	Samastipur	13
	Saran	30
	Sheohar	55
	Sitamarhi	15
	Siwan	4
	Vaishali	19
	TOTAL	397
Chandigarh	Chandigarh	12
	TOTAL	12
Chhattisgarh	Balod	48

1	2	3
Chhattisgarh	Balrampur	332
	Bastar	29
	Bemetara	17
	Bilaspur	31
	Dhamtari	39
	Durg	85
	Gariabandh	47
	Janjagir-champa	50
	Jashpur	71
	Kanker	31
	Kondagaon	27
	Korba	43
	Koria	20
	Mungeli	69
	Raigarh	17
	Rajnandgaon	25
	TOTAL	981
Haryana	Faridabad	74
	Jind	74
	Mahendragarh	86
	Palwal	10
	Rewari	25
	Sonipat	129
	TOTAL	398
Karnataka	Bagalkot	106
	Bangalore rural	51
	Belgaum	332
	Bellary	173

1	2	3
Karnataka	Bengaluru urban	85
	Bidar	171
	Bijapur	162
	Chamarajanagar	119
	Chikballapur	140
	Chikmagalur	220
	Chitradurga	119
	Dakshin Kannad	200
	Davangere	201
	Dharwad	107
	Gadag	104
	Gulbarga	95
	Hassan	255
	Haveri	170
	Kodagu	95
	Kolar	166
	Koppal	132
	Mandya	232
	Mysore	235
	Raichur	142
	Ramanagara	85
	Shimoga	249
	Tumkur	321
	Udupi	144
	Uttar Kannad	175
	Yadgir	40
	TOTAL	4826
Kerala	Alappuzha	85
	Ernakulam	98

1	2	3
Kerala	Idukki	60
	Kannur	92
	Kasaragod	44
	Kollam	81
	Kottayam	84
	Kozhikode	87
	Malappuram	115
	Palakkad	104
	Pathanamthitta	62
	Thiruvananthapuram	84
	Thrissur	104
	Wayanad	29
	TOTAL	1129
Maharashtra	Amravati	105
	Beed	226
	Bhandara	18
	Gondia	103
	Nagpur	524
	Nashik	12
	Raigad	70
	TOTAL	1058
Madhya Pradesh	Alirajpur	34
	Balaghat	79
	Barwani	14
	Bhopal	49
	Burhanpur	19
	Chhindwara	42
	Damoh	5

1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh	Dhar	238
	Guna	36
	Gwalior	35
	Harda	19
	Indore	185
	Jabalpur	118
	Jhabua	46
	Khargone	47
	Mandsaur	23
	Neemach	21
	Morena	16
	Sagar	1
	Rajgarh	11
	Ratlam	41
	Sehore	64
	Shajapur	23
	Shivpuri	26
	Ujjain	13
	Sheopur	5
	TOTAL	1210
Punjab	Bathinda	3
	Gurdaspur	10
	Jalandhar	44
	Kapurthala	18
	Mansa	2
	Ropar	19
	TOTAL	96
Rajasthan	Ajmer	222
	Bhilwara	27

1	2	3
Rajasthan	Bikaner	208
	Chittorgarh	41
	Dausa	41
	Jaipur	98
	Jhunjhunu	290
	TOTAL	927
Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad	47
	Banda	44
	Basti	4
	Ghazipur	60
	Gorakhpur	18
	Lucknow	156
	Mau	4
	Sant Ravidas Nagar	22
	Siddharth Nagar	37
	Sitapur	94
	Varanasi	178
	Agra	10
	Aligarh	52
	Auraiya	23
	Gautam Buddha Nagar	156
	JP Nagar	72
	Meerut	32
	Muzaffar Nagar	16
	TOTAL	1025
Uttarakhand	Haridwar	232
	Nainital	11
	TOTAL	243
West Bengal	Bankura	1

1	2	3
West Bengal	Murshidabad	50
	Paschim Medinipur	7
	Purba Medinipur	30
	Purulia	49
	TOTAL	137
Manipur	Bishnupur	26
	TOTAL	26
Tripura	Unokoti	79
	TOTAL	79
Gujarat	Anand	278
	Mehsana	42
	TOTAL	320
Puducherry	Puducherry	70
	Karaikal	31
	TOTAL	101
Jharkhand	Bokaro	147
	Hazaribagh	8
	Kodarma	5
	Ramgarh	88
	TOTAL	248
Odisha	Gajapati	8
	Jagatsinghapur	170
	Kendujhar	85
	Mayurbhanj	92
	TOTAL	355
Telangana	Nizamabad	118
	TOTAL	118
Grand TOTAL		14,009

Steps taken for judicial reforms

*109. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of cases pending in courts across the country *vis-a-vis* the number of Judges/judicial officers;

(b) whether, as per a recent study of the National Court Management System (NCMS), the number of pending cases in courts is likely to go up to 20 crore; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government for judicial reforms and also to improve the Judge-population ratio?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
(a) to (c) As per information available, 61,626 matters were pending in the Supreme Court as on 21.11.2016. The sanctioned strength of Judges in the Supreme Court is 31 and there are 7 vacancies at present. 38.70 lakh cases were pending in the High Courts as on 31.12.2015. The sanctioned strength of Judges in the High Courts has been increased from 906 in June 2014 to 1,079 at present. There are 428 vacancies in the High Courts. 120 fresh appointments of Judges in the High Courts have been made so far this year, which is just one short of highest number of appointments made in a year since 1990. On an average about 80 Judges were being appointed in the High Courts in a year since 1990.

2.70 crore cases were pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.2015. The sanctioned strength of Judges/Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts has increased from 17,715 at the end of 2012 to 21,320 in June 2016. There were 4,937 vacancies of Judges/Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016. The subject matter relating to filling up of vacancies in the District and Subordinate Courts falls with the domain of the High Courts and the State Governments concerned. Central Government has no role in appointment of Subordinate Judiciary.

The National Court Management System was constituted in the Supreme Court in May, 2012. The 'Policy and Action Plan' document of the National Court Management System has estimated that with the increase in literacy, per capita income and population, the number of new cases filed each year may go upto fifteen (15) crore over the next three decades.

The Supreme Court in its Order dated 1st February, 2012 in the case of *Imtiyaz Ahmed versus State of Uttar Pradesh* asked the Law Commission of India to evolve a method for scientific assessment of the number of additional courts to clear the backlog of cases. Pursuant to this Law Commission submitted its 245th Report titled

“Arrears and Backlog: Creating Additional Judicial (wo)manpower”. In this report, the Law Commission has observed that filing of cases per capita varies substantially across geographic units as filings are associated with economic and social conditions of the population. As such the Law Commission did not consider the judge-population ratio to be a scientific criterion for determining the adequacy of the judge strength in the country. The Law Commission found that in the absence of complete and scientific approach to data collection across various High Courts in the country, the “Rate of Disposal” method to calculate the number of additional judges required to clear the backlog of case as well as to ensure that new backlog is not created, is more pragmatic and useful.

In May, 2014, the Supreme Court asked the State Governments and the High Courts to file their response to the recommendations made by the Law Commission. In August 2014, the Supreme Court asked the National Court Management System Committee (NCMS) to examine the recommendations made by the Law Commission and to furnish their recommendations in this regard. NCMS submitted its report to the Supreme Court in March, 2016. It has, *inter-alia*, observed that in the long term, the judge strength of the subordinate courts will have to be assessed by a scientific method to determine the total number of “Judicial Hours” required for disposing of the case load of each court. In the interim, this Committee has proposed a “weighted” disposal approach—disposal weighted by the nature and complexity of cases in local conditions. The matter is *sub-judice* before the Supreme Court.

Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, *inter-alia*, include availability of adequate number of judges, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures.

The 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 judicial officers/judges, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development.

The Central Government has provided financial assistance to the tune of ₹ 5,459 crore to the State Governments/UTs since inception of Judicial Infrastructure Scheme in 1993-94. Out of this, an amount of ₹ 2,014 crore has been sanctioned since 2014-15. 16,513 courts halls were available for subordinate judiciary against the working strength of 16,070 judges/judicial officers as on 31.12.2015. Further, 2,447 court halls were under construction to take care of increase in the working strength on account of filling up of vacancies.

Vacancies of Judges and other staff in Supreme Court

*110. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of vacancies of Judges and other staff in Supreme Court;
- (b) the reasons for delay in filling up these vacancies; and
- (c) by when the process will be completed to avoid delay in providing justice to the needy?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
 (a) to (c) As on 23.11.2016, out of an approved Judge strength of 31 in the Supreme Court, there is a working strength of 24 Judges, leaving 7 vacancies.

The filling up Judges vacancies in Supreme Court and High Courts is a continuous process, as it requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities. As per the Memorandum of Procedure for Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts based on the Supreme Court Judgment dated October 6, 1993 in the case of Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record and Anr. *Vs.* Union of India, read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the initiation of the proposal for appointment of a Judge of the Supreme Court is made by the Chief Justice of India. The Government has not received any proposal from the Supreme Court of India to fill up the existing 7 vacancies.

Regarding vacancy of other staffs in the Supreme Court, the information furnished by the Supreme Court is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Vacancy
1.	Additional Registrar	2
2.	Branch Officer	3
3.	Sr. Personal Assistant	35
4.	Personal Assistant	6
5.	Junior Court Assistant	27
6.	Junior Court Attendant	90
7.	Chamber Attendants	27
TOTAL		190

The Supreme Court further informed that the process of filling up of vacancies by way of promotion/direct recruitment is a continuous process and the Registry is

already taking steps from time to time for filling up the vacancies. Therefore, there is no delay in filling up of vacancies.

Filling up of vacancy of staffs in the Supreme Court is within the administrative jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. The Central Government has no role to play in their recruitment or appointment.

Expanding the number of medicines under NLEM

*111. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to expand the number of medicines under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM);

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to include drugs used for cancer treatment under the NLEM; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR):
(a) The revision of the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is an ongoing process. It was first formulated in 1996. Subsequently it was revised in 2003 and 2011. The last revision of NLEM (2015) was notified by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 23.12.2015. The medicines included in NLEM are based on the recommendation of the Core-Committee constituted for the purpose by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Some of the criteria for inclusion are that the medicine should be approved/licenced in India, it should be useful to diseases which are a public health problem in India and should have proven efficacy and safety profile.

(b) and (c) The National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) notified by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 23.12.2015 contains 376 medicines. These 376 medicines include 59 medicines which are used in treatment of cancer.

Strengthening of railway infrastucture at Jodhpur station

†*112. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jodhpur railway station of Rajasthan is strategically the most important railway station;

(b) if so, the details of planning of Railways for Jodhpur railway station; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the Ministry of Defence has requested for strengthening of railway infrastructure by upgradation and interlinking of this station with other railway stations, if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir. Jodhpur railway station is one of the important railway stations in India. It is an A-1 category station.

(b) The yard remodelling work of Jodhpur which was sanctioned at a cost of 14.37 crores has been completed. In addition, Rai ka Bagh–Phalodi interlocking work has been sanctioned at a cost of 33.37 crores and is in progress.

(c) Survey for the following projects of connection of Jodhpur to other stations has been completed:-

- (i) Jodhpur (Rai ka Bagh)–Degana doubling (145 KM)
- (ii) Jodhpur–Jaisalmer doubling (290 KM)
- (iii) Jodhpur–Agolai–Shergarh–Phalsund new line (116 KM).

Wastage of foodgrains

*113. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Government study has recently revealed that India is growing more foodgrains but also wasting upto 67 million tonnes of it every year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) A study undertaken by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), an Institute under the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) in 2013-14, has revealed that 13.168 million ton of foodgrains (Cereals and Pulses) is wasted every year, including from farm operations to Storage. This study was on “Assessment of Quantitative Harvest and Post-Harvest Losses of Major Crops/Commodities in India” and sponsored by Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India.

The CIPHET study report has cited that Indian agriculture had shown tremendous evolution since independence and converted India into as exporting country of agricultural products from an importer even after a fourfold increase in population. As per the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare production of foodgrains has increased to 252.02 million tons in 2014-15 crop year as compared to 213.19 million tons during 2003-04. The CIPHET

study had revealed that total losses in cereals are 4.65% for maize, 4.93% for wheat, 5.23% for bajra, 5.53% for paddy and 5.99% for sorghum during farm operations and storage. The losses for pulses are 6.36% for Pigeon Pea, 6.6% for Green Gram, 7.07% for Black Gram and 8.41% for Chick Pea.

Digitize India platform

*114. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of user organizations and digital contributors registered on the Digitize India Platform in 2015 and 2016; and

(b) whether any steps have been taken by Government to encourage more number of user organizations and digital contributors to register on the platform, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) **Registered user organizations:**

The number of user organizations whose documents are being digitized on the Digitize India Platform (DIP) in 2015 and 2016 are 1 and 3 respectively.

Registered digital contributors:

The number of digital contributors registered on the Digitize India Platform during 2015 and 2016 (as on 31st October, 2016) is 20,677 and 40,199 respectively. Consequently, the total number of digital contributors registered on the Digitize India Platform (on 31st October 2016) is 60,876.

(b) CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd. (CSC-SPV) is the implementing agency for the DIP project. Following steps have been taken by CSC-SPV to encourage more number of user organizations and digital contributors to register on the platform:

1. Five channel partners for marketing have been empanelled for on boarding various organizations. CSC-SPV team along with channel partners is actively pursuing with multiple departments for digitization work.
2. Campaigning, mass awareness through social media and workshops has been conducted.

Introduction of high-speed trains

†*115. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when and on which routes, high-speed trains are going to be introduced;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) whether high-speed trains will be run on the busiest routes; and
- (c) whether basic infrastructure requirements have been completed for this, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail corridor has been sanctioned with financial and technical assistance from Government of Japan. The target date of commissioning is 2023-24.

Feasibility studies for high speed corridor over Diamond Quadrilateral network, viz Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Kolkata, Mumbai-Chennai, Mumbai-Nagpur and Delhi-Nagpur have been awarded.

- (c) Infrastructure requirements for introduction of high speed trains are part of the project.

Development of high yielding seeds

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any initiative to develop high quality and high yielding seeds in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether such seeds have made their way to the farmers, if so, the details, outcome and benefits thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. National Agricultural Research System (NARS) comprising Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) has taken number of research initiatives and also prioritized the strategy. NARS is entrusted to develop high quality and high yielding varieties suited to different agro climatic conditions of the country. Besides, ICAR also initiated Consortia Research Platforms on hybrid technology, molecular breeding, agro-biodiversity, bio-fortification, genomics, nanotechnology, borer, etc. along with incentivizing research on agriculture and a network project on transgenics in crops. As a result of these efforts, a total of 535 high yielding varieties/hybrids comprising 251 of cereals, 74 of oilseeds, 64 of pulses, 36 of fibre crops, 26 of forage crops, 12 of sugar cane and 72 of horticultural crops have been released during 2014 – 2016 including 8 high quality (bio-fortified) varieties.

(b) The ICAR is mandated to produce breeder seed of released varieties and it is produced against the indent of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare every year. Breeder seed is supplied to indenters like public as well as private sector organizations to produce foundation and certified seeds, for making quality seed available to the farmers at affordable prices. During 2012-13 to 2015-16, 2.95 lakh quintal (q) breeder seeds of field crops were supplied to the indenters and led to production of 1261.47 lakh q of certified/quality seeds, besides 1.97 lakh q of planting material, 2628.42 lakh number of planting material and 30.71 lakh number of tissue cultured plants were produced and distributed to the farmers. These efforts resulted in record production of food grains of 265.04 million tons (mt) and horticultural production of 277.4 mt during 2013-14. However, during 2014-15 total food grains production came down to 252.02 mt and 252.23 mt in 2015-16, just 4.9% and 4.8%, less than the record production, respectively. In these years monsoon rainfall was 12% and 14% less, respectively. Secondly bad weather like wide spread hail storms and untimely rains caused heavy damage to the rabi crops in 2014-15. The first advance estimate of kharif 2016-17, food grains is estimated 135.04 mt against the 124.51 mt of 2015-16. It is about 8% higher.

(c) Question does not arise

Modernization of Indian telephone industries units

*117. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the six manufacturing units of Indian Telephone Industries are almost sick because of huge advancement of technology in the last decade and certain management issues, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the plans of the Government for modernization of these units, especially in view of the major thrust Government has laid in the fields of communication and information technology by launching Digital India scheme, which has huge potential for growth in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Due to continuous losses in most of its manufacturing units, ITI was declared a sick company and was referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in the year 2004.

After the liberalization of telecom sector in 1990s, ITI's various manufacturing units began to run into losses. The major reasons for ITI's continued losses over the years have been absence of in-house technology, reduction in orders from major customers, namely, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone

Nigam Limited (MTNL), the skill sets of the existing manpower not being in tune with rapidly changing technology. Due to continued losses, its manufacturing facilities, primarily set up for landline networks of *erstwhile* DoT and BSNL/MTNL, could not be upgraded after late 1990s.

(b) The Revival package of ITI, as recommended by BIFR and Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE), was approved by CCEA during February 2014. Out of the total financial package of ₹ 4156.79 crore, ₹ 2264 crore has been approved as equity for capital investments for upgrading/modernizing the manufacturing infrastructure at various plants of ITI to implement several projects identified for revival of the company under revival plan.

Out of ₹ 2264 crore, Government has already released ₹ 272 crore to the Company towards capital expenditure. The manufacturing infrastructure of the Units are being upgraded to manufacture the products as indicated below:

Unit	Products
Bangalore	Defence encryption products, Data Center, Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), ERP Project, 3D Printer
Raebareli	Gigabit Passive Optical Network (G-PON), High Density Poly Ethylene (HDPE) Pipe Manufacturing, OFC Cable Manufacturing, Li Ion Batteries, Switched-Mode Power Supply (SMPS)
Naini	Solar panels, Carrier Ethernet
Mankapur	Low Power BTS, Wi-fi Solutions, LTE
Palakkad	Managed Leased Line Network (MLLN), Smart Card, Contract Manufacturing for Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), HDPE Pipe, Component Screening
Srinagar	Skill Development Center

With upgradation of manufacturing infrastructure, ITI shall be able to address more business opportunities in the fields of communication and information technology and Digital India Scheme launched by the Government.

During 2015-16, ITI has recorded a turnover at ₹ 1253 crore which is more than double of that of the previous year. For the current year 2016-17, ITI has targeted a turnover of ₹ 2400 crore. The current order book position is ₹ 2932 crore and the Company has achieved a turnover of ₹ 784.12 crore till 31st October, 2016.

Recent auction of spectrum

*118. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how much amount Government had anticipated and how much it could realize through the recently held auction of spectrum;

(b) whether it is a fact that 700 MHz band spectrum has not been auctioned due to poor response;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and how Government is planning to go ahead in this regard; and

(d) how much amount Government is planning to generate through the auction of 700 MHz spectrum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) DoT has anticipated/projected receipt of ₹ 34586.00 crore from spectrum auction during Financial Year 2016-17. Spectrum Auction held in October, 2016, has resulted in total bid amount of ₹ 65789.12 crore out of which ₹ 32434.10 crore has been collected as upfront payment from Spectrum Auction held in October, 2016. Balance amount along with the interest will be realized in 10 equal installments of ₹ 6291.41 crore each after giving moratorium for a period of 2 years and balance payment will commence from Financial Year 2019-2020 to 2028-29.

(b) and (c) No bid was received in any of the 22 LSAs in 700 MHz. Absence of ecosystem in 700 MHz band including the non-availability of devices together with industry perception of high reserve price appears to be the main reason for no bids in the 700 MHz band. In addition, companies appeared to be preserving cash to protect market share in the days to come.

(d) This will depend on the market determined price, when the 700 MHz spectrum is put to auction.

Research and development in agriculture sector

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

(a) the total amount allocated and spent for Research and Development (R&D) in agriculture and allied fields, under the centrally funded schemes during the period 2014-16;

(b) the major achievements made in the field of R&D in agriculture and allied fields during the last three years; and

(c) the contribution of R&D in improving the productivity of major crops in last three years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) The total amount allocated and spent for Research and Development (R&D) in agriculture and allied fields, under the Centrally Funded Plan Schemes during the period 2014-17 are given below:

Year	Total Allocation (₹ in crores)	Total Expenditure (₹ in crores)	% Expenditure	Remarks
2014-15 (RE)	2500.00	2268.57	90.74	-
2015-16 (RE)	3000.00	2900.80	96.69	-
2016-17 (RE)	3200.00	1707.58	53.36	As on 31st Oct 2016

(b) and (c) Tremendous strides have been made in all spheres of agricultural sciences by the country during past decades. The country's food grain production has registered a phenomenal growth. During 2015-16, the country produced 252.22 MT of food grains (235.75 MT cereals and 16.47 MT Pulses), 25.30 MT Oilseeds and 352.16 MT Sugarcane besides producing more than 282.77 million tonnes of horticultural produce. The details of near stable productivity of the most of the major crops are given in Statement-I (*See below*) despite severe adverse climatic conditions during past two years was only possible due to improved climate resilient varieties and technologies developed by the National Agricultural Research System (NARS).

The details of increase in average production and yield in Triennium Ending (TE) 2014-15 over TE 2009-10 is given in Statement-II (*See below*) has been 12.6 and 13.0% for cereals, 24.5 and 18.9% for pulses, 13.3 and 12.6% for food grains, 10.5 and 10.5% for oilseeds, 13.9 and 4.1% for sugarcane, 45.1 and 14.1% for cotton. Over the last decade, the production of horticultural crops has risen by 7.6% per annum. Likewise, the country has recorded remarkable growth in milk production which increased from 116.4 million tonnes (2009-10) to an estimated 155.5 million tonnes (2015-16). The egg production also increased from 60.3 billion (2009-10) upto 73.4 billion (2013-14) which further rose to an estimated 83.00 billion in 2015-16. Similarly, the total fish production in the country during 2009-10 was 7.99 Million tonnes (2009-10) which increased up to an estimated 10.79 MT (2015-16). These achievements in the agricultural sector are attributable in a large measure to the technology-led improvements in agricultural productivity and investments in R & D in agriculture and allied sectors and the adoption of improved technologies by farmers.

During last three years, the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) has released 463 high yielding/ hybrid varieties of major crops (comprising cereals, oilseeds, pulses, fibre crops, forage crops and sugarcane). A number of early maturing and thermo-tolerant crop varieties with higher nutrient and water use efficiency for newer niches and cropping systems have also been developed and released for cultivation. The NARS in association with Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) made available 347.31, 351.77 and 343.52 lakh quintals of certified/ quality seeds during 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, respectively to the farmers. A total of 314 improved varieties, 136 hybrids, 337 vegetable production technologies, 211 IPM and 167 seed production technologies of different vegetables/fruits have been developed and recommended by ICAR during this period. A triple disease resistant tomato F1 hybrid *Arka Rakshak*, resistant to bacterial wilt, early blight and leaf curl virus has been developed. In view of the prevailing climate change scenario and the recurrence of draughts/unseasonal rains during past 2 years, high priority has been accorded by the Government towards the development of climate resilient varieties of cereals, pulses, oilseeds and horticultural crops. During 2014-15, 63 new drought tolerant varieties have been developed. Cost effective novel cane node technology and quality tissue culture seedling material in sugarcane, high density planting in cotton, quality seed production and microbial retting in jute, broad bed furrow planting technology in soybean, direct seeded rice and resource conservation technologies in wheat have been developed and demonstrated. In view of the prevailing climate change scenario and the recurrence of draughts/unseasonal rains during past 2 years, high priority has been accorded by the Government towards the development of climate resilient varieties of cereals, pulses, oilseeds and horticultural crops. During 2014-15, 63 new drought tolerant varieties have been developed. Cost effective novel cane node technology and quality tissue culture seedling material in sugarcane, high density planting in cotton, quality seed production and microbial retting in jute, broad bed furrow planting technology in soybean, direct seeded rice and resource conservation technologies in wheat have been developed and demonstrated. A number of cost effective and energy efficient improved equipment developed by ICAR during the period resulted in saving of costly inputs (seeds, fertilizers, fuel, chemicals, water, electricity) up to 20-40% in ensuring improving productivity of major crops by ensuring timely accomplishment and improved quality of various operations and reduction in total losses. By adoption of recommended doses of fertilizers with drip irrigation resulted in significant in yield increases in okra, tomato and banana crops. A major breakthrough was achieved in breeding and seed production of the milkfish (*Chanos chanos*), in captivity, for the first time in the country. The fish species is highly suited for culture in different salinity in brackish water and inland saline

ponds. Round the year seed availability of Indian major carps was achieved through multiple breeding. Three strains of the poultry viz. *Kamrupa* a multi-coloured bird suitable for rural poultry production in Assam; *Narmadanidhi* an improved variety of chicken for Vindhya region and *Jharsim* a dual purpose variety of chicken to be reared in Jharkhand area were developed and distributed among the farmers. Major breakthroughs were achieved in buffalo cloning with the production of cloned calves Lalima and Rajat by Hand Guided Cloning Technique during 2014.

Statement-I

Details of total production of major crops/commodities during last three years and the reference year 2009-10 (Million Tonnes)

Crop/Commodity	Year-wise production (MT/Year)				
	2009-10	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16**
Rice	89.09	105.24 *(2461)	106.65 *(2416)	105.48 *(2390)	104.32 *(2404)
Wheat	80.80	93.51 *(3117)	95.85 *(3145)	86.53 *(2872)	93.50 *(3093)
Maize	16.72	16.20 *(2566)	17.15 *(2676)	17.01 *(2557)	21.81 *(2509)
Bajra	6.51	8.74 *(1198)	9.25 *(1184)	9.18 *(1272)	8.06 *(1154)
Pigeonpea	2.46	3.02 *(776)	3.17 *(813)	2.81 *(750)	2.46 *(656)
Chickpea/Gram	7.48	8.83 *(1036)	9.53 *(960)	7.33 *(875)	7.17 *(859)
TOTAL Pulses	14.70 (639)	18.34 *(789)	19.26 *(764)	17.15 *(728)	16.47 *(652)
TOTAL food grains	227.70 (1857)	257.13 *(2129)	265.05 *(2120)	252.02 *(2028)	252.22 *(2056)
Groundnut	5.43	3.19 *(994)	8.06 *(1764)	5.93 *(1552)	6.77 *(1486)

Rapeseed and mustard	6.61	8.03 *(1262)	7.88 *(1185)	6.28 *(1083)	6.82 *(1184)
Soybean	9.96	14.67 *(1353)	11.86 *(1012)	10.37 *(951)	8.59 *(737)
Sunflower	0.85	0.54 *(655)	0.50 *(750)	0.43 *(736)	0.33 *(697)
TOTAL for 9 major oilseeds	27.50 *(1029)	30.94 *(1168)	32.75 *(1168)	27.51 *(1075)	25.30 *(968)
Cotton (million bales)	24.10 *(427)	34.22 *(486)	35.90 *(510)	34.81 *(462)	30.15 *(432)
Sugarcane	309.00 *(67173)	341.20 *(68254)	352.14 *(70522)	362.33 *(71511)	352.16 *(71095)
Fruits	71.50	81.28	88.98	86.60	90.53
Vegetables	133.74	162.19	162.90	169.48	166.47
Spices	4.02	5.74	5.91	6.11	6.13
TOTAL Horticultural Produce	223.09	268.85	277.35	280.99	282.77
Milk	116.40	132.40	137.70	146.30	155.50
Egg (Billion Nos.)	60.30	69.73	74.75	78.48	83.00
Fish	7.99	9.04	9.58	10.16	10.79

*Figures in parenthesis indicate productivity (Kg/ha)

** DAC&FW, Fourth Advance Estimates

Statement-II

*Average area, production and yield of different crop groups in triennium ending (TE)
2014-15 and TE 2009-10 and percentage increase in yield over the period*

Crop (Group)	Average of TE 2009-10			Average of TE 2014-15			% increase in average yield in TE 2014-15 over TE 2009-10 (column 7 over column 4)	% increase in average production in TE 2014-15 over TE 2009-10 (column 6 over column 3)
	Area (mha)	Production (mt)	Yield (kg/ha)	Area (mha)	Production (mt)	Yield (kg/ha)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Cereals	99.7	213.1	2137	99.3	239.8	2414	13.0	12.6
Pulses	23.0	14.7	639	24.0	18.3	760	18.9	24.5
Food Grains	122.6	227.7	1857	123.4	258.0	2091	12.6	13.3
Oilseeds	26.7	27.5	1029	26.7	30.4	1137	10.5	10.5
Sugarcane	4.6	309.0	67173	5.0	351.9	69954	4.1	13.9
Cotton	9.6	24.1*	427	12.2	34.97*	487	14.1	45.1

*bales of 170 kg each.

Source: DoE&S, DAC&FW.

Increase in assistance under area expansion programme of NHM

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

(a) whether there will be increase in the assistance under area expansion programme taken up under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM); and

(b) if so, the details of the quantum of increase and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) No such proposal to increase the assistance for area expansion programme under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) is under consideration in this Ministry.

(b) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is co-terminus with 12th plan period which is coming to an end on 31st March 2017. Hence, continuance of MIDH and changes in its cost norms shall have to be approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). However, presently there is no proposal to increase the cost norms of area expansion intervention under MIDH.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Implementation of Grameen Bhandaran Yojana**

†1121. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Grameen Bhandaran Yojana;

(b) the details of the amount earmarked and allocated under this scheme by the Government during last three years and the amount utilized by the States, State-wise; and

(c) the details with regard to achieving the scientific storage capacity in the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise, including Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Grameen Bhandaran Yojana (GBY) Scheme started on 01.04.2001, got subsumed on 01.04.2014 into the sub Scheme "Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing" (ISAM) as capital investment subsidy scheme. Under the Scheme, @25% of the capital cost for general category beneficiary and @33.33% for

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

special category beneficiary is provided for construction/creation of scientific godowns, their renovation and other infrastructure in the field of Agricultural Marketing in the country. However, the assistance for renovation is restricted to storage infrastructure projects of cooperatives only. The main objectives of the AMI schemes are to develop agricultural marketing infrastructure including storage infrastructure for effectively managing marketable surplus of agriculture including horticulture and allied sectors.

(b) The details of the funds earmarked, allocated by the Government and utilized under the scheme during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Name of the Scheme	Allocation of funds#	Utilization/Release of Funds#
2013-14	GBY	344.16	344.10
2014-15	AMI	926.71	878.18
2015-16	AMI	675.86	518.81

#There is no State-wise allocation of funds under the scheme.

The funds are released in the States as per sanction of projects under the scheme in a particular State. State-wise release of subsidy is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Since inception of the scheme and up to 30.09.2016, a total of 37,574 godown projects with storage capacity of 62.64 million MT have been sanctioned throughout the country. The State-wise details are given in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise Godown Projects Sanctioned and subsidy released under Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (Storage component) (erstwhile GBY) up to 30.09.2016

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Projects	Storage capacity Sanctioned (in MT)	Subsidy Released (₹ in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1296	5156248.38	23229.57
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	945.00	6.30
3.	Assam	270	739356.78	2981.02
4.	Bihar	990	487187.39	1972.90
5.	Chhattisgarh	586	1995138.47	4992.83
6.	Goa	1	299.00	0.90

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Gujarat	11296	4230724.27	20826.48
8.	Haryana	2141	7612859.33	29603.22
9.	Himachal Pradesh	78	24797.61	131.12
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	11	73148.00	558.97
11.	Jharkhand	23	142316.00	324.77
12.	Karnataka	4406	3552873.37	16541.62
13.	Kerala	205	89906.56	335.21
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3637	9712054.39	40688.26
15.	Maharashtra	3338	5889319.27	19170.39
16.	Meghalaya	16	21011.76	183.87
17.	Mizoram	1	302.00	2.52
18.	Nagaland	1	813.57	5.95
19.	Odisha	419	781575.24	2818.49
20.	Punjab	1735	6693469.74	20976.48
21.	Rajasthan	1424	2572908.09	7863.56
22.	Tamil Nadu	1081	1260541.34	4390.87
23.	Uttar Pradesh	1108	5193209.68	15855.52
24.	Uttarakhand	278	752792.59	3124.69
25.	West Bengal	2547	1568436.31	4308.28
26.	Tripura	4	25756.00	276.56
27.	Telangana	681	4063182.81	19408.22
28.	UTs	0	0.00	0.00
TOTAL		37574	62641172.94	240578.57

Development of whitefly resistant seeds

1122. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government is taking to eliminate the whitefly attacks, in terms of research and development of whitefly resistant seeds and pesticides which cause minimal distress to soil fertility;

(b) whether there has been any campaign undertaken to educate farmers about healthy farm practices, farm sanitation and crop-rotation to reduce whitefly attacks, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of damage caused to cotton crop and other crops due to whitefly attacks in last three years, both in terms of yield and monetary losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities have taken a number of initiatives to manage the whitefly *viz.* promotion of relatively tolerant Bt. Hybrids, inherently resistant 'Desi cotton varieties', survey and surveillance, improved package of practices, Integrated Pest Management Strategies etc. New initiatives of research like introgression of tolerant genes from wild sources and Desi cotton. There is no direct effect of whitefly management on the soil fertility.

(b) Before the crop season Kharif 2016, an advisory was issued to Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan where crop was affected during Kharif 2015 and all three States started campaign to educate the farmers. The Vice-Chancellor, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, himself supervised campaign during the crop season and all other States also worked in campaign mode. Besides, E-Kapas, messages sent to 180,000 farmers during 2016. Several training programs, farmer training camps, workshops, frontline demonstration programs were conducted on cotton production and protection technologies.

(c) Whitefly infestation was negligible during Kharif 2016 due to continuous hand holding of farmers. Insect incidence was reported only in Abohar and Fazilka districts.

During Kharif 2015, Punjab Government estimated and reported whitefly infestation in 3.32 lakh hectares and a sum of ₹ 643 crores have been released as compensation.

Production during 2013-14 was 35.90 million bales, while it was 35.48 million bales in 2014-15 and 30.10 million bales in 2015-16. First estimate suggests that production would be 32.1 million bales during 2016-17.

Implementation of PMFBY

1123. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made against Government target of bringing 50 million farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for kharif crops in 2016-17;

(b) the percentage increase of farmers who have opted for crop insurance under the scheme in 2016-17 vs. 2015-16;

(c) the total cultivable area under insurance this year and the percentage increase or decrease in area under the scheme as compared to 2015; and

(d) the total sum insured this year and the percentage increase or decrease in the sum insured under the scheme as compared to 2015?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (d) It is estimated to enhance the area under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) up 50% of the gross cropped area within next 2-3 years. However, it will depend on notification of areas/crops by the State Governments. As per tentative data available, about 326 lakh farmers over an area of 380 lakh hectare for Sum Insured of ₹ 137535 crore have been covered during Kharif 2016 as compared to 309 lakh farmers over an area of 339 lakh ha. for sum insured of ₹ 69307 crore covered during Kharif 2015 season.

As per tentative data available, there is a increase of about 5.50% in farmers covered, 12% in the area covered and about 100% in sum insured during first season of implementation of PMFBY/WBCIS itself as compared to the last Kharif 2015 season.

Implementation of PMFBY

1124. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many farmers have opted for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) voluntarily, the total value of cover taken voluntarily vs. involuntarily;

(b) the number of farmers who have complained about the involuntary deduction of premium from their Kisan Credit Card account, State-wise;

(c) how many such cases have been reported this financial year and action Government is planning to take to address this situation;

(d) the measures undertaken to maximise the insurance coverage for SC/ST/ women farmers and number of such farmers insured this year, State-wise; and

(e) the percentage difference of such farmers this year in comparison to 2015?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Government has recently reviewed the Crop Insurance Schemes and introduced Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS)

from Kharif 2016. Reportedly as per available (provisional) data during Kharif 2016, 3.26 crore farmers have been insured (2.49 crore loanee and 0.77 crore non-loanee) and the total value of cover is ₹ 137535 crore. As per provisions of the scheme farmers who are obtaining seasonal agricultural operations loans/KCC are compulsorily covered in areas and crops that are notified by the concerned State Governments.

(b) and (c) Some cases where loanee farmers/Kisan Credit Card (KCC) holders' have complained about compulsory deduction of crop insurance premium, have been reported from the areas having assured irrigation, like Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh etc. The concerned State Governments have been apprised in the matter since the onus of notifying the crops/areas lies with the State Governments.

(d) and (e) To enhance awareness about Crop Insurance Schemes among all the stakeholders including Scheduled Castes (SC)/Scheduled Tribes (ST)/Women farmers, Government has undertaken comprehensive publicity and awareness programmes to educate the farmers including SC/ST/Women farmers about the benefit of Crop Insurance Schemes. The salient activities under awareness campaign involve the publicity of features and benefits of the scheme through advertisements in leading National/local News Papers, telecasts through audio-visual media, distribution of pamphlets in local languages, participation in agriculture fairs/mela/goshti and organization of workshops/trainings and Short Message Service (SMS) through Kisan Portal etc. State Governments/Union Territories (UTs) have also been regularly persuaded to increase the coverage including notifying more crops under Crop Insurance Schemes. One day seminar/kisan fair have also been organized at various Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) throughout the country. Data for SC/ST/Women farmers is not available.

Insurance cover to farmers' loans

†1125. 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 also considering to insure the loan of farmers;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps in this regard, so far; 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 PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal under consideration at the moment. However, farmers availing seasonal operational loans are compulsorily covered under Government-sponsored Crop Insurance Scheme in notified areas for notified crops.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Providing financial security to farmers

†1126. 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 considering to incorporate all types of risks for providing financial security to farmers under the new crop insurance scheme;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps in this regard, so far; 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 PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Government has recently reviewed the Crop Insurance Schemes and introduced yield based Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and weather index based Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) from Kharif 2016 to provide financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of natural calamities, to stabilize the income of farmers etc. Under PMFBY, comprehensive risk insurance is provided against crop damage from pre-sowing to post-harvest losses due to non-preventable natural risks viz. flood, inundation, landslide, drought, dry spells, hailstorm, cyclone, pests/diseases, natural fire and lightening, storm, typhoon, tempest, hurricane, tornado etc.

WBCIS is generally applicable to commercial horticultural crops and provides insurance protection/compensation to the farmers against adverse weather incidence, such as deficit of excess rainfall, high or low temperature (including heat wave, cold wave, frost), humidity etc. which are deemed to adversely impact the crop production.

Educating farmers to adopt modern techniques

1127. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture is the major source of livelihood of rural people;

(b) whether most of the farmers are still following age old practices of cultivation;

(c) if so, the measures taken to educate farmers to adopt modern techniques of farming to yield good crops economically;

(d) whether around 15 per cent of rural families are landless; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) whether there is any proposal to distribute uncultivable land to them to enable them to convert such land cultivable to earn their livelihood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) According to the Population Census 2011, about 72.3 per cent of the total rural workers are cultivators and agricultural labourers.

(b) and (c) The practice of cultivation followed by farmers depend on various factors such as geographical conditions, crop grown, availability of improved seeds, fertilizers, irrigation, etc. The Government is implementing various programmes to encourage and support farmers in the country to adopt modern technologies and practices. Through National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology comprising activities such as Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, etc., latest agriculture technologies are disseminated to farmers of the country. Under schemes like National Food Security Mission and Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India trainings are imparted on crop management practices and also to create awareness about the new high yielding varieties/hybrids and new practices. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research also demonstrate technologies through established network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras to benefit farming community.

(d) and (e) The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation conducted the latest Land and Livestock Holdings Survey during 70th round (January–December, 2013) in rural areas of the country. This survey estimated that in rural India, about 7.41 per cent households possessed land “less than or equal to 0.002 hectares and it includes plots where area was not reported.”

As per Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, the subject of “Land and its Management” falls under the purview of State Governments. Therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to consider distribution of uncultivable land to rural families of landless. The role of the Central Government in the field of land reforms is of an advisory and coordinating nature.

Absence of marketing and storage facilities to farmers

1128. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the absence of sound marketing facilities, farmers have to depend upon local traders and middlemen for disposal of their farm produce;

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide sound marketing facilities to farmers;

(c) whether adequate storage facilities are also not available to farmers to store their farm produce and as such they are compelled to store their produces in open;

(d) the quantum of farm produces damaged during the last two years due to non-availability of storage facilities; and

(e) the measures taken to construct godowns at Panchayat level to check wastage of farm produces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The Government has taken several steps to improvise marketing facilities for farmers, which includes promotion of development of alternative marketing channels with private sector participation through advocacy of reforms. Further, to enhance transparency in the transactions, price discovery and farmers' reach to the number of markets and buyers of their choice even on sitting at one place, the Government has launched National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) on 14th April, 2016. Under the Scheme, farmers can sell their produce on-line and get remunerative prices commensurate to the quality of their produce.

(c) and (d) As on 31.10.2016 total storage capacity with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government Agencies was 782.99 lakh MT against peak requirement of around 600 lakh MT. hence, there is sufficient storage capacity available in the country to stock foodgrains. No wastage has been reported due to lack of storage facilities.

(e) Panchayats are one of the eligible beneficiaries for construction of godowns under storage component of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) Sub-scheme. The promoters are free to construct storage infrastructure projects at any place of their choice.

Blue Revolution

†1129. SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is preparing any scheme namely Blue Revolution so as to enhance income from export of fish and other aquatic creatures from 33,441 crores to one lakh crore in the next five years: and

(b) whether this scheme would not adversely affect aquatic life and environment?

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

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has formulated a Scheme, namely, 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries'. One of the objectives of this scheme is to triple the export earnings in the next five years with a focus on benefit flow to the fishers and fish farmers, including through institutional mechanisms in the fishery cooperatives, producer companies and other structures. Besides, the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industries also implements various export promotion policies and schemes to enhance export earnings from the marine and brackishwater fish and aquaculture products.

(b) The vision for the Blue Revolution Scheme includes creating and enabling environment for an integrated development of the fisheries sector of the country, keeping in view the sustainability, bio-security and environmental concerns, and so there will be no adverse effect on the aquatic life and environment.

Exporting alive bovine and buffaloes

†1130. SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating to increase income by exporting alive bovine and buffaloes; and

(b) if so, whether its adverse effects on rural agriculture have been assessed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to increase income by exporting alive bovine and buffaloes.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

Providing insurance literacy to farmers

1131. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any measures to provide insurance literacy to farmers regarding agriculture related news and schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far by Government in this regard;

(c) the total number of farmers provided with crop insurance, State-wise;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government has any plans to introduce measures to reduce premiums payable by farmers, particularly the small and marginal farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) To enhance the awareness about Crop Insurance Schemes among all the stakeholders including farmers, Government has undertaken a comprehensive publicity and awareness programme to educate the farmers about the benefit of crop insurance schemes. Capacity building and training programmes for other stakeholders have been organized. The salient activities under awareness campaign involve the publicity of features and benefits of the scheme through advertisements in leading National/Local News Papers, telecast through audio-visual media, distribution of pamphlets in local languages, participation in agriculture fairs/mela/ghosti and organization of workshops/trainings and SMS through Kisan Portal etc. State Governments/UTs have also been regularly persuaded to increase the coverage including notifying more crops under crop insurance schemes. One day Seminar/Kisan Fair have also been organized at various Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) throughout the country. In addition, several communications have also been sent to the public representatives including Members of Parliament, representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions etc.

(c) State-wise details of total number of farmers covered under crop insurance schemes during Kharif 2016 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(d) and (e) Government has recently reviewed the crop insurance schemes and introduced Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) from Kharif 2016. Under these schemes premium payable by farmers has been substantially reduced and simplified and there is One premium rate on pan-India basis for farmers which would be maximum 1.5%, 2% and 5% for all Rabi, Kharif and annual horticultural/commercial crops, respectively.

Statement

State-wise details of loanee and non-loanee farmers covered under PMFBY and WBCIS (combined) during Kharif 2016*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Farmers Insured (lakhs)
1.	Assam	0.51
2.	Andhra Pradesh	15.09
3.	Bihar	13.98

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Farmers Insured (lakhs)
4.	Chhattisgarh	13.26
5.	Goa	0.007
6.	Gujarat	11.91
7.	Haryana	6.96
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.97
9.	Jharkhand	8.49
10.	Karnataka	10.59
11.	Kerala	0.22
12.	Madhya Pradesh	36.54
13.	Maharashtra	66.79
14.	Manipur	Data not available
15.	Meghalaya	0.0006
16.	Odisha	17.46
17.	Rajasthan	53.05
18.	Tamil Nadu	0.13
19.	Telangana	6.55
20.	Tripura	0.02
21.	Uttar Pradesh	30.04
22.	Uttarakhand	1.28
23.	West Bengal	32.40
TOTAL		326.25

* Provisional

Use of monocrotophos pesticide

1132. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that monocrotophos pesticide has been described as of high acute toxicity by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Health Organisation (WHO);

(b) whether this pesticide is still in use in the country while it has been banned in several countries, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not banning this pesticide in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Yes, Sir. Monocrotophos has been classified as highly hazardous pesticide by World Health Organization (WHO) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

(b) and (c) The Central Government *vide* Notification S.O. 1482(E) dated 10th October, 2005 imposed ban on use of monocrotophos on vegetables with effect from the date of publication of order. However, it is still being used in other products. The impact of this pesticide is reviewed from time to time.

Providing information of existing market to farmers through SMS

†1133. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any system to provide information of the existing market to farmers through SMS, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the procedure adopted to provide this information; and

(c) the details of scheme proposed by Government to provide information of the existing market prices to the farmers *via* SMS and by when this scheme will be implemented throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) No, Sir. There is no system for sending SMS to farmers for providing information of the existing market.

(b) and (c) Government has developed a Web Portal (<http://agmarknet.gov.in/>) where Market prices of different commodities is available.

Besides, Government has developed mobile apps like 'Kisan Suvidha' and 'agrimarket' where farmers can see the prices of commodities in the APMCs of nearby place as well as in other parts of the country.

Live Mandi Prices are also displayed on the 'DD Kisan' Channel.

Managing capital collected by Multi-State Cooperative Societies

†1134. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state: whether Government proposes under Sections 21, 39, 54, 78, 79, 80, 81 and 82 to delegate powers to the State's Registrar Co-operative Societies for managing and controlling the capital collected by Multi-State Co-operative Societies in Rajasthan, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): No, Sir. The powers of Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies to conduct inspection under Section 108 of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 have already been delegated to the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS) of all the States/UTs for proper monitoring of Multi-State Cooperative Societies including the Multi-State Cooperative Societies functioning in the State of Rajasthan.

Allocation of fund under RKVY and NFSM

1135. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state: the budget provision (allocation) under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Food Security Mission (NFSM) during 2015-16 and 2016-17, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): The Budget provision (allocation) under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Food Security Mission (NFSM) during 2015-16 and 2016-17 is given under:-

(₹ in crore)		
Year	RKVY	NFSM
2015-16	4500.00	1300.00
2016-17	5400.00	1700.00

Remunerative price to farmers cultivating Tur and Urad dal

1136. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tur and Urad dal are widely used in the country irrespective of economic status;

(b) whether festival season triggers rise in consumption of these pulses and their prices;

(c) whether these pulses are not generally preferred by farmers for cultivation because of low returns on MSP and poor market conditions; and

(d) if so, the steps Government is taking to pay special attention in the areas of cultivation and also to ensure a fair return for farmers by hiking MSP and procurement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Consumption of any foodgrains including pulses depends upon taste and preferences. Tur and Urad are popular dal consumed throughout the year.

