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सत्यमेव जयते

Friday,

17 March, 2017

26 Phalguna, 1938 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

RAJYA SABHA

OFFICIAL REPORT

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[P.T.O.]

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RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 17th March, 2017/26th Phalguna, 1938 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report (2016-17) and Accounts (2015-16) of ICAR, New Delhi and related papers

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुदर्शन भगत): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेज़ी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:—

- (a) Annual Report of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, for the year 2016-17. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6660/16/17]
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, for the year 2015-16, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.
- (d) Statement by Government accepting the Annual Accounts and Audit Report of the above Council, for the year 2015-16.
- (e) Statements giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) and (b) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6661/16/17]

Report and Accounts (2015-16) of BSCL, Kolkata and related papers

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

- (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) (b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:—
 - (a) Fortieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Burn Standard Company Limited (BSCL), 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.

- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6576/16/17]

Report (2014-15) of Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur and related papers

श्री सुदर्शन भगत: महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:—

- (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 29 of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992:—
- (a) Annual Report of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, for the year 2014-15.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6558/16/17]

Accounts (2015-16) of NIPER, Ahmedabad and related papers

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, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Ahmedabad, Gujarat, for the year 2015-16, and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of Section 23 of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Act, 1998.
- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the paper mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6565/16/17]

Notification of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of

Consumer Affairs), under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

- (1) G.S.R. 929 (E), dated the 29th September, 2016, publishing the Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs Order, 2016.
- (2) S.O. 3341 (E), dated the 28th October, 2016, publishing the Removal of Licensing requirements, Stock limits and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs (Amendment) Order, 2016.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6569/16/17]

- II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) Notification No. G.S.R. 165 (E), dated the 23rd February, 2017, publishing the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Registration of Warehouses Rules, 2017, under Section 52 of the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6567/16/17]

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

श्री भुपेन्द्र यादव (राजस्थान): महोदय, मैं विभाग संबंधित वाणिज्य संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के निम्नलिखित प्रतिवेदन (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) प्रस्तुत करता हूँ:-

- (i) 132nd Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and
- (ii) 133rd Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND CULTURE

SHRI MUKUL ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I present the following Reports (in English and Hindi) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture:—

- (i) Two Hundred Forty-fourth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Civil Aviation;
- (ii) Two Hundred Forty-fifth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Culture;
- (iii) Two Hundred Forty-sixth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways;
- (iv) Two Hundred Forty-seventh Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Shipping; and
- (v) Two Hundred Forty-eighth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Tourism.

**REPORT OF DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE ON COAL AND STEEL**

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार): महोदय, मैं खान मंत्रालय की 'अनुदान मांगों (2017-18)' के संबंध में विभाग संबंधित कोयला और इस्पात संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति (2016-17) के अट्हाईसवें प्रतिवेदन की एक प्रति (अंग्रेज़ी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

**REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

DR. MAHENDRA PRASAD (Bihar): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance (2016-17):—

- (i) Forty-sixth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Financial Services and Investment and Public Asset Management);
 - (ii) Forty-seventh Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue); and
 - (iii) Forty-eighth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Planning.
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**REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology (2016-17):—

- (i) Thirty-fifth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications);
- (ii) Thirty-sixth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology; and
- (iii) Thirty-seventh Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Posts).

**REPORT OF DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS**

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Eighteenth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (2016-17) on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

**REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, मैं विभाग संबंधित सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति (2016-17) के निम्नलिखित प्रतिवेदनों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेज़ी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखती हूँ:—

- (i) Thirty-sixth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment);
- (ii) Thirty-seventh Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities);

- (iii) Thirty-eighth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs; and
- (iv) Thirty-ninth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

**REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

SHRI ANIL DESAI (Maharashtra): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Development (2016-17):—

- (i) Fifteenth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-2018)' of the Ministry of Urban Development; and
- (ii) Sixteenth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-2018)' of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Public Accounts Committee (2016-17):—

- (i) Sixty-fourth Report on the subject "Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme" based on Para No. 2.2 of C&AG Report No. 17 of 2014 relating to the Ministry of Communications and IT;
 - (ii) Sixty-fifth Report on the subject "Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy For Decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic Fertilizers" based on the C&AG Report No. 16 of 2015 relating to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers; and
 - (iii) Sixty-sixth Report on the subject "Non-Compliance by Ministries/Departments in timely submission of Action Taken Notes on the Non-Selected Audit Paragraphs (Civil and Other Ministries)".
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STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twelfth 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 Twelfth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways on 'Safety and Security in Railways'.

**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty First
Report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee
on Chemicals and Fertilizers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): Sir, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-first Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers on 'Demands for Grants (2016-17)' pertaining to the Department of Fertilizers.

STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing the 20th of March, 2017 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any items of Government Business carried over from today's order paper consisting of:—
 - (a) Further General Discussion on Union Budget, 2017-18.
 - (b) Discussion on working of the following Ministries:—
 - (i) Railways
 - (ii) Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension
 - (iii) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
2. Discussion on the working of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

3. Consideration and agreeing to the amendments made by Lok Sabha in the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
4. Consideration and return of the Appropriation Bills relating to following Demands for Grants, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:—
 - (a) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2016-17.
 - (b) Demands for Grants for 2017-18.
 - (c) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2016-17
 - (d) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2013-14
5. Consideration and return of the Finance Bill, 2017 after it is passed by Lok Sabha.
6. Consideration and passing of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2014.
7. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Lok Sabha:—
 - (a) The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2016
 - (b) The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2016.

**RE. DEMAND FOR DISCUSSION ON THE CONDUCT
OF GOVERNOR OF GOA**

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I had made a request to the hon. Chairman, under Rule 267, to suspend today's listed Business of the House. A gross constitutional impropriety has been committed by the Governor of Goa. *...(Interruptions)...* I would like to bring it to your notice that the Governor *...(Interruptions)...* Please allow me. *...(Interruptions)...* If you don't allow me, how will I convince you? *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Digvijayaji, I have to only caution you on one point, *...(Interruptions)...* Please, please, I have to caution you only on one point. You see, you know the rules that the Governor's role can be discussed only on the basis of a substantive motion. Therefore, I cannot allow a discussion under Rule 267. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, but, at the same time. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, please hear me out. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, आप इनकी बात सुन तो लीजिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप सुन लीजिए, गंभीर बात है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, the point I am trying to make is that under Rule 267, I have the right to raise an issue. If the motion is not there, at least, allow me to say what I want to say. ...*(Interruptions)*... The point that I am trying to make is that she has said, "I didn't speak with the Centre. No one approached me."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You cannot criticise the Governor.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: "Then, Parrikar informed me around 6.30 p.m. on Sunday that he would show up with supporters. They came, and I spoke with them for about an hour-and-a-half." She said, "I am a psychologist; so, I studied and analysed it. I saw their signatures on the letters. I deliberated on the matter. The Congress had not shown up. I called Arun Jaitley around 9.30 in the evening..." ...*(Interruptions)*...

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, you have already given your ruling; आपने रूलिंग दी, उस पर भी सवाल उठाया जा रहा है ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह ठीक नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... रूलिंग न मानना, इससे ज्यादा कुछ नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री मेघराज जैन (मध्य प्रदेश): सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अपना डिस्मिशन दिया। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Digvijayaji, the point is, there is another rule which says that you cannot make an allegation against a person, whether he is a Governor or an ordinary person. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me complete. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me complete. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): But he is only referring to what the Governor has said.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I agree. But let me complete. ...*(Interruptions)*... Okay. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please listen to me. My only point is, a Governor's conduct can only be discussed on the basis of a substantive motion. Now, he is discussing the Governor's conduct. That is my point.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: A number of times, we have discussed it. There are a number of precedents when. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. You bring a substantive motion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, यहां पर कई बार डिस्कशन हुआ है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: When the Arunachal Pradesh issue came up, we discussed it here.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It can be done only on the basis of a substantive motion. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. LoP, it can be only on the basis of a substantive motion. Why don't you move a substantive motion? ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no. Digvijayaji, you are a senior Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... Digvijayaji, please. You are a senior Member. Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are a senior Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why don't you move a substantive motion then? Why do you want to speak without a motion? ...*(Interruptions)*... I have to go by the rules. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have to go by the rules. No, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Digvijayaji, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, this House is competent to discuss it. ...*(Interruptions)*... The House is supreme.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, you can bring a substantive motion. The hon. Chairman would consider it. There is no motion here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Then, take the sense of the House on whether this motion of mine may be converted into a substantive motion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, you give notice for that, notice for discussion under Rule 267, which is not being permitted by me. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have not permitted it.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, the House is supreme. Please take the sense of the House.

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

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Take the sense of the House. The House is supreme. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Digvijayaji, you are a well-experienced

Member; you were the Chief Minister twice. Yes, the House is supreme, but the notice has to be examined by the hon. Chairman. You give notice to the hon. Chairman.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, at least, allow me to say something.
...(Interruptions)... Then, take it up on Monday.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: मंडे नहीं, अभी। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप हाउस की सेंस ले लीजिए।
...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You give notice. I cannot allow a discussion like this.
...(Interruptions)... No. I, now, take up Zero Hour submissions. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy. ...**(Interruptions)**... No. I cannot allow the discussion. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, the Government of India has decided. ...**(Interruptions)**...

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

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I am on a point of order. Under Article 164(1) of the Constitution of India ...**(Interruptions)**... ये हाउस चलाएंगे या आपको इधर आना है? ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप बैठिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Article 164(1) of the Constitution. Okay. I have noted. I will read it.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, my point of order is, the Constitution says very clearly about the duties of a Governor and the power of the Governor to appoint the Chief Minister. Sir, Article 164 does not say anywhere that the Governor is supposed to consult the serving Union Cabinet Minister ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. You are discussing the conduct of the Governor.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: The Constitution does not allow the Governor to consult
...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, you are discussing the conduct of a Governor which I am not permitting. That is what I am saying.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: The Constitution does not allow the Governor to consult the serving Cabinet Minister about the formation of a Government or appointment of

[Shri Anand Sharma]

Chief Minister ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, please. This is important. Parliament is in Session. A Governor of a State says that she would not have, while appointing a Chief Minister, consulted the Leader of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, you are coming for a discussion on the conduct of the Governor. That you do by giving a substantive motion, not this way ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I am sorry. This House is supreme. This is final.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know that. Yes, I agree with you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: The Governor...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you think that the Governor has violated the provisions of the Constitution, you bring a substantive motion. Why don't you do that? You are going by newspaper reports. I am not bothered about such reports. Anand Sharma ji, I have made it clear. For every Member I am saying. Anand Sharma ji, I have made it very clear ...*(Interruptions)*... If you think that the Governor has violated any provisions of the Constitution, please give a substantive motion rather than putting me into trouble. I cannot allow you this way to discuss the conduct of a Governor. Now, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I respect the Chair's ruling. Respecting your ruling, at the same time, I am asking for another ruling. We cannot discuss the conduct of a Governor. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You move a substantive motion.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: We can discuss the conduct of a serving Cabinet Minister. I am sorry. The Leader of the House has to answer.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: For what? For that also, you can give a motion. Where is the motion for that?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I am sorry, Sir. This House has every right ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. I have not allowed it under Rule 267. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, you start speaking.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: How can I speak in this din? You bring the House in order ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, I have not allowed it under Rule 267. I cannot. Yechuryji, you know the practice. There is a convention. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): I am helping you. You say that yes, the Minister is answerable to the House. A separate notice should be given. When that will be given, it will be accepted and the Minister has to answer.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No problem. Let a motion be given. Let him give a motion. See, if they think that any Minister has violated any provisions of the Constitution, there can be a motion for that. We can discuss that. I have no problem. But, this is not the way. No, no; I am not allowing. Sukhenduji, you start.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, the Government has decided to sell the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Company. ...*(Interruptions)*...

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री; तथा पंचायती राज मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री परशोत्तम रूपाला): सर, इन्होंने गोवा में दावा करने की सलाह नहीं दी। ...*(व्यवधान)*..

श्री उपसभापति: आप Opposition में नहीं हैं, आप गवर्नमेंट में हैं, आप बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री परशोत्तम रूपाला: सर, इन्होंने गोवा में दावा करने की सलाह नहीं दी, अभी ये सभा गृह में क्यों बाधा खड़ी कर रहे हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*... तब ये क्या कर रहे थे? ...*(व्यवधान)*... इनको वहाँ जाना चाहिए था। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: The guidelines of the Sarkaria Commission are violated. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री परशोत्तम रूपाला: गोवा में क्या कर रहे थे आप? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति: रूपाला जी ...*(व्यवधान)*... रूपाला जी ...*(व्यवधान)*... रूपाला जी, आप अपोजिशन में नहीं हैं, आप ट्रेजरी में हैं, आप मिनिस्टर हैं, आप बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बैठिए ...*(व्यवधान)*... दिग्विजय सिंह जी, आप बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आनन्द शर्मा जी, प्लीज़, आप बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please allow the Zero Hour submission to proceed. Please allow; otherwise, I will have to adjourn the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, this is an irresponsible way. ...*(Interruptions)*... Digvijaya Singhji, you are a senior Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have to go by the rules. Please give notice. Shri Sukhendu Sekharji, you may start. Nothing else will go on record.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: *

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

**Concern over strategic sale of Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals
Company and Bridge and Roof Company**

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, during the partition of Bengal, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray established Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Company Limited and it was the first *swadeshi* company in India. Since more than a century, the company is working but, unfortunately, the Government has decided to sell out the company. Sir, I would like to place before you that this company's factories are located in Mumbai, Kanpur, Banihati and Maniktala and also sales offices at Patna, Cuttack, Hyderabad, Chennai and Delhi. This is the only public sector company in Asia which is manufacturing anti-venom serum in the country. The company has earned a profit of more than ₹ 1 crore in the last year. In spite of that, the Government has decided for a strategic sale of this company.

Apart from the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals, the Government has decided for a strategic sale of another public sector company, that is, Bridge and Roof, which is a Mini-Ratna company and the Government wants...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Madhya Pradesh): Ours is a very serious issue, please allow us.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Please know that this is also a serious one. Why are you obstructing me? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Only what Shri Sukhendu says will go on record and nothing else will go on record.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: *

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Thousands of labourers are suffering. This Bridge and Roof Company is a Mini-Ratna company declared by the Government of India. They have hundreds of orders with them. Still, the Government has decided for a strategic sale of this company. In this way, the public sector companies are being sold out and thousands of labourers will be rendered jobless not only in Bengal but in different parts of the country.

*Not recorded.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government, through you, Sir, to review the decision of sale so that the companies are saved. The Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Company Limited is the first *swadeshi* company of this country. It was established during the *swadeshi* Movement where anti-partition movement was going on in 1905. Therefore, Sir, I would urge upon the Government that it should restrain itself from selling out the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Company Limited and the Bridge and Roof Company Limited forthwith. Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

श्रीमती सरोजिनी हेम्रम (ओडिशा): सर, मैं माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

कुछ माननीय सदस्य: सर, हम भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को संबद्ध करते हैं।

**RE. DEMAND FOR DISCUSSION ON THE CONDUCT OF
GOVERNOR OF GOA — Contd.**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Now, Shri Pramod Tiwari.

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI : Sir, the Leader of the Opposition wants to say something and my issue can be taken up after that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, an issue was raised by Shri Digvijaya Singh and you said that the Governor's conduct can't be discussed here.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not in this way. It can be by a motion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: He has not raised the issue of the conduct of the Governor. He has mentioned only what the Governor has said in an interview. First of all, she had said that she did not expect BJP to form the Government. Though she had not expected it, the BJP formed the Government. That is her opinion. Simultaneously, she is saying that she spoke to the Leader of the House, the Finance Minister at 9.30 and asked him about the formation of the Government.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You come with proper notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... You come with proper notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is only for suspension. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Shri Anand Sharma has rightly said.
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Come with proper notice. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Shri Anand Sharma and Shri Digvijaya Singh have rightly said that we are not discussing only the conduct, but how come a Governor can take the plea that she sought the permission of a particular Cabinet Minister!
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is the conduct of a Governor. ...(Interruptions)..
That is the conduct of a Governor. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: This has never happened in the past.
...(Interruptions)... We are not alleging it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You give proper notice. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: It has never happened. ...(Interruptions)... This is her own statement. ...(Interruptions)... This is the statement of Governor of Goa which is being reproduced. ...(Interruptions)... How can a Governor seek the permission of a Union Minister for forming a Government of a particular party? ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your motion is. ...(Interruptions)... Give notice.

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सर, इनका हाल वैसा ही है, जैसे खिसियानी बिल्ली खम्भा नोचे।
...(व्यवधान)... सर, इन्हें जनता ने जनादेश नहीं दिया है। ...(व्यवधान)... सर, यह आपके आदेश का अपमान है। ...(व्यवधान)... सर, यह आपकी रूलिंग का अपमान है। ...(व्यवधान)... सर, जनता के जनादेश का अपमान तो है ही, साथ में आपकी रूलिंग का भी अपमान है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is a procedure. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सर, हम आपकी रूलिंग चाहते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is a procedure. ...(Interruptions)... If you want to give notice, give it in the Notice Office. Hon. Chairman will examine it. Allow or disallow, it is up to the hon. Chairman. ...(Interruptions)... All of a sudden you cannot bring a motion without the permission of the Chair. ...(Interruptions)... Sit down.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: May I quote the rule to be observed while speaking?
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Which number? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: It is Rule No.238. ...*(Interruptions)*... The procedure is in Rule 238(A). The procedure is that I have to give intimation to the Chairman. So, I have given intimation to the Chairman. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would request the hon. Members of Opposition that if you are serious, draft a proper motion and give it to the Chairman. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, रूल्स में ऐसा कहीं नहीं लिखा है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... सर, रूल्स में ऐसा कहां लिखा है? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: सर, हम माननीय सदस्यों से रिक्वेस्ट करेंगे कि ये सब्सटेंटिव मोशन लाएं और सब्सटेंटिव मोशन के बाद आप इसके ऊपर चर्चा कर लीजिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... सर, हम चर्चा के लिए तैयार हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is a procedure. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am already asking you to go by procedure. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: हम चर्चा के लिए तैयार हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... You give a substantive motion.

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

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: सर, जिस तरह से ये जनादेश का अपमान कर रहे हैं, इससे नुकसान इनका ही होगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*... एक तरफ ये जनादेश का और दूसरी तरफ चेयर की रूलिंग का अपमान कर रहे हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप तो अपमान महासभा बन गए हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

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

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: सर, इनसे पूछिए कि ये चाहते क्या हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*... क्या ये डिसकशन चाहते हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Ritabrata Banerjee. ...*(Interruptions)*... You start. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION — *Contd.*

Need to stop the strategic sale of some alloy steel plants by SAIL

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I stand here to voice the demand of the people of Bengal in general and Durgapur in particular to save the industrial city of Durgapur and stop the strategic disinvestment of Alloy Steel Plant. ...*(Interruptions)*...

[Shri Ritabrata Banerjee]

The Government has decided to strategically do the disinvestment of the Alloy Steel Plant which is one of the most important crowns of SAIL, which is capable of producing most special steels of nearly 500 varieties for use in science and technology, defence applications, submarines, research projects, neutrino experiment, high speed railways and many other very sophisticated technologies and strategic applications. It is not merely a plant, rather over the last 50 years, it has been developed as a strategic unit of the nation. The Alloy Steel Plant Collective took all pains to discharge its mighty role in national interest despite the fact that its regular employees' strength have been reduced from 7400 to mere 954 but did not compromise with its production and quality. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, the net loss in Alloy Steel Plant is nominal within SAIL. ...*(Interruptions)*... The move of Strategic Sale of ASP by SAIL Board is demoralizing the Steel Collective which works overtime to keep SAIL in a commanding height against global meltdown especially on steel industry. ...*(Interruptions)*... The industrious city of Durgapur is facing a tremendous problem and one after another industries have been closed down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, from 13th-21st November, 104 km long march has been conducted, with the marchers spending the night in the house of the workers and labourers. The long march was without any flag and had the pictures of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy and Jyoti Basu. ...*(Interruptions)*... On 5th March the united people of Durgapur formed a 9 km long human wall from DPL Factory gate to Bankura More with the demand of saving Alloy Steel and Durgapur industrial area. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sixty-two thousand families have signed the memorandum urging to save Durgapur. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, through you, I want to say that all the local trade unions cutting across their affiliation and political ideology have come together and joined hands in Bardhaman District to fight this onslaught. I urge upon the Central Government, through you, to stop the Strategic Disinvestment of Alloy Steels Plant and different units of SAIL to bring out the steel collective of a very demoralizing scenario and motivate them to exert optimum efforts to regain the glory of SAIL and save Durgapur and West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)*... Thank you, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

SHRI K. K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

PROF. JOGEN CHOWDHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

SHRI K. T. S. TULSI (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

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

श्री राम नाथ ठाकुर (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

**RE. DEMAND FOR DISCUSSION ON THE CONDUCT OF
GOVERNOR OF GOA — Contd.**

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: सर, मेरी तो इनसे यह रिक्वेस्ट है कि इन्होंने पूरे समय, जिस तरह से अभी भी और इससे पहले भी ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, आपकी रूलिंग के बाद ...**(व्यवधान)**... आपने रूलिंग दे दी कि if they want a discussion, they can bring a substantive motion. They are questioning your ruling. This is the first point. यानी पहले तो जनता के जनादेश पर क्वेश्चन, फिर आपकी रूलिंग पर क्वेश्चन और फिर देश के लोगों के जनादेश का अपमान। ...**(व्यवधान)**... तो मेरी इनसे रिक्वेस्ट यह है कि अगर ये हाउस नहीं चलाना चाहते, हर दिन हाउस को डिस्टर्ब करना चाहते हैं, तो ये बता दें, हम उस तरह से फैसला करेंगे। ...**(व्यवधान)**... लेकिन हाउस और जनता के पैसे को ...**(व्यवधान)**... हम इस तरह से पानी में जाने नहीं देंगे। ...**(व्यवधान)**... अगर इन्हें चर्चा नहीं करनी है, सदन में केवल हंगामा करना है, तो ये तय कर लें कि क्या करना है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... तब फिर सरकार तय करेगी कि सदन चलाना है या नहीं चलाना है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One second, please. ...**(Interruptions)**... Please, please ...**(Interruptions)**... Now, please listen to me. I am requesting you to please listen to me. I am only asking you. I am not against any discussion. Mr. Naqvi also said that they are also ready for a discussion. The only question is, you have to observe the formalities. ...**(Interruptions)**... Now please. ...**(Interruptions)**... Ghulam Nabiji, I should be allowed to speak. When the Chair is standing and when the Chair is speaking, shouting slogans is something I cannot tolerate. I want to convey something. That should be allowed. Ghulam Nabiji, I am saying that this is too much. I am only saying that if you think I am not reasonable, you have every right to tell me. LoP can also tell me. I am only saying this.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: We are not casting any aspersions on....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know that, but please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... Listen to me. What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*... Digvijayaji, what is this? Now please listen to me. I am not denying or refusing any discussion. I am only saying that if you want to discuss this issue which has been raised by hon. Member, Shri Digvijaya Singh, *i.e.* the conduct, this way or that way, of the Governor, then please give a formal notice, a substantive motion. It is under the rules. Please give a formal notice. I will request the hon. Chairman to allow this. We can have a discussion on this any time. There is no problem. But this is not the way. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is what I have to say. ...*(Interruptions)*... Then, I will have to adjourn the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, Digvijaya Singhji. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, I have a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes; you tell me what your reaction to what I said is.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, I have a point of order. I have the greatest regard for the Chair. As you know, I have been in the Legislature since 1977.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Therefore, Sir, my request is that this is not an allegation. This is a statement that she has made publicly. This is number one.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Then, why don't you give a motion?

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, please hear me out. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, please hear me out. Again, I have made no allegation. The point is, Mr. Arun Jaitley is a Member of this House. He has a right to reply also. Therefore, he is not covered by Rule 238. But, Sir, I have made no allegation. I want to raise this issue in the public domain, in this august House, that she has not only. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, give a separate notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... Okay. ...*(Interruptions)*... You should not create problems in Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... Give a separate notice. Okay. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why in Zero Hour? ...*(Interruptions)*... You are, unnecessarily, encroaching upon the time of others.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: I agree with you, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Even for that, a notice is required. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, we will give you a substantive motion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Even for that, a notice is required. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am saying only that.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: We will immediately give a substantive motion to be taken up on Monday. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Even if you want to discuss the conduct of the Leader of the House, for that also, we should have intimation. For that also, you have to give notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... That also can go only by rules. One cannot just *suo motu*, all of a sudden, say that, Sir, I have an allegation against a Minister, 'X', 'Y'. No. I am not allowing this. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not allowing. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Harivansh. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not allowing. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will adjourn the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not allowing. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, मेरा एक प्वाइंट ऑफ आर्डर है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Sir, I have a point of order ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, what is the point of order Sharad Yadavji?

श्री शरद यादव (बिहार): उपसभापति जी, मैं बहुत अदब से आपकी परमिशन से सब लोगों से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जब चेयर से यह कह दिया गया कि आप इस पर Substantive Motion लेकर आइए, उसके बाद तो कोई सवाल नहीं उठता है। उपसभापति जी, मैं आपकी रूलिंग से पूरी तरह से सहमत हूँ और मैं आप लोगों से विनती करूंगा कि आप इस मोशन को सोमवार को लेकर आइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति: ठीक है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: शरद जी, हम सोमवार को इस मोशन को लेकर आएंगे, लेकिन इसमें हमें आपका सपोर्ट मिलना चाहिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: We will support you.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर यह है कि आर्टिकल 164 में गवर्नर अपने को advice करने के लिए मंत्रिमंडल/मुख्य मंत्री का गठन करता है। इसका मतलब यह है कि वह मुख्य मंत्री उसी दल से चयनित करेगा, जो दल सबसे बड़ा हो। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति: यह तो ठीक है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, उसका interpretation कीजिए ...**(व्यवधान)**... ऐसा नहीं है कि गवर्नर किसी को बुला लेगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: इसलिए मैं बोलता हूँ कि यह मेरा काम नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... गवर्नर का काम मैं कैसे कर सकता हूँ? ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह मेरा काम नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: अगर गवर्नर गलत करता है, तो फिर कौन करेगा? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If there is a problem, you give a substantive motion notice. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, हम ओरली नोटिस दे रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. Chairman will consider it. ...**(Interruptions)**... No, no, sit down. ...**(Interruptions)**... Shri Harivansh; nothing more. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, can I suggest something? ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: The hon. Deputy Chairman is saying that we should give a substantive motion notice. We agree that we will give a substantive motion notice. Can the House be adjourned for one hour, so that we could give a substantive motion notice? ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: You can't say that House be adjourned. ...**(Interruptions)**... क्या हर चीज़ ये तय करेंगे? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION — *Contd.*

Plight of common man due to economic burden imposed by the Government

श्री हरिवंश (बिहार): उपसभापति जी, आम जनता, जिसको हम सर्वशक्तिमान मानते हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**... जिसके जीवन में बेहतरी लाने के नाम पर हम सब यहां बैठे हैं, आज उसकी स्थिति क्या है? ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं इस सदन के माध्यम से इसको तीन ताजा उदाहरणों के द्वारा केन्द्र सरकार और देश के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**... पहला, बैंकों का ताजा निर्णय कि विभिन्न खातों में न्यूनतम बैलेंस या औसत बैलेंस न रखने पर बैंक ग्राहकों पर penalty plus public service tax लगेगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह खबर पहले आई थी, पर जन विरोध को देखते हुए संकेत मिला कि केन्द्र सरकार शायद आम जनता के हित-पक्ष में खड़ी होगी। ...**(व्यवधान)**... पर दो दिनों पहले भारतीय स्टेट बैंक के चेयरमैन का बयान पढ़ा कि हमें केन्द्र सरकार से ऐसी कोई सूचना/सलाह नहीं मिली है और हम 11 करोड़ जन-धन खाते maintain करते हैं, तो यह fine/penalty लगेगी। ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह मात्र एक penalty है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Fund transfer, चैक देने, ATM charges में revision, वगैरह के नाम पर

तरह-तरह के शुल्क बैंक customers से ले रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सभी सरकारी और गैर-सरकारी बैंकों द्वारा, खास तौर से Private Banks द्वारा की गई, नोटबंदी के दौरान खुली लूट, सबने देखी। ...**(व्यवधान)**... क्या सरकारी और निजी बैंक जनहित के लिए हैं या जनता पर तरह-तरह के टैक्स लगाने या वसूलने के लिए हैं? ...**(व्यवधान)**... पैसे वाले जो अरबों का loan लेकर भाग जाते हैं, उन्हें दंडित करने की कोई व्यवस्था 70 सालों में हमने नहीं बनाई है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इसी तरह भारतीय रेल में टिकटों के New Dynamic Pricing Model का हाल है। रेल टिकट महंगे हो गए हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... यही हाल भारत में चलने वाली Airlines का है। खास तौर से Private Airlines की हर चीज़, लगेज, refreshment आदि, जो न्यूनतम सुविधाएं अपेक्षित हैं, वह न दो, बेचो। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

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

The House then adjourned at forty-one minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*:

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Coverage of all crops under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

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

- (a) whether the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is not available for perennial horticultural crops like apple, cardamom, etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to extend benefits of the PMFBY to all crops, including perennial horticultural crops?

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

Statement

(a) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is a yield based scheme and envisages coverage of food & oilseeds crops and annual commercial/horticultural crops for which yield data is available for sufficient number of years and the State Governments have the capacity to conduct requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) to assess the yield loss. However, such perennial horticultural crops can be insured under

Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) which is based on weather parameters instead of yield data. Further, crops and areas under the aforesaid schemes are notified by the concerned State/UT Governments.

(b) and (c) Perennial/horticultural crops like apple, cardamom etc. are not covered under PMFBY due to non-availability of statistically reliable methodology for assessment of yield of these crops.

The matter of inclusion of perennial/horticultural crops under yield based crop insurance schemes was examined by a Committee constituted by the Department in 2002 and few pilots were carried out but they were not successful and inclusion of perennial horticultural crops depends on development of a statistically reliable mechanism of yield estimation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 166.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, the hon. Minister has said in his reply that horticultural crops are not covered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), but that they could be insured under the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme. For some crops there is no crop insurance scheme at all. Why is there this difference and what are the reasons for this difference? There is a terrible anomaly between the two Insurance Schemes as a result of which there is tremendous confusion among the farmers and some of the State Governments have not taken up this Scheme at all. Could the hon. Minister kindly clarify what the reasons are for some of the States not taking up these schemes? Is there an intention of the Government to subsume both these schemes under one in order to reduce the confusion at the ground level for the farmers?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह : महोदय, "प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा योजना" और पहले की भी जो "कृषि फसल बीमा योजना" थी, उसके तहत जो उपज की फसलें हैं, उनके बीमा का प्रावधान है। इसमें यह तय करने का राज्य सरकार को अधिकार है कि उसके राज्य में किस-किस प्रकार की फसलें हैं, लेकिन वह उपज से संबंधित होनी चाहिए, चाहे वह वाणिज्यिक हो या बागवानी से संबंधित हो। जो दीर्घकालीन बागवानी है, उसके लिए मौसम आधारित बीमा योजना देश में चल रही है और कई राज्य सरकारें मौसम आधारित बीमा की तरह जो चिरस्थायी बागवानी है -- जैसा कि आपने सेब के विषय में सवाल पूछा है, तो पंजाब की सरकार ने सेब को मौसम आधारित बीमा योजना के तहत रखा है। इसी तरह, कई राज्यों ने ऐसा किया है। आप देखेंगी कि इस वर्ष आन्ध्र प्रदेश की सरकार ने आम का बीमा भी मौसम आधारित बीमा योजना के तहत किया है। यह प्रावधान बहुत स्पष्ट है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute, please. Yes; second question please.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I just want some clarity on this.

Under the PMFBY, you have given a subsidy of 90 per cent on the premium whereas under the RWBCIS, you have given a subsidy of just 50 per cent. दोनों में इतना फर्क क्यों है? क्या आपने यह सोचा कि अगर आप इतनी discrepancies रखेंगे, तो जो crops weather की वजह से affect होते हैं, उनकी क्या हालत होगी? There is 90 per cent subsidy being given under one scheme and 50 per cent in another. मुझे उसका clarification चाहिए।

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: महोदय, "प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा योजना" में जो प्रीमियम का रेट है, वही रेट मौसम आधारित बीमा योजना का भी है। दोनों के प्रीमियम में कोई अंतर नहीं है, जो संशोधित किया गया है। जब "कृषि फसल बीमा योजना" को संशोधित कर "प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा योजना" लाई गई और प्रीमियम की दरें कम की गईं, तो जो मौसम आधारित बीमा योजना है, उसमें भी प्रीमियम की दर को कम कर दिया गया।

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी: मैं सब्सिडी के बारे में पूछ रही हूँ। आपके PMFBY में सब्सिडी अलग है और मौसम आधारित बीमा योजना में सब्सिडी अलग है। उनमें प्रीमियम एक ही है, लेकिन सब्सिडी में फर्क है। यही मैं पूछना चाहती हूँ।

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: इसमें सब्सिडी नहीं दी जाती है, बल्कि इसमें मुआवजा दिया जाता है। जो cost of cultivation है, उसमें फसल बीमा योजना के तहत लागत की भरपाई की जाती है। पहले दोनों के अंदर एक capping थी, उस capping को भी हटा दिया गया है और यह कहा गया है कि cost of cultivation की पूरी भरपाई की जाएगी। यह संशोधित हुआ है।

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can't have a discussion on this. You have asked a question and he has answered it. Now, Shri Sharad Yadav... *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I added to a question that I had already asked him. So, I am entitled to ask him to clarify.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are not satisfied, please follow the procedure. Shri Sharad Yadav. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: But, Sir, I have a second question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have asked two questions.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: No, Sir. It was not a question. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, please don't get into an argument. Please listen to the answer and if you want to ask your second question, please ask it.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: What if he gives a wrong answer?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If a wrong answer is given, you know the procedures about it.

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी: सर, क्लाइमेट चेंज की वजह से ड्राउट होता है, साइक्लोन होते हैं और मानसून की डेफिशिएंसी भी होती है। इसकी वजह से नारियल जो आंध्र प्रदेश, केरल and all these States have been impacted. Not only that, इसमें अलग से बीमारी भी हो गई है जिसने नारियल को अफैक्ट किया है। इसकी वजह से nut production भी गिर गया है। हालांकि बच्चों को भी we give coconut water as oral rehydration. Now, coconut is covered under the Coconut Palm Scheme under which premium is determined on variability at the block level, which they are using since long, nut yield and the age of palm. These are very confusing factors to compute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: So, my question is: Will the hon. Minister take into consideration bringing this crop under PMFBY to facilitate coconut farmers?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: निश्चित रूप से इसमें यदि कोई विसंगति होगी तो हम दूर करेंगे।

श्री शरद यादव: श्रीमन्, जो फसल बीमा योजना है, उसमें किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड से बैंक से जो लोन लेते हैं, उसमें पैसा काट लेते हैं। जब फसल की बरबादी हो जाती है तो किसान को यह मालूम भी नहीं है कि किस इंश्योरेंस कम्पनी से लेना है। किस तरह से फसल बीमा या जो बरबादी हुई है, उसको कहां से लेना है? इस मामले में मैं आपसे अंत में एक ही बात पूछना चाहता हूं कि फसल बीमा पर किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड से, कोऑपरेटिव से कितना पैसा पूरे देश में भारत सरकार किसान से लेती है? कृषि मंत्री जी से मैं कहूंगा कि मैं एक बड़े धरने में गया था। जब किसान की फसल या किसी तरह की बरबादी हो जाती है तो उसे मालूम ही नहीं है कि किससे क्या मिलेगा, कौन सी इंश्योरेंस कम्पनी से लेना है। यानी इंश्योरेंस कम्पनी और बैंक किसान से पैसा ले रहा है, लेकिन उनको वापस करने का काम नहीं कर रहा। इसलिए टोटल अमाउंट आप बताएं कि किसानों से कितना लेते हैं और किसानों को क्यों नहीं बतलाया जाता कि किस इंश्योरेंस कम्पनी से उनको लेना है? यानी, क्रेडिट कार्ड से जब पैसा काटते हैं तो इसके बाद उनको बताना चाहिए कि वे किससे लेंगे

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: महोदय, यह जो कृषि बीमा योजना देश में चल रही थी, उसमें बहुत विसंगतियां थीं। उसको दूर करके पीछे खरीफ के सीजन से इसको स्टार्ट किया गया है। पहले जो ऋण लेते थे, उनका प्रीमियम कटता था, तो 2015 की खरीफ में 3 करोड़ 9 लाख किसानों ने बीमा कराया था। इसमें मात्र 15 लाख किसान ऐसे थे जिन्होंने स्वेच्छा से अपने पैसे देकर बीमा कराया था, बाकी सब जो ऋण लेते थे, उनका उसमें कट जाता था। पहले इसमें आकर्षण नहीं था। बाहर के किसान जो ऋण नहीं लेते थे, वे फसल बीमा योजना में भाग नहीं लेते थे, क्योंकि इसमें कैपिंग थी। जब प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा कराया और इसमें सवा लाख किसान ऐसे थे जो गैर ऋणी थे। इसका मतलब यह है कि यह योजना एक आकर्षण योजना है, उसका एक उदाहरण है। दूसरा, बीमा कौन कम्पनी करे, किस-

किस फसल का बीमा हो, यह राज्य सरकार टेंडर करती है। 5 सरकारी कम्पनियाँ हैं, 10 प्राइवेट हैं और राज्य सरकार टेंडर करती है और जो भी इस टेंडर में शामिल होता है, तो राज्य सरकार जितना पारदर्शी तरीके से करती है, उतना यह अच्छा होता है। कई जगह देखा गया है कि जब यह नई फसल बीमा योजना लागू हुई, जिसकी अंतिम तिथि 30 तारीख है, चूंकि इस बीमा योजना से राज्य सरकार के खजानों पर बोझ बढ़ा है और भारत सरकार के खजाने पर भी, चूंकि कॉस्ट ऑफ कल्टीवेशन पूरा देना है, तो कई राज्य सरकारों ने पहले तो न लागू करने की बात की। कई ने लागू किया तो जब अंतिम तारीख 30 है, तो वे 28 को नोटिफिकेशन करते हैं। अब दो दिन का समय है। निश्चित रूप से जिस कम्पनी को देगा, किसान को पहुंचना, सारी जानकारी देने में कठिनाई होती है। इसमें राज्य सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है, लेकिन फिर भी हमने सब की 10 दिन डेट भी बढ़ाई, ताकि अधिक से अधिक किसानों के पास राज्य सरकार जाए और राज्य सरकार के जो ब्लॉक लेवल पर, जिला लेवल पर कोऑपरेटिव, एग्रीकल्चर के अफसर होते हैं, पंचायत स्तर पर भी फार्मर्स फ्रेंडज़ होते हैं... उनके सहयोग से बीमा कम्पनियों से उनका संबंध बनता है, बैंकों से संबंध बनता है। हम इससे सहमत हैं कि कई राज्य सरकारों ने...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't comment. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: कई राज्य सरकारों ने इसमें कम समय दिया, ताकि उनके राज्य के खजाने पर बोझ न पड़े, लेकिन ज्यों-ज्यों किसानों का दबाव बढ़ जा रहा है, राज्य सरकारें भी अब इस दिशा में थोड़ा आगे बढ़ रही हैं। जहां तक प्रीमियम जितना लिया गया, इसका विवरण मैं निश्चित रूप से आपको दे दूंगा।

श्री शरद यादव: मेरा आपसे निवेदन है कि आप जो बात कह रहे हैं, मैं उससे सहमत हूँ, लेकिन यह तो पता चलना चाहिए कि जब किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड से या कोऑपरेटिव बैंक से उनका पैसा काटा जाता है, तब उसी समय उन्हें बताना चाहिए कि कौन सी इश्योरेंस कम्पनी है, आपको कौन सा फसल बीमा मिलेगा। इसके संबंध में राज्य सरकारों से बात की जानी चाहिए। हमारा किसान आंदोलन चल रहा है, अलवर का चन्द्रशेखर महीनों से इसके लिए संघर्ष कर रहा है, इसलिए कम से कम यह तो पता चलना चाहिए कि आप जो पैसा काट रहे हैं तो कौन सी इश्योरेंस कम्पनी उसको देगी?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: सर, पहली बार पिछली खरीफ में यह योजना शुरू हुई है और मैंने पहले भी बताया कि राज्य सरकारें अंतिम डेट के दो दिन पहले यदि नोटिफिकेशन करेंगी कि फलां कम्पनी इस जिले में जाएगी, तो दो दिनों में तो कठिनाई होगी ही, लेकिन फिर भी हमने दस दिन का समय बढ़ाया और हम राज्य सरकारों से लगातार यह आग्रह करते हैं, बैठक करते हैं कि आप लम्बा समय बहुत पहले ही डिक्लेयर कर दीजिए कि कौन सी कम्पनी किस जिले में बीमा करेगी, ताकि उन्हें पर्याप्त समय मिल सके, जानकारी मिल सके।

SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Sir, according to the answer that is given, neither perennial nor horticulture crops like apple, cardamom, are covered by Bima Yojana. The answer further states that in 2002 there was a Committee which was appointed to go into the question of inclusion of these crops also under the Bima Yojana and it was not found to be feasible

in 2002. Are we to understand that since 2002 the present Government has taken no steps to include these crops, perennial as well as horticulture crops, in the Bima Scheme? Then what is the use of the Scheme?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: सर, मैं माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहता हूँ कि आप देखेंगे कि कर्णाटक ने 2016 में खरीफ में Tomato को भी मौसम आधारित बीमा योजना के अंतर्गत लिया है। इसी तरह से महाराष्ट्र ने प्याज को लिया है, मेघालय ने आलू का फसल बीमा किया है, तमिलनाडु ने आलू और Tapioca का किया है। इसी तरह से कर्णाटक ने Guava, Ginger, Acid Lime और कई बागवानी फसलों का बीमा किया है, आन्ध्र प्रदेश ने Tomato का किया है, Banana का किया है, Cashew का किया है, Mango का किया है। इस प्रकार ये सब इसमें शामिल हैं। जहां तक इलायची का सवाल है, मसाला बोर्ड के अंदर यह चर्चा चल रही थी कि जो मसाले काम में आते हैं, इनका भी बीमा शुरू होना चाहिए। अभी सितम्बर, 2016 में मसाला बोर्ड ने पायलट प्रयोग शुरू किया है और उस पायलट प्रयोग के तहत उसने चाय, कॉफी, रबड़, मसाला और छोटी तथा बड़ी इलायची का लगभग... उन जिलों की संख्या मुझे याद नहीं है क्योंकि यह वाणिज्यिक मंत्रालय का है ...(व्यवधान)... एक मिनट सर ...(व्यवधान)... तो मसाला बोर्ड ने सितम्बर 2016 से पायलट प्रयोग के रूप में Revenue Insurance Scheme for Plantation Crops नामक योजना शुरू की। इसके लिए ...(व्यवधान)... वह मैंने पहले बताया। देखिए, जो उपज है, उससे संबंधित जो अनाज है, बागवानी है, जो चिरस्थायी बागवानी है, इन सबका या तो प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा योजना के अंतर्गत या मौसम आधारित बीमा योजना के तहत बीमा हो रहा है। हमने अभी पढ़कर भी बताया कि कौन-कौन से राज्य क्या कर रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, don't interrupt. ...(Interruptions)... राम नारायण जी, आप अपना सवाल पूछिए।

श्री राम नारायण डूडी: सभापति महोदय, अभी मंत्री जी फसल बीमा योजना के संबंध में उत्तर दे रहे थे। मैं मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहूंगा कि एक तो वह काश्तकार, जो लोन लेता है या किसी तरह से इंतज़ाम करता है और ऐसे काश्तकार हैं जो अलग से फसलों का बीमा कराते हैं। एक criteria कर दिया गया है कि individually यदि किसी के खेत में कोई नुकसान होता है तो उनको बीमा नहीं मिलता है, न कम्पनियां देती हैं। मैं यह practical बात कर रहा हूँ। मंत्री जी, जैसे कोई नहर टूट गयी, उसकी वजह से फसल का सफाया हो गया, चाहे वह जीरा था, चाहे अजवाइन थी, चाहे मेथी थी, चाहे गेहूं था या कोई फसल थी, उस पर फसल बीमा लागू नहीं होता। जिन खेतों के अंदर सर्दी की वजह से फसल खराब हो जाती है, कुछ निश्चित एरिया में, तो ऐसे में भी बीमा कम्पनियां कहती हैं कि नहीं, नहीं वह तो पूरे गांव का क्राइटीएरिया है। जिस प्रकार से व्यक्ति का अपना बीमा होता है और उस व्यक्ति को बीमा का क्लेम मिलता है, उसी प्रकार से काश्तकार को व्यक्तिगत रूप से खेत का बीमा क्लेम करने का क्या कोई प्रावधान आप कर रहे हैं या नहीं कर रहे हैं, यह मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ।

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: सर, माननीय सदस्य का पुराना अनुभव ठीक है। मान लीजिए कि कोई ओलावृष्टि हुई और किसी गांव के चार खेत में ओला पड़ गया तो उस खेत के किसान को फसल बीमा

का लाभ नहीं मिलता था। बाढ़ आई और पांच किसान के खेत कट गए, कोई स्थानीय आपदा आई और एक गांव में कुछ किसानों का अधिक नुकसान हुआ, तो उनको फसल बीमा योजना का लाभ नहीं मिलता था, लेकिन अभी जो नई फसल बीमा योजना आई है, उसके अंदर बिल्कुल साफ है कि स्थानीय आपदाओं में खेतबार का भी यदि अधिक नुकसान होता है, तो उसका बीमा दिया जाएगा। पूरे बीमा में यह भी व्यवस्था की गई है कि फसल कटने के बाद - पहले फसल कट गई और उसके बाद यदि आपदा आ गई, तो उसकी बीमा राशि नहीं मिलती थी, लेकिन अब फसल कटने के 14 दिन तक भी यदि कोई आपदा आती है और किसान का नुकसान होता है, तो उसका cost of cultivation दिया जाएगा, खेतबार भी और कटाई के बाद भी, इसकी नई प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा योजना में व्यवस्था कर दी गई है।

Effect of demonetisation on prices of agricultural produce

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

(a) whether Government is aware that due to demonetisation, farmers are compelled to sell their produce, particularly perishable items, at prices much below the cost of their production, due to non-availability of buyers;

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

(c) whether Government proposes to compensate the farmers who have suffered severe losses due to sale of their agricultural produce, including vegetables, at price much below the cost of production during the last three months; and

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

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

Statement

(a) and (b) The prices of agricultural commodities are determined by the market forces of supply and demand, quality of produce, seasonality etc. Production of most vegetable crops has increased in the current year resulting in the low prices of vegetables. There is no direct link between demonetization and prices of agricultural commodities. The cost of production and all India average monthly wholesale prices for major food grains and pulses including major horticulture items are given below:—

(₹ Per quintal)

Commodity	Cost of Production (A2+FL) 2016-17	November, 2016	December, 2016	January, 2017	February, 2017
Paddy	1045	1706	1716	1652	1680
Wheat	797	2097	2106	2121	2063
Maize	966	1583	1561	1582	1618
Gram	2241	9184	8984	7811	6582
Arhar Whole	3421	6514	5552	5240	4879
Masur Whole	2174	6130	5791	5613	5291
Moong Whole	4065	5906	5836	5597	5514
Urad Whole	3584	8515	7956	7690	6921
Groundnut	3371	5594	5729	5827	5798
Mustard Seed	1871	4446	4387	4240	4076
Onion	663*	1301	1248	1203	1296
Potato	461**	1290	856	729	702
Tomato	Not available	1292	921	1032	1137

A2+FL : All production cost is including family labour.