(c) and (d) To incentivize farmers to produce pulses, Government has increased Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of pulses including Tur and Urad of 2016-17 season. MSPs of Tur and Urad for 2015-16 and 2016-17 are given below:

(₹ per quintal)		
Pulses	2015-16	2016-17
Tur	4625 [^]	5050 ^{^^}
Urad	4625 [^]	5000 ^{^^}

[^] Including Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal.

^{^^} Including Bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal.

Government has also taken several initiatives to increase production of pulses including Tur and Urad which *inter-alia* includes National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) of pulses, Production of breeder seeds etc.

In addition Government is undertaking procurement, whenever required, to ensure MSP to the farmers.

Grant of arrears to Kuttanad package

1137. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state: whether Government will take urgent steps to grant arrears to be paid to Kerala for Kuttanad package projects KEL-1, 2, 3 and 4 amounting to ₹ 91.01 crores?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): As per information provided by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, the Central assistance proposal have been received from Government of Kerala only for Kuttanad package projects KEL-2, 3 and 4 and are under examination in the Regional Office of Central Water Commission at Kochi.

Assistance to NGOs and SHGs associated with agriculture sector

1138. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance has been provided to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Self Help Groups (SHGs) associated with agriculture sector in the country, including Jharkhand and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and NGO-wise;

(c) the details of the work done by these NGOs; and

(d) whether Government proposes to review/has reviewed the working of such NGOs and if so, the details of outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) Normally, assistance to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Self Help Groups (SHGs) associated with agriculture sector is not provided directly by the Government of India. The States are free to provide such assistance under some schemes and programmes. However, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has sanctioned 101 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under the administrative control of NGOs in the country including 5 KVKs in the State of Jharkhand and 7 KVKs in the State of Gujarat. Therefore, funds have been provided to these NGOs for implementing the KVKs activities. The funds were provided to NGOs for KVKs activities and not for NGOs activities. The State-wise and NGO-wise details of financial assistance provided for KVKs activities for the last 3 years and the current year are given in Statement (*See below*).

During the last one year, the KVKs under NGOs conducted 22842 on farm trials and front line demonstrations; provided training to 5.87 lakh farmers and extension personnels. In addition, these KVKs produced 902.67 tonne seeds, 59.15 lakh planting materials and 48.04 lakh live stock strains and fingerlings for its availability to farmers.

(d) The work of all KVKs, including those run by NGOs is reviewed on a regular basis by holding scientific advisory committees, review workshops and field visits and the activities of the research projects are reviewed by Quinquennial Review Teams (QRTs) and also by holding review workshops of the project centers.

Statement

State-wise and NGO-wise details of financial assistance provided for KVKs activities for the last 3 years and the current year

		(₹ in lakh)			
Name of the State	Name of the KVK	Budget allocated for the last three years and current year			
		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1	2	3	4	5	6
Haryana	Rewari	93.48	97.80	111.89	117.60
	Ambala	94.70	90.58	108.57	120.10
Bihar	Jamui	92.10	85.15	86.50	69.31
	Kaimur	86.55	93.95	118.81	90.38
	Madhubani	73.75	82.95	106.73	71.78
	Nawada	85.96	91.30	119.50	82.37
	Sitamarhi	67.25	62.04	75.50	58.45
Jharkhand	Deoghar	107.50	103.30	126.00	94.97
	Godda	94.85	82.70	98.12	70.42
	Gumla	92.25	95.83	125.42	108.38
	Hazaribag	103.00	105.45	135.56	110.43
	Ranchi	86.15	97.20	123.50	98.05
West Bengal	Purulia	97.00	105.40	131.49	110.21

1	2	3	4	5	6
	South 24 Parganas	115.05	123.56	151.04	115.77
	West Midnapore	73.40	71.77	86.50	69.88
Manipur	Senapati	0.00	119.25	137.80	102.15
	Bishnupur	0.00	121.00	136.90	114.25
Tripura	West Tripura	0.00	112.80	126.90	107.75
Uttar Pradesh	Sultanpur	92.50	92.00	120.60	71.84
	Agra	203.40	206.00	221.80	145.33
	Gonda	84.80	90.50	109.55	74.49
	Chitrakoot	86.80	88.90	111.70	82.39
	Pratapgarh	94.80	101.00	112.60	81.79
	Unnao	77.90	77.00	85.10	61.12
	Ghazipur	89.80	87.00	101.25	73.49
	Sitapur-I	76.80	80.00	92.00	71.54
	Kaushambi	85.80	85.00	114.00	83.79
	Auraiya	71.31	68.50	76.50	58.69
	Sitapur-II	72.30	80.86	79.60	75.72
Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	88.50	76.72	96.22	81.32
	Guntur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Telangana	Kurnool	96.20	117.62	118.45	106.81
	Visakhapatnam	96.00	120.90	132.65	124.18
	Karimnagar	80.50	90.52	137.21	114.08
	Mahaboobnagar	58.00	52.40	72.23	63.57
	Medak	28.50	26.85	64.33	63.63
Maharashtra	Nalgonda	127.00	130.93	157.91	148.64
	Ahmednagar	119.75	107.86	152.93	130.33
	Amaravati (D)	118.00	119.19	141.54	129.98
	Amaravati (G)	114.00	114.19	155.02	124.49
	Beed	75.50	106.29	148.91	113.42
	Buldhana	95.50	93.97	106.84	101.06
	Hingoli	82.50	92.35	124.91	101.56
	Jalgaon	77.00	82.99	142.39	100.16
	Jalna	79.00	92.08	127.08	119.53
	Kolhapur	53.00	49.15	68.67	58.95
	Latur	78.50	87.50	108.53	102.61
	Nanded	70.50	63.68	83.68	78.79
	Nandurbar	92.00	107.67	118.51	106.73
	Parbhani	63.50	60.72	98.18	93.33

1	2	3	4	5	6
Rajasthan	Pune	109.25	103.34	122.75	117.43
	Sangli	76.00	74.40	93.53	87.62
	Satara	48.00	34.75	40.83	38.25
	Sindhudurg	86.00	95.45	148.48	123.89
	Solapur	87.00	96.74	134.08	121.97
	Thane	82.50	108.85	141.43	121.14
	Washim	79.50	89.02	120.81	102.21
	Ahmednagar (D)	49.50	47.52	131.41	78.72
	Akola (U)	121.75	77.52	96.75	100.94
	Aurangabad (G)	48.10	66.27	77.11	84.66
	Nanded (S)	117.00	97.36	137.23	115.10
	Nashik (M)	120.50	89.50	77.31	112.75
	Pune (N)	142.50	91.52	117.02	112.66
	Yavatmal (D)	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.40
	Barmer-I	81.70	93.00	103.66	117.00
	Udaipur	117.70	150.50	165.50	168.95
	Jaipur-I	107.50	111.50	123.30	136.25
	Hanumangarh-I	101.75	111.50	131.44	136.25

Gujarat	Patan	82.25	81.50	91.05	104.25
	Kutch-RARDS-I	88.50	95.00	119.00	125.25
	Vadodara	77.00	93.00	100.00	109.25
	Bharuch	45.20	57.50	70.65	102.50
	Mehsana	82.60	92.50	119.00	118.50
	Junagadh	90.75	98.00	116.00	128.25
	Bhavnagar	72.75	88.00	92.77	97.25
Madhya Pradesh	Burhanpur	58.80	96.10	93.50	66.24
	Indore	84.50	82.80	114.70	57.88
	Raisen	60.40	75.75	105.25	53.88
	Ratlam	80.75	93.26	108.30	75.84
	Satna	85.00	88.40	118.25	74.23
	Sehore	65.52	83.44	103.75	53.83
	Vidisha (*)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Karnataka	Belgaum (NGO)	97.73	78.12	88.22	52.30
	Belgaum - A (NGO)	124.95	83.10	95.46	58.57
	Davangere (NGO)	98.00	104.82	112.24	101.03
	Gadag (NGO)	126.60	128.55	145.39	119.78
	Mysore (NGO)	105.39	100.53	112.55	99.40

1	2	3	4	5	6
Tamil Nadu	Ariyalur (NGO)	58.00	35.00	46.53	30.16
	Erode (NGO)	95.56	101.40	119.79	70.67
	Karur (NGO)	82.36	83.74	96.10	87.80
	Krishnagiri (NGO)	95.11	95.57	97.12	11.10
	The Nilgiris (NGO)	49.77	50.22	78.25	57.81
	Perambalur (NGO)	86.70	86.67	90.81	55.82
	Thanjavur (NGO)	88.69	32.76	0.00	0.00
	Theni (NGO)	50.75	17.81	39.71	53.55
	Tirunelveli (NGO)	77.51	28.25	0.00	0.00
	Tiruvannamalai(NGO)	72.50	97.67	98.81	53.84
	Tuticorin (NGO)	87.10	96.17	85.97	47.06
Kerala	Idukki (NGO)	87.13	88.40	95.81	88.43
	Pathanamthitta (NGO)	108.51	110.02	121.40	101.55
	Trivandrum (NGO)	89.03	86.51	100.76	84.57
TOTAL		8324.31	8761.67	10627.4	8889.39

70 *Written Answers to*

[RAJYA SABHA]

Unstarred Questions

Training to farmers under Grameen Bhandaran Yojana

†1139. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to impart training to farmers under the Grameen Bhandaran Yojana regarding scientific storage system in rural areas of the country including Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the total number of farmers who have been imparted training in the country including Maharashtra in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Yes, Sir. An action plan for training on scientific storage has been conceptualized by the Government which is at various stages of approval. Hence, it is pre-mature to give its details.

(b) So far 140 programmes including 7 in Maharashtra have been imparted in the country and 4524 farmers including 193 farmers in Maharashtra have been trained in last three years.

Scientific utilization of water in Maharashtra

1140. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra, including drought prone Marathwada region, has got normal to above normal rainfall during the monsoon of the current calendar year, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Central Government proposes to issue an advisory to the farmers and others of Marathwada region and other regions of the State through the Government of Maharashtra for the scientific utilization of available water to avoid drought conditions; 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) The State of Maharashtra as a whole received normal rain fall (+16% of Long Period Average) whereas drought prone Marathwada region received excess rainfall (+21% of Long Period Average) during the monsoon of the current calendar year.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) Advisories were issued to States on 01.07.2016 including Maharashtra for covering sugarcane plantation under Micro Irrigation with an objective of water conservation and increase water use efficiency and for providing water through drip and sprinkler irrigation in acute water stressed blocks/districts so as to conserve water and minimize energy and water losses. In this context, State Governments were requested to issue necessary instructions to all concerned authorities for compliance. Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation which monitors reservoir water level of 91 major reservoirs including 17 reservoirs of Maharashtra, also issues weekly bulletin of water storage position. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has issued an advisory on 04.11.2016 to all State Governments including State of Maharashtra to take necessary measures for ensuring supply of safe drinking water in the affected areas in case of crisis of drinking water.

Awareness among farmers regarding PMFBY

1141. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as part of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) have been deployed to estimate crop losses, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has mechanisms to verify the accuracy of these estimates to ensure that the companies that provide crop insurance under the PMFBY do not take advantage of farmers; and

(c) whether Government plans to launch awareness schemes to educate farmers on the agri-analytics (Internet of Things (IoT) devices in agriculture) technology so as to keep them updated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The new Crop Insurance Scheme-Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) provides for use of UAV/Drone technology for quick estimation of crop losses and early settlement of claims under Crop Insurance Schemes. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has launched a pilot project called KISAN [C(K)rop Insurance using Space Technology and Geo-informatics] under which UAV/DRONE based image collection had been carried out in 3 locations of the country. Various other Government/Semi Government and Private agencies are also doing studies using UAVs for Crop Loss Assessment. This is still at Research and Development stage. It is planned to use drone imaging services for better assessment of crop condition and crop losses/yield in conjunction with ground observation and satellite data during current Rabi season also.

(c) Under PMFBY, Government has developed a dedicated Crop Insurance Portal for integration of all stakeholders, to ensure better administration, coordination, transparency and getting real-time information and to ensure literacy and awareness about the implementation of the scheme. Farmers can obtain the requisite information about the implementation of the Crop Insurance Schemes and also submit their application/ insurance proposal. To provide information on crop insurance of a particular area in a customized form, Government has also developed a mobile app “Crop Insurance” to get detailed information of any notified/insured areas alongwith premium calculator.

Moreover, to enhance the awareness about Crop Insurance Schemes among all the stakeholders including farmers, Government has undertaken a comprehensive publicity and awareness programme, including use of improved technology, to educate the farmers about the benefit of Crop Insurance Schemes. Capacity building and training programmes for other stakeholders have also been organized.

Increasing coverage under PMFBY

1142. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has started on a slow note in 2016 Kharif season;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the remedial measures being taken to increase the crop insurance penetration during the Rabi season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) No, Sir. Coverage under the scheme has been increased during Kharif 2016 season as compared to Kharif 2015 season. As per tentative data available about 326 lakh farmers over an area of 380 lakh hectare for Sum Insured of ₹ 137535 crore has been covered during Kharif 2016 as compared to 309 lakh farmers over an area of 339 lakh Ha. for sum insured of ₹ 69307 crore was covered during last Kharif 2015 season.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

Implementation of NFSM in Jharkhand

1143. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount allocated and released by the Central Government in financial year 2015-16 and in the current financial year under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for Jharkhand;

(b) the targets proposed to be achieved in Jharkhand under the scheme during financial year 2015-16;

(c) out of the amount released in financial year 2015-16, how much has been utilized by Jharkhand; and

(d) the mechanisms put in place in the Ministry to ensure that expenditure is being incurred for the purposes intended and that the objectives of the scheme have indeed been met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The total amount allocated and released by the Central Government (Central share) in financial year 2015-16 and in the current financial year under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for Jharkhand is as under:—

(₹ in crore)

Year	Allocation	Release
2015-16	29.77	29.46
2016-17	39.72	9.41

(b) and (c) The targets proposed, amount released and amount utilized in State under NFSM during financial year 2015-16 are as under:—

(₹ in crore-Central share)

Component	Target proposed	Amount released	Amount utilized
Rice	7.85	7.85	6.32
Pulses	17.83	17.52	11.79
Additional area coverage of pulses	3.00	3.00	2.99
Coarse Cereals	1.09	1.09	0.78
TOTAL	29.77	29.46	21.88

(d) For better coordination and proper implementation of NFSM in the State, regular monitoring is done by Officers of the Department, National Consultants, National Level Monitoring Team, etc. Besides, the progress of the programme is reviewed at national level in National Food Security Mission Executive Committee (NFSMEC) and other various meetings.

Subsidy for production of organic manure

†1144. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to provide subsidy for production of organic manure to those herdsmen not involved in agricultural activities on the lines of subsidy being provided for production of chemical fertilizers and manures;

(b) if so, the details of the said plan; and

(c) whether any fund has been allotted for this plan in the last three years, if so, the State-wise and year-wise details of the amount allocated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) The Government is promoting the establishment of fruit/vegetable market/agro waste compost production unit 100 Tonne Per Day (TPD)/3000 Tonne Per Annum (TPA) capacity under Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme (CISS) through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The financial assistance is provided through NABARD as back ended subsidy to farmers/individual/private agencies including the youth @33% of total financial outlay (TFO) limited to ₹ 63 lakh, whichever is less. The details of funds released as subsidy to various States for setting up of fruit/vegetable market waste compost production unit is given in the Statement.

Statement

*State-wise no. of units and subsidy under CISS for fruit/vegetable compost unit
(According to NABARD communication)*

Sl. No.	State	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
		Unit	Subsidy (₹ lakh)	Unit	Subsidy (₹ lakh)	Unit	Subsidy (₹ lakh)
1.	Assam	01	15.098	-	-	-	-
2.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	01	30.0
3.	Karnataka	03	84.268	-	-		
4.	Madhya Pradesh		-	-	-	01	19.191
5.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	01	29.97
	TOTAL	04	99.366	0	0	03	79.161

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Decline in production of coconut

1145. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pests and diseases are affecting country's coconut production this year, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps the Ministry is taking to popularize Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) to minimize declining trend in coconut production/cultivation; and

(c) whether in view of the medicinal and nutritional value of coconut water in many diseases like dengue and other abdominal problems, Government is taking measures to control its consumer prices, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Diseases such as leaf blight, stem bleeding and basal stem rot disease and pests including spiraling white flies, rhinoceros beetle, coconut mite, red palm weevil and leaf eating caterpillar have been reported to affect coconut production in the country for the last several years.

(b) Coconut Development Board has been implementing following Schemes to popularize Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM):-

- (i) Integrated Farming for productivity improvement by Laying Out of Demonstration Plots (LODP) and Establishment of Organic Manure Units (OMU).
- (ii) Replanting and Rejuvenation of coconut gardens for productivity improvement.
- (iii) Technology Mission on Coconut-Development and adoption of technologies for management of pests and diseases.

Besides this, Central Plantation Coconut Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasargod, Kerala has taken following steps:-

- (i) Regular trainings are conducted on integrated pest and disease management, including field level demonstrations for farmers, developmental agencies and extension officials of State Departments.
- (ii) Front line demonstrations on IPM and INM are conducted in stakeholders' gardens.
- (iii) Pamphlets, bulletins, hand-outs and videos on management of diseases and pests circulated to farmers through Krishi Bhawans and Krishi Vikas Kendras (KVKs).

- (iv) Knowledge on pest and disease management in coconut to farmers through e-Kalpa, a mobile application developed by CPCRI.
- (v) All India Coordinated Research Project on Palms in 15 Centers on coconut spread across the country under different State Agricultural Universities.
- (vi) Visit of CPCRI Scientists to villages for conducting awareness programmes on pests and diseases every month.

(c) In order to popularize and assure availability of tender coconut water, Coconut Development Board is supporting processing units for “tender coconut water packaging and preservation” under the scheme Technology Mission on coconut. Back-ended credit capital subsidy limited to 25% of the cost not exceeding ₹ 50 lakhs for Non-Governmental Organizations, individual entrepreneurs and other organizations is extended under the scheme. The Board has assisted 26 tender coconut water preserving and packaging units, in various States. The Board is also implementing various schemes to improve production and productivity of coconut holdings.

Involving private sector in growing pulses overseas

1146. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that neither area under pulses growth has increased nor productivity has shown any upward trend during each of the last three years in the country resulting in import of pulses under open general licenses; and

(b) whether Government is considering any proposal to approach private sector to grow pulses overseas with a guaranteed buy-back arrangement, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The area production and productivity under pulses has shown the fluctuating trend during the past three years (2013-14 to 2015-16). The details is given as under:—

Year	Area in lakh hectare	Production in lakh tonnes	Productivity in kg./ha.	Import of Pulses in lakh tonnes
2013-14	252.178	192.55	764	31.78
2014-15	235.527	171.52	728	45.85
2015-16	252.59*	164.68	652*	57.98

*4th Advance estimate.

The production of pulses came down to 17.15 and 16.47 million tonnes 2014-15 and 2015-16, respectively. The decline in pulses production on account of continuous drought in Kharif season of two years and moisture stress at sowing time as well as occurrence of hailstorm and unseasonal rains at maturity stage of Rabi pulses. In order to meet requirement of pulses in the country, 57.98 lakh tonnes of pulses imported during 2015-16.

(b) There is no proposal to approach private sector to grow pulses overseas with a guaranteed buy-back arrangement. However, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between India and Mozambique on 7.7.2016 for cooperation in the field of production and marketing of Pigeon Pea. In implementation of the MoU, 800 tonnes of Pigeon Peas Seeds is being supplied to Mozambique by National Seeds Corporation Limited.

Suicide by farmers

1147. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers' suicide has risen upto 40 per cent in the year 2015 in comparison to that of 2014, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the number of farmers committed suicide in 2016 till 31 October, 2016, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for sharp increase in farmers' suicide in the country; and

(d) the details of measures Government has taken in view of the unprecedented suicides by farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (d) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides upto 2014 are available at its website. As per NCRB Report 2014, the reasons for suicide by farmers are manifold, which *inter-alia* include, indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons. The Reports for the subsequent years (*i.e.* 2015 and 2016) have not been published yet. Therefore, it is not possible to make a comparison at this stage.

As per reports received from State Governments, the number of suicides due to agrarian reasons in the year 2015 and 2016 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

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 Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is being implemented to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.
- (v) National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM) was approved on 1.7.2015 with a budget allocation of ₹ 200 crore to be implemented during 2015-16 to 2017-18. The releases of grants under the scheme are made on the basis of completion of 3 reform pre-requisites *i.e.* Single Trading License, Single License Fee and Creation of e-Platform for Trading. The scheme was launched on 14.04.2016 in 8 States *viz.* Gujarat, Telangana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand covering 21 markets. As of now 250 markets have been integrated.
- (vi) 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 of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an 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.
- (viii) In addition, the Government is implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.* National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP). The Commission collects and analyses data on cost of activation and recommends MSP. The Government has also declared bonus on pulses for Kharif 2016 over and above the approved MSP. Even during last year, Government offered bonus over and above the MSP in case of pulses.

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 MSP 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

*State-wise details of number of suicide due to agrarian reasons
in the year 2015 and 2016*

Sl. No.	State/UT	2015	2016
1.	Andhra Pradesh	94	35
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0

Sl. No.	State/UT	2015	2016
3.	Assam	0	0
4.	Bihar	1	NR
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	NR
6.	Goa	0	0
7.	Gujarat	3	0
8.	Haryana	3	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	0	0
12.	Karnataka	922	81
13.	Kerala	1	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	NR
15.	Maharashtra	1841	57
16.	Manipur	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0
20.	Odisha	#139	6
21.	Punjab	449	56
22.	Rajasthan	3	0
23.	Sikkim	0	NR
24.	Tamil Nadu	1	NR
25.	Telangana	^462	NR
26.	Tripura	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0
28.	Uttarakhand	0	0
29.	West Bengal	0	0
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0

Sl. No.	State/UT	2015	2016
31.	Chandigarh	0	NR
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	NR
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0
34.	Delhi (UT)	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0
36.	Puducherry	0	0

= Due to various reasons, including agrarian.

^Suicides from 2013 to 5th March, 2016.

NR = Not reported.

Source: Reported by State Government and UTs.

Long term policy to tackle drought

1148. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States have faced serious drought condition and acute shortage of water for farming community and livelihood during last three years;

(b) if so, the details of observations made by the Government on this serious crisis in the many parts of the country;

(c) whether Government is considering any long term policy for making sufficient water availability for agricultural production in various parts of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government is also considering to encourage use of latest technology for judicious consumption of water for agricultural production, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) The State Governments are primarily responsible for taking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Governments in the form of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) has been constituted to deal with natural calamities of severe nature and Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) are deputed, wherever necessary, in response to the Memoranda received from the States, for assessment of the drought situation and requirement of financial assistance. Assistance approved from NDRF during the last three years to the State Governments is given in the

Statement (*See below*). During 2015-16, 13 States faced drinking water crisis for which Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DW&S) issued advisory for taking special measures for uninterrupted drinking water supply in the affected areas. Further, the Ministry of DW&S released ₹ 31 crores to Tamil Nadu during 2013-14 and ₹ 5.05 cores to Haryana, ₹ 9 crores to Karnataka and ₹ 44 crores to Uttar Pradesh during 2014-15 under Natural Calamity component of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for drought mitigation.

(c) and (d) Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), has prepared detailed crop Contingency Plans for 614 districts in the country. States have been advised for preparing/ updating/fine-tuning Contingency Plans for each district in consultation with CRIDA and the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and to prepare location specific remedial measures based on these contingency plans in the event of late arrival of Monsoon/long dry spells/scanty rainfall/drought conditions *e.g.* tying up availability of seeds and other inputs for implementing the Contingency Plans.

The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched on 1st July, 2015 with the motto of 'Har Khet Ko Paani' for providing end-to-end solutions in irrigation supply chain, *viz.* water sources, distribution network and farm level applications. PMKSY not only focuses on creating sources for assured irrigation, but also creating protective irrigation by harnessing rain water at micro level through 'Jal Sanchay' and 'Jal Sinchan'. Micro irrigation be popularised to ensure 'Per drop-More crop'. PMKSY adopts State level planning and projectised execution that allows States to draw up their own irrigation development based on District Irrigation Plans and State Irrigation Plans. The Programme components of PMKSY are:

- Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP): To focus on faster completion of ongoing Major and Medium Irrigation, including National Projects. {Implemented by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD&GR)}.
- PMKSY (Har Khet ko Paani): Source augmentation, distribution, ground water development, lift irrigation, diversion of water from water plenty to water scarce areas, supplementing rain water harvesting beyond Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Gurantee Act (MGNREGA), repair, restoration, renovation of traditional water bodies, (implemented by MoWR, RD&GR).
- PMKSY (Per Drop More Crop): Micro level storage structures, efficient water conveyance and application, precision irrigation systems, topping up of input

cost beyond MGNREGA permissible limits, secondary storage, water lifting devices, extension activities, coordination and management {implemented by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW)}.

- PMKSY (Watershed): Ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, water harvesting structure, livelihood support activities and other watershed works (implemented by Department of Land Resources).

During the financial year 2015-16, a total of ₹ 1556.23 crores has been released by the DAC&FW to States for approved activities. Total area brought under Micro-irrigation during 2015-16 was 5.7 lakh hectares under 'Per Drop More Crop' component. District Irrigation Plans (DIPs) shall be the cornerstone for planning and implementation of PMKSY. So far, 494 numbers of DIPs have been prepared.

For 2016-17, funds allocated to PMKSY-Per Drop More Crop is ₹ 2340 crores and 8 lakh hectare area has been targeted under micro irrigation. So far, an amount of ₹ 1281.55 crores has been released to States for implementation of micro-irrigation activities and drought proofing, water harvesting and ground water replenishment and development measures in complementation and supplementation Watershed and MGNREGA.

Statement

*Details of assistance approved from National Disaster Response
Fund (NDRF) for Drought*

(₹ in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Calamity	Assistance approved by Government of India
1	2	3	4
During-2013-2014			
1.	Bihar	Drought	931.87
2.	Karnataka	Drought	226.57
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Drought	254.54
TOTAL			1412.98
During-2014-2015			
1.	Haryana	Drought	168.87
2.	Karnataka	Drought	200.85
3.	Uttar Pradesh	Drought	777.34
4.	Maharashtra	Drought	1962.99

1	2	3	4
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Drought	237.51
TOTAL			3347.56

During-2015-2016

1.	Karnataka	Drought	1540.20
		Drought-R	723.23
2.	Chhattisgarh	Drought	1276.25
3.	Madhya Pradesh	Drought	2032.68
4.	Maharashtra	Drought-K	3049.36
		Drought-K (Supplementary)	589.47
		Drought-R	679.54
5.	Odisha	Drought	815.00
6.	Telangana	Drought	791.21
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Drought	1304.52
		Drought-R	622.76
8.	Andhra Pradesh	Drought	433.77
9.	Jharkhand	Drought	336.94
10.	Rajasthan	Drought	1193.41
11.	Uttarakhand	Drought-R	#
TOTAL			15388.34

R: Rabi K: Kharif

Under process/finalization

Demand for funds to Telangana under NCDC

1149. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of MPs and Minister from the State of Telangana has met the Minister recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the delegation has requested the Minister for releasing additional funds of ₹ 600 crores under National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) to Telangana for releasing loans to women societies, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any decision has been taken by the Ministry in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) As per engagement book of the Office of Minister, two meetings dated 5th October, 2016 and 19th October, 2016 took place with representatives of State of Telangana. No minutes of these meetings are available on record.

Production of oil-seeds

1150. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our country spent ₹ 66,000 crores last year for importing vegetable oil alone;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Minister to encourage production of oil-seeds such a peanuts, sesame, mustard, sunflower, etc. in dry land areas to reach self-sufficiency; and

(c) the status of productivity of edible oils compared with other countries of the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Our country has spent ₹ 68,676 crore last year for importing vegetable oil.

(b) To increase production and productivity of oilseeds, National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) is being implemented in the country since 2014-15. The Mission envisage to increase production of vegetable oils sourced from oilseeds, oil palm and Tree Borne Oilseeds from 7.06 million tones to 9.51 million tonnes by the end of Twelfth Plan (2016-17). Three Mini Missions during the Twelfth Plan are as follows:—

- Mini Mission-I (Oilseeds) targets 35 million tonnes of oilseeds production during 2016-17
- Mini Mission-II (Oil Palm) bring additional 1.25 lakh hectare area under oil palm cultivation with increase in productivity of Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs) from 4927 kg. per hectare to 15000 kg. per hectare;
- Mini Mission-III (Tree Borne Oilseeds) Enhance seed collection of Tree Borne Oilseeds.

(c) Status of productivity of oilseeds in world and India (2014)

Sl. No.	Crops	Productivity (KG/hectare)	
		World Highest	India
1.	Soybean	Thailand (6258)	965
2.	Groundnut	USA (4408)	1261
3.	Rapeseed and Mustard	Germany (4479)	1094
4.	Castor	Ethiopia (2037)	1666
5.	Sesame	China (1219)	406
6.	Sunflower	Serbia (2904)	569
7.	Safflower	China (1541)	807
8.	Linseed	UK (2600)	392

Source: faostat3.fao.org

Development of commercial horticulture

1151. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released by the National Horticulture Board (NHB) under development of commercial horticulture through production and Post-Harvest Management Scheme for each of the last three years, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(b) whether the Board has taken a decision not to provide financial assistance during the current year to the southern States of the country, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The State/Union Territory-wise details of funds released by the National Horticulture Board (NHB) under Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-Harvest Management Scheme during the last three years and current year up to 31.10.2016 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) No, Sir. Does not arise.

Statement

State/Union Territory-wise details of funds released by the National Horticulture Board (NHB) under "Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management" Scheme during the last three years and current financial year up to 31.10.2016

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Funds released			
		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (as on 31.10.2016)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Karnataka	2386.25	979.31	2031.36	1939.85
2.	Tamil Nadu	1240.47	1156.44	876.79	785.36
3.	Kerala	136.07	188.72	717.93	368.73
4.	Telangana	0.00	98.05	336.59	211.69
5.	Andhra Pradesh	160.57	92.30	109.48	76.81
6.	Bihar	0.00	0.90	20.93	0.00
7.	Chhattisgarh	25.90	154.68	484.54	234.89
8.	Delhi	194.00	70.62	359.67	50.75
9.	Gujarat	809.16	290.51	1002.70	1757.58
10.	Haryana	492.80	65.52	1088.92	210.40
11.	Himachal Pradesh	411.09	369.89	1099.10	207.85
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	127.91	116.07	100.60	0.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	294.05	159.88	668.43	769.14
14.	Maharashtra	4755.47	1771.85	2645.85	3173.92
15.	Odisha	317.93	428.14	336.48	258.48
16.	Punjab	297.81	133.05	402.30	453.32
17.	Rajasthan	365.44	456.69	372.34	450.54
18.	Uttarakhand	363.01	99.30	426.33	314.21
19.	Uttar Pradesh	250.94	148.25	281.27	54.01
20.	West Bengal	46.29	122.35	216.19	72.17
21.	Anurachal Pradesh	5.73	16.73	24.87	19.88
22.	Assam	25.60	0.00	12.94	0.00
23.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	96.31	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Sikkim	14.50	0.00	13.84	0.00
27.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	11.86	24.29
28.	Goa	0.00	0.00	45.38	0.00
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Development of new variety of garlic

1152. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is working on development of big clove garlic varieties which can respond to short winter of peninsular India;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the present status thereof; and

(c) the time by which newly developed varieties of garlic are likely to be made available to farmers for cultivation?

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

(b) ICAR-Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research (DOGR), Pune has collected 39 garlic germplasm from NEH Region, Sikkim, Leh and Ladakh including big clove garlic. Based on the available germplasm, ICAR-DOGR has selected 30 elite big clove genotypes on the basis of yield contributing traits for further evaluation. Further somaclonal variations are being created to develop bigger clove varieties. Twenty-six advance breeding lines have been tested in multi-locational trial under All India Network Research Project on Onion and Garlic (AINRPOG). On the basis of varietal performance, varieties were recommended having bigger clove varieties performing well in North Indian short day and short winter season. Further entries are being evaluated at 21 short day conditions under AINRPOG and now big clove lines may be recommended at national level. Besides efforts are being made to develop virus free garlic planting material, as viruses in garlic deteriorate clove size and yield.

(c) Planting Material is being already supplied to the farmers. ICAR-DOGR has produced and distributed mother bulbs of newly released two garlic varieties (Bhima Omkar and Bhima Purple) to the farmers of various States. Further varieties recommended under AINRPOG were notified and being made available to the farmers by various organization.

Impact of GM mustard on organic farming

1153. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that if GM mustard is approved for cultivation, it would have adverse impact of India's impressively growing organic farming sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) No. Sir, GM is not allowed in Organic farming.

Setting up of KVKs

1154. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY:

SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has finalized to set up 100 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how many KVKs are going to be set up in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the performance and status of the existing KVKs in the country, with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved for setting-up of 121 new KVKs in identified rural districts and in any new rural districts created in the country during Twelfth Plan. Out of 121 KVKs, 26 KVKs have been set up till November, 2016. The State-wise details of the districts where remaining KVKs are proposed to be set-up during Twelfth Plan including Andhra Pradesh are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) The State-wise performance and status of the major activities of existing KVKs in the country during 2015-16 including those in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana is given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise details of the districts where KVKs are proposed to be set-up during Twelfth Plan including Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of KVK	Name of districts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	YSR (Kadapa)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	Kurang Kumey, Dibang Valley, Longding
3.	Assam	1	North Cachar Hills
4.	Bihar	6	Purbi Champaran, Madhubani, Muzaffarpur, Paschim Champaran, Samastipur, Gaya
5.	Chhattisgarh	7	Balod, Sukma, Kondagaon, Mungeli, Surajpur, Bemetara, Durg
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	Silvasa
7.	Daman and Diu	2	Daman, Diu
8.	Gujarat	5	Jamnagar, Surendranagar, Bhavnagar, Junagarh, Vadodara
9.	Haryana	3	Mewat, Panchkula, Palwal
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1	Lahul and Spiti
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	Reasi, Ramban, Kisthwar, Kargil, Baramulla
12.	Karnataka	1	Yadgir
13.	Madhya Pradesh	6	Anupur, Alirajpur, Singrauli, Sagar, Chhindwara, Dhar
14.	Maharashtra	5	Sangli, Kolhapur, Jalna, Thane, Nagpur
15.	Meghalaya	2	South Garo Hills, East Garo Hills
16.	Nagaland	1	Kaiphire

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of KVK	Name of districts
17.	Puducherry	1	Mahe
18.	Rajasthan	6	Sriganganagar, Jalore, Pali, Udaipur, Sikar, Bhilwara
19.	Tamil Nadu	2	Thiruppur, Villupuram
20.	Telangana	2	.Adilabad, Medak
21.	Tripura	4	West Tripura,Gomati, Sepahijala, Unakoti
22.	Uttarakhand	2	Pithoragarh, Chamoli
23.	Uttar Pradesh	21	Shravasti, Jyotiba Phule Nagar, Allahabad, Hapur, Shamali, Sambhal, Amethi, Kasganj, Kheri, Hardoi, Azamgarh, Jaunpur, Badaun, Sultanpur, Bahraich, Gorakhpur, Moradabad, Gonda, Ghazipur, Rae Bareli, Muzaffarnagar
24.	West Bengal	7	Murshidabad, Bardhaman, Paschim Medinipur, Bankura, Nadia, Jalpaiguri, Birbhum
TOTAL		95	

Statement-II

State-wise performance and status of the major activities of existing KVKs in the country during 2015-16 including those in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

Sl. No.	State	Activities	Achievements during 2015-16
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	45
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	1521
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	8.95
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	0.55
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	3.49

1	2	3	4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	940
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	28652
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	78.70
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	6.71
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.05
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	1988
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	39298
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	779.94
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	1.09574
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.71000
4.	Assam	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	3550
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	70175
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	1392.82
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	1.95667
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.93275
5.	Bihar	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	16952
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	127383
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	3396
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	11.42
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	7.62
6.	Chhattisgarh	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	6897
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	43707
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	455.92
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	14.85
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	4.19
7.	Delhi	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	130

1	2	3	4
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	1181
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	1.49
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	0.02
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.00
8.	Goa	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	155
		Farmers and Extension personnel trained (Number)	1359
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	0
		Production of Planting materials (in lakh)	0.03
		Live stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.55
9.	Gujarat	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	12926
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	82032
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	122.09
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	10.36
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.11
10.	Haryana	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	4685
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	61132
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	210.28
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	0.14
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.00
11.	Himachal Pradesh	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	2578
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	20258
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	51.72
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	7.04
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.00
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	3869

1	2	3	4
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	26155
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	29.93
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	0.36
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.00
13.	Jharkhand	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	9462
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	64940
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	1797
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	6.61
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	3.57
14.	Karnataka	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	4194
		Farmers and Extension personnel trained (Number)	79746
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	108.40
		Production of Planting materials (in lakh)	7.73
		Live stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.76
15.	Kerala	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	917
		Farmers and Extension personnel trained (Number)	17961
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	28.37
		Production of Planting materials (in lakh)	5.62
		Live stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	1.81
16.	Lakshadweep	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	19
		Farmers and Extension personnel trained (Number)	835
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	0
		Production of Planting materials (in lakh)	0
		Live stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0
17.	Madhya Pradesh	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	12246

1	2	3	4
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	104368
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	1363.12
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	7.76
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	5.92
18.	Maharashtra	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	1743
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	99859
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	66.90
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	10.99
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.86
19.	Manipur	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	1279
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	25273
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	505.42
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	0.70439
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.33582
20.	Meghalaya	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	708
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	14038
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	278.56
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	0.39130
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.18653
21.	Mizoram	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	1133
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	22462
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	445.7
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	0.62608
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.29848
22.	Nagaland	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	1271
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	25265

1	2	3	4
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	497.42
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	0.70430
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.33576
23.	Odisha	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	9389
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	48388
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	2637.02
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	25.91
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	6.82
24.	Puducherry	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	182
		Farmers and Extension personnel trained (Number)	2068
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	36.28
		Production of Planting materials (in lakh)	0.26
		Live stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.29
25.	Punjab	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	2331
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	28832
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	783.02
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	0.37
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.00
26.	Rajasthan	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	11546
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	79623
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	125.36
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	20.42
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	3.24
27.	Sikkim	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	567
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	11231
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	222.85

1	2	3	4
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	0.31304
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.14924
28.	Tamil Nadu	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	5245
		Farmers and Extension personnel trained (Number)	75006
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	205.50
		Production of Planting materials (in lakh)	8.11
		Live stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.45
29.	Telangana	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	451
		Farmers and Extension personnel trained (Number)	13427
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	18.69
		Production of Planting materials (in lakh)	2.5
		Live stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.25
30.	Tripura	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	567
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	11231
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	222.85
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	0.31304
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	0.14924
31.	Uttar Pradesh	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	2501
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	170365
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	1530.25
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	13.65
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	42.00
32.	Uttarakhand	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	650
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	26,401
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	465.45
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	75.26

1	2	3	4
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	.00317
33.	West Bengal	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	9785
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	56132
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	3102
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	7.41
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	36.11

Suicide by farmers

†1155. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

SHRIMATI MISHA BHARTI:

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

(a) whether in view of the cases of suicide being on the rise Government's attention has been drawn towards the reasons which are forcing the farmers to commit suicide day after day;

(b) whether Government is carrying out any study to understand the economic burden of the farmers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, since the rising incidence of suicides by farmers is an extremely painful and complex issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides upto 2014 are available at its website. The Reports for the subsequent years (*i.e.* 2015 and 2016) have not been published yet. As per NCRB Report 2014, the reasons for suicide by farmers are manifold, which *inter-alia* include, indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons.

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.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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 therefore been implementing various Schemes to meet this objective, viz. Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), the National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) etc.

(b) and (c) A study titled "Farmers Suicides: Causes and Policy Prescriptions" has been approved as an All India Coordinated Study and allotted to Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre (ADRTC), Bangalore as a coordinator of the study. The study is to be carried out in 18 States *i.e.* Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tripura, Bihar, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry, Punjab and Maharashtra with their respective Agro Economic Research Centres (AERCs). The reference year of the study has been decided as the agriculture year 2015-16 (June, 2015-May, 2016). As per time line, the study is to be completed by March, 2017.

Availability of new variety of Arhar Pusa-16

1156. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that new variety of Arhar Pusa-16 has been developed by the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) which will be ready in 4 months in place of traditional variety which takes almost 8-10 months to be ready for harvesting, if so, the details thereof along with its main features; and

(b) the time Government is likely to take to make available the seeds of the new variety of Arhar Pusa-16 to farmers in view of huge gap between the production and demand of Arhar dal within the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has developed early maturing Arhar genotype PADT 16 (Pusa 16) which matures in four months. Pusa 16 is of determinate habit, short statured (<100 cm), suited for close planting (30x15 cm) and amenable to mechanical spraying and combine harvesting.

(b) The new Arhar genotype PADT16 along with six other genotypes developed by different State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) is being tested during Kharif 2016 in National trial of All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Pigeonpea for Extra-early maturity conditions under different agro ecological niches. The decision about its further testing/release for cultivation shall be taken as per the performance in National trial.

Integration of agricultural markets

1157. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are nearly 150 principal market yards and about 110 sub-market yards in Telangana;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is planning to integrate agriculture markets under the National Agriculture Market scheme;

(c) if so, how many of the above markets have been taken up for integration and by when all the 260 plus are going to be integrated; and

(d) the efforts being made to persuade the other States which have not brought amendments to their APMC Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) As per information made available by State Government of Telangana, there are 147 Principal Market Yards and 101 sub-Market Yards as on date.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) So far, 250 markets across 10 States have been integrated with e-NAM. Out of these 44 markets belongs to Telangana. Integration of more markets in Telangana depends on the proposal received from the State and availability of funds.

(d) The Government has already advised all the States/Union Territories for making amendment in their APMC Act to join NAM. The matter has been taken up at appropriate level by the Government through letters and discussion in meeting.

Price protection to farmers growing Kharif crops

1158. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has estimated the output of Kharif crops in Maharashtra and rest of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the bumper crop is likely to result in nosedive of prices of foodgrains; and

(c) if so, the precautionary measures Government proposes to take to protect the interests of farmers of Maharashtra and rest of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) As per 1st Advance Estimates of Kharif 2016-17, total foodgrains production in Maharashtra is estimated at 8.41 million tonnes and in the country at 135.03 million tonnes. The State-wise foodgrains production for Kharif 2016-17 (1st Advance Estimates) is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Market price of agricultural produces is determined by market forces of demand and supply. The Government has fixed Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 2016-17 Kharif season is given in the Statement-II (*See below*). The Government offers to procure the notified commodities at MSP, however, farmers are free to sell their produce to Government procurement agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them.

Statement-I

*Details of State-wise 1st Advance Estimates of Production of
Foodgrains during 2016-17*

(In '000 tonnes)

Sl. No.	States	Kharif Foodgrains
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5122.8
2.	Assam	4116.0
3.	Bihar	6827.3
4.	Chhattisgarh	6906.2
5.	Gujarat	3225.3
6.	Haryana	5218.5
7.	Himachal Pradesh	804.4
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1106.1
9.	Jharkhand	4237.4
10.	Karnataka	8821.9
11.	Kerala	450.5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9824.7

Sl. No.	States	Kharif Foodgrains
13.	Maharashtra	8406.3
14.	Odisha	7020.2
15.	Punjab	12596.3
16.	Rajasthan	7737.3
17.	Tamil Nadu	6607.1
18.	Telangana	3585.0
19.	Uttar Pradesh	17022.5
20.	Uttarakhand	904.8
21.	West Bengal	12033.7
22.	Others	2453.1
ALL-INDIA		135027.5

Statement-II

*Details of Minimum Support Prices (MSP) and the bonus for
Kharif Crops 2016-17 season*

Commodity	Variety	MSP ₹/Quintal	Bonus ₹/Quintal	MSP+Bonus in ₹/Quintal
1	2	3	4	5
Paddy	Common	1470	-	1470
	Grade A	1510	-	1510
Jowar	Hybrid	1625	-	1625
	Maldandi	1650	-	1650
Bajra		1330	-	1330
Maize		1365	-	1365
Ragi		1725	-	1725
Tur (Arhar)		4625	425	5050
Moong		4800	425	5225
Urad		4575	425	5000
Groundnut-in-Shell		4120	100	4220
Soybean		2675	100	2775

1	2	3	4	5
Sunflower Seed		3850	100	3950
Nigerseed		3725	100	3825
Sesamum		4800	200	5000
Cotton	Medium Staple	3860	-	3860
	Long Staple	4160	-	4160
Jute		3200	-	3200
Sugarcane*		230.0	-	230.00

*Fair and remunerative price.

Increase in production cost of cotton crops

1159. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the input cost per hectare for the cotton growing farmers have increased in the last five years;

(b) if so, the average contribution of the Genetically Modified (GM) seeds, in percentage to this input cost; and

(c) the number of cotton growing farmers' suicides in the country in the last five years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) There is an increasing trend in the cost of cultivation as per the cost of production estimates of cotton crop generated for major cotton growing States under the "Comprehensive scheme for studying cost of cultivation of Principal crops in India for the latest available five year period (from 2009-10 to 2013-14). The average contribution of the GM cotton seed in percentage to the total cotton cultivation input cost is below 10%.

(c) The reasons for suicides by farmers are manifold, which *inter-alia* include, indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons. Number of farmers death arising from accidents and suicides in the major cotton growing States during the year *i.e.* 2012, 2013 and 2014 are given in the Statement (*See below*). Data for the year 2015 and 2016 are not available as yet.

Statement

Number of farmers' deaths arising from accidents and suicides in the major cotton growing States during year 2012, 2013 and 2014

Sl. No.	States	2012	2013	2014	
				Farmers	Laborers
Northern States					
1.	Haryana	276	374	14	105
2.	Punjab	75	83	24	40
3.	Rajasthan	270	292	0	373
Central States					
4.	Gujarat	564	582	45	555
5.	Madhya Pradesh	1172	1090	826	372
6.	Maharashtra	3786	3146	2568	1436
Southern States					
7.	Telangana	NA	NA	898	449
8.	Andhra Pradesh	2572	2014	160	472
9.	Tamil Nadu	499	105	68	827
10.	Karnataka	1875	1403	321	447
TOTAL		11089	9089	4924	5076
GRAND TOTAL					30178

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

Conversion of agricultural land to other uses

1160. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

SHRIMATI MISHA BHARTI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the area under agriculture in the country has decreased due to growing urbanization and population pressure;

(b) if so, the percentage of area under agriculture for last five years, State-wise; and

(c) the Government's action plan to minimize conversion of agricultural land to other land use patterns, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) As per report on Land Use Statistics for 2013-14 (latest available), total area of agricultural land in the country has marginally declined from 182.46 million hectares in 2008-09 to 181.85 million hectares in 2013-14. State-wise details of agricultural land and its percentage over geographical area of the States in 2008-09 and 2013-14 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) As per Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Governments and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to check diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. However, under the National Policy for Farmers-2007(NPF-2007), State Governments have been advised to earmark lands with low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity, etc., for non-agricultural developmental activities, including industrial and construction activities. The National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy-2007 (NRRP-2007) has also recommended that as far as possible, projects may be set up on waste land, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of irrigated, multi-cropped agricultural land for non-agricultural uses may be kept to the minimum and avoided, to the extent possible.

Statement

State-wise details of agricultural land and its percentage over geographical area of the States in 2008-09 and 2013-14.

States/UTs	Area (Thousand Hectares)			
	2008-09		2013-14	
	Agricultural Land	Percentage of Agricultural Land in the State to total Geographical Area of the State	Agricultural Land	Percentage of Agricultural Land in the State to total Geographical Area of the State
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	15928	57.91	8879	55.42
Arunachal Pradesh	422	5.04	424	5.06
Assam	3211	40.94	3357	42.80
Bihar	6620	70.30	6578	69.86
Chhattisgarh	5581	41.28	5550	41.05
Goa	197	53.30	197	53.30
Gujarat	12661	64.59	12661	64.59

1	2	3	4	5
Haryana	3728	84.32	3645	82.45
Himachal Pradesh	822	14.76	812	14.58
Jammu and Kashmir	1044	4.70	1070	4.82
Jharkhand	4289	53.80	4343	54.48
Karnataka	12892	67.22	12840	66.95
Kerala	2305	59.31	2279	58.64
Madhya Pradesh	17322	56.20	17267	56.02
Maharashtra	21149	68.73	21127	68.66
Manipur	243	10.90	384	17.18
Meghalaya	1053	46.95	1056	47.09
Mizoram	348	16.50	402	19.09
Nagaland	659	39.77	693	41.81
Odisha	7126	45.76	6797	43.65
Punjab	4215	83.69	4219	83.79
Rajasthan	25578	74.74	25542	74.63
Sikkim	98	13.80	97	13.59
Tamil Nadu	8146	62.63	8120	62.43
Telangana	State was constituted in June, 2014		6929	60.32
Tripura	278	26.48	273	26.03
Uttarakhand	1547	28.93	1550	28.98
Uttar Pradesh	19166	79.55	18955	78.68
West Bengal	5689	64.11	5662	63.80
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	27	3.25	28	3.37
Chandigarh	2	14.09	2	14.09
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	24	49.61	24	48.67
Daman and Diu	4	34.35	3	26.93

1	2	3	4	5
Delhi	54	36.19	53	35.65
Lakshadweep	2	78.17	2	78.17
Puducherry	30	63.12	30	61.63
ALL INDIA	182459	55.50	181850	55.32

Promoting organic manure

†1161. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides subsidy to farmers for procurement of organic manure also, on the lines of subsidy given by it on chemical fertilizers/manure, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of amount allocated for the said purpose in last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government for promoting organic manure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is promoting the establishment of fruit/vegetable market/agro waste compost production unit 100 Tonnes Per Day (TPD)/3000 Ton Per Annum (TPA) capacity under Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme (CISS) through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The financial assistance is provided through NABARD as back ended subsidy to farmers/individual/private agencies including the youth, @33% of Total Financial Outlay (TFO) Limited to ₹ 63 lakh, whichever is less. The details of funds released as subsidy to various States for setting up of fruit/vegetable market waste compost production unit is given in the Statement-I (See below).

(c) Government is encouraging production and use of organic manure/bio-fertilizers through various Schemes of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)/ Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), and National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The pattern of assistance is given in Statement-II.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

*State-wise no. of units and subsidy under CISS for fruit/vegetable compost unit
(According to NABARD communication)*

Sl. No.	State	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
		Unit	Subsidy (₹ lakh)	Unit	Subsidy (₹ lakh)	Unit	Subsidy (₹ lakh)
1.	Assam	01	15.098	-	-	-	-
2.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	01	30.0
3.	Karnataka	03	84.268	-	-		
4.	Madhya Pradesh		-	-	-	01	19.191
5.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	01	29.97
	TOTAL	04	99.366	0	0	03	79.161

Note: Information compiled by NCOF.

Statement-II

*Details of Pattern of assistance being given by Government to encourage
production and use of organic manure*

**A. National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)-Organic and INM
Component of Soil Health Management (SHM):**

- (i) Setting up of State of art liquid/carrier based Bio-fertilizer/Bio-pesticide units, 100% Assistance to State Government/Government Agencies upto a maximum limit of ₹ 160.00 lakh/unit and 25% of total financial outlay or limited to ₹ 40 lakh/unit whichever is less for individuals/private agencies through NABARD as back ended capital investment subsidy scheme of 200 Total Per Annum (TPA) production capacity.
- (ii) Setting up of Bio-fertilizer and Organic fertilizer testing Quality Control Laboratory (BOQCL) or Strengthening of existing Laboratory under FCO, assistance up to maximum limit of ₹ 85 lakh for new laboratory and up to a maximum limit of ₹ 45 lakh for strengthening of existing infrastructure to State Government Laboratory under Agriculture or Horticulture Department.
- (iii) Promotion of Organic Inputs on farmer's field (Manure, Vermi-compost, Bio-Fertilizers Liquid/solid, Waste compost, Herbal extracts etc.), 50% of cost subject to a limit of ₹ 5000/-per ha and ₹ 10,000 per beneficiary.

- (iv) Setting up of mechanized Fruit/Vegetable market waste/Agro waste compost production unit 100% financial assistance to State Government/ Government Agencies upto a maximum limit of ₹ 190.00 lakh per unit and 33% of project cost or maximum limited to ₹ 63 lakh per unit whichever is less for individuals/private agencies through NABARD as capital investment for establishment of agro/vegetable waste compost production units of 3000 Total Per Annum (TPA) production.
- (v) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY): The Scheme is implemented by the State Governments on a cluster basis of 20 hectare each. The farmer within the cluster is given following financial assistance for Integrated Manure Management.
- (a) Liquid Bio-fertilizer consortia (Nitrogen Fixing/Phosphate Solubilizing/ potassium mobilizing bio-fertilizer) @ ₹ 500/acre x 50 of ₹ 25000 per cluster in first year.
 - (b) Liquid Biopesticides (Trichoderma Viridae, Pseudomonas, Fluorescens, Matarhizium, Beaviourie Bassiana, Paelomyces, Verticillium) @ ₹ 500/ acre x 50 of ₹ 25000 per cluster in second year.
 - (c) Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM) as per specification given in FCO, 1985 @ ₹ 1000/acre X 50 of ₹ 50000 in first year for procuring and application of PROM.
 - (d) Farmer can take up any pest control mechanism easily available in their local area @ ₹ 500/acre X 50 of ₹ 25000 in second year.
 - (e) Vermi-compost (size 7'x3'x1) @ ₹ 5000/unit X 50 of ₹ 250000 will be assisted for procurement of earthworms, preparation of pits, etc. for construction of vermi composting pits.

The detail guidelines are uploaded in website www.agricoop.gov.in.

B. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH):

1. Adoption of Organic Farming - 50% of cost limited to ₹ 10000/ha for a maximum area of 4 ha. per beneficiary, spread over a period of 3 years involving assistance of ₹ 4000/- in first year and ₹ 3000/- each in second and third year. The programme to be linked with certification.
2. Organic Certification - ₹ 5 lakh for a cluster of 50 ha which will include ₹ 1.50 lakh in first year, ₹ 1.50 lakh in second year and ₹ 2.00 lakh in third year.
3. Vermi Compost Units/Organic Input Production - 50% of cost conforming to the size of the unit of 30'X8'X2.5' dimension of permanent structure

to be administered on pro-rata basis. For HDPE Vermibed, 50% of cost conforming to the size of 96 cft (12'X4'X2') and IS 15907:2010 to be administered on pro-rata basis (₹ 100,000/ unit for permanent structure and ₹ 16,000/unit for HDPE Vermibed).

C. National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP): Financial Assistance is being provided for different type of components including bio-fertilisers, Supply of Rhizobium culture/Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria (PSB)/Zinc Solubilising Bacteria (ZSB)/ Azotobacter/Mycorrhiza and Vermi Compost.

D. National Food Security Mission (NFSM): Under NFSM, financial assistance is provided for promotion of Bio-Fertilizer (Rhizobium/PSB) @50% of the cost limited to ₹ 300/- per ha.

E. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY): Organic Farming Projects are considered by respective State Level Sanctioning Committee.

F. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR): The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), Pusa under Network Project on Soil Biodiversity-Biofertiliser has developed improved and efficient strains of biofertiliser specific to different crops and soil types. Liquid Bio-fertiliser technology with higher shelf life has also been developed. The ICAR also imparts training, organizes Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) to educate farmers on all these aspect.

Production of saffron in Jammu and Kashmir

1162. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of saffron has increased with the implementation of National Saffron Mission in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details of increase in production in the last four years;

(c) if not, the reasons for the poor production; and

(d) the steps being taken to revive saffron production in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The production of Saffron has increased in the State of Jammu and Kashmir with the implementation of National Mission on Saffron. The Saffron production which stood at 10.03 metric tonnes in 2010-11 has increased to 16.17 metric tonnes during 2015-16.

The production of Saffron during the last four years is given below:-

Year	Production in metric tonnes
2012-13	12.45
2013-14	14.00
2014-15	5.57
2015-16	16.17

The production of Saffron during 2014-15 was less due to heavy rains and floods in Kashmir.

(c) and (d) The following steps have been taken under the National Mission on Saffron for complete revival of Saffron production in the State of Jammu and Kashmir:-

- Rejuvenation/Replanting of existing Saffron area for improving productivity.
- Support for creation of irrigation facilities.
- Production of planting material (Public Sector Nurseries).
- Enhancing product quality through improved post harvest handling.
- Mechanization.
- Weather Station/e-trading/spot exchange/Quality testing and ISO certification.
- Infrastructure development of public farms.
- Transfer of technologies and Human Resource Development.

Production and demand of pulses

1163. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of production of pulses in the country during the last three years;
- (b) whether the domestic production of pulses is not able to meet the demand;
- (c) if so, the gap between demand and supply, and import of pulses during last three years; and
- (d) the details of efforts being made to achieve self-sufficiency in meeting the demand of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The production of pulses in the country during the last three years *i.e.* 2013-14 and 2015-16 is as under:

(million tonnes)

Year	Production of Pulses
2013-14	19.25
2014-15	17.15
2015-16*	16.47

*Fourth Advance Estimates.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Total production of pulses in the country is not sufficient to meet demand and the shortfall is met through imports. Details of estimated production, projected demand and import of pulses during the last three years *i.e.* 2013-14 to 2015-16 are as under:

(million tonnes)

Year	Estimated Production	Projected Demand#	Gap	Import
2013-14	19.25	20.0	-0.75	3.18
2014-15	17.15	21.0	-3.85	4.59
2015-16	16.47*	21.0	-4.53	5.80

*Fourth Advance Estimates.

#Based on the projection of Sub-group of Working Group of Planning Commission.

(d) 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 in all 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 in the country 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 announced a bonus of ₹ 425/- per quintal for Kharif pulses *viz.* Arhar (Tur), Urad and Moong. The Government has also announced bonus of ₹ 200/- and ₹ 150/- per quintal for Rabi pulses *viz.* Gram and Masur (Lentil) respectively.

Bumper production of pulses

1164. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's output of pulses is likely to surpass previous records and

also the Government's earlier estimate at 20-21.5 million tonnes this crop year (July, 2016-June, 2017); and

(b) whether the current Kharif output, estimated to set new bumper level of 8.5-9.5 metric tonnes against Government's estimate of 8.7 metric tonnes will help curtail the import of pulses, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) In an agricultural year, total production of all agricultural crops including pulses is assessed in the Second Advance Estimates normally released in February. Therefore, it is too early to arrive at firm assessment of production of pulses for the whole year 2016-17. However, as per 1st Advance Estimates released on 22nd September, 2016, total production of Kharif pulses in the country has been estimated at record level of 8.70 million tonnes. Further, as per reports on the progressive sowing of Rabi crops received from State Governments, total area coverage under Rabi pulses as on 18.11.2016 has been higher than their area covered during the corresponding period of last year.

Keeping in view the record production of Kharif pulses and trend in area coverage under Rabi pulses, total production of the crop in the country during 2016-17 may exceed the earlier record production of 19.25 million tonnes of pulses achieved during 2013-14.

Import of edible oil

1165. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has been the largest importer of edible oil for many years;
- (b) if so, whether the import bill last year was over ₹ 65,000 crore;
- (c) whether the Solvent Extractors' Association has predicted that India could import huge quantities of oil-meals used as livestock feed; and
- (d) if so, the steps Government is taking to step up production of oilseeds and to reduce the import bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir. India is the largest importer of edible oil for the last 2 years.

- (b) Yes, the import bill for last year was ₹ 68,676 crore.

(c) Yes, According to Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) India could import oil-meals used as livestock feed to meet the local requirements due to stagnant oilseed production in the country.

(d) To step up production and productivity of oilseeds, National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) is being implemented in the country since 2014-15 by the Government. The Mission envisage to increase production of vegetable oils sourced from oilseeds, oil palm and Tree Borne Oilseeds from 7.06 million tonnes to 9.51 million tonnes by the end of Twelfth Plan (2016-17). Three Mini Missions during the Twelfth Plan are as follows:—

- Mini Mission-I (Oilseeds) targets 35 million tonnes of oilseeds production during 2016-17;
- Mini Mission-II (Oil Palm) bring additional 1.25 lakh hectare area under oil palm cultivation with increase in productivity of Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs) from 4927 kg per hectare to 15000 kg. per hectare; and
- Mini Mission-III (Tree Borne Oilseeds) Enhance seed collection of Tree Borne Oilseeds.

Setting up of KVKs

1166. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

(a) whether Government is planning to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in each district of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the State-wise number of farmers being assisted in such Kendras up to October, 2016?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved for settingup of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in each of the rural districts of the country. During Twelfth Plan, 121 KVKs in identified rural districts and any new rural district created during the plan have been approved for establishment, out of which 26 KVKs have been set up till November, 2016. The State-wise details of the districts where remaining KVKs are proposed to be setup during Twelfth Plan are given in the Statement-I (*See below*). State-wise number of farmers benefited from activities of KVKs from April to October, 2016 is given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise details of the districts where remaining KVKs are proposed to be set-up during Twelfth Plan

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of KVK	Name of districts
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	YSR (Kadapa)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	Kurang Kumey, Dibang Valley, Longding
3.	Assam	1	North Cachar Hills
4.	Bihar	6	Purbi Champaran, Madhubani, Muzaffarpur, Paschim Champaran, Samastipur, Gaya
5.	Chhattisgarh	7	Balod, Sukma, Kondagaon, Mungeli, Surajpur, Bemetara, Durg
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	Silvasa
7.	Daman and Diu	2	Daman, Diu
8.	Gujarat	5	Jamnagar, Surendranagar, Bhavnagar, Junagarh, Vadodara
9.	Haryana	3	Mewat, Panchkula, Palwal
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1	Lahul and Spiti
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	Reasi, Ramban, Kisthwar, Kargil, Baramulla
12.	Karnataka	1	Yadgir
13.	Madhya Pradesh	6	Anupur, Alirajpur, Singrauli Sagar, Chhindwara, Dhar
14.	Maharashtra	5	Sangli, Kolhapur, Jalna, Thane, Nagpur
15.	Meghalaya	2	South Garo Hills, East Garo Hills
16.	Nagaland	1	Kaiphire
17.	Puducherry	1	Mahe
18.	Rajasthan	6	Sri Ganganagar, Jalore, Pali, Udaipur, Sikar, Bhilwara

1	2	3	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	2	Thiruppur, Villupuram
20.	Telangana	2	Adilabad, Medak
21.	Tripura	4	West Tripura, Gomati, Sepahijala, Unakoti
22.	Uttarakhand	2	Pithoragarh, Chamoli
23.	Uttar Pradesh	21	Shravasti, Jyotiba Phule Nagar, Allahabad, Hapur, Shamli, Sambhal, Amethi, Kasganj, Kheri, Hardoi, Azamgarh, Jaunpur, Badaun, Sultanpur, Bahraich, Gorakhpur, Moradabad, Gonda, Ghazipur, Raebareli, Muzaffarnagar
24.	West Bengal	7	Murshidabad, Bardhaman, Paschim Medinipur, Bankura, Nadia, Jalpaiguri, Birbhum
TOTAL		95	

Statement-II

State-wise number of farmers benefited from activities of KVKs during April to October, 2016

Sl.No.	Name of State	2016-17 (April to October, 2016)
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	31638
2.	Andhra Pradesh	106000
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	12709
4.	Assam	49970
5.	Bihar	466589
6.	Chhattisgarh	738968
7.	Delhi	13362
8.	Goa	8263
9.	Gujarat	275758
10.	Haryana	188142
11.	Himachal Pradesh	81116

Sl.No.	Name of State	2016-17 (April to October, 2016)
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	88126
13.	Jharkhand	281796
14.	Karnataka	3595872
15.	Kerala	374703
16.	Lakshadweep	0
17.	Madhya Pradesh	1297914
18.	Maharashtra	407000
19.	Manipur	25805
20.	Meghalaya	18939
21.	Mizoram	20353
22.	Nagaland	31106
23.	Odisha	567911
24.	Puducherry	1184
25.	Punjab	574156
26.	Rajasthan	258904
27.	Sikkim	13738
28.	Tamil Nadu	405771
29.	Telangana	53000
30.	Tripura	13611
31.	Uttar Pradesh	59519
32.	Uttarakhand	14878
33.	West Bengal	221433
TOTAL		10298234

Supply of fake and poor quality seeds

1167. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether Government has received complaints of supply of fake and poor quality seeds to farmers;

- (b) if so, the steps Government has taken to address the issue;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to provide relief to farmers affected by such seeds; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (d) As per the information received from the States during the last three years, complaints of supply of fake and sub-standard seeds have been received from Rajasthan and Telangana (2013-14), Telangana, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh (2014-15), Rajasthan and Maharashtra (2015-16). Punitive action as per the law including launching police cases, filing court cases, stop sale, suspension and cancellation of licenses, issuances of stop sale order, seizure of stock was taken in such cases by the State Governments. During Kharif, 2016, Government of Odisha had received complaints regarding supply of poor quality paddy seeds to farmers in the districts of Puri, Cuttack, Jajpur, Sambalpur and Ganjam. The Government of Odisha had constituted four expert teams for field visit to the concerned districts and found that 1262.71 qutls. Paddy seed having poor germination was supplied to the farmers. The entire quantity of paddy seed was replaced by the concerned supplying agency. Seed Law Enforcement is vested with the State Governments and they have been advised to strictly adhere to the provisions of the Seeds Act, 1966 and Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 to ensure the availability of quality seeds to farmers.

Achievements under Jan Aushadhi Scheme

†1168. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of targets set and achievements made in States/Union Territories including Chhattisgarh under the Jan Aushadhi Scheme during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether Government is planning/proposing to open these stores in all AIIMS, famous hospitals and medical colleges of the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Ministry in collaboration with the Health and Family Welfare Ministry to open these stores in AIIMS, famous hospitals and medical colleges of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) The Government has set

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

a target to open 3000 Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMJAKs) across the country by 31st March, 2017.

The year-wise details of PMJAK opened in the country for the last three (3) years is given in the Statement (*See below*).

At present, there are 538 Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMJAK) functioning in 26 States/UTs of the Country under Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana (PMJAY) which are offering approximately 600 drugs and 154 surgicals and consumables at affordable prices.

(b) and (c) At present, 226 Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMJAK) have been opened in State run hospitals, Medical Colleges and other Government hospitals.

Statement

*List of State-wise Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMJAK)
opened during the last three years*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	PMJAK opened till 2013	PMJAK opened in 2013-14	PMJAK opened in 2014-15	PMJAK opened in 2015-16	PMJAK opened in 2016-17 (till 21.11.2016)	Total PMJAK functional
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh					8	8
2.	Assam					1	1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh					2	2
4.	Bihar				1	2	3
5.	Chandigarh	3				1	4
6.	Chhattisgarh				109	16	125
7.	Delhi	3			6	3	12
8.	Gujarat				8	17	25
9.	Haryana			1	5	6	12
10.	Himachal Pradesh	9			3	1	13
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	3	5		2	13
12.	Jharkhand	12					12
13.	Karnataka				1	4	5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14.	Kerala				3	65	68
15.	Madhya Pradesh			5	4	6	15
16.	Maharashtra			1	15	31	47
17.	Mizoram			1		1	2
18.	Odisha	20	2	1	1	1	25
19.	Punjab	20			2	1	23
20.	Rajasthan				1	4	5
21.	Tamil Nadu					8	8
22.	Telangana				1	10	11
23.	Tripura		1	3	3		7
24.	Uttar Pradesh			2	6	73	81
25.	Uttarakhand		3		1	6	10
26.	West Bengal					1	1
TOTAL		70	9	19	170	270	538

Availability of basic fertilizers

1169. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the basic fertilizers required by farmers for different crops are not readily available. If so, the reasons therefor and what Government is doing about this; and

(b) whether the fertilizer subsidies are being smoothly transferred to farmers' accounts in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Sir, the availability of basic fertilizers (Urea, DAP, MOP and NPK) is sufficient.

(b) At present, fertilizers are made available to farmers at subsidized prices. Subsidy provided on fertilizers is already factored in the MRPs. Thus the benefit of subsidy is taken by the farmers.

Revival of closed units of HFCL and FCIL

1170. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to revive all closed units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) through Public Sector route except Durgapur and Haldia plants; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) In 2011, CCEA had approved the Draft Rehabilitation Scheme for revival of all the Units of FCIL and HFCL. Revival on nomination basis of Talcher Unit by the consortium of M/s. Rashtriya Chemical and Fertilizers Limited (RCF), M/s. Coal India Limited (CIL) and M/s. Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), revival of Ramagundam Unit by M/s. Engineers India Limited (EIL) and M/s. National Fertilizers (NFL) Limited and revival of Sindri Unit by M/s. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). Gorakhpur and Korba Units of FCIL and Durgapur, Haldia, Barauni of HFCL to be revived through bidding route.

CCEA in its meeting held on 9.5.2013, approved waiver of Government of India loan and interest to facilitate FCIL to arrive at positive net worth. This enabled FCIL to get de-registered from the purview of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). CCEA also approved that proposal/action plan on revival of HFCL units to be taken up once revival of FCIL Units is on track.

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 and Barauni unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited, by means of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of Public Sector Units (PSUs) namely, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Coal India Limited (CIL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and FCIL/HFCL, through nomination route.

Besides, in case of Durgapur and Haldia units of HFCL, there are certain issues connected to land disputes with Asansol Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA) and Kolkata Port Trust (KoPT) respectively.

Setting up of Seed Banks

1171. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN:

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

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

- (a) the total number of Seed Banks established in the country by the end of August, 2016 and September, 2016, respectively State-wise;
- (b) the proposed target of setting up Seed Banks in the country during the current year;
- (c) the number of new Seed Banks to be opened in Odisha during 2016-17; and
- (d) the details of these Seed Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) There are 22 Seed Banks functioning in the country including one at the National level with National Seeds Corporation Limited and one each in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) to (d) At present, there is no proposal with the Government to open new Seed Banks in the country.

Disinvestment target for public sector fertilizer companies

1172. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has planned extensive disinvestment target for public sector fertilizer companies, if so, plant-wise details of target for the funds to be generated with time-line;
- (b) whether Government has plans to approach PSUs/Ratna companies for disinvestment of such sick units as first option, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether many corporates have shown their interest for the same, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the unrevivable plants and whether Government has plans to sell them, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved 5% and 15% divestment of Government of India shares in Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCFL) and National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) respectively to achieve the minimum public shareholding norm of 25% by 21st August, 2017 as stipulated by SEBI.

(b) No, Sir. There is no plan for disinvestment of sick units.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) No fertilizer plant has been identified as unrevivable so far. Therefore question does not arise.

Impact assessment of opening of Jan Aushadhi outlets

1173. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jan Aushadhi outlets opened between the period 2014-16 all over the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has set any regional targets, as also areas of emphasis while promoting the opening of such outlets, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has conducted or contemplated any study of the impact assessment of this scheme, if so, the mechanism of doing the same, if not, when and how will the Government conduct such study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Total 189 Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMJAK) were opened during the financial years of 2014-15 and 2015-16. State-wise PMJAK opened in 2014-15 and 2015-16 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) studied the scheme in the year 2012 and pointed out the following factors which were mainly responsible for the scheme not being successful:—

- (i) Over-dependence on support from State Governments;
- (ii) Poor Supply Chain Management;
- (iii) Non-prescription of generic medicines by the Doctors;
- (iv) State Governments launching free supply of drugs; and
- (v) Lack of awareness among the public.

Based on the recommendations of PHFI and the Parliamentary Standing Committee, a new Business Plan was developed to overcome these shortcomings.

Statement

List of State-wise Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMJAK) opened during 2014-15 and 2015-16

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	PMJAK opened in 2014-15	PMJAK opened in 2015-16
1.	Bihar		1
2.	Chhattisgarh		109
3.	Delhi		6
4.	Gujarat		8
5.	Haryana	1	5
6.	Himachal Pradesh		3
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	
8.	Karnataka		1
9.	Kerala		3
10.	Madhya Pradesh	5	4
11.	Maharashtra	1	15
12.	Mizoram	1	
13.	Odisha	1	1
14.	Punjab		2
15.	Rajasthan		1
16.	Telangana		1
17.	Tripura	3	3
18.	Uttar Pradesh	2	6
19.	Uttarakhand		1
TOTAL		19	170

Issues hampering growth of fertilizer sector

1174. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of issues hampering the growth of fertilizer sector;
- (b) whether Government has made any evaluation and formulated any comprehensive plan for the growth of fertilizer sector in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (d) The country has very little reserves of fertilizer raw material and natural gas in the country. There is no known source of potash reserves in the country and for phosphate the country depends on imports for its 90% requirement. Production of ammonia required for producing P&K fertilizers through imported RLNG is very costly as compared to imported ammonia. Under the above conditions, indigenous production of P&K fertilizers is not always viable.

So far as urea is concerned, the Government has notified New Investment Policy-2012 on 2nd January, 2013 and its amendment on 7th October, 2014 to facilitate fresh investment in urea sector and to make India self-sufficient in the urea sector.

At present, there are following proposals for setting up of Greenfield/Brownfield projects with the Department of Fertilizers:

Sl.No.	Company	Projects	Ownership	State
1.	Indo-Gulf Fertilizers Limited-Jagdishpur	Brownfield Expansion Urea Project at Jagdishpur	Private	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited-Gadepan	Brownfield Ammonia-Urea Units at Gadepan-Kota	Private	Rajasthan
3.	Matix Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited, Panagarh	Greenfield/Brownfield Ammonia-Urea Fertilizers Complex at Panagarh	Private	West Bengal
4.	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited-Thal	Brownfield Ammonia-Urea Expansion project at Thal	CPSU	Maharashtra
5.	Kanpur Fertilizers and Cement Limited	Greenfield Project at Jabalpur	Private	Madhya Pradesh
6.	Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd.	Brownfield Project at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh	Private	Andhra Pradesh

The Government has been encouraging Indian companies to establish Joint Ventures abroad in countries which are rich in fertilizer resources for production facilities with buy back arrangements and to enter into long term agreement for supply of fertilizers

and fertilizer inputs to India. Further, the Department is also working with the goal of having access to acquisition of the fertilizer raw materials abroad. Consortium of India Companies (PSUs/Private/Cooperatives) is being constituted on project basis based on the requirements of the companies and prospective offerings from the JV partners.

Details of medicines supplied through Jan Aushadhi Scheme

†1175. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing Jan Aushadhi Scheme for providing affordable medicines to people;

(b) if so, the number of districts in the country including Maharashtra where it has been implemented and the details of the generic medicines provided through this scheme;

(c) whether Government has decided to operationalise this scheme in the whole country, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 538 Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMJAK) are operating in 205 districts of the country including Maharashtra which offer nearly 600 drugs in 16 therapeutic groups and 154 surgicals and consumables for sale.

(c) Yes, Sir. 538 Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMJAK) are operating in 26 States/UTs of the country.

(d) Many State Governments like Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Odisha, Jharkhand, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka and Kerala are collaborating under the Scheme to open PMJAK. Further, many NGOs, individuals and other organizations have also come forward to increase the access of common man to affordable quality generics under the Scheme.

Spreading awareness regarding Jan Aushadhi Scheme

†1176. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the success achieved so far of the Jan Aushadhi Scheme initiated by the Central Government has been encouraging, if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the State-wise details of Jan Aushadhi stores opened so far and the goals fixed for this scheme for the coming three years; and

(c) whether any programme is being implemented with a view to spread awareness regarding Jan Aushadhi Scheme, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. There are 538 Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMJAK) functioning over 26 States/UTs of the Country under Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana (PMJAY) which are offering approximately 600 drugs and 154 surgicals and consumables at affordable prices.

(b) The State-wise list of 538 Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMJAK) is given in the Statement (*See below*). The Government has a set target to open 3000 PMJAK across the country by 31st March, 2017. Targets for coming three years have not yet been decided for the scheme.

(c) Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India (BPPI) has initiated publicity campaigns around each PMJAK through hoardings, bulk SMS, mobile exhibitions, distribution of pamphlets, etc. for spreading awareness about PMJAY and its objective of providing quality, affordable generic medicines.

Statement

*List of State-wise functional Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMJAK)
as on date*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of PMJAK functional
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8
2.	Assam	1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2
4.	Bihar	3
5.	Chandigarh	4
6.	Chhattisgarh	125
7.	Delhi	12
8.	Gujarat	25
9.	Haryana	12
10.	Himachal Pradesh	13
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	13
12.	Jharkhand	12

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of PMJAK functional
13.	Karnataka	5
14.	Kerala	68
15.	Madhya Pradesh	15
16.	Maharashtra	47
17.	Mizoram	2
18.	Odisha	25
19.	Punjab	23
20.	Rajasthan	5
21.	Tamil Nadu	8
22.	Telangana	11
23.	Tripura	7
24.	Uttar Pradesh	81
25.	Uttarakhand	10
26.	West Bengal	1
TOTAL		538

New Drugs Policy

1177. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to introduce a new Drugs Policy;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the new policy; and
- (c) how it would be beneficial to consumers, especially the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to (a) above, does not arise.

New Urea Investment Policy

1178. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of the new Urea Investment Policy;

(b) whether it is a fact that only private players are being invited to set up urea plants under the above policy;

(c) what Government is thinking about increasing the production capacity of urea in central PSUs; and

(d) the demand and supply of urea in the country in the last five years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Department of Fertilizers has notified New Investment Policy (NIP)-2012 on 2nd January, 2012 and its amendment on 7th October, 2014 with the objective to facilitate fresh investment in urea sector and to reduce India's Import dependency, based on which the interested company (PSU/Private/Co-operative) can establish urea plant in the country.

(c) At present five defunct fertilizer units of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd (FCIL)/Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) are being revived by setting of new urea plants having capacity of producing 1.27 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) Urea per annum at each of the five units namely Talcher, Ramagundam, Gorakhpur and Sindri Units of FCIL and Barauni Unit of the HFCL. Pre-Project activities for these units are under process. In addition to these five urea units, Government has also approved to establish a new brownfield Ammonia-Urea Complex of 8.646 Lakh Metric Ton per annum capacity in the existing premises of the BVFCL.

(d) The details of the year-wise and State-wise demand and supply of urea in the country in the last five years and the current year is given in the Statement.

Statement

*Details of cumulative demand (Requirement) and supply (Availability)
of urea during last five years and also of current year 2016-17
(Upto September '16) (in LMT)*

States	Year	Urea	
		Requirement	Availability
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2011-12	0.80	0.84
	2012-13	0.93	0.50
	2013-14	1.00	0.50
	2014-15	1.00	0.60

1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2015-16	1.00	0.40
	2016-17	0.33	1.00
Andhra Pradesh	2011-12	3100.00	2987.12
	2012-13	3250.00	2938.73
	2013-14	3250.00	3511.53
	2014-15	1827.00	1854.33
	2015-16	1735.00	1621.06
	2016-17	800.00	790.76
Arunachal Pradesh	2011-12	1.14	0.59
	2012-13	0.85	0.65
	2013-14	1.00	0.23
	2014-15	2.34	0.46
	2015-16	1.93	0.00
	2016-17	0.00	0.00
Assam	2011-12	300.00	268.47
	2012-13	315.00	262.27
	2013-14	345.00	268.14
	2014-15	315.00	318.67
	2015-16	330.00	393.18
	2016-17	140.00	165.34
Bihar	2011-12	2075.00	1816.93
	2012-13	2150.00	2109.99
	2013-14	2150.00	1876.68
	2014-15	1900.00	1942.90
	2015-16	1925.00	2383.51
	2016-17	950.00	948.96
Chandigarh	2011-12	0.00	0.00
	2012-13	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4
Chandigarh	2013-14	0.00	0.00
	2014-15	0.00	0.00
	2015-16	0.00	0.00
	2016-17	0.00	0.00
Chhattisgarh	2011-12	625.00	630.49
	2012-13	690.00	725.72
	2013-14	700.00	643.10
	2014-15	675.00	632.09
	2015-16	675.00	874.43
	2016-17	500.00	490.08
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2011-12	1.35	0.88
	2012-13	1.26	0.83
	2013-14	1.36	0.83
	2014-15	1.04	1.27
	2015-16	1.05	1.01
	2016-17	0.85	0.54
Daman and Diu	2011-12	0.38	0.29
	2012-13	0.34	0.19
	2013-14	0.34	0.19
	2014-15	0.28	0.28
	2015-16	0.53	0.15
	2016-17	0.35	0.29
Delhi	2011-12	7.20	0.59
	2012-13	7.20	2.40
	2013-14	7.20	7.79
	2014-15	8.00	9.09
	2015-16	9.20	10.79
	2016-17	3.00	5.04

1	2	3	4
Goa	2011-12	6.71	4.83
	2012-13	6.50	4.37
	2013-14	4.70	4.40
	2014-15	4.82	3.57
	2015-16	4.82	3.64
	2016-17	2.50	2.38
Gujarat	2011-12	2275.00	2126.12
	2012-13	2375.00	1935.33
	2013-14	2225.00	2082.06
	2014-15	2200.00	2274.84
	2015-16	2050.00	2131.06
	2016-17	1000.00	1046.26
Haryana	2011-12	1975.00	1945.70
	2012-13	2000.00	2100.60
	2013-14	1950.00	1855.05
	2014-15	1860.00	2005.03
	2015-16	1860.00	2169.57
	2016-17	750.00	977.21
Himachal Pradesh	2011-12	65.00	60.66
	2012-13	64.50	64.64
	2013-14	63.00	63.93
	2014-15	70.00	67.43
	2015-16	71.00	73.31
	2016-17	36.00	33.83
Jammu and Kashmir	2011-12	145.50	119.61
	2012-13	145.50	150.42
	2013-14	145.50	135.41
	2014-15	138.00	116.70

1	2	3	4
Jammu and Kashmir	2015-16	132.17	158.65
	2016-17	55.00	56.26
Jharkhand	2011-12	260.00	219.23
	2012-13	270.00	198.43
	2013-14	260.00	167.54
	2014-15	225.00	180.17
	2015-16	225.00	239.31
	2016-17	170.00	167.98
Karnataka	2011-12	1460.00	1453.35
	2012-13	1500.00	1464.42
	2013-14	1550.00	1500.62
	2014-15	1400.00	1542.23
	2015-16	1370.75	1537.75
	2016-17	800.00	988.37
Kerala	2011-12	190.00	149.64
	2012-13	205.00	136.22
	2013-14	200.00	143.92
	2014-15	170.00	135.80
	2015-16	168.00	148.04
	2016-17	78.30	62.20
Lakshadweep	2011-12	0.00	0.00
	2012-13	0.00	0.00
	2013-14	0.00	0.00
	2014-15	0.00	0.00
	2015-16	0.00	0.00
	2016-17	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	2011-12	1750.00	1816.59
	2012-13	1850.00	1947.90

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	2013-14	1925.00	2300.66
	2014-15	2000.00	2072.97
	2015-16	2800.00	2483.66
	2016-17	900.00	1116.69
Maharashtra	2011-12	2750.00	2566.84
	2012-13	2800.00	2342.23
	2013-14	2700.00	2654.38
	2014-15	2650.00	2577.51
	2015-16	2700.00	2401.21
	2016-17	1550.00	1517.66
Manipur	2011-12	50.00	13.39
	2012-13	48.06	20.99
	2013-14	39.60	17.83
	2014-15	29.00	22.94
	2015-16	33.00	19.35
	2016-17	16.00	16.89
Meghalaya	2011-12	8.50	6.39
	2012-13	8.45	5.96
	2013-14	11.10	5.50
	2014-15	3.35	6.02
	2015-16	3.35	1.72
	2016-17	0.00	0.00
Mizoram	2011-12	2.45	1.22
	2012-13	11.01	3.55
	2013-14	9.00	6.05
	2014-15	9.00	3.75
	2015-16	8.73	3.50
	2016-17	4.00	2.00

1	2	3	4
Nagaland	2011-12	1.59	0.93
	2012-13	2.11	0.70
	2013-14	1.85	0.74
	2014-15	1.74	0.64
	2015-16	1.82	0.54
	2016-17	1.21	0.24
Odisha	2011-12	640.00	527.77
	2012-13	650.00	540.78
	2013-14	680.00	533.02
	2014-15	600.00	506.39
	2015-16	660.00	609.68
	2016-17	475.00	412.28
Puducherry	2011-12	33.50	24.82
	2012-13	30.50	18.74
	2013-14	26.50	22.15
	2014-15	22.00	14.95
	2015-16	22.00	13.27
	2016-17	8.00	4.27
Punjab	2011-12	2600.00	2850.01
	2012-13	2640.00	2904.86
	2013-14	2640.00	2620.56
	2014-15	2480.00	2735.30
	2015-16	2650.00	3152.24
	2016-17	1250.00	1325.16
Rajasthan	2011-12	1625.00	1758.44
	2012-13	1725.00	1890.89
	2013-14	1800.00	1850.27
	2014-15	1850.00	1848.65
	2015-16	1925.00	2095.64
	2016-17	750.00	830.65

1	2	3	4
Sikkim	2011-12	0.00	0.00
	2012-13	0.00	0.00
	2013-14	0.00	0.00
	2014-15	0.00	0.00
	2015-16	0.00	0.00
	2016-17	0.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	2011-12	1150.00	1047.60
	2012-13	1150.00	936.07
	2013-14	1050.00	911.63
	2014-15	1000.00	990.32
	2015-16	1050.00	1140.78
	2016-17	400.00	379.48
Telangana	2011-12	0.00	0.00
	2012-13	0.00	0.00
	2013-14	0.00	0.00
	2014-15	1423.00	1246.70
	2015-16	1429.00	1334.78
	2016-17	800.00	952.29
Tripura	2011-12	52.00	26.11
	2012-13	51.07	19.33
	2013-14	53.00	21.74
	2014-15	35.00	21.80
	2015-16	35.00	25.74
	2016-17	13.00	9.74
Uttar Pradesh	2011-12	5800.00	5912.45
	2012-13	6000.00	6331.28
	2013-14	6200.00	5938.30
	2014-15	6200.00	6313.85

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	2015-16	5947.00	6013.29
	2016-17	2600.00	2827.78
Uttarakhand	2011-12	240.00	251.30
	2012-13	245.00	250.63
	2013-14	250.00	280.41
	2014-15	250.00	281.71
	2015-16	245.00	371.50
	2016-17	135.00	226.19
West Bengal	2011-12	1325.00	1276.21
	2012-13	1350.00	1401.77
	2013-14	1450.00	1250.11
	2014-15	1320.00	1313.10
	2015-16	1264.90	1486.81
	2016-17	550.00	553.19
ALL INDIA	2011-12	30516.12	29865.40
	2012-13	31543.28	30711.39
	2013-14	31690.15	30675.23
	2014-15	30670.57	31042.07
	2015-16	31335.25	32899.57
	2016-17	14738.54	15910.99

Definition of life saving drugs

1179. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no definition for life saving drugs, either in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order or in the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy;

(b) if so, the reasons for not defining the term;

(c) how the price of life saving drugs is fixed in the absence of any definition; and

(d) which medicines are considered as life saving drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012 and Drugs (Prices Control) Order-2013 have been based on the principle of essentiality of drugs. The essentiality criteria is met by the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) as revised from time to time. At present, all the essential medicines as specified in the 'National List of Essential Medicines-2015' are included in the first Schedule of Drugs (Prices Control) Order-2013 and are under price control.

Revenue through 4G auction

1180. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of revenue earned by Government through the allocation of spectrum for 4G services and names of the companies to which the allocation was made, company-wise; and

(b) the number of Wi-Fi hotspots installed to provide 4G and the expansion aimed during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) 4G services can be provided using access spectrum in different bands namely 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz bands.

Government started allocation of spectrum through auction process since 2010 where the use of spectrum is technology neutral, that is the Telecom Service Providers are free to provide 2G, 3G and 4G services. The details of revenue earned by the Government through this process and the names of the companies to whom the allocation was made, company-wise are as under:-

Year of Auction	Name of the bands	Name of the company	Total Bid Amount (₹ in crores)	Upfront amount (₹ in crores)
1	2	3	4	5
2010	BWA (2300/2500 MHz)	Bharti Air Tel Ltd.	3314.36	3314.36
		Augere (Mauritius) Ltd.	124.66	124.66
		Infotel Broadband Services Pvt. Ltd.	12847.77	12847.77

1	2	3	4	5
		Aircell Ltd.	3438.01	3438.01
		BSNL	8313.80	8313.80
		MTNL	4533.97	4533.97
		Qualcomm Incorporated	4912.54	4912.54
		Tikona Digital Networks Pvt. Ltd.	1058.20	1058.20
	2100 MHz	Bharti Air Tel Ltd.	12295.46	12295.46
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	5768.59	5768.59
		Aircell Ltd.	6499.46	6499.46
		BSNL	10186.58	10186.58
		MTNL	6564.00	6564.00
		Vodafone Ltd.	11617.86	11617.86
		Reliance Telecom Ltd.	8585.04	8585.04
		S Tel Pvt. Ltd.	337.67	337.67
		Tata Teleservices	5864.29	5864.29
	TOTAL		106262.26	106262.26
2012	1800 MHz	Bharti Air Tel	8.67	8.67
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	2031.31	15.32*
		Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	2221.44	00**
		Vodafone Ltd.	1127.94	372.22
		Telewings Communications Services Pvt. Ltd.	4018.28	1326.03***
	TOTAL		9407.64	1722.24
2013	800 MHz	Sistema Shyam Teleservices Ltd.	3639.48	00#
	TOTAL		3639.48	Nil
2014	1800 MHz	Bharti Airtel	9814.93	3369.74
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	6719.41	2217.41
		Vodafone Ltd.	8373.00	2763.09

1	2	3	4	5
		Telewings Communications Services Pvt. Ltd.	807.41	266.45
		Aircel Ltd.	182.86	60.34
		Reliance Jio	11026.93	3638.89
		Reliance Communications	163.20	53.86
	900 MHz	Bharti Airtel	8623.62	2155.91
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	3704.80	926.20
		Vodafone Ltd.	11261.20	2815.30
	TOTAL		60677.36	18267.19
2015	2100 MHz	Bharti Airtel	5833.52	1925.07
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	577.98	190.73
		Vodafone Ltd.	3703.93	1222.30
	1800 MHz	Bharti Airtel	1040.71	354.48
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	1919.76	633.52
		Vodafone Ltd.	867.48	286.27
		Reliance Jio	1886.87	622.66
		Aircell Ltd.	2250.00	742.50
		Reliance Communications	393.42	129.83
		Tata Teleservices	631.28	208.32
	900 MHz	Bharti Airtel	22254.88	9095.18
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	27639.80	6909.95
		Vodafone Ltd.	21234.65	5308.66
		Reliance Communications	1834.76	458.68
	800 MHz	Reliance Jio	7876.42	1969.11
		Reliance Communications	2062.32	515.58
		Tata Teleservices	7220.00	1805.01
	TOTAL		109227.78	32377.85
2016	2500 MHz	Idea Cellular Ltd.	2520.80	1260.40
		Vodafone Ltd.	9220.80	4610.40

1	2	3	4	5
	2300 MHz	Bharti Airtel	7006.78	3508.39
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	888.28	444.14
		Reliance Jio	7895.06	3947.53
	2100 MHz	Bharti Airtel	4840.00	2770.00
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	3985.00	1992.50
		Vodafone Ltd.	7315.00	3657.50
	1800 MHz	Bharti Airtel	2396.8	1288.81
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	5403.9	2701.95
		Vodafone Ltd.	3743.50	1871.75
		Reliance Jio	2153.91	1076.96
		Aircell Ltd.	111.60	55.80
		R. Com	65.00	32.50
		Tata Teleservices	4619.20	2309.60
	800 MHz	Reliance Jio	3623.49	905.87
	TOTAL		65789.12	32434.10

* ₹ 684.59 crore set-off given.

** ₹ 1506.82 crore set-off given.

*** ₹ 1658.57 crore set-off given.

₹ 1626.32 crore set-off given.

(b) Wi-Fi operates in the delicensed band, can be established dynamically and, therefore, the number of hotspots varies dynamically. Further, Wi-Fi hotspots can exist independently of 3G, 4G and other back-haul technology, and that Wi-Fi hotspots are not necessary to provide 4G services. Till 30.06.2016 Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has installed 2526 Wi-Fi hotspots to provide high wireless internet services. For 2016-17, BSNL has planned to install 3700 Wi-Fi hotspots. However, these Wi-Fi hotspots cannot provide 4G services.

Discontinuation of roaming charges

1181. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the roaming charges for mobile subscribers in the country at present, company-wise;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to discontinue the roaming charges for mobile subscribers, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to direct the telecom operators not to increase STD tariffs and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) As per the current tariff framework in vogue, tariff for access service (including STD tariff) is under forbearance except for rural wire line services and national roaming services. The telecom service providers have flexibility to offer different tariff packages targeted at different customer user groups, subject to the condition that these tariffs have to be consistent with the regulatory principles of non-discrimination, non-predation etc.

All the Telecom Service Providers are allowed to fix roaming tariff for various components within the ceiling prescribed by TRAI. There is no bar for any operator in giving incoming calls while roaming as free in any tariff plan. Some of the Telecom Service Providers also announced free incoming tariff in their tariff offers.

The Government has no proposal to discontinue the roaming charges for mobile subscribers. However, TRAI through the Telecommunication Tariff (60th Amendment) Order, 2015 dated 09.04.2015 prescribed the ceilings for tariff for voice calls and SMS while on national roaming, which came into effect from 01.05.2015. Details of national roaming tariff are given below:—

Item	Ceiling tariff as per TTO (60th Amendment), 2015
Outgoing local voice call	₹ 0.80 per minute
Outgoing long distance (inter-circle) voice call	₹ 1.15 per minute
Incoming voice call	₹ 0.45 per minute
Outgoing local SMS	₹ 0.25 per SMS
Outgoing long distance (inter circle) SMS	₹ 0.38 per SMS

Through this amendment Order, TRAI has mandated the TSPs to offer a Special Roaming Tariff Plan to its pre-paid and post-paid subscribers wherein incoming voice calls while on national roaming shall be free, on payment of fixed charge, if any.