* for 2014-15 and ** for 2013-14.

The selling prices are governed by the market forces of demand and supply, quality of produce and seasonality. However, Government announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 25 major agricultural commodities, which covers food grains and pulses based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The objective of Government's price policy is to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers by offering to procure their produce at MSP. The procurement of food grains for 2016-17 is given below :—

Commodity	in 000' tonnes
Rice (as on 07/03/17)	30743
Wheat (as on 30/06/16)	22930
Arhar (Tur) (as on 06/03/17)	596
Urad (as on 06/03/17)	87
Moong (as on 06/03/17)	217

In addition, Government implements the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural and perishable agricultural commodities which are not covered under MSP, in order to protect the growers of such commodities from distress sales in times of bumper crop. The scheme is implemented at the request of State Governments/ Union Territories which are ready to bear part of the loss incurred in its implementation.

Under MIS, 1 lakh metric tonnes of onion for Karnataka and 5,000 metric tonnes for Telangana, 3,800 metric tonnes of grapes for Mizoram, 40,000 metric tonnes of arecanut for Karnataka, 1,000 metric tonnes of oil palm FFB for Tamil Nadu and 12,675 metric tonnes of ginger for Arunachal Pradesh has been sanctioned during 2016-17.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken the several relief measures for the farmers after demonetization which inter-alia includes the following:—

- (i) Provision of an additional grace period of 60 days for prompt repayment incentive @ 3% to such of the farmers whose crop loans dues fall due between 01/11/2016 to 31/12/2016 and if such farmers repay the same within 60 days from their due date in this period.
- (ii) Grant of interest waiver for two months (November and December, 2016) for all short term crop loan availed from Cooperative Banks between 01.04.2016 to 30.09.2016 and upfront deposit of the same in the accounts of the concerned farmers. For this purpose, an additional resource of ₹ 660.50 crore has been made available during the current financial year.
- (iii) Permission to farmers to draw upto ₹ 25,000 per week in cash from their Know Your Customer (KYC) compliant accounts as well as under the Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) and to those receiving payments in their bank accounts through cheque/RTGS for sale of their produce in the APMC markets/ mandis.
- (iv) Permission to farmers to use old ₹ 500 denomination notes for making payments towards purchase of seeds from the centres, units or outlets belonging to the Central or State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings, National or State Seeds Corporations, Central or State Agricultural Universities and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, on production of proof of identity. The availability of certified/quality seeds for the current Rabi season is adequate in the country.
- (v) Post Demonetization, the Government organizations viz. Cooperative Banks,

including Urban Cooperative Banks and Multi-State Cooperative Banks, RRBs, IFFCO, KRIBCO, NABARD, National Seed Corporation, Mother Dairy, NAFED, Krishi Mandies etc. organized training and awareness camps for farmers, dealers and retailers and disseminated information through posters and pamphlets in regional language for promotion of cashless transaction, opening of Mobile account, use of Rupay card, Debit Card, use of Point of Sale Machine and promotion of digital payment between farmers.

- (vi) Extension of the cut-off date for submission of premium proposal for cash crops for certain States under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) on case to case basis during 2016-17. Further, for the States whose cut-off dates were between 15.12.2016 to 31.12.2016 the date was extended upto 10.01.2017 under PMFBY for payment of premium by farmers.
- (vii) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Commercial Banks were advised to make the required cash available to the District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) to ensure quick flow of credit and required cash to the farmers during the current Rabi seasons and prioritise availability of adequate legal currency to meet their cash requirement.
- (viii) To ensure adequate availability of Urea, Diammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP), Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium (NPK) and other fertilizers in every nook and corner of the country, there has been close coordination with companies, State Governments, Ministries of Railways and Shipping. Manufacturing companies and fertilizer importers were directed to provide fertilizers to dealers/wholesalers/retailers on credit and the credit limit was extended by additional 30 days by the Companies. Company dealers/wholesalers/retailers were instructed to use all modes of transaction including sales on credit, debit card, credit card, cheque etc for sale of fertilizers to the farmers. States were advised to ensure ready availability of fertilizers at their level to farmers as per demand without fail and also issue necessary instructions to cooperatives, private retailers/wholesalers to provide fertilizers on credit and accept all modes of payment, namely, debit card, credit card and cheques.

SHRI RIPUN BORA: Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply, has very tactfully denied the adverse effects of demonetization on the farmers, but he is compelled to admit it in the latter part of his reply. That is why, he has announced some remunerative measures

and incentives to the farmers as a compensation. The hon. Minister has announced only the grant of interest waiver and that too only for two months, that is, for November and December. But, Sir, in comparison to the great damage caused to the farmers, this grant of interest waiver for two months is nothing. So, we have demanded waiver of loan and not just the waiver of interest. So, I would like to know from the Minister whether he will declare the waiver of loan, instead of only the grant of interest waiver and that too only for two months, to all the farmers.

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: सभापति महोदय, विमुद्रीकरण के बाद यह सवाल उठना शुरू हुआ कि किसानों का नुकसान हो रहा है। उस समय भी हमने कहा था कि हमारी बुवाई इसी पीरियड के पिछले सीजन की तुलना में ज्यादा हुई है। फिर भी, हमने किसानों को राहत देने के लिए जो योजनाएं चलाई थीं, उनमें पहली योजना तो यह थी कि दो महीने तक जितने बीज बिक्री केन्द्र थे, चाहे उसमें भारत सरकार की दुकानें थीं या राज्य सरकार की दुकानें थीं, उन पर 500 रुपए का नोट और 1000 रुपए का नोट लिया जाएगा और उन नोटों को लेकर बदले में किसानों को बीज दिया जाएगा। इसका अच्छा असर हुआ और बुवाई में सात प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई। फिर भी, यदि कुछ असर पड़ा है, तो हम अभी तक भारत सरकार की ओर से तीन प्रतिशत की ब्याज सहायता देते हैं। उस दो महीने के अंदर यदि किसान को थोड़ी कठिनाई हुई होगी या नुकसान हुआ होगा, तो चार प्रतिशत जो वह देता है, उसको भी माफ कर दिया और कैबिनेट ने इसके लिए 650 करोड़ रुपए अनुमोदित किए और हमने बैंकों को कहा कि किसान के खाते में दो महीने का पूरा ऋण जो चार प्रतिशत वह देता है, वह राशि भी डाल दो और यह किसान हित में किया गया है।

SHRI RIPUN BORA: Sir, in para VI at page 3, the hon. Minister has said, "The extension of the cut-off date for submission of premium proposal for cash crops for certain States under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)..." Sir, it is very negligible as this has been extended only for cases where the farmer's premium was due within the period of 15th December, 2016 to 31st December, 2016. Only they have been extended till 10th of January, that is, only for ten days. It is very, very meagre in comparison to the damages caused. Sir, my question to the hon. Minister is: will the Minister cover all the crops and all the farmers in all the States under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana! Sir, in my State... *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask your question. *...(Interruptions)...* Don't give commentaries. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI RIPUN BORA: Sir, in my State, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has still not been implemented. So, my question to the hon. Minister is: will it cover all the States or not? *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not repeat your question. Please. *...(Interruptions)...*
Hon. Minister, please go ahead.

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: महोदय, मैंने पूर्व प्रश्न के जवाब में भी बताया कि पहले जो किसान ऋण लेते थे, उस में बैंक प्रीमियम काट लेता था, इसलिए बीमा कराना उनकी नियति थी, लेकिन कैपिंग के कारण उनकी पूरी भरपाई नहीं होती थी, इसलिए गैर ऋणी किसान का उसमें आकर्षण नहीं था। अब जो नई फसल बीमा योजना आई, उससे इस योजना में आकर्षण बढ़ा और जहां 2015 की खरीफ में 15 लाख गैर ऋणी किसानों ने बीमा कराया था, तो वर्ष 2016 की खरीफ में सवा लाख गैर ऋणी किसानों ने खुद प्रीमियम जमा कर के बीमा कराया। महोदय, हमारा राज्य सरकारों से आग्रह है कि अभी 30 प्रतिशत किसान इस योजना में कवर होते हैं, हम अब इस कवर को 40 से 50 प्रतिशत तक ले जाना चाहते हैं। इसके लिए हम राज्य सरकारों के साथ मिलकर इस योजना का और अधिक प्रचार-प्रसार कराना चाहते हैं। हमने इस के लिए राशि भी बढ़ायी है। पहले इस में 5 हजार करोड़ का प्रावधान था, इस बार बढ़ाकर 9 हजार करोड़ किया है। हम तो चाहते हैं कि यह शत-प्रतिशत हो जाए और यह बहुत अच्छी बात होगी, लेकिन हम चाहते हैं कि कम-से-कम 50 प्रतिशत किसानों को यह सुरक्षा कवच प्रदान हो जाए।

जहां तक बीमा की तिथि बढ़ाने की बात है, आपके ध्यान में यह बात होगी कि हम भी आखिर जीवन बीमा कराते हैं, उसमें अगर मरने का दिन तय हो जाए, तो कोई बीमा कंपनी हमारा बीमा नहीं करेगी। बीमा कराते समय हमें पता नहीं होता कि हमारी मृत्यु कब होगी। इसी तरह से फसल बीमा के लिए भी तिथि निर्धारित नहीं होती है। उसके लिए राज्य सरकारें भी आग्रह करती हैं और इस बार कुछ राज्य सरकारों ने आग्रह भी किया और हमने खुद विमुद्रीकरण के प्रभाव को देखा और 10 दिन के लिए इस की तिथि पूरे देश में बढ़ा दी गयी थी।

SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Sir, in the reply, the hon. Minister has enlisted numerous relief measures taken after demonetization for the farmers. I think, the hon. Minister is well aware of the fact of the reports that throughout the country, the farmers had to destroy their crops, especially, perishable crops, which included vegetables, fruits and even milk.

Sir, irrespective of all such measures, which are enlisted by the hon. Minister, why did all such unfortunate incidents happen, and, whether the Minister is aware of the fact that all such steps taken by the Government went in vain and were ineffective? Is the Government aware of this fact?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: महोदय, मांग और आपूर्ति जो कि बाजार के कारक हैं, ये उत्पाद की क्वालिटी और फसल मौसम द्वारा निर्धारित होते हैं, लेकिन जहां तक टमाटर, आलू, प्याज, सरसों के बाजार भाव का सवाल है, ये कृषि उपज मंडी के थोक मूल्य इस पीरियड में क्या रहे, ये हमने अपने जवाब में दिए हैं और कुछ इलाकों में यह हो सकता है क्योंकि वहां की परिस्थितियों पर भी बाजार भाव निर्भर करते हैं, लेकिन हमने इन के थोक मूल्य अपने जवाब में दिए हैं। आप उन्हें देख सकते हैं।

श्री लाल सिंह वडोडिया: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि प्याज, टमाटर, बैंगन और मिर्च आदि सब्जियों को कोल्ड स्टोरेज में नहीं रखा जाता है।

जब इन सब्जियों की पैदावार बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ जाती है, तो उस समय किसान का खर्चा भी नहीं निकलता और इन सब्जियों को कम दामों में बेचा जाता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने कोई ऐसी योजना बनाई है कि इन सब्जियों को कोल्ड स्टोरेज में रखा जा सके और किसान को घाटा भी न हो?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: यह जो सरकारी खरीद का काम है, यह माननीय खाद्य मंत्री जी के मंत्रालय से मूल्य स्थिरीकरण फंड से संबंधित है। नई सरकार आने के बाद इस फंड की स्थापना की गई। हम इस फंड के माध्यम से खरीद करते हैं, जिसका समर्थन मूल्य है, तो हम उसको खरीदते हैं। अब राज्यों के अंदर भी मूल्य स्थिरीकरण फंड का निर्माण शुरू कर दिया है। आन्ध्र प्रदेश को 25 करोड़, तेलंगाना को 9 करोड़ और पश्चिमी बंगाल को 5 करोड़ की राशि राज्य मूल्य स्थिरीकरण फंड स्थापित करने के लिए दी गई है। हमारे मंत्री जी इस दिशा में पूरा प्रयास कर रहे हैं और राज्यों से बात हो रही है। राज्यों से बात करके यह लक्ष्य है कि सभी राज्यों के अंदर मूल्य स्थिरीकरण फंड स्थापित हो जाए।

इसके अलावा हमारी दूसरी योजना 'बाजार हस्तक्षेप योजना' है। जैसे आलू की कीमत कम हुई, प्याज की कीमत कम हुई और अभी 10 प्रतिशत उत्पादन ज्यादा हो गया और 10 प्रतिशत दाम नीचे आ गया, तो राज्य सरकार एक प्रस्ताव बनाकर देती है और हम उसको मंजूरी देते हैं, तो उसके तहत भी खरीद की जाती है और की गई है। यदि आप चाहेंगे, तो हम इसका पूरा विवरण दे सकते हैं।

एक तो 'मूल्य समर्थन योजना' है तथा एक 'बाजार हस्तक्षेप योजना' है और तीसरी 'मूल्य स्थिरीकरण योजना' भी नई योजना है। पहली दोनों योजनाएं तो पुरानी योजनाएं हैं। एक बंद पड़ी हुई योजना थी। पिछले दो वर्षों के अंदर इन तीनों योजनाओं के माध्यम से बड़े पैमाने पर खरीददारी हुई है। यदि माननीय सदस्य इसका पूरा विवरण चाहेंगे, तो मैं उपलब्ध करा सकता हूँ।

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Sir, the hon. Minister has denied the effect of demonetization on farmers. But, in the State of Odisha, Sir, there is a spate of farmer suicides due to falling prices of crops. Is the Minister aware of that and is he thinking of making it compulsory to insure the farmers? That is my question.

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: महोदय, जहां तक मूल्य का सवाल है, तो हमारे माननीय मंत्री Food and Supplies Ministry से हैं, इनके पास आंकड़ा होगा, लेकिन मेरा अपना अनुभव है कि जब मैं दिल्ली से बंगाल जाता हूँ, तो सौ किलोमीटर दाएं और बाएं, जो आज समर्थन मूल्य तय है, वह भी किसान को नहीं मिल रहा है। हम चार-पांच राज्यों ओडिशा, झारखंड, बिहार, बंगाल और यूपी में देख रहे हैं, हालांकि आन्ध्र प्रदेश, तेलंगाना और महाराष्ट्र, मैं अन्य राज्यों का नाम नहीं लेना चाहता, लेकिन कई राज्यों के पास उतना राशन नहीं होता है, जितना कि उसको अपने राज्य को देना होता है। माननीय रामविलास जी इस बारे में कभी विस्तार से बताएंगे, तो जो समर्थन मूल्य घोषित है, वह भी किसान को नहीं मिल रहा है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Sir, my question is on farmer suicides.

श्री सभापति: ये farmer suicide पर प्रश्न पूछ रहे हैं, आप इसका जवाब दे दीजिए।

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: महोदय, हम राज्यों से बात करते हैं और हमारी कोशिश होती है कि किसानों को अच्छा दाम या समर्थन मूल्य या दाम मिलता है, तो जो हमारी तीन योजनाएं हैं, उनका उपयोग करें और खरीदारी करें, ताकि किसानों को उचित मूल्य मिल सके। जितनी भी किसान वेलफेयर की योजनाएं चलाई गई हैं, उनका क्रियान्वयन तेजी से करें, इस दृष्टि से हम काम कर रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: I am asking about farmer suicide. Does he have any information?

श्री सभापति: ये farmer suicides पर प्रश्न पूछ रहे हैं।

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: सर, मैं वही बता रहा हूँ कि farmer suicides तभी करता है, जब उस पर संकट आता है।

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: I am asking about farmer suicides. Does he have any information?

श्री सभापति: क्या इस पर कोई information है, हां या नहीं?

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Do you have any information about Odisha suicides?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: हमारे यहां आत्महत्याएं कितनी हुईं, इस बारे में हम गृह मंत्रालय के अपराध रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो से आंकड़े लेते हैं, ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Sir, I need your protection.

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: तो हम वहां से आंकड़ें मंगवा कर माननीय सदस्यों को उपलब्ध करा देंगे। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Sir, I am talking about insurance and suicides.

श्री सभापति: आप वह आंकड़ा मंगवा कर इनको दे देंगे। That is an assurance given by the Minister. Now, Question 168. ...**(Interruptions)**... It is an assurance. Please sit down. Question 168.

भागलपुर के रेशम बुनकरों के लिए योजनाएं

*168. **श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन :** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सिल्क शहर के नाम से विख्यात भागलपुर शहर में रेशम उद्योग की हालत दयनीय हो गयी है और वहां के रेशम बुनकर भुखमरी की स्थिति तक पहुंच गये हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने भागलपुर शहर के रेशम बुनकरों की स्थिति में सुधार करने हेतु कोई योजना तैयार की है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो विगत तीन वर्षों के दौरान इस संबंध में उपलब्धियों सहित तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजय टम्टा): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) से (ग) भागलपुर क्लस्टर को टसर सिल्क के लिए जाना जाता है। बिहार में टसर सिल्क के उत्पादन में बढ़ोत्तरी 2013-14 में 32 मी.टन की तुलना में 2015-16 में 41 मी. टन दर्शायी गयी है।

सिल्क बुनकरों की जरूरतों को ध्यान में रखते हुए भारत सरकार द्वारा भागलपुर में निम्नलिखित योजनाएं स्वीकृत की गई हैं:-

(1) वर्ष 2014-15 में 17.15 करोड़ रुपये के परिव्यय के साथ भागलपुर मेगा हथकरघा क्लस्टर के विकास के लिए व्यापक हथकरघा क्लस्टर विकास योजना। प्रमुख घटक इस प्रकार हैं:-

(i) विभिन्न हस्तक्षेपों के कार्यान्वयन के लिए 9.76 करोड़ रुपये की कुल परियोजना लागत के साथ 10 ब्लॉक स्तरीय क्लस्टर परियोजनाएं (भागलपुर जिले में 07 और बांका जिले में 03) स्वीकृत की गई हैं।

(ii) 89.25 लाख रुपये की कुल लागत के साथ भागलपुर में डिजाइन स्टूडियो एवं उत्पाद विकास केन्द्र स्वीकृत किया गया है।

(iii) 49.95 लाख रुपये की कुल लागत के साथ बांका जिले में डाई हाउस स्वीकृत किया गया है।

(2) यार्न आपूर्ति योजना के तहत 2014-15 से 2016-17 तक की अवधि के दौरान (20.02.2017 तक) भागलपुर के हथकरघा बुनकरों को 8.07 करोड़ रुपए मूल्य के 3.99 लाख किलो ग्राम यार्न की आपूर्ति की गई।

(3) रेशम उत्पादन क्रियाकलापों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कच्चा माल बैंक की टसर उप इकाई (टी.आर.एम.बी.) स्थापित की गई है ताकि टसर कोया के उत्पादकों के लिए स्थानीय बाजार की सहायता प्रदान की जा सके। विगत 3 वर्षों के दौरान टसर कोया के खरीद और बिक्री की मात्रा क्रमशः 113.62 लाख और 117.52 लाख है।

(4) महिला रीलरों के लिए थाई रीलिंग की प्रक्रिया को बदलने के लिए 271 बुनियादी रीलिंग मशीनों और मोटर चलित चरखे का वितरण किया गया है।

Scheme for silk weavers of Bhagalpur

†*168. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of Silk industry in Bhagalpur city, known as the Silk city, has become pathetic and the silk weavers there are on the verge of starvation;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government has chalked out any scheme to improve the condition of silk weavers of Bhagalpur; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with achievements in this regard during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Bhagalpur cluster is famous for Tasar silk. Production of Tasar Silk is showing increase from 32 MTs in 2013-14 to 41 MTs in 2015-16 in Bihar.

Taking into account the felt need of silk weavers, the following have been sanctioned by the Government of India in Bhagalpur:-

- (1) Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Project for development of Bhagalpur Mega Handloom cluster in 2014-15 with an outlay of ₹ 17.15 crore. Major components are:-
 - (i) 10 Block level projects (7 in Bhagalpur district and 3 in Banka district) have been sanctioned with total project cost of ₹ 9.76 crore for implementation of various interventions.
 - (ii) Design Studio & Product Development Centre at Bhagalpur has been sanctioned at a total cost of ₹ 89.25 lakh.
 - (iii) Dye House in Banka district has been sanctioned at the total cost of ₹ 49.95 lakh.
- (2) Under the Yarn Supply Scheme, 3.99 lakh kg yarn worth ₹ 8.07 crore supplied to handloom weavers of Bhagalpur during the period 2014-15 to 2016-17 (till 20.02.2017).
- (3) For promotion of sericulture activities, Tasar Sub-Unit of Raw Material Bank (TRMB) has been set up for providing local market support for the producers of tasar cocoons. During last 3 years, quantity of tasar cocoons procured and sold is 113.62 lakh and 117.52 lakh respectively.
- (4) 271 Buniyaad Reeling Machines and Motorised Charaka have been distributed to women reelers to replace the practice of thigh reeling.

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन: सभापति महोदय बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया। रेशमी शहर भागलपुर की हालत बहुत खराब है। वहाँ के बुनकर भुखमरी के कगार पर हैं। बुनकर महाजनों से कर्ज लेकर कपड़ा तैयार करते हैं। कपड़ा तैयार करने की कीमत ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: आप अपना सवाल पूछिए।

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन: जी। उनको इसकी सही कीमत नहीं मिल पाती। वे पूँजी और बाज़ार के अभाव में बदहाली की स्थिति में पहुँच गए हैं। सरकार ने अक्टूबर, 2016 में सर्वे का काम शुरू करवाया था। मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि उस सर्वे का काम पूरा हुआ या नहीं हुआ? सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूँ कि अगर सर्वे का काम पूरा हुआ है और उसके जो नतीजे निकले हैं, उस संदर्भ में यह सरकार उन नतीजों के आधार पर कौन-से कदम उठा रही है, जिससे इनकी स्थिति में सुधार लाया जा सके?

श्री अजय टम्टा: सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्या ने एक विषय उठाया कि बुनकर भुखमरी के कगार पर हैं, मैं उनको यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि हमने इसके उत्तर में राज्य सरकार द्वारा जानकारी जुटानी चाही थी और राज्य सरकार ने हमें सूचित किया है कि उनके पास सिल्क बुनकरों की भुखमरी की कोई आधिकारिक जानकारी नहीं है।

दूसरा विषय, चूँकि वास्तव में यह सत्य है कि भागलपुर के रेशम की पूरे भारत और पूरे विश्व में बहुत अच्छी छवि बनी रहती है, मगर मैं यही कहना चाहता हूँ कि देश में जो रेशम का काम है, वह मलबरी, टसर, एरी और मूगा के रूप में होता है। भागलपुर में जो उत्पादन होता है, वह टसर का अत्यधिक होता है। वहाँ टसर पर ही काम होता है। उस कार्य को करने के लिए उसका उत्पादन भी लगातार बढ़ रहा है। मैं आपको उस उत्पादन की भी एक जानकारी देना चाहता हूँ। यह जिस प्रकार से देश के अंदर है, उसी प्रकार से बिहार और भागलपुर में है। 2013-14 में टसर का जो उत्पादन था, वह पूरे देश में 2619 मीट्रिक टन था। यह उत्पादन बिहार में, भागलपुर में 32 मीट्रिक टन था। मैं आपको इस बार का आंकड़ा दे रहा हूँ, बीच में आंकड़े नहीं दे रहा हूँ। यह उत्पादन 2015-16 में 41 मीट्रिक टन था।

माननीय सभापति जी, हमारी सरकार द्वारा 2014-15 में हथकरघा बुनकरों के उत्थान के लिए भागलपुर मेगा क्लस्टर पर काम हो रहा है। इसके अंतर्गत वहाँ पर 5,084 लूम हैं। यह कार्य हमारे द्वारा स्वयं किया गया है। यदि हम लूम में लोगों के रोजगार और उनके उत्थान की बात करें तो इसमें लगभग 10,000 लोगों के रोजगार की बात है। हमारे द्वारा इसमें 2 करोड़, 38 लाख रुपये दिए जा चुके हैं और रेस्ट एमाउंट, यानी 1 करोड़, 60 लाख रुपये इस मार्च के अंत में दे दिए जाएंगे। यह माननीय सदस्या के प्रश्न का उत्तर है। हमने उसमें एक विवरण भी दिया है। यदि आप उसकी डिटेल्स पूछना चाहेंगी, तो मैं उस पर भी बोल सकता हूँ।

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन: सभापति जी, जो सवाल किया गया था, माननीय मंत्री की ओर से मुझे उसका कोई जवाब नहीं मिला है। इन्होंने किसी सर्वे की बात नहीं बताई है। मेरा सवाल उनके बच्चों से जुड़ा हुआ है। मैं इनसे दूसरा सवाल यह करना चाहती हूँ कि जो वहाँ के बुनकर हैं, उन बुनकरों के बच्चों की सेहत और शिक्षा के लिए कौन-कौन से इंतजाम किए हैं? बुनकरों की सामाजिक सुरक्षा के

लिए कौन-कौन सी योजनाएँ चलाई जा रही हैं? मैं यह भी जानना चाहती हूँ कि अगर सरकार की उनकी भविष्य निधि, पेंशन या बीमे की कोई योजना है तो सरकार उसको बताए। मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहती हूँ कि उनको रियायती दर पर कर्जा देने की इनकी कौन-सी योजना है?

श्री अजय टम्टा: सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्या ने कहा है कि अगर कोई नई गणना करनी है, तो हथकरघा की चौथी गणना अप्रैल, 2017 से प्रारंभ होगी। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं आपको एक और बात बता रहा हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं आपको अच्छी जानकारी दे रहा हूँ। आपने बोला है ...**(व्यवधान)**... हमने बुनकरों के लिए पाँच एम.ओ.यूज. साइन किए हैं। हमने बुनकरों के लिए पिछले दिनों जो एम.ओ.यूज. साइन किए हैं, उनमें दो एजुकेशनल एम.ओ.यूज. हैं, जिनमें उनके लिए बारहवीं तक की शिक्षा के लिए stipend की व्यवस्था है, उनको प्रोत्साहित करने की व्यवस्था है। उनके उत्थान के लिए, उनकी पढ़ाई के लिए, उनकी उच्च शिक्षा के लिए भी हमारे द्वारा, सरकार द्वारा एम.ओ.यूज. साइन किए गए हैं।

आपने जो बैंक की बात कही है, उसके लिए मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि बैंक में भी "मुद्रा बैंक" के माध्यम से हमारे वीवर्स के साथ एम.ओ.यूज. साइन किए गए हैं। "मुद्रा बैंक" के माध्यम से उनकी जो लोनिंग होगी, उस पर जो ब्याज लगेगा, उसका 6 प्रतिशत स्वयं भारत सरकार वहन करेगी। यह आपके दूसरे प्रश्न का उत्तर है।

श्री राम नाथ ठाकुर: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार की "मुद्रा योजना" के अंतर्गत एक निश्चित अनुपात में बुनकरों को इस योजना का लाभ देने की योजना है?

श्री अजय टम्टा: माननीय सभापति जी, "बुनकर मुद्रा योजना" के तहत हमने औसत प्रति व्यक्ति ऋणाई 23 हजार रुपये से बढ़ाकर 50 हजार रुपये कर दी है। इसके अंतर्गत भारत सरकार प्रति पात्र बुनकर को 10 हजार रुपये स्वीकृत मार्जिन मनी देती है। और जैसा मैंने आपको मुद्रा बैंक का भी बताया कि 6 प्रतिशत की रियायती दर पर ऋण दिया जाता है। इसमें बुनकर को ऋण प्राप्ति के लिए गारंटी देने की जरूरत नहीं है। अभी तक देश में 20,129 बुनकरों को 3.98 करोड़ रुपए का ऋण स्वीकृत किया गया है।

श्रीमती सरोजिनी हेम्ब्रम: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि सेरिकल्चर सेक्टर में जो टसर सिल्क है, कई राज्यों में ...

श्री सभापति: यह सवाल सिर्फ एक जगह, भागलपुर का है।

श्रीमती सरोजिनी हेम्ब्रम: सर, कई राज्यों में raw material की कमी पड़ रही है। तो हैंडलूम वीवर्स के लिए, उनके प्रोत्साहन के लिए क्या राज्यों में ज्यादा से ज्यादा raw material बैंक खोलने का कोई प्रस्ताव रखा गया है? और, हैंडलूम सेक्टर में जो आरआर पैकेज है, उसकी जो गाइडलाइन्स हैं, वे कॉप्लीकेटेड हैं, जिसके कारण जितने भी पीडब्ल्यूसीएस हैं, वे इसका फायदा उठाने में समर्थ नहीं हो पा रहे हैं। क्या सरकार ने इन गाइडलाइन्स में कुछ रिलेक्सेशन करने का कोई प्रस्ताव रखा है?

श्री सभापति: देखिए, यह सवाल भागलपुर पर है।

श्रीमती सरोजिनी हेम्ब्रम: सर, मैंने सिल्क के raw material के लिए सवाल पूछा है।

श्री सभापति: भागलपुर में? जी, बता दीजिए।

श्री अजय टम्टा: माननीय सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्या ने टसर से संबंधित raw material पर अपना प्रश्न पूछा है। चूंकि मूल प्रश्न भी हमारी मातृ-शक्ति का है और अभी भी आपने ऐसा पूछा है, तो वास्तव में टसर का raw material जो कोकून होता है, उस कोकून को यार्न के रूप में लाते हैं, वह आपके ध्यान में भी होगा, शायद आपके क्षेत्र में भी हो, दूसरे बाकी मेम्बर्स के क्षेत्र में भी हो। हमने इसमें एक बड़ी पहल की है, इसमें एक बुनियादी रीलिंग मशीन करके इंट्रोड्यूस हुई है। इसका माननीय सदस्या, जो मूल प्रश्नकर्ता थीं, उनको भी पता है। यह काम पहले महिलाओं के द्वारा थाई रीलिंग के द्वारा किया जाता था, जो अमानवीय था और इसमें महिलाओं के शोषण और अल्प-आय की वजह से चिंता थी। हमारी माननीया मंत्री जी ने इसका 8 मार्च, 2017 को शुभारंभ किया है और जो raw material, जो कोकून से यार्न बनना है, उसके लिए बुनियाद रीलिंग मशीन करके लाँच की है। आगामी तीन वर्षों में पूरे देश में दस हजार मशीनें वितरण करने की योजना है, क्योंकि थाई रीलिंग हमने खत्म करनी है। चूंकि आपका प्रश्न raw material पर था, इसीलिए थाई रीलिंग हमने खत्म करनी है। चूंकि आपका प्रश्न raw material पर था, इसीलिए मैं माननीय सदस्या के पहले सवालों का भी जवाब दे देता हूँ, ताकि उनके संज्ञान में आ जाए और वे अपने क्षेत्र में जाकर लोगों को बताएं कि हमने 25 हजार रीलिंग मशीनें भागलपुर में दे दी हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Shrimati Jaya Bachchan. But is your question on this subject?

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Absolutely! माननीय सभापति जी, मंत्री जी ने बहुत सारे आंकड़े गिनवाए। जो आपने पैसे दिए, उसमें से कितना काम पूरा हुआ है और पैसों का कितना इस्तेमाल हुआ? सिर्फ भागलपुर की बात कर रही हूँ। आप इतना बता दीजिए।

श्री अजय टम्टा: सभापति जी, मैं आपको भागलपुर का बताना चाहता हूँ, जैसा आपने भागलपुर का पूछा है। साल 2014-15 में 17.15 करोड़ रुपए के परिव्यय के साथ भागलपुर मेगा हथकरघा क्लस्टर के विकास के लिए व्यापक हथकरघा क्लस्टर विकास योजना है, जिसमें विभिन्न हस्तक्षेपों के कार्यान्वयन के लिए 9.76 करोड़ रुपए की कुल परियोजना लागत है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप सुन लीजिए।

श्री अजय टम्टा: आप डिटेल पूछ रहे हैं तो मैं डिटेल बता रहा हूँ और भागलपुर की ही डिटेल बता रहा हूँ, माननीय सदस्या जी।

श्रीमती जया बच्चन: मैंने दो शब्द में पूछा है, दो शब्द में ही आप जवाब दे दीजिए, लेकिन आप तो पढ़ रहे हैं, मंत्री जी।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Jayaji, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...
मंत्री जी, आप अपना जवाब खत्म कीजिए।

श्री अजय टम्टा: माननीय सभापति जी, जब आंकड़े पूछेंगे, तो मुझे पढ़ना पड़ेगा। सभापति जी, इसीलिए हमने 89.25 लाख रुपए की लागत से भागलपुर में डिजाइन स्टूडियो और उत्पादन विकास केन्द्र को स्वीकृत किया है और 49.95 लाख रुपए की लागत के साथ बांका जिले में डाई हाउस बनाने का है और मेगा क्लस्टर में 2.38 करोड़ रुपये दिए भी जा चुके हैं। यह मैंने आपको अलग से अवगत कराया है।

**डिजिटल इंडिया कार्यक्रम के तहत ग्रामीण आधारभूत सुविधाओं को बढ़ावा देने हेतु
यूनिवर्सल सर्विस ऑब्लिंगेशन फंड का उपयोग किया जाना**

169. श्री अमर शंकर साबले : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार डिजिटल इंडिया कार्यक्रम के तहत ग्रामीण आधारभूत सुविधाओं को बढ़ावा देने के लिए यूनिवर्सल सर्विस ऑब्लिंगेशन फंड से चालू वित्तीय वर्ष में दस हजार करोड़ रुपए व्यय करने की योजना बना रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो पिछले वर्ष कुल कितनी धनराशि व्यय की गयी थी और इस कोष के अंतर्गत कुल कितनी धनराशि उपलब्ध है, तत्संबंधी राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) देश में महाराष्ट्र सहित कुल कितनी ग्राम पंचायतों और ग्रामीण डाकघरों को ऑप्टिकल फाइबर नेटवर्क से जोड़ा गया है; और

(घ) देश में महाराष्ट्र सहित सभी ग्राम पंचायतों और ग्रामीण डाकघरों को ऑप्टिकल फाइबर से जोड़े जाने में हो रहे विलंब के क्या कारण हैं?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री मनोज सिन्हा) : (क) से (घ) विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) ब्रॉडबैंड हाईवे की व्यवस्था करना डिजिटल इंडिया के नौ स्तंभों में से एक है। भारतनेट, ग्राम पंचायतों को ब्रॉडबैंड कनेक्टिविटी प्रदान करने की एक परियोजना है। चालू वित्त वर्ष 2016-17 के लिए भारतनेट परियोजना के अंतर्गत 6000 करोड़ रुपए की राशि का आवंटन किया गया है। इस आवंटन में से इस स्कीम के अंतर्गत ग्रामीण क्षेत्र की आधारभूत अवसंरचना के विकास के लिए 4617 करोड़ रु. की राशि प्राप्त हो चुकी है और चालू वित्त वर्ष 2016-17 में अब तक इस राशि का उपयोग किया जा चुका है।

(ख) विगत वित्त वर्ष 2015-16 में भारत नेट के लिए 2415.10 करोड़ रु. की राशि व्यय की गई थी। दिनांक 28.02.2017 की स्थिति के अनुसार सार्वभौमिक सेवा दायित्व निधि (यूएसओएफ) में कुल 47,924.76 करोड़ रुपए की राशि जमा कराई गई है। सार्वभौमिक सेवा दायित्व निधि में प्राप्त धनराशि

को भारत की समेकित निधि में जमा कराया जाता है, और केन्द्र सरकार संसद के माध्यम से विधि द्वारा किए गए विनियोजन द्वारा इस प्रकार की प्राप्तियों को केवल सार्वभौमिक सेवा दायित्वों को पूरा करने के लिए उपयोग में लाने हेतु समय-समय पर दूरसंचार विभाग को जमा कराती है। सार्वभौमिक सेवा दायित्व निधि के तहत राज्य-वार आबंटन नहीं किया जाता।

(ग) देश की सभी ग्राम पंचायतों (लगभग 2,50,000) को ब्रॉडबैंड कनेक्टिविटी प्रदान करने के लिए नेटवर्क अवसंरचना का सृजन करने हेतु भारतनेट परियोजना की योजना बनाई गई है। इस परियोजना का कार्यान्वयन चरणबद्ध तरीके से किया जा रहा है, जिसमें चरण-1 के अंतर्गत भूमिगत ऑप्टिकल फाइबर केबल (ओएफसी) द्वारा 1,00,000 ग्राम पंचायतों को कनेक्ट किया जाना है और इस कार्य को मार्च 2017 तक पूरा किए जाने का लक्ष्य है। दिनांक 12 मार्च, 2017 की स्थिति के अनुसार, 78220 ग्राम पंचायतों को ओएफसी के माध्यम से कनेक्ट किया जा चुका है, 16748 ग्राम पंचायतों में सुविधा प्रदान कर दी गई है तथा 96080 ग्राम पंचायतों के लिए ड्रिंकिंग और ट्रेडिंग का कार्य पूरा कर लिया गया है। ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के किसी डाकघर को ऑप्टिकल फाइबर कनेक्टिविटी प्रदान नहीं की गई है। महाराष्ट्र में, 9625 ग्राम पंचायतों को ओएफसी के माध्यम से कनेक्ट किया जा चुका है, 1483 ग्राम पंचायतों में सुविधा प्रदान कर दी गई है और 11898 ग्राम पंचायतों के लिए ट्रेडिंग और ड्रिंकिंग का कार्य पूरा कर लिया गया है।

(घ) विलंब के कारण और उठाए गए सुधारात्मक कदम निम्नानुसार हैं:—

1. विलंब के कारण :—

(i) केबल रूट तथा लंबाई का आकलन करने और प्रौद्योगिकी मॉडल की प्रायोगिक जांच के लिए ग्राम पंचायतों का फील्ड सर्वेक्षण किए जाने के कारण परियोजना की शुरुआत में आरंभिक विलंब हुआ।

(ii) केवल तीन सीपीएसयू अर्थात् बीएसएनएल, रेलटेल तथा पीजीसीआईएल के माध्यम से परियोजना का कार्यान्वयन किया जाना।

(iii) केवल भूमिगत ओएफसी बिछाकर ग्राम पंचायतों को कनेक्ट करना।

(iv) ग्राम पंचायतों को कनेक्ट करने के लिए ब्लॉक और फाइबर प्वाइंट ऑफ इंटरकनेक्ट के मध्य बीएसएनएल फाइबरों की अनुपयुक्त गुणवत्ता।

(v) बीबीएनएल के माध्यम से उपस्करों के प्रापण और सोर्सिंग की केंद्रीकृत प्रक्रिया।

2. उठाए गए सुधारात्मक कदम:—

(i) दूरसंचार आयोग ने दिनांक 30-04-2016 को संशोधित कार्यान्वयन कार्यनीति का अनुमोदन किया है। इस संशोधित कार्यनीति के अनुसार-

(क) परियोजना को चरणों में कार्यान्वित किया जाना है, परियोजना के चरण-1 में मौजूदा तौर तरीकों का अनुपालन करके, भूमिगत ओएफसी बिछाकर 1,00,000 पंचायतों को कनेक्ट किया जाना है, चरण-1 में भूमिगत/एरियल ऑप्टिकल फाइबर केबल, रेडियो तथा सेटलाइट मीडिया के इष्टतम मिश्रण के माध्यम से शेष ग्राम पंचायतों को कनेक्ट किया जाना है।

(ख) चरण-॥ का कार्यान्वयन तीन सीपीएसयू के अलावा राज्यों और निजी क्षेत्र के माध्यम से किया जाना है।

(ii) जहां कहीं भी बीएसएनएल के मौजूदा केबलों की गुणवत्ता ठीक नहीं है, उन्हें बदलना।

(iii) कार्य क्षेत्र को 125000 ग्राम पंचायतों तक बढ़ाया गया है।

(iv) भारत ब्रॉडबैंड नेटवर्क लिमिटेड (बीबीएनएल) के साथ-साथ कार्यान्वयनकारी सीपीएसयू के माध्यम से उपस्करों का विकेंद्रीकृत प्रापण किया जाना।

(v) परियोजना की प्रगति की निगरानी करने तथा इससे संबंधित मुद्दों का समाधान करने के लिए सचिव दूरसंचार की अध्यक्षता में अधिकार प्राप्त समिति, यूएसओएफ के प्रशासक की अध्यक्षता में संचालन समिति तथा राज्य स्तरीय समितियों का गठन किया गया है।

(vi) दूरसंचार विभाग द्वारा बीबीएनएल तथा बीएसएनएल के मध्य प्रचालन तथा रख-रखाव (ओएंडएम) और राजस्व हिस्सेदारी की व्यवस्था को अनुमोदित किया गया है।

(vii) एरियल ओएफसी बिछाने हेतु विद्युत खंभों की जीआईएस मैपिंग करने के लिए सात राज्यों को अग्रिम निधि प्रदान की गई है।

Using USOF to promote rural infrastructure under Digital India Programme

†*169. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to spend ₹ 10,000 crore in the current financial year, out of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), to promote rural basic infrastructure under Digital India programme;

(b) if so, the total amount spent in the last year and the total amount available under this Fund, State-wise details thereof;

(c) the total number of Gram Panchayats and rural post offices connected with optical fibre network in the country, including Maharashtra; and

(d) the reasons for delay in connecting all Panchayats and rural post offices with optical fibre in the country, including Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

(a) Provision of Broadband highway is one of the nine pillars of Digital India. BharatNet is a project to provide broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats. An amount of ₹ 6000 crore has been allocated under Bharat Net for the current Financial Year (FY) 2016-17. Against this allocation, an amount of ₹ 4617 crore has been received to promote rural basic infrastructure under this scheme and the same has been utilized till date in the current FY 2016-17.

(b) An amount of ₹ 2415.10 crore was spent in the last FY 2015-16 for BharatNet. The total amount of ₹ 47,924.76 crore is deposited in Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) as on 28.02.2017. The sums of money received towards the Universal Service Obligation is credited to the Consolidated Fund of India, and the Central Government through Parliament by appropriation made by law, credits such proceeds to the Department of Telecommunications from time to time for being utilized exclusively for meeting the Universal Service Obligation. No state wise allocation is provided under USOF.

(c) 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 by underground optical fibre cable (OFC) and scheduled to be completed by March, 2017. As on 12th March, 2017, 78220 GPs have been connected through OFC, 16748 GPs have been lit and trenching and ducting have been completed for 96080 GPs. No rural post offices are connected with Optical Fibre Connectivity. In Maharashtra, 9625 GPs have been connected through OFC, 1483 GPs have been lit and trenching and ducting have been completed for 11898 GPs.

(d) The reasons for delay and the corrective action are as under:—

1. Reasons for delay:—

- (i) Delay in the initial commencement of project due to field survey of GPs to assess the cable route and length, and pilot testing of the technology model.
- (ii) Implementation of the project only through three CPSUs namely, BSNL, RailTel and PGCIL.
- (iii) Connectivity to GPs only by laying underground OFC.
- (iv) Inadequate quality of BSNL fibre between Block and Fibre Point of Interconnect (FPOI) being used to connect GPs.

- (v) Centralised procedure of procurement and sourcing of equipment through BBNL.

2. Corrective actions taken:—

- (i) Telecom Commission approved revised implementation strategy on 30.04.2016. According to revised strategy:
 - (a) Implementation of the project is to be done in phases; Phase-I to connect 1,00,000 GPs by following the current methodology to connect by underground OFC; Phase-II to connect remaining GPs through optimal mix of underground/ aerial OFC, radio and satellite media.
 - (b) Implementation of Phase-II through States and private sector in addition to CPSUs.
- (ii) Replacement of BSNL's existing fibre wherever the quality of the cable is not adequate.
- (iii) Work front for Phase-I has been increased to 1,25,000.
- (iv) Decentralised procurement of equipment through implementing CPSUs in addition to Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. (BBNL).
- (v) Empowered Committee under Secretary (T), Steering Committee under Administrator, USOF and State-level Committees have been set up for monitoring of the progress and resolution of issues.
- (vi) Operation and Maintenance (O&M) and revenue sharing arrangement between BBNL and BSNL has been approved by DoT.
- (vii) For laying of aerial OFC, advance funding to conduct GIS mapping of electricity poles has been provided to seven States.