In accordance with the present regulatory framework based on forbearance, there is no proposal in TRAI to direct Telecom Service Providers not to increase STD rates.

Telecom services in backward and rural areas

†1182. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to provide telecom services, especially to the backward and rural areas of the country, on priority basis; and

(b) the details of telecom services provided, especially to the backward and rural areas of the country, as on date, and by when telecom services are proposed to be made available across the rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The Government has proposed/planned various schemes with financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to ensure mobile telecommunication service in backward and rural areas of the country. It is estimated that about 55,000 villages (2011 Survey) in the country do not have mobile coverage. Mobile coverage to these uncovered villages is likely to be provided in a phased manner, subject to availability of financial resources. Government has prioritized to provide mobile communication services in uncovered villages in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas, North-Eastern States, Islands, and Himalayan States in the first phase. Action taken by the Government for expansion of telecom infrastructure is as below:—

- (i) On 10.09.2014, the Government approved a proposal to implement a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region (NER). The Project envisages providing mobile coverage to 8621 identified uncovered villages by installation of about 6673 mobile towers, installation of 321 mobile tower sites along National Highways and strengthening of transmission network in the NER. The estimated cost of implementation is ₹ 5336.18 crore. The Project would be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
- (ii) 2199 mobile towers are being set up in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States with a total estimated cost of ₹ 3567.58 crore. 2185 mobile towers have already become operational as on 31.10.2016.
- (iii) Telecom Commission has given ‘in principle’ approval on 07.11.2014 for Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan including provision of mobile connectivity for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands with a total estimated investment of ₹ 221.05 crore.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (iv) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) Project, renamed as Bharat Net, is planned to establish a network infrastructure by connecting all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, for providing broadband connectivity by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis.

The Project is planned to be implemented in three phases. Under first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be connected by laying underground OFC by March 2017. Under second phase, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, by September, 2018. Futuristic network with ring topology between districts and blocks and blocks and GPs is targeted to be completed by 2023 under phase-III.

As on 20.11.2016, Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid to 63,631 Gram Panchayats (GPs) with a total length of 1,45,693 km. Out of these, 14,009 GPs have been provided with broadband connectivity.

Regulation of call rates and internet charges by Government

†1183. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the policy of Government to regulate the call rates and internet charges of the mobile network companies;
- (b) the reasons for different companies having different call rates and data packs;
- (c) whether providing free internet services till 31 December, 2016 by a reputed company is in compliance with the rules; and
- (d) whether Government is considering to reduce the rates of internet data plans to take internet services to all the villages and households?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act 1997, TRAI notifies the rate at which telecom services are to be provided. Indian Telecom service market is highly competitive with five to six access telecom service providers in most of the service areas. The present tariff regulatory regime is based on the principles of forbearance, which allows flexibility to all the access service providers to decide various tariff plans/products for different service areas of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

their operation. Tariffs can therefore be offered by service providers: to counter the competitive tariffs of their competitors or any other prevailing market conditions. However, TRAI keeps a close watch on the telecom tariffs being offered in the market and intervenes, if required, to ensure that the regulatory principles/orders/regulations/guidelines are being met.

(c) A new telecom player has filed 3 prepaid and 7 post-paid tariff plans with Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Special benefits of free local and STD (Subscriber Trunk Dialing) voice calls and SMS (Short Messaging Service) in home and national roaming (maximum 100 SMS per day) and up to 4GB (Giga Byte) 4G (Generation) LTE (Long Term Evolution) data under these plans are being offered as 'promotional offer' till 3rd December, 2016 and the benefits of which are valid till 31.12.2016. On representations received from the industry, the matter of IUC (Interconnection Usage Charge) compliance of the plans was examined in the context of Telecom Tariff Order (30th Amendment) 1999. After examination of the matter, it was concluded by TRAI that the tariffs filed are not IUC non-compliant, predatory and discriminatory at present.

(d) Since, the present tariff regulatory regime is based on the principles of forbearance; presently there is no proposal under consideration before the Government to reduce the rates of internet data plans.

Action taken on call drops

1184. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister and the Minister of Communications have shown concern over the menace of call drops on various occasions, if so, details of actions taken in this regard and how far the problem has been resolved till date;

(b) whether Government has taken action against erring companies for call drops, the details of penalties imposed and recovered till date; and

(c) the details of permissible limit of call drops and the existing figures of the same, and the time-line by which Government plans to eradicate this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Sir, the issue of Call drop is a matter of concern to the Government.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), through Quarterly performance monitoring report submitted by Telecom service providers, for the whole service area, has been monitoring the performance of service providers against the benchmarks for

various Quality of Service parameters laid down by TRAI 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.*

Parameter	Benchmark
(i) Call Drop Rate/Circuit Switched Voice Drop Rate	less than or equal to (\leq) 2%
(ii) Worst affected cells having more than 3% Traffic Channel (TCH) drop (Call drop) rate/Circuit Switched Voice Drop Rate during Cell Bouncing Busy Hour (CBBH)	less than or equal to (\leq) 3%

The details of instances of non-compliance with the benchmarks as observed by TRAI from the performance monitoring reports for the quarter ending September, 2015, December 2015, March 2016 and June 2016, submitted by service providers for 2G and 3G Services, are given below:—

	Sept., 2015 (out of 183 cases)	Dec., 2015 (out of 183 cases)	March, 2016 (out of 175 cases)	June, 2016 (out of 175 cases)
2G Services				
Call drop rate (benchmark \leq 2%)	4	1	1	0
Worst affected cells having more than 3% TCH drop (Call drop) rate: (benchmark \leq 3%).	54	39	27	19
	Sept., 2015 (out of 94 cases)	Dec., 2015 (out of 97 cases)	March, 2016 (out of 106 cases)	June, 2016 (out of 106 cases)
3G Services				
Circuit Switch Voice drop rate (benchmark \leq 2%)	2	2	3	0
Worst affected cells having more than 3% TCH drop (Call drop) and Circuit Switched Voice Drop Rate: (benchmark \leq 3%)	20	18	15	14

It is noticed from the above that there has been improvement in the performance of service providers in meeting the benchmark for call drop parameters.

However, for addressing call drop issue, TRAI regularly undertakes the drive tests of mobile networks in select cities; highways and railway routes to assess the Quality of Service and coverage around the areas covered in the drive test routes. The results of drive tests are shared with the service providers for improving Quality of Service and coverage in the areas identified in the Drive Tests.

In order to resolve call drop issues, the Department of Telecommunications has also been undertaking various steps including meeting with the service providers at CMD (Chairman and Managing Director)/CEO (Chief Executive Officer) level to evaluate the performance against action plan for improving call drop scenario; making available plenty of spectrum resources in different bands for which auction process has recently concluded, wherein the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have acquired 965 MHz of Spectrum. Moreover, the Department is also facilitating necessary permissions in Central Government Buildings and Estate on shareable basis to roll out new sites in affected pockets.

Department of Posts (DoP) has issued guidelines on 21.07.2016 for use of postal buildings for BTS-installations. Further, Department of Defence has issued the detailed policy guidelines for installation of Mobile-BTS (CoW) in Cantonment Areas.

The TSPs have reported that they have already installed more than 1,20,000 additional BTSs (Base Transceiver Stations) across the country during 3½ month period from 15th June 2016 to 30th September 2016 and further plan to install about 1,56,000 additional BTSs across the country up to 31st March, 2017. The TSPs have also informed that about 4,97,000 BTSs have been optimized for improvement in Network Performance during June 2015 onwards and in addition, frequency re-planning done for more than 4,25,000 BTSs for handling interference issues.

The details of financial disincentives, for non-compliance of Quality of Service Benchmarks, imposed and received by TRAI so far from the Telecom Service Providers (2G and 3G) are given below:

Telecom Service Provider	Financial disincentives imposed by TRAI (₹ in lakhs)	Financial disincentives received by TRAI (₹ in lakhs)
	2	3
2G Services		
Aircel	302.50	260.00
Bharti Airtel	40.00	28.00
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)	227.00	216.50

	2	3
Idea	25.50	25.50
Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)	1.50	1.00
Reliance Communications	132.50	132.50
Reliance Telecom	32.00	32.00
Sistema	3.00	3.00
Tata	89.00	89.00
Telewings	13.50	7.50
Vodafone	84.00	54.50
TOTAL	950.50	848.50
3G Services		
Aircel	156.50	131.00
BSNL	70.00	62.50
Vodafone	2.50	0.50
TOTAL	229.00	194.00

The dropping of calls in wireless network cannot be completely eradicated as it is a world-wide phenomenon and happens in every wireless network due to various reasons including poor radio coverage, radio interference, loading of available spectrum, change in pattern of traffic, shutdown of sites due to power failures etc.; however, the Government and TRAI take all possible steps with the help of TSPs to address the problem of call drop and bring it down within the permissible limit.

Increasing the speed of internet by BSNL

1185. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL is providing broadband services in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by BSNL to increase the broadband internet speed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is providing broadband services throughout the country except Delhi and Mumbai. BSNL has taken following steps to strengthen its broadband network and increase

internet speed:—

- (i) Augmentation of Broadband Core network links.
- (ii) Peering with many content providers.
- (iii) Installation of Catching Servers in BSNL Network.
- (iv) Augmentation of Broadband network traffic carrying capacity by upgradation of various equipments involved in delivering internet services.

Wi-Fi facility at tourist destinations

1186. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to provide Wi-Fi facilities at hundred tourist destinations across the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has identified the places where these services will be provided, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to provide Wi-Fi facilities at 100 tourist destinations across the country through the Public Sector Undertakings, namely Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, RailTel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited with the funding support of the Ministry of Tourism. The list of the 100 tourist places where the Central Government has decided to provide Wi-Fi facility is given in the Statement.

Statement

*List of 100 tourist sites where Wi-Fi facility is to be provided
by the Central Government*

Sl. No.	Name of the sites	State/UT
1.	Water Sports Complex, Aberdeen Bazar, Port Blair	Andaman and Nicobor Islands
2.	Ramakrishna Beach, Vizag	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Tirumala Temple	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Char Minar, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh/Telangana
5.	Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh/Telangana
6.	Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh/Telangana
7.	Hussein Sagar Lake, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh/Telangana

Sl. No.	Name of the sites	State/UT
8.	Virbhadra Temple, Lepakshi	Andhra Pradesh
9.	Rushikonda Beach, Vizag	Andhra Pradesh
10.	Pulicat Lake, Nellore	Andhra Pradesh
11.	Kamkhya Temple, Guwahati	Assam
12.	Bodh Gaya	Bihar
13.	Great Buddha Statue, Bodh Gaya	Bihar
14.	Rajgir	Bihar
15.	Vaishali	Bihar
16.	Rose Gardens	Chandigarh
17.	Vanganga Lake Garden	Dadra and Nagar Haveli
18.	Daman Fort	Daman and Diu
19.	Nagoa Beach	Daman and Diu
20.	National Rail Museum	Delhi
21.	Purana Quila	Delhi
22.	India Gate (Lawn)	Delhi
23.	National Museum	Delhi
24.	Lodhi Garden	Delhi
25.	Humayun's Tomb	Delhi
26.	Red Fort	Delhi
27.	Qutub Complex	Delhi
28.	Safdarjung Tomb	Delhi
29.	Rajpath Lawns, India Gate	Delhi
30.	Deveka Beach	Gujarat
31.	Rani-Ki Vav, Patan	Gujarat
32.	Sun Temple, Modhera	Gujarat
33.	Diu Fort, Diu	Gujarat
34.	Sabarmati Riverfront, Ahmedabad	Gujarat
35.	Pinjore Gardens	Haryana
36.	The Mall, Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
37.	Lal Bagh, Bangalore	Karnataka
38.	Brindavan Gardens, Mysore	Karnataka

Sl. No.	Name of the sites	State/UT
39.	Cubbon Park	Karnataka
40.	Hampi	Karnataka
41.	Group of Temples, Pattadakal	Karnataka
42.	Group of Temples, Aihole	Karnataka
43.	Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala, Belur	Karnataka
44.	Gol Gumbaz, Bijapur	Karnataka
45.	Dariya Daulat Bagh, Srirangapatnam	Karnataka
46.	Shravanabelagola	Karnataka
47.	Ulsoor Lake, Bengaluru	Karnataka
48.	Mysore Palace, Mysore	Karnataka
49.	Badami Caves, Bagalkote	Karnataka
50.	Guruvayur Temple	Kerala
51.	Bekal Fort	Kerala
52.	Fort Kochi	Kerala
53.	Upper Lake, Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
54.	Orchha Temple	Madhya Pradesh
55.	Khajuraho	Madhya Pradesh
56.	Royal Places, Mandu	Madhya Pradesh
57.	Buddisht Monuments at Sanchi	Madhya Pradesh
58.	Gwalior Fort, Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh
59.	Pre-historic rock shelters of Bhimbetka	Madhya Pradesh
60.	Group of Temples at Amarkantak	Madhya Pradesh
61.	Gwalior Fort, Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh
62.	Marble Rocks, Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh
63.	Pachmarhi Hills	Madhya Pradesh
64.	Elephant Caves	Maharashtra
65.	Marine Drive	Maharashtra
66.	Chowpaty Beach	Maharashtra
67.	Miraman Beach, Goa	Maharashtra
68.	Our Lady of Immaculate Conception Church, Goa	Maharashtra

Sl. No.	Name of the sites	State/UT
69.	Veena Lake, Mahabaleswar	Maharashtra
70.	Lady Hydri Park, Shilong	Meghalaya
71.	Jagannath Temple, Puri	Odisha
72.	Konark Temple	Odisha
73.	M.G.Road, Gangtok	Sikkim
74.	Boulevard, Pondicherry	Tamil Nadu
75.	Meenakshi Temple, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
76.	Botanical Garden, Ooty	Tamil Nadu
77.	Brihadeeswarar Temple, Thanjavur	Tamil Nadu
78.	Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram	Tamil Nadu
79.	Kailashnath Temple, Kanchipuram	Tamil Nadu
80.	Kodaikanal	Tamil Nadu
81.	Yercaud	Tamil Nadu
82.	Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Kanyakumari	Tamil Nadu
83.	Ramappa Temple, Warangal	Telangana
84.	Golkonda Fort	Telangana
85.	Medak Church	Telangana
86.	Taj Mahal, Agra	Uttar Pradesh
87.	Fatehpur Sikri, Agra	Uttar Pradesh
88.	Sarnath Temple	Uttar Pradesh
89.	Ghats of Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh
90.	Kushinagar	Uttar Pradesh
91.	Rani Jhansi Fort, Jhansi	Uttar Pradesh
92.	Residency, Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
93.	Itmad-ud-Oaula's Tomb	Uttar Pradesh
94.	Baba Imambara, Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
95.	Triveni Sangam, Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
96.	Har Ki Pauri, Haridwar	Uttarakhand
97.	Dakshineswar Temple	West Bengal
98.	Victoria Memorial, Kolkata	West Bengal

Sl. No.	Name of the sites	State/UT
99.	Indian Museum, Kolkata	West Bengal
100.	Botanical Gardens, Kolkata	West Bengal

Submission of report by telecom operators on call failures

1187. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) will ask all telecom operators to submit reports on the number of call failures on their network on a daily basis;

(b) whether TRAI has made it clear that the call failures at the point of inter-connectivity should be less than 0.5 per cent; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there are allegations that operators were not cooperating amongst themselves to provide adequate number of inter-connect points for calls originating from their respective networks, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has not asked the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) to furnish reports on the number of call failures; however, on 03.10.2016, TRAI has asked some TSPs, namely, M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, M/s Bharti Airtel Limited, M/s Idea Cellular Limited, M/s Telenor (India) Communications Limited and M/s Vodafone India Limited to furnish the information on traffic and congestion on Point of Interconnections (POIs) on daily basis.

The Standards of Quality of Service of Basic Telephone Service (Wireline) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Regulations, 2009 dated the 20th March, 2009 issued by TRAI prescribe benchmarks for Point of Interconnection (POI) congestion (on individual POI), which should be less than or equal to 0.5% averaged over a period of one month. In order to protect the interest of the consumers, TRAI has directed all TSPs on 7th October, 2016 to comply with the same as well as the terms and conditions of their respective licenses.

M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (RJIL) has periodically informed all the existing TSPs about the congestion between the networks and requested the existing TSPs to take immediate action for augmentation of POIs as per their demand so that they can meet the Quality of Service (QoS) norms. Subsequently, M/s RJIL has represented to the TRAI as well as Department of Telecommunications (DoT) that some TSPs are not providing adequate POI, which is leading to congestion, call failures in

RJIL's network and is severely hampering their services and requested to direct the concerned TSPs to provide requisite number of additional POIs to remove congestion.

TRAI has taken several steps to ensure adequacy of POIs like holding meetings with the TSPs, issue of Show Cause Notices, Direction, and Recommendations etc.

In the meeting with CMD (Chairman and Managing Director)/CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of the TSPs held on 08.11.2016, the Government has directed the TSPs to resolve the issues within the existing regulatory framework.

BSNL network in Samastipur

†1188. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has formulated several schemes to improve the communication system and whether any improvement has been noticed in the services of BSNL so far, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) how Government is planning to improve the BSNL network in Samastipur district of Bihar, which is often out of order, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is providing telecom services in its licensed service areas and is meeting benchmarks of most of the QoS parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in respect of Landline/Broadband service, whereas meeting benchmarks of all the TRAI's QoS parameters for Mobile service.

To improve the communication system in the country BSNL has taken following steps:—

A. Augmentation of GSM Mobile network capacityz:

Phase VIII: Formulation of next GSM expansion project:—

(a) Phase VIII.1: Induction and integration of Wi-Fi Hotspot/LTE (4G) with existing GSM /UMTS network.

(b) Phase VIII.2: Strengthening of Data Network

Under this the following work is in progress:

- IPfication of Node Bs has increased to 83%, and a clear road map has been chalked out for remaining 17% and is being worked out accordingly.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- GGSN (Gateway GPRS Support Node) capacity has been doubled in South Zone and capacity addition in the entire data chain has been optimized in all zones.
 - Link strengthening/media strengthening between Circles and Nodals.- Media redundancies has been built in all crucial routes and media strengthening and capacity addition has been done wherever required.
 - HSPA+(High Speed Packet Access) addition in ZTE West Zone Node Bs has been completed.
- (c) Phase VIII.3: Focus on active sharing of GSM Network through Intra Circle Roaming (ICR) arrangement. BSNL has signed ICR agreement with M/s Aircel, M/s Reliance Jio and M/s Vodafone.
- (d) Phase VIII.4: Focus on enhancing 2G and 3G GSM coverage.

With regard to (a) and (d) above, a GSM expansion project under name Phase VIII.4 has been initiated for the following:

- Replacement of old equipment having high operational cost and AMC.
- Addition of 3G capacity for increasing 3G footprints.

B. Replacement of legacy Wireline exchanges by Next Generation Network (NGN) Switches—

- Phase I: Total capacity of 1 million line equipment has been commissioned
- Phase II:
 - (i) Purchase Orders for 3 million lines under Phase II NGN Core & Access equipment has been issued and supply of equipment is in progress.
 - (ii) Total Line-Media-Gateways (LMGs) migrated is 190.
 - (iii) Total capacity migrated is 2,68,776 lines and working lines migrated are 1,58,869 lines.
- CDOT MAX NGN (Centre for Development of Telematics – New Generation Network Main Automatic Exchange) Project: NIT (New Infrared Technology) for CDOT MAX NG Access equipment has been floated for upgradation of CDOT-MAX switches (1974 nos.) to CDOT MAX-NG. Purchase Order (PO) has been issued to L1 and L2 bidders. Phase II PO for core equipment of C-DOT Max NGN placed on M/s C-DOT.
- A tender for 2.4 million NGN Core, 5 million POTS and 2 million Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Lines (ADSL) 2+ ports has been opened on 29.07.2016 and tender evaluation is under process.

This upgradation is expected to reduce operational issues related to maintenance of wire-line network by making the core network concentrated and will also enable delivery of various value added services, such as personalized ring back tone (PRBT), Instant Messaging, etc. to the customers.

C. Improvement in Broadband Network:

- (i) Augmentation of Broadband network for meeting data growth. BSNL is in the process of procurement of MPLS-IP (Multi Protocol Label Switching) based Next Generation Packet Aggregation Network (MNG-PAN). PO for the same has been placed on 01.06.2016.
- (ii) Setup of Network Monitoring System for Wire-line, Wireless and Broadband Network— PO for the procurement and implementation of Broadband Network Management System covering BB P2.2, Multiplay and FTTH Networks has been placed on 03.10.2016.
- (iii) Roll out of Wi-Fi service: BSNL has planned to install 40,000 Hotspots in the coming years. PO for procurement and deployment of Wi-Fi Hotspots and associated Core and Access Networks has been placed on 17.10.2016.

D. Improvement in Transmission Network:

- (i) Next Generation—Optical Transport Network (NG-OTN): Implementation of Super Express Highway Transport Network (2x100 Gbps line Capacity) by deployment of high capacity Optical Transport Network in 47 cities covering State capitals and major cities is in progress.
- (ii) IP/MPLS Network Expansion: IP/MPLS Network have been expanded to 205 cities during the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2016-17 by Installation and commissioning of 232 new managed Next Generation IP/MPLS Edge Routers and capacity augmentation in existing Core routers have also been completed.
- (iii) Converge Packet Access Network (CPAN): CPAN has been planned comprising of 23000 MPLS-IP switches of different configuration/capacity to transform BSNL access network to all IP network.
- (iv) Launching of Inmarsat Services: Inmarsat Satellite Gateway in India is likely to be commissioned by 31.12.2016.

E. BSNL-ECR CoNe (Enhanced Capacity and Resilience of Core Network):

With a need to enhance the capacity and resilience of the BSNL long distance transmission core network, a major project called ECR-CoNe has been planned for implementation during 2015-16 and 2016-17 with an estimated cost of approx. 1000

crores. This will result in Higher Data Speed Broad Band Services/Leasing of high capacity Bandwidth to telecom operators/Internet Service Providers, Resilient Protected bandwidth upto 10 Gbps. The major projects under this are:—

- Expansion of Provider Edge Network of BSNL: Out of planned 232 PE Routers, BSNL has commissioned 228 PE Routers along with their integration with Core Routers.
- A super express highway of 200 GBPS bandwidth is planned with Next Generation-Optical Transport Network (NG-OTN) to be deployed in 47 cities. The deployment plan is to cover 24 cities in Phase-I and 23 cities in Phase II. Phase I is completed and Purchase Order for Phase-II has been issued on 21.09.2016.

F. **Customer Centric Initiatives**

- BSNL has focused on customer care services by installing exclusive call centers for GSM services, Wire-line and Broadband services.
- Minimum 512 Kbps broadband speed upgraded to 2 Mbps.

(b) BSNL has planned following project/scheme to improve the communication network in Samastipur district of Bihar during the current financial year:—

Project/Scheme	BTS (in Nos.)
New GSM BTSs (Base Transceiver Stations) under Ph-VII Plus	8
Replacing Old technology BTSs with New Technology (ZTE) under Ph-VII Plus	11
New Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAMs) for Broadband	5
C-DOT MAX NG Exchanges for Wireline	3

Delay in implementation of BharatNet

1189. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats that have been covered under the BharatNet so far;

(b) whether there has been a delay in the implementation of BharatNet; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and the measures taken to overcome the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN), now renamed as BharatNet, is planned to create network infrastructure for providing Broadband

connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. The project is being implemented in a phased manner, with Phase I to connect 1,00,000 GPs being implemented currently, which is targeted to be completed by March, 2017. Status of BharatNet Phase-I as on 20.11.2016 is as under:—

Items	Achievement
Pipe laid (GPs)	75,028
Optical Fibre Cable pulled (GPs)	63,631
GPs provided with connectivity	14,009

(b) and (c) BharatNet/NOFN was approved by the Cabinet on 25.10.2011. The physical work of connecting the GPs commenced only after June, 2014. The reasons for delay are:—

- (i) BharatNet/NOFN Project is a unique project unprecedented in scope, scale and range to connect all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) widely dispersed across the country. The physical work of implementation of project only started in the later half of 2014.
- (ii) The implementation required field survey of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) route to connect GPs.
- (iii) Procurement and supply related issues.
- (iv) Challenges faced in awarding contracts because of various reasons *viz.* difficult areas (Hilly/Rocky/Left Wing Extremism), limited number of trenching and laying contractors, Schedule of Rates (SoR) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), High rates quoted by contractors.
- (v) Lengthy procedures for Right of Way (RoW) permission from various Central and State Agencies.
- (vi) This national project involves multiple agencies and hence requires inter-agency co-ordination for resolution of implementation issues.
- (vii) Unavailability of Gram Panchayat/Government building in some States.

Several measures have been taken for speedy implementation of the project, as below:—

- (i) Work front of 1,00,000 GPs under Phase-I has been increased by 25,000 GPs so that work in 1,00,000 GPs is completed by 31st March, 2017.
- (ii) Strategy to procure equipment has been decentralized now. Tender for procurement of Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) equipment has been finalized and purchase orders have been issued to 3 bidders. Essential accessories needed to connect GPs, shortage of which was affecting progress, are being procured from BSNL Telecom Factory. Authorization for procurement

for certain other minor but essential equipment such as Fibre Termination Boxes, Splitters has been made to the concerned CPSUs.

- (iii) Under the project, incremental Fibre from Fibre point of Interconnect (FPOI) to GP is being laid. At several places existing BSNL fibre before FPOI was damaged or of poor quality. Such 18,290 Km of existing fibre of poor quality has been identified for replacement based on joint survey.
- (iv) The proposal for Operation and Maintenance arrangement finalized between BBNL and BSNL has been approved by DoT.
- (v) Three Committees have been set up at various levels for monitoring the progress and resolution of issues.

Improving services of BSNL in Jammu and Kashmir

1190. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the developments made by the present Government in improving the services for subscribers of BSNL landline connections in Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) the district-wise details of developments made so far, particularly in Kulgam district; and
- (c) the steps being taken to improve the BSNL telecom exchange in Kulgam district as the subscribers of the area are facing lot of problems on a daily basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Following developmental activities have been carried out for landline subscribers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in Jammu and Kashmir:—

1. Landline and Broadband connections provided are as below:

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (up to Oct 16)
Landline	15939	20623	18223

2. Transmission system/Bandwidth up gradation: 28 numbers of high capacity transmission systems Multi Add Drop Multiplexers (MADM16) have been installed for augmentation of available capacity/bandwidth for telephone/broadband exchanges.
3. Transmission routes: A plan for more than 1500 Km. of new transmission routes has been finalized for improvement in reliability of transmission media. Execution of work on Srinagar-Leh, Jammu-Srinagar, Doda-Kishtawar and Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch routes is already undertaken by NTP (Northern Telecom Project).

Five numbers of 7 GcMicrowave links at Doda, Kishtawar, Rajouri, Poonch and Bhadrwah have been proposed and the survey is under progress by NTP.

4. NGN Project: 6000 lines of Next Generation Networks (NGN) has been installed at Jammu and Srinagar and purchase order for 44256 lines has also been placed. With this modern world class facility can be offered to customers in these exchange areas.
5. Provisioning of New Battery/Power Plants: Replacement of old, faulty, life expired Power Plant/Batteries have been undertaken and 225 new batteries and 85 power plants have been procured and installed for improvement in availability/reliability of telephone exchanges.
6. Public Grievance System: A 24X7 customer call centre is functioning for booking customer complaints. A SMS based Landline/Broadband fault booking system from any mobile connection has been made functional. For registering grievances, Facebook/Twitter pages of Jammu and Kashmir Circle has been launched. The Twitter Seva Service has been launched by BSNL to redress customer grievance on social media.

(b) Secondary Switching Areas (SSA) Srinagar comprises of 10 districts namely, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Badgam, Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian, Pulwana, Baramulla, Bandipur and Kupwara. Following major development works were undertaken for benefitting the landline services in these districts:—

1. Installation of new MPLS PE router at Srinagar for enhancing the high speed port capacity of broadband equipment and up gradation of backbone bandwidth for enhancing speed of broadband service enabling customers including that of Kulgam to experience better speed. This PE router has been provided with dual homing connectivity with Jammu and Chandigarh for reliability. Earlier Broadband Network Gateway (BNG) Srinagar was parented to PE at Jammu only.
2. Kulgam Telephone Exchange is connected on Reliable optical fibre media (STM-16) ring and there is no major interruption observed in media. Also, new Add and Drop Multiplexers (ADMs) at Bandipora, Soura, Gogzibagh Srinagar, Barzula, CTO compound Srinagar, Baramula, Boniyar installed for enhancing the capacity of transmission media.
3. In Kulgam, 500 lines CDOT RSU (Remote Switch Unit) with 216 working connection is operational. 112 BB connections are working and a capacity of 300 lines capacity Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAM) (240P+120P) is installed. 120 P DSLAM was installed in Dec 2015. Enough spare capacity is available for meeting future demand of LL/BB connections.

4. New Battery set of 1000 AH capacity was installed in May, 2016 to replace old battery set. 500 Amp Power plant installed in March, 2012 is working satisfactorily. Sufficient number of split ACs are available for maintain the required ambient conditions.
5. The electric power supply availability in Kulgam area is on an average 15 hrs per day. Two DG sets (35 KVA and 50 KVA) are available in exchange for back up of power supply. Kulgam is parented to Anatanag on OFC.
6. Outdoor Underground (U/G) Plant is working properly and presently no major cable fault is pending in Kulgam. New u/g cables in Kulgam were laid during the year 2016 for making areas falling within 2.5 to 3.0 KMs feasible so as to meet LL/BB services demand.

Following exchanges are also working in district Kulgam:—

- 248 Lines AN-RAX exchange with 50 wkg. connections at village Bomthan and enough spare capacity available to meet new demand.
- 248 Lines AN-RAX exchange with 80 wkg. connections at village Khudwani and enough spare capacity available to meet new demand.
- 500 Lines AN-RAX exchange with 60 wkg. connections at village Qazigund and enough spare capacity available to meet new demand. 26 BB connections are working from 120 P DSLAM.
- 4000 lines of NGN Exchange commissioned in Bemina (Srinagar). The customers of this exchange may avail advanced value added services in addition to LL and BB services.
- 19 BTSs, 2G are working in whole Kulgam district area and two 3G BTSs for data services (at locations Kulgam and Chawalgam) and 7 WLL BTSs (489 working connections). All BTSs working satisfactorily.

(c) Steps being taken to improve the BSNL telecom exchange in Kulgam district are as detailed below:—

- New underground cable is being planned in few areas such as Chawalgam, Laru which are presently non feasible.
- Due to road widening in Kulgam, local underground cables got badly damaged impacting the services in the area which has now been revived/replaced and the external plant is reported to be working satisfactorily.
- Customer Service Centre at Kulgam with facility of cash counter for landline/postpaid mobile bills is available. Direct Selling Agent (DSA) is also available in area for booking of landline/mobile/WLL etc.

- Technical Inspection of exchanges is being done by Divisional Engineer (DE) and deficiencies found are being rectified promptly.

Certificate of incorporation to India Post Payments Bank

1191. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India Post Payments Bank has received the certificate of incorporation, paving the way for the postal department's bank to begin operations in 2017, as announced;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this will be the first Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Posts; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Department is expected to roll out branches across the country by September, 2017, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir, India Post Payments Bank has received the certificate of Incorporation.

(b) Yes, Sir, it has been incorporated as a Public limited Company on 17.8.2016 with 100% GOI equity under the Department of Posts and has been registered by Registrar of Companies, Ministry of Corporate Affairs under the Companies Act 2013. It will be the first Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Posts.

(c) Yes, Sir, the Cabinet has approved the proposal on 1st June, 2016 with the direction to complete the proposed roll out of all 650 branches and its linkage of the post offices by September, 2017. Necessary steps for implementation of the project are being taken as per target set by the Cabinet.

Appointment of DSAs/MBAs by MTNL

†1192. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has appointed Direct Selling Agents/MTNL Business Associates (DSAs/MBAs) to deliver their services to consumers, the details thereof;

(b) whether the said DSAs/MBAs are being provided with commission as per booking of per connection, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether any proposal to enhance this commission to DSA/MBA as per the ratio of dearness allowance is under consideration of Government, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has got DSAs/ MBAs insured keeping in view their field work, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has appointed Direct Selling Agents (DSAs) and MTNL Business Associates (MBAs) to deliver their services to customers. The details thereof are as under:

	Delhi	Mumbai
DSA	32	39
MBA	6	86

(b) In MTNL, Delhi: Commission is being provided as ₹ 160/- per connection in case of Broadband (BB) and 80% of plan amount per connection in case of Landline/ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network)/PCO (Public Call Office) after realization of 1st Bill payment.

In MTNL, Mumbai: DSAs are given commission as per their booking of new connection which starts with ₹ 10/- per connection to ₹ 50/- per connection, as per slab fixed for this purpose.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

(d) No.

Legislative proposal to reform TRAI Act

1193. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 607 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd July, 2016 and state:

(a) whether Government intends to conduct a public consultation to elicit the views of consumer rights' groups, civil society experts and citizens while examining the legislative proposal to reform the TRAI Act, 1997; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Mixing of soil with foodgrains stored for public distribution

1194. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been serious complaints about mixing of soil with foodgrains stored for public distribution up to the tune of 50 per cent by employees of warehousing corporation and food supply department; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such complaints regarding mixing of soil with foodgrains stored for public distribution have been received either by Food Corporation of India (FCI) or Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC).

Gap between wholesale and retail prices of vegetables

1195. SHRI K. G. KENYE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite good production of vegetables during April-July, their availability was not upto the mark and hence resulted in high prices;

(b) whether it is also a fact that tomato, onion, cabbage etc. were got wasted during the last three months; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to ease the gap between retail and wholesale prices of vegetables and to make sufficient market availability thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The prices of onions were lower during April to July, 2016 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year due to higher production in 2015-16. The prices of potatoes, on the other hand, were higher during April to July, 2016 as compared to previous year due to lower production of potatoes in 2015-16. Tomato prices were lower in the month of April, 2016 but rose thereafter due to losses during handling, transit etc.

The details of prices of potatoes, onions and tomatoes during the months of April, 2016 to July, 2016 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Short shelf life of vegetables namely, tomatoes makes them vulnerable to losses due to transit, handling etc. Government, however, has taken following

steps to ease the gap between retail and wholesale prices of vegetables and to make sufficient market availability:—

- (1) Implementing the National Agriculture Market (NAM) which deploys a common e-market platform to link the existing physical mandis across the country online. In addition, Government is also facilitating direct marketing and farmer consumer markets.
- (2) To boost the production of vegetables and fruits in the country, the Government is implementing mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). Assistance for increasing horticulture production is also being provided under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) Scheme.
- (3) Assistance is provided for development of infrastructure for post-harvest management and marketing such as storages, wholesale markets, rural primary market, Kissan Mandis etc.
- (4) Implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities including fruits and vegetables.
- (5) Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) is being used for procurement and subsequent release of agricultural commodities to control the volatility in their prices.

Statement

Details of prices of potatoes, onions and tomatoes during April, 2016 to July, 2016

(A) All India average monthly price of potatoes (₹/kg)

Month	2015	2016
April	14.25	16.55
May	13.79	19.01
June	15.06	21.24
July	15.78	22.63

(B) All India average monthly price of onions (₹/kg)

April	22.01	16.4
May	22.07	15.68
June	24.85	15.77
July	28.61	16.64

(C) All India average monthly price of tomatoes (₹/kg)

Month	2015	2016
April	20.36	18.84
May	25.62	26.73
June	25.63	40.17
July	28.89	40.67

Procurement of pulses for buffer stock

1196. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that NAFED and other agencies have started procuring 10 lakh tonnes of pulses for buffer stock, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the available existing buffer stock of various pulses in the country; and
- (c) the quantity of pulses proposed to be procured from farmers and proposed to be imported for the buffer stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has approved domestic procurement of 10 lakh tonnes of pulses consisting of 5 lakh tonnes of pulses from Kharif Marketing Season 2016-17 and 5 lakh tonnes from Rabi Marketing Season 2017-18 for building the buffer.

(b) As on 21.11.2016, a buffer of 638,205.55 MT of pulses, viz. 130,492.33 MT of Chana; 204,030.859 MT of Tur; 143,555.76 MT of Masur; 83,181.792 MT of Urad; and 76,943.81 MT of Moong, have been built through domestic procurement and import contracts.

(c) Of the 20 lakh tonnes of buffer stock of pulses approved by the Government, the tentative target is 10 lakh tonne through domestic procurement from farmers and another 10 lakh tonnes from imports.

Claims under LSPEF to RSFCSC Ltd.

†1197. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Government is yet to settle the Levy Sugar Price Equalization Fund (LSPEF) claims of the Rajasthan State Food and Civil Supplies Corporation

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(RSFCSC) Ltd., if so, by when the above claims will be settled; and

(b) whether Government of Rajasthan has sent any request to the Central Government to ensure timely offtaking of foodgrains, if so, by when the above request would be conceded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY) (a) No, Sir. The Levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund (LSPEF) claims are submitted by Rajasthan State Food Civil Supplies Corporation (RSFCSC) Ltd., to Food Corporation of India (FCI) for payment. FCI has informed that the RSFCSC Ltd. submitted its last bills on 05.09.2016 for an amount of ₹ 22,50,951.00 which has already been released on 29.10.2016.

(b) Yes, Sir. The request of the State Government of Rajasthan regarding extension of validity period has been received, but the same was not agreed to by the Central Government.

Leakages in PDS

1198. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are leakages in Public Distribution System (PDS) in many States; and

(b) if so, the initiatives taken by Government to plug these leakages in PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments wherein operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries/families, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to beneficiaries and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

There have been reports about irregularities in implementation of TPDS including leakages in PDS in certain regions/States in the country.

(b) To plug the leakages in TPDS, the Department of Food and Public Distribution is implementing a Plan Scheme on 'End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS Operations' under Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) on cost sharing basis with the States/UTs. The Scheme comprises of activities namely, digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and

other databases, computerisation of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms and installation of e PoS devices at Fair Price Shops and issuance of foodgrains through biometric authentication.

Besides above, all States/UTs have been also requested to seed the Aadhaar numbers in Ration Card database. The scheme will enable removal of bogus/ineligible ration cards and better targeting of food subsidy, facilitate availability of foodgrains to intended beneficiaries at Fair Price Shops (FPS), check leakages and diversions etc.

Distribution of essential commodities at subsidized rates

1199. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States who have taken steps to distribute essential commodities at subsidized rates through Government outlets; and

(b) the details of the subsidized price index of pulses and edible oils, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the States/UTs are providing subsidized foodgrains through PDS outlets. Central Statistical Office (CSO) does not compile Consumer Price Indexes (CPIs) separately based on subsidized prices of pulses and edible oils. However, States/UTs are also selling other essential commodities, as per details given in the Statement.

Statement

Details indicating Essential commodities distributed by State Governments in addition to wheat, rice, coarse-grain, sugar and SKO through PDS outlets

(Compilation of information received from States/UTs by 30.09.2016)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Essential Commodity (other than wheat, rice, coarse-grain, sugar and SKO)	Qty. allotted per family per month	Issue price per kg./ltrs.	Scheme operational since	Date of Reporting by the State/UT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	P. Oil	1 ltr. Pouch	₹ 40/-per litre (910 gms)	June 2008	10.07.2014
		Red Gram Dal	1 kg.	₹ 50/- per kg.	June 2008	
		Wheat Atta	1 kg. Pack	₹ 16.50/-per kg.	April, 2013	
		Iodized Salt	1 kg. Pack	₹ 5.00/-per kg.	April, 2013	
		Red Chilly Powder	¼ kg. Pack	₹ 20/- (1/4 kg.)	April, 2013	
		Tamarind	½ kg. Pack	₹ 30/- (1/2 kg.)	April, 2013	
		Turmeric Powder	100 gms. Pack	₹ 10/- (100 gms.)	April, 2013	
2.	Assam	Salt	1 kg.	Polypack = ₹ 5/- Ordinary = ₹ 4/-	1983	11.12.2009
3.	Chhattisgarh	Amrit Iodized Salt	2 kg.	Free of cost	Jan., 2004	27.05.2014

	Chana (in schedule areas)	2 kg.	₹ 5/-	June, 2011	
	Dal (in non-schedule areas)	2 kg.	₹ 10/-	May, 2013	
4. Gujarat	Iodized Salt	1 kg. upto 6 member/ 2 kg. above 6 member per BPL/AAY card	₹ 1/- per kg.	02.09.2009	06.09.2016
5. Haryana	Pulses (Chana Dal and Sabut Masur inter changeable)	2.5 kg. per ration card (SBPL, BPL and AAY)	₹ 20/- per kg.	August, 2013	10.02.2014
6. Himachal Pradesh	Dal Rajmah	1 kg. for all ration card holders	₹ 35/- per kg.	1.4.2007	30.06.2016
	Dal Black Masar	1 kg. for 3 and above members	₹ 55/- per kg.		
	Dal Chana	1 kg. for 5 and above members	₹ 61/- per kg.		
	Edible oil	1 ltr. for 1 and 2 family members and 2 ltr. for 3 and above family members	₹ 55/- per ltrs.		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Salt	1 kg. for all ration card holders	₹ 4/- per kg.		
7.	Karnataka	Salt	1 kg.	₹ 2/- per kg.	2015	30.06.2016
		Palm Oil	1 kg.	₹ 25/- per kg.	2015	
8.	Kerala	Wheat Flour (Fortified)	2 kg.	₹ 12/- per kg.	2006	09.12.2013
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Salt	1 Kg.	₹ 1/- per kg.	January 2007 (for 89 Tribal blocks) 01.01.2014 (for whole State)	27.05.2014
10.	Maharashtra	Palm Oil	1 ltr.	₹ 50/- per ltr.	April, 2013 to Sept. 2013	15.05.2013
11.	Punjab	Pulses	0.5 kg. per member to a max. of 2.5 kg. per family	₹ 20/-	15.08.2007	02.06.2014
12.	Rajasthan	Tea (CTC)	As per demand	₹ 160/- per kg.	August, 2011	22.11.2013
		Washing Soap	As per demand	₹ 40/- per kg. (₹ 08/-per 200 gm. Cake)	June, 2012	

	Free Flow Iodized Salt	As per demand	₹ 06/- per kg.	March, 2012	
	Red Chilli Powder	As per demand	₹ 135/- per kg. (₹ 27/-per 200 gm. packet)	March, 2013	
	Turmeric Powder	As per demand	₹ 135/- per kg. (₹ 27/-per 200 gm. packet)	March, 2013	
	Coriander Powder	As per demand	₹ 110/- per kg. (₹ 22/-per 200 gm. packet)	March, 2013	
	Green Moong Dal	As per demand	₹ 73/- per kg.	Feb., 2013	
13. Tamil Nadu	Tur Dal	1 kg.	₹ 30/-	2007	16.09.2015
	Urad Dal	1 kg.	₹ 30/-	2007	
	RBD Palmolein Oil	1 litre	₹ 25/-	2007	
14. Telangana	Redgram Dal	1 kg. pack per card per month	₹ 50/-	April, 2013	26.06.2015
	Wheat Atta	1 kg. pack per card per month	₹ 16.50/-	April, 2013	
	Iodized Salt	1 kg. pack per card per month	₹ 5/-	April, 2013	
	Red Chilli Powder	¼ kg. pack per card per month	₹ 20/-	April, 2013	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Tamarind	½ kg. pack per card per month	₹ 30/-	April, 2013	
		Turmeric Powder	100 gms. pack per card per month	₹ 10/-	April, 2013	
15.	Tripura	Iodised Salt	1 kg.	-	-	16.05.2012
16.	West Bengal	Mustard Oil	For festival season	-	2001	30.08.2016
		Edible Oil (Corolla Rice Bran Oil) (Aditi)	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 39 per 500 ml. ₹ 76 per 1 ltr.	2016	
		Biscuits	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 6.50 to ₹ 20/- (According to weight and variety)	1998	
		Toilet Soap	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 8/- to ₹ 16/- (According to weight and variety)	1995	
		Laundry Soap	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 7.50/- to ₹ 8.00 per 200 gm (According to variety)	1992	
		Detergent Powder	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 9/- to ₹ 32/- (According to weight and variety)	1994	

Haldi	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 7/- to ₹ 15/- (According to weight and variety)	1982 2014
Lanka	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 8/- to ₹ 10/- (According to weight and variety)	1982 2014
Dhania	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 7/- per 50 gms.	1982
Jeera	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 13/- per 50 gms.	1982
Chanachur	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 12/- per 100 gms.	2015
Papad	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 17.50/-per 200 gms. (Plain) ₹ 18.50/-per 200 gms. (Masala)	1986
Exercise Book	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	Doller:- ₹ 2.20 to ₹ 12/- per pc. (According to the No. of pages)	1999

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				Premium:- ₹ 10 to ₹ 15/- per pc. (According to the No. of pages)		
		Match Box (Nilima)	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	Carborised– ₹ 1.00 per box	1994	
		Incense Sticks	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 5 to ₹ 7/- per stick (According to the No. of sticks)	1999	
		Phytofresh	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 29/- per 500 ml.	2004	
		Phytoclean	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 26/- per 500 ml.	2004	
		Black Phenyle	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 31/- per 450 ml.	2004	
		Comphora	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 25/- per 250 gm. ₹ 45/- per 500 gm.	2009	

Pynora	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 35/- per 500 ml.	2009
Naptholine	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 25/- per 100 gm.	2009
Bleaching Powder	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 40/- per 500 gm.	2009
Easyklin	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 32.50/- per 250 ml.	2009
Liquid Soap	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 42.50/- per 250 ml.	2009
Dish-Washing Bar	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 7/- per 200 gm. ₹ 13/- per 400 gm.	2008
CTC Tea	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 9/- per 50 gm ₹ 17/- per 100 gm.	2004

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Iodized Salt	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	Labanya– ₹ 8/- per kg.	1996	
		Foundation Pen Ink (Royal Blue)	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 15/- per 60 ml.	2009	
		D. F. Pen	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 20/- per packet of 10 pens	2009	
		H. Gum	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 4.25	2009	
		Soft Eraser	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 20/- per packet of 20 easers	2009	
		Score Line Pencil	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 25/- per packet of 10 pencils	2009	

	Tooth Paste	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 8.25/- to ₹ 10.00/- per 50 gms.	-	
	Liquid Blue	On the basis of realistic indent, as per demand	₹ 10.00/- per 75 ml.	2015	
17. Daman and Diu	Dal, Oil, Tooth-paste, Match box etc.	-	-	-	20.11.2012
18. Puducherry	Single Boiled Rice	10 kg.	-	01.11.03	28.07.2016

Note: 18 State/UT Governments namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep have reported that they are not distributing essential commodities in addition to wheat, rice, coarse-grain, sugar and SKO through PDS outlets.