श्री अमर शंकर साबले: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से परियोजना की प्रगति की निगरानी तथा इससे सम्बन्धित मुद्दों का समाधान करने के लिए सचिव, दूरसंचार की अध्यक्षता में अधिकार प्राप्त समिति, USOF के प्रशासक की अध्यक्षता में संचालन समिति तथा राज्य स्तरीय समितियों को जो गठन किया गया है, उनके बारे में यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन समितियों की guidelines क्या हैं, उन समितियों में जो सदस्य काम कर रहे हैं, उनके नाम क्या हैं और उनके माध्यम से जो कार्य किया गया है, उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

श्री मनोज सिन्हा: सभापति महोदय, इस सम्बन्ध में तीन Steering Committees बनाई गई हैं। एक कमिटी Secretary, DoT की अध्यक्षता में बनाई गई है, जिसकी महीने में एक बार बैठक होती है।

दूसरी कमिटी USOF के Administrator, जो Joint Secretary rank के अधिकारी हैं, उनकी अध्यक्षता में बनाई गई है। NOFN या BharatNet का जो काम चल रहा है, जिसमें cable trenching और ग्राम पंचायतों को optical fibre network से जोड़ने का काम है, उसकी प्रगति का विवरण हम जल्द बताएँगे। हमने एक IFD जारी कर दिया है, जिस पर आने वाले 15 दिनों के बाद हम देश को यह बताएँगे कि इससे कितने ग्राम जुड़ गए हैं और कितने ग्राम link कर दिए गए हैं। प्रोजेक्ट की monitoring ठीक ढंग से हो, इसके लिए तीन समितियाँ बनाई गई हैं। उन समितियों के सदस्यों का नाम बताना उचित नहीं है। Secretary, DoT पहली कमिटी के अध्यक्ष हैं; Joint Secretary स्तर के एक अधिकारी, जो USOF के Administrator हैं, दूसरी कमिटी के अध्यक्ष हैं और राज्यों में जो विभिन्न समितियाँ हैं, उनमें Chief General Manager rank के अधिकारी उनके अध्यक्ष हैं।

श्री अमर शंकर साबले: सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार Digital India कार्यक्रम के तहत digital economy को आगे बढ़ाने में बाधा बनी हुई Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) को कम करने या समाप्त करने हेतु क्या कदम उठाने वाली है?

श्री मनोज सिन्हा: सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो पूरक प्रश्न पूछा है, वह मूल प्रश्न से हट कर है। इन्होंने BharatNet परियोजना के बारे में जानना चाहा है। उसमें सरकार पूरी तन्मयता से लगी हुई है। पहले फेज में हमें इससे एक लाख ग्राम पंचायतों को जोड़ना है, जिसको हम मार्च end तक पूरा करना चाहते हैं। मुझे यह बात बताते हुए खुशी हो रही है कि आज हमने लगभग 96 हजार गांवों तक trenching का काम कर लिया है और लगभग 80 हजार ग्राम पंचायतों तक optical fibre network पहुँचा दिया है। एक GPON नामक equipment है, जिसकी supply में देरी हुई, जिसके कारण हम सभी ग्राम पंचायतों को link नहीं कर सके हैं। अब उसकी supply भी शुरू कर दी गई है। इसके लिए एक ही vendor था, जिसने supply में देरी की। हमने उसको terminate भी कर दिया है। माननीय सदस्य ने जो सुझाव दिया है, निश्चित रूप से Digital India परियोजना प्रभावी ढंग से काम करे, यह सरकार की सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता है। मैं सदन को आश्वस्त करना चाहता हूँ कि BharatNet का जो प्रोजेक्ट है, हम उसको timely complete करेंगे। 2.5 लाख ग्राम पंचायतों को दिसम्बर, 2018 के अंत तक optical fibre network से जोड़ना और high speed internet उपलब्ध कराना, यह हमारी सरकार का प्राथमिक दायित्व है।

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, this was one of the programmes that were started by the UPA Government and I congratulate the Minister that by March 31, 2017, something like 90,000 Gram Panchayats would actually be connected through optical fibre and this is an achievement. I think this shows that programmes started by one Government can be continued by another Government. Sir, my question to the hon. Minister is this. Once the optical fibre has reached the Gram Panchayat, has some thought, thinking started on how to provide connectivity to other points in the Gram Panchayat because the way this project was conceived, the optical fibre will reach the Gram Panchayat? That will be achieved but beyond that has the Minister started thinking on how the connectivity within the Gram Panchayat will be provided to other points and other consumers?

श्री मनोज सिन्हा: सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने सदन के सामने एक बहुत genuine प्रश्न रखा है। मैं माननीय सदस्य के ध्यान से यह बात लाना चाहता हूँ कि इसके लिए केवल thinking नहीं है, हमने निर्णय कर लिया है कि सभी ग्राम पंचायतों में कम से कम दो Wi-Fi hotspot लगा कर दो स्थानों पर हम लोगों को यह connection देंगे, ताकि उसका सीधा लाभ वहाँ के ग्रामीण जनों को मिल सके।

श्री अजय संचेती: सर, नागपुर से मुम्बई के लिए महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने super communication highway बनाने का प्रस्ताव मंजूर किया है और land acquisition का काम भी तकरीबन पूरा हो चुका है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा, for providing the technology of broadband and everything, क्या भारत सरकार उसके साथ hand in glove करके, इस काम को तेजी से आगे बढ़ाने में अपना योगदान दे सकती है?

श्री मनोज सिन्हा: महोदय, इस परियोजना का जो द्वितीय चरण है, उसमें राज्य सरकारों की सहभागिता के आधार पर ही हम शेष डेढ़ लाख ग्राम पंचायतों को जोड़ने जा रहे हैं। यदि महाराष्ट्र सरकार इस तरह का कोई प्रस्ताव भारत सरकार के पास भेजेगी, तो हमें खुशी होगी और भारत सरकार महाराष्ट्र सरकार का जो भी सहयोग कर सकेगी, निश्चित रूप से करेगी।

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद: माननीय सभापति महोदय, चूंकि नेटवर्क की बड़ी प्रॉब्लम रहती है, call drop की भी बड़ी शिकायतें रहती हैं और बीएसएनएल का नेटवर्क भी बहुत खराब रहता है। माननीय मंत्री जी उत्तर प्रदेश से हैं और हम उन्हें बधाई देते हैं, क्योंकि हमें ऐसा लगता है कि शायद आगे भी वे उत्तर प्रदेश का कार्यभार संभालेंगे। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: आप अपना सवाल पूछिए।

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद: उत्तर प्रदेश में fibre networking कब तक आ रही है? अब तक कितनी ग्राम पंचायतों को fibre networking से जोड़ा जा चुका है और उत्तर प्रदेश के लिए आगे की क्या योजना है?

श्री मनोज सिन्हा: माननीय सदस्य ने उत्तर प्रदेश की सभी ग्राम पंचायतों का विवरण जानना चाहा है, तो मैं लिखित रूप से इनको पूरा विवरण उपलब्ध करवा दूंगा, लेकिन मैं माननीय सदस्य को आश्वस्त करना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश में कार्य की प्रगति काफी अच्छी है। प्रथम चरण में जो गांव लिए गए हैं, उनमें से लगभग 80 प्रतिशत गांवों में हमारा काम पूरा हो चुका है और शेष काम को भी हम जल्दी ही पूरा कर लेंगे।

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद: वहां पर call drop की भी बड़ी शिकायत रहती है, उस पर भी कृपया मंत्री महोदय अपना उत्तर दें।

श्री मनोज सिन्हा: आप या तो मुझे अपना उत्तर पूरा कर लेने दीजिए या अपना सवाल पूछ लीजिए। यदि आप बैठ जाएं, तो मैं आपको इसका उत्तर बताता हूँ।

महोदय, इन्होंने जो दूसरा प्रश्न उठाया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: आप एक ही सवाल का जवाब दीजिए, थैंक्यू।

Revamping the textile industry

*170.SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the measures proposed to be taken by Government to revamp the Textile industry in the country in the financial year 2017-18;

(b) the total number of claims pending and the claims cleared in respect of the industry during the last three years and this year so far, under the new Duty Drawback Scheme; and

(c) the amount of claims pending with the Ministry under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) and the steps taken to clear the same, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) With a view to revamping the textile industry in the country, and making the industry globally competitive, the Union Government has launched a Special package for Garment and Made-ups segment. Besides the said Special Package, the Government also implements Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS), Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), Scheme for Integrated Textile Processing Development (IPDS), Technology Mission on Technical Textiles (TMTT) and various schemes for upgrading and strengthening of the decentralized Powerloom, Handloom and Handicraft Sector.

(b) Under the Special Package announced for Garments and Madeups by M/o Textiles, one component relates to Rebate of State Levies (RoSL) wherein rebate for State levies will be provided to exporters by the Department of Revenue on the lines of existing Duty Drawback Scheme offered for Central levies. Thus while Duty Drawback is an ongoing scheme of the Department of Revenue, RoSL is the new Scheme under which rebate for State levies would be provided w.e.f. 20.9.2016 in addition to the Duty Drawback Scheme.

The claims pending and since cleared under the New RoSL launched on 20.09.2016 till 10.03.2017 is as follow:-

	No of claims	Amount (₹ in crores)
Claims pending	428845	1470.5
Claims cleared	5637	29.0

(c) The claims received through i-TUFS portal and complete in all respect under Technology Fund Scheme (TUFS) upto quarter ending September, 2016 have been cleared to the extent budget available. Ministry has disbursed Rs. 2621.98 crore under TUFS during 2016-17. However claims of Rs. 58.93 crore towards Margin Money subsidy under TUFS is pending as the sanctioned budget for 2016-17 has been exhausted.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, my question has three parts. Two have been replied in a way that I cannot ask any further questions on them, which were regarding the Special Package initiated in 2016 and the Duty Drawback Scheme. Their reply is that there were 4,28,845 claims and ₹ 1,470 crores had to be paid back. In six months, this Ministry has been able to pay back only 5,637 claims amounting to ₹ 29 crores. If that is the speed they are going to work with, I have very little to comment on. Their answer to my second question is that the budgetary provisions have finished and they still owe almost ₹ 60 crores. The first part of my question is: How is the Ministry thinking of a major revamp? As the Chair is aware, during the last couple of years, Bangladesh has overtaken India in the export of garments, which, of course, causes tremendous amount of unemployment in our country. Those working in this sector are the vulnerable sections of our society and they lost their jobs. The hon. Minister has enumerated one dozen schemes which have been working for many years. I want to ask the hon. Minister as to whether the Ministry is thinking of some specific steps to be taken to modernize the infrastructure of the Ministry of Textiles all across and what steps are being taken to help those people who work in these mills and factories. Their mills have been closed. How many sick mills have been revived in the last three years?

श्री अजय टम्टा: माननीय सदस्य महोदय ने काफी प्रकार की चिंताओं को एक साथ अभिव्यक्त किया है, मगर जैसा कि प्रश्न के लिखित उत्तर में बताया जा चुका है कि लम्बित दावों की कुल संख्या में से अभी तक जो दावे निपटाए जा चुके हैं, उनकी संख्या 5,637 है। मैं आपकी जानकारी में लाना चाहता हूँ कि आपने Duty Drawback Scheme, ROSL का जो प्रश्न उठाया है, हमने आपको पहले ही बता दिया है कि यह संख्या बहुत कम आई है। चूंकि यह योजना अभी 20 सितम्बर, 2016 से ही लागू की गई है, अतः अभी इस योजना को शुरू हुए बहुत ज्यादा समय नहीं हुआ है।

चालू वित्तीय वर्ष में इसके लिए वित्तीय आबंटन 400 करोड़ रुपए का था, जिससे 5000 से अधिक दावों को निपटाया जा चुका है। सभापति जी, जो बात माननीय सदस्य ने ड्यूटी ड्रॉबैक के बारे में पूछी

है, उसके बारे में मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि 29 करोड़ रुपए आज की तारीख तक वितरित किए जा चुके हैं।

महोदय, इस वित्तीय वर्ष में 400 करोड़ रुपए की धनराशि मार्च माह के अन्त तक वितरित कर दी जाएगी। दावों को निपटाने में तेजी लाने के लिए वस्त्र मंत्रालय ने वित्तीय वर्ष 2016-17 में मार्च माह में, चूंकि राजस्व विभाग द्वारा पैसे का वितरण किया जाता है और ये सारी चीजें निपटाई जाती हैं, इसलिए राजस्व विभाग को पूर्ण रूप से इसे निपटाने के लिए 400 करोड़ रुपए दिए हैं। उनसे लगातार हम चर्चा भी कर रहे हैं।

महोदय, 1400 करोड़ रुपए से अधिक के दावे प्राप्त हुए हैं, जिनका निपटान 'पहले आओ-पहले पाओ' के सिद्धान्त पर किया जाता है। चूंकि निपटारे का जो सिस्टम है, वह कम्प्यूटराइज्ड है, इसलिए वह पैसा कम्प्यूटर के माध्यम से ऑटोमेटिकली ट्रांसफर हो जाता है।

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, my first supplementary has not been answered. The Minister has read out the written reply which I also read out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask your second supplementary.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: What happened to my first supplementary?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please write to the Chair that your question has not been answered.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: All right, Sir. My second question is really a follow up, if I got an answer for my first question on demonetization which has caused tremendous misery to the people working in this sector. It is one of the largest employers in our country. I know that in cities like Ludhiana and Amritsar people working in hosiery mills lost their jobs overnight because there was no way they could be paid.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put your question.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: The question naturally comes, what are the special packages this Ministry has to overcome calamities either imposed by the Government due to demonetization to help those poor people working in those sick mills, who have lost their jobs, who have suddenly, from one day to the other day, become destitute? You can't leave the entire family a financially vulnerable people without means of livelihood. What is the special package does the Ministry have?

श्री अजय टम्टा: माननीय सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्या द्वारा जो प्रश्न पूछे गए हैं, उनके बारे में मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि जो पुरानी स्कीमें थीं, वे सारी स्कीमें अभी भी चल रही हैं और उन स्कीमों में हमने बजट का आबंटन भी किया है। आपने विशेष पैकेज की बात भी पूछी है। मैं आपके ध्यान में लाना

चाहता हूँ कि वर्ष 2016-17 में वस्त्र मंत्रालय का कुल बजट रु. 4,598.84 करोड़ रुपए था जो कि वर्ष 2017-18 में बढ़कर रु. 6,226.50 करोड़ रुपए का किया गया है। यह धन पुरानी योजनाओं के साथ-साथ नई योजनाओं पर भी व्यय किया जाएगा। इसमें रु. 6,000.00 करोड़ रुपए माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने स्वयं इन योजनाओं को और बढ़ाने तथा लोगों को रोजगार और ज्यादा मिले इस दृष्टि से रखे गए हैं। देश के जो छोटे-छोटे बुनकर और वीवर्स हैं तथा बाकी के जो और लोग ऐपेरल गारमेंट्स से जुड़े हुए हैं, जो छोटे-छोटे कामों को करते हैं, उनके लिए इस योजना में विशेष ध्यान दिया गया है।

महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्या को अवगत कराना चाहता हूँ कि भारतीय वस्त्र उद्योग मैनुफैक्चरिंग सेक्टर में 10 प्रतिशत, भारत की जीडीपी में 2 प्रतिशत और देश के निर्यात में 13 प्रतिशत योगदान देता है और पूरे देश के अंदर लगभग 4.50 करोड़ लोगों को रोजगार देता है। आपने जिस समस्या को उठाया है, उसके बारे में मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि परिधान और मेड अप्स क्षेत्र के रोजगार सृजन को बढ़ाने के लिए माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने हमें विशेष पैकेज दिया है।

महोदय, अगले तीन वर्षों में 1 करोड़ 11 लाख नौकरियों को सृजित करने के उद्देश्य से ऐपेरल गारमेंट्स को हम चला रहे हैं और इस काम को बढ़ा रहे हैं। परिधान और मेड अप्स क्षेत्र में सब्सिडी को 15 प्रतिशत से बढ़ाकर 25 प्रतिशत कर दिया गया है और अधिकतम सीमा को बढ़ाकर 50 करोड़ रुपए कर दिया गया है। यह सब्सिडी आउटपुट आधारित है। अपेक्षित नौकरियों के सृजन के बाद, तीन वर्षों के पश्चात् इसकी पुनरीक्षा की जाएगी।

महोदय, माननीय सदस्या के प्रश्न में जिस प्रकार की शंकाएं थी, उन्हें मैंने दूर करने का प्रयास किया है। आपने गरीब मजदूरों के ईपीएफ के बारे में पूछा है। मैं इस बारे में बताना चाहता हूँ कि उनके बारे में भी हमने इसमें प्रोविजन किया है। पहले तीन साल में पंजीकृत होने वाले सभी कर्मचारियों को "प्रधान मंत्री परिधान रोजगार योजना" के माध्यम से ईपीएफ में 12 प्रतिशत सरकार स्वयं देगी। इसका फैक्टरी मालिकों पर कोई लोड नहीं है। इसे फैक्टरी मालिक नहीं देगा। ये सारी चीजें रोजगार को बढ़ावा देने के लिए ही की गई हैं। आपने अन्य बहुत सारी चीजें विभाग के बारे में पूछी हैं। चूंकि विभाग के बारे में यह उत्तर बहुत लम्बा है, इसलिए यदि आप चाहेंगी और कहेंगी, तो मैं इस पूर्ण जानकारी को आपको भिजवा दूंगा।

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Tamil Nadu is a leading State in the country in the textile sector. Erode, Salem, Karur and Namakkal constitute major textile belt. Out of that, 2000 processing units discharge effluents into the Cauvery River. Our leader, the former hon. Chief Minister, late Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, had announced a scheme for rehabilitation of these units to achieve zero liquid discharge. We have sent four proposals for approval. The Detailed Project Reports of Kadayampatti and Bhavani Clusters have been sent to the Ministry of Textiles for the sanction of Government of India's share of funding under the Integrated Processing Development Scheme. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether these proposals, with an estimated project cost of ₹ 160 crore and ₹ 92.21 crore, have been approved by the Ministry of Textiles.

श्री अजय टम्टा: माननीय सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने अपने किसी क्षेत्र विशेष की बात की है। मेरा निवेदन है कि माननीय सदस्य की बातों को हम लोग संज्ञान में ले रहे हैं। हम उसकी जानकारी लेंगे। हमने तमिलनाडु में 2,000 करोड़ रुपये स्वीकृत किए हैं, जिसमें स्वीकृति के पूरे दस्तावेज आपकी तरफ से लम्बित हैं। हम उनको एक बार फिर चेक करा लेंगे और अगर आवश्यकता पड़ेगी, तो उसको देख लेंगे। हमने 2,000 करोड़ रुपये रिलीज किए हैं। By the way, आपके प्रस्ताव के जो दस्तावेज लम्बित हैं, उनको हम चेक करा लेंगे।

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Sir, I am asking about the Kadayampatti and Bhavani Clusters.

श्री सभापति: आप वह इन्फॉर्मेशन लेकर ऑनरेबल मेम्बर को दे दीजिए।

श्री अजय टम्टा: सर, वह किसी विशेष क्षेत्र का है। मैं उसको चेक करा लूँगा।

श्री आनन्द भास्कर रापोलू: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं खुद बुनकर होने के नाते देश भर के बुनकरों के दुःख और उनकी अवस्था को पूरा समझ सकता हूँ, चाहे वह टेक्सटाइल सेक्टर का हो, पावरलूम का हो या हथकरघा के क्षेत्र का हो।

Sir, the textile sector is being misconstrued as being just a singular avocation for production of textiles whereas we have powerlooms, handlooms, handicrafts, etc., which are quite different. I would focus on powerlooms.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question, please.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: During the UPA regime, the Union Budget had taken into consideration the existence of the powerloom sector and done everything to promote the powerloom sector with reduced interest rates and reasonable credit facilities. Due to demonetization and its aftermath, Bhiwandi and Surat in Maharashtra and Gujarat...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Sir, lakhs of workers have been displaced. In this situation, I would like to know whether the Ministry of Textiles is focusing on powerlooms protection and whether they are going to protect powerloom weavers by providing credit facilities at reduced interest rates.

श्री अजय टम्टा: माननीय सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य महोदय ने पावरलूम के लिए ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Silence in the House, please!

श्री अजय टम्टा: महोदय, उन्होंने पावरलूम के लिए जो चिन्ता व्यक्त की है, तो वास्तव में पावरलूम की समस्या अलग प्रकार की है। उसमें मास्टर्स लोग काम करते हैं, कई मशीनें रहती हैं, जो यार्न से संबंधित होती हैं, बिजली से संबंधित होती हैं और कहीं बिजली की कटौती रहती है, तो कहीं बिजली नहीं मिल पाती।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI ANAND BHASKAR RAPOLU: Sir...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt.

श्री अजय टम्टा: प्रश्न का उत्तर आने दीजिए।...(व्यवधान)... प्रश्न का उत्तर आने दीजिए।

इसी समस्या को ध्यान में रखते हुए हमने सौर ऊर्जा की योजना बनाई है। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी का विज़न ग्रीन एनर्जी के माध्यम से है, ताकि हमारे पावरलूम किसी प्रकार से प्रभावित न हों, उनका रोजगार किसी प्रकार से बाधित न हो, उनको लगभग पूरी दिहाड़ी मिले और उनका उत्पादन पूरा हो। हम इस समस्या का समाधान शुरू करने जा रहे हैं। मैं आपके ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि इस योजना को हम बहुत जल्दी शुरू कर रहे हैं। इसका उद्देश्य भी यही है कि पावरलूम सेक्टर में काम करने वाले लोगों को फायदा हो। यह काम शुरू हो, इसके लिए हमने दो प्रकार की योजनाएँ बनाई हैं - ऑनग्रिड सोलर पावर प्लांट की योजना और ऑफग्रिड सोलर पावर प्लांट की योजना। जिनकी इकाई शेड है, उनके लिए पात्रता है। जिनके पास 4 पावरलूम हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Sir, banks are not clearing....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt, Mr. Rapolu. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री अजय टम्टा: माननीय सभापति जी, जो पावरलूम ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please stop interrupting? ...(Interruptions)... Please do not interrupt.

श्री अजय टम्टा: माननीय सभापति जी, जिनके पास चार पावरलूम हैं, उनके लिए 4,50,000 की स्कीम है, जिसमें हमने सब्सिडी की भी व्यवस्था की है। जो सामान्य जाति के हैं, उनके लिए 50 परसेंट की सब्सिडी है, जो एससी के हैं, उनके लिए 75 परसेंट की सब्सिडी है और जो शैड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स के हैं, उनके लिए 90 प्रतिशत की सब्सिडी है। यह 4 लूम्स, 6 लूम्स और 8 लूम्स के लिए हैं। हमारी यह योजना जल्दी ही क्रियान्वित हो रही है। हम इसको 1 अप्रैल से पूरे देश के अंदर लागू कर देंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. The House stands adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Bringing the Oak Grove School, Jharipani under PPP mode**

*171. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has brought the Oak Grove School, Jharipani under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether organisational structure of the School will be changed as autonomous body under PPP mode, if so, the details thereof, including quota for wards of Railway staff and others;

(c) whether performance of the School has gradually deteriorated during recent years;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the Principal for poor result; and

(e) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Decline in the number of passengers travelling in Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a decline has been registered in the number of passengers travelling in Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains;

(b) if so, the reasons for such decline; and

(c) if not, the details of number of passengers travelling *vis-a-vis* the seats available in the said trains from February, 2015 to January, 2017?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) On Indian Railways, the demand pattern is not uniform throughout the year and it varies during

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the peak and lean seasons. The demand for travel surges especially during the peak season like summer holidays, festivals etc. During the Financial Year, 2016-17 (upto February 2017), the TOTAL number of passengers booked was 7525.08 million which is 0.71% more than the number of passengers booked during the corresponding period of last year. The number of passengers booked in reserved segment during this period was 475.24 million which is 3.33% higher than the number of passengers booked during the corresponding period of last year. Further, there has also been a growth of 2.53% and 2.45% in the TOTAL number of passengers booked in Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains respectively during the period April, 2016 to February, 2017 as compared to corresponding period of last year. The overall occupancy of Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains during the period from February 2015 to January 2017 is 77.58% and 96.89% respectively as under:—

Train type	No. of Berths	No. of Passengers	% age Occupancy
Shatabdi Exp. trains	312,02,897	242,08,275	77.58
Rajdhani Exp. trains	207,11,080	200,66,868	96.89

Model railway stations in Bihar

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

(a) the number of railway stations selected for being developed as model railway stations in Bihar;

(b) the number of railway stations proposed to be selected for development under the category of model railway stations during the next three years;

(c) the number of such stations where renovation work has been completed; and

(d) by when the renovation work of all the selected stations would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) The 'Model Station' scheme was in vogue between June, 1999 and November, 2008. 594 stations including 55 stations in Bihar were identified and developed under 'Model' Station Scheme. The names of 55 stations identified in Bihar under the Model Station Scheme are as under:—

Bihar (55) Akshayawat Rai Nagar, Anugrah Narayan Road, Ara, Arariya Court, Barauni, Barh, Bariarpur, Bakhtiyarpur, Begusarai, Bettiah, Bhabua Road, Bhagalpur,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Biharsharif, Buxar, Chhapra, Dalsinghsarai, Dehri On Sone, Danapur, Darbhanga, Gaya, Hajipur Jn, Jamalpur Jn., Jamui, Janakpur Road, Jhajha, Katihar, Khagaria, Kishanganj, Kiul, Lakheesarai, Madhubani, Mananpur, Mokama, Motihari, Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, Nayagaon, Narkatiaganj jn., Nawadah, Patna Jn., Patna Sahib, Phulwarisarif, Purnea jn., Rajendra Nagar (T), Rajgir, Raxaul, Saharsa, Sagauli jn., Sasaram, Samastipur, Sheikhpura, Sitamarhi, Siwan Jn., Sonepur and Sultanganj.

At present, stations are undertaken for development under Adarsh Station scheme and 1253 stations, including 59 stations in Bihar, have been identified for development under this scheme. The names of 59 stations identified in Bihar under the Adarsh Station Scheme are as under:-

Bihar (59) Abhaipur, Anugraha Narayan Road, Ara, Arariya, Arariya Court, Bairania, Bajpatti, Barauni Jn., Barsoi Jn., Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Biharsharif, Chhapra Jn., Dumra, Dumraon, Forbesganj, Garhpura, Ghogha, Ghora Sahan, Hasanpur Road, Hisua, Jamalpur, Janakpur Road, Jehanabad, Jiradai, Jogbani, Kahalgaon, Kharik, Kishanganj, Madhubani, Maheshkhut, Mansi Jn., Narainpur, Naugachia, Nawadah, Patna Sahib Jn., Rafiganj, Sahrpur Patori, Salauna, Sheikhpura, Shivnarayanpur, Sasaram Jn., Simraha, Simribakhtiyarpur, Sitamarhi, Sultanganj, Supaul, Tehta, Thakurganj, Thanabihpur, Warsaliganj. Chakia, Makhdumpur, Buxar, Jamui, Narkatiyaganj, Harinagar, Bagha and Dharhara.

(b) The provision of upgraded amenities is a continuous and on-going process. Selection of Railway stations for inclusion under the Adarsh Station Scheme is based on an identified need for upgradation of amenities at stations. More stations may be considered for inclusion under Adarsh Station Scheme whenever there is any proposal for further selection of more stations under this scheme based on the relative importance of the station and justification based on passengers handled at the station.

(c) All 55 Stations selected under Model Station Scheme from Bihar have already been developed. Out of 59 stations selected under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme from Bihar, 33 stations have been developed. The name of these 33 stations are as under:-

Abhaipur, Anugraha Narayan Road, Ara, Arariya, Arariya Court, Barsoi Jn., Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Bihar Sharif, Chhapra Jn., Forbesganj, Ghogha, Hasanpur Road, Jamalpur, Janakpur Road, Jehanabad, Jiradai, Jogbani, Kahalgaon, Kishanganj, Madhubani, Mansi, Naugachia, Patna Saheb, Rafiganj, Sahrpur Patori, Sasaram Jn., Shivnarayanpur, Simraha,

Sitamarhi, Sultanganj, Thakurganj and Thanabihpur.

(d) Out of 1253 Railway stations identified under Adarsh Station Scheme, 1017 Railway stations have already been developed and the remaining stations are planned to be developed by 2017-18.

Further, in recent past, Indian Railways have taken various steps to improve the services for the passengers at stations and in the trains, some of which are as under:-

(i) Redevelopment of stations

It is planned to offer 'A-1' and 'A' category stations (407 stations) for redevelopment on 'as is where is' basis by inviting open bids from interested parties with their designs and business ideas. Based on studies undertaken by the Strategic consultants, M/s Boston Consulting Group (BCG), it was decided to launch 23 stations for bidding in the first phase.

Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd. (IRSDC) has been awarded Development Contract for Habibganj station for which financial closure has been achieved and preparatory work started. Contract for redevelopment of Gandhinagar station and construction of 300 room hotel on the station's air-space has been awarded. Bidders for redevelopment of Anand Vihar and Bijwasan stations have been shortlisted and Financial bids have been invited. MOU for development of an integrated Multi-Modal Hub at Surat including redevelopment of Surat railway station and Bus Terminus was signed between IRSDC, Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation and Surat Municipal Corporation in August, 2016 for which Request for Qualification (RFQ) have been opened. Further, Master Plan and detailed Feasibility Reports for redevelopment of Chandigarh & Shivajinagar (Pune) stations have also been prepared.

(ii) Adarsh Station

191 numbers of stations have been developed under Adarsh Station Scheme from 2014-15 till date.

(iii) Provision of Foot Over Bridge (FOBs)

42 Foot Over Bridges have been completed from 2014-15 till date.

(iv) PRS cum UTS counters

In order to facilitate cancellation of PRS counter tickets at relatively smaller stations, one of the Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) cum PRS counters

(wherever PRS booking facility is available) has been earmarked for granting refund beyond the working hours of PRS counters/Current counters. This facility is available in respect of PRS counter tickets for those trains whose scheduled departure time is within the next 24 hours.

(v) Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendras (YTSK)

For convenience of passengers in getting tickets, 160 Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendras have been established through public private partnership for issuing of reserved and unreserved tickets.

(vi) Currency Operated Automatic Ticket Vending Machine (CoTVM)

Currency Operated Automatic Ticket Vending Machine (CoTVM) have been provided to facilitate purchase of unreserved journey tickets. Till date, 450 CoTVM have been commissioned at around 250 Stations.

(vii) Point of Sale (PoS) machines

Around 4,000 Point of Sale (PoS) machines have been installed at various locations of Indian Railways to facilitate payments through Credit/Debit cards.

(viii) Platform Ticket through Mobile Application

The facility of paperless platform ticket on Mobile application has been launched at major stations over suburban sections of Western Railway, Central Railway, Eastern Railway, South Eastern Railway, Southern Railway, South Central Railway and Northern Railway (New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway stations).

(ix) Mobile application for reserved ticketing

IRCTC mobile application for reserved ticketing called Rail- connect has been launched with additional features on Jan 10, 2017.

(x) Mobile application for unreserved ticketing

New UTS mobile application with more number of payment options has been launched on Jan. 10, 2017.

(xi) Cancellation on 139/IRCTC website

Passengers can get Counter Tickets/Paper Tickets issued on Railway Counters cancelled by calling/sending SMS at 139/IRCTC website and claim refund later on as per their convenience.

(xii) Lifts/Escalators

Till date, about 369 escalators and around 183 lifts have been provided at Stations.

(xiii) Wi-Fi facility at stations

Wi-Fi facility has been provided at present at 115 Stations till date 28.02.2017.

(xiv) Online booking of retiring room

The facility of online booking of retiring room has been provided at 488 Railway stations. Further, for convenience of passengers, a pilot project for a period of six months has been launched in Western Railway for booking of Retiring Room as well as dormitory for minimum duration of 3 hrs except for night booking where the booking is done mandatorily from 2100 hrs to 0900 hrs. The hourly booking service is operational at a few major stations viz. Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Surat. The tariff is being charged on hourly basis.

(xv) Janani Sewa

Janani Sewa has been launched keeping in mind the need of food for babies in Railway premises. The baby foods, hot milk are being made available at all major stations on payment basis.

(xvi) E-catering services

E-catering services are provided at 357 stations out of proposed 408 A1 & A Category Stations.

(xvii) Food Plazas/Fast Food

102 Food Plazas/Fast Food Units have been commissioned in last three years. At present total 220 Food Plazas/Fast Food Units are operational at various railway stations on Indian Railways.

(xviii) Water Vending Machines

With the objective to make available potable drinking water to passengers at affordable price at stations, around 1100 Water Vending Machines have been provided at 400 stations. Water is available at ₹1/- for 200 ML, ₹ 3 for 500 ml, ₹5 for 1 Ltrs & ₹ 8 for 2 Ltrs through these Water Vending Machines.

(xix) Disposable Bed Rolls through IRCTC Portal

The disposable bedrolls can be bought from the Indian Railway Catering and

Tourism Corporation's website through credit, debit or prepaid cards, or counters at these stations. A bedroll kit packed in a non-woven fabric bag consisting of two cotton bed-sheets and one pillow is available at a cost of ₹140. A blanket kit packed in a non-woven bag consisting of one blanket cost ₹110. The pilot project to provide disposable bed rolls has been started at 7 stations *i.e.* New Delhi, Nizamuddin, Mumbai Central and CSTM, Chennai Central, Trivandrum and Bangalore. Any passenger having confirmed ticket can avail this facility from the time of ticketing up to 4 hours prior to scheduled departure of train and delivered in train.

(xx) E-wheel chair

The facility of online booking of e-wheel chair has been provided by Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) from Aug 2015. The e-wheel chairs can be booked for maximum one hour. The facility of online booking of e-wheel chairs is available at 22 stations of Indian Railways. The facility is presently available at 22 stations.

(xxi) Battery Operated Cars (BOC)

The facility of 80 Battery Operated Cars (BOC) is available at 54 stations of Indian Railways for the convenience of senior citizens, physically challenged persons etc.

(xxii) Free insurance

Indian Railways is providing free insurance of ₹10 lakhs for tickets booked online up to March 31, 2017.

(xxiii) Discount on season tickets booked through digital means

IR is providing 0.5% discount on Season Tickets purchased through digital means with effect from 1st January, 2017.

(xxiv) Discount on digital payments for services

IR is providing 5% discount on payment made on line for availing services like e-catering, online booking of retiring rooms etc. with effect from 1st January, 2017.

(xxv) Clean My Coach

The Indian Railways has started a new service called Clean My Coach to provide cleaning services on the running train. The On Board House keeping service on

the train will facilitate the cleaning of coaches. Passengers can demand the cleaning of the coaches and can avail this service at any time by sending an SMS at a designated number.

(xxvi) Single Person Accountability for All Facilities on a Train

Under the scheme, the Train Superintendent (TS) has been made single person responsible for all facilities on train. All railway personnel and Supervisors of all out sourced agencies report to the TS for effective control and supervision to ensure improvement in onboard services offered by Railways. Sr. DCM (Chg)/ Delhi division acts as "Product Manager" for all Rajdhani services starting from and terminating in Delhi area.

National Policy of Food Processing

*174. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is formulating a National Policy of Food Processing, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Ministry is holding consultations with stakeholders for the formulation of this Policy, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time period set for constituting the Expert Group to formulate the Draft National Policy of Food Processing?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry is in the process of formulating a National Food Processing policy for overall growth and development of the food processing industry with an overarching goal of providing remunerative return to farmers and reducing wastages. It also suggests steps to be taken up by the States/Union Territories to achieve these goals. The objectives of the National Food Processing Policy include creation of adequate infrastructure facilities along the supply chain to ensure better prices for farmers and enable delivery of affordable and quality produce to consumers. The policy also aims to generate more opportunities for the development of the food processing industry, create employment and to position India as the preferred investment destination. A comprehensive National Food Processing Policy would be an effective step to catalyse investments and optimize growth in the sector.

- (b) and (c) Ministry has conducted a consultation on National Food Processing

Policy with stakeholders on 8th February, 2017. The draft policy document was also shared with the State Food Processing Ministers in a meeting held on 6th March, 2017 in New Delhi, for their comments/suggestions. The draft National Food Processing Policy has been uploaded on the website of the Ministry seeking comments from stakeholders and general public. The National Food Processing Policy will be finalised after taking into account the suggestions of all stakeholders including State Governments.

Reservation for women in Central and State Legislatures

*175. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce a legislation to provide for one third reservation for women in Central and State Legislatures;

(b) whether Government has held any consultations/meetings with various political parties regarding the issue; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) During the years, a consistent demand has been made from various quarters for giving adequate representation to women in Parliament and State Legislatures and to provide for reservation of one-third seats for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies including the Legislative Assemblies of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, for a period of 15 years. A Bill, namely, the Constitution (One Hundred and Eight Amendment) Bill, 2008 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 6th May, 2008. The Rajya Sabha passed the said Bill on 9th March, 2010; but it could not be passed by the Fifteenth Lok Sabha. The said Bill lapsed on dissolution of the fifteenth Lok Sabha.

It has been the endeavor of the Government to provide for reservation of one-third seats for women in the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies. The issue involved needs careful consideration on the basis of consensus among all political parties before a Bill for amendment in the Constitution is brought before Parliament.

Suicide by farmers

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

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that 72 per cent of the

farmers, who commit suicide, have less than 2 hectares of land, as per the latest data of NCRB;

(b) if so, the response of the Ministry thereto and the steps proposed to be taken to protect these 72 per cent farmers who have small and marginal holdings;

(c) whether there is any special intervention in the Budget proposed for 2017-18; and

(d) if not, how the Ministry is planning to go ahead in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, land holding status of farmers/cultivators who committed suicide during 2015 revealed that 72.6% of the total of such victims were Small and Marginal by land size. The Government is implementing a number of schemes to help the farmers in increasing their productivity by reducing cost of cultivation, achieving higher yield per unit and by realizing remunerative prices. Agriculture is a State subject and the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture in the State. State Governments are primarily responsible for the growth and development of agriculture sector in their respective States. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. On the input management side, specific interventions include Soil Health Card (SHC), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Micro-irrigation as a component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) and Farm Mechanization. Further Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS) of the Government helps farmers to access institutional credit at concessional rate of interest. On the post-production side, Government's support includes notification of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for various crops grown in Kharif and Rabi; procurement operation etc. Beside this, the Government focus is on improving marketing efficiency so that farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. With this end in view, eNAM has been launched by the Government.

A critical intervention made by the Government to cover the farming risks of all farmers including the small and marginal farmers is the comprehensive 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)'. In the first year of the launch (2016-17) itself, increased response of the farmers is visible.

Recognising the special needs of small & marginal farmers, the Government has been promoting mobilization of farmers and registration as 'Farmers Producers Company (FPC)' which will help them to manage their inputs and outputs in a more efficient manner.

Interventions of Government are as following:—

- (i) The Government provides interest subvention of 2% on short-term crop loans upto ₹ 3.00 lakh. This 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, the farmers are offered relief on occurrence of natural calamities, by way of continued availability of interest subvention of 2% to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. The benchmark for initiating relief measures by banks has also been reduced to 33% of crop loss, in line with the National Disaster Management Framework. The union budget 2017-18 provides for an enhance target of ₹ 10.00 lakh crore as farm loan, so that farmers can access institutional credit.
- (ii) The State Governments are empowered to initiate immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including crop failure. Government of India supplements the efforts of State Governments with financial assistance. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature and is approved on the basis of Memorandum received from State Government in accordance with established procedure, keeping in view items and norms in vogue for assistance. During the year 2015-16, the Governments of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand declared drought in parts of their States and submitted memoranda seeking financial assistance for drought affected areas from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and the Central Government sanctioned financial package from NDRF to provide relief to farmers affected by drought in these States *e.g.* Maharashtra (₹4,318.37 crore), Karnataka (₹2263.43 crore), Madhya Pradesh (₹ 2032.68 crore), Chhattisgarh (₹ 1276.25 crore), Odisha (₹815 crore), Telangana (₹791.21 crore), Uttar Pradesh (₹ 1927.28 crore) and Andhra Pradesh (₹433.77 crore), Jharkhand (₹ 336.94 crore), Rajasthan (₹ 1193.41 crore) and Uttarakhand (₹ 70.22 crore). Similarly, during the year 2016-17, the Central Government has sanctioned ₹ 1782.44 for Karnataka from NDRF to provide relief to farmers affected by drought in parts of Karnataka.
- (iii) 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 rate of premium. This scheme provides insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks, in specified instances. For 2016-17 under the scheme, RE was ₹13,240 crore and BE for 2017-18 is ₹9,000 crore.

- (iv) 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. The Scheme envisages initiation of e-marketing platform at national level and supports creation of infrastructure, free software and training of manpower to enable e-marketing in 585 regulated markets across the country. By now 250 APMCs have been integrated and 150 more markets will be onboarded on the platform by 31st March, 2017 and 185 more by 31st March, 2018.
- (v) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers learn of the nutrients status of their soil are guided to ensure judicious use of fertiliser and realize soil health, higher productivity and reduced cost of cultivation. The union budget provides support for beginning the second cycle of SHC in 2017-18. The scheme aim to collect and test soil samples and provide SHC to every farmer in country.
- (vi) 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 and imported urea is now neem coated. This will continue to the year 2017-18.
- (vii) 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 while helping the farmers, particularly in rainfed & hilly areas to realise higher per unit yields and premium price in the market.
- (viii) The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is being implemented to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency. The Union Budget, 2017-18 provides for an enhanced allocation of ₹ 3,400 crore for Per Drop More Crop including Micro-irrigation and establishment of a corpus fund ₹ 5000 crore through NABARD to provide Micro-irrigation.

- (ix) 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 & Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- (x) Minimum Support Price (MSP) is notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs & 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.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has substantially enhanced the budgetary allocation for the agriculture sector from ₹ 35,983.69 crore BE (including ₹ 20,400.00 crore for Plan) during 2016-17 to ₹ 42,544.00 crore BE during 2017-18 (including non-Scheme). Further, for the welfare of farmers, the Government has announced the following proposals for farmers in the Union Budget 2017-18:-

- Target for agricultural credit in 2017-18 has been fixed at a record level of ₹ 10 lakh crore.
- To ensure targeted flow of credit to small and marginal farmers, Government to support NABARD for computerisation and integration of all 63,000 functional Primary Agriculture Credit Societies with the Core Banking System of District Central Cooperative Banks.
- Coverage under Fasal Bima Yojana scheme will be increased from 30% of cropped area in 2016-17 to 40% in 2017-18 and 50% in 2018-19 for which a budgetary provision of ₹ 9,000 crore has been made.

- Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) already setup by NABARD in 2016-17 is to be augmented by 100% during 2017-18, taking the corpus size to ₹ 40,000 crore. This will expedite completion of pending irrigation projects.
- Dedicated Micro-Irrigation Fund in NABARD to achieve 'per drop more crop' with initial corpus of ₹ 5,000 crore.
- Setting up of Dairy processing and Infrastructure Development Fund in NABARD with a corpus of ₹ 2,000 crore.

Maintenance of basic data of handloom weavers

*177. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various welfare schemes meant for handloom weavers across the country could not be implemented due to insufficient and improper maintenance of basic data of handloom weavers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is contemplating to adopt a more scientific approach in this direction, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) No Sir. The office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles is implementing Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS) with two components; namely Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) and Health Insurance Scheme.

(i) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY):—

The basic objective of Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana is to provide insurance cover to the handloom weavers in the case of natural as well as accidental death and Total or partial Disability.

Benefits under the MGBBY:—

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) **Health Insurance Scheme (HIS):—**

In Twelfth Five Year Plan, the Government approved implementation of Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) on Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) pattern.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued instructions on 29th March, 2016 for coverage of handloom weavers for 2016-17 in the existing pattern of RSBY *i.e.* with Indoor Patient (LP) benefits of ₹ 30,000/-.

(b) Yes Sir, Government of India will be adopting camp approach to increase number of beneficiaries from next financial year.

Projects under ICAR

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

(a) the details of allocation and utilisation of funds for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in the last three years, year-wise and project-wise;

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

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

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

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

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

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

Statement*Details of allocation and utilization of funds for ICAR during the last three years (2013-2016) year-wise and project-wise*

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Sector/Scheme	2013-14 RE	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 RE	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 RE	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 RE
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Crop Science								
1.	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi	1339.00	1326.69	1147.00	1125.10	1955.19	1765.18	1092.00
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi	989.00	976.69	754.00	745.59	941.19	940.96	448.00
	AIC Research Network on Potential Crops, New Delhi	350.00	350.00	343.00	342.91	298.00	298.00	79.00
	CRP on Agro biodiversity			50.00	36.60	716.00	526.22	565.00
2.	Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi	3839.50	3751.92	3191.28	3191.19	4523.00	4513.47	3614.00
	Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi	2389.50	2343.28	1901.28	1901.25	2387.00	2386.97	2077.00
	Network Project on Transgenics	1000.00	958.69	850.00	850.00	750.00	747.93	380.00
	NRC Biotechnology Centre for Crop Science, New Delhi	450.00	449.95	430.00	430.00	600.00	599.86	415.00
	CRP on Hybrid			5.00	4.96	343.00	339.83	342.00
	CRP on Molecular Breeding			5.00	4.98	443.00	438.88	400.00

3.	Indian Institute of Maize Research, New Delhi.	1640.00	1632.75	1676.00	1674.94	2448.60	2448.29	2272.80
	Indian Institute of Maize Research, New Delhi	330.00	323.26	452.00	450.94	450.00	449.69	690.00
	AICRP on Maize, New Delhi	1310.00	1309.49	1224.00	1224.00	1998.60	1998.60	1582.80
4.	National Research Centre for Integrated Pest Management(NCIPM), New Delhi	1685.50	1655.58	1519.00	1518.47	1594.00	1554.28	1840.83
	National Research Centre for Integrated Pest Management(NCIPM), New Delhi	131.50	115.42	128.00	128.00	190.00	163.86	791.18
	AINP on Soil Arthropod Pests, Durgapura, Rajasthan	215.00	215.00	164.00	164.00	194.00	192.08	248.00
	AINP on Agricultural Acarology	230.00	230.00	228.00	228.00	242.00	242.00	165.00
	AINP on Pesticides Residues, New Delhi	614.00	600.38	525.00	525.00	526.00	515.71	383.05
	AICRP on Nematodes in Cropping System, New Delhi	495.00	494.78	474.00	473.47	442.00	440.63	253.60
5.	National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack	3415.00	3113.00	3533.99	3039.63	4502.50	4415.44	4617.06
	National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack	430.00	430.00	509.00	509.00	933.00	933.00	1400.00
	Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad	390.00	386.68	407.99	405.57	463.00	462.79	350.00
	All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project, Hyderabad	2595.00	2296.32	2237.00	1915.51	2542.50	2458.07	2417.06
	CRP on Biofortification, Hyderabad			380.00	209.55	564.00	561.58	450.00

Written Answers to

[17 March, 2017]

Starred Questions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	72
6.	Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur	3839.00	3827.68	3525.00	3524.38	4785.00	4780.99	3856.19	Written Answers to [RAJYA SABHA]
	Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur	300.00	296.87	411.00	410.63	850.00	849.30	500.00	
	AICRP on Chickpea, Kanpur	1100.00	1099.77	902.00	902.00	1159.00	1158.91	1021.29	
	AICRP on MULLaRP, Kanpur	1150.00	1144.72	977.00	977.00	1392.00	1391.74	1144.90	
	AICRP on Pigeon Pea, Kanpur	1072.00	1068.50	945.00	944.75	1069.00	1068.68	933.00	
	AINP on Arid Legumes, Kanpur	217.00	217.82	290.00	290.00	315.00	312.36	257.00	
7.	Indian Institute for Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal	3839.00	3821.61	3773.36	3764.71	4891.00	4867.36	4305.96	Shared Questions
	Indian Institute for Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal	600.00	602.40	670.00	667.30	1050.00	1049.99	900.00	
	AICRP on Wheat & Barley, Karnal	1800.00	1800.00	1675.00	1675.00	2029.00	2023.82	1654.46	
	Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Shala, Almora	170.00	167.14	168.00	168.00	330.00	330.00	440.001	
	Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi	349.00	336.17	400.36	394.79	550.00	535.74	510.50)	
	AICRP on Forage Crops and Utilization, Jhansi	920.00	915.90	860.00	859.62	932.00	927.81	801.00	
8.	Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad	2420.00	2400.41	2191.00	2184.46	2791.01	2790.94	2856.75	
	Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad	270.00	264.95	235.00	228.46	551.01	550.94	755.00	
	AICRP Sorghum, Hyderabad	900.00	879.52	706.00	706.00	775.00	775.00	741.25	

	AICRP on Pearl Millets, Jodhpur	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	860.00	860.00	830.00
	AICRP on Small Millets, Bangalore	500.00	505.94	500.00	500.00	605.00	605.00	530.50
9.	Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow	1797.00	1801.15	2264.00	2259.87	2270.00	2246.45	1919.66
	Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow	397.00	393.31	469.00	464.94	500.00	491.97	260.00
	Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore	220.00	219.98	322.00	321.96	450.00	434.82	407.96
	AICRP on Sugarcane, Lucknow	785.00	792.96	884.00	883.97	736.00	735.67	679.20
	Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajamundry	125.00	124.90	173.00	173.00	192.00	191.99	192.50
	All India Network Research Project on Tobacco, Rajamundry	270.00	270.00	416.00	416.00	392.00	392.00	380.00
10.	Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur	2522.00	2499.81	2545.00	2533.52	3106.67	3104.46	2992.00
	Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur	200.00	198.41	220.00	219.57	506.00	504.51	472.00
	AICRP on Cotton, Coimbatore	1210.00	1209.70	1150.00	1150.00	1520.00	1519.99	1664.00
	Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore	275.00	273.02	355.00	352.24	371.00	371.00	320.00
	AINP on Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore	400.00	399.33	365.00	364.26	360.00	359.84	316.00
	Technology Mission on Cotton (MM-I), Nagpur	377.00	359.37	380.00	372.48	260.00	259.45	150.00
	Technology Mission on Jute(MM-I), Barrackpore	60.00	59.98	75.00	74.97	89.67	89.67	70.00

Written Answers to

[17 March, 2017]

Starred Questions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	74
									Written Answers to [RAJYA SABHA]
11. Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad		5696.00	5709.18	5305.00	5302.16	6609.06	6554.90	6159.75	
Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad		410.00	423.27	345.00	345.00	570.00	569.96	600.00	
Directorate of Groundnut Research, Junagarh		361.00	361.00	382.00	381.95	393.00	340.83	435.00	
AICRP on Groundnut, Junagarh		870.00	870.00	698.00	697.96	789.16	789.15	845.90	
Directorate of Soyabean Research, Indore		225.00	224.62	220.00	219.58	300.00	298.19	225.00	
AICRP on Soyabean, Indore		618.00	618.29	707.00	707.00	855.76	855.65	820.80	
Directorate of Rapeseed - Mustard Research, Bharatpur		175.00	175.00	167.00	166.33	250.00	250.00	250.00	
AICRP on Rapeseed & Mustard, Bharatpur		860.00	860.00	904.00	902.34	1207.08	1207.08	900.40	
AICRP on Oilseed, Hyderabad		957.00	957.00	806.00	806.00	960.06	960.06	800.00	
AICRP on Linseed, Kanpur		550.00	550.00	573.00	573.00	697.00	697.00	617.25	Starred Questions
AICRP on Sesame and Niger, Jabalpur		670.00	670.00	503.00	503.00	587.00	586.98	665.40	
12. National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru		1521.00	1541.15	1654.37	1613.38	1964.65	1927.05	1416.30	
National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru		140.00	140.00	158.00	152.92	250.00	249.53	200.00	
AICRP on Biocontrol of Crop Pests, Bengaluru		320.00	320.00	397.00	397.00	475.00	475.00	395.90	
AICRP - Honeybees and Pollinators, New Delhi		423.36	446.36	469.00	468.98	594.74	574.13	385.00	

	AINP on Vertebrate Pest Management, Jodhpur	384.64	373.68	451.00	415.22	420.46	421.02	385.40
	Network on Insect Biosystematics, New Delhi/Bengaluru	253.00	261.11	179.37	179.26	224.45	207.37	50.00
13.	Directorate of Seed Research, Mau	2827.50	2745.51	4113.67	3844.52	3663.32	3293.39	3275.50
	Directorate of Seed Research, Mau	357.50	354.96	396.00	384.19	469.62	422.40	316.00
	AICRP NSP(Crops), Mau	1980.00	1968.16	2526.67	2525.97	2593.70	2325.18	2399.50
	Seed Production in Agricultural Crops and Fisheries, Mau	490.00	422.39	1191.00	934.36	600.00	545.81	560.00
14.	National Bureau of Agril. Important Microorganisms, Mau	776.50	736.70	917.00	842.16	832.00	830.44	612.50
	National Bureau of Agril. Important Microorganisms, Mau	126.50	122.24	225.00	220.62	220.00	219.96	192.50
	Application of Micro-organisms in Agriculture and Allied Sectors (AMAAS) + Microbial Genomic Resources repository network, Mau	650.00	614.46	692.00	621.54	612.00	610.48	420.00
15.	National Institute of Biotic Stress Management, Raipur	100.00	100.00	350.00	347.57	276.00	272.02	869.70
16.	Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology, Ranchi	243.00	235.33	294.33	293.54	183.00	182.34	235.00
	Budget Announcements (Incentivizing+IARI in Assam &Jharkhand)	0.00	0.00	30.00	9.99	3105.00	2621.70^	1720.00
TOTAL (CROP SCIENCE)		37500.00	36898.47	38030.00	37069.59	49500.00	48168.70	43656.00

Written Answers to

[17 March, 2017]

Starred Questions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	76
Horticulture Science									Written Answers to [RAJYA SABHA]
17. Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Bengaluru		2719.50	2648.44	2757.00	2498.79	3937.90	3932.98	3556.00	
Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Bengaluru		596.50	566.31	1185.00	929.94	1738.90	1737.70	1108.00	
AICRP Fruits (Tropical and Sub Tropical), Bengaluru		1520.00	1499.03	1130.00	1127.55	1600.00	1599.05	1686.00	
NRC Banana, Trichi		211.00	210.28	170.00	167.34	249.50	249.48	355.00	
Central Citrus Research Institute, Nagpur		392.00	372.82	272.00	273.96	349.50	346.75	407.00	
18. Central Institute of Sub Tropical Horticulture, Lucknow		1580.75	1447.89	1145.00	1131.04	1387.56	1364.31	1400.00	
Central Institute of Sub Tropical Horticulture, Lucknow		193.75	191.93	247.00	246.10	348.50	347.89	375.00	
Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture, Srinagar		502.00	501.99	407.00	393.94	437.50	414.88	305.00	
NRC Grapes, Pune		380.00	369.12	271.00	271.00	256.06	256.04	250.00	
NRC Litchi, Muzzafarpur		505.00	384.85	220.00	220.00	345.50	345.50	470.00	
19. Central Institute of Arid Horticulture, Bikaner		1180.00	780.51	1500.00	1425.75	1699.00	1661.35	1174.00	Starred Questions
Central Institute of Arid Horticulture, Bikaner		269.00	223.72	600.00	591.60	674.00	663.06	350.00	
AICRP Arid Zone Fruits, Bikaner		500.00	333.74	480.00	417.75	550.00	546.82	420.00	
NRC Pomegranate, Solapur, Maharashtra		411.00	223.05	420.00	416.40	475.00	451.47	404.00	

20. Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi	2399.31	2345.70	2168.00	2141.07	2952.63	2852.15	2850.00
Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi	442.31	427.56	400.00	397.19	579.50	577.93	410.00
Directorate of Mushroom Research, Solan	145.00	132.27	98.00	97.61	393.10	393.07	444.00
AICRP Mushroom, Solan	293.00	271.16	245.00	222.10	395.19	338.09	236.00
AICRP Vegetables, Varanasi	1150.00	1144.10	1080.00	1079.17	1139.50	1109.30	1180.00
Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research, Rajgurunagar, Pune	369.00	370.61	345.00	345.00	445.34	433.76	580.00
Network O&G (included in Directorate)							
21. Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla	2309.75	2309.26	2064.00	1973.49	2449.41	2302.78	1990.00
Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla	931.75	931.68	984.00	981.81	815.41	815.40	790.00
AICRP Potato, Shimla	535.00	535.00	420.00	334.30	575.00	574.99	490.00
Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram	528.00	528.00	360.00	359.98	509.00	509.00	385.00
AICRP Tuber Crops, Thiruvananthapuram	315.00	314.58	300.00	297.40	550.00	403.39	325.00
CRP on Naotechnology, Shimla							
22. Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod	1489.00	1350.63	1363.00	1360.44	1829.90	1816.57	1492.00
Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod	384.00	376.14	386.00	385.05	402.00	401.77	284.00

Written Answers to

[17 March, 2017]

Starred Questions

77

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	78
	AICRP Palms, Kasargod	450.00	450.00	390.00	389.25	528.00	521.66	360.00	Written Answers to
	Directorate of Cashew Research, Puttur	200.00	179.64	164.00	164.00	347.15	347.14	280.00	
	AICRP on Cashew, Puttur	287.00	176.87	205.00	204.14	353.25	351.58	258.00	
	Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research, Pedavegi	168.00	167.98	218.00	218.00	199.50	194.42	310.00	
23.	Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair	544.69	539.42	480.00	479.23	650.00	597.67	510.00	[RAJYA SABHA]
24.	Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut	1235.00	1141.96	1597.00	1387.68	1340.50	1338.11	1180.00	
	Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut	653.00	564.74	945.00	736.02	636.50	635.37	460.00	
	AICRP Spices, Calicut	396.00	391.40	462.00	462.00	504.00	503.88	440.00	
	NRC Seed Spices, Ajmer	186.00	185.82	190.00	189.66	200.00	198.86	280.00	Starred Questions
25.	Directorate of Floricultural Research, Pune	1442.00	1424.22	1361.00	1360.55	1753.10	1687.84	1848.00	
	Directorate of Floricultural Research, Pune	449.00	449.28	452.00	451.72	493.60	428.35	530.00	
	AICRP Floriculture, Pune (in Directorate)								
	Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research, Anand	130.00	129.29	161.00	160.83	399.50	399.50	330.00	
	Network on Medicinal & Aromatic Plants, Anand	573.00	570.06	600.00	600.00	650.00	649.99	740.00	
	NRC Orchids, Pakyong, Sikkim	290.00	275.59	148.00	148.00	210.00	210.00	248.00	

TOTAL (HORTICULTURE SCIENCE)		14900.00	13988.03	14435.00	13758.04	18000.00	17553.76	16000.00
Natural Resource Management								
26.	National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur	271.00	260.80	335.00	324.96	437.21	437.20	470.00
27.	Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Dehradun	308.73	308.65	365.00	359.66	470.00	462.59	473.40
28.	Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal	2110.00	2098.99	2045.00	2038.22	2849.60	2577.32	2009.43
	Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal	160.00	159.46	156.00	155.84	285.00	275.58	304.13
	AICRP on Micro Secondary & Pollutant Elements in Soils and Plants, Bhopal	655.00	654.75	675.00	674.96	720.00	700.68	470.00
	AINP on Biofertilizer, Bhopal	200.00	188.02	185.00	181.67	309.60	303.77	199.30
	AICRP on Soil Test Crop Response, Bhopal	720.00	713.24	680.00	679.30	655.00	648.05	445.00
	AICRP on Long Term Fertilizer Experiments, Bhopal	375.00	383.52	344.00	341.46	560.00	557.19	361.00
	CRP on Conservation Agriculture, Bhopal			5.00	4.99	320.00	92.05	230.00
29.	Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal	695.00	694.86	710.00	709.93	900.00	896.32	755.00
	Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal	220.00	219.87	230.00	229.93	340.00	336.33	260.00
	AICRP on Salt Affected Soils & use of Saline Water, Karnal	475.00	474.99	480.00	480.00	560.00	559.99	495.00

Written Answers to

[17 March, 2017]

Starred Questions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
30. ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna including Makhana		315.00	314.96	315.00	315.00	433.00	433.82	370.00
31. Indian Institute of Water Management, Bhubaneswar		2030.00	2025.14	2171.00	2160.01	3010.00	2559.58	2735.75
Indian Institute of Water Management, Bhubaneswar		125.00	125.00	117.00	110.83	185.00	184.87	180.75
AICRP on Irrigation Water Management Research, Bhubaneswar		1905.00	1900.14	2049.00	2046.70	2265.00	2262.56	2045.00
CRP on Water, Bhubaneswar				5.00	2.48	560.00	112.15	510.00
32. Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad		2605.00	2469.19	2600.00	2506.46	4075.64	4074.13	3225.00
Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad		215.00	204.18	225.00	220.75	738.00	737.98	585.00
AICRP Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad		1750.00	1630.69	1745.00	1719.15	2571.83	2570.34	2205.00
AICRP on Agrometeorology, Hyderabad		640.00	634.32	630.00	566.56	765.81	765.81	435.00
33. Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur		275.00	274.79	263.00	261.39	280.59	280.19	397.62
34. Indian Institute of Farming System Research, Modipuram		5079.27	5027.11	4749.00	4739.45	5192.30	5422.54	4870.00
Indian Institute of Farming System Research, Modipuram		80.00	79.39	125.00	124.54	160.00	158.67	175.00
AICRP on Integrated Farming System, Modipuram		2709.00	2709.83	2500.00	2496.92	2227.28	2467.67	2245.00

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Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Starred Questions

Network Programme on Organic Farming, Modipuram	110.00	66.64	100.00	100.00	180.00	180.00	185.00	<i>Written Answers to</i>
AICRP on Agroforestry, Jhansi	1080.27	1078.93	984.00	981.31	1307.20	1304.40	1135.00	
Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi	145.00	140.45	155.00	153.74	257.82	253.16	250.00	
Directorate of Weed Research, Jabalpur	140.00	137.29	140.00	138.83	280.00	279.60	250.00	
AICRP on Weed Management, Jabalpur	815.00	814.58	745.00	744.11	780.00	779.04	630.00	
35. Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute, Goa	300.00	299.65	300.00	299.92	395.00	394.74	425.00	<i>[17 March, 2017]</i>
36. ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Barapani	1600.00	1593.58	1320.00	1308.57	2377.66	1960.47	2780.00	
37. National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management, Baramati, Maharashtra	1909.50	1909.36	1827.00	1826.87	2141.00	2140.50	1855.00	
38. National Innovation in Climate Resilient Agriculture, Hyderabad (under CRIDA Hyderabad)	7000.00	5993.95	6500.00	5248.77	9500.00	5794.25	7050.00	
39. NRC on Integrated Farming, Motihari, Bihar					38.00	37.78	433.80	
TOTAL (NRM)	24500.00	23272.53	23500.00	22099.21	32100.00	27471.43	27850.00	<i>Starred Questions</i>
Agricultural Engineering								
40. Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal	2830.00	2833.36	2953.96	2936.57	3724.00	3706.22	3715.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	82
	Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal	349.00	348.88	413.00	412.59	671.00	670.69	480.50	Written Answers to [RAJYA SABHA]
	AICRP on Farm Implements and Machinery, Bhopal	1047.00	1044.62	1049.00	1048.78	1304.00	1301.81	1459.50	
	AICRP on Ergonomics and Safety in Agriculture, Bhopal	336.00	334.49	289.00	287.48	330.00	329.88	359.50	
	AICRP on Energy in Agriculture and Agro based Industries, Bhopal	681.00	681.26	740.00	739.30	725.00	723.06	731.26	
	AICRP on Utilization Animal Energy, Bhopal	417.00	424.11	462.96	448.42	520.00	513.66	358.24	
	CRP on Farm Mechanisation and Precision Farming, Bhopal					66.00	60.13	175.50	
	CRP on Energy from Agriculture, Bhopal					108.00	106.99	150.50	
41.	Central Institute on Post harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana	2031.00	2039.25	2510.35	2495.55	2982.20	2952.32	2963.03	Starred Questions
	Central Institute on Post harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana	319.00	317.61	367.90	365.33	415.00	414.00	407.76	
	AICRP on Plasticsulture Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana	233.00	234.11	253.00	245.09	270.00	251.24	278.00	
	AICRP on Post Harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana	1479.00	1487.53	1889.45	1885.13	2010.00	2000.92	1842.67	
	CRP on Health Food, Ludhiana					74.07	78.81	193.10	
	CRP on Secondary Agri., Ludhiana					213.13	207.35	241.50	

42.	Indian Institute of Natural Resins and Gums, Ranchi	244.50	195.83	470.97	467.72	618.55	606.83	516.00
	Indian Institute of Natural Resins and Gums, Ranchi	196.00	145.39	308.97	307.05	358.55	354.45	273.00
	Network project on Harvesting, Processing and Value Addition of Natural Resins & Gums, Ranchi	46.00	50.44	82.00	80.99	120.00	112.50	109.00
	Network Project on Conservation of Lac Insect Genetic Resources, Ranchi	2.50	0.00	80.00	79.68	140.00	139.88	134.00
43.	Central Institute of Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai	210.00	207.23	295.00	294.97	555.25	549.43	412.97
	Central Institute of Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai	210.00	207.23	295.00	294.97	425.25	425.17	304.00
	CRP on Nature Fibre, Mumbai					130.00	124.26	108.97
44.	National Institute of Research on Jute & Allied Fibre Technology, Kolkata	184.50	184.09	269.72	266.85	320.00	264.12	193.00
	TOTAL (AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING)	5500.00	5459.76	6500.00	6461.66	8200.00	8078.92	7800.00
	Animal Science							
45.	National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal	346.25	345.54	450.00	416.26	495.00	482.21	331.00
	National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal	307.25	306.73	270.00	268.38	285.00	283.56	230.00
	Network project on Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal	39.00	38.81	180.00	147.88	210.00	198.65	101.00

Written Answers to

[17 March, 2017]

Starred Questions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	84
46. National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal		1519.09	1518.70	1400.00	1398.33	1110.00	1104.94	829.80	Written Answers to [RAJYA SABHA]
47. Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar, Rajasthan		840.00	823.58	942.82	931.64	1166.00	1145.57	1015.00	
Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar		470.00	469.58	557.82	556.64	738.00	724.92	645.00	
Network on Sheep Improvement, Avikanagar		230.00	214.00	210.00	207.82	240.00	233.68	210.00	
Sheep Seed Project, Avikanagar		140.00	140.00	175.00	167.18	188.00	186.97	160.00	
48. Central Institute for Research on Goats		540.00	529.29	664.20	643.31	874.25	753.12	667.00	
Central Institute for Research on Goats, Makhdoom		250.00	242.51	323.20	318.78	367.00	253.04	302.00	
AICRP on Goat Improvement, Mathura		290.00	286.78	341.00	324.53	507.25	500.08	365.00	
Goat Seed Project (in CIRG)									
49. Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes, Hissar		737.89	725.57	677.00	667.39	903.00	863.51	883.00	
Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes, Hissar		257.89	252.41	277.00	275.84	385.00	382.14	335.00	Shared Questions
Network Project on Buffalo Improvement, Hissar		480.00	473.16	400.00	391.55	518.00	481.37	548.00	
50. National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology		451.00	454.00	609.78	563.62	727.00	631.90	595.00	
National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bengaluru		295.00	294.93	285.01	284.84	340.00	295.85	360.00	

								Written Answers to
	AICRP on Improvement of Feed Sources & Nutrient Utilisation, Bengaluru	156.00	159.07	324.77	278.78	387.00	336.05	235.00
51.	NRC on Camel, Bikaner	260.00	259.65	222.62	222.60	308.00	307.73	300.00
52.	NRC on Equine, Hissar	740.60	732.79	640.00	607.82	696.25	675.27	638.00
	NRC on Equine, Hissar	285.60	279.92	340.00	331.68	393.00	392.66	336.00
	National Centre for Veterinary Type Culture Collection, Hisar	455.00	452.87	300.00	276.14	303.25	282.61	302.00
53.	Central Institute for Research on Cattle, Meerut	702.60	687.33	640.00	598.74	950.00	894.66	882.00
	Central Institute for Research on Cattle, Meerut	100.00	86.78	140.00	138.54	200.00	182.39	182.00
	AICRP on Cattle Research, Meerut	602.60	600.55	500.00	460.20	750.00	712.27	700.00
54.	Directorate of Foot & Mouth Disease, Mukteshwar	6517.44	6523.49	2354.35	2354.35	1175.00	903.02	3055.20
	Directorate of Foot & Mouth Disease, Mukteshwar	6517.44	6523.49	2354.35	2354.35	1175.00	903.02	3055.20
	AICRP Foot & Mouth, Mukteshwar							
55.	Central Avian Research Institute, Izatnagar	1795.13	1725.74	1472.63	1380.75	2794.00	2677.63	2057.00
	Central Avian Research Institute, Izatnagar	700.00	694.71	369.00	367.07	975.00	974.64	530.00
	Directorate of Poultry Research, Hyderabad	384.00	383.08	410.00	407.81	560.00	559.49	410.00
	AICRP on Poultry, Hyderabad	538.13	483.35	385.75	385.18	674.00	626.70	594.00

[17 March, 2017]

Starred Questions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	86
	Poultry Seed Project, Hyderabad	173.00	164.60	307.88	220.69	585.00	516.80	523.00	Written Answers to [RAJYA SABHA]
56.	Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar	2974.00	3152.50	3485.00	3262.22	7441.32	6704.58	4846.00	
	Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar	1765.00	1966.55	2475.00	2372.91	3984.40	3696.98	2306.00	
	Network on Gastro Intestinal Parasitism, Izatnagar	98.00	330.07	80.00	79.50	124.00	116.40	101.00	
	Network on Haemorrhagic Septcamia, Izatnagar	113.00		90.00	85.85	100.00	91.73	59.00	
	Network Programme on Blue Tongue Disease, Izatnagar	106.00		100.00	95.54	120.00	102.34	90.00	
	National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics(NIVEDI), Bengaluru	892.00	855.88	440.00	438.84	828.00	813.84	813.00	
	AICRP ADMAS, Bengaluru								
	CRP on Diagnostic & Vaccine, Izatnagar					1498.92	1131.28	1152.00	
	All India Network Program on Neonatal Mortality in Farm Animal (NNM), Izatnagar			200.00	99.85	200.00	185.23	140.00	
	All India Network Program on Diagnostic Imaging and Management of Surgical Condition in Animals, Izatnagar			100.00	89.73	586.00	566.78	185.00	Starred Questions
57.	National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal			645.10	643.99	589.39	519.61	545.00	

58. NRC Meat Hyderabad	150.00	136.84	128.50	102.09	347.00	336.93	275.00
59. NRC on Pig	1424.00	1407.48	1668.00	1605.24	3023.79	2856.31	3181.00
NRC on Pig, Guwahati	295.00	292.73	300.00	298.98	425.00	398.54	600.00
AICRP on Pig, Guwahati	400.00	385.82	450.00	418.78	840.00	731.04	857.00
Mega Seed Project on Pig, Guwahati	129.00	129.32	225.00	225.00	400.00	399.63	344.00
NRC on Yak, Dirang	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	583.79	558.74	610.00
NRC on Mithun Jharnapani, Nagaland	300.00	299.61	393.00	362.48	775.00	768.36	770.00
TOTAL (ANIMAL SCIENCE)	18998.00	19022.50	16000.00	15398.35	22600.00	20856.99	20100.00
Fishery Science							
60. Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	2544.76	2544.67	1930.00	1929.80	3043.00	2951.74	2816.50
Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi	1819.76	1819.76	1295.00	1294.99	1882.00	1882.00	1682.00
Central Institute Brackishwater Aquaculture, Chennai	725.00	724.91	635.00	634.81	1161.00	1069.74	1134.50
61. Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute	1065.00	1051.84	1255.00	1254.35	974.00	967.66	1035.00
Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore	705.00	691.99	915.00	915.00	520.00	513.75	519.50
Project Directorate of Cold Water Fisheries, Bhimtal	360.00	359.85	340.00	339.35	454.00	453.91	515.50
62. Central Institute of Fisheries Technology,Kochi	627.00	626.98	715.00	714.73	943.00	942.98	886.50

Written Answers to

[17 March, 2017]

Starred Questions

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
63. Central Institute on Fisheries Education, Mumbai	1412.24	1395.00	1275.00	1152.58	908.00	884.04	837.50	
64. Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar	744.00	741.70	695.00	691.80	590.00	586.44	685.50	
65. National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow	607.00	617.49	630.00	630.00	1342.00	1307.14	1539.00	
National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow	607.00	617.49	630.00	630.00	792.00	791.73	861.00	
CRP on Genomics, Lucknow					550.00	515.41	678.00	
TOTAL (FISHERY SCIENCE)	7000.00	6977.68	6500.00	6373.26	7800.00	7640.00	7800.00	
Economics, Statistics & Management (ESM)								
66. Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute, New Delhi +CABIN	250.00	248.17	1120.00	1011.00	1005.00	984.78	1975.00	
National Institute of Agricultural Economics & Policy Research (NIAP), New Delhi	350.00	320.96	430.00	430.00	395.00	394.15	525.00	
TOTAL (ESM)	600.00	569.13	1550.00	1441.00	1400.00	1378.93	2500.00	
Agricultural Extension								
67. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (including ERNET, Farmer's First, Disaster Mgmt)	52725.00	49909.72	53360.77	52350.62	65650.00	64874.76	84562.00	

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Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Starred Questions

68. Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture, New Delhi	160.00	157.89	139.23	138.70	350.00	298.47	400.00
Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture, New Delhi	160.00	157.89	139.23	138.70	350.00	298.47	400.00
TOTAL (EXTENSION)	52885.00	50067.61	53500.00	52489.32	66000.00	65173.23	84962.00
Agricultural Education							
69. Strengthening and Development of Higher Agril. Education in India	39418.00	35007.98	35747.00	35202.89	35900.00	32342.19	49589.20
70. National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad	982.00	980.81	1178.00	1166.94	1451.50	1449.70	1556.00
71. Central Institute for Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneswar	1115.00	1113.74	1075.00	1074.88	2148.50	2021.40	2894.80
Central Institute for Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneswar	180.00	179.32	150.00	149.94	848.50	787.24	1234.80
AICRP Home Science	935.00	934.42	925.00	924.94	1300.00	1234.16	1660.00
Budget Announcements (6 SAUs, 2AUs, 2HUs)	0.00	0.00	5000.00	0.00	16500.00	15624.00	11000.00
TOTAL (EDUCATION)	41615.00	37102.53	43000.00	37444.71	56000.00	51437.29	65040.00
72. Central Agricultural Universities CAU Imphal +CAU Barapani	12000.00	11999.00	15000.00	11900.00	16600.00	15672.00	12000.00

Written Answers to

[17 March, 2017]

Starred Questions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Rani Lakshmi Bai CAU, Jhansi	1.00		200.00	20.72	1000.00	898.92	3549.68
	RCAU Samastipur, Bihar	1.00			1.00	1000.00	0.00	4450.32
	DARE (NAAS & IAUA)	200.00	300.00	242.21	150.00			
	TOTAL	12002.00	11999.00	15401.00	11920.72	18900.00	16813.13	20150.00
	ICAR Headquarters							
73.	Strengthening of ICAR Headquarters	9300.00	6465.63	15350.00	8589.96	13680.00	6064.59	15400.00
	Swimming Pool							
74.	National Agriculture Innovation Fund (NAIF), New Delhi	700.00	610.39	750.00	510.77	1320.00	784.45	1900.00
	TOTAL (HQRS)	10000.00	7076.02	16100.00	9100.73	15000.00	6849.04	17300.00
	National Agriculture Innovation Project (completed)	23500.00	25554.64	9465.00	9465.00			
75.	National Agricultural Science Fund	11000.00	8928.82	6000.00	3835.07	4500.00	2111.25	3500.00
	National Adaptation Fund (Transferred)			19.00				
	TOTAL (ONGOING SCHEMES)	260000.00	246916.72	250000.00	226856.66	300000.00	273532.67	316658.00

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Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Starred Questions

Recognised political parties and electoral reforms

†179. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) at present the number of parties recognised by the Election Commission at National and State level in the country;

(b) whether electoral reforms have been undertaken in the last three years, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received the recommendations of the Central Ministers-level Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of the Home Minister, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government proposes to publish the said recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The Election Commission has informed that as on date seven parties are recognized by the Commission as National parties and forty eight as State parties.

(b) Electoral reform is an ongoing and continuous process. The Government has been receiving proposals for electoral reforms from various quarters from time to time. In the recent past, the following electoral reform proposals have been undertaken:—

- (i) The maximum ceiling on election expenditure by candidates in Parliamentary and Assembly elections was revised by amending the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 *vide* notification dated 28th February, 2014.
- (ii) The Registration of Electoral Rules, 1960 and the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 were amended *vide* Notifications dated 16th September, 2016 for the purpose of simplifying the various forms appended to the said rules.
- (iii) The Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 were further amended *vide* Notification dated 21st October, 2016 to facilitate electronic transmission of blank postal ballot to the service voters including armed forces personal with view to reducing the window of time available for receipt of marked postal ballot paper.

(c) and (d) A Committee of Ministers (COM) under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Home Minister had considered the proposal for introduction of totaliser machine for counting of votes. However, the COM did not recommend the said proposal. The minutes of the meeting of the COM have since been circulated.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Production and consumption of pulses

†*180. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite adequate production of pulses, Government is considering import of the same, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) if not, the details of the production and consumption of pulses in the country, at present?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The decision of the Government to import pulses towards building buffer stock is guided by domestic price and availability position. In view of the bumper production of Kharif pulses, no import is being undertaken by the Government other than those already contracted when prices and availability position were difficult.

(b) As per the 2nd Advance Estimates of Production of Foodgrains for 2016-17 brought out by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, production of pulses is estimated at 22.14 million tonnes. The demand of pulses for the same period is estimated at 24.61 million tonnes in the Report of Working Group on Food grains-Balancing Demand & Supply during Twelfth Five Years Plan.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Decline in sea catch**

1757. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sea catch is declining every year; and

(b) if so, the details of sea catch, sector-wise, year-wise during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Fish catch data as reported by Maritime States/UTs indicates an increase in marine fish production in Financial Year (FY) 2014-15 and FY 2015-16 as compared to FY 2013-14. The status of marine fish production during the last three years in the Maritime States/UTs is given in the Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

*Status of marine fish production during the last three years (2013-16)
in marine States/UTs*

(in lakh tonnes)

State/UT-wise Marine Fish Production				
		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (P)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.38	4.75	5.20
2.	Goa	1.10	1.15	1.07
3.	Gujarat	6.96	6.98	6.97
4.	Karnataka	3.57	4.57	4.12
5.	Kerala	5.22	5.24	5.17
6.	Maharashtra	4.67	4.64	4.34
7.	Odisha	1.20	1.33	1.45
8.	Tamil Nadu	4.32	4.57	4.67
9.	West Bengal	1.88	1.79	1.78
10.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.37	0.37	0.37
11.	Daman and Diu	0.19	0.32	0.23
12.	Lakshadweep	0.19	0.13	0.12
13.	Puducherry	0.38	0.42	0.78
	TOTAL	34.43	36.27	36.27

P: Provisional

Implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme

1758. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether various farmers' organisations have registered their anguish with the Government regarding non coverage of all crops for universal crop insurance against all forms of damages to their crops;

(b) if so, the details of remedies that has been initiated to overcome the deficits; and

(c) whether Government has analysed implementation of the scheme, the number of farmers who have been benefitted under the scheme along with the number of States which are not doing better and have not implemented the scheme properly so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Various suggestions have been received from time to time both from individuals and farmer organisations to provide insurance coverage for specific crops/specific risks for their respective areas. Taking these into account, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched from Kharif 2016 to provide comprehensive insurance coverage for all food crops (cereals, millets and pulses), oilseeds crops and annual commercial/horticultural crops against all non-preventable natural risks. This is however subject to yield data being made available for the particular crop for a sufficient number of years and the capacity of State Governments to conduct requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) to assess the yield loss. Perennial horticultural crops can also be insured under Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS). Inclusion of crops and areas under the EMFBY/RWBCIS are however, decided/notified by the concerned State Governments. The Central/Government on its part, has continuously persuaded the State Governments to notify maximum number of crops and areas under crop insurance schemes, so that the coverage can be enhanced from the present level of about 30% of cropped area in 2016-17 to 50% of cropped area over the next two years.

(c) This is the first year of implementation of PMFBY/RWBCIS and 23 States implemented the schemes during Kharif 2016 and 25 States and 3 Union Territories during Rabi 2016-17. Details of State-wise coverage of number of farmers during Kharif and Rabi 2016-17 under the schemes are given in the Statement (*See below*). Disparities among States in coverage is attributable to the schemes being optional for States, notification by States of food and oilseeds crops and annual commercial/horticultural crops on selective basis, poor infrastructure of insurance companies for coverage of non-loanee farmers etc. Apart from these factors, coverage of farmers differs from State to State also due to perception of risk of areas and crops, being higher in more risky areas and crops. Government is keeping a close watch on the implementation/progress

of the schemes which are being monitored at the highest level and through weekly video conferences with State Governments, insurance companies and financial institutions. Due to the improved features of the new schemes and efforts made by the Government, coverage under / PMFBY/RWBCIS has increased substantially over that of the erstwhile schemes.

Statement

*State-wise tentative coverage of farmers under PMFBY/RWBCIS
during Kharif and Rabi 2016-17*

		[No. of farmers covered (In lakh)]	
Sl. No.	State	Kharif 2016	Rabi 2016-17
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	Not Implemented	0.00324
2.	Andhra Pradesh	15.89	1.44
3.	Assam	0.52	0.078
4.	Arunachal Pradesh		Not Implemented
5.	Bihar	14.86	11.54
6.	Chandigarh		Not Implemented
7.	Chhattisgarh	13.96	1.46
8.	Daman and Diu	Not Implemented	Data Not Available
9.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli		Not Implemented
10.	Delhi		Not Implemented
11.	Goa	0.007	0.00013
12.	Gujarat	18.42	1.16
13.	Haryana	6.95	5.75
14.	Himachal Pradesh	1.37	2.03
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	Not Implemented	Data Not Available
16.	Jharkhand	8.28	0.54
17.	Karnataka	17.39	11.72

Sl. No.	State	Kharif 2016	Rabi 2016-17
18.	Kerala	0.32	Data Not Available
19.	Lakshadweep		Not Implemented
20.	Madhya Pradesh	40.29	28.80
21.	Maharashtra	110.21	8.05
22.	Manipur	0.09	Not Implemented
23.	Meghalaya	0006	Data Not Available
24.	Mizoram		Not Implemented
25.	Nagaland		Not Implemented
26.	Odisha	17.64	0.58
27.	Puducherry	Not Implemented	0.09
28.	Punjab		Not Implemented
29.	Rajasthan	50.22	30.76
30.	Sikkim	Not Implemented	Data Not Available
31.	Tamil Nadu	0.16	15.19
32.	Telangana	6.80	1.56
33.	Tripura	0.02	.15
34.	Uttar Pradesh	33.96	36.26
35.	Uttarakhand	1.75	0.90
36.	West Bengal	30.91	9.08
TOTAL		390.02	167.14

Advantages of organic fertilizers

1759. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the type of organic fertilizers used in agriculture;

(b) whether organic fertilizers have scientifically been proved to be effective in agriculture, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the advantages of organic fertilizers in comparison with inorganic fertilizers;

(d) whether Government is aware that many organic fertilizers are sold at exorbitant prices in the market; and

(e) if so, whether Government has taken any measure to control their price and for manufacturing of organic fertilizers in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The details of the type of organic fertilizers State-wise is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Organic fertilizers have been tested scientifically in Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), institutions and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) on various crops and soil types and found suitable for improving soil health and crop productivity. The organic fertilizers presently available may supplement (N, P) by nearly 20-25%. Biofertilizers when applied along with compost @ 5t/ha. or vermicompost @ 2t/ha, fertilizer saving is almost 50%. The advantages of these organic fertilizers are that they are eco-friendly and not only provide nutrients for maintaining soil fertility but also improve soil physical and biological health. Government is promoting judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures and biofertilizers to maintain soil health and productivity.

(d) and (e) Organic fertilizers largely are produced on-farm by the farmers. When on-farm organic inputs are used, cost of production per unit area is less than 13% under organic agriculture than inorganic management. However, if organic inputs from outside the farm are purchased and utilized, the cost of production increases by about 15-20% depending on the nature of inputs used. Integrated Organic Farming System (IOFS) models being developed under National Project on Organic farming (NPOF) promises to meet 70-80% of organic inputs within the farm thus reducing the market input cost considerably.

Government is promoting the use of Organic manures under the scheme Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). The Government is promoting the use of organic inputs in the country, through assistance as under:—

(i) Financial assistance is provided under the component Integrated Manure

Management of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) for Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM) as per specification given in FCO, 1985 @ ₹10007 acre for procuring and application of PROM to soil to meet phosphorus/Zinc deficiency in soil.

- (ii) Financial Assistance is provided for vermi-compost (size 7'x3'x1') @ ₹5,000/-unit for procurement of earth worms, preparation of pits, construction of brick wall etc.
- (iii) Promotion of Organic Inputs under Organic and INM Components of Soil Health Management, assistance is provided for Vermi-compost, Bio-fertilizers (Liquid / solid), Waste compost, Herbal extracts etc. including PROM @ 50% of cost subject to a limit of ₹ 5000/- per ha and maximum ₹ 10,000 per beneficiary.
- (iv) Government is also promoting the production of organic manures by providing 100% financial assistance to State Governments/ Government Agencies upto a maximum limit of ₹ 190.00 lakh per unit and 33% of project cost maximum limited to ₹63 lakh per unit 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 capacity.
- (v) Under the Rainfed Area Development (RAD) component of NMSA, 50% of cost subject to limit of ₹ 125/- per cubic ft. and maximum permissible assistance of ₹50,000/- per unit for permanent structure and ₹ 8,000/- per unit for High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) vermi bed is provided for construction of compost unit and, organic input production unit.
- (vi) The Government of India is providing a Market Development Assistance @ ₹1500/- per metric ton (MT) to Fertilizer Companies for sale of City Compost.

Statement

State-wise details of different organic manures produced / available in during 2015-16

(lakh MT)								
State	Rural Compost	Farm Yard Manure (FYM)	City Compost	Organic Manure	Vermi Compost	Other Manure	Total Manure	Green manure (Ha.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	62	0.35	22.1	0	1.52	0	85.97	8.39
Arunachal Pradesh	0.7	0.21	0	0.01	0.62	0.062	1.602	0.1
Assam	0	841	0	0	93.1	1.56	935.66	123
Bihar	10.32	8.5	0.32	5.01	9.12	0	33.27	1.8
Chhattisgarh	11.04917	42.51	11.23	0	3.02	53.0884	97.88217	18.68472
Delhi	0.04	0	0.5	0.04	0.03	0.21	0.82	0.097
Goa	0	375	0	0	0.78	4.9	380.68	62
Gujarat	10.2	8.6	0	2.175985	0.2	0.0106015	2.3886365	0.012
Haryana	0	0	0	15	25.1	14	29	2.92
Himachal Pradesh	1.9	0	0.23	0	0	0	2.13	1.11

Written Answers to

[17 March, 2017]

Unstarred Questions

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	100
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	396	0	700	72.1	Written Answers to [RAJYA SABHA]
Jharkhand	5.9	6.3	6.5529578	2.723575	19.13513	0.1587	28.5703628	1.22	
Karnataka	0.72	0	0.68	0	3.2515	0.005	4.6565	0.45	
Kerala	26.38297	15.165	1.026	0.909	10.096	1.26194	19.84091	0.9	
Madhya Pradesh	10.36	6.58	7.5	0	2.5	4	14	1.05	
Maharashtra	0	0.72	0	0	0.09	0	0.81	0.08	
Manipur	0	19	0	0	9	0	28	2.1	
Mizoram	0	1.12	0	0	1.06	0	2.18	0.013	
Meghalaya	0.42	1.3	0	0	1.21	0	2.93	0.01	
Nagaland	10.6	0	8.42102	0.2154	6.1665	0	25.40292	3.21	
Odisha	0	0	0.19229	0.8346	0.34	7.531	8.70198	0.45	Unstarred Questions
Punjab	0.04	0	0.5	0.04	0.03	0.21	0.82	0.097	
Puducherry	0	0	3.1162	0	0	1.434895	4.551095	0.45	
Rajasthan	21.92	12.2	0	0.012	0	0.0113	34.1433	0.004	
Sikkim	0.34	0	0	0	0.05	0	0.39	0.05	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tamil Nadu	0.05	0	9.28915	0	5.784556	1.29863	18.422336	2.21
Tripura	2.6	0	0	0	0.91	0	0.91	0
Uttar Pradesh	10.6	14.6	0	0	0.5	0	25.7	3.31
Uttarakhand	25.3	19.5	0	0	0.23	0	0.23	0.03
West Bengal	8.5	29.99	8.3	4.2	1.95	4.986	57.926	22
Grand TOTAL	219.9421	1402.645	79.95762	31.17056	591.7937	94.72847	2547.588	327.8477

Source: NCOF Ghaziabad

Written Answers to

[17 March, 2017]

Unstarred Questions

101

Legislation to protect farmers' rights

1760. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would bring a pro-farmer seed legislation to regulate monopolies, ensure price control and protect the right of farmers to grow, sow, re-sow, save, use, exchange, share or sell their farm seeds and planting materials and fix liabilities for crop loss as well as blacklist the erring companies; and

(b) if so, when such legislation would be brought and whether the same is being brought after detailed discussions with various Kisan organisations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Complete Farmers Rights including the right of farmers to grow, sow, re-sow, save, use, exchange, share or sell their farm seeds and planting materials and to have compensation for not getting the expected performance from a registered variety are already enshrined in the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001. Similar provisions in respect of farmers' rights are also reiterated in the Seeds Bill, 2004. Seeds Bill, 2004 had been finalized after extensive consultations with various stakeholders including farmers organizations and introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 9th December, 2004.

Dry land farming

1761. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes like dryland farming, micro irrigation, National Horticulture Mission and market Infrastructure Support;

(b) the present status of these schemes, State-wise; and

(c) the details of funds earmarked for these schemes in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) **Dryland farming-Rainfed Area Development (RAD)**: RAD is being implemented as a component under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) from 2014-15. RAD focuses on Integrated Farming System (IFS) for enhancing productivity and minimizing risks associated with climatic variabilities. Under this system, crops/cropping system is integrated with activities like horticulture, livestock, fishery, agro-forestry, apiculture etc. to enable farmers not only

in maximizing farm returns for sustaining livelihood, but also to mitigate the impacts of drought, flood or other extreme weather events with the income opportunity from allied activities during crop damage.

Micro Irrigation: Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) - 'Per Drop More Crop': PMKSY Per Drop More Crop' is being implemented by this Department as a component of PMKSY from 1st July, 2015 which mainly focuses on water use efficiency at farm level through precision/micro irrigation. Besides promoting precision irrigation and better on-farm water management practices to optimize the use of available water resources, this component also supports gap filling interventions like micro level water storage or water / conservation/management activities as other interventions, to complement and supplement the works under taken through various national/State level programmes for drought proofing.

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH): Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented during Twelfth Plan w.e.f. 2014-15, for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo. Mission subsumes National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), National Horticulture Board (NHB), Coconut Development Board (CDB) and Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH), Nagaland. All States and UTs are covered under MIDH. The Mission envisages production and productivity improvement of horticulture crops like fruits (including Apple) and vegetables through various interventions. Activities such as production of planting material, vegetable seed production, coverage of area with improved cultivars, rejuvenation of senile orchards, protected cultivation, creation of water resources, adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), organic farming, including *insitu* generation of organic inputs are taken up for development of fruits and vegetables. Capacity buildings of farmers and technicians are also provided for adopting improved technologies. Scheme also envisages creation of infrastructure for Post Harvest Management (PHM) and marketing for better price realization of produce.

Marketing infrastructure: For support of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, the Department is implementing Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) Sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) w.e.f 01.04.2014 (Erstwhile Grameen Bhandaran Yojana (GBY) implemented since 01.04.2001 and Scheme for Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and

Standardization (AMIGS) implemented since 20.10.2004 have been subsumed to AMI w.e.f. 01.04.2014) for creation/renovation of warehousing infrastructure and other agricultural marketing infrastructure in the country with one of its objective to promote creation of scientific storage capacity for storing farm produce, processed farm produce and agricultural inputs to reduce post harvest and handling losses.

(b) and (c) Details showing present status and release of funds under these schemes are given in the Statement.