Procurement of wheat and rice

1200. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of wheat and rice during the last two years, year-wise; and

(b) the total procurement of wheat and rice during 2014-15 and 2015-16, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The total production of wheat and rice during the last two years and the current year is as under:-

[Fig. in lakh Metric Tonne (LMT)]

Rabi Marketing Season (RMS)	Wheat
RMS 2014-15 (Crop Year 2013-14)	958.50
RMS 2015-16 (Crop Year 2014-15)	865.30
RMS 2016-17 (Crop Year 2015-16)	935.0#
Kharif Marketing Season (KMS)	Rice
KMS 2014-15 (Crop Year 2014-15)	1054.80
KMS 2015-16 (Crop Year 2015-16)	1043.20#
KMS 2016-17 (Crop Year 2016-17)	938.80##

As per the fourth Advance estimates of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) dated 22.09.2016 for 2015-16.

As per the 1st Advance estimates of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) dated 22.09.2016 for 2016-17 {estimates does not include paddy (Rabi Crop)}.

(b) The total procurement of wheat and rice during 2014-15 and 2015-16 is as under:-

(Fig. in LMT)

Rabi Marketing Season	Wheat
RMS 2014-15 (Crop Year 2013-14)	280.23
RMS 2015-16 (Crop Year 2014-15)	280.88
RMS 2016-17 (Crop Year 2015-16)	229.30

Kharif Marketing Season	Rice (including paddy in terms of rice)
KMS 2014-15 (Crop Year 2014-15)	320.40
KMS 2015-16 (Crop Year 2015-16)	342.18
KMS 2016-17 (Crop Year 2016-17)	150.63*

* As reported on 21.11.2016

Damage to foodgrains in FCI godowns

1201. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of all those FCI godowns where damage of food stock is a regular affair;

(b) if so, the list of such godowns where the loss/damage to food stock has been occurring for the last five years ending 31 March, 2015;

(c) whether the damage/loss was due to the negligence of the managers of godowns or because of some other reason; and

(d) the reason for the loss/damage to the food stock of every godown for the period mentioned above, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) There is no godown of FCI where damage to foodgrain has been reported continuously for the last five years ending 31st March, 2015. However, Region-wise foodgrain stock accrued as non-issuable/damaged in FCI from 2010-11 to 2014-15 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Some quantities of foodgrains become Non-issuable due to various reasons like:-

(i) Storage damage due to very longer storage.

(ii) Transit damages *viz* enroute damage in wagon/truck due to contamination, wagon roof leakage etc.

(iii) Due to Natural Calamities like Cyclone/flood damages.

Where ever damage in foodgrains is due to negligence of officials/officers, suitable disciplinary action is taken against defaulters, where ever found guilty.

Statement

*Details of region-wise foodgrains stock accrued as Non-Issuable (damaged)
in FCI from 2010-11 to 2014-15*

Sl. No.	Region	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
1.	Bihar	200	0	997.3	3909.408	703.65
2.	Jharkhand	39	29	3.43	622.092	2.67
3.	Odisha	18	36	1	1084.79	7108.817
4.	West Bengal	922	477	45	12539.85	120.49
5.	Assam	49	442	51.54	180.738	96.622
6.	NEF	175	0	195	1827.768	95.416
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	3.3	0
8.	Nagaland	1	0	0	32.258	38
9.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Delhi	1	10.9	39.86	34.328	2.591
11.	Haryana	53	0	148.04	0	0
12.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	6120
14.	Punjab	182	37	123	72.631	44.593
15.	Rajasthan	21	30	120.83	13.019	2.761
16.	Uttar Pradesh	520	258	18.3	1109.572	322.034
17.	Uttarakhand	1338	72	221	90.021	7.531
18.	Andhra Pradesh	3	4.33	24.72	475.509	2262.124
19.	Kerala	99	200	0	355	397.685
20.	Karnataka	17	0	141.76	45.636	747.825
21.	Tamil Nadu	12	29	749.66	293.786	376.986
22.	Gujarat	2595	226	195	443.958	195.246
23.	Maharashtra	97	1473	61	1234.1	103.981
24.	Madhya Pradesh	2	0	3.02	76.942	80.183
25.	Chhattisgarh	2	13.78	8.98	250.749	18.021
TOTAL		6346	3338.01	3148.44	24695.455	18847.226

Reforms in Decentralised Procurement Scheme

1202. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is of the view that there is a need for making reforms in Decentralised Procurement Scheme (DCP), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is contemplating to implement the Scheme on all India basis, which is at present only implemented and followed by a few States; 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) Government of India (GoI) has made some reforms in the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and following provisions were added in the new MoU:—

1. Formulation of joint team {State Government and Food Corporation of India (FCI)} for monitoring quality and quantity of foodgrains and to handle complaints.
2. The State Governments are directed to declare the quantity procured and stored, location-wise for inspection by visiting officers.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The major producing Non-DCP States were requested to adopt Decentralized Procurement (DCP) Scheme for wheat and paddy/rice.

Subsequently, Maharashtra and Jharkhand (for Ramgarh revenue district only) have become DCP from KMS 2016-17 onwards. At present 14 States have adopted DCP operations for paddy/rice and 8 States have adopted for DCP operations for wheat.

Policy measures to reduce pendency of cases

1203. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy measures being taken by Government to reduce the huge pendency of litigation cases in the country;

(b) the steps taken by Government, since 2014, to increase the total number of Judges in the country and how much amount has been spent to improve the concerned infrastructure since then; and

(c) the number of new Judges who have been appointed in various High Courts and the Supreme Court since 2014?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of judiciary. The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerisation, increase in strength of judicial officers/judges, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development.

The sanctioned strength of judges in the High Courts has been increased from 906 in June, 2014 to 1079 in November, 2016. The matters relating to sanctioned strength and filling up of the vacancies of judges/judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts fall within the domain of State Governments and the High Courts. Due to concerted efforts made by the stakeholders, the sanctioned strength of judges/judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts has been increased from 19,518 as on 31.12.2013 to 21,320 as on 30.06.2016.

The primary responsibility of infrastructure development for the subordinate judiciary rests with the State Governments. However, the Central Government augments the resources of the State Governments by releasing financial assistance under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the development of infrastructure facilities for Judiciary. A sum of ₹ 2014 crore has been sanctioned during last two years (2014-16) under the above mentioned Scheme.

14 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court, 226 Additional Judges have been made Permanent and 237 fresh appointments of Judges have been made in various High Courts from 01.01.2014 to 21.11.2016.

Requirement, demand and supply of foodgrains under PDS

†1204. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains and other items issued presently under Public Distribution System (PDS) and the number of outlets thereof, State-wise;

(b) with reference to above, the number of persons died of hunger due to scarcity of foodgrains in the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) with reference to 'a and b' the difference between requirement, demand and supply of foodgrains through PDS in each of the last three years in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Foodgrains: Under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 foodgrains are allocated to the States/Union Territories (UTs) for distribution to eligible households @ 5 kg. per person per month for priority households and @ 35 kg per family per month for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households at highly subsidized prices of ₹ 1/-, ₹ 2/- and ₹ 3/- per kg. for coarse grains, wheat and rice respectively. The State/UT Governments are being allocated foodgrains as per their demand and the entitlement under NFSA.

The number of outlets State-wise is given in the Statement (*See below*).

The allocation and offtake of foodgrains under TPDS/NFSA for the last three years are as under:—

(in thousand tonnes)		
Year	Allocation	Offtake
2014-15	52012.913	44586.653
2015-16	52340.432	49594.204
2016-17	62799.000	30246.250
(upto October, 2016)		

Sugar: The Central Government does not maintain the stocks of sugar in Central pool for distribution through Public Distribution System (PDS). The Central Government has decontrolled the sugar sector by removing the levy obligation on sugar mills from 2012-13 sugar seasons. Under the new dispensation of sugar distribution through PDS effective from June 2013, the State Government/UTs are required to procure it from the open market through a transparent system and make it available at the retail issue price to the beneficiary. The Central Government is reimbursing fixed subsidy to the States/UT's @ ₹ 18.50 per kg. limited to the quantity based on their existing fixed quota based on the BPL families of the year 2001 Census and fixed from the year 2002.

Kerosene: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India makes Quarterly Allocation of PDS SKO to States/UTs under the Public Distribution System (PDS) for the purpose of cooking and illumination only as provided under the SKO Control Order 1993. Further distribution of the PDS SKO within the State/UT through their PDS network to ration card holders is the responsibility of the State/UT Government. The scale and criteria of PDS SKO distribution are also decided by the respective States/UTs. State/UT-wise details of allocation of PDS Kerosene, during the last three years and the current year and upliftment of PDS Kerosene quota during the last three years are as under:

(In KL)

Year	Allocation	Uplifement
2014-15	8975538	8878352
2015-16	8685384	8536757
2016-17	5462868	3209255
	(upto 3rd quarter)	(upto 2nd quarter)

The State/UT Governments have not reported any incident of death due to hunger in the last three year.

Statement

Details showing State-wise total No. of Fair Price Shops

Sl. No.	States/UTs	NFSA Adoption	Total No. of Fair Price Shops
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Yes	509
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Yes	28,942
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Yes	1,569
4.	Assam	Yes	40,510
5.	Bihar	Yes	42,117
6.	Chandigarh	Yes	Direct Cash Transfer
7.	Chhattisgarh	Yes	12,352
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Yes	62
9.	Daman and Diu	Yes	51
10.	Delhi	Yes	2,519
11.	Goa	Yes	453
12.	Gujarat	Yes	17,266
13.	Haryana	Yes	9,478
14.	Himachal Pradesh	Yes	4,859
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	Yes	5,970
16.	Jharkhand	Yes	24,186
17.	Karnataka	Yes	20,828
18.	Kerala	Yes	14,335

1	2	3	4
19.	Lakshadweep	Yes	39
20.	Madhya Pradesh	Yes	22,430
21.	Maharashtra	Yes	51,596
22.	Manipur	Yes	2,052
23.	Meghalaya	Yes	4,474
24.	Mizoram	Yes	1,223
25.	Nagaland	Yes	1,691
26.	Odisha	Yes	16,050
27.	Puducherry	Yes	Direct Cash Transfers
28.	Punjab	Yes	17,815
29.	Rajasthan	Yes	26,912
30.	Sikkim	Yes	1,409
31.	Tamil Nadu	Yes	34,577
32.	Telangana	Yes	17,159
33.	Tripura	Yes	1,793
34.	Uttar Pradesh	Yes	77,440
35.	Uttarakhand	Yes	9,158
36.	West Bengal	Yes	20,278
TOTAL			5,32,102

Creation of State Food Commissions

1205. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how many States have created State Food Commissions, so far, as mandated by the National Food Security Act, 2013;

(b) the details of the States where the Commission has been created and the States where it has not been created; and

(c) whether Central Government is providing any assistance to State Governments to establish the State Food Commissions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The

National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides for constitution of a State Food Commission (SFC) by State Governments for monitoring and review of implementation of the Act. The Act however also provides that State Government may, if considered necessary, designate any statutory commission to exercise the powers and perform the functions of SFC. As per reports received, all the 36 States/Union Territories implementing NFSA, except Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, have constituted/designated SFC.

(c) States/UTs, which constitute SFC on exclusive basis are eligible to receive one time financial assistance upto ₹ 50.00 lakh for non-building assets for SFC.

Linking of ration cards with Aadhaar

1206. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of linking of Aadhaar No. with ration cards of the people has been completed, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has made it mandatory for all ration card holders to link it their cards with their Aadhaar No.; and

(c) if so, the details of the achievement made in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Government has decided to seed the available Aadhaar numbers in PDS beneficiaries' database for de-duplication and elimination of bogus ration cards. As per the reports received from States/UTs, at present Aadhaar seeding with ration cards stands at 70.97% at National Level *i.e.* 16.32 crore ration cards against the total of 23.00 crore ration cards (approx.) have been seeded with Aadhaar number.

Claims under LSPEF

1207. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Levy Sugar Price Equalization Fund (LSPEF) claims have not been released to Rajasthan State Food Civil Supplies Corporation;

(b) if so, the amount of claims that have to be released and the reasons for not releasing them; and

(c) whether Government intends to release these funds, if so, by when 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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Review of procurement, distribution etc. of foodgrains

1208. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any review of the existing system of procurement, marketing, storage, preservation and distribution of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir. A High Level Committee (HLC) under the Chairmanship of Shri Shanta Kumar, on restructuring of FCI, conducted a review of the existing system of procurement, marketing, storage, preservation and distribution of foodgrains.

(b) and (c) The action taken on major recommendations of the HLC are given in the Statement.

Statement

*Action taken on the major recommendations of High Level Committee
headed by Shri Shanta Kumar, Hon'ble MP*

(As on 15.11. 2016)

Sl. No.	Action Point	Action taken
1.	Improvement of procurement operations in Eastern States	61837 procurement centres (including 232 by FCI and 401 by Private Players) have been opened in Eastern States <i>i.e.</i> Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal for procurement of paddy during ongoing KMS 2015-16 compared to 30740 during KMS 2014-15. In KMS 2015-16, 70.70 Lakh MT paddy in terms of rice has been procured compared to 47.19 Lakh MT in KMS 2014-15.

Sl. No.	Action Point	Action taken
2.	Implementation of Depot Online System	Depot Online System is operational at 490 depots out of 533 FCI Depots.
3.	Fixation of scientific norms for storage losses	<p>A study has been assigned to through ICAR for evolving scientific norms for reduction of storage losses.</p> <p>The performance of FCI with regards to control of storage losses is satisfactory. During 2016-17 (April, 2016 to September, 2016), there is a net gain of 0.15%.</p>
4.	Reduction in storage losses	Storage losses during 2015-16 was -0.06%.
5.	Reduction in transit losses	Cumulative transit losses during 2016-17 (April, 2016 to September, 2016) has been reported to the tune of 0.39%.
6.	Procurement of pulses and oilseeds by FCI	Government of India has included FCI as an Additional Central Nodal Agency along with National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (SFAC) for Procurement of pulses and oilseeds.
7.	Issue relating to Contract Labour	In pursuance of the High Court of Bombay, Nagpur Bench, judgement directing for rationalization of Labour strength to optimize the labour cost, Ministry of Labour and Employment notification dated 6th July, 2016 gives exemption for two years for notified depots. FCI has taken appropriate steps for shifting/transfer/repositioning of 1739 labours within regions.

Fitting of bio-toilets in trains

1209. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned to fit bio-toilets on all new and existing trains to maintain cleanliness and hygiene, both inside the trains and at stations;

(b) the cost to be incurred per unit of bio-toilet and the total number of bio-toilet units to be fitted;

(c) whether Government has finalized the contracts for supply, installation and fitting of bio-toilets in various existing trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure to be incurred by Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to have more Green Corridors and the funds earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has planned to fit bio-toilets on all new and existing coaches to maintain cleanliness and hygiene by way of eliminating direct discharge of human waste on track from the train toilets.

(b) The additional cost of providing bio-toilets in one coach (4 bio-toilets) is ₹ 4.0 lakhs approximately. For the in service coaches, which require replacement of structural members for fitment of bio-toilets, the additional cost is approximately ₹ 16.00 lakhs per coach.

As per the current projections, bio-toilets are required to be fitted in approximately 45000 more coaches as on 31.10.2016.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Contracts have been placed for supply and retro-fitment of bio-toilets in 8888 existing in-service coaches, on nine vendors at a total cost of ₹ 355.04 crores.

(e) Four sections *viz.* Rameswaram-Manamadurai (114 Kms.), Okha-Kanalus Junction (141 Kms), Porbandar-Wansjaliya (34 Kms.) and Jammu-Katra (78 Kms.), have been chosen in the first phase for making them Green Corridor *i.e.* Railway section free from any direct discharge of human waste on track from toilets of trains. Of these, Rameswaram-Manamadurai, Okha-Kanalus Junction and Porbandar-Wansjaliya sections have already been commissioned as 'Green Corridors'.

No separate funds have been earmarked for creating Green Corridors, per se, since Green Corridors are created by running all the trains over these sections with only those coaches which are fitted with Bio-toilets.

Production and supply of wheat

1210. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that despite low production of wheat, the country has exported over 3.03 million metric tonnes of wheat till August, 2016;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the domestic demand and production thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that to ease the domestic supply, Government plans to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat during the next few months; and

(d) if so, the effect thereof on Central exchequer and the available stock in central pool thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Only a quantity of 1,65,364 tonne was exported on private account during 2016-17 till August, 2016. There has been no export of wheat from Central Pool Stocks during the year 2015-16 and 2016-17.

The country has enough stocks to meet the requirements for Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes.

(c) There is no proposal at present for import of wheat on Government Account for Central Pool Stocks.

(d) Question does not arise.

Gap between wholesale and retail price of onion

1211. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wholesale price of onions has fallen to ₹ 2 per kg. during the month of August and September, if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the super market sale of onion is still at ₹ 15 to ₹ 20 per kg.;

(c) the reasons for such wide gap between the wholesale and retail price of onion; and

(d) any proposed plan of Government to stabilize the price of onion in future, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) As per the AGMARKNET data, the average wholesale price of onion was ₹ 1235/- per quintal and ₹ 1054/- per quintal during the months of August, 2016 and September, 2016 respectively. Both wholesale and retail price of onions fell during this period due to higher production. The gap between wholesale and retail price depends on factors such as transportation cost, loading/unloading expenses, grading/sorting, wholesaler's margin, wastages during movement/weighing, location of retail shops, fixed overhead expenses of retailers and margin of retailers etc.

(d) The Government through 'Market Intervention Scheme' (MIS) provides support prices to farmers in case of glut in production and resultant fall in market prices, based on the proposal/request of State Government. In addition, Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) is also be used to procure onions for subsequent release to control the volatility in its prices.

Rise in price of wheat and other items

1212. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of wheat in Delhi market has risen since April this year;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that major companies in the capital have raised the prices of biscuits, bread etc.; and

(d) if so, the details of the rise in prices of such items and whether this rise conforms with the rise in prices of wheat in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The monthly average retail prices of wheat in Delhi and All India monthly average prices are given in the table below:—

Monthly average retail price of wheat (₹/kg)

Centre	April 2016	May 2016	June 2016	July 2016	August 2016	September 2016	October 2016	November 2016
Delhi	19	19	19.87	20	20	20	20.66	23.36
All India Average	23.27	23.34	23.39	23.31	23.31	23.32	23.42	23.92

Source: State Civil Supplies Departments.

The increase in price of wheat in Delhi may be due to localized mismatch of supply and demand. The all India average monthly price of wheat has remained stable over the same period.

(c) and (d) Details of Company-wise prices of food items like breads, biscuits are not being collected/maintained by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

United States-India ICT Working Group

1213. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States-India Information and Communication Technology Working Group which was set up in 2005 and revived in 2014, promotes development of the ICT sector in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said working group has very recently met in Delhi, where several issues were discussed; and

(c) whether both sides discussed the accomplishments of the Digital India Programme in transforming India into a digitally empowered society, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir. Subsequent to the setting up of India-US ICT Working Group (ICT-JWG) in July, 2005 as part of the India-US economic dialogue, the ICT-JWG with an aim to address outstanding issues and promote technological/economic cooperation between India and USA had been meeting regularly. Till date 11 meetings have taken place.

(b) Yes, Sir. A meeting of India-US ICT Working Group was held on 27th September, 2016 in New Delhi. During the meeting partnership on Digital India Initiatives, issues related to mobility of skilled professionals, Internet Governance, Internet of Things, e-Commerce, Cyber Security, ICTE equipment Standards, Security and Safety in ICTE products etc. were discussed.

(c) Yes., Sir. During the ICT WG meeting held in New Delhi on 27 September 2016 partnership on Digital India Initiatives was one of the agenda items. Both sides discussed the accomplishments of the Digital India Programme in transforming India into a digitally empowered society and a key stakeholder in the knowledge economy, with a resolve to further B2B/G2G collaboration with an aim to advance the goals of the Digital India Programme and the Global Connect Initiative.

Low electronics and IT literacy among tribal youth

1214. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that electronics and IT literacy among tribal youths is very low compared to rest of the population; and

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to launch any scheme of enhancing electronics and IT literacy specifically targeting tribal population, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is implementing the following programmes which have benefitted the tribal population:

1. National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM): Under this Scheme, 10 lakh beneficiaries (1 per household) were provided Digital Literacy across the country out of which 1,23,602 Scheduled Tribes candidates were trained and certified.
2. Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA): Under this Scheme, 42.5 lakh beneficiaries (1 per household) are to be provided Digital Literacy across the country. So far, 5,93,810 Scheduled Tribes candidates have been trained and certified.
3. Under two Schemes for Skill Development in Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM), so far, a total of 8,683 Scheduled Tribe candidates have been enrolled, out which 6,253 candidates have been trained so far.
4. National Institute of Electronics and IT's (NIELIT) Centres are implementing various capacity building projects for upliftment of ST population in the area of Information Technology and Electronics. Some of the projects being implemented by NIELIT Centres are as under:-
 - (a) 'Empowering underprivileged (ST) youths and women of four backward districts of Nagaland through ICT skills training' is implemented by NIELIT Kohima for training of 1280 Tribal youths of Nagaland.

- (b) 'Capacity Building Programme for creating e-readiness of the ST Youth of NE State and State Government Employees' is implemented by NIELIT Kohima-2295 ST youths trained and 163 Middle Level State Government Employees (ST) and NGOs trained in 3 days training on e-Gov project life cycle.
 - (c) 'Training of SC&ST students in Capacity Building for e-Governance Applications' is implemented by NIELIT Imphal to train 900 SC/ST students of Manipur in Certificate Course in IT and e-Governance Applications.
 - (d) NIELIT Centres, with financial support of MeitY are implementing a Scheme titled Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for Scheduled Tribes under which SC/ST candidates are being trained free of cost at NIELIT Centres across the country.
5. Under 'IT for Masses' Programme which targets Women, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, projects are funded for providing IT training including Digital Literacy, providing IT infrastructure to girls schools, women colleges, ST schools (Eklavya, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya) and entrepreneurship creation. The following projects implemented for Scheduled Tribes under this programme:-
- (a) 'e-Inclusion: IT training for Rural Scheduled Tribe (ST), Scheduled Caste (SC) and Women Beneficiaries'-17,147 ST candidates trained.
 - (b) 'IT Mass Literacy Programme for Scheduled Tribe (ST)'-4,392 ST candidates trained.
 - (c) 'Capacity building of 1260 ST students of North Orissa University and its affiliated colleges in IT tools'-1,260 ST candidates trained.
 - (d) 'IT skills and e-Inclusion through low cost access devices based awareness program for Scheduled Tribes-Kerala'-ICT infrastructure set up at 6 locations and 1,260 ST candidates trained.
 - (e) 'Capacity building in IT skills of Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates-Chhattisgarh'-2,542 candidates trained on basic computer course and 657 candidates have been trained on Advance courses (Photoshop and Web Designing).
 - (f) 'Capacity building in IT skills of Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates-Andaman and Nicobar'-591 Candidates trained.

(g) 'Capacity building for the upliftment of 2000 Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates-Union Territory of Lakshadweep'-1,870 ST candidates trained/under going training.

6. Hon'ble Finance Minister, while presenting the Union Budget 2016-17, announced to launch a new Digital Literacy Mission Scheme for rural India to cover around 6 crore additional households within the next three years. As a follow-up, a new scheme has been formulated which also cater to the tribal population across the country.

Setting up of National Cybersecurity coordination centre

1215. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated the process to set up a National Cybersecurity Coordination Centre (NCCC);

(b) if so, the need for such an organisation;

(c) how the existing police personnel will be trained to professionally handle cyber crimes and cyber security of the country; and

(d) the progress made so far in setting up of the above Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Evolving cyber threat landscape and its impact on the well being of Information Technology and National economy necessitates the need for real time situational awareness and rapid response to cyber security incidents. Considering the need, Government has proposed to set up the National Cybersecurity Coordination Centre (NCCC) to generate near real time macroscopic views of the cyber security threats in the country. The centre will scan the cyberspace in the country at meta data level and will generate near real time situational awareness. NCCC will be a multi stakeholder body and will be implemented by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) at Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The proposed centre will provide a structured system and facilitate coordination among different agencies by sharing with them the necessary facilitated and authentic basic metadata from cyberspace for taking action to mitigate the cyber security incidents and security breaches.

(c) In order to train existing police personnel to professionally handle cyber crimes and cyber security of the country following steps have been taken:

- (i) Government of India (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) has set up cyber forensic training and cyber crime investigation labs at select places across the country for training of Police and officers of law enforcement agencies. More than 18500 personnel of these agencies have already been trained at these facilities.
- (ii) Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has taken steps for setting up of 36 cybercrime training centres in States/UTs to train law enforcement agencies, Police Officers, Public Prosecutors and Judicial Officers.
- (iii) A number of Cyber forensics tools for collection, analysis, presentation of the digital evidence have been developed indigenously and such tools are being used by Law Enforcement Agencies.
- (iv) Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) are providing basic and advanced training to Law Enforcement Agencies, Forensic labs and judiciary on the procedures and methodology of collecting, analysing and presenting digital evidence.
- (v) Cyber security mock drills are being conducted by CERT-In to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government including State Police and critical sectors.
- (vi) Industry associations such as Data Security Council of India (DSCI), NASSCOM, have set up Cyber Labs in certain States and taken up tasks of awareness creation and training programmes on Cyber Crime investigation.
- (vii) Government of India (MeitY) in association with DSCI has organised a number of cyber crime awareness workshops for Law Enforcement Agencies at various cities across the country, wherein more than 1750 police officers attended these workshops.
- (viii) Academia such as National Law School India University (NLSIU), Bangalore and NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad are also engaged in conducting awareness and training programmes on Cyber Laws and cyber crimes for judicial officers.

(d) The Government has approved the NCCC project at an outlay of Rupees 985 crores for a period of five years. The project is being implemented in phased manner. In the first phase, process for procurement of equipment has been initiated to set up a test bed.

Laws to regulate social media

1216. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing laws in place to regulate the social media in the country;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to review these laws in order to regulate the social media effectively; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Government does not regulate the content appearing on social networking sites.

However, the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has provisions for removal of objectionable online content. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 under section 79 of the IT Act requires that the Intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable, affect minors and unlawful in any way.

Further, Government takes action under section 69A of IT Act for blocking of websites/webpages with objectionable contents, whenever requests are received from designated nodal officers or upon Court orders. Section 69A of the IT Act empowers Government to block any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource in the interest of (i) sovereignty and integrity of India, (ii) defence of India, (iii) security of the State, (iv) friendly relations with foreign States, (v) public order or (vi) for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The IT Act, 2000 as amended in 2008 provides legal framework to address various types of prevalent cyber crimes including misuse of the social media. Presently, there is no proposal with the Government to amend the Information Technology Act, 2000.

Modified special incentive package scheme

1217. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many projects have availed of the Modified Special Package Scheme (MSIPS) so far, the year-wise and State-wise details thereof;

(b) how much money has been invested in the project availing MSIPS so far, the year-wise and State-wise details thereof;

(c) how many projects have received reimbursement of different forms of taxes under MSIPS and the total amount of tax reimbursed so far, the year-wise and State-wise details thereof; and

(d) how many jobs have been created by projects availing MSIPS so far, State-wise and year-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) So far, 75 proposals involving phase 1 investment of ₹ 6038 crore have been approved under M-SIPS. The year-wise and State-wise details of investments, incentives and employment is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

Out of these 75 proposals, disbursement of ₹ 16.84 crore incentives have been done to three applicants. The year-wise and State-wise details is given in the Statement-II (*See* below). So far, reimbursement of different forms of taxes under MSIPS is 'Nil'.

Statement-I*Year-wise and State-wise details of investments incentives and employment*

State	Year	Applicant	Proposed item of manufacture	Total project cost (₹ in crore)	Phase I			
					Approval Capex (₹ in crore)	Capex Subsidy (₹ in crore)	CVD/Exeise (₹ in crore)	Employment Proposed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	FY 16-17	1 Bharat Electronics Ltd.	Night Vision Devices and Thermal Images	33.09	26.54	6.64	0	3
Gujarat	FY16-17	2 Genus Electrotech Ltd.	PCBs	32.46	31.27	1.7	0	238
Haryana	FY13-14	3 SGS Tekniks Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd	Gear Tooth Sensor, Speedometer Panel, Brushless DC Electric Motion Controller, Energy Metering System, Power Supplies (2 phases approved)	52.14	10	3.8	0	258
	FY14-15	4 Calsonic Kansei Motherson Auto Products	Body Control Module System Immobilizer, Remote Keyless System	29.39	10.83	2.71	1.2	266
		5 Magneti Marelli UM Electronic Systems (P) Ltd.	Instrument Clusters, Body Computer, TRF etc.	165.08	74.57	18.64	7.75	550

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Karnataka	FY15-16	6	Nippon Audiotronix Ltd.	In Vehicle infotainment Systems (IVIs), Car Security System, Reverse Parking Assist System (RPAS)	72.03	27.69	6.92	0	100
		7	Adit Infratel Pvt. Ltd.	Mobile Phone Batteries, Chargers etc.	4.21	0.67	0.17	0.08	229
		8	HMC MM Auto Ltd.	Electronic Fuel Injection System	377.93	50.41	12.6	4.12	70
		9	Magneti Marelli Powertrain India Pvt. Ltd.	Engine Control Unit, Automated Manual Transmission, Hybrid Control Unit	461.22	192	48.01	16.72	297
		10	Mitsubishi Electric Automotive India Private Limited	Automotive Electronics	127.42	108	27.025	0	153
	FY16-17	11	Vihaan Networks Ltd.	Telecom Equipments	571	82.5	20.62	7.38	100
		12	HiQ Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	PCBs	126	20.82	5.21	2.53	24
	FY13-14	13	Bosch Automotive Electronics Pvt Ltd. (Part-I)	ECU Engine System, Body Computer Module (BCM), Voltage Regulator, ECU Steering System	436	426.9	106.725	48.33	420

202 Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Unstarred Questions

FY14-15	14	Centum Electronics Ltd.	Products for Strategic Electronics	202.5	164.2	41.05	0	800
	15	Bosch Automotive Electronics Pvt. Ltd. (Part-II)	Electronic Control Units (ECU) Brake System, ECU for 2 Wheelers	190.08	164.28	40.07	8.96	170
	16	Centum Rakon India Pvt. Ltd.	Frequency Controlled Products	75	69.8	17.46	1.75	1012
	17	Kaynes Technology India Pvt. Ltd.	Wi-Fi, Zig Bee, Bluetooth, Processor Development Module (GPRS and CoM/SoM)	32.24	27.4	6.83	2.46	418
	18	Nash Industries (I) Pvt. Ltd.	Sheet Metal Pressed Components	40	9.52	2.38	0	6
	19	Panacea Medical Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	Medical LINAC	22.76	12.2	3.05	0.44	326
	20	Positive Packaging Industries Ltd.	EVA Encapsulant	62.31	52.95	13.24	0	100
	21	TATA Power SED	Telecom Products, Strategic Electronics, Avionics, Industrial Electronics, Opto Electronics, Power Supplies for ESDM	2127	289	71.07	19.9	238

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
		22	Tejas Networks Limited	Networking items in Telecom, Defense, Energy management	759.66	182.38	45.595	7.6	289
	FY15-16	23	Bharat Electronics Ltd.	T/R Modules	19.21	6.46	1.62	0.64	0
		24	Continental Automotive India Pvt. Ltd.	Instrument Clusters, Electronic Control Units	1414.3	96.82	24.21	0	34
		25	GE BE Pvt. Ltd.	Components of Diagnostic Medical Equipment-High Voltage Generators and HV Tanks, X-Ray Tubes	200	54.92	13.73	0	18
		26	Schneider Electric IT Business India Pvt. Ltd.	Drives	16	15.62	3.91	0	72
		27	Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd.	Solar PV Cells and Modules	130	123	30.79	2.04	195
		28	Velankani Electronics Private Limited	STB, Surveillance Camera, Sensors, Servers, Switches etc.	500.96	100.96	25.24	12.62	101
		29	Wipro GE Healthcare Pvt. Ltd.	Magnetic Resonance (MR) Subsystems Table Coils Gradient, Super Value Computer Tomography (SVCT) System, Positron	101	22.87	5.72	0.34	2

				Emission Tomography (PET) System, Mobile X-ray Machine (Ojas)					
Kerala	FY13-14	30	Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd.	Digital Set Top Boxes	10.5	10.5	2.63	1.11	10
	FY14-15	31	Keltron Component Complex Ltd	Capacitors	9.25	7.09	1.77	0.66	278
	FY15-16	32	Delphi Connection Systems India Pvt. Ltd.	BCM Antenna, Driver Information System, Immobilizer, Radio	201.54	35.1	8.53	0	27
		33	FCI OEN Connectors Ltd.	Connectors	301.52	50.62	12.65	0	213
Maharashtra	FY13-14	34	Desai Electronics Pvt. Ltd.-I	Plastic Film Capacitors	16	15.4	3.85	0	35
		35	Jabil Circuits India Pvt. Ltd.	EMS	105.91	105.91	28.92	0	3398
	FY14-15	36	Fine Line Circuits Ltd.	Multilayer PCBs	27.17	5.01	1	0	77
		37	Jabil Circuits India Pvt. Ltd.	Set Top Boxes, Wi Fi, Home Gateway, STB II, Dongles, PCB	103.64	103.64	25.91	10.36	465
		38	O/E/N India Ltd.-1	Micro Relays, Mini Relays, Solenoids, Sensors,	68.79	44.32	9.51	0	182

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			Power Relays (2 phases approved)					
		39 Renu Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	Automation Products-HMI, PLCs	19.52	12.3	3.08	0	101
		40 Robonik India Pvt. Ltd	Biochemistry Analyser, ELISA, Coagulation, Urine Analyser, Electrolyte Analyser, Hematology Analyser	33.73	19.05	4.76	0	200
FY15-16		41 Desai Electronics Pvt. Ltd.-II	Plastic Film Capacitors	55	9.84	2.46	0	9
		42 Epitome Components Ltd	Single Side PCB, Double Side with RF PCB	75.21	13.65	3.41	0	337
		43 Haier Appliances India (P) Ltd	Refrigerator, Washing Machine, Air Conditioner, Water Heater, LED	490.28	386.15	96.54	8.38	2867
		44 LG Electronics India Pvt Ltd	Refrigerator	531.92	250.19	62.54	0	374
		45 LG Electronics India Pvt. Ltd	Flat Panel LED Television Display	721.46	189	47.37	9.57	195
		46 LG Electronics India Pvt. Ltd.	Fully Automatic Washing Machine	177.6	43.5	10.04	0	54

		47	Philips India Ltd.	Veradius, Pulsera, Endura	227.89	184.32	46.08	1.87	0
		48	Shogini Technoarts Pvt. Ltd.	PCBs	175	38.2	9.55	0	258
		49	Smart Card IT Solutions Ltd.	Smart Card Manufacturing	30.11	21.02	5.25	0.08	570
		50	Star Engineers India Private Limited	Regulator, Flasher, Speed Sensor	29.98	25	6.24	2.29	62
		51	Sterlite Technologies Ltd.	Optical Fiber Cable and Optical Fiber Capacity Expansion	1007	269	67.3	15.76	782
Rajasthan	FY13-14	52	Genus Power Infrastructures Ltd.	Electronic Energy Meters	17.25	16.82	4.2	0	500
	FY14-15	53	Nidec India Pvt. Ltd.	Micro Motors, Electronics Components and Mechanical Parts	756.79	170	42.51	11.88	583
	FY15-16	54	Secure Meters Ltd.	Energy Meters	109.08	29.74	7.43	0	267
Tamil Nadu	FY14-15	55	Ascent Circuits Pvt. Ltd.	PCBs	101	12.92	3.23	0	6
		56	Samsung India Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	Color TV	106.32	72.54	18.13	4.9	251
		57	Tessolve Semiconductor Manufacturing	Semiconductor Chip Components – ATMP	596.32	98.02	19.61	0	128

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Uttar Pradesh	FY15-16	58	Delphi Automotive Systems Pvt. Ltd.	Automotive Connectors	201.34	34.1	8.93	3.15	0
		59	Giesecke and Devrient India Pvt. Ltd.	Personalization of EMV Payment Card	101	23.49	5.87	2.61	30
		60	Mando Hella Electronics Automotive India Pvt. Ltd.	Electronic Control Unit for Antilock Braking System, Wheel Speed Sensors, Torque Sensor Products such as TOS and TAS	338.24	210.55	52.64	0	358
		61	Salcomp Manufacturing India Pvt. Ltd.	Mobile Phones Accessories	614.3	135.1	27.02	0	1992
	FY16-17	62	Flextronics	Mobile Phones, Power Chargers, Printers and PCBA for Automotive	643.95	119.3	29.29	13.57	2928
	FY13-14	63	Sahasra Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	LED based Lights	11.1	11.1	2.22	0	25
		64	Samsung India Electronics Pvt. Ltd.-I	Hand Held Phones	406.2	406.2	77.8	0.78	760
	FY14-15	65	Deki Electronics Ltd.	Capacitors	11.36	10.36	2.29	0.92	445
		66	Deki Electronics Ltd.	Film Capacitors	49.88	9.27	2.32	1.03	51
		67	Elin Electronics Ltd.	LED Street Light, LED Baton, Solar Charger,	19	9.45	2.4	0	200

				Electronic Drivers, LED Bulb					
		68	Motherson Sumi Systems Ltd.	Automotive Electronic Control Module to augment outside rear view Mirror Functions, exterior Lamp Functions and Automotive Junction Box Functions	187.87	141.88	35.47	0	250
	FY15-16	69	Infopower Technologies Ltd.	PCBs	19	15.9	3.99	1.66	350
		70	Sahajanand Laser Technology Ltd.	Fiber Laser System	34.67	23.43	4.69	0	115
	FY16-17	71	Lava International Ltd.	Mobile Phones	45.16	22.69	5.68	1.19	2106
Uttarakhand	FY15-16	72	Dixon Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.	LED Bulbs	64.38	11.42	2.86	1.41	42
		73	Genus Innovation Ltd.	Battery, Chargers, Energy Meters etc.	39.43	18.54	4.63	1.26	800
West Bengal	FY14-15	74	Vikram Solar Pvt. Ltd.	Fabrication of Solar Cells and Solar Modules	537.57	112.16	19.2	0	81
	FY15-16	75	Century LED Ltd.	LED Bulbs, Tubes and Fixtures	185.6	29.75	7.44	1.48	77
GRAND TOTAL					17996.82	6038.12	1455.975	240.78	29328

Statement-II*(A) State-wise details of disbursement of incentives under M-SIPS*

State	Name of the applicant	Investment (₹ crore)	Incentives released (₹ crore)	CVD/ Excise reimbursed
Haryana	SGS Tekniks Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd.	11.91	2.48	Nil
Karnataka	Bosch Automotive Electronics India Pvt. Ltd.	59.63	13.74	Nil
Maharashtra	Desai Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	14.88	0.62	Nil
TOTAL		138.63	16.84	Nil

(B) Year-wise details of disbursement of incentives under M-SIPS

Financial Year	Name of the applicant	Investment (₹ crore)	Incentives released (₹ crore)	CVD/ Excise reimbursed
2014-15	Bosch Automotive Electronics India Pvt. Ltd.	51.63	11.82	Nil
	Desai Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	13.28	0.23	Nil
2015-16	Bosch Automotive Electronics India Pvt. Ltd.	8.00	1.92	Nil
	Desai Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	1.6	0.39	Nil
	SGS Tekniks Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd.	11.91	2.48	Nil
TOTAL		86.42	16.84	Nil

Shortage of skilled manpower in IT sector

1218. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is facing a severe shortage of skilled manpower in the Information Technology sector;

(b) if so, the percentage and the reasons for shortage of skilled manpower in the sector; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to overcome the problem of shortage of skilled manpower in IT sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) According to National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), India has a diverse talent base and Information Technology (IT) Services-Business Process Management (BPM) firms are employing this talent in a diverse range of engagements. The Indian IT-ITES industry continues to be a net hirer. Due to the changing technological landscape, the industry provides on the job training to bridge the skill gaps if any.

(c) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and the Sector Skills Councils have been instituted for the purpose. IT-ITES Sector Skills Council, has identified 84 unique job roles under 48 occupations across 4 sub-sectors viz. IT Services, Business Process Management (BPM), Engineering Services and Research and Development (ER&D), Software Product Development (SPD). The National Skill Development Council (NSDC) and the Sector Skills Council (SSC) address the present and future requirement of identifying unique job roles and the skills required for the IT-ITeS sector.

Initiatives such as setting up of Centre for Excellence on Internet of Things (CoE on IoT) set up in Bangalore through a jointly funded project of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Education and Research Network (ERNET), Government of Karnataka and NASSCOM are also expected to cater to training needs in high technology areas. Such facilities offer opportunities for individuals as well as corporates to participate in high technology product development thereby upgrading not only skills of people, but also their solutions. These initiatives will bridge the continuing skills gap to future proof the workforce.

Human Resource Development activities of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) are targeted to ensure availability of trained human resources for the manufacturing and service sector of electronics and IT industry, which *inter-alia* include identifying gap emerging from the formal sector and planning programmes in non-formal and formal sectors for meeting theses gaps. The initiatives include Skill Development in the domain of Electronics and IT. The Skill Development activities of this Ministry are primarily being taken up by centres and affiliates spread across the country, by two autonomous Societies under MeitY viz. National Institute for Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

Increasing the level of food processing in the country

1219. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, given the current meagre level of food processing *vis-à-vis* Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam Government has developed a road map to increase the level of food processing in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROECESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) and (b) With a view to increase the level of Food processing, reduction of wastage and provide better returns to the farmers, the Ministry is providing financial assistance under the Central Sector Schemes for promotion and development of food processing sector. These are (1) Scheme for Mega food Parks, (2) Scheme for Modern Abattoirs, (3) Scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, (4) Scheme for Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation, (5) Scheme for Quality Assurance, and (6) Scheme for Human Resource and Institutions. The detailed guidelines of these schemes having the pattern of financial assistance, eligibility criteria, procedure for approval of projects etc. are available on the Ministry's website at www.mofpi.nic.in.

Ministry also participates in National/International exhibitions/fairs to disseminate information regarding the untapped potential of Food Processing Sector in the country and to familiarize the entrepreneurs with modern techniques of production and packaging, development of markets, popularization of products and to attract investments into the Sector.

Steps to fast track justice

†1220. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new initiatives and effective measures being taken to change the delayed justice into fast track justice system in the country; and

(b) the updated status of different types of cases pending in the Supreme Court and High Court of each State of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) In order to expedite the trial of court cases, a number of legislative changes have been made in procedural laws, which include

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

provisions for limiting adjournments of court proceedings in criminal and civil matters as contained in Section 309 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and Order XVII of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. The Government has implemented eCourts MMP by computerising nearly 14,000 District and Subordinate Courts in the country. A workshop of the Registrars General of High Courts and Law Secretaries of States on Process Re-engineering was organised by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, on June 11, 2016. High Courts have submitted their Process Re-engineering proposals relating to model rules of Court Procedures for making changes in their existing Rules. A National Court Management System (NCMS) mechanism has been established in May, 2012, under the overall control of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India. One of the major initiatives of the NCMS is the "five plus zero" policy initiative. Under this initiative special focus has been given to reduce cases before every court that are more than five years old. Further, to clear the backlog of cases pending for more than five years, Arrears Committees have been set up in the High Courts.

The data on pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and High Courts. As per information available, 50,174 civil and 10,772 criminal cases were pending in the Supreme Court as on 03.08.2016. Details of civil and criminal cases pending in various High Courts as on 31.12.2015 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

Statement

Number of Civil and Criminal Cases Pending in High Courts as on 31.12.2015

Name of High Court	Civil cases	Criminal cases
Allahabad	559499	359330
Andhra Pradesh	232061	38211
Bombay	199902	46539
Calcutta	181344	39938
Delhi	52962	15822
Gujarat	56700	30372
Gauhati	21169	4779
Himachal Pradesh	20924	5609
Jammu and Kashmir	52108	4345
Karnataka	217635	19819
Kerala	121306	36063
Madras	250133	34295

Name of High Court	Civil cases	Criminal cases
Madhya Pradesh	171853	101974
Odisha	130748	38705
Patna	79102	49636
Punjab and Haryana	208844	79507
Rajasthan	182501	62365
Sikkim	81	33
Uttarakhand	18560	8120
Chhattisgarh	31136	18975
Jharkhand	42570	37849
Tripura	2485	552
Manipur	3179	136
Meghalaya	576	21
TOTAL	2837378	1032995

Filling up of vacancies of Judges in High Courts

1221. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by Government in filling up vacancies of Judges in various High Courts;

(b) the expeditious steps taken to complete the formalities in view of remarks passed by the Supreme Court about not filling of judicial vacancies;

(c) whether Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) is causing delay in the process of filling of vacancies, if so, whether Government proposes to modify the procedure, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action being taken to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Filling of vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts is a continuous and collaborative process of the Judiciary and Executive. As the process of finalization of the revised Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts was likely to take some time, on 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, pending finalization of the revised MoP. Presently, all appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts are being processed as per the existing MoP. During the current year, as on 22.11.2016, 120 fresh appointment of Judges have been made to the High Courts and 124 Additional Judges of High Courts have been made Permanent.

Criteria for setting up of law colleges/universities

1222. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria laid down for setting up of law colleges/universities in the country;
- (b) the State-wise number of law colleges/universities functioning in the country at present;
- (c) whether Government proposes to set up more law colleges/universities in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be set up, location-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government in this regard as also to improve the quality of legal education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Bar Council of India (BCI) has informed that Government or Private Universities are granted recognition either by Central Government or State Governments in conformity with the University Grants Commission norms. For opening of any Law College, the proposed institution (Law College) has to apply to the concerned State Government for seeking "No Objection Certificate" and after the same is obtained it applies to the University for affiliation to provide legal education/for running a professional degree program in law. The University thereafter decides whether it is a fit case for grant of affiliation by the University or not. In this regard the Academic Counsel of University forms an inspecting team first. Thereafter, if the University finds it is to be a fit case for affiliation, it issues an affiliation order. Only after such affiliation order received from the University, the Centres of Legal Education (Law Colleges) may apply for inspection by the Bar Council of India for approval of such affiliation.

On receipt of the application for inspection, after completion of the above norms, the Secretary of the BCI submits his note, after ascertaining all relevant facts, to the Chairman of the Bar Council of India, who may then instruct it to be referred to

the Inspection Committee for inspection and report. After receiving the report from the Inspection Committee, the Secretary places the file before the Legal Education Committee for examination of the report of the recommendation to the BCI for approval of the affiliated Centres of Legal Education or recognition of the degree in law of the University as the case may be. The Legal Education Committee may call for additional information from the applicants as the Legal Education Committee may deem necessary. The inspecting team shall generally constitute retired or sitting judges of High Courts, or of District Court in case High Court judges are unable to inspect Colleges in rural areas. However, they all shall be preferably of another State apart from one academicians and/or expert of each stream.

Norms of setting up Universities-it's Law Department:

When a University proposes to run a professional degree course in law of either or both streams *i.e.* 3 year unitary scheme or/and 5 year integrated double degree scheme in its Faculty or Department or in any of its constituent College, it is requested to ensure the minimum standards of requirement as prescribed and then in each proposal, it has to seek recognition of the Bar Council of India for its law degree by submission of application with all necessary information within the stipulated date notified by the Bar Council of India, in appropriate form.