Statement

(A) Details of release under RAD during 2016-17 (as on 14.03.2017)

(₹ in lakh)		
Sl. No.	State	Amount released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1800.00
2.	Telangana	960.00
3.	Bihar	0.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	240.00
5.	Gujarat	0.00
6.	Haryana	0.00
7.	Jharkhand	700.00
8.	Karnataka	400.00
9.	Kerala	0.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00
11.	Maharashtra	2663.45
12.	Odisha	1835.40
13.	Punjab	0.00
14.	Rajasthan	0.00
15.	Tamil Nadu	3350.00
16.	Uttar Pradesh	1642.50
17.	West Bengal	885.00

Sl. No.	State	Amount released
18.	Himachal Pradesh	682.55
19.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00
20.	Uttarakhand	600.00
21.	Assam	0.00
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	200.00
23.	Manipur	250.00
24.	Meghalaya	150.00
25.	Mizoram	653.34
26.	Nagaland	613.68
27.	Sikkim	300.00
28.	Tripura	520.00
TOTAL		18445.92

(B) Area coverage reported by States under Integrated Farming System (in ha.)

Sl. No.	State	2014-15	2015-16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3400	8000
2.	Telangana	1666	3235
3.	Bihar	818	30
4.	Chhattisgarh	4048	2565
5.	Gujarat	4728	880
6.	Haryana	0	0
7.	Jharkhand	968	2439
8.	Karnataka	3454	0
9.	Kerala	1403	0
10.	Madhya Pradesh	9543	1629
11.	Maharashtra	8100	6902

Sl. No.	State	2014-15	2015-16
12.	Odisha	3914	6409
13.	Punjab	0	0
14.	Rajasthan	6682	1854
15.	Tamil Nadu	16606	17234
16.	Uttar Pradesh	6537	5444
17.	West Bengal	852	1393
SUB TOTAL		72719	58014
Himalayan States			
18.	Himachal Pradesh	617	2552
19.	Jammu and Kashmir	299	11
20.	Uttarakhand	1635	2148
SUB TOTAL		2551	4711
North Eastern States			
21.	Assam	0	0
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	1143	776
23.	Manipur	1462	850
24.	Meghalaya	1140	234
25.	Mizoram	862	506
26.	Nagaland	1055	1244
27.	Sikkim	910	182
28.	Tripura	1312	1370
SUB TOTAL		7884	5162
GRAND TOTAL		83154	67887
<i>(C) Area covered under Micro Irrigation (Area in ha.)</i>			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	36123	94104

Sl. No.	State	2014-15	2015-16
2.	Bihar	2323	5155
3.	Chhattisgarh	5244	8056
4.	Goa	66	92
5.	Gujarat	81695	142681
6.	Haryana	3400	3117
7.	Himachal Pradesh	254	3306
8.	Jharkhand	0	4528
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	80	0
10.	Karnataka	82253	64220
11.	Kerala	2761	561
12.	Madhya Pradesh	24084	75224
13.	Maharashtra	77728	35242
14.	Odisha	11832	2907
15.	Punjab	875	1799
16.	Rajasthan	47330	56346
17.	Tamil Nadu	12518	32288
18.	Telangana	29892	39864
19.	Uttar Pradesh	2403	1598
20.	Uttarakhand	1185	721
21.	West Bengal	0	0
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
23.	Assam	194	0
24.	Manipur	0	0
25.	Mizoram	1565	398
26.	Meghalaya	0	0
27.	Nagaland	444	0

Sl. No.	State	2014-15	2015-16
28.	Tripura	444	0
29.	Sikkim	842	773
TOTAL		425535	572980

(D) Release of funds under Micro Irrigation during 2016-17 (upto 14.03.2017)

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Amount Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	252.00
2.	Bihar	-
3.	Chattisgarh	24.00
4.	Goa	0.30
5.	Gujarat	250.00
6.	Haryana	24.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.50
8.	Jharkhand	12.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	-
10.	Karnataka	169.00
11.	Kerala	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	84.00
13.	Maharashtra	247.50
14.	Odisha	10.80
15.	Punjab	1.18
16.	Rajasthan	72.00
17.	Tamil Nadu	110.00
18.	Telangana	165.00

Sl. No.	State	Amount Released
19.	Uttarakhand	10.00
20.	Uttar Pradesh	12.00
21.	West Bengal	3.90
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	-
23.	Assam	-
24.	Manipur	-
25.	Meghalaya	-
26.	Mizoram	3.90
27.	Nagaland	-
28.	Sikkim	3.90
29.	Tripura	-
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-
31.	Puducherry	-
GRAND TOTAL		1455.98

*(E) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for
the current year*

(₹ in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/Implementing Agency	TOTAL allocation	(GoI Share)	State Share
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10672.00	6403.00	4269.00
2.	Bihar	4385.00	2631.00	1754.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	11539.00	6923.00	4616.00
4.	Goa	420.00	252.00	168.00
5.	Gujarat	11899.00	7139.00	4760.00

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Haryana	10306.00	6184.00	4122.00
7.	Jharkhand	6697.00	4018.00	2679.00
8.	Karnataka	12162.00	7297.00	4865.00
9.	Kerala	7737.00	4642.00	3095.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	7559.00	4535.00	3024.00
11.	Maharashtra	14829.00	8897.00	5932.00
12.	Odisha	8318.00	4991.00	3327.00
13.	Punjab	6643.00	3986.00	2657.00
14.	Rajasthan	8482.00	5089.00	3393.00
15.	Tamil Nadu	9172.00	5503.00	3669.00
16.	Telangana	5484.00	3290.00	2194.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh	6212.00	3727.00	2485.00
18.	West Bengal	4152.00	2491.00	1661.00
19.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	50.00	50.00	0.00
20.	Delhi	50.00	50.00	0.00
21.	Lakshadweep	80.00	80.00	0.00
22.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	200.00	200.00	0.00
23.	Puducherry	100.00	100.00	0.00
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	3588.90	3230.00	358.90
25.	Sikkim	3388.90	3050.00	338.90
26.	Manipur	3555.50	3200.00	355.60
27.	Uttarakhand	3444.50	3100.00	344.50
28.	Tripura	3666.70	3300.00	366.70
29.	Jammu and Kashmir	5111.50	4600.00	511.50
30.	Nagaland	3500.00	3150.00	350.00
31.	Mizoram	3500.00	3150.00	350.00

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Assam	3111.10	2800.00	311.10
33.	Meghalaya	2833.30	2550.00	283.30
34.	Himachal Pradesh	3555.60	3200.00	355.50

(F) Marketing Infrastructure

Sl. No.	State	Storage Projects		Other than storage Subsidy (₹ In lakhs)		Projects Subsidy (₹ In lakhs)	
		No. of projects sanctioned	Capacity created in tonnes	Subsidy sanctioned	Subsidy released	TOTAL No. of Projects	TOTAL Subsidy Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1296	5156248	26812.45	23229.57	364	6550.85
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	945	6.30	6.30	0	0
3.	Assam	266	739357	7170.12	2981.02	17	631.3
4.	Bihar	990	487187	2707.86	1972.90	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	586	1995138	8919.15	5322.65	329	6058.58
6.	Delhi	0	0	0.00	0.00	1	30.41
7.	Goa	1	299	1.85	0.90	1	50
8.	Gujarat	11311	4287297	26456.35	20872.55	8692	15799.2
9.	Haryana	2147	7714528	38849.57	29703.16	0	0
10.	Himachal Pradesh	78	24798	236.84	131.12	64	1540.17
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	83027	685.29	558.97	0	0
12.	Jharkhand	24	119316	767.38	430.42	0	0
13.	Karnataka	4444	3639513	20964.99	16633.42	804	8006.2
14.	Kerala	205	89907	505.14	337.10	364	5176.68
15.	Madhya Pradesh	3758	10250369	54538.82	43385.98	1237	30203.08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16. Maharashtra		3469	6328513	26666.80	19405.85	1432	40213.8
17. Meghalaya		16	21012	188.14	183.87	0	0
18. Mizoram		1	302	5.04	2.52	0	0
19. Nagaland		1	814	6.78	5.95	72	571
20. Odisha		419	781575	3277.83	2822.24	20	495.06
21. Punjab		1739	6703401	22568.37	21888.09	2077	25963.76
22. Rajasthan		1424	2572908	11653.71	7923.05	429	7829.77
23. Sikkim		0	0	0.00	0.00	1	15.52
24. Tamil Nadu		1089	1293117	5535.85	4398.62	1803	5238.84
25. Uttar Pradesh		1108	5193210	16499.94	15855.52	0	0
26. Uttarakhand		278	752793	3267.20	3124.69	5	23.14
27. West Bengal		2548	1570777	5165.47	4412.71	0	0
28. Tripura		4	25756	276.56	276.56	0	0
29. Telangana		690	4144820	27594.75	19734.84	643	8248.16
30. UTs		0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0
TOTAL		37907	63976926	311328.55	245600.59	18355	162645.5

Loss in production of milk

†1762. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether our country is the largest milk producing country in the world, if so, the percentage of our share in milk production at global level;

(b) whether a report suggests that the loss in annual milk production is likely to be 30 lakh tonnes by 2022, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has made any analysis of the problem likely to be faced by consumers and milk producers due to the expected loss; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether any steps have been taken by Government to deal with this problem, if so, the details of steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Yes Sir, India is the largest Milk producing country in the world. As per the latest available data of Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), India had a share of 18.5% of global milk production during the year 2014.

(b) to (d) The Department is implementing the following Dairy Development Schemes in which assistance is provided among others for creation and strengthening infrastructure for providing market access to milk and milk products which helps to reduce losses of milk:—

- (i) National Dairy Plan (Phase-I): Under this scheme Bulk Milk Coolers (BMCs) for milk of 5200 KT (Kilo Liters) capacity has been approved to help in reducing spoilage of milk due to high temperature.
- (ii) National Programme for Dairy Development under the Central Sector Scheme "National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development (NPBBDD): The new Scheme, National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) approved during 2013-14 with the budget provision of ₹ 600 crore for implementation during Twelfth Plan. The objective of the scheme is to create/strengthen dairy infrastructure for improved procurement, processing and marketing of milk and milk products. The scheme is implemented through State Cooperative Dairy Federation.

Under NPDD, 32 projects have been approved with a total outlay of ₹ 355.49 crore out of which ₹155.99 crore has been released to the implementing agencies. Under this scheme, Bulk Milk Cooler for milk of 496 KL capacity and processing capacity of 1860 Thousand Liters Per Day (TLPD) capacity has been approved to help in reducing losses in milk.

Opening of more KVKs

1763. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) functioning in the country at present, State-wise, especially in Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) whether Government proposes to open more such Kendras in each rural district of the country, if so, the details thereof along with the time by when these KVKs are likely to function; and

(c) whether Government also proposes to increase the financial assistance being provided to these Kendras, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) There are 668 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) functioning in the country. The State/UT-wise number of KVKs including Himachal Pradesh are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Yes, Sir. The State-wise details of the districts where 83 KVKs proposed to be set-up during Twelfth Plan are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) During the financial year of 2016-17, an amount of ₹849.62 crore has been allocated to KVKs. However, for the financial year of 2017-18 allocation of ₹877.60 crore has been made in the Budget Estimate of KVK Scheme for support to KVKs.

Statement-I

State/UT-wise number of KVKs in the country including Himachal Pradesh

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	03
2.	Andhra Pradesh	24
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	14
4.	Assam	25
5.	Bihar	39
6.	Chhattisgarh	24
7.	Delhi	01
8.	Goa	02
9.	Gujarat	30
10.	Haryana	18
11.	Himachal Pradesh	13
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	20
13.	Jharkhand	24
14.	Karnataka	32

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total
15.	Kerala	14
16.	Lakshadweep	01
17.	Madhya Pradesh	47
18.	Maharashtra	45
19.	Manipur	09
20.	Meghalaya	05
21.	Mizoram	08
22.	Nagaland	11
23.	Odisha	33
24.	Puducherry	03
25.	Punjab	22
26.	Rajasthan	42
27.	Sikkim	04
28.	Tamil Nadu	30
29.	Telangana	14
30.	Tripura	07
31.	Uttar Pradesh	69
32.	Uttarakhand	13
33.	West Bengal	22
	TOTAL	668

Statement-II

*State/UT-wise names of 83 districts where KVKs are to be set up during
Twelfth Five Year Plan*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Names of remaining 20 districts including 3 larger district approved till XI Plan for setting up of KVKs in XII Plan	Names of remaining 20 New districts created in XII Plan for setting up of KVKs	Names of remaining 44 Larger districts where additional KVKs are to be set up in XII Plan	Names of 4 Border and Mountain districts where additional KVKs are to be set up in XII Plan	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1. Kurung Kumey 2. Dibang Valley	1. Longding	-	-	3
2.	Assam	3. North Cachar Hills	-	-	-	1
3.	Bihar	-	-	1. Purba Champaran 2. Madhubani 3. Paschim Champaran 4. Samastipur 5. Gaya	-	5
4.	Chhattisgarh	-	2. Balod 3. Sukma 4. Kondagaon 5. Surajpur	-	-	4
5.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4. Silvassa	-	-	-	1
6.	Daman and Diu	5. Daman, 6. Diu	-	-	-	2
7.	Gujarat	-	-	6. Jamnagar 7. Surendranagar 8. Bhavnagar	-	5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				9. Junagarh		
				10. Vadodara		
8. Haryana	7. Mewat	6. Palwal	-	-		3
	8. Panchkula					
9. Jammu and Kashmir	9. Reasi	-	-	1. Kargil		5
	10. Ramban			2. Baramulla		
	11. Kisthwar	-	-			
10. Karnataka		7. Yadgir	-	-		1
11. Madhya Pradesh	12. Anupur	8. Alirajpur	11. Sagar	-		6
		9. Singrauli	12. Chhindwara			
			13. Dhar			
12. Maharashtra			14. Sangli	-		5
			15. Kolhapur			
			16. Jalna			
			17. Thane			
			18. Nagpur			
13. Meghalaya	13. South Garo Hills	-	-	-		2
	14. East Garo Hills					
14. Puducherry	15. Mahe	-	-	-		1
15. Rajasthan	-	-	19. Sriganganagar	-		6
			20. Jalore			
			21. Pali			
			22. Udaipur			
			23. Sikar			
			24. Bhilwara			
16. Tamil Nadu	-	10. Thiruppur	25. Villupuram			2
17. Telangana	-	-	26. Adilabad	-		2
			27. Medak			

1	2	3	4	5	7
18. Tripura	-	11. Sepahijala	-	-	1
19. Uttar Pradesh	16. Shravasti	12. Hapur	28. Kheri	-	20
	17. Jyotiba Phule Nagar	13. Shamali	29. Hardoi		
	18. Allahabad*	14. Sambhal	30. Azamgarh		
		15. Amethi	31. Jaunpur		
		16. Kasganj	32. Badaun		
			33. Sultanpur		
			34. Bahraich		
			35. Moradabad		
			36. Gonda		
			37. Ghazipur		
			38. Rae Bareli		
			39. Muzaffar-nagar		
20. Uttarakhand	-	-	-	3. Pithoragarh	2
				4. Chamoli	
21. West Bengal	19. Murshidabad*	-	40. Paschim Medinipur	-	6
	20. Bardhaman*		41. Bankura		
			42. Jalpaiguri		
			43. Birbhum		
TOTAL	20	16	43	4	83

*The districts approved in Eleventh plan for opening an additional KVK during Twelfth Plan.

Ban on mechanised butcheries

†1764. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of mechanised butcheries operating in various States of the country; and

(b) whether Government proposes to place permanent ban on the mechanized butcheries?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) The issuing of licenses/registrations of butcheries in the country are being done by the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and as per information available in Food Licensing and Registration System (FLRS) with the FSSAI, 2,060 numbers of license/registration have been issued under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act, 2006) for butcheries. The details are given in the Statement (See below).

(b) As per Entry 18 of Twelfth Schedule (Article 243W) of the Constitution of India, regulation of slaughter houses and tanneries is in Powers, Authorities and responsibilities of Municipalities of the States.

Statement

Number of license/registration issued to slaughter houses under FSS Act, 2006

Sl. No.	State	Central Licenses	State Licenses	Registration	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	2	1	7
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	2	9	11
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	1	3	51	55
5.	Bihar	2	1	5	8
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	0	14	111	125
8.	Delhi	1	2	14	17
9.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
10.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
11.	Goa	2	3	4	9
12.	Gujarat	0	0	4	4
13.	Haryana	6	1	18	25

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Himachal Pradesh	2	0	82	84
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	2	23	25
16.	Jharkhand	0	0	11	11
17.	Karnataka	5	24	30	59
18.	Kerala	4	9	50	63
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	65	65
20.	Madhya Pradesh	0	2	262	264
21.	Maharashtra	22	66	249	337
22.	Manipur	0	0	4	4
23.	Meghalaya	0	0	1	1
24.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
25.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
26.	Odisha	0	1	5	6
27.	Puducherry	0	1	2	3
28.	Punjab	10	8	112	130
29.	Rajasthan	1	1	84	86
30.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	6	74	425	505
32.	Telangana	7	6	0	13
33.	Tripura	0	0	0	0
34.	Uttar Pradesh	39	13	58	110
35.	Uttarakhand	0	1	22	23
36.	West Bengal	5	0	5	10
TOTAL		117	236	1707	2060

Source: Food Licensing and Registration System (FLRS).

Cultivation of oil palm

1765. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of investments received in oil palm plantation after Government's decision to allow 100 per cent FDI in it;
- (b) the details of other measures taken by Government to reduce dependency on palm oil imports and increase its production domestically; and
- (c) the limitations of expanding oil palm cultivation and the steps taken by Government to overcome them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) No investment has been received in oil palm plantation after Government's decision to allow 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) in it.

(b) To reduce dependency on palm oil import and increase its production and productivity, the Government has been implementing National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) since 2014-15. The Mission envisages to increase production of vegetable oils sourced from oilseeds, oil palm and Tree borne Oilseeds from 7.06 million tons to 9.51 million tons 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 tons 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) Small farm holdings of farmers, long gestation period of oil palm plant, erratic rainfall, competition from other economical viable crops such as rubber, arecanut, sugar, banana, coconut etc., are limitations in expansion of oil palm cultivation. To overcome these limitations, Government has been implementing two Mini Missions namely Mini Mission-II (Oil Palm) and Mini Mission (Tree Borne Oilseeds) under National Mission

on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) to provide assistance to oil palm farmers. Ministry of Agriculture has been consistently pursuing the issue to declare oil palm as a plantation crop with the concerned States so that entrepreneurs may be allowed to take up cultivation and processing of this crop and avail the benefit of 100 cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to supplement domestic capital, technology and skills for accelerating growth of oil palm cultivation.

Remunerative prices to farmers for their crops

†1766. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are not getting adequate prices for cash crops, especially for cotton in the country, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for which cotton growing farmers could not get reasonable prices for their crop, the details thereof including loss incurred to cotton growing farmers in the last three years; and

(c) the names of the various campaigns being run to help the cotton growing farmers, the details of the number of beneficiaries including amount allocated and utilised under these campaigns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) During 2016-17, prices of cash crops like Cotton, Jute, Copra etc. have been ruling above Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the Government. For Cotton season 2016-17, since beginning average kapas prices are ruling much above the MSP level in all the cotton growing States.

(c) Government implements National Food Security Mission-Commercial Crops (NFSM-CC) for enhancing production and productivity of commercial crops including Cotton. Under this scheme thrust has been given on transfer of technology through frontline demonstrations and training in order to extend benefits to the farmers. It is implemented through State Agricultural Universities, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, NGOs, and Cooperatives, etc. Also, Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) functions as a Nodal Agency under Ministry of Textiles to undertake MSP Operation in the event when price falls below the MSP level.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Decline in quality of soil

1767. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad, the soil quality of Jharkhand has declined and more than 80,000 hectare land has become barren due to rain and flood during 2003-2011; and

(b) if so, how Government plans to tackle it, as its a matter of serious concern?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) At the instance of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad, has carried out Desertification/Land degradation Status Mapping of Jharkhand State using 1:500,000 scale satellite data of 2011-13 and 2003-05 time-frames. The results are published in form of Atlas and available at following links:—

www.moef.gov.in/sites/default/files/Desertification_Atlas_2016_SAC_ISRO.pdf.

www.vedas.sac.gov.in/vedas/downloads/atlas/DSM/Desertification_Atlas_2016_SAC_ISRO.pdf

The study has not concluded any decline in soil quality in Jharkhand State or that an area of more than 80,000 ha. has become barren due to rain and flood during 2003-11.

Pendency of proposals of Government of Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

†1768. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) the number of proposals received by the Ministry for development works during the last three years from the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and the amount involved therein, scheme-wise and the details of action taken thereon;

(b) the reasons for which proposals received from the State Governments are still pending;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether any time-limit has been stipulated for disposal of the proposals; and

(d) whether long time taken in the execution of proposals hampers the development works and how the cost escalations related to work is adjusted, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Agriculture is a State subject. However, the Government of India supports the State Government through various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, for which financial assistance is provided. Under the schemes, funds are released to the State Governments who in turn provide subsidy to the beneficiaries as per approved norms. The funds are released on the basis of the Annual Action Plans received from States/UTs on furnishing of Utilization Certificates, State Government's matching share, Physical and Financial progress. A Statement indicating the funds released under various schemes to Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh during last three years is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) In view of (a) and (b) does not arise.

Statement

*(A) Details of funds released under the Schemes being implemented by
Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during 2013-14 to
Government of Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh*

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) {now (NMOOP)}	Soil Health Management (SHM)	Support to State Extension Programmes for State Reforms (ATMA) {now under (NMAET)}	Sub-mission on Seeds and Planting Material under (SMSP)
		Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.
1.	Chhattisgarh	10.25	10.25	0.72	13.78	2.895
2.	Uttar Pradesh	10.08	10.08	0	51.88	0

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNE&HS)	National Horticulture Mission (NHM)	National Bamboo Mission (NBM)	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	National Mission on Micro Irrigation NMMI
		Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.
1.	Chhattisgarh	0	90.62	5.1454	233.82	30.00
2.	Uttar Pradesh	0	35	0.8538	561.09	1.00

(B) Details of funds released under the schemes being implemented by
Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during 2014-15 to
Government of Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	National Horticulture Mission (NHM)	National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP {Earlier (ISOPOM)})	Soil Health Management (SHM)
		Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.
1.	Chhattisgarh	341.75	47.94	111.88	3.20	1.22
2.	Uttar Pradesh	589.47	254.85	37.32	11.73	6.79

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Soil Health Card (SHC)	Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization under NMAET (SMAM)	Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNE&HS)	On Farm Water Management (OFWM) {Earlier (NMMI)} 2014-15	Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (ATMA) {under NMAET}
		Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.
1.	Chhattisgarh	0.66	5.19		10.00	11.83
2.	Uttar Pradesh	3.54	21.21		3.00	69.98

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	National Bamboo Mission (NBM)	Rainfed Area Development (RAD)	Submission on Seeds and Planting Material under NMAET (SMSP)	National E-Governance Plan for Agriculture (NEGP - A PHASE - II)
		Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.
1.	Chhattisgarh	3.80	11.44	17.82	1.16
2.	Uttar Pradesh	0.50	20.00	14.00	4.84

*(C) Details of funds released under the schemes being implemented by
Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during 2015-16 to
Government of Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh*

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	National Horticulture Mission (NHM)	National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) {Earlier (ISOPOM)}	Soil Health Management (SHM)
		Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.
1.	Chhattisgarh	145.07	37.50	77.55	0.08	2.25
2.	Uttar Pradesh	177.41	120.16	22.00	0.19	8.38

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Horticulture Mission for North East Himalayan States (HMNE&HS)	Submission on Seeds and Planting Material under NMAET (SMSP)	Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (ATMA) {under NMAET}	Soil Health Card (SHC)	Rainfed Area Development (RAD)
		Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.
1.	Chhattisgarh		2.94	10.10	2.81	5.50
2.	Uttar Pradesh		12.55	59.43	17.16	11.82

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)	Per Drop More Crop [Micro Irrigation]	Sub Mission on Agri-cultural Mechanization under NMAET (SMAM)	National Agroforestry Bamboo Mission (NBM)	Information Technology NEGP-A phase -II
		Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.
1.	Chhattisgarh	6.04	20.30	4.00	5.13	0.80
2.	Uttar Pradesh	20.52	37.51	16.51	1.27	3.39

Cold storage units

1769. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cold storage units set up in the country during the last five years to prevent wastage of fruits and vegetables, State-wise;

(b) whether the current number of cold storage units are adequate to hold the large quantity of vegetables and fruits being produced in the country; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by Government to increase the number of cold storage units in the country and the funds allocated for this purpose in last three years and the coming year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) State-wise cold storage units setup in the, country during the last five years is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) A recent study on All India Cold-chain Infrastructure Capacity (AICIC-2015) conducted by NCCD-NABCONS assessed demand and reported the gaps in end-to-end connectivity. As per this report status of cold chain infrastructure created and required is tabulated as follows:—

Sl. No.	Component	Existing Capacity (2014)	Approximate Requirement
1.	Integrated Pack Houses	250 numbers	70,000 numbers
2.	Reefer Trucks	<10,000 numbers	62,000 numbers

Sl. No. Component	Existing Capacity (2014)	Approximate Requirement
3. Cold stores (Bulk and distribution hubs)	32 million tonnes	35 million tonnes
4. Ripening Chambers	800 numbers	9000 numbers

Study reveals that future focus should be for creation of pack houses, refrigerated transport ripening chambers instead of standalone large cold storage/CA store projects.

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for development of Horticulture in the country which includes assistance for creation of Post-Harvest Infrastructure (PHM) including establishment of cold storages, processing units, pack houses, pre-cooling units, controlled atmosphere storage, reefer vans, Integrated Cold chain and setting up of ripening chambers.

Under post harvest component credit linked back ended subsidy @35% to 50% of the project cost is available. The component is demand/entrepreneur driven. Assistance for creation of cold storage/cold chain component is available to individuals, group of farmers/growers/consumers, partnership/proprietary firms, self help groups, farmers producer organizations, companies, corporations, cooperatives, cooperative marketing federations, agricultural produce market committees and marketing boards State Governments and local bodies like panchayats.

The funds are allocated to States based on the annual action plan for holistic development of horticulture including cold storages under PHM component. The States are advised to utilize 35%-40% of the allocated funds for creation of post-harvest infrastructure including cold storages. As per the reports available from States, funds allocated for PHM under NHM/MIDH during last three years are as under:

Year	Allocated fund (₹ in crore)
2014-15	353.52
2015-16	388.03
2016-17	454.02

Further, Government is also implementing the following schemes for increasing storage capacity for perishable:—

- (i) Integrated cold chain Scheme of MOFPI.
- (ii) Scheme of Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Ministry of Commerce.
- (iii) Scheme of National Cooperative Development Cooperation (NCDC) under DAC&FW.
- (iv) Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM).

Under these schemes, financial assistance is provided to farmers/entrepreneurs for setting up cold storages/cold chain infrastructure.

Statement

State-wise Cold Storages setup during last five years (2011-12 to 2015-16)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Cold storage	
		No.	Capacity (MT)
1	3	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh & Telangana	57	337881
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
3.	Assam	8	49727
4.	Bihar	15	60587.5
5.	Chandigarh (UT)	1	246
6.	Chhattisgarh	23	112806.37
7.	Delhi	2	3699
8.	Goa	0	0
9.	Gujarat	210	898877.97
10.	Haryana	70	294850
11.	Himachal Pradesh	35	85868
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	13	52907
13.	Jharkhand	6	28806
14.	Karnataka	15	70411.2

1	3	3	4
15. Kerala	3	20000	
16. Lakshadweep (UT)	0	0	
17. Madhya Pradesh	71	320365	
18. Maharashtra	80	271110.13	
19. Manipur	1	3000	
20. Meghalaya	1	5000	
21. Mizoram	2	1000	
22. Nagaland	0	0	
23. Odisha	63	222000	
24. Puducherry (UT)	0	0	
25. Punjab	151	507044.43	
26. Rajasthan	27	113202.06	
27. Sikkim	1	100	
28. Tamil Nadu	11	42726	
29. Telangana	39	244248	
30. Tripura	2	11296	
31. Uttar Pradesh	262	1389913.977	
32. Uttarakhand	28	78022	
33. West Bengal	25	122201	
TOTAL	1222	5347896	

(Source: National Horticulture Board (NHB), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) & Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI))

Incentives to farmers for using organic manure in cultivation

†1770. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of cultivation being done by using organic manure in the country as on date;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) the percentage of cultivation being done by using chemical fertilizers;
- (c) whether Government is encouraging farmers to use organic manure by providing them incentives; 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) and (b) The data regarding percentage of cultivation by using organic manure and chemical fertilizers is not maintained in this Ministry. Government is promoting judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures and biofertilizers to maintain soil health and productivity. The Total certified area under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) during 2015-16 was 1.49 million (Source: Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). As per data maintained by Department of Economic and Statistic, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the cultivated land in the country is 155.58 million hectares (2013-14)

(c) and (d) Government is promoting the use of Organic manures under the scheme Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) as detailed below:

- (i) Financial assistance is provided under the component Integrated Manure Management of PKVY for Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM) as per specification given in FCO, 1985 @ ₹1000/acre for procuring and application of PROM to soil to meet phosphorus/Zinc deficiency in soil.
- (ii) Financial Assistance is provided for vermi-compost (size 7'x3' x1') @ ₹5,000/- unit for procurement of earth worms, preparation of pits, construction of brick wall etc.
- (iii) Promotion of Organic Inputs under Organic and INM Components of Soil Health Management, assistance is provided for Vermi-compost, Bio-fertilizers (Liquid / solid), Waste compost, Herbal extracts etc. including PROM @ 50% of cost subject to a limit of ₹ 5000/- per ha and maximum ₹ 10,000 per beneficiary.
- (iv) Government is also promoting the production of organic manures by providing 100% financial assistance to State Governments/ Government Agencies upto a maximum limit of ₹ 190.00 lakh per unit and 33% of project cost maximum limited to ₹63 lakh per unit 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 capacity.

- (v) Under the Rain fed Area Development (RAD) component of NMSA, 50% of cost subject to limit of ₹ 125/- per cubic ft. and maximum permissible assistance of ₹ 50,000/- per unit for permanent structure and ₹ 8,000/- per unit for High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) vermi bed is provided for construction of compost unit and, organic input production unit.
- (vi) The Government of India is providing a Market Development Assistance @ ₹1500/-per metric ton (MT) to Fertilizer Companies for sale of City Compost.

Protection of poultry industry

1771. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that stealthy chicken germs are a risk for India's poultry industry, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to take all steps to protect the Indian poultry industry, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) The Government of India (GoI) has no specific information on stealthy chicken germs posing risk to poultry industry. However, major diseases occurring in Poultry such as New Castle Disease (ND), Infectious Bronchitis (IB), Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD), Marek's Disease (MD) and Avian Influenza are a major challenge to the poultry industry.

(b) Yes. The Government of India (GoI) is allowing the poultry industry to use vaccines to control endemic diseases. To control sporadic outbreak of Avian Influenza the stamping out policy as per the Action Plan developed by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), GoI under World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines is being adopted. The Action Plan on "Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza" was revised in 2015 and circulated to the State/UT Governments for implementation. Further, GoI is implementing compartmentalization for Avian Influenza to protect precious pure lines and other breeding flocks in the country and to promote international trade. The "General Guidelines for Biosecurity at Central Poultry Development Organisations (Basic tenets can be applied to State Poultry Farms and Private Poultry Farms)" which were revised in 2015, have been issued by DADF, Government of India to all States/UT Governments.

Insurance of peanut crops in Andhra Pradesh

1772. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);
- (b) the details of crops covered under PMFBY;

(c) whether it is a fact that Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AICI) refused to insure peanut crop in Anantapuram, YSR Kadapa, Kurnool and Chittoor districts of Andhra Pradesh in spite of repeated requests from farmers of these districts, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any consultations have been held by the Ministry with the AICI, if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana aims at supporting sustainable production in agriculture sector by way of:—

- Providing financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of unforeseen events.
- Stabilising the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming.
- Encouraging farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices.
- Ensuring flow of credit to the agriculture sector; which will contribute to food security, crop diversification and enhancing growth and competitiveness of agriculture sector besides protecting farmers from production risks.

The scheme envisages coverage of all food crops (cereals, millets and pulses), oilseeds and annual commercial / Horticultural crops. Selection of crops is however subject to yield data being made available for the particular crops for a sufficient number of years and the capacity of State Governments to conduct requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) to assess the yield loss.

(c) and (d) Government of Andhra Pradesh selected Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company through bidding process to act as the insurer to implement Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) for Ground nut crop in the mentioned Districts during Kharif 2016 season. Hence question of refusal to insure peanut crop by Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) does not arise.

Setting up of new Agricultural Research Centres

†1773. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of various Agriculture Research Institutes established in various States, during last three years and the places where these institutes are located;
- (b) whether Government is aware of the fact that several States, including Madhya Pradesh have made great progress in agriculture production sector, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) whether Government is contemplating to establish new agriculture research centres in various States, including Madhya Pradesh, if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) During last three years, two Agricultural Research Institutes have been established namely (i) Indian Agricultural Research Institute, at Goriya Karma village at Barhi, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand and (ii) National Research Centre on Integrated Farming at Pipra Kothi, Motihari, East Champaran district, Bihar.

(b) Yes Sir, several States, including Madhya Pradesh have made great progress in the agriculture production sector; the details of such States are contained in the overall State-wise Statement (*See* below).

(c) At present, there is no proposal to establish new agriculture research centres in various states, including Madhya Pradesh.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Details of Foodgrains: Area, Production and Yield during 2013-14 and 2014-15 in major Producing States alongwith coverage under Irrigation

	Area - Million Hectares Production - Million Tonnes Yield - Kg./Hectare										
State	2014-15#					2013-14					Area Under Irrigation (%) 2012-13*
	Area	% to All India	Prod- uction	% to All India	Yield	Area	% to All India	Prod- uction	% to All India	Yield	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Uttar Pradesh	20.06	16.43	42.47	16.81	2117	20.14	16.11	50.03	18.87	2484	77.5
Punjab	6.63	5.43	27.46	10.87	4144	6.55	5.24	29.48	11.12	4501	98.7
Madhya Pradesh	14.83	12.15	25.49	10.09	1719	14.33	11.46	22.98	8.67	1603	54.1
Rajasthan	12.87	10.54	19.75	7.82	1535	13.42	10.73	17.90	6.75	1334	34.1
Andhra Pradesh	6.58	5.39	17.44	6.90	2653	7.39	5.91	19.67	7.42	2661	58.9
Haryana	4.44	3.64	16.75	6.63	3772	4.40	3.52	16.97	6.40	3858	92.4

Area - Million Hectares
Production - Million Tonnes
Yield - Kg./Hectare

West Bengal	6.13	5.02	16.51	6.53	2692	6.28	5.02	17.08	6.44	2719	49.3
Bihar	6.70	5.49	13.05	5.17	1948	6.40	5.12	12.91	4.87	2017	69.5
Karnataka	7.16	5.86	12.05	4.77	1684	7.54	6.03	12.21	4.61	1619	26.4
Maharashtra	9.91	8.12	10.33	4.09	1043	11.47	9.17	13.85	5.22	1207	16.2
Tamil Nadu	3.74	3.06	9.46	3.74	2529	3.44	2.75	8.78	3.31	2552	59.8
Odisha	5.17	4.24	8.97	3.55	1734	5.14	4.11	8.36	3.15	1626	29.5
Chhattisgarh	4.94	4.05	7.08	2.80	1433	4.98	3.98	7.60	2.87	1525	30.6
Gujarat	3.57	2.92	6.99	2.76	1957	4.38	3.50	9.18	3.46	2097	45.1
Assam	2.51	2.06	5.06	2.00	2012	2.66	2.13	5.10	1.92	1917	4.6
Jharkhand	2.55	2.09	4.73	1.87	1855	2.27	1.81	4.29	1.62	1891	9.4
Uttarakhand	0.90	0.74	1.64	0.65	1823	0.89	0.71	1.78	0.67	1996	44.1
Others	3.39	2.77	7.45	2.95	@	3.37	2.69	6.91	2.61	@	-
ALL INDIA	122.07	100.00	252.68	100.00	2070	125.04	100.00	265.04	100.00	2120	51.2

Note: States have been arranged in descending order of percentage share of production during 2014-15.

@ - Since area/production is low in individual states, yield rate is not worked out.

Fourth Advance Estimates.

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare

Written Answers to

[17 March, 2017]

Unstarred Questions

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Spoilage of milk

1774. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the major milk producing States in the country as per data available in the last two years and the current year;
- (b) the details of spoilage of milk, State-wise and the estimated economic losses due to poor infrastructure in the said period; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to curb the spoilage of milk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) The major milk producing States in the country during the period 2013-14 to 2015-16 are Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Maharashtra. The detail of milk production of all States and UTs is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The Department is implementing the following Dairy Development Schemes in which assistance is provided among others for creation and strengthening infrastructure for providing market access to milk and milk products which helps to reduce spoilage of milk:—

- (i) National Dairy Plan (Phase-I): Under this scheme Bulk Milk Coolers (BMCs) for milk of 5200 KL (Kilo Liters) capacity has been approved to help in reducing spoilage of milk due to high temperature.
- (ii) National Programme for Dairy Development under the Central Sector Scheme "National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development (NPBBDD): The new Scheme, National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) approved during 2013-14 with the budget provision of ₹600 crore for implementation during 12th Plan. The objective of the scheme is to create/ strengthen / dairy infrastructure for improved procurement, processing and marketing of milk and milk products. The scheme is implemented through State Cooperative Dairy Federation.

Under NPDD, 32 projects have been approved with a total outlay of ₹355.49 crore out of which ₹155.99 crore has been released to the implementing agencies. Under this scheme, Bulk Milk Cooler for milk of 496 KL capacity and processing capacity of 1860 Thousand Liters Per Day (TLPD) capacity has been approved to help in reducing losses in milk.

Statement*Estimates of Milk Production during 2013-14 to 2015-16 (figures in 000 tonnes)*

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	2013-14	Name of State/UT	2014-15	Name of State/UT	2015-16
1.	Uttar Pradesh	24193.9	Uttar Pradesh	25198.4	Uttar Pradesh	26386.8
2.	Rajasthan	14573.1	Rajasthan	16934.3	Rajasthan	18500.1
3.	Andhra Pradesh*	13007.1	Gujarat	11690.6	Gujarat	12262.4
4.	Gujarat	11112.2	Madhya Pradesh	10779.1	Madhya Pradesh	12148.4
5.	Punjab	10011.1	Punjab	10351.4	Andhra Pradesh	10817.0
6.	Madhya Pradesh	9599.2	Andhra Pradesh	9656.2	Punjab	10774.2
7.	Maharashtra	9089.0	Maharashtra	9542.3	Maharashtra	10152.6
8.	Haryana	7441.7	Haryana	7901.4	Haryana	8381.3
9.	Bihar	7197.1	Bihar	7774.9	Bihar	8288.4
10.	Tamil Nadu	7049.2	Tamil Nadu	7132.5	Tamil Nadu	7243.5
11.	Karnataka	5997.0	Karnataka	6120.9	Karnataka	6344.0
12.	West Bengal	4906.2	West Bengal	4961.0	West Bengal	5038.5
13.	Kerala	2654.7	Telangana	4207.3	Telangana	4442.5
14.	Odisha	1861.2	Kerala	2711.1	Kerala	2649.8
15.	Jharkhand	1699.8	Jammu and Kashmir	1950.9	Jammu and Kashmir	2273.4
16.	Jammu and Kashmir	1614.7	Odisha	1903.1	Odisha	1930.5
17.	Uttarakhand	1550.2	Jharkhand	1733.7	Jharkhand	1812.4
18.	Chhattisgarh	1208.6	Uttarakhand	1565.4	Uttarakhand	1655.8
19.	Himachal Pradesh	1150.8	Chhattisgarh	1231.6	Himachal Pradesh	1282.9
20.	Assam	814.5	Himachal Pradesh	1172.2	Chhattisgarh	1277.3
21.	Delhi	284.3	Assam	829.5	Assam	843.5
22.	Tripura	129.7	Delhi	280.1	Delhi	280.8
23.	Meghalaya	82.2	Tripura	141.2	Tripura	152.2
24.	Manipur	81.7	Meghalaya	83.0	Meghalaya	84.0

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	2013-14	Name of State/UT	2014-15	Name of State/UT	2015-16
25.	Nagaland	80.6	Manipur	82.2	Manipur	79.0
26.	Goa	67.8	Nagaland	75.7	Nagaland	77.0
27.	Puducherry	47.3	Goa	66.6	Sikkim	66.7
28.	Sikkim	46.0	Sikkim	50.0	Goa	54.3
29.	Chandigarh	44.4	Puducherry	47.6	Arunachal Pradesh	50.1
30.	Arunachal Pradesh	43.4	Arunachal Pradesh	46.1	Puducherry	48.0
31.	Mizoram	15.3	Chandigarh	44.0	Chandigarh	43.2
32.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	14.2	Mizoram	20.5	Mizoram	22.0
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	11.0	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	15.6	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	15.4
34.	Lakshadweep	6.1	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8.5	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8.5
35.	Daman and Diu	0.8	Lakshadweep	4.2	Lakshadweep	3.3
36.	Telangana	0.0	Daman and Diu	0.81	Daman and Diu	0.8
All India TOTAL		137685.9	All India TOTAL	146313.6	All India TOTAL	155490.5

* Include Telangana for the year 2013-14.

Source: State/UT Animal Husbandry Departments.

Impact of demonetisation on farmers

1775. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers across the country conducted a nation-wide protest to highlight their plight on account of demonetisation that brought down the prices of farm produces;

(b) whether farmers are of the view that the sixty days interest waiver announced by the Government for farm loans taken from district co-operative banks and societies will not help to compensate the losses suffered by them; and

(c) whether the delay in wheat sowing is bound to affect productivity in the coming days, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) No such report has been received.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. In fact, the Government has taken several measures to aid the farmers in the current Rabi season to facilitate farming activities and to support rural economy which include provision of additional 60 days' time for repayment of dues by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) including personal and crop loans taken from Banks. RBI also advised all the banks to ensure adequate allocation of bank notes for the rural branches including Cooperatives. Further, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) made available ₹21,000 crores limit to the District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) through State Cooperative Banks for Rabi agricultural operations which benefit more than 40% of the small and marginal farmers. A number of other measures like higher cash drawl limits for farmers and registered traders in Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) markets/Mandis, extension of time limit for payment of crop insurance premium, purchase of seeds with old high denomination bank notes of ₹500 from Government / Centres, have been taken by Government for the benefit of the farmers.

As per 2nd Advance Estimates 2016-17 of Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the estimated area coverage under Rabi crops is 622.02 lakh hectare against 612.37 lakh hectare area of previous year. The higher Rabi area coverage indicates that there is no significant adverse impact of demonetisation on Rabi sowing. Reportedly, even post demonetization, aggregate sowing of wheat exceeded last year's planting by 7%.

Increasing local breeds

1776. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to increase the local breeds of cow/bulls/buffaloes in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether many imported breeds are being developed in the country, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Government of India is implementing the following schemes for the development of indigenous breeds of cattle in the country:—

- (i) Rashtriya Gokul Mission has been initiated from December, 2014 as a part of National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development exclusively for the development and conservation of indigenous bovine breeds including indigenous breeds of cattle.
- (ii) National Dairy Plan-I, a World Bank assisted project has been implemented in 18 major dairy States covering development and conservation of 12 indigenous breeds of cattle and buffaloes namely (i) Gir (ii) Kankrej (iii) Tharparkar (iv) Sahiwal (v) Rathi and (vi) Haryana cattle breeds and (i) Murrah (ii) Mehsana (iii) Pandharpuri (iv) Jaffarabadi (v) Banni and (vi) Nili Ravi buffalo breeds.
- (iii) Government has initiated a comprehensive scheme, National Mission on Bovine Productivity (NMBP) with an allocation of ₹825 crore. The scheme covers the following four components:—
 - (a) Pashu Sanjivni
 - (b) Advanced Reproductive Technique
 - (c) E-Pashuhaat
 - (d) National Bovine Genomic Centre for Indigenous Breeds (NBGC-IB).
- (iv) Government has also established three subordinate organizations namely (a) Central Cattle Breeding Farms (b) Central Herd registration Scheme units and (c) Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute. These organizations are also undertaking development and conservation of indigenous breeds namely (i) Tharparkar (ii) Red Sindhi (iii) Gir (iv) Kankrej (v) Ongole (vi) Hariana and (vii) Rathi breed of Cattle and (i) Surti (ii) Murrah (iii) Mehsana and (iv) Jaffarabadi breeds of buffaloes.

(b) Emphasis is given by Government of India for the development and conservation of indigenous breeds. However, States as per their breeding policy and breeding plan are also undertaking crossbreeding of small proportion of nondescript cattle population through use of exotic breeds *viz.* Jersey and Holstein Friesian.

Production of copra

1777. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total production of copra in the country;

(b) whether there is any export of copra, if so, the countries to which it is exported and the foreign exchange realized therefrom;

(c) whether there is any Minimum Support Price fixed for it by the Central Government; and

(d) whether Government has any proposals to procure copra from the cultivators for export purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) As per First Advance Estimates for 2016-17, the total production of copra in the country is 15.30 million tonnes.

(b) For 2016-17 (Apr.-Dec.), 14218 tonnes of Copra was exported and US \$ 14.48 million realised. Export of copra from 2014-15 to 2016-17(April-Dec.) is given in the Statement (See below).

(c) Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for copra. For 2016 season, the MSP for milling copra was fixed at ₹ 5950/- per quintal and for ball copra at ₹ 6240/- per quintal.

(d) Government undertakes procurement of copra when price falls below MSP level.

Statement

Details regarding export of Copra from 2014-15 to 2016-17

Sl. No. Country		Values in US\$ Million			Quantity in MT (Metric Tonne)		
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (Apr.-Dec.)	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (Apr.-Dec.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Australia	0	0	0	0.5	8.2	1.1
2.	Bangladesh PR	10.23	2.54	10.43	5,575.71	2,503.00	10,863.00
3.	Canada	0		0	0.5		0.6
4.	Cyprus						0.01
5.	Colombia	0.04			20.5		
6.	Ghana						0.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7. Hong Kong		0	0.5	0.38	0.12	185.38	179.08
8. Iran				0.03	2.12	23	1,806.00
9. Israel			0.02	8.9			
10. Kenya		0	0		0.05	0.1	
11. Kuwait		0	0		0.66	0.16	
12. Malawi		0				0.15	
13. Malaysia				0.05	0.02	0.03	50
14. Nepal		2.13	1.91	1.05	1,164.29	1,278.10	1,012.42
15. Netherlands		0			0.50		
16. Pakistan IR		0.82	0.51	0.16	425	375	140
17. Qatar		0.01		0	3		0.63
18. Singapore			0	0.03	0.02	1	25
19. South Africa		0	0		0.3	1	
20. Tanzania					0.03		
21. U. Arab Emts.		0.14	0	0.02	76.39	1.25	22
22. UK		0		0.01	0.7		3.8
23. USA		0.02	0.02	0	16.07	12.47	2.36
24. Vietnam Soc. Rep.		0.21	103.25				
TOTAL		13.39	5.52	14.48	7,284.51	4,388.69	14,218.16

Source: Department of Commerce.

Central Agriculture University, Imphal

1778. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the functions of the Central Agriculture University, Imphal; and
- (b) the name of old and new colleges under the Central Agriculture University, Imphal, including the proposed six new colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) The function of the Central Agriculture University, Imphal is for the development of agriculture and the furtherance of advancement of learning and research in agriculture and allied sciences in the North Eastern Region of the country.

(b) The name of old and new colleges under the Central Agriculture University, Imphal are as follows:—

Old Colleges

1. College of Agriculture, Imphal (Manipur).
2. College of Veterinary Sciences and A.H. Selesih, Aizawl (Mizoram).
3. College of Fisheries, Lembucherra, Agartala (Tripura).
4. College of Horticulture and Forestry, Pasighat (Arunachal Pradesh).
5. College of Agricultural Engineering and Post Harvest Technology, Ranipool (Sikkim).
6. College of Home Science, Tura (Meghalaya).
7. College of Post Graduate Studies, Barapani (Meghalaya).

New Colleges

8. College of Agriculture, Pasighat (Arunachal Pradesh).
9. College of Food Technology, Imphal (Manipur).
10. College of Horticulture, Bermiok, South Sikkim (Sikkim).
11. College of Agriculture, Barapani (Meghalaya)
12. College of Horticulture, Thenzawl (Mizoram).
13. College of Veterinary Sciences and A.H. Jalukie, Peren District, Nagaland.

Funding for coconut seedling

1779. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether there will be increase of allocation for raising of coconut seedling funded through Coconut Development Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): Yes, Sir. The allocation under the scheme "Production and Distribution of Planting Materials" for producing quality coconut

seedlings has been increased over last five years. It is further proposed to increase the allocation for this purpose during the financial year 2017-18 as compared to allocation made during the financial year 2016-17.

Farmers under coverage in crop insurance

†1780. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 50 per cent farmers in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Haryana are covered under the crop insurance, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that very less number of farmers are covered under the crop insurance in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha and Kerala, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Normally coverage under crop insurance schemes during Kharif and Rabi season is in the ratio of 2:1. Taking each season *i.e.* Kharif and Rabi 2016-17 separately, the coverage under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) for the mentioned States is below 50% of operational holdings (as per Agriculture Census, 2010-11) except in Maharashtra where it stands at 80.45% of the total number of holdings in the State during Kharif, 2016 is given in the Statement.

Statement

Percentage of farmers covered (tentative) under PMFBY/RWBCIS during Kharif and Rabi, 2016-17 in some States

(figures in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Number of Holdings	Number of farmers covered under PMFBY/RWBCIS	
			Kharif 2016	Rabi 2016-17
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Madhya Pradesh	88.72	40.29 (45.41%)	28.8 (32.46%)
2.	Gujarat	48.86	18.42 (37.70%)	1.16 (2.37%)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Chhattisgarh	37.46	13.96 (37.27%)	1.46 (3.90%)
4.	Maharashtra	136.99	110.21 (80.45%)	8.05 (5.88%)
5.	Haryana	16.17	6.95 (42.98%)	5.75 (35.56%)
6.	Uttar Pradesh	233.25	33.96 (14.56%)	36.26 (15.55%)
7.	Karnataka	78.32	17.39 (22.20%)	11.72 (14.96%)
8.	Odisha	46.67	17.64 (37.80%)	0.58 (1.24%)
9.	Kerala	68.31	0.32 (0.47%)	Not available

Impact of demonetisation on agricultural activities

1781. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the mode of monetary transaction in the four main areas of agriculture viz. sale, transport, marketing and distribution of ready produce; and

(b) whether there was any impact of demonetisation in these areas, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The mode of monetary transactions in Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) for sale, transport, marketing and distribution of ready produce between the farmer and trader was principally happening through cheques and cash to some extent. RTGS/NEFT and debit/credit card based payments were also adopted in some States like Telangana, Maharashtra etc. but volume of such transactions was very low. Micro ATMs in the APMC market yards in some States/UTs has helped to minimize the constraints due to less availability of cash.

(b) After the announcement of demonetization, the mandi arrivals declined for a week and thereafter gradually improved during subsequent weeks. Hence, there is very limited immediate impact for small period. Presently, the APMCs are functioning normally.

Implementation of Soil Health Mission

1782. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soil Health Mission introduced by the Government is being implemented properly;

(b) the number of farmers being benefited by the scheme, State-wise and whether the desired objectives have been achieved;

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

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for satisfactory implementation of the Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has introduced Soil Health Card Scheme in all States/UTs with an aim to assist all State Governments to evaluate fertility in all farm holdings across the country and issue Soil Health Cards to farmers regularly in a cycle of 2 years. Soil Health Cards provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

(b) to (d) Against the target of 2.53 crore soil samples, the States have collected 2.71 crore samples and tested 2.05 crore samples to print about 11 crore Soil Health Cards. As on 14.03.2017, 5.66 crore cards have been distributed to farmers State-wise details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

A study conducted by National Productivity Council (NPC) in 2016 has shown that 84% of farmers have expressed that they have applied the nutrients recommendations suggested in Soil Health Card that have proven to be beneficial to them in reducing the cost of cultivation and improving productivity of crops.

Statement

State-wise details of number of soil samples collected, analysed and number of Soil Health Cards issued to farmers

Sl. No.	State	Total soil samples target for 2015-16 & 2016-17	Soil samples		Total soil Health Card target for 2015-16 & 2016-17	Soil Health Card issued
			Collected	Tested		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I. South Zone						
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1348382	1491304	1374653	7455204	4355143
2.	Karnataka	1665765	1675090	1484491	9210012	3553732
3.	Kerala	127585	219922	155843	705420	199272
4.	Tamil Nadu	1274536	1269784	1262281	7046911	5537237
5.	Telangana	1034678	1023188	975680	5720737	2807095
II. West Zone						
6.	Gujarat	1589236	3334235	3050832	8786883	2414631
7.	Madhya Pradesh	2313977	2315843	1825478	12793976	4387336
8.	Maharashtra	2347121	2614912	2424000	12977232	10105000
9.	Rajasthan	2308013	2343000	1217000	12761005	3210000
10.	Chhattisgarh	703691	776174	730573	3890709	3516045
11.	Goa	25000	25000	25000	25000	20372
III. North Zone						
12.	Haryana	788670	788670	788670	4360555	448260
13.	Punjab	835526	534820	295779	4619621	635277
14.	Uttarakhand	135738	128342	119318	750494	567178
15.	Uttar Pradesh	4770399	4846592	2370896	26391089	7258903
16.	Himachal Pradesh	69635	91947	89897	385011	456606

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	165318	100142	65160	914044	127633
IV. East Zone						
18.	Bihar	1308778	1394248	828436	7236233	2866557
19.	Jharkhand	115302	115302	91506	637507	180968
20.	Odisha	668635	651607	546791	3696881	1617978
21.	West Bengal	1300349	1080000	669000	7189629	2024000
V. NE Zone						
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	20532	20262	19001	113523	9670
23.	Assam	278707	181041	51119	1540968	139150
24.	Manipur	20713	9719	6380	114522	5351
25.	Meghalaya	39372	37958	34372	209561	47213
26.	Mizoram	11986	12412	9216	11986	8216
27.	Nagaland	33423	24995	20675	184797	17700
28.	Sikkim	13217	13217	13217	46000	27000
29.	Tripura	32736	33000	33000	180998	78334
VI. Union Territories						
30.	Andaman and Nicobar	1405	2176	2176	7799	1918
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2162	0	0	12000	0
32.	Puducherry	3530	4736	4736	19594	1261
33.	Chandigarh	277	544	0	277	0
TOTAL		25354394	27160182	20585176	139996178	56625036

Drought in Andhra Pradesh

1783. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh is in the grip of severe drought;

(b) whether any request has come for Central help from the State Government for taking up rural wage works; and

(c) if not, whether Government will *suo-moto* send a team to study the situation and provide assistance to the farmers in distress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir. During 2016, the State Government declared drought in 268 mandals in 7 districts (including 4 districts of Rayalaseema) in the State.

(b) and (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted a Memorandum seeking assistance of ₹ 2281.79 crores (including ₹ 839.79 crores for providing relief employment) from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for drought relief. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the affected areas in the State for assessment of the drought situation and requirement of financial assistance and has submitted its report. The report of IMCT is under consideration.

Assistance for relief employment is not covered under NDRF norms. However, the Department of Rural Development has decided to provide upto 50 days of additional employment in notified drought affected districts, under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), during the financial year 2016-17.

Drought in the country

1784. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that farming has been affected by severe drought in most parts of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is planning to give financial assistance to the States hit by drought, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) During 2016-17, the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry have declared drought in parts of their States.

(b) The State Governments are primarily responsible for taking necessary relief in the wake of natural calamities and are empowered to initiate immediate relief measures to address the situation arising out of drought. Government of India supplements the

efforts of State Governments with financial assistance. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature and is approved on the basis of Memorandum received from State Government in accordance with established procedure, keeping in view items and norms in vogue for assistance.

No memorandum has so far been received from the Government of Kerala seeking assistance for drought relief from NDRF. Status of action on memoranda received from other States for Central assistance for drought relief from NDRF is indicated below:—

(₹ in crores)

State	Assistance sought	Assistance approved
Andhra Pradesh	2281.79	#
Karnataka		
(i) Kharif 2016 drought	4702.54	1782.44
(ii) Rabi 2016-17 drought	3310.83	#
Rajasthan	3660.97	#
Tamil Nadu	39565.00	#
UT of Puducherry	132.35	#

#-Under consideration.

Implementation of NCIP

1785. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers covered under the National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP), the details of the last two years;

(b) whether Government has made any assessment of the loss suffered by the farmers;

(c) how much compensation has been paid in various States with regard to NCIP; and

(d) the details of the amount disbursed to various States against the claims during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (d) National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) was implemented from Rabi 2013-14 to Rabi 2015-16. Details of coverage including farmers covered, total claims, claims paid and farmers benefited during last two years under erstwhile National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) are given in the Statement (*See* below). As per the provisions of NCIP Central Government and State Government were providing premium subsidy only and on 50:50 basis and settlement/payment of claims was the responsibility of concerned insurance companies. Therefore, no funds have been disbursed towards claims settlement to the States under NCIP by the Central Government.

Statement*State-wise coverage of farmers, total claims and claims paid under NCIP during 2014-15 and 2015-16*

Sl. No.	State / UT	Season							
		Year 2014-15				Year 2015-16			
		Farmers Insured	Claims Reported (₹ in lakh)	Claims Paid (₹ in lakh)	Farmers benefited (No.)	Farmers Insured	Claims (₹ in lakh)	Claims Paid (₹ in lakh)	Farmers benefited (No.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	362997	6784.88	5776.66	102899	1086411	20051.78	19938.74	321360
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	783	5.86	5.86	184	0	0.00	0.00	0
3.	Assam	23351	1308.13	283.82	21738	43424	550.55	0.00	24391
4.	Bihar	2294853	33310.63	31948.89	1612432	0	0.00	0.00	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	974199	18391.58	18391.58	590731	0	0.00	0.00	0
6.	Goa	160	0.00	0.00	0	136	14.49	0.00	82
7.	Haryana	22	0.79	0.79	7	0	0.00	0.00	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	99015	3248.16	3239.94	89046	136333	3159.97	213.57	85944
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1364	54.18	23.93	1364	0	0.00	0.00	0

10. Jharkhand	193925	2745.64	2745.58	160874	0	0.00	0.00	0
11. Karnataka	1113816	22031.07	22029.62	444079	401	14.82	14.82	43
12. Kerala	49386	719.96	714.86	24315	62335	1413.69	712.50	35840
13. Madhya Pradesh	168771	4867.15	4867.15	165535	249320	7372.35	7366.46	166304
14. Maharashtra	1425161	41331.69	41091.63	1284657	839822	42740.08	41660.56	785798
15. Rajasthan	9886728	119085.68	119084.58	6668478	10956917	178713.37	147195.81	7749694
16. Tamil Nadu	44817	883.60	883.60	12250	0	0.00	0.00	0
17. Telangana	778983	11993.26	5492.31	138035	309783	6714.59	5925.13	72975
18. Uttar Pradesh	1759441	78079.99	77953.13	1175288	3795359	144356.97	143643.60	2168369
19. Uttarakhand	79233	4164.41	4164.41	52133	150111	1800.73	1798.16	41616
20. West Bengal	1082495	7003.25	4732.19	137290	14837	266.27	8.77	8888
TOTAL	20339500	356009.92	343430.53	12681335	17645189	407169.66	368478.11	11461304

Note: Data on claims paid is as per the status in December, 2016.

Written Answers to

[17 March, 2017]

Unstarred Questions

Ban on pesticides

1786. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had set up an expert committee headed by a former professor of IARI to look into 66 pesticides which are banned or restricted in many countries, if so, the list of such pesticides;

(b) whether these pesticides were found to be highly toxic for human and other beings including water bodies and aquatic organisms; and

(c) whether all the pesticides recommended for ban have been banned with immediate effect, if so, the effective date of ban and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) The Insecticides Act, 1968 has been enacted to regulate the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides with a view to prevent risk to human beings or animals, and for matters connected therewith. As per provision under Section 5 of the Act, the Government has constituted Registration Committee (RC). The Committee registers pesticides after considering the data on different parameters such as chemistry, bio-efficacy, toxicity, packaging and processing to ensure efficacy and safety to human beings and animals. Furthermore, technical reviews are carried out from time to time to assess the safety of pesticides. An expert committee was constituted under Dr. Anupam Verma, Former Professor, Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), to carry out technical review of 66 pesticides that are banned, restricted, withdrawn in one or more countries but continued to be registered in India. The details are given in the Statement (*See* below). The Expert Committee, *inter alia*, recommended 13 pesticides to be completely banned and 6 pesticides to be phased out by 2020. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has issued a Notification S.O.4212 (E) dated 15th December, 2016, inviting objections and suggestions from the stakeholders on completely banning of 12 pesticides/insecticides and phasing out of 6 pesticides/insecticides.

Statement

List of pesticides which have been banned/restricted/withdrawn in one or more countries of the world but continued to be registered in India

Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide	Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide
1.	Acephate	24.	Dimethoate
2.	Alachlor	25.	Dinocap
3.	Aluminum Phosphide	26.	Diuron
4.	Atrazine	27.	Endosulfan (Supreme Court has banned its use)
5.	Benfuracarb	28.	Ethofenprox
6.	Benomyl	29.	Fenpropathrin
7.	Bifenthrin	30.	Fenarimol
8.	Butachlor	31.	Fenitrothion
9.	Captan	32.	Fenthion
10.	Carbaryl	33.	Iprodione
11.	Carbendazim	34.	2,4-D
12.	Carbofuran	35.	Kasugamycin
13.	Chlorfenapyr	36.	Linuron
14.	Carbosulfan	37.	Methomyl
15.	Chlorothalonil	38.	Methoxy Ethyl Mercury Chloride
16.	Chlorpyrifos	39.	Methyl Parathion
17.	DDT	40.	Malathion
18.	Dezomet	41.	Mancozeb
19.	Deltamethrin	42.	Mepiquat Chloride
20.	Diazinon	43.	Metaldehyde
21.	Dichlorvos	44.	Monocrotophos
22.	Dicofol	45.	Oxyflurofen
23.	Diflubenzuron		

Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide	Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide
46.	Paraquat Dichloride	57.	Thiometon
47.	Pendimethalin	58.	Thiphanate Methyl
48.	Phorate	59.	Thiram
49.	Phosphomidon	60.	Triazophos
50.	Peitilachlor	61.	Trichlorofon
51.	Propargite	62.	Tridemorph
52.	Propineb	63.	Trifluralin
53.	Quinalphos	64.	Zinc Phosphide
54.	Sodium cyanide	65.	Zineb
55.	Sulfosulfurone	66.	Ziram
56.	Thiodecarb		

Allocation of funds under MIS

1787. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government allocates funds to State Governments for procurement of agricultural and horticultural products under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS);

(b) if so, the details thereof including the funds allocated by the Central Government to various States for the said purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the commodities procured in various States, including Jharkhand and Gujarat under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Funds are not allocated to the State Governments under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). Instead, Central Share of losses on the implementation of MIS is released to the State Governments/ State agencies as per the specific proposals received from them. The details of the commodities procured under the said scheme alongwith the funds released to the State Governments/State agencies as the Central share of loss during the last three years and the current year, State-wise is given in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of commodities procured under the said scheme alongwith the funds released to State Governments/State agencies as the Central share of loss during the last three years and current year

Sl. No.	Year	Commodity	Market Intervention Price (MIP) (₹ per MT)	State	Sanctioned Qty. (in MTs.)
1.	2013-14 01.08.2013 to 21.10.2013	C-grade Apple	6,500/-	Himachal Pradesh	27,000
2.	2013-14 01.08.2013 to 31.08.2013	Pineapple	8,500/-	Nagaland	12,675
3.	2013-14 20.02.2014 to 20.03.2014	Potato	3,750/-	Uttar Pradesh	1,00,000
4.	2014-15 01.05.2014 to 16.06.2014	Chilli	42,000/-	Mizoram	2,850
5.	2014-15 15.08.2014 to 15.10.2014	C-grade Apple	6,500/-	Himachal Pradesh	27,000
6.	2014-15 25.11.2014 to 25.12.2014	Ginger	9,050/-	Nagaland	32,000
7.	2015-16 20.05.2015 to 20.06.2015	Potato	4,250/-	Uttar Pradesh	1,00,000
8.	2015-16 15.12.2015 to 14.03.2016	Oil Palm FFB	7,888/-	Andhra Pradesh	1,14,963
9.	2016-17 01.09.2016 to 30.09.2016	Grapes	42,000/-	Mizoram	3,800
10.	2016-17 01.11.2016 to 30.11.2016	Onion	6,240/-	Karnataka	1,00,000
11.	2016-17 01.12.2016 to 30.12.2016	Onion	7,070/-	Telangana	5,000
12.	2016-17 07.12.2016 to 14.02.2017	Areca nut	Chali-2,51,000/- Red-2,70,000/-	Karnataka	Chali-28,000 Red-12,000
13.	2016-17 14.12.2016 to 12.01.2017	Palm-Oil	7,650/-	Tamil Nadu	1,000
14.	2016-17 17.02.2017 to 18.03.2017	Ginger	8,750/-	Arunachal Pradesh	12,675
Year	State Government/State agency	Commodity	Amount (₹ in lakh)		
2013-14	Nagaland	Orange	190.50		
	Nagaland	Ginger	175.78		
	Rajasthan	Garlic	139.47		
	Mizoram	Chilli	114.54		

Year	State Government/State agency	Commodity	Amount (₹ in lakhs)
2014-15	Himachal Pradesh	Apple	96.94
	Himachal Pradesh	Apple	390.57
	Nagaland	Pineapple	249.79
2015-16	Mizoram	Iskut (Chayote)	31.50
	Nagaland	Ginger	522.61

Cold storages in Southern States

1788. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of the 303 cold storage facilities approved for the year 2015-16, not more than 20 facilities were from the Southern States, *viz.*, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;

(b) if so, why Government is not giving enough push to facilitate establishing cold storage in Southern States despite the fact that climatic conditions in the south need more such facilities; and

(c) the details of measures taken by the Government to increase the number of cold storage facilities in the Southern States, especially Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Out of 299 cold storage facilities approved during 2015-16 under schemes of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Ministry of Food Processing Industries, 20 cold storage facilities were approved for Southern States (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana).

(b) and (c) A recent study on All India Cold-chain Infrastructure Capacity (AICIC-2015) conducted by NCCD-NABCONS assessed demand and reported the gaps in end-to-end connectivity. As per this report, Southern States namely Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana have adequate cold storage capacity. Further, study reveals that future focus should be for creation of pack houses, refrigerated transport, ripening chambers instead of standalone large cold storage/CA store projects.

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for development of horticulture in the country

which includes assistance for creation of post-harvest infrastructure (PHM) including establishment of cold storages, processing units, pack houses, pre-cooling units, controlled atmosphere storage, reefer vans, integrated cold chain and setting up of ripening chambers.

Under post harvest component credit linked back ended subsidy @ 35% to @ 50% of the project cost is available. Assistance for creation of cold storage/cold chain component is available to individuals, group of farmers/growers/consumers, partnership/proprietary firms, self help groups, farmers producer organizations, companies, corporations, cooperatives, cooperative marketing federations, agricultural produce market committees and marketing boards, State Governments and local bodies like Panchayats.

The scheme implemented by this Ministry is project based and demand driven. All the eligible projects received from Southern States are supported. Further, the States including Southern States have been advised to allocate more funds to the extent of at least 35% to 40% in their plan of next year in place of about 25% of budget for creation of post harvest infrastructure including cold storage.

Further, Government is also implementing the following schemes for increasing cold storage capacity for perishables:—

- (i) Integrated cold chain Scheme of MoFPI.
- (ii) Scheme of Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Ministry of Commerce.
- (iii) Scheme of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under DAC & FW.
- (iv) Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM).

Under these schemes, financial assistance is provided to farmers/entrepreneurs for setting up cold storages/cold chain infrastructure.

Milk production in the country

1789. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the shortage of milk in the country and the per capita milk availability, State-wise;

(b) the efforts made by the Government to boost production of milk to meet the shortage;

(c) the efforts made by the Government for setting up hi-tech dairies to boost milk production so far; and

(d) the details of mechanism available for ensuring availability of quality milk to the general public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) The total milk production in the country during 2015-16 is 155.5 million tonnes. Per capita milk availability during 2015-16 is 337 gram/day. State-wise per capita milk availability is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Government of India is implementing following schemes to boost milk production in the country:—

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

(ii) National Programme for Dairy Development part of NPBBDD.

(iii) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS).

However, no provision is available under the above schemes for setting up of high-tech dairies.

(d) The issue of mechanism for ensuring the availability of quality milk to the general public is governed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which is administered through Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Statement

Details of per capita availability of milk during 2013-14 to 2015-16

(figures in gram/day)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1.	Andhra Pradesh*	413	436	475
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	93	98	105
3.	Assam	69	70	70
4.	Bihar	195	208	219

Sl. No.	State/UT	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
5.	Chhattisgarh	130	130	133
6.	Goa	98	94	74
7.	Gujarat	506	527	545
8.	Haryana	800	839	877
9.	Himachal Pradesh	461	466	505
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	302	352	395
11.	Jharkhand	146	147	152
12.	Karnataka	272	276	282
13.	Kerala	203	206	200
14.	Madhya Pradesh	349	386	428
15.	Maharashtra	219	228	239
16.	Manipur	80	80	76
17.	Meghalaya	84	84	83
18.	Mizoram	40	53	57
19.	Nagaland	95	88	89
20.	Odisha	122	124	124
21.	Punjab	980	1003	1032
22.	Rajasthan	572	655	704
23.	Sikkim	200	215	282
24.	Tamil Nadu	280	282	283
25.	Tripura	95	103	109
26.	Uttar Pradesh	318	326	335
27.	Uttarakhand	418	416	434
28.	West Bengal	145	145	145
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	84	90	87
30.	Chandigarh	101	97	93

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	98	74	72
32.	Daman and Diu	10	10	10
33.	Delhi	39	37	36
34.	Lakshadweep	219	147	113
35.	Puducherry	111	110	108
	ALL INDIA	307	322	337

* Andhra Pradesh includes Telangana.

Note: Per capita availability is calculated based on State estimates of production and projected population as on 1st March, based on Census of India 2001 of RGI.

MSP for crops

1790. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to introduce MSP for all crops at a price fifty per cent more than the production cost;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the list of production cost of all the crops for which MSP is given and MSPs given for those crops during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) No Sir. Government has increased Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major agricultural crops for 2016-17 Season. The MSP fixed by the Government for 2016-17 provides adequate returns over all India weighted average all paid out costs including family labour (A2+FL) as estimated by the Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACP). The National Commission on Farmers under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. S. Swaminathan had recommended that the MSP should be at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production. MSP is recommended by the CACP based on objective criteria and considering variety of relevant factors. Hence, prescribing an increase of at least 50% on cost may distort market. The objective of the Government's price policy is to ensure remunerative prices to farmers by offering to procure their produce at MSP. However, farmers are free to sell their produce to the Government procurement agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them.

(c) The details showing MSPs of various crops and their cost of production (A2+FL) for the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 is given in the Statement.

Statement

*Details regarding all India weighted average projected
cost of production and MSP*

(₹ per quintal)

Sl.No.	Commodity	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
		A2+FL	MSP	A2+FL	MSP	A2+FL	MSP
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Kharif Crops							
1.	Paddy (Common)	978	1360	1020	1410	1045	1470
	Grade 'A'	978	1400	1020	1450	1045	1510
2.	Jowar (Hybrid)	1370	1530	1467	1570	1501	1625
	(Maldandi)	1370	1550	1467	1590	1501	1650
3.	Bajra	831	1250	893	1275	925	1330
4.	Maize	914	1310	941	1325	966	1365
5.	Ragi	1474	1550	1688	1650	1733	1725
6.	Arhar (Tur)	3105	4350	3237	4625^	3241	5050^^
7.	Moong	3890	4600	3993	4850^	4065	5225^^
8.	Urad	3225	4350	3455	4625^	3584	5000^^
9.	Cotton (Medium Staple)	2510	3750	2753	3800	2889	3860
	(Long Staple)	2510	4050	2753	4100	2889	4160
10.	Groundnut in Shell	3232	4000	3314	4030	3371	4220*
11.	Sunflower Seed	3129	3750	3282	3800	3479	3950*
12.	Soyabean (Black)	1729	2500	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	(Yellow)\$	1729	2560	1770	2600	1852	2775*
13.	Sesamum	3765	4600	4132	4700	4188	5000^
14.	Nigerseed	3084	3600	3146	3650	3366	3825*
Rabi Crops							
15.	Wheat	744	1450	785	1525	797	1625
16.	Barley	735	1150	776	1225	816	1325
17.	Gram	1902	3175	2124	3500**	2241	4000^
18.	Masur (Lentil)	1866	3075	2015	3400**	2174	3950!
19.	Rapeseed/Mustard	1504	3100	1702	3350	1871	3700*
20.	Safflower	3025	3050	3057	3300	3049	3700*
Other Crops							
21.	Copra (Milling)	4398	5250	4138	5550	4676	5950
	(Ball)	7398	5500	4138	5830	4676	6240
22.	Jute	1702	2400	2042	2700	2125	3200
23.	Sugarcane	122.88	220.00	132.00	230.00	140.00	230.00

^ Including Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal.

^^ Including Bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal.

* Including Bonus of ₹ 100 per quintal.

\$ Minimum Support Price of Soyabean yellow is also applicable to black variety during 2015-16 and 2016-17.

** Including Bonus of ₹ 75 per quintal.

! Including Bonus of ₹ 150 per quintal.

Ban on Desi Mangur fish

1791. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether authorities have banned Desi Mangur fish due to wrong information whereas Government has banned only Thai and African Mangur;

(b) if so, whether there has been representation/demand from stakeholders to lift the ban on it;

(c) if so, whether ban on Desi Mangur fish has affected the livelihood of a large number of fishermen in the country;

(d) if so, whether Desi Mangur has been cleared by laboratory testing and fishermen of West Bengal and Mumbai have been paying taxes on it; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to lift the ban on Desi Mangur fish?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) No Sir. Based on the recommendations of the National Committee on Introduction of Exotic Aquatic Species into Indian Waters, the State Governments were advised in the year 1997 to take necessary steps to prevent culture of Exotic Mangur (*Clarias gariepinus*) also known as Thai Mangur/ African catfish only, and not the endemic species, *Clarias batrachus* or Desi Mangur. There is no restriction on culture of *Clarias batrachus* or Desi Mangur in the country.

(b) to (e) In view of the above, questions do not arise.

Review of Crop Insurance Scheme

1792. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Crop Insurance Scheme introduced by the Government is fulfilling the needs of farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the precautions being taken by the Government to make the scheme more advantageous to the farmers from getting out of the burden of premiums and crop losses;

(c) whether abnormal delays are taking place in settlement of claims of farmers, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government for early settlement of claims and avoiding losses to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. After review of erstwhile Crop Insurance Schemes, Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) from Kharif 2016 season. To make the scheme more advantageous for farmers, many innovative solutions have been incorporated in the new schemes. The PMFBY provides comprehensive crop insurance from pre-sowing to post harvest losses against non-preventable natural risks at extremely low maximum premium rate of 2% for Kharif Crops, 1.5% for Rabi Crop and 5% payable by farmers for annual commercial/horticultural

crops, which premium rates are also applicable under RWBCIS. The balance of actuarial/bidded premium is shared by the Central and State Government on 50:50 basis. Further, not only has cap on premium which had earlier led to reduction in sum insured been removed under both schemes, but sum insured has been made equal to the Scale of Finance thereby providing maximum risk coverage to the farmers. In an effort to provide more realistic assessment of losses, the unit area of insurance has been reduced from Tehsil/district level to village/village Panchayat level for major crops and to individual farm level for localized risks of hailstorm, landslide and inundation. While settlement of claims is done on the basis of yield loss assessment at the end of season, some measure of immediate relief is also provided to insured farmers in case of adverse seasonal conditions during the crop season due to which expected yield during the season is likely to be less than 50% of the Threshold Yield in the concerned insurance unit.

There were some instances of delay in settlement of claims of farmers, which pertain to erstwhile schemes and which may *inter alia* be attributed to reasons such as delay in submission of yield data or release of funds by States/Union Territories etc. To address such issues under the new schemes several measures have been incorporated namely, timelines have been stipulated for completion of every activity, be it submission of proposals by banks to insurance companies, assessment of yield by State Government agencies, processing and settlement of claims by insurance companies, the last to be done within three weeks of receipt of yield data from State. To expedite the yield data submission, the Department has deployed CCE Agri App and made it mandatory for States to transmit data through CCE Agri App/smartphones. Further, new remote sensing technology is also being experimented with to achieve more accurate yield loss assessment for purposes of accurate claim settlement. Most importantly, the National Crop Insurance Portal has been launched to facilitate online flow of information and service delivery among stakeholders. Accordingly, under the new scheme claims for Kharif 2016 are being settled as per the stipulated time frame upon receipt of yield data and share in premium subsidy from States.

Growth in farmers' income

1793. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) what has been the growth of farmers' income since 2000;
- (b) how much has the nominal income grown since then;
- (c) how much has the real income grown; and

(d) the income referred to when Government talks of doubling the farmers' income by 2022?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to As per the "Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households" conducted by NSSO, the average monthly income per farmer/agricultural household is estimated at ₹2115 in 2003 and ₹6426 in 2013. The increase in income translates to about 12 per cent compounded annual growth rate in nominal terms and about 4 per cent growth in real terms, using Consumer Price Index (Agricultural Labourers) as deflator.

(d) The doubling of farmers' income by 2022 is with reference to the real income.

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras

1794. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) are being set up to provide affordable quality medicines to all citizens;

(b) if so, the details of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP);

(c) the names of Medical and Pharma sector entrepreneurs who are presently supplying and will be supplying the quality medicines to the Janaushadhi Kendras in future; and

(d) the State-wise number of such Janaushadhi Kendras in the country at present along with the details of the proposal to set up such Kendras in a time bound programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) With a view to achieving the objective of making available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all, 'Jan Aushadhi Scheme' was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India in November, 2008 across the country. The Scheme is now revamped and renamed as 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojna' (PMBJP). 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra' (PMBJK) opened under the Scheme offer more than 600 medicines and 165 surgicals and consumables covering 23 major therapeutic categories such as Anti-infectives, Anti-diabetics, Cardiovasculars, Anti-cancers, Gastro-intestinal

medicines, etc. at prices which are many times lower than the branded products. The table given below gives the comparison of a few such products:—

Sl. No.	Medicine Name	Average Market Price (₹)	PMBJP's Price (₹)	% Reduction
1.	Amlodipine 5mg 10 Tablets	20	3.24	83.80
2.	Atenolol 50 mg 14 Tablets	22	5.56	74.72
3.	Ramipril 5 mg 10 Tablets	80	8.53	89.33
4.	Losartan 25 mg 10 Tablets	26	5.74	77.92
5.	Metoprolol 50 mg 10 Tablets	53	5.95	88.77
6.	Telmisartan 40 mg 10 Tablets	70	12.64	81.94
7.	Atorvastatin 10 mg 10 Tablets	70	8.02	88.54

The Scheme offers the following financial assistances for opening of PMBJKs in the country:—

- For opening PMBJKs in Government Hospitals/Medical College premises/ Government owned buildings like Municipalities/Panchayati Raj Institutions/Post Offices, etc., one-time financial assistance upto ₹ 2.50 lakh is provided as per the details given below:—
 - (i) ₹ 1 lakh reimbursement of furniture and fixtures.
 - (ii) ₹ 1 lakh by way of free medicines in the beginning.
 - (iii) ₹ 0.50 lakh as reimbursement for computer, internet, printer, scanner, etc.
- For PMBJKs run by private entrepreneurs/pharmacists/NGOs/Charitable organizations that are linked with BPPI headquarters through internet (using BPPI provided software) will get incentive upto ₹ 2.5 lakhs. This will be given @ 15% of monthly sales subject to a ceiling of ₹ 10,000/ per month upto a total limit of ₹ 2.5 lakhs.
- In north eastern States, naxal affected areas and tribal areas, the rate of incentive will be 15% and subject to monthly ceiling of ₹ 15,000/- upto a total limit of ₹ 2.5 lakhs.
- The applicants belonging to weaker sections like SC/ST/Differently abled may be

provided medicines worth ₹ 50,000/- in advance within the incentive of ₹ 2.5 lakhs which will be provided in the form of 15% of monthly sales subject to a ceiling of ₹ 10,000/- per month upto a Total limit of ₹ 2.5 lakhs.

(c) The private medical and pharma manufacturing companies are empanelled on the basis of an open Expression of Interest (EoI). A list of 99 private manufacturing companies which are presently empanelled for making supply of quality generic medicines, is given in the Statement-I (*See* below) and a list of 26 suppliers which are presently empanelled for making supply of surgicals, is given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) The state-wise details of 901 functional PMBJKs as on 11.03.2017 is given in the Statement-III (*See* below). MoUs have been signed with various State Governments and NGOs and applications have also been invited from individuals for opening of PMBJKs across the country. The detail of the strategies for State Governments/NGOs/Individuals is as under:—

- State Governments - MoUs have been signed with various State Governments such as Government of Karnataka, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Government of Tripura, Government of Mizoram and Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) for opening of more than 1300 PMBJKs in the country out of which 27 PMBJKs have been opened.
- NGOs/Institutions - MoUs have been signed with various NGOs such as Pharmacy Council of India (PCI), Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI), Indian Medical Association (IMA), Common Service Centre (CSC), National Yuva Cooperative Society Ltd. (NYCS), etc. for opening of more than 8000 PMBJKs in the country out of which 63 PMBJKs have been opened.
- Individuals - Advertisements were released during December, 2016 and applications have been invited from private individuals. The response has been encouraging and as on 11.03.2017, more than 26,000 applications have been received out of which in-principle approval has been given for more than 19,000 applications. In due course, many of these will result in the opening of more PMBJKs over the next one year.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Sl. No.	Name of the Company
1.	Abbott India Limited	25.	Concard Drugs Ltd.
2.	Adroit Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.	26.	Corona Remedies Pvt. Ltd.
3.	Ahlcon Parenterals (India) Ltd.	27.	Creative Healthcare Pvt. Ltd.
4.	Akums Drug Pharmaceuticals	28.	Cris Pharma (India) Ltd.
5.	Albert David Ltd.	29.	Curetech India Ltd.
6.	Alliaance Biotech	30.	Cyano Pharma Pvt. Ltd.
7.	Amanta Healthcare Limited	31.	D.M. Pharma
8.	ANG Lifesciences (I) Pvt. Ltd.	32.	Deepin Pharmceuticals
9.	Arion Healthcare	33.	Denis Chem Lab Limited
10.	Asoj Soft Caps Pvt. Ltd.	34.	Digital Vision
11.	Associated Biotech	35.	East African (India) Overseas
12.	Axa Perenterals	36.	Finecure Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
13.	Baader Schulz Laboratories	37.	Galpha laboratories Limited
14.	Bal Pharma Limited	38.	Galpha Laboratories Ltd.
15.	Bennet Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	39.	Getwell Pharmaceuticals
16.	Bennet Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	40.	GKM New Pharma
17.	Bharat Parenterals Ltd.	41.	Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
18.	Biogenic Drugs Pvt. Ltd.	42.	Gopal Life sciences Pvt. Ltd
19.	Brooks Laboratories Ltd.	43.	Gufic Biosciences Ltd.
20.	Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	44.	HAB Pharmaceuticals and Research Ltd.
21.	Celon Laboratories Ltd.	45.	Hanuchem Laboratories
22.	Centaur Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd	46.	ICPA Health Products Ltd.
23.	Claris Otsuka Pvt. Ltd.	47.	Indian Immunologicals Ltd.
24.	CMG Biotech Pvt. Ltd.		

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Sl. No.	Name of the Company
48.	INTERMED	71.	Prolaboratories Pvt Ltd.
49.	Jackson Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. (amritsar)	72.	Psychotropics India Ltd.
50.	Kwality Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.	73.	Pulse Pharma Pvt. Ltd.
51.	LA Chemico Pvt. Ltd.	74.	R.K. Laboratories
52.	Lark laboratories India Ltd.	75.	Reliance Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd.
53.	Leben Laboratories Private Limited	76.	Rhydburg Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
54.	Legen Healthcare	77.	Saar Biotech
55.	Maan Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	78.	Sain Medicaments Private Limited
56.	Mascot Health Series Pvt. Ltd.	79.	Samarth Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd.
57.	Maxchem Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.	80.	Sava healthcare Limited
58.	Medicamen Biotech Ltd.	81.	Scott-Edil Pharmacia Ltd.
59.	Medipol Pharmaceutical India Pvt. Ltd.	82.	Shine Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
60.	Merril Pharma Pvt. Ltd.	83.	Shreya life sciences Pvt. Ltd.
61.	Micron Pharmaceuticals	84.	Stallion Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.
62.	Modern Laboratories	85.	Syncom Healthcare Ltd.
63.	Nanz Med Science Pharma Pvt. Ltd.	86.	Synokem Pharmaceuticals Limited
64.	Noprod Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd.	87.	Terrace pharmaceuticals (P). LTD.
65.	Omega Biotech Ltd.	88.	Theon Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
66.	Ortin Laboratories Ltd.	89.	Therawin Formulation
67.	Osmed Formulation Pvt. Ltd.	90.	Unicure India Ltd.
68.	Overseas Health Care Pvt. Ltd.	91.	Unimarck Healthcare Ltd.
69.	Ozone Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	92.	Unison Pharmaceuticals
70.	Penta Biotech	93.	Unix Biotech
		94.	Venus Remedies Ltd.

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Sl. No.	Name of the Company
95.	Wings Biotech	98.	Zee Laboratories
96.	Wockhardt Limited	99.	Zest Pharma
97.	Zaneka Healthcare Ltd.		

Statement-II*List of 26 suppliers presently empanelled for making supply of surgicals*

Sl. No.	Name of the Supplier	Sl. No.	Name of the Supplier
1.	Jind Surgicals	14.	Hospimax Healthcare Pvt. Ltd.
2.	Kishan Chand and Sons	15.	Lotus Surgicals
3.	Seven Seas Enterprises	16.	Mco Hospital Aids Pvt. Ltd.
4.	SRS Meditech	17.	Medicare Products
5.	ISCON Surgicals Ltd.	18.	Poly Medicure
6.	Shree Radhey Hygiene	19.	Romsons Scientific and Surgical Industries Pvt. Ltd.
7.	Aegis Lifesciences	20.	Royal Surgicare
8.	Angioplast Pvt. Ltd.	21.	Stericat Gutstrings
9.	Aurolab	22.	Sterimed Medical Devices
10.	Beta Healthcare Products Pvt. Ltd.	23.	Sterimed Surgicals
11.	Futura surgicare	24.	Sutures India Pvt. Ltd.
12.	Goldwin medicare	25.	Vinayak Manutrade
13.	HLL Healthcare Ltd.	26.	Wilson Tapes

Statement-III*State-wise details of 901 functional PMBJKs as on 11.3.2017***Functional PMBJK**

Sl. No.	State/UT	Private	Govt.	TOTAL
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27	8	35

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0
3.	Assam	11	1	12
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	13	14
5.	Bihar	4	0	4
6.	Chandigarh	0	4	4
7.	Chhattisgarh	6	131	137
8.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
9.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
10.	Delhi	9	5	14
11.	Goa	0	0	0
12.	Gujarat	81	0	81
13.	Haryana	18	0	18
14.	Himachal Pradesh	5	10	15
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	13	14
16.	Jharkhand	3	12	15
17.	Karnataka	12	9	21
18.	Kerala	164	0	164
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	22	0	22
21.	Maharashtra	69	1	70
22.	Manipur	0	0	0
23.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
24.	Mizoram	1	2	3
25.	Nagaland	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Odisha	6	22	28
27.	Puducherry	0	0	0
28.	Punjab	3	21	24
29.	Rajasthan	15	1	16
30.	Sikkim	0	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	25	0	25
32.	Telangana	14	0	14
33.	Tripura	0	7	7
34.	Uttar Pradesh	125	1	126
35.	Uttarakhand	8	6	14
36.	West Bengal	4	0	4
	TOTAL	634	267	901
	GRAND TOTAL		901	

Revival of BCPL

1795. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to close down Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL);

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

(c) whether Government has any revival plans for the company, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to sell that much of surplus land of Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL) to Government agencies as would be required to clear its outstanding liabilities and implement Voluntary Retirement Scheme(VRS)/Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS). The

Government has further decided that after liabilities have been met, balance sheet cleansed and VRS/VSS effected, BCPL be sold strategically. The mode of sale, percentage of shares to be sold etc., shall be as per the advice of NITI Aayog and guidelines of the Department of Investment and Public Assets Management.

The Government has decided for Strategic Sale of BCPL as it has been incurring huge losses for the long time. Earlier revival/ rehabilitation plans have failed to achieve desired results and the company has huge liabilities. There is no revival plan for BCPL.

Establishment/Promotion of Meditech Parks

1796. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposals from State Governments for assistance to develop/establish Meditech Parks;

(b) if so, the number of proposals received and the status thereof; and

(c) whether there is any policy/scheme for assistance to promote/establish Meditech Parks in States, if not, whether Government is planning/considering to declare the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (c) Proposals for assistance for setting up of Medical Device Parks from the State Governments of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh were received. The State Government of Gujarat requested in-principle approval and financial assistance. Central Government has informed the State Government of Gujarat that no in-principle approval is required. State Government of Andhra Pradesh had also requested a grant of INR 75 crores for setting up Common Facilities in the Andhra Pradesh Medtech Zone (AMTZ) being established at Vishakhapatnam. Government has a proposal for a scheme for "Development of Common Facilitation Centre for Medical Devices" under the Umbrella Scheme for "Development of Pharmaceuticals Industry". However, no budget allocation has yet been made for the proposed scheme.

Cost analysis of coronary stents by NPPA

1797. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has undertaken a cost analysis of coronary stents and found that the existing prices of stents were

irrational and exorbitant resulting in heavy profiteering by every player involved in the trade;

(b) whether NPPA also alleges involvement of hospitals in hiking the prices of stents though they do not contribute to its value additions to any extent; and

(c) whether NPPA cost analysis exercise found that the margins on stents at the level of manufacturers and importers were modest but somewhere in the middle of supply chain the prices get inflated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (c) After analyzing the prices of various categories of Coronary stents available in the market, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) noted that trade margin of distributor for sale to hospital varied from 11% to 194% in case of Bare Metal Stents(BMS) and from 13% to 196% in case of Drug Eluting Stents (DES) including metallic DES and Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold (BVS)/ Biodegradable Stents. The trade margin of hospitals to patient/consumer varied from 73% to 436% in case of BMS and from 11% to 654% in case of DES. Noting the same, NPPA has notified the ceiling price of Coronary Stent *vide* its notification dated 13th February, 2017 at INR 7,260/- for Bare Metal Stent and INR 29,600/- for Drug Eluting Stents (DES) including metallic DES and Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold (BVS)/ Biodegradable Stents. The average MRP before this notification was INR 45,100 for Bare Metal Stent (BMS) and INR 121,400 for Drugs Eluting Stent (DES). Price regulation has brought down the prices of stents (BMS 74% and DES 85%).

(b) Considering the high value of packages for stent operations by hospitals, NPPA has clarified on 20.02.2017 that 8% maximum margin has been built into the calculation of ceiling price of Stents which adequately covers hospitals handling charges also. NPPA has also directed hospitals to issue detailed bills to the patients, clearly mentioning the brand name of the manufacturer/importer/batch number and other details, if any, of stents. It has been clarified that non-compliance in this regard will be treated as deliberate distortion of evidence and overpricing inviting penal action.

Establishment/promotion of Plastic Parks

1798. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from the State Governments for assistance to develop/establish Plastic Parks;

(b) if so, the number of proposals received and the status thereof; and

(c) whether there is any policy/scheme for assistance to promote/establish Plastic Parks in a State, if not, whether there is any planning/consideration to declare the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has received proposals from different State Governments to establish Plastic Parks. 10 Plastic Parks have been approved by the Government so far. 4 Plastic Parks in Assam (Tinsukia district), Odisha (Siju village, Kujanga tehsil, Jagatsinghpur district) Madhya Pradesh (Tamot village, Gohargunj tehsil, Raisen district) and in Tamil Nadu (Voyalur village, Ponneri Taluk, Thiruvallur district) are under implementation. 6 Plastic Parks in the States of Uttarakhand, Haryana, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh have been approved for implementation. 6 more proposals from different State Governments for establishment of Plastic Parks have been received.