The relevant portion of the Rules of the Legal Education – 2008 is given as under:-

16. Conditions for a University to affiliate a Centre of Legal Education:

- (1) When a University receives an application for affiliation of a Centre of Legal Education to provide legal education by running professional degree program in law under either or both the streams, the University may before deciding whether it is fit case for seeking inspection from the Bar Council of India, shall ensure that:-
 - (i) Whether the applicant organization proposing to run the institution is either already a non-profit organization of trust or registered society or a non-profit company or any other such legal entity or has taken all legal formalities to be as such,
 - (ii) Whether the institution has in its name either in freehold or leasehold, adequate land and buildings, to provide for Centre of Legal Education building, library, halls of residences separately for male and female and sports complex both indoor and outdoor, so that it can effectively run professional law courses provided that in case of leasehold the lease is not less than ten years,

Provided that sufficient and adequate floor space area specially and completely devoted for a Centre of Legal Education, based on the size of its student population, faculty requirement, adequate space required for infrastructure facilities can be considered sufficient accommodation for the purpose in a multi-faculty building on land possessed by the Management of a Society/Trust running multi-faculty intuitions,

- (iii) Whether it has recruited or taken steps to recruit adequate number of full time and visiting faculty members to teach each subjects of studies, each faculty having at least a Master Degree in the respective subject as required under the UGC Rules,
 - (iv) Whether there is the separate Centres of Legal Education for the study of law under a separate Principal who should be qualified in Law to be a Professor of Law as stipulated under UGC and Bar Council of India rules,
 - (v) Whether there is adequate space for reading in the library and there are required number of books and journals and adequate number of computers and computer terminals under a qualified librarian,
 - (vi) If the prior permission of the State Government is necessary, a no objection certificate is obtained to apply for affiliation,
 - (vii) A minimum Capital Fund as may be required under Scheduled III from time to time by the Bar Council of India, and put into a Bank Account in the name of the proposed Center of Legal Education sponsored by any private sponsor or sponsors, and
 - (viii) All other conditions of affiliation under the University rules as well as the Bar Council of India Rules are complied with,
2. After affiliation order is received from the University the Centres of Legal Education may only then apply for inspection by the Bar Council of India.

17. When can University apply for inspection for constituent College or University Department or Faculty:

When a University proposes to run a professional degree course in law of either or both streams in its Faculty or Department or in any of its constituent College it shall ensure the minimum standards of requirement as prescribed and then shall in each proposal seek inspection by the team of inspection of the BCI by submission of application with all necessary information within the stipulated date notified by the BCI every year, in appropriate form.

18. Inspection of a University:

1. A University seeking recognition of its degree in law for the purpose of enrolment in the Bar, shall provide the inspecting committee of the BCI all necessary facilities to examine the syllabus of the course designed, teaching and learning process, evaluation system infrastructure layout and other necessary conditions in general and shall ensure in particular that all University Departmental Centres, Faculty, Constituent and affiliated Centres of Legal Education proposing to offer law courses under either or both the streams, possess:—
 - (i) Required infrastructural facilities outlined under the Bar Council of India Rules;
 - (ii) Required number of teaching faculties as prescribed by the Bar Council of India and the University Grants Commission;
 - (iii) Facilities for running practical legal education specified in the curriculum under the Rules and run Legal Aid Clinic, Court Training and Moot Court exercises;
 - (iv) Adequate library, computer and technical facilities including online library facility; and
 - (v) In case of a Center of Legal Education sponsored by private initiative of a person there is a Capital Fund as required in the Schedule III by the BCI from time to time, deposited in the Bank Account in the name of the Center of Legal Education concerned.
2. For the above purpose the Inspection Committee of the BCI shall have power to call for and examine all relevant documents, enquire into all necessary information and physically visit and enquire at the location of Department, Faculty, Constituent and affiliated Centres of Legal Education as the case may be.

Provided that an application for a new proposal for affiliation and the related University inspection, therefore, by the Inspection Committee of BCI, including the local enquiry at the site of the proposed College may be formally made directly by the authority of the proposed College (Faculty, University Department, Constituent or Centres of Legal Education as the case may be) in proper Form with required information and requisite fees provided that and advance copy of the application must be submitted to the University concerned, within the stipulated date as notified by the Bar Council of India.

(b) Details of State/UT-wise Law Universities and Law Colleges

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of University	Total College
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	80
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	3
3.	Assam	6	27
4.	Bihar	9	29
5.	Chhattisgarh	8	24
6.	Delhi	4	13
7.	Goa	1	2
8.	Jharkhand	7	14
9.	Gujarat	16	86
10.	Haryana	21	36
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	15
12.	Himachal Pradesh	11	10
13.	Karnataka	7	127
14.	Kerala	6	34
15.	Madhya Pradesh	13	173
16.	Manipur	1	3
17.	Maharashtra	14	180
18.	Maghalaya	3	6
19.	Mizoram	1	1
20.	Nagaland	1	3
21.	Odisha	7	41
22.	Puducherry	1	2
23.	Punjab	7	33
24.	Rajasthan	36	86
25.	Sikkim	3	2
26.	Tamil Nadu	7	16
27.	Tripura	2	2
28.	Uttar Pradesh	32	388
29.	Uttarakhand	10	26
30.	West Bengal	13	37

(c) At present there is no proposal with the Government to set up more law colleges/universities.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Bar Council of India has informed that it oversees that the standards of legal education does not dip and in this regard apart from the students studying from the curriculum, it is also ensured that through moot courts being judged by legal luminaries and through seminars which have eminent expert speakers, the students get an opportunity to interact with the best of legal luminaries in various fields of law and gain from their first hand knowledge. Workshops are conducted in various Legal Education centres in this regard. Furthermore, in the National Law School of Bangalore, the students have access to the library all 24 hours of a day and with many other law schools having extended library hours with the latest data being available there, it leads to more accessibility to knowledge, which ultimately helps in maintaining or raising the standards of legal education. Legal luminaries come and provide lectures there whenever they are free. All this has helped develop more interest and also more understanding which helps in upliftment of the standards of legal education. Furthermore, the BCI invites legal luminaries in its premises and in collaboration with All India Reporter and conducts workshops for law students which have participation of legal luminaries like Sr. Advocate Shri P.P. Rao and others. Furthermore, the BCI invites law colleges along with their students and teachers to visit the premises of the BCI and hears their views and satisfies their queries and then seeks to implement their suggestions, if any. Furthermore, the Curriculum Development Committee of the BCI, known as the Academic Committee has recently started holding conferences and seeking views from Universities, from all 4 zones of the country with regard to changes, if any required in the syllabus, so that standards of legal education can be taken to a further higher level. Infact the conference of the Southern Zone was only recently held at National Law School Bangalore on 20.11.2016.

Decision on appointment of Judges

†1223. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received the names of 77 Judges through Collegium in the last nine months;

(b) if so, the current status with regard to the appointment of Judges;

(c) the reasons for not appointing Judges by Government during the last nine months; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) by when the final decision on the list received from the Collegium would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Out of 77 proposals submitted by Supreme Court Collegium (SCC), the Government has appointed 34 Judges in various High Courts and sent the names of 43 recommendees to the SCC for reconsideration. SCC reiterated the names of 37 recommendees; the proposal of 3 recommendees has been deferred and the proposal of 3 recommendees are with SCC. The major reasons for referring back 43 recommendees to Supreme Court Collegium on the appointment of Judges are views of consultee Judges, views of Constitutional Authorities, adverse Intelligence Bureau (IB) inputs, serious nature of complaints received against recommendees etc.

Filling of vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts is a continuous and collaborative process of the Judiciary and Executive. As the process of finalization of the revised Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment of Judges to Supreme Court and High Courts was likely to take some time, on 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, pending finalization of the revised MoP. During the current year, as on 21.11.2016, 124 Additional Judges have been made permanent and 120 fresh appointments of Judges have been made in the High Courts.

Banning on exit polls during elections

†1224. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to make appropriate laws to ban the exit polls during elections; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) As per section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, there is a ban on conducting and disseminating result of exit polls during the period starting from commencement of polls till the completion of poll.

Vacant posts of Judges

†1225. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a delay in administration of justice to the people due to absence of sufficient number of Judges in Supreme Court and the High Courts;

(b) if so, the number of vacant posts of Judges in Supreme Court and the High Courts situated in States and since when these posts are vacant;

(c) the details of the reasons for not appointing Judges against the vacant posts; and

(d) by when Judges will be appointed against the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Disposal of cases in Courts falls within the domain of Judiciary. However, vacancy of judges is one of the several reasons for pendency of cases. The details of the number of vacant posts of Judges in Supreme Court and the High Courts situated in States and since when these posts are vacant are given in the Statement (*See below*).

Filling of vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts is a continuous and collaborative process of the Judiciary and Executive. As the process of finalization of the revised Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment of Judges to Supreme Court and High Courts was likely to take some time, on 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, pending finalization of the revised MoP. The major reasons for referring back the names of recommendees to Supreme Court Collegium on the appointment of Judges are views of consultee Judges, views of Constitutional Authorities, adverse Intelligence Bureau (IB) inputs, serious nature of complaints received against recommendees etc.

During the current year, as on 22.11.2016, 4 Judges in Supreme Court and 120 Judges in the High Courts have been appointed. 124 Additional Judges in the High Courts have been made permanent.

Statement

Details of number of vacant posts of judges in Supreme Court and High Courts in States and since when these posts and vacant

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Vacancies against the approved strength as on 22.11.2016	Year-wise vacancies of Judges remained unfilled in Supreme Court and High Courts (as per approved strength of Parent High Court) position as on 22.11.2016					
			Upto 2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 (up to 22.11.16)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	Supreme Court of India	07	-	-	-	-	01	06
B.	High Court							
1.	Allahabad	73	31	03	05	13	14	07
2.	High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad	37	07	02	05	04	03	16
3.	Bombay	29	-	-	01	-	23	05
4.	Calcutta	34	-	02	03	07	05	17
5.	Chhattisgarh	11	02	-	-	02	05	02
6.	Delhi	20	01	03	01	09	02	04
7.	Gauhati	08	-	-	-	-	02	06
8.	Gujarat	20	03	01	-	01	12	03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9.	Himachal Pradesh	01	-	-	-	01	-	-
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	10	02	-	03	03	-	02
11.	Jharkhand	12	-	02	01	06	01	02
12.	Karnataka	32	02	02	02	15	05	06
13.	Kerala	10	-	-	-	-	01	09
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	-	-	-	06	--	05
15.	Madras	16	-	-	-	-	11	05
16.	Manipur	02	-	-	01	-	01	-
17.	Meghalaya	03	-	-	01	-	01	01
18.	Odisha	09	-	-	-	04	02	03
19.	Patna	25	01	-	04	03	15	02
20.	Punjab and Haryana	37	-	-	02	21	08	06
21.	Rajasthan	18	01	01	02	10	04	-
22.	Sikkim	02	01	-	-	-	01	-
23.	Tripura	02	-	-	01	-	-	01
24.	Uttarakhand	06	01	-	01	04	-	-
TOTAL		428	52	16	33	109	116	102

Fast Track Courts in Odisha

1226. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) established in Odisha;
- (b) whether adequate funds have been allotted for them to remain operative;
- (c) how many of them have stopped functioning and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) by when Government proposes to make FTCs operational once again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Fast Track Courts (FTCs) are set up by the State Governments in consultation with the respective High Courts. 72 FTCs were approved for Eleventh Finance Commission Funding in Odisha in the year 2000. As per the reports received, 41 FTCs were functional in Odisha as on 31.03.2005 and 35 FTCs were functional as on 31.03.2011. Central Grant for FTCs was provided up to 31.03.2011. A total grant of ₹ 2978.60 lakh was provided to the Government of Odisha upto 31.03.2011. As informed by the State Government, 35 FTCs were continued upto 31.03.2013 and then these FTCs were discontinued. However 30 numbers of ADJs have been designated as Special Courts to deal with cases relating to offences against women on Fast Track basis.

Adequate funds have been allotted for the aforesaid FTCs, which are regular Courts and are functioning.

Pending civil and criminal cases in Courts

1227. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of vacancies of Judges in various High Courts of the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of pending cases, both criminal and civil, in various High Courts of the country, State-wise;
- (c) the number of new cases, both criminal and civil, filed in various High Courts and the Supreme Court in the country on an average, State-wise; and
- (d) the number of cases taken on board in a year and disposed of by delivering judgements in a year in various High Courts and the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The details indicating the approved strength, working strength and the number of vacant posts of Judges in various High Courts of the country, State-wise are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) to (d) The details indicating the number of institution (new cases), disposal and pendency of cases both criminal and civil, in Supreme Court and various High Courts of the country, State-wise is given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise details of approved strength working strength and the number of vacant posts of Judges in various High Courts

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Approved Strength			Working Strength			Vacancies as per Approved Strength		
A.	Supreme Court of India	31			24			07		
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Allahabad	76	84	160	60	28	88	16	56	72
2.	High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad*	46	15	61	23	0	23	23	15	38
3.	Bombay	71	23	94	56	06	62	15	17	32
4.	Calcutta	54	18	72	38	01	39	16	17	33
5.	Chhattisgarh	17	05	22	08	03	11	09	02	11
6.	Delhi	45	15	60	39	0	39	06	15	21
7.	Gauhati	18	06	24	04	13	17	14	-07	07
8.	Gujarat	39	13	52	25	06	31	14	07	21
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10	03	13	08	02	10	02	01	03
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	13	04	17	10	0	10	03	04	07
11.	Jharkhand*	19	06	25	08	05	13	11	01	12
12.	Karnataka	47	15	62	21	09	30	26	06	32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13.	Kerala	35	12	47	26	12	38	09	0	09
14.	Madhya Pradesh*	40	13	53	20	19	39	20	-06	14
15.	Madras	56	19	75	54	03	57	02	16	18
16.	Manipur	04	01	05	03	0	03	01	01	02
17.	Meghalaya	03	01	04	03	0	03	0	01	01
18.	Odisha	20	07	27	16	03	19	04	04	08
19.	Patna*	40	13	53	26	01	27	14	12	26
20.	Punjab and Haryana	64	21	85	44	02	46	20	19	39
21.	Rajasthan	38	12	50	23	11	34	15	01	16
22.	Sikkim	03	0	03	02	0	02	01	0	01
23.	Tripura	04	0	04	03	0	03	01	0	01
24.	Uttarakhand	09	02	11	07	0	07	02	02	04
TOTAL		771	308	1079	527	124	651	244	184	428

*Acting Chief Justice

Statement-II

State-wise details of number of institution (new cases) disposal and pendency of cases both criminal and civil, in Supreme Court and various High Courts of the country

		Opening balance as on 1.1.2016	Institution (new cases) from 1.1.2016 to 31.3.2016	Disposal from 1.1.2016 to 31.3.2016	Pendency at the end of 31.3.2016	
Supreme Court						
Civil Cases		48,181	15,413	15,062	48,532	
Criminal Cases		11,091	4,823	4,851	11,063	
TOTAL		59,272	20,236	19,913	59,595	
Sl. No.	High Court	Case Type	Opening balance as on 01.01.2015	Institution (new cases)	Disposal	Pendency As on 31.12.2015
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
High Courts						
1.	Allahabad	Civil	552302	144815	137618	559499
		Criminal	348547	138463	127680	359330
		TOTAL	900849	283278	265298	918829
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Civil	216157	63004	47100	232061
		Criminal	33544	19257	14590	38211
		TOTAL	249701	82261	61690	270272
3.	Bombay	Civil	189946	70588	60632	199902
		Criminal	42869	24847	21177	46539
		TOTAL	232815	95435	81809	246441
4.	Calcutta	Civil	186391	52716	57763	181344
		Criminal	40052	17371	17485	39938
		TOTAL	226443	70087	75248	221282
5.	Delhi	Civil	51464	31578	30080	52962
		Criminal	15525	14401	14104	15822
		TOTAL	66989	45979	44184	68784

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Gujarat	Civil	57670	29731	30701	56700
		Criminal	30330	30746	30704	30372
		TOTAL	88000	60477	61405	87072
7.	Gauhati	Civil	20410	12694	11935	21169
		Criminal	4848	2187	2256	4779
		TOTAL	25258	14881	14191	25948
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Civil	27118	10622	16816	20924
		Criminal	4707	3393	2491	5609
		TOTAL	31825	14015	19307	26533
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	Civil	49660	14214	11766	52108
		Criminal	3492	1848	995	4345
		TOTAL	53152	16062	12761	56453
10.	Karnataka	Civil	196677	128304	107346	217635
		Criminal	17443	16981	14605	19819
		TOTAL	214120	145285	121951	237454
11.	Kerala	Civil	109392	71815	59901	121306
		Criminal	36514	21100	21551	36063
		TOTAL	145906	92915	81452	157369
12.	Madras	Civil	228914	97889	76670	250133
		Criminal	34655	64124	64484	34295
		TOTAL	263569	162013	141154	284428
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Civil	166958	70487	65592	171853
		Criminal	91755	62487	52268	101974
		TOTAL	258713	132974	117860	273827
14.	Odisha	Civil	163119	35175	67546	130748
		Criminal	38963	37300	37558	38705
		TOTAL	202082	72475	105104	169453
15.	Patna	Civil	81256	27073	29227	79102
		Criminal	56995	62944	70303	49636
		TOTAL	138251	90017	99530	128738

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	Punjab and Haryana	Civil	209167	68635	68958	208844
		Criminal	70532	59985	51010	79507
		TOTAL	279699	128620	119968	288351
17.	Rajasthan	Civil	170222	51034	38755	182501
		Criminal	58131	45820	41586	62365
		TOTAL	228353	96854	80341	244866
18.	Sikkim	Civil	68	144	131	81
		Criminal	40	63	70	33
		TOTAL	108	207	201	114
19.	Uttarakhand	Civil	16669	9999	8108	18560
		Criminal	6436	7272	5588	8120
		TOTAL	23105	17271	13696	26680
20.	Chhattisgarh	Civil	28209	16996	14069	31136
		Criminal	16868	13930	11823	18975
		TOTAL	45077	30926	25892	50111
21.	Jharkhand	Civil	42490	9700	9620	42570
		Criminal	38325	21218	21694	37849
		TOTAL	80815	30918	31314	80419
22.	Tripura	Civil	3772	2197	3484	2485
		Criminal	693	747	888	552
		TOTAL	4465	2944	4372	3037
23.	Manipur	Civil	2903	1843	1567	3179
		Criminal	120	60	44	136
		TOTAL	3023	1903	1611	3315
24.	Meghalaya	Civil	497	579	500	576
		Criminal	20	73	72	21
		TOTAL	517	652	572	597
ALL HIGH COURTS TOTAL CIVIL			2771431	1021832	955885	2837378
ALL HIGH COURTS TOTAL CRIMINAL			991404	666617	625026	1032995
GRAND TOTAL OF ALL HIGH COURTS			3762835	1688449	1580911	3870373

Court cases disposed of during last two years

†1228. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has devised a new plan to dispose of cases pending over the years in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of cases disposed of during the last two years, the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) In pursuance of resolution passed in the Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, all High Courts have set up Arrears Committees to clear the backlog of cases pending for more than five years. Other terms of reference include evolving a uniform nomenclature for all categories of cases and counting only main cases towards pendency and arrears.

The data on institution, disposal and pendency of cases is maintained by Supreme Court and High Courts. As per information made available by the High Courts, details of State/UT-wise disposal of cases in various District/Subordinate Courts during the years 2014 and 2015 are given in the Statement.

Statement***Details of cases disposed of in District and Subordinate Courts during last two years***

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Disposal of cases during the year	
		2014	2015
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	6,47,130	6,58,713
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7,615	3,588
3.	Assam	2,76,138	2,72,538
4.	Bihar	3,05,583	2,92,678
5.	Chhattisgarh	1,76,144	1,95,174
6.	Goa	30,625	34,765
7.	Gujarat	11,32,433	10,93,664
8.	Haryana	5,87,385	5,42,440

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4,09,732	1,94,803
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2,97,507	87,687
11.	Jharkhand	1,10,068	1,18,845
12.	Karnataka	13,67,041	12,09,127
13.	Kerala	13,55,926	13,38,443
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11,13,382	10,73,584
15.	Maharashtra	15,36,322	16,49,187
16.	Manipur	14,257	7,395
17.	Meghalaya	11,691	9,215
18.	Mizoram	10,747	10,355
19.	Nagaland	3,047	4,826
20.	Odisha	4,70,085	4,08,261
21.	Punjab	5,49,300	5,78,681
22.	Rajasthan	11,32,028	13,71,762
23.	Sikkim	2,008	1,725
24.	Tamil Nadu	16,45,329	11,51,349
25.	Tripura	1,93,003	1,92,081
26.	Uttar Pradesh	31,82,318	33,13,424
27.	Uttarakhand	2,20,660	2,00,947
28.	West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands	10,89,309	10,99,743
29.	Chandigarh	1,80,616	1,45,990
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	2,771	3,323
31.	Delhi	9,30,732	6,12,553
32.	Lakshadweep	95	280
33.	Puducherry	28,631	20,409
TOTAL		1,90,19,658	1,78,97,555

Strength of Judges in Courts of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

1229. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of High Court and Subordinate Courts' Judges functioning out of their total sanctioned strength in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;

(b) the number of cases pending till date and disposed of, so far, in both the States by these Courts in the last three years;

(c) the number of criminal cases decided in these States with the statistics of the cases resulting in conviction and acquittal in the last three years; and

(d) the steps contemplated to expedite the process of appointments against the vacant posts in the High Court and Subordinate Courts in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The details indicating the approved strength, working strength and vacancies of Judges in High Courts of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and in Subordinate Judiciary is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) The details indicating the number of cases disposed of and pendency of cases in the High Courts of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and Subordinate Courts during the last three years is given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) The data relating to number of criminal cases decided in the States and statistics of the cases resulting in conviction and acquittal is not maintained by the Department of Justice.

(d) During 2016 as on 22.11.2016, 18 Judges in Madhya Pradesh High Court and 3 Judges in Chhattisgarh High Court have been appointed. The filling up of vacancies in the District and Subordinate Courts of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh fall within the domain of the State Governments and the High Courts.

Statement-I

The details of approved strength, working strength and vacancies of judges in High Courts of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and in the Subordinate Judiciary (Position as on 22.11.2016)

A. High Courts

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Approved Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies as per Approved Strength
1.	Madhya Pradesh	53	39	14
2.	Chhattisgarh	22	11	11

B. Subordinate Courts

(Position as on 30.06.2016)

Sl. No	Name of State	Approved strength	Working strength	Vacancies
1.	Madhya Pradesh	1461	1259	202
2.	Chhattisgarh	395	340	55

Statement-II

Details of number of cases disposed of and pendency of cases in the High Courts of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and Subordinate Courts during the last three years

A. High Court, Madhya Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of High Court	Case type	Number of pending cases as on 1.1.2013	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 31.12.2013
1.	Madhya Pradesh	Civil	167575	74571	67481	174665
		Criminal	80582	50231	43867	86946
		TOTAL	248157	124802	111348	261611
			Number of pending cases as on 1.1.2014	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 31.12.2014
		Civil	174665	68457	76161	166961
		Criminal	86946	58021	53212	91755
		TOTAL	261611	126478	129373	258716
			Number of pending cases as on 1.1.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 31.12.2015
		Civil	166958	70487	65592	171853
		Criminal	91755	62487	52268	101974
		TOTAL	258713	132974	117860	273827

B. District/Subordinate Courts in the State of Madhya Pradesh

Name of the State	Case type	Number of pending cases as on 1.1.2013	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 31.12.2013
Madhya Pradesh	Civil	238746	219366	202857	255255
	Criminal	852475	1060508	1070580	842403
	TOTAL	1091221	1279874	1273437	1097658
		Number of pending cases as on 1.1.2014	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 31.12.2014
	Civil	255255	190660	176972	268943
	Criminal	842403	1006523	936410	912516
	TOTAL	1097658	1197183	1113382	1181459
		Number of pending cases as on 1.1.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 31.12.2015
	Civil	268943	119107	126533	261517
	Criminal	912516	964817	947051	930282
	TOTAL	1181459	1083924	1073584	1191799

C. High Court, Chhattisgarh

Sl. No.	High Court	Case type	Number of pending as on 1.1.2013	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 31.12.2013
2	Chhattisgarh	Civil	31223	13846	17923	27146
		Criminal	16528	10748	10283	16993
		TOTAL	47751	24594	28206	44139
			Number of pending as on 1.1.2014	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 31.12.2014
		Civil	27146	16864	15801	28209
		Criminal	16993	12229	12354	16868
		TOTAL	44,139	29,093	28,155	45,077

	Number of pending as on 1.1.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 31.12.2015
Civil	28209	16996	14069	31136
Criminal	16868	13930	11823	18975
TOTAL	45077	30926	25892	50111

D. District/Subordinate Courts in the State of Chhattisgarh

Name of the State	Case type	Number of pending as on 1.1.2013	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 31.12.2013
Chhattisgarh	Civil	60231	24337	23456	61112
	Criminal	212292	151321	155609	208004
	TOTAL	272523	175658	179065	269116
		Number of pending as on 1.1.2014	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 31.12.2014
	Civil	61112	26685	24135	63662
	Criminal	208004	159230	152009	215225
	TOTAL	269116	185915	176144	278887
		Number of pending as on 1.1.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 31.12.2015
	Civil	63662	30622	29563	64721
	Criminal	215225	171627	165611	221241
	TOTAL	278887	202249	195174	285962

Judicial Performance Evaluation System

1230. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to put in place a Judicial Performance Evaluation System for Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts; and

(b) if so, the parameters of such evaluation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Central law for compulsory registration of marriages

1231. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in October 2007, the Supreme Court had set a fresh three months deadline for States and Union Territories to frame necessary rules to make registration of marriages compulsory irrespective of religion, and took exception to some States making such registration only compulsory only for Hindus;

(b) whether Government has urged the States to comply with the order of the Supreme Court;

(c) the number of States which have so far introduced such legislation; and

(d) whether in view of the Supreme Court's judgement, Government is considering to have a Central Law for compulsory registration of marriages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Supreme Court *vide* its Order dated the 25th October, 2007 in the case of Shrimati Seema *Vs* Ashwani Kumar AIR 2006 SC 1158 has directed that the States and Union Territories who have not acted in line with the directions given on 14.2.2006 shall forthwith do it and in no case later than three months from that day.

(b) The Government has sought the comments of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations on the compliance of directions of the Supreme Court in the aforesaid case.

(c) Information received from the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) Yes, Sir.

Statement

Information received from the State Governments and Union Territory Administration status registration of marriages

1. Andhra Pradesh	The Government of Andhra Pradesh has enacted the Andhra Pradesh Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act, 2002 and
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|----------------------|---|
| | has also notified Andhra Pradesh Compulsory Registration of Marriages Rules, 2003 under said Act making the registration of marriages compulsory to all persons irrespective of their religion. |
| 2. Arunachal Pradesh | The State Government has informed that they have enacted the Arunachal Pradesh Recording of Marriage Act, 2008 and rules, namely the Arunachal Pradesh Recording of Marriage Rules, 2009 have also been notified for the purpose. |
| 3. Assam | The Government of Assam has fully complied with the order of the Apex Court through amendment of the Hindu Marriage Rule, 1961 and thereby bringing out the Hindu Marriage (Assam Amendment) Rule, 2008, making Hindu Marriage compulsorily registrable. Besides this by the enactment of the Assam Moslem Marriage Divorces Registration (Amendment) Act, 2010 registration of Muslim Marriages and Divorces are compulsory in the State of Assam. |
| 4. Bihar | The State of Bihar has framed the Bihar Marriage Registration Rules, 2006 with effect from 11.08.2006 which provides for compulsory registration of all marriages solemnized in the State of Bihar. |
| 5. Chhattisgarh | The Chhattisgarh Administration has informed that the Chhattisgarh Compulsory Registration of Marriages Rules, 2006 to provide for compulsory registration of marriages to all communities in the State. |
| 6. Goa | The Portuguese Law (Civil Registration Code) existing in the State of Goa, provides for compulsory registration of marriages irrespective of religion. Hence enactment of new legislation is not necessary in the State of Goa. |
| 7. Gujarat | The Gujarat Registration of Marriages Act, 2006 enacted by the State Government has been brought into force from 1st January, 2008 under the said Act to provide for the compulsory registration of marriages. |
| 8. Haryana | The State Government of Haryana has enacted the Haryana Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act, 2008 to provide for the compulsory registration of marriages in the State. |
| 9. Himachal Pradesh | The State Government has enacted the Himachal Pradesh Registration of Marriages Act, 1996 and necessary rules have also been notified for registration of all the marriages in the State. |
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10. Jammu and Kashmir There are three laws which govern the marriages of different communities in the State, namely the Jammu and Kashmir Christian Marriages and Divorce Act, 1957, the Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Marriages Registration Act, 1981 and the Jammu and Kashmir Hindu Marriages Act, 1980.
- Under the Jammu and Kashmir Christian Marriages and Divorce Act, 1957, every marriage in the Christian community is required to be registered compulsorily and every such marriage is being registered as per the provisions of the Act. As far as Muslims Marriages are concerned, the same are to be compulsorily registered under the Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Marriages Registration Act, 1981, within thirty days from the date of conclusion of Nikah ceremony. However this Act is yet to be enforced due to certain reservations expressed by religious leaders of the community and the general public. As far as Hindu Marriages are concerned, section 8 of the Jammu and Kashmir Hindu Marriages Act, 1980 provides for registration of Hindu Marriages in accordance with rules that are required to be framed under the said Act. However, rules have not been framed so far under the said Act. On the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in case *Seema Vs. Ashwani Kumar* draft rules styled as the Jammu and Kashmir Hindu Marriage Registration Rules, 2009 were framed and submitted to the Cabinet for approval. The Cabinet constituted a Cabinet sub-committee to examine various aspects of the proposed rules and to submit its recommendations to the Cabinet for consideration. The Cabinet sub-committee discussed the issues/draft rules in its various meetings but the deliberations remained inconclusive. It has decided in its last meeting to seek views from the religious leaders of the community in respect of the draft rules in view of the sensitiveness involved. Steps are being taken to implement the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in letter and spirit.
- Steps are being taken to implement the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in letter and spirit.
11. Jharkhand The State Legislature has passed the Jharkhand Registration of Marriages Bill, 2012 to provide for the registration of marriages in the State and forwarded the same to the assent of the President. However, the State Government has withdrawn the said Bill.
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| 12. Karnataka | The Government of Karnataka has notified the Karnataka Marriage (Registration and Miscellaneous Provisions) Rules, 2006 with effect from 18.4.2006 under the Karnataka Marriages (Registration and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976. The State Government has also taken action to implement the Judgment in Karnataka with a few additions and amendments to the existing Acts. Finalizations of the Compulsory Registration of Marriage Rules are under process. The Sub Registrars of Stamps and Registration Department and Village Accountants of Revenue Department have been appointed as Marriage Registration Officers in their respective jurisdiction. The Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps is appointed as Chief Registrar of Marriages. |
| 13. Kerala | The Government of Kerala has notified the Kerala Registration of Marriage (Common) Rules, 2008 <i>vide</i> notification number G.O.(P) No. 1/2008/Law dated 29.02.2008 and published in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No.423 dated 29.02.2008 making all the marriages in the State compulsorily registrable irrespective of religion of the parties. |
| 14. Madhya Pradesh | The Government of Madhya Pradesh has framed the Compulsory Registration of Marriage Rules, 2008 and published in the Madhya Pradesh (Extra-Ordinary) dated 23rd January, 2008. |
| 15. Maharashtra | The Government of Maharashtra has framed the Maharashtra Regulation of Marriage Bureaus and Registration of Marriage Act, 1998 which was enforced from 15.5.1999. This Act shall not apply to marriages contracted under the Special Marriage Act, 1954, the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872 and the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936. |
| 16. Manipur | The State Government of Manipur has enacted the Manipur Compulsory Registration Act, 2008 to provide for compulsory registration of marriage in the State of Manipur. |
| 17. Meghalaya | In compliance to the order of the Supreme Court the State Government had notified the Meghalaya Special Marriage Rules, 2006, the Muslim Marriage and Divorces Registration Rules, 2006 and the Meghalaya Hindu Marriage Rules, 2006 which have made all marriages to be compulsorily registered. |
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| 18. Mizoram | The State Government has enacted the Mizoram Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act, 2007 and also notified the Mizoram Compulsory Registration of Marriages Rules, 2007 to provide for compulsory registration of marriages. Besides this, the State Government has appointed as many as 697 numbers of Registrar of Marriages for the whole of Mizoram. |
| 19. Nagaland | The State is yet to implement the Registration of marriages of different religions since the subject matter contradicts the special provision of Article 371-A of the Constitution of India. |
| 20. Odisha | The State of Odisha have made the marriage of Hindu and Mohammadans compulsorily registrable in the State by amending the Orissa Hindu Marriage Registration Rules, 1960 and Orissa Mohammadan Marriages and Divorces Registration Rules, 1976 <i>vide</i> notification number 8816 dated 05.07.2006 and 11984 dated 15.09.2006 respectively. |
| 21. Punjab | The Government of Punjab has enacted an Act, namely the Punjab Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act, 2012 (Punjab Act No. 1 of 2013) to provide for the compulsory registration of marriages solemnized under any law governing the parties irrespective of their religion, caste, creed or nationality and for the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, and has been notified in Extraordinary Gazette dated the 04th January, 2013. |
| 22. Rajasthan | The State Government has informed that the Rajasthan Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act, 2009 enacted by the State has been notified in Extraordinary Gazette dated 11.09.2009. |
| 23. Sikkim | The State of Sikkim has issued notification number 10/LR and DM dated 09.08.2007 for compulsory registration of all Indian Citizen Marriages solemnized within the State of Sikkim in compliance with the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. |
| 24. Tamil Nadu | The Government of Tamil Nadu has enacted an Act, namely the Tamil Nadu Registration of Marriages Act, 2009 (Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 2009) to provide for compulsory registration of all marriages of all persons who are the citizens of India belonging to various religions in the State. |
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25. Telangana	The State Government of Telangana has adapted the Andhra Pradesh Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act, 2002 as the Telangana Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act, 2002 (Act 15 of 2002) <i>vide</i> G.O. Ms. No. 16, Dept. for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens (Schemes), dated 23.12.2014 with effect from 23.12.2014.
26. Tripura	The Tripura Recoding of Marriage Act, 2003 and the Tripura Recording of Marriage Rules, 2006 make registration of marriages compulsory in the State.
27. Uttar Pradesh	The State Government has informed that draft of the Compulsory Registration of Marriage rules has been prepared and approval of Cabinet is under process.
28. Uttarakhand	The Uttarakhand Compulsory Registration of Marriage Bill, 2010 has been passed by the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly has been assented to by the Governor on 25th March, 2010.
29. West Bengal	<p>1. Compulsory Registration of all Marriages of all religions have been made by amending the existing Marriages Rules in respect of Hindu Marriage Registration Rules, M.M.R. Rules, provisions have also been made in the said Rule for consequence of Non-registration of Marriages by the parties to the marriage. Since provisions are there, for compulsory registration of Marriage in the Christian Marriage Act and Parsi Marriage Act, no amendment had been made in the Rule of the said Act.</p> <p>2. All the D.M.'s have been directed to encourage the General public to get their marriages registered by holding seminar, awareness programme etc. in the districts by highlighting the need for compulsory Registration of marriage to encourage the members of general public to get their marriages registered with the respective marriage officers.</p>
30. Andaman and Nicobar	The Marriage Officer (the Additional District Magistrate) has already been instructed to register the marriages irrespective of any religion in pursuance of the directions passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in T. P (Civil) No. 291 of 2005 (Seema Vs. Ashwani Kumar)
31. Chandigarh Admin.	In compliance with the judgement of the Supreme Court, the Chandigarh Administration has decided that all marriages solemnized in the Union Territory of Chandigarh shall be

	compulsorily registrable in Union Territory. The procedure for registration shall be as per the provision contained in the relevant Act/Rules.
32. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	The Dadra and Nagar Haveli Administration has issued the necessary notification to provide for compulsory registration in the Union Territory.
33. Daman and Diu	Marriage Registration has been made compulsory in the Union territory of Daman and Diu.
34. Delhi	The executive order regarding compulsory registration of marriage has been issued in compliance of the directions given in the judgment dated 14.2.2006 by the Hon'ble Supreme court of India in the case titled <i>Shrimati Seema Vs. Ashwani Kumar</i> in Transfer petition (C) No. 291 of 2005 <i>vide</i> order number F.1(12)/DC/MC/2014/4392 dated 21.4.2014 and published in Part-IV of the Delhi Gazette Extraordinary.
35. Lakshadweep	This Administration has made the Lakshadweep Marriage Registration Rules, 2006 and issued Notification to make compulsory registration of marriage of all person irrespective of cast creed and region who are the resident of Union Territory of Lakshadweep. This Administration has also appointed Deputy Collectors/Sub Divisional Officers of all islands as Marriage Registration Officers <i>vide</i> Notification dated 10.07.2003.
36. Puducherry	This Administration has made the Puducherry Hindu Marriage (Registration) Rules, 1969 on the 17th February, 1999, to provide for compulsory registration of marriages in the Union Territory.

Medical facilities on running trains

1232. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers medical facilities on running trains a necessity, which include a General Physician with medical attendant, essential drugs and some basic diagnostic instruments and an oxygen cylinder; and

(b) if so, whether Government has any plan to provide essential medical services on running trains, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) All passengers trains are provided with First Aid Boxes containing essential drugs and dressing materials. The First Aid Box is available with the Guard of the train who is trained to provide basic First Aid to the needy passengers. In case of medical emergency, passengers can contact help line number 138 through their mobile phones or inform on-board ticket checker for arranging medical assistance. In addition, First Aid Boxes with wide range of medicines, disposable medical materials have been provided with the Train Superintendents of Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains. Further, the Station Masters have details of Doctors, Clinics and Hospitals (Railway, other Government and Private) in the vicinity of the station, so that their services could also be availed, in emergencies.

Use of train toilets while trains are stationary

1233. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that use of toilets in trains cause unhygienic and filthy conditions during the period they remain stationary at the railway stations;

(b) if so, why no concrete action is being taken by Railways despite several studies got conducted in the past;

(c) the concrete steps Government has decided to take to tackle this menace to improve the unhygienic condition of railway stations; and

(d) whether the Ministry will join hands with the Ministries of Urban Development and Tourism to formulate a well conceived programme as part of Swachh Bharat programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 1. Following actions have been taken by Railways to reduce human waste falling on to the platform tracks at stations:—

- (i) Locking of empty coaching rakes stabled in the platforms is being done for preventing unauthorised use of toilets in the coaches when these are not under maintenance.
- (ii) Provision of Bio-toilets prevents human waste from falling onto the track. Coaches in service are being progressively fitted with bio-toilets. Till 31.10.2016 over 49,000 bio-toilets have been fitted in more than 14,000 coaches.
- (iii) Awareness among the rail users is being increased through display of information by means of public announcement system as well as display

boards/labels to advise passengers not to use toilets when the trains are at stations.

2. In addition to the above, to avoid an unhygienic situation due to human waste falling on the tracks at stations, following actions are taken:

- (i) Provision of washable concrete aprons for tracks in the platform area.
- (ii) Proper mechanised arrangement for cleaning of tracks at platforms.
- (iii) Provision and maintenance of toilets at stations for the use of passengers.

(d) Ministry of Railways, in consultation with Ministry of Urban Development is organising periodical campaigns under Swachh Rail Swachh Bharat Mission at major and important stations, which include generation of awareness among the rail users through special drives to inculcate correct practices on the use of toilets and to improve cleanliness at stations.

Cabinet approval for laying of new railway lines

†1234. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cabinet approval has been accorded for laying third line from Nagpur to Rajnandgaon, Bilaspur to Jharsuguda in Odisha, Jhansi to Beena, Itarsi to Nagpur, Balharshah in Maharashtra to Kazipet and from Gudur to Vijayawada;

(b) the target to complete the laying of each of the above railway lines;

(c) by when the work of laying of these railway lines will be started; and

(d) the estimated cost of each of these lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Completion of projects depends on many factors such as shifting of services, construction of road over and road under bridges by road maintaining agencies, law and order situation etc. in addition to availability of funds.

(c) and (d) Details of the projects alongwith estimated cost and work status are as under:—

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl. No.	Name of Projects	Anticipated Cost (₹ in crore)	Date of Sanction (CCEA approval)	Status
1.	Nagpur-Rajnandgaon 3rd line (228 km.)	1909	24.8.2016	Tendering work has been taken up.
2.	Bilaspur-Jharsuguda 4th line (206 km.)	1974	24.8.2016	Tenders for earthwork and minor bridges have been awarded on Raigarh-Lajkura Cabin (55 km) Section.
3.	Jhansi-Bina 3rd line (153 km)	2002	24.8.2016	Tendering work has been taken up.
4.	Itarsi-Nagpur 3rd line (280 km.)	2450	24.8.2016	Tendering work between Nagpur-Narkher has been taken up.
5.	Balharshah-Kazipet 3rd line (201 km.)	2063	24.8.2016	Tenders for earthwork and bridges have been taken up in Kazipet-Raghvapuram and Sirpur Kaghaznagar-Mandamari sections.
6.	Gudur-Vijayawada 3rd line (288 km.)	3246	24.8.2016	Work entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). Tendering work has been taken up.

Scheme for providing insurance to train passengers

†1235. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total premium received by Railways under the scheme for providing insurance cover to passengers and the quantum of compensation that Railways had to shell out after various accidents, the details thereof; and

(b) the total compensation provided by Railways with regard to accidents before introduction of the above scheme, the details of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) As per the Scheme of Optional Travel Insurance, Railway is not to

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

receive any premium. However, IRCTC has collected an amount of ₹ 1,18,92,046.40/- on behalf of the insurance companies as premium under the scheme.

(b) The details of compensation paid during the last three years:—

Year	Amount Paid
2013-14	₹ 118,59,49,482/-
2014-15	₹ 122,86,16,848/-
2015-16	₹ 144,60,57,995/-
1 April, 2016-30 Aug., 2016	₹ 51,87,60,311/-

The compensation paid in a year/period need not necessarily relate to the accidents/casualties in that year/period alone. This amount depends upon the number of cases which are finalized in a particular year/period irrespective of the year(s)/period in which the accident they pertain to, have occurred.

Profit under flexi fare system

†1236. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of profit earned by Railways after implementing the flexi fare system in premium trains, including the Shatabdi Express, the details thereof; and

(b) the total hike in fares of various classes and the increase or decrease in the number of passengers after the introduction of flexi fare system, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Additional earnings during 09.09.2016 to 31.10.2016 due to introduction of flexi fare system in Rajdhani, Duronto and Shatabdi trains are approximately ₹ 56 crores.

(b) With effect from 09.09.2016, the concept of Flexi Fare System has been introduced in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto train services. Under this scheme, the fare increases by 10% with every 10% of berths sold subject to maximum prescribed limit 1.5 times in classes second AC, Sleeper, second sitting (reserved), AC Chair Car and 1.4 times in 3rd AC class. No change has been made in the fare for Ist AC and Executive class of travel. Comparative total vacant berths in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains for the period 09.09.2016 to 31.10.2016 *vis-a-vis* 09.09.2015 to 31.10.2015 are as under:—

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Period	09.09.2015 to 31.10.2015	09.09.2016 to 31.10.2016
Total vacant berths in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains	12428	5871*

* 22413/22414 Nizamuddin-Madgaon Rajdhani Express (which was not running during 09.09.2015 to 31.10.2015) has not been included in the above figure.

Gauge conversion between Peralam and Karaikal

1237. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the train services between Peralam in Tamil Nadu and Karaikkal in the Union Territory of Puducherry were stopped for many years due to gauge conversion;

(b) whether there is any proposal in pipeline for gauge conversion between Peralam and Karaikal;

(c) the total distance to be covered under gauge conversion;

(d) the total estimate for undertaking the gauge conversion work; and

(e) whether Government will initiate immediate action to start the gauge conversion work which is pending for many years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Train services between Peralam and Karaikal are not available, but not due to gauge conversion, as there is no metre gauge line for conversion.

(b) to (e) Peralam and Karaikal are already connected on broad gauge rail network *via* Thiruvavarur and Nagapattinam and no metre gauge line exists between these two stations. As such, question of gauge conversion of line between Peralam and Karaikal does not arise. However, laying of Broad Gauge line between Karaikal and Peralam (23 km.) was included as material modification of Tiruchirappalli-Nagore-Karaikal gauge conversion project in Railway Budget 2013-14. The estimated cost of this new line is ₹ 178 crore. In-Principle Approval by erstwhile Planning Commission had included a condition of cost sharing by M/s Karaikal Port Limited. However, due to refusal by M/s Karaikal Port Limited to share the cost, the work could not be taken forward.

Railway line connecting Chennai and Puducherry

1238. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for connecting Chennai and Puducherry in the direct line *via* Tindivanam-Puducherry or along the east coast road;

(b) whether Government will fulfill the long pending demands of the people of Puducherry by introducing super fast train services between Chennai and Puducherry *via* Tindivanam; and

(c) whether Government would take action to lay new line between Cuddalore and Puducherry in order to connect Karaikal directly as there is no direct train service from Puducherry to Karaikal *via* Cuddalore and there is no railway line between Puducherry and Cuddalore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (c) Construction of Chennai-Cuddalore *via* Puducherry new line along the East Coast Road has been taken up.

(b) Introduction of new trains services including super fast trains is an ongoing exercise over Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources, etc. At present, one express train and one pair of passenger train are available between Chennai and Puducherry *via* Tindivanam. However, presently, there is no proposal to introduce super fast train services between Chennai and Puducherry *via* Tindivanam due to operational and resource constraints.

Lack of funds for improving basic amenities

1239. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways do not have funds required for improving basic amenities and its modernization;

(b) if so, whether Government would allow private investment for these purposes;

(c) whether such a proposal has been received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) It is Railways' endeavor to provide basic amenities at all railway stations commensurate with category. There is no scarcity of funds to provide basic amenities at all the stations. No private funds are required for the purpose.

Improvement of amenities and modernisation of railway stations is a continuous process and funds as per availability and requirement are allocated for providing amenities at railway stations.

In order to seek participation of private sector, Railway has also decided to offer 'A-1' and 'A' category stations on 'as is where is' basis, for redevelopment 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 potential of vacant land and air space at these stations. Guidelines have been issued to zonal railways in this regard. Proposals for redevelopment of stations through above method are yet to be invited.

Employees belonging to OBC category in IRCTC

1240. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of employees from OBC category in IRCTC in the year 2014-15?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): There were 277 employees from OBC (Other Backward Classes) category in Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) in the year 2014-15.

Construction works in railways under MGNREGA

1241. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to undertake construction works in Railways under MGNREGA, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any such proposal has been sent by Railways to the Ministry of Rural Development, if so, the response of that Ministry thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Railways have already identified certain railway works, which can be undertaken under MGNREGA as under: (i) construction and maintenance of approach roads for level crossings; (ii) developing and cleaning silted water-ways, trenches and drains along track; (iii) construction and maintenance of approach road to railway stations; (iv) repairs of earthwork to the existing railway embankments/cuttings; (v) clearing vegetation growth; and (vi) activity of plantation at extreme boundary of railway land, under MGNREGA.