(c) Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals is implementing a scheme for setting up need based Plastic Parks with requisite state-of-the-art infrastructure and enabling common facilities. Under the scheme, Government of India provides grant funding up to 50% of the project cost, subject to a ceiling of ₹ 40 crore per Plastic Park. The remaining contribution has to come from the State Government/its agencies.

Reopening of closed units

1799. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of all fertilizer units in the country, including closed/sick units;

(b) whether it is a fact that Central Government has not yet handed over the units and lands with infrastructure of PSUs closed for more than ten years to the respective State Government;

(c) whether Government has received any proposal to restart the closed units on PPP model; and

(d) if so, the proposal details including the terms and conditions and financial terms and the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) There are nine fertilizer Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) under administrative control of Department of Fertilizers. Present status of units of these CPSEs are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of CPSE	Units	Closed/ Operating Status	Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Ltd. (BVFCL):	Namrup-I	closed	At present two units of the BVFCL are operational. During 2015-16, BVFCL has made profit after tax of ₹28.50 crore.
		Namrup- II	Operating	
		Namrup-III	Operating	
2.	The Fertilizers And Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT)	Udyogmandal Division, Kerala	Operating	Both of the plants of FACT are operating. However, Company has been making losses and presently the Net-Worth of FACT is negative and the company is under purview of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). During 2015-16, FACT has incurred losses of ₹ 452.20 crore.
		Kochin Division, Kerala	Operating	
3.	Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL)	Sindri(Jharkhand)	Closed	All units of FCIL are closed. Gol has decided to revive its Sindri, Gorakhpur, Talcher and Ramagundam units through 'nomination route'.
		Gorakhpur (UP.)	Closed	

1	2	3	4	5
		Talcher (Odisha)	Closed	
		Ramagundam (Telangana)	Closed	
		Korba(Chhattisgarh)	Closed	
4.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL)	Haldia (West Bengal)	Closed	At present all of the units of HFCL are closed. Govt has decided to revive its Barauni unit through nomination route.
		Durgapur (West Bengal)	Closed	
		Barauni (Bihar)	Closed	
5.	Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL)	Manali (Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	Operating	MFL has only one fertilizer unit which is operational at present. However, MFL has been making losses and presently the Net-Worth of MFL is negative and the company is under purview of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). During 2015-16, MFL has incurred losses of ₹ 189.54 crore.
6.	National Fertilizers Limited (NFL)	Bathinda (Punjab)	Operating	NFL is a profit making CPSE. All of its units are operating. During 2015-16 the company has made profit after tax of ₹ 197.09 crore.
		Nangal (Punjab)	Operating	
		Panipat (Haryana)	Operating	
		Vijaipur-I (M. P.)	Operating	
		Vijaipur-II (M. P.)	Operating	
7.	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCFL)	Trombay (Mumbai, Maharashtra)	Operating	RCF is a profit making CPSE. All of its units are

1	2	3	4	5
		Thai (Raigad, Maharashtra)	Operating	operational. During 2015-16, RCF has made profit after tax of ₹191.23 crore.
8.	Projects & Development India Ltd. (PDIL)	PDIL is a Consultancy and Engineering Organization. During 2015-16, PDIL has incurred losses for an amount of ₹ 8.92 crore.		
9.	FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals Ltd. (FAGMIL)	FAGMIL is engaged in mining of Gypsum and other minerals. FAGMIL does not have any fertilizer unit. During 2015-16 FAGMIL has mad profit after tax of ₹28.50 crore.		

(b) Yes, Sir. There is no such proposal to handover the units and lands with infrastructure of PSUs closed for more than ten years to the respective State Government.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The four fertilizer units of FCIL and one unit of HFCL are proposed to be revived through 'nomination route'. A Special Purpose Vehicle of Public Sector Units namely, National Thermal Power Corporation, Coal India Limited, Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Fertilizer Corporation India Limited/Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited has been nominated to revive Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni units.

A Consortium of four PSUs namely RCF, GAIL, CIL and FCIL has been nominated to revive the Talcher Unit of FCIL. Similarly, a consortium of three PSUs namely Engineers India Limited (EIL), National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) and FCIL has been nominated to revive the Ramagundam unit of FCIL.

PCPIR in Andhra Pradesh

1800. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Final Master Plan for Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) being established in Andhra Pradesh has not been approved even after signing the MoU in 2009, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and public hearing have been completed for the project, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. As informed by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Master Plan was taken up by Vishakhapatnam PCPIR, Special Development Authority and entrusted to M/s LEA Associates India on 15.03.2011. M/s LEA Associates India conducted meetings with concerned stakeholders and submitted preliminary report on 17.10.2011. Detailed Draft Master Plan was published on 05.08.2013. Revised Master Plan was prepared duly addressing objections/suggestions from the public and submitted to Department of Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh on 23.05.2014 for approval. Final incorporation of suggestions and objections to the Draft Master Plan has been completed as per the directions of Government of Andhra Pradesh. Further, location, size and configuration of Anchor Unit has to be firmed up to conduct public hearing and finalize the Master Plan.

(b) Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study of Andhra Pradesh PCPIR has been completed and the report has been submitted to Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) on 03.11.2014 for conducting public hearing. Final Public hearing has not been taken up so far.

Buildings for CIPET centres

1801. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many centres of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET) do not have their own building, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive plan to accommodate them in their own buildings in a time-bound manner, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Out of 30 functional centres of Central Institute of Plastics / Engineering and Technology (CIPET), 23 centres are functioning in their own buildings. At 7 locations *i.e.* Kochi, Baddi, Vijayawada, Valsad, Gwalior, Bengaluru and Chandrapur, being new centres buildings are taken on rent or existing suitable buildings of Government Bodies or Government Undertakings are being used.

(b) Financial support through State Governments concerned has been prescribed for construction of buildings at these centres or alternatively State Government can provide a suitable existing building for running the centre.

Slashing the prices of coronary stents by NPPA

1802. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD:

SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

SHRI RANJIB BISWAS:

DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

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

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to limit the prices of stents at a reasonable rate and slashed the present prices by about 85 per cent, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has also been advised to bring out a notification in this regard, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has notified the ceiling price of Coronary Stent *vide* its notification dated 13th February 2017 at INR 7,260/- for Bare Metal Stent and INR 29,600/- for Drug Eluting Stents (DES) including metallic DES and Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold (BVS)/ Biodegradable Stents. The average MRP before this notification was INR 45,100 for Bare Metal Stent (BMS) and INR 121,400 for Drug Eluting Stent (DES). Price regulation has brought down the prices of stents (BMS 74% and DES 85%).

Fixation of price of stents

1803. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "The cuts that complicate efforts to cap stent price", appearing in a leading English Daily dated 4, January 2017, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the measures being taken by Government to fix a reasonable price for the stents, so as to save patients from paying exorbitant prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Government is aware of various news articles published recently in the Newspapers regarding fixation of prices of coronary

stents. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has since notified the ceiling price of Coronary Stent *vide* its notification dated 13th February, 2017 at INR 7,260/- for Bare Metal Stent and INR 29,600/- for Drug Eluting Stents (DES) including metallic DES and Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold (BVS)/ Biodegradable Stents. The average MRP before this notification was INR 45,100 for Bare Metal Stent (BMS) and INR 121,400 for Drug Eluting Stent (DES). Price regulation has brought down the prices of stents (BMS 74% and DES 85%).

Decline in the use of postal services

1804. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various services provided by the Department of Posts in the country and the revenue being earned by each of these services over the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a declining trend in the use of various postal services; and

(c) if so, the service-wise details thereof over the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The Department of Posts provides postal services to the public through a large nationwide network of Post Offices. Besides providing purely postal services, post offices perform agency functions like Saving Bank, payment of pension, sale of Cash Certificates etc. on behalf of other Ministries/Departments of the Government of India/Other Organizations. The total revenue earned by these services during the last three years is as under:—

	(₹ in crore)
2013-14	10730.42
2014-15	11635.98
2015-16	12939.79

(b) and (c) The Revenue of Department of Posts from various services is classified under Five (5) major heads. There is an increasing trend in revenue in 3 Major heads, [(a) Postage realised in cash from speed post, Registry, Business post, Parcels, etc, (b) Commission from Savings Bank, (c) Other major receipts]. There is a decline in 2

heads of revenue (A) Sale of Stamps and (B) Commission on Money Orders and Indian Postal Orders etc. The details are as below:—

	(₹ in crore)		
Services	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Sale of Stamps	670.67	576.18	441.75
Commission on Money Orders and Indian Postal Orders etc.	606.89	641.98	464.84

IVRS to obtain feedback of subscribers on call drops

1805. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has rolled out an Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) to obtain a feedback from the subscribers on the issue of frequent call drops;

(b) the action proposed to be taken against the service providers who are found to be indulging in creating deliberate call drop in order to earn extra profit; and

(c) whether Government will ask all those service providers found to be guilty to give call credit to its subscribers who had to pay in excess due to call drops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to obtain direct feedback from subscribers on call drops, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched an Integrated Voice Response System (IVRS) system using toll free short code 1955 initially in 5 States *i.e.* Delhi, Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra and Goa on 23rd December, 2016 and subsequently in all other States.

The feedback of subscribers is shared with the respective Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) every week, with the direction that they should contact their subscribers by phone or SMS to get further details about the exact problem and take suitable action to solve the issue of call drop in a time-bound manner.

(b) and (c) For assessing the performance of service providers including call drops, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has laid down the Quality of Service (QoS) standards for cellular mobile telephone service through regulations issued, from

time to time. Wherever the QoS benchmarks is not met, TRAI imposes financial disincentives on service providers, for failure to comply with the benchmarks, in accordance with the provisions of the regulations.

From the point of view of compensating consumers for dropped calls, TRAI had notified "The Telecom Consumers Protection (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2015 (9 of 2015) on 16th October, 2015, to be effective from 1st January, 2016. These regulations mandated originating CMTSPs (Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Providers) to credit one Rupee for a dropped call to the calling consumers as notional compensation, limited to three dropped calls in a day. The service providers and their associations filed a case in Hon'ble High Court of Delhi against this regulation. The Hon'ble High Court pronounced its verdict in TRAI's favour and TRAI issued instructions to service providers for the compliance of the said regulations. The service providers then appealed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 11.05.2016 pronounced its verdict in Service Provider's favour, quashing the said regulations.

In view of the Supreme Court verdict as mentioned above, at present, TRAI is not in a position to ask the service providers to give any compensation to its subscribers on account of dropped calls.

Digitally connecting rural post offices of the country

†1806. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to connect all rural post offices of the country digitally;

(b) if so, the number of rural post offices digitally connected and number of post offices yet to be connected in Chhattisgarh and by when these post offices are targeted to be connected;

(c) whether Government is also considering to equip all post offices of the country with core Banking, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the State-wise number of A.T.Ms, proposed to be established to facilitate the consumers of post office saving Bank including Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The ongoing Rural Information and Communication

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Technology (RICT) project under the IT Modernization Project of the Department of Posts aims at digitally connecting all Rural Branch Post Offices across the country.

(b) As on 10.03.2017, 103 rural post offices (66- Sub Post offices & 37- Branch Post offices) in Chhattisgarh have been digitally connected and the remaining 2790 rural Post offices (39- Sub Post offices & 2751- Branch Post offices) would be digitally connected in a phased manner by December, 2017.

(c) Yes, Sir. As a part of the IT Modernization Project, Department of Posts is implementing Core Banking Solutions (CBS) in all departmental Post Offices across the country. So far, Core Banking Solutions (CBS) have been implemented in 23242 departmental Post Offices. State wise list of number of CBS Post Offices is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(d) The State-wise number of ATMs proposed by the Department of Posts (DoP) to be established to facilitate the customers of post office saving Bank including Chhattisgarh is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

Statement-I

State-wise details of number of Core Banking Solution Post Offices

Sl. No.	State	No. of CBS Post Offices
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1815
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8
3.	Assam	507
4.	Bihar	777
5.	Chhattisgarh	294
6.	Delhi	406
7.	Goa	103
8.	Gujarat	1277
9.	Haryana	488
10.	Himachal Pradesh	419
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	153
12.	Jharkhand	364
13.	Karnataka	1693

Sl. No.	State	No. of CBS Post Offices
14.	Kerala	1499
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1014
16.	Maharashtra	2044
17.	Manipur	25
18.	Meghalaya	28
19.	Mizoram	23
20.	Nagaland	12
21.	Odisha	1017
22.	Punjab	762
23.	Rajasthan	1262
24.	Sikkim	7
25.	Tamil Nadu	2513
26.	Telangana	611
27.	Tripura	47
28.	Uttar Pradesh	2328
29.	Uttarakhand	331
30.	West Bengal	1415
	TOTAL	23242

Statement-II

State-wise number of ATMs proposed by the Department of Posts to be established to facilitate the customers of post office saving bank including Chhattisgarh

Sl. No.	States	No. of ATMs Proposed to be installed by DoP	No. of ATMs Installed by DoP
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	59	59
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1

1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	26	26
4.	Bihar	44	43
5.	Chhattisgarh	14	14
6.	Delhi	26	26
7.	Goa	1	1
8.	Gujarat	41	41
9.	Haryana	20	20
10.	Himachal Pradesh	22	20
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	13	9
12.	Jharkhand	19	19
13.	Karnataka	76	76
14.	Kerala	52	48
15.	Madhya Pradesh	52	52
16.	Maharashtra	74	74
17.	Manipur	2	1
18.	Meghalaya	6	4
19.	Mizoram	3	2
20.	Nagaland	3	2
21.	Odisha	44	44
22.	Punjab	26	26
23.	Rajasthan	64	64
24.	Sikkim	1	1
25.	Tamil Nadu	97	97
26.	Telangana	36	36

1	2	3	4
27.	Tripura	8	3
28.	Uttar Pradesh	88	86
29.	Uttarakhand	18	18
30.	West Bengal	64	63
TOTAL		1000	976

Pending landline applications with BSNL

1807. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether over 12,000 applications for landline connections remain pending with BSNL;

(b) whether many areas are technically non-feasible, and due to unavailability of underground cable, it is not possible to provide landline connections;

(c) whether 84 per cent of the waitlisted applications are from urban areas; and

(d) whether another reason stated by BSNL is that laying of cables is not economically viable because local bodies impose right of way charges, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) More than 12,000 applications for landline connections are at present pending with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

(b) Many areas are technically non-feasible. These areas are provided landline connections on techno commercial viability basis. There is no shortage of underground cable.

(c) No Sir. As on 31st Jan 2017, out of total waitlist of 12052,9260 (76%) is in urban area.

(d) For laying cables for landline connections local bodies charges for Right of Way (RoW) are quite high, due to which the viability for providing connections becomes non-economical. The Right of Way charges varies from state to state and at

times are more than the TOTAL cost of ₹ 5 to 6 lakhs per KM incurred by BSNL for laying of cables.

Recommendations of TRAI on M2M

1808. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has sent its recommendations, sought on three aspects related to the Machine to Machine (M2M) communication, to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which the same are likely to be received;

(c) whether the recommendations received have been accepted by the Government;

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

(e) the further steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (e) TRAI released Consultation Paper on 'Spectrum, Roaming and Quality of Service (QoS) related requirements in Machine-to-Machine (M2M) Communications' on 18th October 2016 seeking the comments of the stakeholders. The time involved in submitting recommendations by TRAI is dependent on the analysis of comments and counter-comments received on various issues raised in the consultation paper. TRAI is yet to submit its recommendations to the Government.

Policy for protection of private contents

1809. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has asked the Government and TRAI to frame a policy to protect the privacy of contents and regulate commercial exploitation of private communications through social network sites; and

(b) if so, by when the policy would be conceptualised and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No Sir, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has not asked Government or Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to frame a policy to protect the privacy of contents and regulate commercial exploitation of private

communications through social network sites.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Internet penetration in the country

1810. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that nearly a billion Indians do not have internet connections;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that with internet penetration increasing in the country, the access to affordable broadband, smart devices and monthly data package is required to spread digital literacy to make their ends meet;
- (c) whether the existing Government infrastructure access should be further leveraged for provision of digital services at remote locations; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) As per information furnished by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), there were 391.50 Million Internet subscribers in the country as on 31.12.2016.

(b) to (d) The access to affordable broadband, affordable smart devices and affordable data packages enables the spread of digital literacy.

BharatNet project has been planned to provide 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to 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. 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 Optical Fibre Cable(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, and provision of Wi-Fi Hotspots in all GPs by September, 2018. Futuristic network with ring topology to be used between districts and blocks and blocks and GPs, targeted to be completed by 2023.

Status of BharatNet phase-I as on 26.02.2017 is as under:

Items	Achievement
Pipe laid (Kms)	2,09,190
Pipe laid (GPs)	93,343
Optical Fibre Cable pulled (Kms)	1,75,238
Optical Fibre Cable pulled (GPs)	77,452
GPs provided with connectivity	16,573

Further, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India has initiated a programme "Common Services Centre (CSCs) 2.0" for rural India in August, 2015 under Digital India programme for enhancing the number of CSCs to 2.5 lakhs at Gram Panchayat level over a period of four years. So far, 3,10,685 CSCs have been registered across the country, among which, 1,77,812 are at Gram Panchayats. These centres are Information and Communication Technology enabled kiosks, run by Village Level Entrepreneurs, to provide various Government-to-Citizen, Government-to-Business and Business-to-Consumer services such as Aadhaar services, Pan Card, Passport, Electricity Bill payment, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation services and services related to Education, Employment and Banking etc. to all rural citizens of the country.

Opening of India Post Payment Bank in Villupuram

1811. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned to open India Post Payments Bank in the Villupuram District of Tamil Nadu in the current financial year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Government has planned to set up upto 650 branches of India Post Payments Bank co-located at each district headquarter post office by September 2017. However, Villupuram District of Tamil Nadu is not among the locations identified for roll out of IPPB branches in the current financial year.

BharatNet programme in North-East region

1812. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the BharatNet programme implementation is running far behind its schedule in the North-East region of the country;
- (b) if so, how many Gram Panchayats in the North-East region have been connected through BharatNet as on date; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Ministry to expedite the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) There has been delay in implementing the BharatNet Project. The reasons for delay and the steps taken to expedite the implementation are given under part (c) of the question.

(b) Phase-I of BharatNet to connect 1,00,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country is being implemented currently. Out of 11,310 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the North-East region, 7,230 GPs have been taken up in BharatNet Phase-1. As on 12.03.2017, trenching and ducting has been completed for 10,792 KMs (3,838 GPs), Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid for 6,087 KMs (2,382 GPs) and 459 GPs have been lit.

(c) Reasons for delay and steps taken by the Ministry to expedite the programme are as under:—

1. Reasons for delay:

- (i) Delay in the initial commencement of project due to field survey of GPs to assess the cable route and length, and pilot testing of the technology model.
- (ii) Implementation of the project only through three CPSUs namely, BSNL, RailTel and PGCIL.
- (iii) Connectivity to GPs only by laying underground Optical Fibre Cable (OFC).
- (iv) Inadequate quality of BSNL fibre between Block and Fibre Point of Interconnect (FPOI) being used to connect GPs.
- (v) Centralised procedure of procurement and sourcing of equipment through BBNL.
- (vi) Challenges in awarding contracts and trenching & laying of underground OFC in hilly and rocky terrain in the North-Eastern Region.

2. Corrective actions taken:

- (i) Telecom Commission approved revised implementation strategy on 30.04.2016. According to revised strategy:
- (a) Implementation of the project is to be done in phases; Phase-I to connect 1,00,000 GPs by following the current methodology to connect by underground OFC; Phase-II to connect remaining GPs through optimal mix of underground/ aerial OFC, radio and satellite media.
 - (b) Implementation of Phase-II through States and private sector in addition to CPSUs.
- (ii) Replacement of BSNL's existing fibre wherever the quality of the cable is not adequate.
- (iii) Work front for Phase-I has been increased to 1,25,000.
- (iv) Decentralised procurement of equipment through implementing CPSUs in addition to Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. (BBNL).
- (v) Empowered Committee under Secretary (T), Steering Committee under Administrator, USOF and State-level Committees have been set up for monitoring of the progress and resolution of issues.
- (vi) Operation and Maintenance (O&M) and revenue sharing arrangement between BBNL and BSNL has been approved by DoT.
- (vii) For laying of aerial OFC, advance funding to conduct GIS mapping of electricity poles has been provided to seven States.

Bandwidth available for internet

1813. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the present bandwidth for internet available in the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that digital payment system requires special bandwidth, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the State/UT-wise details of the supportive bandwidth which is available, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of the system failure due to high online traffic from 8 November, 2016 till date; and

(e) whether Government is planning to enhance the present bandwidth to make the country totally cashless economy, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), International internet bandwidth available in the country is 2241 Giga bits per second for the quarter ending 30th September, 2016. Data for domestic internet bandwidth is not maintained by TRAI.

(b) Digital payment system does not require special bandwidth.

(c) Such State/UT-wise details of supportive bandwidth are not maintained.

(d) No incidence of any telecom system failure due to high online traffic has been reported from 8 November' 2016 till date.

(e) Augmentation of networks by telecom service providers for enhancing the bandwidth is a continuous process. Further, Government has allocated 965 Megahertz spectrum through auction in October 2016 to various telecom service providers for access services. This will enable the telecom service providers to roll-out 3G and 4G services which will also enhance the availability of internet bandwidth. Also, BharatNet project is being implemented to provide 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country, which will further enhance internet bandwidth availability.

Skill development for telecom sector

1814. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any measures to accelerate skill development for the telecom sector;

(b) if so, the target and success rate of these programmes so far;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the specific domains of telecom sector in which the skill development is being provided and the demand and supply gap for skill development in telecom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes Sir, the Government has taken multiple measures to accelerate Skill Development in Telecom Sector namely:—

- (i) As the first step, the Government has got conducted the Skill Gap study twice, first time in Sept' 2014 and subsequently in June' 2016 to assess the telecom sector skill requirements till 2022.
- (ii) A detailed Telecom Sector Skill Plan containing the road map to generate Telecom Skilled manpower as per telecom sector skill projections till 2022 has been prepared in Sept' 2016.
- (iii) The Training centers of DOT PSUs namely Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and ITI Ltd. are being accredited to Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to impart large scale Skill Development Trainings to youths in Telecom Sector.

(b) The target and success of skill development programmes is submitted below:—

- (i) As regards target, in accordance with skill gap study report of Sept' 2014, Telecom Sector manpower was expected to increase from 2.08 million in 2013 to 4.16 million in 2022. Subsequently owing to new schemes launched by the Government such as Make in India, Digital India, Smart Cities, Swatch Bharat Mission etc. skill gap study in the form of environmental scan was again done in June' 2016 by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and as per environmental scan report of June' 2016 the Telecom Sector manpower is expected to increase from 2.91 million in 2017 to 5.67 million in 2022.
- (ii) Subsequent to environment scan of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in June' 2016, department (DoT) after taking inputs from telecom sector stakeholders re-assessed the Telecom Skill projections till 2022 and prepared the detailed Telecom Sector Skill Plan in Sept' 2016.

As per Telecom Sector Skill Plan of the department, telecom sector manpower of 4.00 million in 2016-2017 would grow to 8.78 million by 2021-2022 creating additional requirement of 4.78 million telecom skilled manpower.

Further, as per the analysis of TSSC (Telecom Sector Skill Council), a telecom setup has invariably 20-25% high end skilled people comprising of engineers, MBAs, CAs, HR experts etc and as per experience such high end skilled people require no specific skill training rather they are given short term 2-4 weeks orientation course on the job by the employer.

The balance manpower comprising of 75-80% would require telecom skill trainings. Keeping the optimistic figure of 80%, the target telecom skilling required till 2021-22 will be to the tune of 3.86 million.

The proposed target plan to create 3.86 million telecom skilled manpower is tabled below:

Sl. No.	Organization	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
1.	BSNL	88,000	97,000	1,07,000	1,20,000	1,30,000	5,42,000
2.	MTNL	5,500	6,000	6,700	7,500	8,500	34,200
3.	TCIL	18,700	21,000	23,000	25,000	27,500	1,15,200
4.	ITI	2,600	2,800	3,000	3,500	4,000	15,900
5.	TSSC	4,00,000	5,00,000	6,50,000	7,50,000	8,50,000	31,50,000
TOTAL		5,14,800	6,26,800	7,89,700	9,06,000	10,20,000	38,57,300

(iii) As regards success of Skill Development programmes, it is submitted that all steps including accreditation of various Training Centers of DoT PSUs namely Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and ITI Ltd. are being undertaken to ensure that skill Development Training programme tabled at (b) (ii) above is achieved.

The details of Skill Development trainings provided in previous three financial years is also submitted below:

Sl. No.	PSU	Skill Development Trainings in 2013-14	Skill Development Trainings in 2014-15	Skill Development Trainings in 2015-16
1.	ITI	2,352	2,022	2,104
2.	TCIL	15,017	14,931	15,928
3.	MTNL	4,252	3,421	4,543
4.	BSNL	1,02,725	89,124	73,464
5.	TSSC	29,470	1,83,774	97,908
TOTAL		1,53,816	2,93,272	1,93,947
GRAND TOTAL (2013-16)		6,41,035		

(c) Not Applicable *in lieu* of (a) and (b) above.

(d) The details of specific domains of telecom sector where Skill Development Trainings are being provided are detailed below:

Sl. No.	Telecom subsector	Telecom manpower		Total additional requirement
		2016-2017	2021-2022	
1.	Service Providers	8,40,000	13,90,000	5,50,000
2.	Infra Providers	1,40,000	5,20,000	3,80,000
3.	N/W & IT providers	5,90,000	9,90,000	4,00,000
4.	Telecom Equipment manufacturers	5,80,000	13,80,000	8,00,000
5.	Retail & Distribution	7,60,000	13,90,000	6,30,000
6.	Mobile Handsets	10,94,500	31,10,000	20,15,500
	TOTAL	40,04,500	87,80,000	47,75,500

It is further submitted that since skill gap analyses has been done well in advance as projected above, the demand side and then-after adequate telecom skilling plan has been drawn as detailed under item (b) (ii) above, no supply gap is anticipated in Telecom Sector.

Number of postmen and postwomen under Department of Posts

1815. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of postmen and postwomen currently under the permanent employment of the Department of Posts;

(b) the number of temporary postmen and post women working and their future prospects; and

(c) whether Government has ever undertaken any capacity building programmes for these postmen/women, if not, the reasons therefor if so, the details of such programmes during the last ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI

MANOJ SINHA): (a) 34452 male Postman and 2708 female Postman working in the Department of Posts are permanent employees.

(b) 1332 male Postman and 287 female Postman working in the Department of Posts are temporary employee. A temporary employee appointed on regular basis becomes a permanent employee after confirmation in the entry grade as per relevant service conditions. A Postman, after completion of 3 years regular service, is eligible for appearing in the limited departmental competitive examination for appointment to the post of Postal Assistant / Sorting Assistant. A Postman is also eligible for financial up-gradation under the Modified Assured Career Progression Scheme after completion of 10, 20 and 30 years of service.

(c) Department of Posts has postal Training Policy in place with the objective 'Training for all' to further improve the delivery of services and efficiency of the Department, which includes (i) induction training to all employees at the entry level, (ii) three mandatory Mid-Career Training programmes at specified intervals for all cadres through Standard Training Packages, and (iii) in service refresher training. During the last ten years, total number of training slots utilized by Postmen/Postwomen, Mail Overseers and Mail Guards was 2.51 lakh. Year-wise details are as under:—

Sl. No.	Year	Total number of training slots utilized by Postman, Mail Overseers and Mail Guards
1.	2007-08	9798
2.	2008-09	20330
3.	2009-10	61474
4.	2010-11	28149
5.	2011-12	56085
6.	2012-13	21289
7.	2013-14	27949
8.	2014-15	10804
9.	2015-16	7083
10.	2016-17 (upto January 2017)	8539
	TOTAL	251500

Free High-speed Wi-Fi in cities and towns

1816. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government will provide free high-speed Wi-Fi connectivity in all cities and towns across the country over the next three years; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said plan will be implemented by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No Sir. The Government has no plan to provide free high-speed Wi-Fi connectivity in all cities and towns across the country over the next three years.

(b) Does not arise.

Finalisation of agenda by TRAI of important issues for 2017-18

1817. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has finalised the agenda of important issues for the year 2017-18, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether all stakeholders were or are being consulted before finalising the agenda;

(c) whether Interconnection User Charges (IUC) regime and tariff structures charged by service providers would also be included in the agenda in view of price war among them, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the agenda would include best services practiced all over the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. The agenda of important issues for the year 2017-18 has not been finalised yet by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

(b) Various stake holders have been consulted and will be consulted again before finalising the agenda.

(c) TRAI has issued a consultation paper on 17th February, 2017, namely, "Regulatory Principles of Tariff Assessment".

(d) TRAI in its each consultation seeks comments from various stakeholders, as is the practice globally.

Mechanism to procure bumper crops

†1818. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether farmers are continuously yielding bumper produces of many crops;
- (b) if so, names of the crops which have a bumper yield during last three years;
- (c) whether it is a fact that whenever there is a bumper crop, farmers have to sell it at throwaway prices due to dearth of buyers and Government agencies like FCI and other agencies don't show interest in buying the whole quantity of crops; and
- (d) if so, whether Government proposes to develop any mechanism meant for buying the entire produces, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The production of a crop depends upon several factors including availability of cultivable land, vagaries of nature, temperature, weather and rainfall scenario, etc. The production and productivity of various major agricultural crops have been fluctuating in the country. However, as a result of very good rainfall during monsoon 2016 and various policy initiatives taken by the Government, the country has witnessed record foodgrains production in the current year. As per Second Advance Estimates for 2016-17, total foodgrain production in the country is estimated at 271.98 million tonnes which is higher by 6.94 million tonnes than the previous record production of foodgrain of 265.04 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14. The crop-wise details of production of major agricultural crops during last three years are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The Central Government extends price support for procurement of wheat and paddy through Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies at Minimum Support Price (MSP). Procurement at MSP is open ended *i.e.*, whatever foodgrains are offered by the farmers, within the stipulated procurement period and which conforms to the quality specifications prescribed by Government of India (GOI), are purchased

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

at MSP (and bonus/incentive, if any) by the Government agencies including FCI, for Central Pool. However, if any producer/farmer gets better price in comparison to MSP, he is free to sell his produce in Open Market to private traders/anyone.

Coarse grains are purchased by State Government with permission of Central Government, upto the extent it is required in their Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

Under Price Support Scheme (PSS), the procurement of oil seeds, pulses and cotton through Central Nodal Agencies at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) is also undertaken. This scheme is implemented at the request of the concerned State Government which agrees to exempt the procured commodities from levy of mandi tax and assist central nodal agencies in logistic arrangements including gunny bags, provide working capital for state agencies, creation of revolving fund for PSS operations etc. as required under the Scheme guidelines. The basic objectives of PSS are to provide remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production and to safeguard the interest of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices with low cost of intermediation.

Further, Government of India also implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the Price Support Scheme (PSS). The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production. The condition is that there should be either at least a 10 percent increase in production or a 10 percent decrease in the ruling market prices over the previous normal year. The scheme is implemented at the request of a State/UT Government which is ready to bear 50 percent of the loss (25 per cent in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation. The extent of total amount of loss to be shared on a 50:50 basis between the Central Government and the State Government is restricted to 25 percent of the total procurement value which includes cost of the commodity procured plus permitted overhead expenses.

Statement*Details of crop-wise production of major Agricultural
Crops from 2012-13 to 2016-17*

(Production: million tonnes)

Crop	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17*
Rice	105.48	104.41	108.86
Wheat	86.53	92.29	96.64
Coarse Cereals	42.86	38.52	44.34
Tur	2.81	2.56	4.23
Gram	7.33	7.06	9.12
Total Pulses	17.15	16.35	22.14
Total Foodgrains	252.02	251.57	271.98
Groundnut	7.40	6.73	8.47
Rapeseed and Mustard	6.28	6.80	7.91
Soyabean	10.371	8.57	14.13
Oilseeds	127.51	25.25	33.60
Cotton #	34.81	30.01	32.51
Jute & Mesta # #	11.13	10.52	10.06
Sugarcane	362.33	348.45	309.98

*As per Second Advance Estimates

million bales of 170 kgs. each

million bales of 180 kgs. each

Shortage of storage capacity

†1819. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 6.7 crore tonnes of foodgrains are wasted every year due to lack of storage facility in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that huge quantity of foodgrains gets spoiled in rain, etc. due to absence of sheds for storing foodgrains in the markets;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether Government would construct cold storages equipped with modern technology for storage purposes; and

(d) whether Government would also take help from industrial sector so that cold storages are constructed expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) There is sufficient storage capacity available with FCI and State agencies and no loss of Central Pool foodgrains can be directly attributed due to lack of storage facilities. The peak stock requirement for Central Pool foodgrains generally happens on 1st June every year. A storage capacity of 811.94 lakh ton was available with FCI and State agencies against the stock of 534.29 lakh tonnes as on 01.06.2016.

Procured foodgrains are stored by FCI in a scientific manner in- covered godowns and in Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage. Scientific codes of practices for safe storage of foodgrains are followed during storage. In spite of all precautions, some quantity of foodgrains may get damaged/become non-issuable during storage due to various reasons such as storage pests' attack, leakages in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, exposure to rains, floods, negligence on the part of concerned persons in taking precautionary measures etc. Details of the foodgrain accrued as damaged/non-issuable in covered godowns and CAP in FCI during last three years are as under:—

Year	Quantity of damaged/non-issuable food grains (in tonnes)
2013-14	24695.455
2014-15	18847.226
2015-16	3115.684

(b) to (d) There is no report on procured Central Pool foodgrains getting damaged due to absence of sheds at the procurement centres out of the foodgrains brought by the farmers.

Cold storages are not used in storage of foodgrains.

Wastage of foodgrains

†1820. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains that rotted in the last three years in FCI godowns

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and outside the godowns;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains that rotted due to lack of shade arrangements in the mandis out of the foodgrains brought by farmers there;

(c) the method adopted by Government for disposal of rotten foodgrains and the total expenditure thereon; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to prevent wastage of the foodgrains in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Procured foodgrains are stored by FCI in a scientific manner in covered godowns and in Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage. Scientific codes of practices for safe storage of foodgrains are followed during storage. In spite of all precautions, some quantity of foodgrains may get damaged/become non-issuable during storage due to various reasons such as storage pests' attack, leakages in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, exposure to rains, floods, negligence on the part of concerned persons in taking precautionary measures etc. Details of the foodgrain accrued as damaged/non-issuable in covered godowns and outside CAP. In FCI during last three years are as under:—

Year	Quantity of Damaged/Non issuable foodgrains (in tons)
2013-14	24695.455
2014-15	18847.226
2015-16	3115.684

There is no report on procured Central Pool foodgrain rotted/damaged due to lack of shade arrangement in the mandis out of the foodgrains brought by the farmers to FCI.

(c) and (d) The procedure adopted by the Government for disposal of damaged/non-issuable foodgrains is given in the Statement-I. (See below) The expenditure incurred on disposal of foodgrains by FCI during 2013-14, 2014-15 & 2015-16 is ₹ 10,95,188, ₹ 8,07,428 and ₹ 5,07,581 respectively. The steps taken by the government to avoid the damage of foodgrains in storage are given in the Statement-II (See below).

Statement-I***Details of procedure for disposal of damaged foodgrains in FCI***

On identification of damaged foodgrains by concerned Technical Assistant at the depot the following procedure of categorization/ disposal are followed:—

(A) Categorization

1. The three tier categorization at Depot level Regional level, Zonal level shall be as under:—
 - (a) On identification/categorization of damaged foodgrains by Technical Assistant/Manager (QC) at the depot, 100% stock should be further categorized by the District Categorization Committee (DCC) consisting of Area Manager, Manager (QC), District Lab, Manager (QC) of concerned depot and Manager (Fin. A/Cs) within 15 days from the date of detection/ categorization of damaged foodgrains at depot.
 - (b) Regional Categorization Committee (RCC) consisting of Assistant General Manager (QC), AGM (Fin./A/Cs) of Regional Office concerned and Area Manager/AGM (QC) of concerned District will test check 20% of the total stock categorized by the DCC.
 - (c) Zonal Categorization Committee (ZCC) consisting of QC officers nominated by ED (Zone), AGM (QC) of R.O. & AGM (QC)/Area Manager of the concerned District will test check 5% of the stocks categorized by the DCC within 15 days from the receipt of the report from GM (Region) concerned.
 - (d) RCC/ZCC will test check and submit the report with specific recommendations to the General Manager (Region), through their respective offices.
 - (e) The categorization of damaged foodgrains will be deemed / treated as final only on the receipt of categorization reports of RCC and ZCC by the General Manager (Region).
2. F.C.I. Headquarters deputed Vigilance Squads in case accrual of damaged foodgrain is more than 1,000 MT in a particular Region.

Categorization of damaged foodgrains is based on the % of sound grain:

Category : %age of sound grains other than foreign matter and damaged foodgrains

Feed-I	:	85% to less than 94% (in wheat)/95% (in rice)
Feed-II	:	70% to less than 85%
Feed-III	:	55% to less than 70%
Industrial Use	:	30% to less than 55%
Manure Use	:	10% to less than 30%
Dumping	:	less than 10% (to be offered as Manure before dumping)

Disposal of damaged foodgrains:

- (i) GM (Region) is competent Authority for disposal of damaged foodgrains for quantity where the price received in the tender/auction is above the reserve price.
- (ii) Wherever, the rates of damaged foodgrains received in tender inquiry/ auction are below the reserve price, such rates shall invariably be approved by the next higher authority *i.e.* Executive Director (Zone).
- (iii) G.M. Region can dispose damaged foodgrain under Rate Running Contract but if at any time accrual is more than 500 MT, it is to be disposed off through tenders only.
- (iv) F.C.I, has to confirm that the parties involving tender enquiry including State Departments and Agencies have feed stock manufacturing plants.
- (v) Besides above, Executive Director (Zone) shall be competent to take decision on extension of period for lifting of stocks by Registered Parties / RCC holders beyond stipulated period of 30 days provided the concerned parties have deposited the requisite cost of damaged foodgrains as per terms and conditions of the contract. However, this should be decided on merit of each case not in routine.
- (vi) Wherever, the rates of damaged foodgrains received in tender inquiry / auction are below the reserve price, such rates shall invariably be approved by the next higher authority *i.e.* Executive Director (Zone).

3. Reserve Prices

The Reserve Price of damaged foodgrain is as under:—

- (i) Feed-I - 60% of MSP of the Crop Year for Wheat.
60% of derived MSP of the Crop Year for Rice.

- | | | | |
|-------|----------------|---|---|
| (ii) | Feed-II | - | 50% of MSP of the Crop Year for Wheat.
50% of derived MSP of the Crop Year for Rice. |
| (iii) | Feed-III | - | 40% of MSP of the Crop Year for Wheat.
40% of derived MSP of the Crop Year for Rice. |
| (iv) | Industrial Use | - | 30% of MSP of the Crop Year for Wheat.
30% of derived MSP of the Crop Year for Rice. |
| (v) | Manure | - | 10% of MSP of the Crop Year for Wheat.
10% of derived MSP of the Crop Year for Rice. |

Statement-II

Details of steps taken by the Government to avoid the damage of foodgrains in storage

Before the commencement of Rabi and Kharif Marketing Seasons, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India issues uniform specifications for procurement of foodgrains for the Central Pool. These uniform specifications are circulated to F.C.I, and all State Governments/Agencies with instructions to ensure that foodgrains are procured strictly in accordance with the uniform specifications.

2. Foodgrains procured by F.C.I, and State Governments/Agencies are stored in covered godowns as well as in CAP (Cover and Plinth).
3. During storage, the following steps are taken for safe storage and preservations of foodgrains:-
 - (i) All godowns are constructed as per specifications.
 - (ii) Foodgrains are stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.
 - (iii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check migration of moisture from the floor to the foodgrains.
 - (iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are provided in all the godowns.
 - (v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.

- (vi) Effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are used.
- (vii) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are used as dunnage material. Stacks are properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water - proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (viii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are undertaken by qualified and trained staff and all senior officers. The health of the foodgrains is monitored at regular intervals by a system of checks and super checks at different levels. Following Checks and Super checks are conducted in the godowns by FCI to ensure proper preservation of foodgrains in the storage:
 - (a) Fortnightly inspection of stocks on 100% basis by Technical Assistant.
 - (b) Monthly inspection by Manager(QC)
 - (c) Quarterly inspection by AGM(QC)
 - (d) Super Checks by Regional, Zonal and FCI Hqrs Squads.
- (ix) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (x) Only covered rail wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.
- (xi) Damage Monitoring Cells have been set up at District, Regional and Zonal levels to regularly monitor quality of stocks and reduce damages.

Implementation of NFSA

1821. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total population of rural and urban areas covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), category-wise viz., all category SC, ST, OBC and State- wise;
- (b) the number of States that have implemented the NFSA so far along with the reasons for non-implementation of the Act in the remaining States; and
- (c) whether Government has urged the States to speed up implementation of the

Act in their respective States and if so, the response of the respective State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides for coverage of 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population, at the all India level, for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains, corresponding to which State/Union Territory-wise percentage coverage was determined by the then Planning Commission. State/UT-wise details of percentage coverage, total coverage in terms of number of persons (using Census, 2011 population) and the current coverage is given in the Statement (*See below*).

The Act is being implemented in all the States/UTs and presently covers about 80 crore persons for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains as per provisions of the Act. Social category-wise data of beneficiaries is not maintained.

Statement

Details indicating State/UT-wise Coverage under the National Food Security Act, 2013

Sl. No.	States/ UTs	Percentage Coverage		Total coverage in terms of number of persons (in lakh)			Current coverage (in lakh)
		Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	TOTAL	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	60.96	41.14	200.2	68.03	268.23	268.21
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	66.31	51.55	7.09	1.62	8.71	8.21
3.	Assam	84.17	60.35	225.41	26.49	251.90	251.63
4.	Bihar	85.12	74.53	783.74	87.42	871.16	857.12
5.	Chhattisgarh	84.25	59.98	165.16	35.61	200.77	200.77
6.	Delhi	37.69	43.59	1.58	71.2	72.78	72.73
7.	Goa	42.24	33.02	2.33	2.99	5.32	5.32
8.	Gujarat	74.64	48.25	258.78	124.06	382.84	357.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Haryana	54.61	41.05	90.28	36.21	126.49	126.49
10.	Himachal Pradesh	56.23	30.99	34.68	2.14	36.82	28.64
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	63.55	47.1	58.05	16.08	74.13	74.13
12.	Jharkhand	86.48	60.20	216.52	47.73	264.25	263.70
13.	Karnataka	76.04	49.36	285.55	116.38	401.93	401.93
14.	Kerala	52.63	39.5	91.87	62.93	154.8	154.80
15.	Madhya Pradesh	80.1	62.61	420.83	125.59	546.42	529.61
16.	Maharashtra	76.32	45.34	469.72	230.45	700.17	700.17
17.	Manipur	88.56	85.75	17.91	7.15	25.06	21.19
18.	Meghalaya	77.79	50.87	18.43	3.03	21.46	21.40
19.	Mizoram	81.88	48.6	4.33	2.73	7.06	6.68
20.	Nagaland	79.83	61.98	11.23	3.56	14.79	14.05
21.	Odisha	82.17	55.77	287.19	39.02	326.21	322.50
22.	Punjab	54.79	44.83	94.88	46.57	141.45	141.45
23.	Rajasthan	69.09	53	356.09	90.53	446.62	446.62
24.	Sikkim	75.74	40.36	3.45	0.61	4.06	3.78
25.	Tamil Nadu	62.55	37.79	232.62	132.08	364.7	357.34
26.	Telangana	60.96	41.14	143.08	48.62	191.70	191.62
27.	Tripura	74.75	49.54	20.26	4.76	25.02	25.01
28.	Uttar Pradesh	79.56	64.43	1234.09	286.52	1520.61	1469.96
29.	Uttarakhand	65.26	52.05	45.85	16.09	61.94	61.94
30.	West Bengal	74.47	47.55	463.31	138.53	601.84	601.84
31.	Andaman and Nicobar	29.94	1.7	0.61	0.02	0.63	0.55
32.	Daman and Diu	26.66	56.47	0.16	1.03	1.19	0.87

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	84.19	51.54	1.54	0.82	2.36	2.20
34.	Lakshadweep	35.30	33.56	0.05	0.17	0.22	0.22
35.	Chandigarh	38.54	47.26	0.11	4.85	4.96	2.61
36.	Puducherry	59.68	46.94	2.35	3.99	6.34	6.02
TOTAL		75	50	6249.33	1885.61	8134.94	7999.12

Non-procurement of rice by FCI in Chhattisgarh

†1822. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI is not procuring rice from rice mills in Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh due to a dispute with rice mills, due to which the mills are left with excessive stocks of rice and are under pressure of maintaining and storing the same leading to their being on the verge of shutting down owing to the lack of space; and

(b) whether due to the above dispute, workers are becoming jobless and direct procurement of paddy from farmers has almost, stopped due to the non-availability of space which is affecting the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Chhattisgarh is a De-Centralized Procurement (DCP) State in which the State Government procures, stores and distributes foodgrains for its Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/ Other Welfare Scheme (OWS) requirements. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) only accepts surplus Custom Milled Rice (CMR) from State Government agencies. The delivery of CMR (Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2016-17) by State Government agency to FCI in Chhattisgarh including Dhamtari district commenced in December 2016. Till date 13.58 Lakh Metric Ton (LMT) CMR has been accepted in KMS 2016-17 out of which 1.41 LMT has been accepted from Dhamtari district.

Procurement of wheat

1823. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether there has been a decline in the procurement of wheat by FCI;
- (b) if so, the decline in procurement in metric tonnes and the reserve stock available with FCI in 2017 as compared to 2016; and
- (c) the volume of wheat procured in 2015-16 and 2016-17, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The procurement of wheat by Food Corporation of India (FCI) along with State Government/agencies during last three years and current year is as under:-

[Fig. in Lakh Metric Tonne (LMT)]

Rabi Marketing Season (RMS)	Wheat Procured
2013-14	250.92
2014-15	280.23
2015-16	280.88
2016-17	229.61

There was a decline of 51.27 LMT in wheat procurement during RMS 2016-17 compared to RMS 2015-16, mainly due to proactive buying by private traders at rates above the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

The total stock of wheat held in Central Pool as on 1st January, 2016, was 237.88 LMT as compared to 137.47 LMT as on 1st January, 2017.