A joint Memorandum and Advisory has also been issued in this regard. Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Rural Development also conduct inter-Ministerial coordination meetings as and when required, to sort out practical difficulties.

Temporary halts for Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains

1242. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of temporary halts for Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains, the State-wise details thereof;

(b) whether any new temporary halt was allowed for Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains during the last two years, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to discontinue the stoppage of Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains at temporary halts, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Indian Railways do not run train services on State-wise basis as railway network and train operations straddle across State boundaries. As such, a compendium of such data is not maintained.

(b) The details of the stoppage provided on experimental basis in Rajdhani Express and Shatabdi Express trains during the last two years *i.e.* during 2014-15 to 2015-16 are as under:—

Sl. No.	Station	Train number and name	Date from which stoppage provided
1.	Karnal	12045/12046 New Delhi-Chandigarh Shatabdi Express	11.08.2015
2.	Gandhinagar Jaipur	12015/12016 New Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi Express	10.11.2015
3.	Gwalior	12441/12442 New Delhi-Bilaspur Rajdhani Express	24.12.2015
4.	Sonipat	12045/12046 New Delhi-Chandigarh Shatabdi Express	25.12.2015
5.	Katpadi	12007/12008 Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi Express	27.02.2016

(c) Stoppages on experimental basis for a certain period of time are provided in trains including Rajdhani Express and Shatabdi Express trains in anticipation that

these not only provide new/additional connectivity between stations and prove to be popular among travelling passengers, but also would translate into revenue for Indian Railways, thereby defraying the additional cost that a stoppage entails. Indian Railways, with a view to optimizing efficiency in operations, reviews experimental stoppages periodically which is an on-going exercise. However, at present, there is no proposal to discontinue the experimental stoppages provided in the Rajdhani Express and Shatabdi Express trains.

New railway lines in Uttarakhand

†1243. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether announcement for new railway lines between Roorkee-Piran Kaliyar and Tanakpur-Jauljibi in Uttarakhand had been made in rail budget of previous years;
- (b) if so, the present status thereof;
- (c) whether these rail routes will see the light of the day; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Survey for Tanakpur-Jauljivi was completed during 2013-14 to examine the feasibility and viability of the proposed new line. As per survey report, the cost of construction of 107 Km. long line was assessed as ₹ 5276 crore with the negative rate of return of 1.45%. Un-remunerative nature of the proposed new line, huge throwforward of ongoing projects and limited overall availability of funds, preclude the Railways to take up this new line project.

Losses to local train services in Mumbai

1244. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that local train services in Mumbai metropolitan area have been incurring huge losses for several years, if so, the income and expenditure figures for the last three years;

(b) the measures being taken to make these services break even or make some profit as well; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Railways have thought of developing local railway stations in Mumbai commercially to add to the income, if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. The income and expenditure of local train services in Mumbai metropolitan area for the last three years are as under:—

(₹ in crore)

Year	Earnings	Expenditure	Profit/Loss (-)
2012-13	1392.28	2247.98	(-) 855.70
2013-14	1502.97	2614.77	(-) 1111.80
2014-15	1640.63	3066.82	(-) 1426.19
TOTAL	4535.88	7929.57	(-) 3393.69

(b) Measures being taken to make these services break even or make some profit as well are as follows:—

- (i) Full advertisement rights on outside of Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) rakes.
- (ii) Sponsored commercial announcements and Light Emitting Diode (LED) displays inside the coaches.
- (iii) Introduction of Paperless Mobile ticketing apps.
- (iv) Currency/Coin cum card operated Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs).
- (v) Introduction of Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendra (YTSK) and Jansadharan Ticket Booking Seva (JTBS) to sell Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) tickets.
- (vi) Introduction of Smart Cards facilitating ticketing.
- (vii) Re-enforcing constant and strict barrier checking to catch and penalise commuters travelling without valid travel authorities.
- (viii) Continuous review of Overtime claims by Running staff, Commercial staff and other Technical staff.

(c) Mumbai local stations fall in the category of suburban stations and categorized as 'C' category stations. The present scheme for redevelopment of stations covers 'A-1' and 'A' category stations. Accordingly, Mumbai Central, Bandra Terminus, Dadar, Thane, Kalyan, Lokmanya Tilak Terminus and Mumbai CST stations which fall under 'A-1' category are planned to be offered for redevelopment by leveraging commercial potential of vacant sparable land/airspace.

Disabled-friendly railway stations

1245. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that CAG had recently pointed out that railway stations were not disabled-friendly and no significant improvements were seen over the years;
- (b) the amount spent on making railway stations and trains disabled-friendly over the past five years, region-wise; and
- (c) whether there has been an increased effort by Government to make Railways disabled-friendly, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) In order to provide better accessibility to passengers with disabilities, short term facilities as detailed below have been planned at all stations, beginning with 'A-1', 'A' and 'B' category stations:-

- Standard ramp for barrier free entry
- Earmarking at least two parking lots
- Non-slippery walk-way from parking lot to building
- Signages of appropriate visibility
- At least one toilet (on the ground floor)
- At least one drinking water tap suitable for use by differently-abled persons
- 'May I help you' Booth

In addition, long term facilities, as detailed below, have also been planned at 'A-1', 'A' and 'B' category stations:-

- Provision of facility for inter-platform transfer
- Engraving on edges of platform

CAG Report 13 of 2016 mentions about lack of facilities like standard ramp, exclusive toilets, non-slippery walkway etc. at some stations. Provision/augmentation of amenities at stations for differently-abled passengers is a continuous process and these facilities are being provided progressively. The details of facilities provided for disabled are given in the Statement (*See below*).

Availability of Wheelchairs on Platforms: Instructions already exist for provision of Wheelchair at stations. This facility is provided, duly escorted by coolies (on payment) as per present practice. Moreover, Zonal Railways have also been instructed to provide one wheelchair per platform and in case of island platforms one wheelchair per two platforms at all 'A-1' and 'A' category stations.

Battery Operated Cars (BOCs): Zonal Railways have been authorized to introduce Battery Operated Cars (BOCs) at major railway stations for disabled, elderly and ailing passengers on 'first come first served' basis through sponsorship from individuals, NGOs, Trusts, Charitable Institutions, Corporate and PSUs/Corporate Houses under their Corporate Social Responsibility free of charge to passenger or to the Railway. 70 BOCs have already been provided at 48 major railway stations. Further, instructions have also been issued to Zonal Railways to invite Expression of Interest for providing the facility of Battery Operated Car service on payment basis initially at all 'A-1' category stations keeping in view the financial sustainability of the service. This facility can be availed by passengers on 'first come first served' basis, however, preference shall be given to Senior Citizens, physically challenged, pregnant women and medically sick passengers.

Yatri Mitra Sewa: 'Yatri Mitra Sewa' is being provided at major stations for enabling passengers to book wheelchair services cum Porter services etc. The responsibility of providing Yatri Mitra Sewa is entrusted to IRCTC who may provide this service 'Free of cost' through some NGOs, PSUs etc. under CSR or on payment basis. This service can be booked on IRCTC e-ticketing website and 139 (IVRS and SMS) or through a mobile.

Indian Railways have manufactured about 3450 SLRD/SRD coaches (SLRD-Second Class Cum Luggage Cum Guard Van and Disabled friendly compartment, SRD-Second Class Cum Guard Van and Disabled friendly compartment) which have a suitably designed compartment and toilet adapted to the needs of disabled/wheelchair borne passengers. In SLRD coaches, wider entrance door for wheelchair borne passengers, wider berths, wider compartments, space for provision of wheelchair, larger lavatory and lavatory doors have been provided. Inside the toilets, additional grab rails on the side walls for support, wash basin and mirror at lower height have been provided. It is endeavored to have at least one such coach in each Mail/Express train.

Further, the fully air conditioned Garib Rath trains have been provided with an Air conditioned disabled friendly compartment and toilets in the power cars.

For assistance to visually impaired travelers, Braille signages are now being provided in newly manufactured coaches.

In order to facilitate easy movement of elderly and differently abled passengers, as per the existing guidelines, 'A-1' category stations qualify for provision of escalators/elevators while 'A' category, 'C' category and stations of tourist importance qualify for provision of escalators under 'Desirable Amenities'. So far, 316 no. of escalators at 129 stations and 178 no. of lifts at 79 stations have been provided across Indian Railways.

Funds for provision of such facilities at stations are generally charged under Plan Head 'Passenger Amenities'. The zone-wise expenditure under this Plan Head over past 5 years is appended.

Statement

Details of facilities provided for differently abled persons at stations

Sl. No.	Amenity for differently-abled persons	Approximate number of stations
1.	Standard ramp for barrier free entry	1780
2.	Earmarking at least two parking lots	1090
3.	Non-slippery walk-way from parking lot to station building	1180
4.	Signages of appropriate visibility.	1250
5.	At least one toilet (on the ground floor)	1510
6.	At least one drinking water tap suitable for use by differently-abled persons.	1480
7.	May I help you booth	900
8.	Provision of facility for inter-platform transfer	1130
9.	Engraving of edges of platforms	1600

The zone-wise expenditure under this Plan Head over past 5 years is as under

(₹ in crores)

Railway	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Central	54.77	30.85	59.68	67.90	78.74
Eastern	130.26	125.02	98.96	70.46	62.98
East Central	35.82	36.03	46.07	44.95	63.75
East Coast	18.52	25.37	33.57	40.59	57.46
Northern	72.09	60.59	75.91	88.22	109.33
North Central	50.44	62.19	62.47	75.28	52.62
North Eastern	17.24	15.36	19.44	19.98	71.94
Northeast Frontier	53.90	64.74	42.39	44.71	54.09
North Western	15.94	22.47	30.15	35.32	66.07

Railway	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Southern	58.71	71.61	67.56	69.72	95.91
South Central	94.76	87.82	95.57	77.09	94.82
South Eastern	43.15	56.91	47.60	52.85	65.6
South East Central	49.65	60.46	45.43	36.62	31.38
South Western	36.07	37.53	29.48	31.84	60.22
Western	64.69	47.54	48.08	42.88	49.61
West Central	27.18	31.32	47.82	53.92	63.5
Metro	11.24	6.33	7.55	5.83	3.19
TOTAL	834.43	842.14	857.73	858.16	1081.21

Speed limit for high-speed trains

1246. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to introduce high-speed trains in some of the crowded routes in the country;

(b) if so, the speed limits under active consideration; and

(c) the sectors considered to introduce such trains and the expenditure expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Government of India has decided to introduce high speed trains upto 350 kmph between Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

(c) At present, no project other than Mumbai-Ahmedabad has been sanctioned. Feasibility studies on Diamond Quadrilateral network have been taken on hand.

Levy of coal terminal surcharge

1247. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has decided to levy coal terminal surcharge at both loading and unloading ends for power companies, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry has received any representations from coal consumers association requesting to review the decision taken by Railways on collection of terminal surcharge, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has viewed their request positively for consideration of reducing the surcharge, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to alleviate the problems of the coal consumers association?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Coal and Coke tariff structure has been rationalized and a Coal and Coke Terminal Surcharge (CTS) @ ₹ 55/-per tonne at both loading and unloading terminals has been imposed with effect from 22.08.2016.

(b) Yes, Sir. Various Coal and Power Associations have requested to review the decision taken by Railways on collection of Coal and Coke Terminal Surcharge.

(c) and (d) Rationalization of tariff structure is an ongoing process.

Electrification of railway tracks

1248. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length in kilometres of railway track electrified in the last five years, the year-wise data from 2011 to 2016; and

(b) how many kilometres of railway track has been electrified in the last five years in the North East Region, year-wise data from 2011 to 2016?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) 6937 Route Kilometres of railway lines have been electrified during the last five years (*i.e.* 2011-12 to 2015-16). Year-wise details are as under:-

Year	Route Kilometres of Railway lines Electrified
2011-12	1165
2012-13	1317
2013-14	1350
2014-15	1375
2015-16	1730
TOTAL	6937

(b) At present, no railway line is electrified in the North East Region. However, with a view to providing faster and seamless rail connectivity to NE Region, electrification of Barauni-Katihar-Guwahati including Katihar-Barsoi (836 Route Kilometres) has been sanctioned at a cost of ₹ 821.53 crore. During 2016-17, ₹ 195.01 crore has been allocated to this project. The project has been entrusted to Central Organisation for Railway Electrification, Allahabad and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for execution.

Rationale behind flexi fare system

1249. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rationale behind Railways' introduction of flexi fare system for Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains in all classes except 1st AC and Executive class;

(b) whether experiments with the same system, for Premium and Suvidha trains earlier, have not been on the expected lines; and

(c) whether according to expert analysis, even after flexi fare for elite trains, the total operating loss per year to Railways due to passenger operations would be about ₹ 29,500 crore in 2016-17?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) There has been substantial increase in the operating cost of the Railways over the past few years. Rajdhani/Duronto/Shatabdi trains are highly prestigious trains with better facilities in train, service, speed and punctuality of trains, etc. and highly popular and preferred over other trains on the route. Therefore, Flexi Fare System for Rajdhani/Duronto and Shatabdi trains has been introduced w.e.f. 09.09.2016. The fares of 1st AC and Executive Class are already high. Therefore, Flexi Fare system has not been introduced in these classes.

(b) W.e.f. 01.07.2015, Suvidha trains are introduced in place of Premium trains. Except two regular Suvidha trains, Suvidha trains are introduced over and above the time tabled trains mainly during peak time based on demand.

(c) Earning due to introduction of Flexi Fare shall depend on the demand pattern. It is, therefore, not feasible to work out in advance the additional earning or loss for the remaining period of the current year.

Doubling of Alwar-Bandikui railway division

†1250. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether only the work of doubling of railway line of Alwar-Bandikui railway division of Delhi-Ajmer railway route has not started yet, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the present status thereof; and

(c) the sector-wise details of the funds allocated and used till now?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Doubling of Alwar-Bandikui Section was included in Railway Budget 2013-14 with the anticipated cost of ₹ 281.03 crore. An outlay of ₹ 70 crore has been provided for the project during 2016-17 and cumulative expenditure upto October, 2016 is ₹ 7.61 crore, Works on minor bridges, major bridge, ballast supply and earthwork have been taken up.

Additional train from Delhi to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

†1251. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to run an additional train in view of huge crowd of passengers travelling from Delhi to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railways earn maximum amount of revenue from these places; and

(c) if so, whether Government has any plan to modernize the stations of these regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) At present, a large number of train services are available from Delhi area serving the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Apart from that, Indian Railways has introduced following trains from Delhi serving the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in the year 2016:-

Sl. No.	Train no. and name	Date of Introduction
1.	22419/22420 Ghazipur-Anand Vihar Suhaildev Express	14.04.2016
2.	22417/22418 Varanasi-New Delhi Mahamana Express	25.01.2016
3.	14009/14010 Bapudham Motihari-Anand Vihar Champaran Satyagrah Express	11.06.2016
4.	14019/14020 Agartala-Anand Vihar Tripura Sundari Express	08.08.2016
5.	15059/15060 Lalkuan-Anand Vihar Intercity Express	13.08.2016
6.	22427/22428 Ballia-Anand Vihar Bhriugu Express	29.10.2016

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Further, introduction of following trains connecting the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to Delhi area has been announced in the Railway Budget 2016-17:-

1. 12595/12596 Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar Humsafar Express (Tri-weekly)
2. 22867/22868 Durg-Nizamuddin Humsafar Express (Bi-weekly)
3. 22705/22706 Tirupati-Jammu Tawi Humsafar Express (weekly)
4. 12585/12586 Lucknow Jn.-Anand Vihar (T) Tejas Express (6 days a week)

Introduction of train is an ongoing process over Indian Railways and is done keeping in view the traffic pattern, operational feasibility, competing demands, resource availability etc. However, Indian Railway does not maintain compendium of revenue earned on State-wise basis.

(c) Modernisation/upgradation of Railway stations is a continuous and on-going process. Such modernisation/upgradation of identified stations in various States, including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, is undertaken under various station upgradation schemes. At present, stations are upgraded under Adarsh Station Scheme and 1253 stations including 152 stations in Uttar Pradesh and 59 stations in Bihar have already been identified under this scheme.

Benefit of merging railway budget with general budget

1252. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there will be any benefit of merging Railway Budget with the General Budget; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to merge Rail Budget with the Union Budget from budget year 2017-18. The salient features of merger and the benefits likely to accrue therefrom are broadly given below:

- (i) Ministry of Railways will continue to function as a departmentally run commercial undertaking;
- (ii) A separate Statement of Budget Estimates and Demand for Grant will be created for Railways;
- (iii) A single Appropriation Bill, including the estimates of Railways, will be prepared and presented by Ministry of Finance to Parliament and all legislative work connected therewith will be handled by Ministry of Finance;

- (iv) Railways will get exemption from payment of dividend to General Revenues and its Capital-at-charge would stand wiped off which will save Railways from the liability of payment of approximately ₹ 10,000 crore as annual dividend to the Government of India which after adjusting the subsidy in payment of dividend would give a net benefit of about ₹ 5000 crore to the Railways;
- (v) Ministry of Finance will provide Gross Budgetary Support to Ministry of Railways towards meeting part of its capital expenditure;
- (vi) Railways may continue to raise resources from market through Extra-Budgetary Resources as at present to finance its capital expenditure;
- (vii) The presentation of a unified budget will help present a holistic picture of the financial position of the Government;
- (viii) Merger of Rail Budget with Union Budget would facilitate multimodal transport planning between highways, railways and inland waterways; and
- (ix) It will allow Ministry of Finance greater elbow-room at the time of mid-year review for better allocation of resources, etc.

Appointment of Station Directors

1253. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to appoint Station Directors at all the 75 A-1 category railway stations in the country;
- (b) in what manner will such appointments improve the amenities and benefits for the travelling public;
- (c) whether any stations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have been included in this A-1 category stations;
- (d) whether it is a fact that a special budget is being made available for these 75 railway stations to upgrade them; and
- (e) the details of the merits of this plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. It has been decided that all A1 Category Railway Stations (total 75) will be headed by Station Directors in phases. Station Directors will ensure that the stations function as excellence centers for the customers with the additional objective to ensure vigilant and responsive customer service. The functions of the Station Directors and their teams are as under:

- Prompt, courteous and hassle-free service to customers.
- Proper cleanliness and hygiene at the station and stationary trains.
- Efficient working of booking and reservation office.
- Punctuality of trains at the station, timely placement and withdrawal of rakes at platforms of the station.
- Proper functioning, upkeep/repairs of all passenger amenities at the station.
- Upkeep of passenger enquiry system, display board etc.
- Ensuring efficient, transparent and customer oriented working of Parcel Office.
- Monitoring the service of catering/vending stall at the station.
- Prompt grievance redressal.
- Security of passengers.
- Any other items identified for making station an excellent center for customer.

Out of 75 stations, 2 stations namely Vijayawada and Tirupati and 3 stations namely Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Kacheguda fall in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana respectively. Station Director has already been posted at Secunderabad station in Telangana State.

No extra expenditure will be borne by the Railways as the posts of Station Director will be manned by existing strength of officers without creating any additional post.

Merger of Rail Budget with General Budget

†1254. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any final decision regarding doing away with nine decade old practice of presenting a separate Railway Budget from next financial year;

(b) whether it is a fact that by merging Railway Budget with General Budget, there would be huge economic savings to the cash-starved Railways, if so, the quantum of savings;

(c) whether Government has received report of the Joint Committee constituted to work out modalities, for this merger; and

(d) if so, the details of the suggested modalities and changes?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) The merger of Railway Budget with General Budget is based on the recommendations of the Committee headed by Shri Bibek Debroy, Member, NITI Aayog and a separate paper on 'Dispensing with the Railway Budget' by Shri Bibek Debroy along with Shri Kishore Desai. A Committee with representatives from Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Railways examined the issues involved and worked out the procedural details based on which the Government has decided to merge Rail Budget with the Union Budget from budget year 2017-18.

The salient features of merger and the benefits likely to accrue therefrom are broadly given below:—

- (i) Ministry of Railways will continue to function as a departmentally run commercial undertaking;
- (ii) A separate Statement of Budget Estimates and Demand for Grant will be created for Railways;
- (iii) A single Appropriation Bill, including the estimates of Railways, will be prepared and presented by Ministry of Finance to Parliament and all legislative work connected therewith will be handled by Ministry of Finance;
- (iv) Railways will get exemption from payment of dividend to General Revenues and its Capital-at-charge would stand wiped off which will save Railways from the liability of payment of approximately ₹ 10,000 crore as annual dividend to the Government of India which after adjusting the subsidy in payment of dividend would give a net benefit of about ₹ 5000 crore to the Railways;
- (v) Ministry of Finance will provide Gross Budgetary Support to Ministry of Railways towards meeting part of its capital expenditure;
- (vi) Railways may continue to raise resources from market through Extra-Budgetary Resources as at present to finance its capital expenditure;
- (vii) The presentation of a unified budget will help present a holistic picture of the financial position of the Government;
- (viii) Merger of Rail Budget with Union Budget would facilitate multimodal transport planning between highways, railways and inland waterways; and
- (ix) It will allow Ministry of Finance greater elbow-room at the time of mid-year review for better allocation of resources, etc.

Intelligent video analytics at major railway stations

1255. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Intelligent Video Analytics are being deployed at major railway stations for crowd control and management, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the railway stations where the system will be deployed, State-wise; and

(c) the criteria used for making a railway station eligible for deployment of the security system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Video Analytics for crowd control and management is a part of Close Circuit Television (CCTV) Surveillance System, under Integrated Security System (ISS).

Based on the recommendations of a Composite Security Plan Committee on Railway Security and further deliberations, 202 stations have been identified as sensitive for installation of ISS. List of identified stations is enclosed as Statement.

Statement*List of stations identified for Installation of ISS*

Sl. No.	Zonal Railway	Name of Stations
1.	Central Railway	Bhusawal, Nasik Road, Manmad, Chalisgaon, Jalgaon, Akola, Murtajapur, Badnera, Nagpur, Pune, Miraj, Chatrapati Shivaji Terminal (Main Line and Suburban), Dadar, Kurla, Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Thane and Kalyan.
2.	Eastern Railway	Malda, Bardhaman, Asansol, Durgapur, Sealdah, Kolkata (T), Bidhannagar, Majherhat, Ballygunge, Dum Dum, Howrah.
3.	Kolkata Metro	Dum Dum Jn, Belgachia, Shyambazar, Sovabazar, Girish Park, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Central, Chandni Chowk, Esplanade, Park Street, Maidan, Rabindra Sadan, Netaji Bhawan, Jatindas Park, Kalighat, Rabindra Sarobar, Tollygunge, Kudghat, Bansdram, Naktala, Garia Bazar, Birji (Previous Pranab Nagar) New Garia.

Sl. No.	Zonal Railway	Name of Stations
4.	East Central Railway	Dhanbad, Mughalsarai, Patna Jn., Rajendra Nagar, Muzzafar Pur, Samastipur, Raxaul.
5.	East Coast Railway	Puri, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Visakapatnam.
6.	Northern Railway	Lucknow, Varanasi, Faizabad, Ayodhya, Srinagar, Badgam, Anantnag, Jammu-tawi, Udhampur, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Ambala, Saharanpur, Kalka, Bathinda, Chandigarh, Patiala, Bareilly, Moradabad, Haridwar, Chakkibank, Brijbehra, Panjgam, Awantipura, Kakapore, Pampore, Rajwansher, New Delhi, Delhi Main, H. Nizamuddin, Shahdara, Tilak Bridge, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Cantt, Shivazi Bridge, Anand Vihar, Ghaziabad.
7.	North Central Railway	Agra, Mathura, Jhansi, Kanpur, Allahabad.
8.	North Eastern Railway	Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Chapra.
9.	Northeast Frontier Railway	Guwahati, Dimapur, New Jalpaiguri, Diphu, Lumding, Maibong, Katihar, Kishanganj, Siliguri, Kokrajhar, New Tinsukia, Simalguri, Jorhat Town, Mariani, Furkating, Dibrugarh.
10.	North Western Railway	Jaipur, Ajmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur.
11.	Southern Railway	Trivandrum, Ernakulam, Coimbatore, Madurai, Calicut, Tiruchirapalli, Mangalore, Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Beach, Mambalam, Tambaram, Basin Bridge, Tiruvallur.
12.	South Central Railway	Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Tirupati.
13.	South Eastern Railway	Kharagpur, Ranchi, Tatanagar, Chakradharpur, Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Bokaro, Puruliya, Adra, Muri, Midnapur.
14.	South East Central Railway	Bilaspur, Raipur, Gondia.
15.	South Western Railway	Bangalore, Yaswantpur, Mysore.
16.	West Central Railway	Bhopal, Itarsi.
17.	Western Railway	Surat, Vadodara, Godhra, Ahmedabad, Ujjain, Church Gate, Marine Drive, Charni Road, Grant Road, Mumbai Central, Mahalaxmi, Lower Parel,

Sl. No.	Zonal Railway	Name of Stations
		Elphinston Road, Dadar, Matunga Road, Mahim, Bandra Local, Bandra Terminus, Khar Road, Santa Cruz, Vile Parle, Andheri, Jogeshwari, Goregaon, Malad, Kandivali, Borivali, Dahisar, Miraroad, Bhayander, Nayagaon, Basairoad, Nalasupara, Virar, Palghar, Boisar, Dahanuroad.

Deplorable condition of eatables and safety in trains

†1256. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the condition of most of the trains with regard to eatables and safety is deplorable, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (b) the efforts made by Government to improve the quality of eatables and safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Improvement of catering services is an on-going process. In its endeavour to provide quality and hygienic food to the passengers, Railways have developed and operationalized an institutionalized mechanism for monitoring of quality and hygiene of catering services through regular inspections at various levels to address catering complaints.

Further, steps taken to ensure good quality and hygienic food served to the passengers *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) Imposition of penalties in case of deficiencies detected in services. (v) Operation of All India Helpline (No.138) for rail-users to lodge complaints/suggestions regarding food and catering services (vi) A Twitter handle with the address @IRCATERING has also been made operational to cater to the complaints/suggestions with regard to catering services.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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.

Replacement of old railway bridges

1257. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many railway bridges, which are more than 100 years old are still in use in the country;

(b) the complete list of such bridges;

(c) whether Government has any concrete proposals to replace such bridges with new ones; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) As on 01.04.2016, there are 38,195 railway bridges, on Indian Railways, which are more than 100 years old. The Zone-wise break-up of such railway bridges is as under:

Zonal Railway	Central	Eastern	East Central	East Coast	Northern	North Central	North Eastern	Northeast Frontier
No. of Bridges more than 100 years old	4710	3020	2778	728	8566	2021	744	199
Zonal Railway	North Western	Southern	South Central	South Eastern	South East Central	South Western	Western	West Central
No. of Bridges more than 100 years old	731	2527	3040	2151	1213	811	3102	1854

(c) and (d) The age of the bridge does not have any direct relevance on the physical condition of the bridge. There is a well established system of inspection of

bridges on Indian Railways. All the bridges are inspected twice a year, one before the onset of monsoon and one detailed inspection after the monsoon. In addition, certain bridges are also inspected more frequently depending upon their condition. Repair/strengthening/rehabilitation/rebuilding of railway bridges is a continuous process and is undertaken whenever so warranted by their physical condition as ascertained during these inspections and not on the basis of age. If the corrective/remedial measures are expected to take a long duration due to the complexity of the site situation, etc., suitable safety measures like imposing speed restrictions and keeping such bridge under close watch are taken till the bridge is repaired/strengthened/rehabilitated/rebuilt. During the last five years (2011-12 to 2015-16), 3846 railway bridges have been repaired/strengthened/rehabilitated/rebuilt on Indian Railways which included bridges of varying ages.

Yatri Mitra Sewa

1258. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Railways are making rail travel comfortable for elderly, differently-abled and ailing passengers by launching Yatri Mitra Sewa at major railway stations across the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): Yes, Sir. The facility of Yatri Mitra Sewa is being provided at major railway stations for enabling passengers *viz.* differently-abled, ailing and old aged persons to book wheel chair services cum porter services. The responsibility of providing Yatri Mitra Sewa has been entrusted to Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). A Yatri Mitra can either be a Sahayak or any other person provided by IRCTC or the service provider appointed by IRCTC for this purpose. This service can be booked on IRCTC e-ticketing website and 139 Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) and Short Message Service (SMS) or through a mobile. IRCTC may also provide this service free of cost through some non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Charitable Trusts, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) etc. under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). If this service cannot be provided free of cost due to lack of response from NGOs, Charitable Trusts, PSUs etc, IRCTC may arrange this service on payment basis through a service provider or on its own.

Flexi Fare System

1259. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains are plying with several vacant seats even after the flexi fare in premium trains was introduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Railways would consider withdrawing flexi fare in the premium trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Comparative total vacant berths in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains for the period 09.09.2016 to 31.10.2016 *vis-a-vis* 09.09.2015 to 31.10.2015 are as under:-

Period	09.09.2015 to 31.10.2015	09.09.2016 to 31.10.2016
Total vacant berths in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains	12428	5871*

* 22413/22414 Nizamuddin-Madgaon Rajdhani Express (which was not running during 09.09.2015 to 31.10.2015) has not been included in the above figure.

(c) At present, there is no proposal to withdraw the flexi fare system in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains.

Shortage of reserved train seats

1260. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of reserved seats in various Express and other trains running through various important cities of the country especially Punjab, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Railways for ensuring availability of berths to passengers by increasing the seats in all Express/other classes of trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) On Indian Railways (including Punjab) demand of reserved accommodation is not uniform throughout the year and it varies during peak and lean period and also from class to class and sector to sector. During peak rush period, on popular routes demand generally exceeds availability particularly in upper class. However, during lean periods and on less popular routes and in lower class, confirmed accommodation remains available for comparatively longer period. With a view to providing confirmed accommodation, waiting list position of the trains is monitored and to meet the increased demand various measures are taken which include introduction of new trains, attachment of extra coaches in the existing trains, running of special trains for clearance of extra passengers traffic during peak seasons,

festivals, special events etc. keeping in view the pattern of traffic, commercial justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources etc. Further, to provide confirmed accommodation to waitlisted passengers and also to ensure optimal utilization of available accommodation, the Alternate Train Accommodation Scheme known as 'VIKALP' has been introduced in identified sectors wherein any passenger getting waiting list ticket at the time of booking can opt for shifting to alternate train in case his/her status remains waiting list at the time of preparation of first reservation chart subject to availability of accommodation in alternate train.

Modernization of railway stations in backward and rural areas

†1261. SHRIMATI MISHA BHARTI:

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount allocated for modernization of railway stations situated especially in backward and rural areas of the country during the last three years and the current year, the Zone-wise details thereof;

(b) the amount that will be spent for each railway station separately;

(c) the details of the target set for modernization of those railway stations where the work is in progress; and

(d) the details of the target set for modernization of such railway stations in the States of Bihar and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Development/modernization of stations is presently taken up under 'Adarsh Station Scheme'. The expenditure on development of stations under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme is generally funded under Plan Head—'Passenger Amenities'. Station-wise details of funds allocated/spent are not maintained. However, zone-wise allocation of funds under Plan Head 'Passenger Amenities', during the last three years and the current year is as under:-

Plan Outlay for Passenger Amenities

				(₹ in crores)
Zonal Railway	2013-14 (Revised Estimate)	2014-15 (Revised Estimate)	2015-16 (Revised Estimate)	2016-17 (Budget Estimate)
1	2	3	4	5
Central	58.20	77.00	85.10	61.55

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5
Eastern	110.18	91.42	67.72	55.44
East Central	52.34	55.17	88.03	50.53
East Coast	44.42	55.00	60.16	40.60
Northern	70.01	125.80	128.80	1075.06**
North Central	73.09	92.22	81.96	56.67
North Eastern	18.36	41.96	55.00	47.79
Northeast Frontier	43.97	50.48	53.67	51.36
North Western	27.69	42.18	60.31	43.48
Southern	67.19	62.58	108.27	63.37
South Central	99.69	104.24	102.15	65.58
South Eastern	45.70	56.37	72.12	49.82
South East Central	40.86	39.57	48.71	33.48
South Western	30.26	35.82	72.71	41.28
Western	51.07	58.61	52.21	53.29
West Central	53.58	49.92	71.31	42.07
Metro	8.76	11.56	3.99	6.92
TOTAL	895.36	1049.91*	1212.21*	1838.28**

*includes outlay under Extra Budgetary Resources (Deposit).

**includes outlay (‘1000 cr.) under Extra Budgetary Resources (Partnership).

1253 railway stations have been identified for development under ‘Adarsh’ Station Scheme which, *inter-alia*, includes 89 railway stations in the States of Bihar and Jharkhand. Out of these, 992 railway stations have been developed under ‘Adarsh’ Station Scheme which, *inter-alia*, includes 53 railway stations in the States of Bihar and Jharkhand. The remaining stations are targeted for development during 2016-17 and 2017-18.

MoU with Russian Railways for upgradation of speed of passenger trains

1262. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russian Railways joined hands with Indian Railways over upgradation of speed of passenger trains, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether an MoU has been signed for modernization of existing lines, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the pattern of financing the high-speed project and the schedule of completion of various projects, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) A protocol has been signed between Ministry of Railways and Russian Railways on 15th October, 2016 during the India Russia Annual Summit in Goa under co-operation Memorandum of Understanding between both the Countries. The protocol covers technical and execution study for upgradation of the speed of passenger trains upto 200 kmph on existing Nagpur-Secunderabad corridor of Indian Railways.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India and the Joint Stock Company “Russian Railways” on 24.12.2015 for Technical Cooperation in the Railway Sector wherein modernization of existing lines of Indian Railways in order to raise train speeds upto 160-200 kmph is one of the cooperation areas.

(c) Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project is the only sanctioned High Speed Project in India. The Project is approved for implementation with Financial Assistance of Government of Japan upto the extent of 81% of the project cost of approximately 98000 crores. The target for completion is 2023.

Trains’ cancelled due to cold wave and fog

†1263. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains cancelled in the last two years due to cold waves and fog;

(b) whether it is a fact that trains coming to New Delhi and leaving from New Delhi to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh reached their destinations too late in the festive season of October-November, 2016;

(c) the details of such trains running late for more than two hours; and

(d) the steps taken by the Ministry considering the problems being faced by the passengers due to late arrival and departure of trains than their scheduled time?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The number of train trips cancelled due to fog during the last two years are as under:

Year	Mail/Exp.	Passenger	Total
2014-15	1443	4225	5668
2015-16	3068	5981	9049
TOTAL	4511	10206	14717

(b) and (c) Indian Railways made elaborate arrangements to clear the festival rush of Durga Puja, Diwali and Chhath Puja by running large number of special trains many of which ran for Eastern parts of India from Delhi/New Delhi and back. These trains ran through very saturated sections where the line capacity utilization due to the existing passenger and freight traffic tended to be very high which may have led to delays. However, Indian Railways do not maintain compendium of data of punctuality of trains on State-wise basis as train operations cut across State boundaries.

(d) Various measures are taken to improve punctuality of trains like sensitization of staff involved in train operations, controlling assets, failures and their rectification-time, prioritization of preventive maintenance of assets, time tabling improvements, capacity enhancement through creation of new infrastructure etc. For factors affecting punctuality which are beyond railways' control such as public agitations, law and order problem etc., State Governments are being pursued for more effective resolution of these problems.

Reservation availed by creamy layer OBC applicants

†1264. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of OBC candidates who were deprived of the benefits of reservation in selection procedure for various posts during the last three years as they fall under creamy layer;

(b) whether it is a fact that cases of getting jobs by producing fake certificates quoting therein that the candidate does not fall under the creamy layer, have come to light; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Nil. There is no reservation in promotion for OBCs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SPV for bullet train project

1265. SHRI K. G. KENYE:

SHRI RIPUN BORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has formed a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for Bullet train project in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the phase-wise project proposal therein;

(c) the details of financial agreement and arrangement of funds therefor;

(d) whether Government has started the first phase of the project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, including the shares of the States therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Special Purpose Vehicle, namely, National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRC) has been formed in February, 2016 to implement Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail corridor project.

(c) Estimated cost of Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail corridor is ₹ 97,636 crore. Government of Japan has agreed to provide Japanese (Yen) loan upto 81% of the project cost at 0.1% per annum, to be repaid in 50 years with 15 years moratorium.

(d) The target for commissioning the project is 2023-24. Work on scheduled activities such as appointment of General Consultant, Final Location Survey and training of officials has commenced.

(e) The project has been sanctioned with 50% equity participation by Ministry of Railways and 25% each by the Governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Restructuring of Railway Board

1266. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have embarked on major overhaul of departmental functions by restructuring the Railway Board, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the highlights of the Bibek Debroy Committee on restructuring the Board;
- (c) whether any final decision has been taken in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, by when a final decision would be taken to reorient the Board for working towards common corporate objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Reallocation of work among Board Members has been carried out reflecting present day requirements. Three new posts of Director Generals (DGs) have been created and incumbents posted. New Directorates for Non-Fare Revenues, Environment and Housekeeping Management and Mobility enhancement have been set up.

(b) Some of the main recommendations of the Bibek Debroy Committee on reforms and restructuring include:

- Railway Board to function like Corporate Board for Indian Railways.
- Reorganisation of Group 'A' services into two streams—Logistics and Technical.
- Empowerment of General Managers and decentralization of powers to Divisional Railway Managers.
- Separation of off-line activities such as Medical, Schools and Security.
- Lateral inflow of talent from outside in technical and non-technical departments.
- A responsive and transparent Accounting and Costing system.
- Setting up of a Railway Regulatory Authority of India (RRAI) independent of Ministry of Railways with powers and objective of Economic Regulation including tariff regulation, safety regulation, fair access regulation, service standard regulation, licensing/enhancing competition and setting technical standards.

- Discontinuation of the separate Rail Budget.
- Subsidies to be borne by Union Government and cost of passenger concessions by respective Ministries.

(c) and (d) The report of the Committee has been examined. Work on several recommendations such as discontinuation of separate rail budget, Accounting Reform, setting up of a regulatory mechanism and reorientation of Railway Board on business objectives has already been taken/initiated. Timeframe for several other recommendations being too wide-ranging in scope cannot be indicated at this stage.

Insurance cover for mobiles and laptops

1267. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ:

SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IRCTC is considering to provide insurance cover for mobiles and laptops of rail passengers against theft, accident and/or any other mishaps;

(b) whether it is also a fact that IRCTC held talks with insurance companies in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that IRCTC travel insurance scheme was a big success, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The matter of insurance cover for mobiles and laptops of rail passengers against theft, accident and/or any other mishaps is not under consideration.

(c) Optional Travel Insurance Scheme has been successfully implemented with effect from 01.09.2016 for reserved railway passengers who book e-ticket, excluding sub urban train, through IRCTC. Approximately, 55% of the eligible passengers (Confirmed/RAC) are opting for Travel Insurance. On daily basis approximately 3.5 lakh passengers per day are opting for Travel Insurance.

Delhi-Ranchi and Delhi-Patna high-speed railway system

1268. SHRIMATI MISHA BHARTI:

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched joint feasibility study on high-speed railway system on Delhi-Ranchi and Delhi-Patna route; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) At present feasibility studies for certain corridors of Diamond Quadrilateral have been initiated including Delhi-Kolkata which covers Delhi-Patna. The study has been awarded to a Spanish Consultant, M/s INECO.

Electrification of railway tracks

1269. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many kilometres of railway tracks have been electrified during 2014-15 and 2015-16, the State-wise details thereof;

(b) how many kilometres of tracks are scheduled to be electrified during 2016-17, the State-wise details thereof, and

(c) whether any plan is under contemplation to electrify the tracks between Farakka Junction and Cooch Behar Junction and between Katihar Junction in Bihar and Farakka Junction in West Bengal, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) 1375 route kilometres and 1730 route kilometres of railway lines have been electrified in 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively. 2000 route kilometres of railway line have been planned for electrification in 2016-17. State-wise details are as under:-

Sl. No.	States	State-wise Route Kilometres Electrified in 2014-15	State-wise Route Kilometres Electrified in 2015-16	State-wise Route Kilometres planned to be Electrified in 2016-17
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	211	249	64
2.	Bihar	02	10	172
3.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	15
4.	Delhi	-	-	-
5.	Gujarat	-	115	73

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Haryana	-	320	81
7.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	25
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	40	-	-
9.	Jharkhand	55	-	48
10.	Karnataka	105	149	22
11.	Kerala	04	-	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	251	271	53
13.	Maharashtra	128	171	22
14.	Odisha	151	165	327
15.	Punjab	-	47	181
16.	Puducherry	-	-	-
17.	Rajasthan	-	72	278
18.	Tamil Nadu	03	-	100
19.	Telangana	11	-	50
20.	Uttar Pradesh	251	76	323
21.	Uttarakhand	22	30	-
22.	West Bengal	141	55	166
23.	Other States	-	-	-
TOTAL		1375	1730	2000

(c) Yes, Sir. Electrification of New Farakka-Kumedpur-Barsoi-New Cooch Behar and Katihar-Kumedpur-New Farakka Lines are part of Barauni-Katihar-Guwahati including Katihar-Basoi and Kumedpur-Malda-Singhabad and Pakur-Malda sanctioned railway electrification projects. Both the projects have been entrusted to Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE), Allahabad and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for execution. However, at present, there is no proposal to electrify New Cooch Behar-Cooch Behar section.

Change in railway ticket refund rules

1270. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Board has changed the railway ticket refund rules since 2013;

(b) if so, the details of such changes made periodically; and

(c) whether the changed rules have been causing undue hardship to passengers as the refund charges have been increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With effect from 01.07.2013, certain provisions of refund rule were amended, out of which, important amendments are as under:

Sl. No.	Prior to 01.07.2013	Revised w.e.f. 01.07.2013
1.	Refund was admissible across the counter if the confirmed reserved ticket was presented upto 3/6/12 hours for distance 200 kms/200-500 kms/500 kms and above, after the actual departure of the train.	In case of unused confirmed tickets, Refund was admissible upto 2 hours after the actual departure of the train (irrespective of the distance). No refund after that.
2.	In case of Waitlisted or RAC tickets, Refund was admissible across the counter upto 3/6/12 hours for distance 200 kms/200-500 kms/500 kms and above after the actual departure of the train.	In case of Waitlisted or RAC tickets, Refund was admissible upto 3 hours of the actual departure of the train. No refund after that.

Further, with effect from 12.11.2015, certain provisions of Railway Passengers (Cancellation of Tickets and Refund of Fare) Rules have been amended and comprehensive Railway Passengers (Cancellation of Tickets and Refund of Fare) Rules 2015 have been notified through Gazette Notification G.S.R. 836(E). dated 04.11.2015.

Important changes made in Railway Passengers (Cancellation of Tickets and Refund of Fare) Rules effective from 12.11.2015 are as under:-

Sl. No.	Pre-revised	W.e.f. 12.11.2015
1. Clerkage charges		
	Levy of clerkage per passenger for cancellation of unreserved, RAC and waitlisted tickets was as under:- (i) Unreserved (second class): ₹ 15/- (ii) Second class (reserved) and other classes: ₹ 30/-	Levy of clerkage per passenger for cancellation of unreserved, RAC and waitlisted tickets are as under:- (i) Unreserved (second class): ₹ 30/- (ii) Second class (reserved) and other classes: ₹ 60/-

Sl. No. Pre-revised

W.e.f. 12.11.2015

2. Refund of fare on unused Confirmed (Reserved) tickets

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>(i) 48 hours before the scheduled departure of the train, minimum cancellation charge was levied as under:-
 1st AC/executive class: ₹ 120/-
 2AC/1st class: ₹ 100/-
 3AC/ACC/3A economy: ₹ 90/-
 Second sleeper class: ₹ 60/-
 Second class: ₹ 30/-</p> <p>(ii) Between 48 hours and 6 hours before the scheduled departure of the train cancellation charge was 25% of the fare subject to minimum charge as per (i) above.</p> <p>(iii) Between 6 hours before the scheduled departure of the train and upto 2 hours after the actual departure of the train, cancellation charge was 50% subject to minimum charge as per (i) above.</p> <p>(iv) No refund after the above time limit was permissible.</p> | <p>48 hours before the scheduled departure of the train, minimum cancellation charge is levied as under:-
 1st AC/executive class: ₹ 240/-
 2AC/1st class: ₹ 200/-
 3AC/ACC/3A economy: ₹ 180/-
 Second sleeper class: ₹ 120/-
 Second class: ₹ 60/-</p> <p>Between 48 hours and 12 hours before the scheduled departure of the train cancellation charge is 25% of the fare subject to minimum charge as per (i) above.</p> <p>Between 12 hours and 4 hours before the scheduled departure of the train cancellation charge is 50% subject to minimum charge as per (i) above.</p> <p>No refund after the above time limit is permissible.</p> |
|--|---|

3. Refund on unused RAC/Waitlisted/Partially confirmed tickets

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|---|--|
| <p>(i) If Partially confirmed tickets was presented for cancellation upto two hours after the actual departure of the train, full refund minus clerkage charge was refunded.</p> <p>(ii) If RAC/Waitlisted tickets was presented for cancellation upto three hours after the actual departure of the train, full refund minus clerkage charge was refunded.</p> | <p>If Partially confirmed ticket is presented for cancellation upto half an hour before the scheduled departure of the train, full refund minus clerkage charge is refunded.</p> <p>If RAC/Waitlisted tickets is presented for cancellation upto half an hour before the scheduled departure of the train full refund minus clerkage charge is refunded.</p> |
|---|--|

Sl. No.	Pre-revised	W.e.f. 12.11.2015
4.	Refund on e-tickets on cancellation of trains	
	Before 01.07.2015, for refund of fare online Ticket Deposit Receipt (TDR) had to be filed.	W.e.f. 01.07.2015, automatic refund is credited in the account from which booking transaction took place. Filing of online Ticket Deposit Receipt (TDR) is not required.

(c) There would be no inconvenience to passengers if tickets are cancelled within the prescribed time limits. Also, Cancellation of tickets involves two transactions, namely, one for booking and another for cancellation. Clerkage and cancellation charge are collected to cover the operating cost of cancellation of tickets. Increases in these charges are expected to disincentivize speculative bookings also. This has no effect on all the passengers. Only the passengers who want to cancel the ticket are affected due to this.

Progress of Delhi-Ahmedabad freight corridor

†1271. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the date-wise details of the progress of Delhi-Ahmedabad freight corridor;
- (b) the year-wise funds allocated and utilized for it in the last three years; and
- (c) by when work on this freight corridor would be completed and the same would be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The progress of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) (from Dadri to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal-1504 km) passing through Dadri-Rewari-Phulera-Ahmedabad and that of Delhi-Ahmedabad Section as on 31.10.2016 is as under:-

Item	Western DFC (%)	Delhi-Ahmedabad Section of Western DFC (%)
Land Acquisition	96.3	99
Contracts Awarded (Civil and System)	100	100
Overall Physical Progress	31.2	33

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The year-wise fund allocated and utilized on Western Dedicated Freight Corridor in the last three years is as under:-

(₹ in crore)

Year	Total Funds allocated and utilized including land
2013-2014	2,521.19
2014-2015	1,782.37
2015-2016	5,811.53
TOTAL	10,115.09

There is no separate specific allocation for Delhi-Ahmedabad Section of Western DFC.

(c) Completion of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, including Delhi-Ahmedabad Section, is targeted in phases by December, 2019.

Suvidha and flexi fare trains

1272. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have introduced Suvidha and flexi fare premium trains recently, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Railways are collecting exorbitant money from the customers by way of these trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) With effect from 01.07.2015, Suvidha trains have been introduced in place of Premium trains for meeting peak demands as may arise from time to time during summer, winter, festivals and on other occasions. Minimum fare of Suvidha trains is equal to Tatkal fare applicable for the class of accommodation for initial 20% of the berths and thereafter the fare increases for each subsequent slab of 20% of seats/berths booked subject to maximum three times of the Tatkal fare.

The concept of Flexi Fare System has been introduced w.e.f. 09.09.2016 in Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto train services. Under this scheme, the fare increases by 10% with every 10% of berths sold subject to maximum limit of 1.5 times in classes Second AC, Sleeper, Second sitting (reserved), AC Chair Car and 1.4 times in 3rd AC class. No change has been made in the fare for Ist AC and Executive class of travel.

(b) There has been substantial increase in the operating cost of the Railways over the past few years. Rajdhani/Duronto/Shatabdi trains are highly prestigious trains with better facilities in train, service, speed and punctuality of trains, etc. and highly popular

and preferred over other trains on the route. Therefore, Rajdhani/Duronto and Shatabdi trains have been taken for Flexi Fare. This concept has not been extended on the other regular train services. Therefore, this scheme has no impact on the common man.

CCTV cameras in coaches

1273. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to install CCTV cameras in the coaches of trains being operated by Railways to ensure the safety and security of passengers, particularly women and children, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has held any detailed discussions with all stakeholders in this regard, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to improve the safety and security of passengers, including women and children, the Government has installed CCTV cameras on a limited number of coaches of passenger and suburban trains on a pilot basis. It has already been completed in about 25 passenger coaches and 44 suburban coaches.

(b) Integral Coach Factory (ICF)/Chennai was assigned the responsibility for developing the specification for CCTV cameras in coaches by Railway Board. ICF, accordingly, issued a specification and provided CCTVs on trial basis in 04 coaches during the year 2015.

Subsequently, Railway Board formed an Expert Group comprising of senior Railway officials on CCTV system for Rail Transport Application. After due deliberation and interaction with industry representatives and other technical experts, the Expert Group submitted its recommendations to Railway Board regarding improvement in the existing specification. Railway Board accepted the recommendations made by the Expert Group and advised ICF to modify its specification accordingly. ICF, subsequently, issued a revised specification for fitment of CCTV in coaches in August 2016.

Discussions were held with stakeholders at various stages.

Investment in nuclear energy expansion programme

1274. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any plan to invest in the country's nuclear energy expansion programme, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Railways have also proposed to the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) to float joint ventures for setting up of nuclear power plants across the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Working condition of handloom and handicraft workers

1275. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the working condition of handloom and handicraft workers which is affecting their health and sustenance of their dependent families, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken to upgrade the quality of healthcare systems, insurance and capital for workers in handloom and powerloom sectors?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) To improve the working conditions of Handloom, Handicraft, Powerloom and Jute workers and also to improve their health and sustenance of their dependent families, Government has been implementing the following Schemes:-

- (i) In the Handloom Sector, Schemes are being implemented to enable handloom weavers to avail social security benefits, such as Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS) with two components; namely Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) and Health Insurance Scheme (HIS).

Benefits under the MGBBY are as under:-

Sl. No.	Benefits
(i) Natural Death	₹ 60,000/-
(ii) Accidental Death	₹ 1,50,000/-
(iii) Total Disability	₹ 1,50,000/-
(iv) Partial Disability	₹ 75,000/-

In addition to above, a scholarship of ₹ 300/- per quarter per child is available to students studying in IX to XII standard for a maximum period of four years or till they complete XII standard, whichever event occurs earlier. The benefit is restricted to two children of the member covered.

- (ii) Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also issued instructions on 29th March, 2016 for coverage of handloom weavers in RSBY for 2016-17 in the existing pattern of RSBY *i.e.* Indoor Patient (I.P.) benefits of ₹ 30,000/-.
- (iii) In order to provide the powerloom weavers/workers insurance cover in the case of natural death, accidental death as well as partial and permanent disability due to accident, Government implements the Group Insurance Scheme for powerloom workers with the benefits which are similar to those availed by Handloom weavers under MGBBY.
- (iv) In the Handicrafts Sector beside facility of health Insurance, improved tool kits/technology inputs are also provided to artisans from time to time.
- (v) In the Jute Sector, two workers welfare schemes—namely, the Sanitation Facilities Schemes for Mill sector and the Scholarship Scheme for Educational support to children of Jute mills workers are implemented by the National Jute Board.

Incentivising export of handicraft, handlooms and silk

1276. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government to incentivise export of handicraft, handlooms and silk, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to encourage and ensure fair economic return for artisans and weavers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Government has various export promotion schemes to promote exports of textiles including handicrafts, handloom and silk sectors. These include Merchandize Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), Interest Equalization Scheme (IES), Market Access Initiative (MAI), Market Development Assistance (MDA), Duty Drawback and providing duty free import of trimming, embellishment etc. up to 5% of FOB value of export performance during preceding year to handicrafts and handloom exporters.

(b) In order to ensure fair economic return for artisans and weavers, Government is providing skill development training, technological support by Technological Upgradation Centers for woodcraft, facilitating manufacturers for developing new designs and finishing products through Common Facility Centers and providing financial assistance for creating new artisans/weavers with stipend. Apart from this Government has launched India Handloom Brand (IHB) for branding high quality handloom products with zero defect and zero effect on the environment.

Special package for textile sector

1277. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced special package for Textile sector recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken up any projects under this package in Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of funds earmarked and released so far for taking up technology upgradation and providing incentives to the apparel sector, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Government has approved a special package of approx. ₹ 6,000 crores for apparel sector. Under the package, the garment sector across India including Andhra Pradesh has been provided with special incentives for employment generation, enhanced duty drawback covering State levies, relaxation under Section 80JJAA of Income Tax Act and labour laws have been simplified

(c) The details of quantum of funds earmarked and released so far for taking up technology upgradation and providing incentives to the apparel sector are given in the Statement.

Statement

(A) The quantum of funds earmarked and released so far under TUFs for the 12th Five Year plan period.

(₹ crore)

Year	Plan-wise Allocation	Plan Allocation as per CCEA		For pending cases under RRTUFS	For new sanctions under ATUFS upto 31.03.2022	Allocations and Utilisation against Payments for Old Committed Liabilities		
		For Old Committed Liabilities	For New Sanctions under RRTUFS			Budget Allocation	Revised Allocation	Released
2012-13	11952.80	9290	2662.8	-	-	2914	2323.03	2158.77
2013-14				-	-	2400	1956.16	1795.21
2014-15				-	-	2300	1885.02	1807.11
2015-16				-	-	1520	1413.68	1394.00
2016-17	17822.00	8666	-	4005	5151	1480	1480.00	1635.94

(B) Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) has been launched from 13.01.2016 and Scheme for Production and Employment Link Support for Garmenting Units (SPELSGU) *vide* Resolution dated 25.07.2016. No subsidies have yet been released under ATUFS and SPELSGU. However, the UIDs issued under ATUFS for garmenting sector and other sectors are given below:

ATUFS UID issued Report as on 18.11.2016

Sl. No.	Segment Name	No. of UIDs issued	Project Cost	Subsidy Amount
1.	Garmenting	273	347.82	44.09
2.	Others	1274	3432.40	265.54
TOTAL		1547	3780.23	309.63

National Textile Policy

1278. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of the present National Textile Policy of the country;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and utilised under various schemes/projects during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise; and
- (c) whether Government is planning/considering to review the National Textile Policy, if so, the details thereof, including the time that will be taken to review and revise and begin the implementation of this policy along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) The present National Textile Policy was formulated in the year 2000. The salient features of the same are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The details of the funds allocated along with utilization under various schemes during last three years are given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) The New National Textile Policy is currently under formulation with stakeholder consultations having been taken up afresh.

Statement-I

Salient features of present National Textile Policy

Vision of NTP 2000

“Endowed as the Indian Textile Industry is with multifaceted advantages, it shall be the policy of the Government to develop a strong and vibrant industry that can

Produce cloth of good quality at acceptable prices to meet the growing needs of the people;

Increasingly contribute to the provision of sustainable employment and the economic growth of the nation; and

Compete with confidence for an increasing share of the global market.”

Objectives

The objectives of the policy are to:

1. Facilitate the Textile Industry to attain and sustain a pre-eminent global standing in the manufacture and export of clothing;
2. Equip the Industry to withstand pressures of import penetration and maintain a dominant presence in the domestic market;
3. Liberalise controls and regulations so that the different segments of the textile industry are enabled to perform in a greater competitive environment;
4. Enable the industry to build world class state-of-the-art manufacturing capabilities in conformity with environmental standards, and for this purpose to encourage both Foreign Direct Investment as well as research and development in the sector;
5. Develop a strong multi-fibre base with thrust of product upgradation and diversification;
6. Sustain and strengthen the traditional knowledge, skills and capabilities of our weavers and crafts people;
7. Enrich human resource skills and capabilities, with special emphasis on those working in the decentralised sectors of the Industry; and for this purpose to revitalise the Institutional structure;
8. Expand productive employment by enabling the growth of the industry, with particular effort directed to enhancing the benefits to the north east region;
9. Make Information Technology (IT), an integral part of the entire value chain of textile production and thereby facilitate the industry to achieve international standards in terms of quality, design and marketing; and
10. Involve and ensure the active co-operation and partnership of the State Governments, Financial Institutions, Entrepreneurs, Farmers and Non-Governmental Organisations in the fulfillment of these objectives.

Targets

1. Achieve the target of textile and apparel exports from the present level of US \$ 11 billion to US \$ 50 billion by 2010 of which the share of garments will be US \$ 25 billion.
2. Implement vigorously, in a time bound manner, the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) covering all manufacturing segments of the industry;
3. Achieve increase in cotton productivity by at least 50% and upgrade its quality to international standards, through effective implementation of the Technology Mission on Cotton;
4. Launch the Technology Mission on Jute to increase productivity and diversify the use of this environment-friendly fibre;
5. Assist the private sector to set up specialised financial arrangements to fund the diverse needs of the textile industry;
6. Set up a Venture Capital Fund for tapping knowledge based entrepreneurs of the industry;
7. Encourage the private sector to set up world class, environment-friendly, integrated textile complexes and textile processing units in different parts of the country;
8. De-reserve the Garment industry from the Small Scale Industry Sector; Strengthen and encourage the handloom industry to produce value added items and assist the industry to forge joint ventures to secure global markets;
9. Re-design and revamp, during the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Schemes and Programmes initiated in the handloom, sericulture, handicrafts and jute sector to ensure better returns for those belonging to the disadvantaged categories, and the North East and other backward regions of the country;
10. Facilitate the growth and strengthen HRD Institutions including NIFT (National Institute of Fashion Technology) on innovative lines;
11. Review and revitalise the working of the TRAs (Textile Research Associations) to focus research on industry needs; and
12. Transform, right size and professionalise all field organisations under the Ministry of Textiles to enable them to play the role of facilitators of change and growth.

Statement-II*Details of scheme-wise financial achievement for last three years*

(In ₹ crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Sector/Scheme	BE	RE	Actual Exp.	% over RE
1	2	3	4	5	6
Annual Plan 2013-14					
A. Village and Small Industry					
1. Handlooms					
(i)	Mill Gate Price Scheme/ Yarn Supply Scheme	100.00	96.50	96.86	100.37
(ii)	Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme	117.00	107.00	118.30	110.56
(iii)	National Handloom Development Programme				
(iv)	Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme				
(v)	Revival, Reforms and Restructuring of Handloom Sector	175.00	253.00	269.79	106.63
(vi)	Integrated Handloom Development Scheme				
(vii)	Handloom Weaver Comprehensive Welfare Scheme	95.00	65.00	66.00	101.54
(viii)	Trade Facilitation Center				
(ix)	Diversified Handloom Development Scheme				
(x)	Lump sum provision for benefit of North-East Region and Sikkim	0.00	90.50	0.00	0.00
TOTAL (HANDLOOMS)		487.00	612.00	550.95	90.02

1	2	3	4	5	6
2. Sericulture					
(i)	R&D/Transfer of Technology/ Training and IT Initiatives	34.00	27.87	37.97	136.24
(ii)	Grants towards Development of Silk Industry (CDP)				
(iii)	Seed Organization	11.00	22.60	26.64	117.88
(iv)	Coordination and Makret Develpoment (HRD)	7.00	6.63	7.18	108.30
(v)	Quality Certification Systems (QCS)	7.00	5.00	7.00	140.00
(vi)	Catalytic Development Programme (CDP)	291.00	196.63	295.76	150.41
(vii)	Export Promotion Brands Promotion and Infrastructure Upgradations by ISEPC and SMOI	2.00	0.67	0.66	98.51
(viii)	Grand towards Administrative Expenses				
(ix)	Lump sum Provision for the Benefit of NER and Silk Worm	0.00	115.81	0.00	0.00
TOTAL (SERICULTURE)		352.00	375.21	375.21	100.00
3. Handicraft					
(i)	Design and Technical Development	28.00	24.70	30.80	124.70
(ii)	Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana	4.00	4.50	4.48	99.56
(iii)	Marketing Support and Services	45.00	41.23	44.24	107.30
(iv)	Research and Development	10.00	8.00	8.04	100.50
(v)	Integrated Package for Jammu and Kashmir	1.00	0.00	0.00	
(vi)	Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare	39.00	20.00	22.69	113.45

1	2	3	4	5	6
(vii)	Development of other crafts in Jammu and Kashmir				
(viii)	Setting up Hast Kala Academy				
(ix)	Human Resource Development	26.00	24.70	27.16	109.96
(x)	Infrastructure and Technology Development Scheme	38.00	14.13	6.80	48.12
(xi)	Lump sum provision for benefit of North-east region and sikkim		43.65		0.00
TOTAL (HANDICRAFT)		191.00	180.91	144.21	79.71
4. Powerlooms					
(i)	Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Sector Development includes two new components				
(ii)	Support to computer aided design (Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Development)	31.00	31.00	6.76	21.81
(iii)	Pilot initiative regarding Venture Capital Text Fund- ₹ 35.00 crore				
(iv)	Partial Mechanisation of Handlooms- ₹ 27.46 crore (Technological upgradation of HL)				
(v)	Group Insurance Scheme	4.00	4.00	3.92	98.00
(vi)	Group Workshed Scheme	11.00	11.00	2.41	21.91
(vii)	Health Insurance Scheme (New)	5.00	1.65	0.00	0.00
(viii)	Scheme for In-Situ upgradation of Plain Powerlooms (New)	32.00	6.56	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
(ix)	Powerloom Development Scheme (Pilot Scheme)				
(x)	NER/Others	0.00	0.00	0.37	
TOTAL (POWERLOOMS)		83.00	54.21	13.46	24.83
5. Wool and Woollens					
(i)	Social Security Scheme- Wool	1.00	0.00	1.00	
(ii)	Pashmina Wool Development				
(iii)	WDB/IWIDP	18.50	16.00	14.50	90.63
(iv)	Quality Processing of Wool and Woollen Scheme	0.50	0.00	0.50	
(v)	NER/Others				
TOTAL (WOOL AND WOOLENS)		20.00	16.00	16.00	100.00
6. Mega Cluster					
(i)	CHCDS-Handicrafts Mega Cluster	30.00	0.00	5.78	
(ii)	CHCDS-Handloom Mega Cluster	30.00	0.00	27.25	
(iii)	CPCDS-Powerloom Mega Cluster	17.00	0.00	5.72	
(iv)	Setting up of five mega clusters				
	(i) Zari in Bareilly				
	(ii) Chicken in Lucknow				
	(iii) Embroidery in Kutch				
	(iv) Powerloom Cluster in Surat and				
	(v) Handloom Cluster in Tripura				
(v)	Silk Mega Cluster				
(vi)	Development of Mega cluster	0.00	53.80	0.00	
TOTAL (MEGA CLUSTER)		77.00	53.80	38.75	72.03
SUB TOTAL (A)		1210.00	1292.13	1138.58	88.12

1	2	3	4	5	6
B. Industry and Mineral					
7.	Grant to Institute of Fashion Technology/NIFT	74.00	40.00	17.87	44.68
8.	R and D including TRAs	51.00	10.00	3.73	37.30
9.	TUFS/ATUFS	2400.00	1956.16	1730.59	88.47
10.	Scheme for Integrated Textile Park	300.00	140.00	110.98	79.27
11.	Export Promotion Studies	1.98	1.98	1.20	60.61
12.	Textile Export Intelligence and Promotion Scheme				
13.	Institute of Textile Management/ SVPITM	0.01	0.00	0.00	
14.	Lumpsum Provision NER				
15.	Foreign Investment Promotion Scheme (FDI)				
16.	Common Compliance Code	4.00	0.00	0.00	
17.	Human Resources Development	250.00	250.00	99.52	39.81
18.	Technical Textiles/TMTT/Technical Textiles incl. Jute	43.00	30.00	22.57	75.23
19.	Scheme for Usage of Geotextiles in North Eastern Region	114.00	46.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Scheme for Promoting Agro Textiles in North East	18.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Others (Identification of HS Codes for Technical Textiles items, Standards for Technical Textiles, Export Market Intelligence, Study to Generate data on Hospital Related Infections)				
22.	Strengthening of Database for Technical Textiles				
TOTAL (TECHNICAL TEXTILES)					
23.	Integrated Processing Development Scheme/SPP	50.00	5.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	NER Textile Promotion Scheme/ Lump sum Provision for NER	115.00	70.00	2.86	4.09
25.	Workers Hostel	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Housing Scheme for Jute Mill Workers				
27.	Jute Technology Mission	0.01	39.68	39.68	100.00
28.	Jute Technology Mission-II	0.00	0.00	0.00	
29.	Flatted Factory Cum Incubators	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Others		0.05		0.00
	SUB TOTAL (B)	3421.00	2607.87	2029.00	77.80
	GRAND TOTAL (A+B)	4631.00	3900.00	3167.57	81.22

Annual Plan 2014-15**A. Village and Small Industry****1. Handlooms**

(i)	Mill Gate Price Scheme/ Yarn Supply Scheme	130.00	125.00	127.81	102.24
(ii)	Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme				
(iii)	National Handloom Development Programme	362.00	236.30	233.17	98.67
(iv)	Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme				
(v)	Revival, Reforms and Restructuring of Handloom Sector				
(vi)	Integrated Handloom Development Scheme				
(vii)	Handloom Weaver Comprehensive Welfare Scheme	85.00	27.50	42.25	153.64
(viii)	Trade Facilitation Center	0.00	6.80	6.80	100.00
(ix)	Diversified Handloom Development Scheme				

1	2	3	4	5	6
(x)	Lump sum Provision for Benefit of North-East Region and Sikkim	0.00	83.90	0.00	0.00
TOTAL (HANDLOOMS)		577.00	479.50	410.02	85.51
2. Sericulture					
(i)	R&D/Transfer of Technology/ Training and IT Initiatives	44.50	32.20	44.50	138.20
(ii)	Grants Lowards Development of Silk Industry (CDP)	0	5.53	0.00	0.00
(iii)	Seed Organization	30.56	24.56	30.56	124.43
(iv)	Coordination and Makret Developoment (HRD)	9.02	8.42	9.02	107.13
(v)	Quality Certification Systems (QCS)	0.42	0.22	0.42	190.91
(vi)	Catalytic Development Programme (CDP)	213.00	147.47	213.00	144.44
(vii)	Export Promotion Brands Promotion and Infraslructure Upgadalions by ISEPC and SMOI	1.00	1.00	0.08	8.00
(viii)	Grand towards Administrative Expenses				
(ix)	Lump sum provision for the Benefit of NER and Silk Worm	0.00	79.10	0.00	0.00
TOTAL (SERICULTURE)		298.50	298.50	297.58	99.69
3. Handicraft					
(i)	Design and Technical Development	26.00	14.00	16.17	115.50
(ii)	Baba Saheb AmbedkarHast-shilp Vikas Yojana	7.00	1.00	0.55	55.00
(iii)	Marketing Support and Services	39.00	30.00	38.64	128.80
(iv)	Research and Development	7.00	3.00	3.81	127.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
(v)	Integrated Package for Jammu and Kashmir				
(vi)	Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare	37.00	3.00	1.15	38.33
(vii)	Development of other crafts in Jammu and Kashmir	20.00	7.00	3.13	44.71
(viii)	Setting up Hast Kala Academy	30.00	10.00	0.05	0.50
(ix)	Human Resource Development	27.00	12.00	15.56	129.67
(x)	Infrastructure and Technology Development Scheme	28.00	14.00	26.13	186.64
(xi)	Lump sum provision for benefit of North-East Region and Sikkim	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL (HANDICRAFT)		221.00	114.00	105.19	92.27

4. **Powerlooms**

(i)	Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Sector Development includes Two New Components				
(ii)	Support to Computer Aided Design (Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Development)	23.50	23.50	21.24	90.38
(iii)	Pilot Initiative Regarding Centure Capital Text Fund- ₹ 35.00 crore				
(iv)	Partial Mechanisation of Handlooms- ₹ 27.46 crore (Technological Upgradation of HL)				
(v)	Group Insurance Scheme	4.00	4.00	3.90	97.50
(vi)	Group Workshed Scheme	17.00	17.00	16.40	96.47
(vii)	Health Insurance Scheme (New)	5.00	1.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
(viii)	Scheme for In-Situ upgradation of Plain Powerlooms (New)	35.00	12.48	9.98	79.97
(ix)	Powerloom Development Scheme (Pilot Scheme)				
(x)	NER/Others	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
TOTAL (POWERLOOMS)		84.52	58.00	51.52	88.83
5. Wool and Woolens					
(i)	Social Security Scheme-Wool	1.00	0.00	1.00	
(ii)	Pashmina Wool Development	30.00	1.00	1.00	100.00
(iii)	WDB/IWIDP	18.50	20.01	18.50	92.45
(iv)	Quality Processing of Wool and Woollen Scheme	0.50	0.00	0.50	
(v)	NER/Others	0.01	0.00	0.01	
TOTAL (WOOL AND WOOLENS)		50.01	21.01	21.01	100.00
6. Mega Cluster					
(i)	CHCDS-Handicrafts Mega Cluster	26.00	0.00	20.22	
(ii)	CHCDS-Handloom Mega Cluster	20.00	0.00	14.45	
(iii)	CPCDS-Powerloom Mega Cluster	17.00	0.00	0.00	
(iv)	Setting up of Five Mega Clusters	200.00	78.00	27.12	34.76
	(i) Zari in Bareilly				
	(ii) Chicken in Lucknow				
	(iii) Embroidary in Kutch				
	(iv) Powerloom Cluster in Surat and				
	(v) Handloom Cluster in Tripura				
(v)	Silk Mega Cluster				

1	2	3	4	5	6
(vi) Development of Mega Cluster					
TOTAL (MEGA CLUSTER)		263.00	78.00	61.79	79.21
SUB TOTAL (A)		1494.03	1049.01	947.11	90.29
B Industry and Mineral					
7.	Grant to Institute of Fashion Technology/NIFT	103.00	75.00	75.00	100.00
8.	R and D including TRAs	51.00	12.00	1.42	11.83
9.	TUFS/ATUFS	2300.00	1864.02	1883.10	101.02
10.	Scheme for Integrated Textile Park	240.00	105.00	78.26	74.53
11.	Export Promotion Studies	1.91	1.91	0.42	21.99
12.	Textile Export Intelligence and Promotion Scheme				
13.	Institute of Textile Management/ SVPITM	0.01	0.00	0.00	
14.	Lumpsum Provision NER	0.00	14.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Foreign Investment Promotion Scheme (FDI)				
16.	Common Compliance Code	4.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Human Resources Development	268.00	181.00	170.28	94.07
18.	Technical Textiles/TMTT/Technical Textiles incl. Jute	43.00	32.00	26.18	81.81
19.	Scheme for Usage of Geotextiles in North Eastern Region	85.00	8.00	4.00	50.00
20.	Scheme for Promoting Agro Textiles in North East	10.00	9.00	9.00	100.00
21.	Others (Identification of HS Codes for Technical Textiles items, Standards for Technical Textiles, Export Market Intelligence, Study to Generate Data on Hospital Related Infections)				

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Strengthening of Database for Technical Textiles				
TOTAL (TECHNICAL TEXTILES)					
23.	Integrated Processing Development Scheme/SPP	50.00	16.00	0.000	0.00
24.	NER Textile Promotion Scheme/ Lump sum Provision for NER	157.00	126.00	116.25	92.26
25.	Workers Hostel	14.00	2.00	1.50	75.00
26.	Housing Scheme for Jute Mill Workers	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
27.	Jute Technology Mission	0.01	0.03	0.01	33.33
28.	Jute Technology Mission-II	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
29.	Flatted Factory cum Incubators	10.00	4.00	8.00	200.00
30.	Others	0.02	0.01	0.00	
SUB TOTAL (B)		3336.97	2450.99	2373.41	96.83
GRAND TOTAL (A+B)		4831.00	3500.00	3320.51	94.87

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(i)	Mill Gate Price Scheme/ Yarn Supply Scheme	150.00	278.96	321.96	115.41
(ii)	Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme				
(iii)	National Handloom Development Programme	150.00	140.00	129.46	92.47
(iv)	Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme				
(v)	Revival, Reforms and Restructuring of Handloom Sector				
(vi)	Integrated Handloom Development Scheme				

1	2	3	4	5	6
(vii)	Handloom Weaver Comprehensive Welfare Scheme	20.00	17.25	18.61	107.88
(viii)	Trade Facilitation Center	80.00	80.00	79.96	99.95
(ix)	Diversified Handloom Development Scheme				
(x)	Lump sum Provision for Benefit of North-East Region and Sikkim				
TOTAL (HANDLOOMS)		400.00	516.21	549.99	106.54

2. Sericulture

(i)	R&D/Transfer of Technology/ Training and IT Initiatives	14.67	88.30	88.30	100.00
(ii)	Grants lowards Development of Silk Industry (CDP)				
(iii)	Seed Organization	10.00	59.78	59.78	100.00
(iv)	Coordination and Makret Develpoment (HRD)	3.00	9.02	9.02	100.00
(v)	Quality Certification Systems (QCS)	0.13	0.70	0.70	100.00
(vi)	Catalytic Development Programme (CDP)	150.00	33.00	20.00	60.61
(vii)	Export Promotion Brands Promotion and Infrasructure Upgadalions by ISEPC and SMOI	0.30	0.30	0.30	100.00
(viii)	Grand towards Administrative Expenses				
(ix)	Lump sum Provision for the Benefit of NER and Silk Worm				
TOTAL (SERICULTURE)		178.10	191.10	178.10	93.20

1	2	3	4	5	6
3. Handicraft					
(i)	Design and Technical Development	27.00	27.00	26.14	96.81
(ii)	Baba Saheb AmbedkarHast-shilp Vikas Yojana	3.00	3.00	2.25	75.00
(iii)	Marketing Support and Services	56.00	56.00	55.01	98.23
(iv)	Research and Development	7.00	7.00	6.43	91.86
(v)	Integrated Package for Jammu and Kashmir				
(vi)	Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare	8.00	8.00	3.38	42.25
(vii)	Development of other crafts in Jammu and Kashmir	20.00	10.00	6.88	68.80
(viii)	Setting up Hast Kala Academy	50.00	0.00	0.00	
(ix)	Human Resource Development	24.00	24.00	23.89	99.54
(x)	Infrastructure and Technology Development Scheme	9.24	9.24	41.17	445.56
(xi)	Lum sum Provision for Benefit of North-East Region and Sikkim				
TOTAL (HANDICRAFT)		204.24	144.24	165.15	114.50
4. Powerlooms					
(i)	Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Sector Development includes Two New Components	7.76	16.69	15.11	90.53
(ii)	Support to Computer Aided Design (Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Development)				
(iii)	Pilot initiative Regarding Venture Capital Text Fund- ₹ 35.00 crore				

1	2	3	4	5	6
(iv)	Partial Mechanisation of Handlooms-₹ 27.46 crore (Technological Upgradation of HL)				
(v)	Group Insurance Scheme	1.32	6.62	6.62	100.00
(vi)	Group Workshed Scheme	5.61	20.07	20.07	100.00
(vii)	Health Insurance Scheme (New)	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
(viii)	Scheme for In-Situ Upgradation of Plain Powerlooms (New)	11.55	36.55	59.19	161.94
(ix)	Powerloom Development Scheme (Pilot Scheme)	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
(x)	NER/Others	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
TOTAL (POWERLOOMS)		26.27	79.96	100.99	126.30
5. Wool and Woolens					
(i)	Social Security Scheme-Wool	0.33	0.33	0.13	39.39
(ii)	Pashmina Wool Development	30.00	35.00	22.12	63.20
(iii)	WDB/IWIDP	6.11	6.11	5.09	83.31
(iv)	Quality Processing of Wool and Woollen Scheme	0.17	0.17	0.17	100.00
(v)	NER/Others	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
TOTAL (WOOL AND WOOLENS)		36.62	41.62	27.51	66.10
6. Mega Cluster					
(i)	CHCDS-Handicrafts Mega Cluster	8.58	117.74	5.56	4.72
(ii)	CHCDS-Handloom Mega Cluster	6.60	94.77	6.55	6.91
(iii)	CPCDS-Powerloom Mega Cluster	5.61	5.61	4.11	73.26

1	2	3	4	5	6
(iv)	Setting up of Five Mega Clusters	100	0	28.25	
	(i) Zari in Bareilly				
	(ii) Chicken in Lucknow				
	(iii) Embroidery in Kutch				
	(iv) Powerloom Cluster in Surat and				
	(v) Handloom Cluster in Tripura				
(v)	Silk Mega Cluster				
(vi)	Development of Mega Cluster	136.21	7.88	94.28	1196.45
TOTAL (MEGA CLUSTER)		257.00	226.00	138.75	61.39
SUB TOTAL (A)		1102.23	1199.13	1160.49	96.78

B. Industry and Mineral

7.	Grant to Institute of Fashion Technology/NIFT	74.00	74.00	86.00	116.22
8.	R and D including TRAs	40.00	39.95	13.50	33.79
9.	TUFS/ATUFS	1520.79	1510.79	1393.28	92.22
10.	Scheme for Integrated Textile Park	240.00	41.32	32.53	78.73
11.	Export Promotion Studies	4.00	4.00	1.58	39.50
12.	Textile Export Intelligence and Promotion Scheme				
13.	Institute of Textile Management/ SVPITM	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
14.	Lumpsum Provision NER				
15.	Foreign Investment Promotion Scheme (FDI)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
16.	Common Compliance Code	1.32	0.00	0.00	
17.	Human Resources Development	201.00	134.31	134.27	99.97
18.	Technical Textiles/TMTT/Technical Textiles incl. Jute	25.00	25.00	22.18	88.72

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Scheme for Usage of Geotextiles in North Eastern Region	85.00	15.00	3.63	24.20
20.	Scheme for Promoting Agro Textiles in North-East	15.00	10.00	10.00	100.00
21.	Others (Identification of HS Codes for Technical Textiles items, Standards for Technical Textiles, Export Market Intelligence, Study to Generate Data on Hospital Related Infections)	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
22.	Strengthening of Database for Technical Textiles				
	TOTAL (TECHNICAL TEXTILES)	100.01	25.01	13.63	54.50
23.	Integrated Processing Development Scheme/SPP	50.000	28.89	28.32	98.03
24.	NER Textile Promotion Scheme/ Lum-sum Provision for NER	157.00	232.00	225.47	97.18
25.	Workers Hostel	3.30	0.30	0.51	170.00
26.	Housing Scheme for Jute Mill Workers	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
27.	Jute Technology Mission	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
28.	Jute Technology Mission-II	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
29.	Flatted Factory cum Incubators	4.62	0.62	0.00	0.00
30.	Others	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
	SUB TOTAL (B)	2421.09	2116.24	1951.26	92.20
	GRAND TOTAL (A+B).	3523.32	3315.37	3111.74	93.86

#Based on releases from PAO

Steps to improve cotton production

1279. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of cotton commodities has fallen by over 30 per cent in the last three years, if so, the reasons therefor;

- (b) the details of cotton production over the past three years, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to improve the above situation; and
- (d) the details of measures taken by Government to encourage local cotton growers, along with the details of funds allocated and disbursed for the same?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Yes, Sir. The export of cotton from the cotton year (October-September) 2012-13 to 2015-16 is as under:-

Sl. No.	Cotton Year	Export of Cotton	% Variation
1.	2012-13	101.36*	--
2.	2013-14	116.96*	(+) 15.39
3.	2014-15	57.72*	(-) 50.65
4.	2015-16	69.00**	(+) 19.54

Source: *DGCI&S, Kolkata, **Cotton Advisory Board

The main reason for this decline was subdued demand of cotton all across the globe due to increasing ending stocks at global level, decreasing crude oil and polyester prices and less import by China, who accounts for major share for cotton exports from India.

(b) State-wise cotton production during past three cotton years *i.e.* 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Since, the cotton production of the country is more than its cotton consumption, India is a net cotton exporting country. Keeping in view the interests of the cotton growers as well as the consumption of domestic textile industry, Government of India has consistently been adopting several measures like supply of certified seed, improvement in yield and quality of cotton through research and development activities, best farm practices including integrated water, nutrient and pest management technologies, fixing of MSP, technology mission on cotton, Integrated Cotton Cultivation, High Density Planting System, etc. for improving the quality, productivity and production of cotton in the country.

The export of Cotton at present is under Open General License. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry being the facilitator for the Import and Export of Cotton *vide* notification No. 102(RE-2013)/2009-14 dated 08.12.2014 has dispensed with the registration requirement for Export of Cotton. Further, the export incentives *i.e.*, drawback of 1% is available for export of raw

cotton falling under Tariff item 5201 *vide* Notification No. 110/2015-CUSTOMS (N.T.) dated 16.11.2015 issued by Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

(d) The measures taken/being taken by the Government to encourage local cotton growers are as under:—

- (i) Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing Cotton Development Programme with a focus on cropping system approach under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in 15 major cotton growing States *viz.* Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal since 2014-15. Under the Scheme, thrust is given for transfer of latest technology to cotton growers through Front Line Demonstration (FLD) on Integrated Crop Management (ICM), Desi Cotton, Extra Long Staple Cotton, High Density Planting System. The scheme is being implemented through State Department of Agriculture (SDA), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Agriculture Universities (SAUs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) etc. Allocation and release of funds (Central Share) under NFSM-Cotton for 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 is given in the Statement-II (*See* below). Besides, States can support cotton development programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- (ii) With a view to promote Cotton farming, during cotton season 2016-17, Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmer Welfare has fixed minimum support price for medium staple length cotton at ₹ 3860/- per quintal and for long staple at ₹ 4160/- per quintal.
- (iii) Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) Limited has been entrusted with procurement of cotton from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP) to protect the interest of farmers by giving MSP to their produce to avoid distress sale.

Statement-I

Details of State-wise cotton production

(In lakh bales of 170 kgs each)

State	2013-14 (October- September)	2014-15 (October- September)	2015-16 (October- September)
1	2	3	4
Punjab	21.00	13.00	7.50

1	2	3	4
Haryana	24.00	23.00	15.00
Rajasthan	14.00	17.00	15.00
Gujarat	124.00	112.00	94.00
Maharashtra	84.00	80.00	75.00
Madhya Pradesh	19.00	19.00	18.00
Telangana	78.00	50.50	59.50
Andhra Pradesh		26.50	24.00
Karnataka	23.00	34.00	20.00
Tamil Nadu	5.00	6.00	5.00
Odisha	4.00	3.00	3.00
Others	2.00	2.00	2.00
TOTAL	398.00	386.00	338.00

Source: Cotton Advisory Board

Statement-II

Details of allocation and release of funds (Central Share) under NFSM-Cotton

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	State	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
		Alloc.	Rel.	Approved Alloc.	Rel.	Approved Alloc.	Rel.**
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.24	0.00	0.31	0.23	0.25	0.12
2.	Assam	0.16	0.12	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Gujarat	1.55	1.16	0.77	0.00	1.58	
4.	Haryana	0.40	0.30	0.37	0.18	0.41	
5.	Karnataka	0.60	0.45	0.56	0.28	0.62#	
6.	Madhya Pradesh	0.70	0.53	0.00*	0.33	0.71	
7.	Maharashtra	1.70	1.28	1.20	1.19	1.74	0.86
8.	Odisha	0.60	0.45	0.71	0.43	0.86	0.71
9.	Punjab	0.40	0.30	0.37	0.28	0.41	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Rajasthan	0.40	0.30	0.37	0.28	0.41	
11.	Tamil Nadu	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.28	0.31	0.16
12.	Telangana	0.76	0.00	0.70	0.35	0.77	
13.	Tripura	0.16	0.12	0.68	0.68	0.53	0.27
14.	Uttar Pradesh	0.29	0.22	0.27	0.14	0.30	
15.	West Bengal	0.24	0.18	0.34	0.11	0.25	0.12
SUB-TOTAL-I		8.50	5.71	7.06	4.76	9.15	2.24
Other Implementing Agencies							
16.	AICRP, Coimbatore (Earlier Name AICCIP)	0.40	0.30	0.48	0.30	0.46	0.28
17.	CICR, Nagpur	1.77	1.12	1.97	1.23	0.00	0.00
18.	NCIPM, Pusa	1.13	0.65	1.42	1.28	0.00	0.00
19.	DOCD, Nagpur	0.20		0.04	0.03	0.08	
SUB-TOTAL-II		3.50	2.07	3.91	2.84	0.54	0.28
GRAND TOTAL (I+II)		12.00	7.78	10.97	7.60	9.69	2.52

* ₹ 0.65 crore was allocated to Madhya Pradesh during 2015-16 but the State did not implement cotton programme in revised action plan.

** An amount of ₹ 1.05 crore for Gujarat, ₹ 0.23 crore for Haryana, ₹ 0.79 crore for Madhya Pradesh, ₹ 0.02 crore for Maharashtra, ₹ 0.28 crore for Punjab, ₹ 0.09 crore for Rajasthan, ₹ 0.35 crore for Telangana, ₹ 0.07 crore for AICRP on Cotton, Coimbatore and ₹ 0.01 crore for DOCD, Nagpur has been revalidated for utilization during 2016-17.

Karnataka State has informed that, it will not implement the scheme this year (2016-17).

Increase in insurance coverage of handloom weavers

1280. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has taken a decision to increase the insurance coverage to be given to handloom weavers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the expected increase in the number of persons to come under the increased insurance coverage net, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Finance, Government of India is coordinating with

concerned Ministries to converge all Insurance Schemes including Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) to Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) from the next financial year and planning to cover all handloom weavers under the insurance coverage.

The House then adjourned at five minutes past twelve of the Clock.

The House reassembled at thirty minutes past two of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Private Members' Resolution, Resolution No.1, Shri Rangasayee Ramakrishna to move the Resolution regarding need to amend article 169 and Part IX of the Constitution. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now you can move the Resolution. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Upper House for all States and Empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions

SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA (Karnatka): Sir, I move the following Resolution:

“Having regard to the fact that:—

- (i) from times immemorial, self governance by the institution of Panchayats was prevalent in the village-society;
- (ii) even the British respected this institution which catered to the basic needs of the society in which influential, affluent and wise men were nominated at the local level;
- (iii) post independence, in the formative years of the Republic, the office bearers in these institutions were sought to be elected and the caste panchayats were replaced by elected panchayats;
- (iv) based on the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee report, Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru launched Panchayati Raj in Nagaur district in Rajasthan in 1959;
- (v) in the states such as Rajasthan, which adopted this model, the CD Block budgets comprising Public Works Department, public health, primary and secondary education, agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, etc. were transferred to Panchayati Raj institutions for being administered not by Government officials but by elected Panchayati Raj representatives and the budgets were themselves created out of felt demands for the people and administered by the elected representatives of Panchayati Raj bodies;

- (vi) had this system been allowed to take roots and continue for a longer time, the nation would have reaped the benefits of a truly decentralized democracy but unfortunately this experiment was short lived;
- (vii) however, Panchayati Raj institutions could have been saved by taking one more logical step in their path of evolution, *viz.*, integrating directly elected people's representative into the scheme of Panchayati Raj hierarchy itself and one more alternative which could have been seriously considered was to make the Panchayati Raj functionaries to elect MLAs;
- (viii) Panchayati Raj continued on paper and Sarpanches got elected without any attendant charter of responsibilities and the financial powers that could have rendered their duties effective and meaningful;
- (ix) despite the detailed enumeration of allocable functions to Panchayats in Eleventh Schedule (article 243 G) of the Constitution, the non devolution of financial powers to make these enumerated functions meaningful and the non vacation of administrative space by concerned Government departments, has resulted in rendering the Panchayati Raj a boneless wonder;
- (x) in the entire chronology of framing of the Indian Constitution, the segment that betrays a half hearted approach and the absence of consensus happens to be that concerning bicameral legislatures in the States;
- (xi) in the backdrop of diametrically opposed views on the need for a second chamber, more opposed and less favorably inclined, Dr. Ambedkar moved a compromise resolution proposing second chambers, purely as an experimental measure and article 169 of the Constitution resulted, which confined the bicameral set up only to states which already had a second house in the Government of India Act, 1935;
- (xii) functional representation, originally an Irish model, is indeed the genesis of an idea, which if properly understood in the right perspective, provides for strengthening Panchayati Raj institutions by integrating them into the framework of the Upper House;
- (xiii) the practice of MLAs constituting an electoral college for the Second House can be abandoned in favour of local bodies, both in rural and urban areas, *viz.*, Panchayati Raj institutions and Municipalities to form an electoral college to send their representatives to the Upper House; and
- (xiv) simultaneously, the restriction of the facility of bicameral legislature only to Government of India Act, 1935 provinces can also be abandoned in favour of a uniform policy for all States to have a Legislative Council, not dependent on an enabling resolution of the concerned assemblies, this House urges

upon the Government to:—

- (a) initiate an amendment to article 169 of the Constitution such as to provide uniformly for an Upper House in all the States, to be composed of representatives to be elected by all Panchayati Raj institutions in rural areas and all municipalities and corporations in urban areas replacing the present system of substantial representation to the MLAs, and the teachers/graduate constituencies; and
- (b) amend Part IX of the Constitution such as to provide for transfer of certain field departments such as agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, public health, public works, primary and secondary education along with the concurrent transfer of the concerned budgetary outlays and real transfer of such areas to the Panchayati Raj institutions which will be possible only if the corresponding space is vacated by the concerned Government departments.”

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay; you have moved your Resolution. ...(Interruptions)... You have moved it. ...(Interruptions)... Okay, Resolution moved. ...(Interruptions)... The Resolution is moved. ...(Interruptions)... Now, we will take up discussion on it. ...(Interruptions)... What do you want? ...(Interruptions)... Do you want to say something? ...(Interruptions)... Your Leader is speaking; please keep quiet. ...(Interruptions)... You are in Treasury Benches. ...(Interruptions)... Resolution is moved, that is all. ...(Interruptions)... Digvijaya Singhji, you ask your Members to keep quiet. I cannot understand what are you saying. ...(Interruptions)... I cannot hear what you are saying. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Madhya Pradesh): The Minister is disrupting the House. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has moved it; that is all. ...(Interruptions)... I cannot hear what you are saying. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Treasury Benches are disrupting the House. ...(Interruptions)...

SPECIAL MENTION

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we will take up Special Mentions. Those who want to lay the Special Mentions can lay it. I will read out the names. ...(Interruptions)... Your Members are making noise. What can I do? ...(Interruptions)...

Those who want to lay the Special Mentions can lay them. ...(*Interruptions*)... Shri Surendra Singh Nagar. He is not here. Shri P.L. Punia. ...(*Interruptions*)... He is not here. Shri Partap Singh Bajwa. He is not here. Shri T. Rathinavel. He is not here. Shri Vivek Gupta. He is not here. Dr. V. Maitreyan. He is not here. ...(*Interruptions*)... Dr. Sanjay Sinh. He is not here. Shrimati Jharna Das Baidya. She is not here. Shri S. Muthukaruppan. He is not here. ...(*Interruptions*)... Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth. She is not here. Chaudhary Munvvar Saleem. ...(*Interruptions*)... He is not here. Shrimati Sasikala Pushpa. She is not here. Shri Sanjay Seth. ...(*Interruptions*)...

**Demand to take necessary measures to improve the services
provided by the Air India**

श्री संजय सेठ (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं सदन का ध्यान देश की हवाई सेवा एयर इंडिया की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ। महोदय, एयर इंडिया की हवाई सेवाओं की स्थिति बहुत ही दयनीय है। सरकार द्वारा एयर इंडिया को इतना पैसा देने के बावजूद भी इनकी सेवाओं में कोई इजाफा नहीं हुआ है और सेवाएं बद से बदतर होती जा रही हैं। अगर सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से देखा जाए तो एयर इंडिया अभी भी पुराने A-320 विमान उड़ा रही है, जो कि कभी के बंद हो जाने चाहिए। एयर इंडिया के ड्रीमलाइनर्स में आए दिन तकनीकी खराबियां आती रहती हैं। 27 ड्रीमलाइनर्स में केवल 21 ही कार्यरत हैं। अभी कुछ दिन पहले ही दिल्ली में एयर इंडिया की दो विदेशी उड़ानें आपस में हवा में टकराने से बच गईं। इससे पहले भी कई बार हादसा होते-होते बचा, जिसमें पायलट की चूक थी। अतः एयर इंडिया के संचालन में सुरक्षा व्यवस्था के साथ समझौता किया जाता है। विमानन क्षेत्र में एयर इंडिया का प्रतिशत दिन-प्रतिदिन घटता जा रहा है। इसका सीधा कारण एयर इंडिया की निम्न स्तरीय सेवाएं हैं। खाने की गुणवत्ता गिर गई है। छोटी उड़ानों में खाना पॉलिथिन में पैक करके दिया जाता है। A-320 की सीटें फटी और धंसी हुई हैं, बैल्स टूटी हैं और आर्म रेस्ट्स खराब हैं। इन सब के साथ-साथ परिचारकों का व्यवहार इतना खराब है कि आदमी एयर इंडिया में यात्रा करना ही नहीं चाहता। समय से विमान उड़ाना तो एयर इंडिया ने शायद कभी सीखा ही नहीं। विलम्बित और निरस्त उड़ानों में हर तीसरी उड़ान एयर इंडिया की होती है।

महोदय, मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि एयर इंडिया की सेवाओं में गुणवत्ता लाने के लिए कड़े कदम उठाए जाएं, विशेष तौर पर जो परिचारक और स्टाफ है, उनके दृष्टिकोण में बदलाव अति आवश्यक है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. on Monday, the 28th November, 2016.

*The House then adjourned at thirty-six minutes past
two of the clock till eleven of the clock on
Monday, the 28th November, 2016.*