Stagnation in storage capacity of FCI

1824. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the storage capacity of Food Corporation of India (FCI) is almost stagnant over the last few years;
- (b) if so, the details of storage capacity that has been augmented during the last five years; and
- (c) whether Government has any proposal to tide over the constraints being faced in public sector storage capacity, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir. The capacity of

godowns directly owned by Food Corporation of India (FCI) has remained more or less same during last few years. This is due to the policy decision of the Government to augment capacity in Public Private Partnerships (PPP) mode under Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) scheme, where the godowns constructed by private parties/other agencies are dedicated for FCI for 9 to 10 years for storage of foodgrains. Secondly, FCI has eliminated hired capacity of Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage facilities. However, FCI's own godowns are being constructed under Plan scheme specifically in the North Eastern States and a few other States.

The comparative position of storage capacity with FCI for 31.03.2012 and 31.01.2017 is given below:-

(Figures in Lakh MT)

As on	Owned			Hired			TOTAL		
	Covered	CAP	Total	Covered	CAP	Total	Covered	CAP	Total
31.3.12	130.03	26.37	156.40	172.13	7.51	179.64	302.16	33.88	336.04
31.1.17	128.19	26.02	154.21	196.14	0.00	196.14	324.33	26.02	350.35
Increase	-1.84	-0.35	-2.19	24.01	-7.51	16.50	22.17	-7.86	14.31

As shown above, the capacity of hired godowns has increased by 24.01 Lakh MT, which is the net effect of construction of new godowns under PEG scheme and de-hiring of earlier hired godowns. The decrease of owned godowns capacity by 1.84 Lakh MT is due to writing off inoperative/defunct storage capacities (2.05 Lakh MT) and surrender of 1.17 Lakh MT capacity to Mumbai Port Trust after expiry of lease period, although new godowns of 1.38 Lakh MT capacity were constructed under Plan Scheme.

(b) The details of storage capacity augmented during the last five years including current year are given below:-

(in Lakh MT)

Year	Under Plan Scheme	Under PEG Scheme
2012-13	0.03	40.66
2013-14	0.23	49.88
2014-15	0.43	8.30
2015-16	0.65	6.56
2016-17 (upto Jan,2017)	0.04	2.56
TOTAL	1.38	107.96

In addition, during last 5 years silos of capacity 4.5 LMT at 9 locations have been built by State of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Storage of foodgrains is being managed by FCI as well as State agencies (in decentralized procurement States). On the basis of peak stock requirement during procurement season, the overall storage capacity required in the country is about 600 Lakh MT. Against this, the total capacity available with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies for storage of foodgrains as on 31.01.2017 was 775.74 lakh MT.

Thus, there is overall sufficient capacity for storage of foodgrains.

Printing of consumer helpline and complaint number on packaged food items

1825. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to make it mandatory for all packaged food items to have consumer helpline number and complaint number printed on their packaging details;
- (b) if so, by when Government is planning to do so; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Under sub-rule (2) of Rule 6 of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, there is an already existing provision for declaration of consumer care details as follows:—

"(2) Every package shall bear the name, address, telephone number, e-mail address of the person who can be or the office which can be contacted, in case of consumer complaints".

Release of funds to Rajasthan under NFSS

1826. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds released under Central Share for distribution of foodgrain under National Food Security Scheme in 2015-16, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government has received any proposal from Government of Rajasthan

to release the amount under NFSS *vide* their letters dated 20th April, 2016 and 3rd June, 2016; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon; and if no action taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Details of Central assistance released to States/Union Territories (UTs) for meeting expenditure on intra-State movement and handling of foodgrains and fair price shop dealers margin under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) in 2015-16, is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Based on the proposal of the State Government, an amount of ₹256.34 crore, for the period 2013-14 to 2015-16, has been released to Government of Rajasthan in May, 2016, as Central assistance under NFSA for meeting expenditure on intra-State movement and handling of foodgrains and fair price shop dealers margin. For further release of central assistance for the year 2016-17, State Government has been requested to send utilization certificate for funds already released.

Statement

Details of Central assistance released to States/UTs for meeting expenditure on intra-State movement & handling of foodgrains and fair price shop dealers' margin.

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Amount (in lakh)
2015-16		
1.	Chandigarh	31.11
2.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3.79
3.	Delhi	35.03
4.	Goa	56.40
5.	Lakshadweep	13.89
6.	Mizoram	31.72
7.	Sikkim	89.89
	TOTAL	261.83

Restarting of closed sugar mills in Maharashtra

1827. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of sugar mills in the country, State-wise;
- (b) how many of these are operational and closed at present;
- (c) the details of the reasons for their closure;
- (d) whether Government of Maharashtra has decided to restart sugar mills closed last year; and
- (e) if so, the details of those sugar mills in Maharashtra, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) A Statement indicating State-wise number of installed sugar mills in the country alongwith those which have been operational/closed during the current sugar season 2016-17 is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) In the State of Maharashtra and Karnataka many sugar mills are closed due to severe drought and consequent non-availability of adequate sugarcane during the current sugar season 2016-17. The other reasons for closure of the sugar mills could possibly be, uneconomic size, lack of modernization, high cost of working capital, poor recovery from sugarcane, lack of professional management, overstaffing etc.

(d) and (e) As informed by the Government of Maharashtra, it had offered to give guarantee for the seasonal loan to sugar mills which were closed during last year but were willing to start in 2016-17. However, due to severe drought and unavailability of sugarcane, many sugar mills have not started crushing during current sugar season 2016-17. A district-wise list of closed sugar mills in Maharashtra is given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details showing State-wise number of installed, operational and closed sugar mills in the country.

(As on 10.03.2017)

Sl. No.	State	Installed sugar mills.	*Operated during current sugar season 2016-17	Closed
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Punjab	24	16	8
2.	Haryana	16	14	2
3.	Rajasthan	3	1	2
4.	Uttar Pradesh	158	116	42
5.	Uttaranchal	10	8	2
6.	Madhya Pradesh	24	18	6
7.	Chhattisgarh	3	3	0
8.	Gujarat	27	18	9
9.	Maharashtra	243	150	93
10.	Bihar	28	11	17
11.	Assam	3	0	3
12.	Odisha	8	2	6
13.	West Bengal	2	0	2
14.	Andhra Pradesh	33	18	15
15.	Telangana	11	7	4
16.	Karnataka	78	59	19
17.	Tamil Nadu	46	38	8
18.	Puducherry	2	0	2

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Kerala	2	0	2
20.	Goa	1	1	0
21.	Nagaland	1	0	1
22.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	0	1
TOTAL		724	480	244

*Provisional

Statement-II

Details showing district-wise/ sector-wise closed sugar mills during last sugar season 2015-16 in the State of Maharashtra

Sl. No.	Name of District	Private	Co-operative	Public	Total
1.	Ahmednagar	1	3	-	4
2.	Amravati	1	0	-	1
3.	Aurangabad	0	5	-	5
4.	Beed	0	5	-	5
5.	Bhandara	1	0	-	1
6.	Buldhana	2	1	-	3
7.	Dhule	0	2	-	2
8.	Hingoli	0	1	-	1
9.	Jalgaon	1	4	-	5
10.	Jalna	0	1	-	1
11.	Kolhapur	0	2	-	2
12.	Latur	1	6	-	7
13.	Nanded	1	4	-	5
14.	Nasik	2	4	-	6

Sl. No.	Name of District	Private	Co-operative	Public	Total
15.	Osamanabad	4	6	-	10
16.	Parbhani	4	0	-	4
17.	Pune	0	1	-	1
18.	Sangali	1	2	-	3
19.	Satara	2	1	-	3
20.	Solapur	4	3	-	7
21.	Wardha	0	1	-	1
22.	Yeotmal	0	3	-	3
TOTAL		25	55	0	80

Setting up of National Test House

1828. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to increase the number of National Test House (NTH) across the country in order to protect the interest of consumers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any proposal is pending with the Government to establish NTH in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) No Sir. The National Test House (NTH) is a premier scientific and technical Organisation functioning under the Department of Consumer Affairs. It functions through 6 regional centres including Chennai, covering the entire country.

(b) No Sir. Tamil Nadu is covered by the National Test House (Southern Region), Chennai.

(c) Question does not arise.

Benefit of PDS through Aadhaar-linked biometric authentication system

1829. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the Supreme Court judgement in 2015, making Aadhaar optional;

(b) whether Public Distribution System (PDS) data from Rajasthan and Jharkhand show that up to 30 per cent of beneficiaries are not being able to receive entitlements through the Aadhaar-linked biometric authentication system; and

(c) whether Government has made it mandatory to possess an Aadhaar number for accessing subsidised foodgrains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As informed by the State Government of Rajasthan, the total number of Fair Price Shops in the State is 25,732 FPSs and ePoS have been installed at all FPSs. Out of which 25,597 ePoS are operating successfully and 135 are having poor net connectivity. In the month of February, 2017 a total of 2.02 lakh MT wheat has been distributed through 73.74 lakh PoS transactions. Thus, 78% of the total NFSA beneficiaries have been provided wheat through PoS transactions and there is an alternative arrangement for the rest of the beneficiaries. As per the information furnished by State Government of Jharkhand, the total number of beneficiaries which have lifted their entitlement in December, 2016 and January, 2017 are 47,55,313 and 42,79,989 respectively with an average of 45,17,651. Thus, 92.50% beneficiaries have received their entitlement through ePoS using Aadhaar or OTP. In 45 control blocks which are not using e-PoS, beneficiaries are getting their entitlement manually. Those beneficiaries who do not have their Aadhaar number seeded in ration card can get it done by using e-PoS and get their Aadhaar verified in 7 days. State Government has also issued guidelines to all districts that not a single beneficiary who does not have any Aadhaar number or mobile number facility should be left out from the system on this basis.

(c) In pursuance of the provisions of the Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 the Department has issued a notification dated 8th February, 2017 for the use of Aadhaar as identity document for delivery of services/benefits/subsidies that simplifies the

Government delivery processes, brings in transparency and efficiency and enables beneficiaries to get their entitlement directly in a convenient and seamless manner and Aadhaar obviates the need for producing multiple documents to prove one's identity. An individual eligible to receive the subsidised food grains/Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFS A and having valid Ration Cards issued by State Governments/UT Administration is required to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication. Any new eligible beneficiary who is selected by State Governments/UT Administration for receiving subsidised food grains/Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA is also required to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication. All such eligible beneficiaries entitled to receive subsidised food grains/Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA, who do not possess the Aadhaar number or, are not yet enrolled for Aadhaar, but are desirous of availing subsidised food grains/Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA are required to make application for Aadhaar enrolment by 30th June, 2017, provided he or she is entitled to obtain Aadhaar as per Section 3 of the said Act.

Cash transfer to accounts of beneficiaries for food security

1830. SHRI K. T. S. TULSI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the details of the total number and percentage of accounts in which cash transfers have been made for the purpose of food security, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): Cash transfer of food subsidy scheme is being implemented in Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, under which food subsidy is being transferred directly into the bank accounts of all the identified eligible households. Details of such households in the three Union Territories, which received cash transfer of food subsidy into their bank accounts in March, 2017 is as under:—

Name of the Union Territory	No. of identified eligible households which received cash transfer of food subsidy
Chandigarh	60209
Dadra and Nagar Haveli (partially)	8968
Puducherry	162456

Buffer stock of pulses

1831. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a buffer stock of pulses in our country this year, if so, whether the storage capacity of Food Corporation of India at present is adequate to keep stocks of pulses; and

(b) the total quantum for buffer stock of pulses that Government has created and the present stock available, variety-wise, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir. The pulses procured and imported by the designated agencies are stored in their own godowns as well as godowns hired from CWC/SWC/Private parties. The storage capacity available with FCI, CWC, SWC and other State agencies along with private warehouses available in the country are adequate for storing the buffer stock of pulses.

(b) As on 14.03.2017, Government has created a buffer of around 15.33 lakh tonnes of pulses including 4.01 lakh tonnes contracted for imports. The variety-wise, State-wise stock available is given in the Statement.

Statement*Variety-wise and State-wise availability of buffer stock in the country***(A) Pulses Procured Domestically**

Buffer Stock Available State-wise and Variety-wise of Domestic
Pulses as on 14.03.2017 in MTs

Sl. No.	State	Tur	Moong	Urad	Chana	Masur
1.	Madhya Pradesh	60090.94	28809.73	9233.53	374.61	7941.51
2.	Maharashtra	270800.85	15446.92	7275.36	1126.31	0.00
3.	Andhra Pradesh	582.95	702.30	3665.60	156.10	0.00
4.	Telangana	175087.24	72.70	3381.41	0.00	0.00

Sl. No.	State	Tur	Moong	Urad	Chana	Masur
5.	Karnataka	163220.17	2105.75	5050.65	0.85	0.00
6.	Gujarat	67273.00	1422.45	77.44	0.00	0.00
7.	Rajasthan	0.00	19254.22	189428.97	10101.45	254.49
8.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	22729.92	0.00	0.00	382.29
9.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	118.54	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	1069.35	0.00	0.00
11.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.20
TOTAL		737055.15	90662.53	219182.31	11759.32	8594.49

(B) Imported Pulses

Stock of Imported Pulses of MMTC and STC as on 16.03.2017 in MTs

State	Tur	Urad	Desi Chick peas (Chana)	Red Lentils (Masur)
Tamil Nadu	28453	22353		
Maharashtra	26615	16922	2838	42472
Andhra Pradesh	45374		16900	38000
Gujarat	45378		31484	40301
West Bengal				9888
TOTAL	145820	39275	51222	130661

Changes in cyber security laws

1832. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the changes, if any envisaged in cyber security laws in view of recent breach of ATM card data of 3.2 million customers stolen last year from a network of Yes Bank Ltd. ATMs;

(b) the steps taken to set up/improvise legal redressal mechanisms in cyber security issues;

(c) whether any report of enquiry was submitted with regard to this incident, if so, the steps taken based on these reports, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of policy changes, if any, envisaged by Government with respect to security of digital payments interfaces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Information Technology Act, 2000 (with its amendments in 2008), provides comprehensive legal framework to deal with the present day cyber security breaches.

Security Incidents are brought to the knowledge and are handled by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) created under section 70B of the IT Act. CERT-In issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats and counter measures on regular basis.

In addition, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) carries out IT Examination of banks separately from the regular financial examination of banks, with special focus on cyber security. The findings are issued to the banks for remedial action. Department of Banking Supervision under RBI also conducts cyber security preparedness testing of banks on the basis of hypothetical scenarios with the help of CERT-In.

(c) As reported by RBI, in the specific incident of breach of ATM card data, an enquiry, through a third party, was conducted by the service provider whose ATM infrastructure was affected. Certain vulnerabilities were observed. The report stated various actions, which have been/need to be taken by the ATM service provider to address the vulnerabilities. Banks have taken corrective action by either replacing the cards or resetting PINs.

(d) There is no proposal with the Government to amend the IT Act at present. However, Government is working on developing rules for security of Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs). The draft rules have been published on MeitY website inviting comments from public at large and other stakeholders.

Opportunities under Rural Digital Programme

1833. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to join an American multi-national technology company to explore opportunities in the areas such as rural health and employment under rural digital programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the efforts made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal as of now.

(b) Does not arise.

E-literacy in Rural India

1834. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to increase e-Literacy in rural India, the details thereof; and

(b) the outcomes of e-Literacy drives, viz. the data which shows the percentage shift from offline to online platforms for services and commerce by individuals, especially in rural India, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Government of India approved a scheme entitled 'IT Mass Literacy' in March, 2014 which was renamed as 'National Digital Literacy Mission' (NDLM). Under NDLM, the objective was to train 10 lakh persons with an aim to cover one person from every eligible household to be made digitally literate across the country including rural India. Under Digital India, a new scheme entitled Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA) was approved in December 2014 with a target to train an additional 42.5 lakh candidates in digital literacy across the country in a period of four years. Both NDLM and DISHA schemes were implemented concurrently and have achieved training and certification of 53.67 lakh candidates.

A new scheme Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) has been approved by the Cabinet on 08.2.2017 to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households by 31.03.2019. This is in line with the announcement made by Hon'ble Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2016-17.

In addition, Government has taken up several initiatives to promote a less cash economy. A brief on these initiatives is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Government is promoting establishment of Common Services Centres (CSCs) through CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd., a Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC -SPV).

One of the major roles of CSCs is to provide citizen centric services in electronic mode (online) including Government-to-Citizens (G2C) and Business-to-Citizens (B2C) services in the locality of citizens. The CSCs also aim to provide individual access to internet to citizens in rural India where the ICT intervention is very low. Presently a large number of Government services are being delivered to the citizens through CSCs across the country and consistent efforts are being made to increase the portfolio of e-Services. The details of online services given to citizens through CSC eco-system are as follows:—

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017 (upto Feb'17)
No. of Transaction (In lakh)	71.26	902.10	1,175.30	101.00

The details regarding usage of digital payment systems are as follows:

- **Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS):** The average number of transactions using AEPS have increased to around 1.20 lakh in the month of February, 2017 from around 18,000 in the month of November, 2016
- **Unified Payment Interface (UPI):** The average number of transactions using UPI have increased to around 1.60 lakh in the month of February, 2017 from around 11,000 in the month of November, 2016
- **Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM):** Government has launched a new digital payment app named "BHIM - Bharat Interface for Money". This is a unified app for UPI through which the users can make simple, easy and quick payment transactions using Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The average transactions made with this mobile app have increased to 70,000 in the month of February, 2017 from 20,000 in the month of December, 2016.
- Merchant on boarding and trading done in some outlets like:—
 - **Mother Dairy (including Safal Booths):** As on 28.02.2017, all 1113 shops (including 326 Safal booths) facilitate e-payment; 850 shops (including 90 Safal booths) accept SBI cash cards; Sale proceeds in digital mode @ ₹ 44 lakh/day.
 - **NAFED:** As on 28.02.2017, sale proceeds of 3.35 crore are through digital means.
 - **Agricultural Mandis:** As on 28.02.2017, 8,75,376 cashless transactions done.
 - **Fair Price Shops:** As on 28.02.2017, operational e-POS are 1,78,081.

Statement***Details of initiatives taken by Government towards promotion of cashless economy***

- 'Digital Finance for Rural India: Creating Awareness and Access through Common Service Centres (CSCs)' under the Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA) has been initiated in November, 2016 for conducting awareness sessions on digital finance options available for rural citizens as well as enabling various mechanisms of digital financial services such as Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), Unified Payment Interface (UPI), Cards/Point of Sales(PoS), Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS) and e-Wallet etc. As on 15.03.2017, more than 2 crore beneficiaries and around 10.56 lakh Merchants have been trained/enabled under this programme. Further, sensitization drives have been carried out at 650 Districts and 5,735 Blocks throughout the country.
- In addition to this, following initiatives have been taken for creating awareness amongst citizens:—
 - A 24-hour TV channel named "DigiShala" and a website called "www.cashlessindia.gov.in", dedicated for facilitating awareness to citizens on cashless payment options and their use, have been launched on 9th December, 2016.
 - DigiDhan Melas: The DigiDhan Mela brings together various stakeholders of digital payment systems such as banks, e-wallet operators, telecom providers and institutions like Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Common Services Centres (CSCs) and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to promote digital payments. The objective is to enable citizens and merchants to undertake real time digital transactions and encourage them to use digital platforms for day to day transactions.
 - A two day awareness camp 'DigiDhan Mela' was organised on 17th -18th December, 2016 to promote digital payments.
 - Lucky Grahak Yojana/DigiDhan Vyapar Yojana: The Government has launched the Lucky Grahak Yojana for consumers and Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana for merchants. These schemes provide daily and weekly awards to citizens and merchants for undertaking digital transactions through Rupay cards, AEPS, UPI Apps and USSD. The objective is to incentivise citizens and merchants to adopt digital payment platforms.

- The DigiDhan Melas are being organised in 100 cities till 14th April, 2017. MeitY has launched a *website* www.digidhan.mygov.in which provides the latest updates on demonetisation and the consumer and merchants can check the rewards under the Lucky Grahak and DigiDhan Vypar Yojana. As on 28.02.2017, more than 11.6 lakh citizens/merchants have participated in the DigiDhan Melas.
- A project titled "On-boarding of self-organised small and medium business/traders on digital payment initiatives" has been approved for implementation by National Institute of Electronics and IT (NIELIT) covering small and medium size unorganized/self-organized business/traders. Under this, a Regional Workshop was organised on 04.03.2017 at Delhi.

Supreme Court's orders on Aadhaar

1835. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 373 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18 November, 2016 and state:

(a) whether Government acknowledges that the violation of the Supreme Court's orders on Aadhaar dated 11 August, 2015 and 15 October, 2015 by Government agencies amounts to an infringement of Fundamental Rights of citizens under Article 21 of the Constitution;

(b) whether Government proposes to examine and address the unresolved concerns under the Aadhaar programme, including the use of Aadhaar as ID and KYC, data security and privacy concerns and the data integrity of the Aadhaar database; and

(c) 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) to (c) The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 has been passed by the Parliament and has been brought into force w.e.f 12th September, 2016.

The usage of Aadhaar is governed by the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016. Section 7 of the Act provide that the Central Government or the State Government, may require that the individual shall undergo Aadhaar authentication for the purpose of establishing identity of such individuals, as a condition for receipt of a subsidy, benefit or service or in the case

of an individual to whom no Aadhaar number has been assigned, such individual shall make an application for enrolment. Section 7 further provides that, if an Aadhaar number is not assigned to an individual, the individual shall be offered alternate and viable means of identification for delivery of the subsidy, benefit or service.

Appropriate legislative and administrative measures have been taken to ensure the privacy, data integrity and data security of identity information and authentication records of individuals. Section 29 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 provides that no core biometric information (iris and fingerprints) shall be shared with anyone for any reason whatsoever and the same shall not be used for any purpose other than Aadhaar generation and authentication. It further provides that no Aadhaar number or core biometrics collected or created under this Act in respect of an Aadhaar number holder shall be published, displayed or posted publicly, except for the purposes as may be specifically provided for by the regulations framed under this Act.

Further, the Aadhaar (Authentication) Regulations, 2016 have also been notified in September, 2016. These Regulations *inter alia* provide for biometric authentication to be done only by Authentication Users Agency (AUA) authorized by UIDAI, transmission of biometric information in encrypted form, use of only certified device etc. In case of biometric authentication, response of UIDAI is signed digitally, assuring its veracity and additionally user is alerted about the *ibid* transaction/authentication.

Chapter VII of the Aadhaar Act provides for the penalties for contravention of any provisions of the Aadhaar Act. Section 38 under the said Chapter more specifically deals with the penalty for unauthorized access to the UIDAI's Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR) in the form of following unauthorized - accessing, downloading, introducing virus, damaging the data, disruption of access to the CIDR, denial of access to an authorized person, revealing, sharing, using or display of information, destroying, deleting or altering of information, stealing, concealing any computer source code used by the Authority which shall attract an imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to a fine which shall not be less than ₹ 10 lakhs.

Additionally, Section 39 provides that any unauthorised use or tampering with data in CIDR or in any removable storage medium with the intent of modifying information relating to Aadhaar number holder or discovering any information thereof, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 3 years and also liable to a fine which may extend to Rupees ten thousand.

UIDAI's CIDR facilities, Information Assets, Logistics and Infrastructure and Dependencies installed at UIDAI have been classified as Protected System under Section 70 (1) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 w.e.f. 11 December, 2015. UIDAI in order to further strengthen its security protocols has received ISO 27001 certification which is globally accepted as the highest standard for IT security.

Reporting of unusual digital payment activities to CERT-In

1836. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked all digital payment agencies to report CERT-In any unusual activity they see on their platforms;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is undertaking a massive programme to create awareness among administrators, judges etc; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that to strengthen cyber security, Government has approved various new posts in CERT-In and State CERTs, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide Circular No. DBS.CO/CSITE/BC. 11/33.01.001/2015-6 dated June 2, 2016 on "Cyber Security Framework in Banks", has advised banks to evaluate the controls on various aspects including information sharing arrangements with CERT-In, RBI, Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT). Further, vide circular DBS.CO.ITC.BC. No. 6/31.02.008/2010-11 dated April 29, 2011 RBI guidelines on implementation of recommendations of Working Group on Information Security, Electronic Banking, Technology Risk Management and Cyber Frauds, it was indicated that banks would need to pro-actively notify CERT-In/IDRBT/RBI regarding cyber security incidents.

Further, under the provision of Information Technology Act, 2000, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has been designated to serve as the national agency for, *inter-alia*, collection, analysis and dissemination of information on cyber incidents.

CERT-In has advised all banks, Pre-paid Payment Instruments (PPIs) issuing agencies and other stakeholders to report cyber security incidents without delay to Indian Computer Emergency/Response Team.

(b) To create awareness on security in digital payments, following steps have been taken:

- (i) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) *vide* a comprehensive circular No. DBS.CO/CSITE/BC. 11/33.01.001/2015-6 dated June 2, 2016 on "Cyber Security Framework in Banks", had advised banks to improve and maintain customer awareness and education with regard to cyber security risks. Banks were also asked to educate the customers on the downside risk of sharing their login credentials/passwords etc. with any third party vendor and the consequences thereof.
- (ii) Government (MeitY) has engaged Data Security Council of India (DSCI) for creating Cyber Crime Awareness among Law Enforcement Agencies through workshops at different cities of the country. As part of security awareness and capacity building in cyber security, MeitY has setup Cyber Forensics Training Labs at police headquarters in (i) All north eastern States in collaboration with CDAC, (ii) Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore and Kolkata with the help of DSCI for creating Cyber Crime Awareness and Cyber Forensics Training for Law enforcement Agencies (police) and judiciary (including judges, judicial officers and public prosecutors). Also, MeitY has setup a Cyber Lab at National Law School of India University (NLSIU) Bangalore for creating cyber crime awareness and cyber forensic training.

In addition, MeitY has initiated a project entitled, 'Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project Phase-If in the year 2014 with an objective of capacity building in the area of information security, training of Government personnel and creation of mass information security awareness targeted towards various user segments. The project envisages training of 1.14 lakh persons in various formal/non-formal courses and more than 13,000 Government officials by March, 2020.

- (iii) Alerts and advisories are issued by CERT-In regarding latest cyber threats and counter measures on regular basis. 21 Advisories have been issued by CERT-In regarding safeguards for users and institutions to secure digital payments.
- (iv) Cyber security awareness sessions have been conducted under the MeitY Digishala Awareness Campaign.
- (v) 2 Workshops have been organised for banks and PPIs regarding security of digital payment systems.
- (vi) CERT-In conducts regular training programmes to make the network and

system administrators aware about securing the IT infrastructure and mitigating cyber attacks. 18 such training programs were conducted covering 580 participants during the year 2016.

- (c) The following posts for CERT-In has been created recently:
- (i) Department of expenditure *vide* I.D. No. 291642/E.Coord. 1 (2)/2016 dated 15.11.2016 has created 20 S and T posts for Cyber Swachhta Kendra, a project under CERT-In.
 - (ii) Department of Expenditure *vide* I.D. No. 312896/E.Coord.I/2016 dated 19.12.2016 has created 65 S and T and Non-S and T posts for National Cyber Coordination Centre under CERT-In.

Review of I.T. Act

1837. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to review more than 15 year old Information Technology Act to strengthen cyber security infrastructure, following the push for digital payments post demonetisation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a closed group has been set up to look into various aspects of the Act in line with the changing times; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has issued advisories to all digital payment agencies including banks and e-wallet providers to harden the security walls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Information Technology Act, 2000 (with its amendments in 2008), provides comprehensive legal framework to deal with the present day cyber security breaches. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has constituted an internal group under the chairmanship of Secretary to review and look into various aspects of the Act in line with the changing times.

(c) Government has issued the following advisories regarding secure digital payment:

1. All authorised entities/banks issuing Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) in the country have been advised by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to carry out audit by the empanelled auditors of CERT-In on a priority basis and take immediate steps thereafter to

comply with the findings of the audit report and ensure implementation of security best practices.

2. All organizations providing digital payment services have been mandated to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In expeditiously.
3. 21 advisories have been issued by CERT-In regarding safeguards for users and institutions to secure digital payments.
4. RBI carries out IT Examination of banks separately from the regular financial examination of banks from last year. This examination report has a special focus on cyber security. The reports have been issued to the banks for remedial action.
5. RBI has also set up Cyber Crisis Management Group to address any major incidents reported including suggesting ways to respond and recover to/from the incidents.
6. Department of Banking Supervision under RBI also conducts cyber security preparedness testing among banks on the basis of hypothetical scenarios with the help of CERT-In.
7. RBI has issued a comprehensive circular on Cyber Security Framework in Banks on June 2, 2016 covering best practices pertaining to various aspects of cyber security. The banks are required, among other things, to have a cyber security policy, cyber crisis management plan, gap assessment *vis-a-vis* the baseline requirements indicated in the circular, monitoring certain risk indicators in the area, report unusual cyber security incidents within 2 to 6 hours, ensure board involvement in the matter and robust vendor risk management.
8. RBI has issued Circular on 9th December, 2016 on Security and Risk mitigation measure for all authorised entities/banks issuing Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) in the country.
9. In addition, RBI issues Circulars/advisories to all Commercial Banks on phishing attacks and preventive/detection measures to tackle phishing attacks.

Review of policies to bolster IT sector

1838. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is mulling a review of policies which could bolster the Information Technology (IT) sector's sagging fortunes;

(b) whether Government is considering to set up a committee to study the factors affecting the IT industry and give its recommendations on the possible measures that the Government could take to contain the situation; and

(c) whether with the international revenues stagnating, Government feels that some policy measures can be taken to kick start domestic demand which will makeup for losses, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Various efforts are being made by the Government in consultation with Information Technology Industry to enhance the domestic market of IT sector. This *inter-alia* includes measures to streamline the tax regimes, remove red tapism, and improve the overall ease of doing business. However, international revenues from IT sector are indeed growing continuously. The Indian IT-ITES industry has been progressively contributing to the growth of exports and creation of employment opportunities. The total IT-ITES Industry revenue (excluding hardware) is estimated at USD 143 Bn. (₹ 9,61,000 crore) in 2016-17, including exports of USD 118 Bn. (₹7, 90,000 crore) growing at a rate of 8.5%. According to NASSCOM, IT-ITES exports trends over last 4 years are as follows:

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (E)
TOTAL in INR crores	5,27,292	6,00,492	7,00,000	7,90,000

The IT-ITES Industry employs nearly 3.86 million professionals directly and expected to grow to 4.3 million by 2019. Indirect employment is estimated at over 10 million.

- While there is a continuous growth in exports, there are sustained efforts by the Government to further increase exports as well as promote domestic IT-ITES industry. Government has been implementing the Digital India Programme with a view to create a knowledge economy and empower citizens. STP scheme, BPO Promotion schemes, CSC 2.0, Make in India, Start-Up India and Skill India Programme have helped in generating demand and jobs at the grassroot level. MeitY has also implemented the NDLM (National Digital Literacy Mission) and DISHA (Digital Saksharta Abhiyan) schemes. The major thrust on less-cash digital economy has led to the emergence of new sectors such as fintech, cyber-security, IOT, big data, data analytics etc.
- To cater to the domestic demand and generate jobs, mobile phone manufacturing has been given a major boost. 72 new mobile handset and component

manufacturing units have been set up in the last 18 months. In 2015-16, about 11 crore mobile phones were manufactured, compared to 5.8 crore in 2014-15. 13 Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) have been approved with a project cost of ₹ 1658 crore in 10 States. Investment proposals worth ₹ 1,27,880 crore have been received under Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS). The initiatives under Electronics Manufacturing are expected to generate about 2,60,000 jobs.

- The National Policy on Information Technology (NPIT) -2012 envisages to increase revenues of IT/ITES Industry from USD 100 billion during 2011-12 to USD 300 billion by 2020 including exports of USD 200 billion. The key strategies identified in NPIT 2012 include creation of an ecosystem for a globally competitive IT/ITES Industry. As per NASSCOM Perspective 2025, the Indian IT industry is slated for expansion with an annual growth rate of 9 to 11 per cent upto 2020 and of 10 to 12 per cent from 2020 to 2025. Implementation of Digital India Programme is fulfilling the strategies outlined in the National IT Policy.

Increase in cyber crimes

1839. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise details regarding number of cyber crimes reported during the last three years and how many of them are financial in nature;
- (b) the percentage increase in such crimes during the said period, State-wise; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to tackle cyber crimes more stringently to make online financial transactions foolproof and 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) National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) collects and maintains statistical data of police recorded cognizable crimes from 35 States/Union Territories. As per the data maintained by NCRB, a total of 5693, 9622 and 11592 cyber crime cases were registered during the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively, showing a rise of 69% during 2013 to 2014 and 20% during 2014 to 2015. State/UT-wise cases registered under cyber crimes during 2013-2015 is given in the Statement (*See below*). Data for the year 2016 is under collection. NCRB does not maintain data on cybercrimes which are financial in nature separately.

Further, as per the data made available by RBI, 9500, 13083 and 16468 cases related

to Cyber Frauds (ATM/ Debit Card, Credit Card and Net Banking frauds) were reported by the banks during the years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively.

(c) Government has taken various steps in the form of legal framework, awareness, training, and implementation of best practices to address issues related to cyber crimes including steps to make online financial transactions safe. The steps include:—

- (i) The IT Act, 2000 provides a comprehensive legal framework to address the issues connected with cyber crime, cyber attacks and security breaches of information technology infrastructure.
- (ii) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has recently notified the scheme for evaluating any Department, body or agency of the Central Government or a State Government to notify them as Examiner of Electronic Evidence under section 79 A of IT Act, 2000.
- (iii) Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats and countermeasures on regular basis. CERT-In has issued 17 advisories since Nov 27, 2016 for security safeguards covering Point of Sale (POS), Micro ATMs, electronic Wallets, online banking, smart phones, unified payment interface, Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), RuPay, SIM cards, wireless access points / routers, mobile banking, cloud and Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS). Advisory has also been sent by CERT-In to RBI, National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) and Payment Card Industry Organizations covering precautions to be taken to avoid similar attacks as those that occurred recently with credit/debit cards.
- (iv) CERT-In is conducting cyber security trainings for IT / cyber security professionals including Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) of Government and critical sector organisations. 18 such training programmes were conducted covering 580 participants during the year 2016. In addition 2 workshops on security of digital payments systems have been conducted for stakeholder organisations covering 110 participants.
- (v) Cyber Crime Cells have been set up in all States and Union Territories for reporting and investigation of Cyber Crime cases.
- (vi) With respect to the banking sector, in order to focus more attention on IT related matters, RBI has taken various action which includes:—
 - RBI has set up a Cyber Security and IT Examination (CSITE) cell within its Department of Banking Supervision in 2015.
 - The Bank has issued a comprehensive circular on Cyber Security Framework

in Banks on June 2, 2016 covering best practices pertaining to various aspects of cyber security.

- RBI carries out IT Examination of banks separately from the regular financial examination of banks from last year. This report has a special focus on cyber security. The reports have been issued to the banks for remedial action.
- RBI has also set up Cyber Crisis Management Group to address any major incidents reported including suggesting ways to respond and recover to/from the incidents.
- Department of Banking Supervision under RBI also conducts cyber security preparedness testing among banks on the basis of hypothetical scenarios with the help of CERT-In.
- RBI also has set up an IT subsidiary, which would focus, among other things, on cyber security within RBI as well as in regulated entities. The subsidiary is in the process of recruiting the experts.
- RBI has issued circular on 9th December, 2016 in Security and Risk mitigation measure for all authorised entities/banks issuing Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) in the country.
- In addition, RBI issues Circulars/advisories to all Commercial Banks on phishing attacks and preventive/detective measures to tackle phishing attacks.

Statement

State/UT-wise total no. of cyber crime cases registered and % variation during 2013-2015

Sl. No.	State/UT	2013*	2014#	% variation in 2014 over 2013	2015#	% variation in 2015 over 2014
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	651	282	-56.7	536	90.1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	18	80.0	6	-66.7
3.	Assam	154	379	146.1	483	27.4
4.	Bihar	139	114	-18.0	242	112.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Chhattisgarh	101	123	21.8	103	-16.3
6.	Goa	58	62	6.9	17	-72.6
7.	Gujarat	77	227	194.8	242	6.6
8.	Haryana	323	151	-53.3	224	48.3
9.	Himachal Pradesh	28	38	35.7	50	31.6
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	46	37	-19.6	34	-8.1
11.	Jharkhand	26	93	257.7	180	93.5
12.	Karnataka	533	1020	91.4	1447	41.9
13.	Kerala	383	450	17.5	290	-35.6
14.	Madhya Pradesh	342	289	-15.5	231	-20.1
15.	Maharashtra	907	1879	107.2	2195	16.8
16.	Manipur	1	13	1200.0	6	-53.8
17.	Meghalaya	17	60	252.9	56	-6.7
18.	Mizoram	0	22	-	8	-63.6
19.	Nagaland	0	0	-	0	-
20.	Odisha	104	124	19.2	386	211.3
21.	Punjab	156	226	44.9	149	-34.1
22.	Rajasthan	297	697	134.7	949	36.2
23.	Sikkim	0	4	-	1	-75.0
24.	Tamil Nadu	90	172	91.1	142	-17.4
25.	Telangana	-	703	-	687	-2.3
26.	Tripura	14	5	-64.3	13	160.0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	682	1737	154.7	2208	27.1
28.	Uttarakhand	27	42	55.6	48	14.3
29.	West Bengal	342	355	3.8	398	12.1
TOTAL STATES		5508	9322	69.2	11331	21.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	18	13	-27.8	6	-53.8
31.	Chandigarh	11	55	400.0	77	40.0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	3	-	0	-100.0
33.	Daman and Diu	1	1	0.0	1	0.0
34.	Delhi UT	150	226	50.7	177	-21.7
35.	Lakshadweep	0	1	-	0	-100.0
36.	Puducherry	5	1	-80.0	0	-100.0
TOTAL (UTs)		185	300	62.2	261	-13.0
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)		5693	9622	69.0	11592	20.5

* Includes cases reported under IT Act and IPC sections involving computer as medium/source.

Includes cases reported under IT Act, IPC sections and SLL sections involving computer as medium/source.

Source: Crime in India.

Unauthorised authentication and impersonation by illegal storing Aadhaar data

1840. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that there have been attempts of unauthorised authentication and impersonation by illegally storing Aadhaar biometric data;

(b) the details of the number of cases of intentionally copying Aadhaar data provided under Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016; and

(c) whether the Ministry is taking steps to ensure data protection and encryption, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. An incidence has come to the notice where one Aadhaar Number Holder authenticated using his stored biometric. Formal FIR has been lodged and the police investigation is on.

(c) The Core Aadhaar Biometric data (Finger print/Iris) stored in the Central Identities Data Repository is never shared with any entity. The resident's Personal Identity Information (PII) data is encrypted for both enrolment and authentication transactions using 2048 bit public key of UIDAI. Once encrypted, it can be decrypted only by using UIDAI private key which is securely stored in Hardware Security Module (HSM) device.

Use of domestic parts in manufacturing of mobile and telecom instruments

†1841. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made the use of domestic parts mandatory for manufacturing of mobile and telecom instruments for exporters who get subsidy on the export of mobile and telecom instruments, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the year-wise details of total number of exporters in the country who have been given 3 percent subsidy during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Interest Equalization Scheme: The Interest Equalization Scheme on Pre and Post Rupee Export Credit has been launched by the Government and notified *vide* RBI Circular no. 62 dated 04.12.2015. Under the scheme, the rate of interest equalization @ 3% per annum shall be available on Pre-and Post Rupee Export Credit and Post Shipment Rupee Credit. Department of Telecommunication(DoT) *vide* Gazette notification dated 28.10.2016 has notified Interest Equalization Guidelines for domestic telecom manufacturer exporters. DoT has therein notified certain minimum value addition qualifying criteria for telecom products (including mobile phones also). The domestic telecom manufacturer - exporter are now eligible under the Interest Equalization Scheme, subject to meeting the minimum value addition criterion. The DoT *vide* notification dated 28.10.2016 has notified the minimum value addition criterion for telecom products (*Available at http://www.dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/2016_11_07%20IEG%20IP.pdf.*)

(b) Based on the inputs provided by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the sector-wise details of reimbursement claims of banks for the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 (*available at http://meity.gov.in/sites/upload_files/dit/files/annexure-16-03-2017.pdf*).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Aadhaar Payment Service

1842. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to introduce Aadhaar Payment Service system to enable people to make their payments or receipts through Aadhaar Unique Identity Number, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether all people in the country have been issued Aadhaar cards, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) by when this system will come into force; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to complete the distribution of Aadhaar cards to enable people adapt to the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Aadhaar Enabled Payment System is one of the payment systems being used by the Banks to provide service to their customers. It is a part of digital payments initiatives of Government of India wherein emphasis is being laid on usage of Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Debit Cards and Aadhaar, to achieve the objective of moving towards less cash society by adopting digital payments.

(b) to (d) Though a target of universal enrolment is being pursued, enrolment for Aadhaar is an on-going process. As on 28.02.2017, a total of 112.26 crores Aadhaar have been generated in the country. State/UT-wise details are given in the Statement (*See below*). For issuing Aadhaar to the residents of the country, Unique Identification Authority (UIDAI) has adopted the multi registrar model under which various State Governments/UT Administrations, Central Ministries, Banks and the Public Sector Organizations have been made Registrars for enrolling the residents for Aadhaar. The Registrars engage enrolment agencies for carrying out enrolment of residents.

Statement*State/UT-wise Aadhaar Saturation*

(As on 28.2.2017)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total Population (Projected 2015)	Number of Aadhaars assigned	In % of Projected Population 2015
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Delhi	17,720,573	20,846,334	118%
2.	Haryana	26,816,977	27,565,296	103%
3.	Telangana	37,253,813	37,997,961	102%
4.	Punjab	29,303,888	29,756,585	102%
5.	Himachal Pradesh	7,252,406	7,359,276	101%
6.	Lakshadweep	68,149	68,983	101%
7.	Chandigarh	1,115,584	1,116,319	100%
8.	Goa	1,541,892	1,527,883	99%
9.	Kerala	35,315,493	34,977,329	99%
10.	Chhattisgarh	27,014,896	26,400,345	98%
11.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	362,649	354,215	98%
12.	Puducherry	1,316,320	1,284,128	98%
13.	Andhra Pradesh	52,229,924	50,722,016	97%
14.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	401,882	389,333	97%
15.	Jharkhand	34,869,720	33,778,892	97%
16.	Uttarakhand	10,700,897	10,308,862	96%
17.	Maharashtra	118,861,427	111,570,155	94%
18.	Tripura	3,882,999	3,643,270	94%
19.	Karnataka	64,660,412	60,236,826	93%
20.	Madhya Pradesh	76,789,374	71,468,080	93%

1	2	3	4	5
21. Gujarat		62,100,000	57,101,842	92%
22. Sikkim		642,776	589,595	92%
23. Tamil Nadu		76,304,287	68,617,594	90%
24. West Bengal		96,622,186	85,733,856	89%
25. Rajasthan		72,583,213	63,891,456	88%
26. Odisha		44,369,413	38,876,522	88%
27. Uttar Pradesh		211,105,381	175,142,905	83%
28. Daman and Diu		256,937	206,419	80%
29. Bihar		109,798,353	85,016,105	77%
30. Manipur		2,878,911	1,958,818	68%
31. Jammu and Kashmir		13,273,505	8,877,651	67%
32. Arunachal Pradesh		1,462,443	932,864	64%
33. Mizoram		1,154,010	657,939	57%
34. Nagaland		2,094,963	1,151,075	55%
35. Meghalaya		3,135,150	278,906	9%
36. Assam		32,968,997	2,147,968	7%
TOTAL		1,278,229,800	1,122,553,603	87.8%

R&D in food processing sector

1843. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to promote Research and Development (R&D) activities in the food processing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether Government is providing any investment-linked incentives for in-house R&D expenditure incurred by the companies in the sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/ being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing scheme for Research and Development in food processing sector. As per the scheme guidelines, Government organization/Institutions/ Universities are eligible for 100% grant-in-aid for the cost of equipment, consumables and expenditure related to Junior Research Fellow/ Senior Research Fellow/ Research Associate and private organizations/ Institutions/ Universities are eligible for 50% grant-in-aid for the equipment cost in general areas and 70% grant-in-aid in difficult areas for conducting such research activities. Number of R&D projects assisted and total grant-in-aid released during the last three years as well as current year are as under:—

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Year	No. of New Projects approved during the year	Total Grant-in-Aid released under R&D scheme (*)
1.	2013-14	38	1097.73
2.	2014-15	21	638.66
3.	2015-16	23	613.37
4.	2016-17 (upto 28.02.17)	Nil	312.80
TOTAL		82	2662.56

(*) Amount indicated above also includes 2nd and 3rd instalment for on-going projects.

(c) and (d) Under Section 35 of the Income Tax Act, there is provision for weighted deduction of 150% on capital and revenue expenditure incurred on in-house Research and Development by a company from Financial Year 2017-18 to Financial Year 2019-20. The deduction shall be restricted to 100% from Financial Year 2020-21 onwards.

Growth of Food Processing Industry

1844. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the cumulative growth of the domestic Food Processing Industry (FPI) in the

country in the last three years; and

(b) whether demonetisation has adversely impacted the FPI in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) As per the information provided by Central Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the growth rate of Gross Value Added in Food Processing Industry at 2011-12 prices is as under:—

Year (April-March)	Growth (%)
2013-14	1.60
2014-15	12.82
2015-16	6.87

(b) No such assessment has been made by this Ministry.

Setting up of small food processing units

1845. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry proposes to set up 200 small food processing units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof with particular reference to Telangana;

(c) the facilities and benefits to be extended to these 200 units;

(d) whether in the absence of cold chain bogies to at least superfast express trains, food processing sector is not able to speed up food processing in the country;

(e) if so, whether any consultations have been held with Railways in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, whether the Ministry would consult Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) to (c) No Sir. Currently, there is no such Scheme in Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

(d) to (g) The issue of exploring the viability of use of railway wagons including reefer and insulated/ ventilated containers for transportation of perishable agri/ horti produce has been considered in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in consultation with, *inter alia*, Ministry of Railways, Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) and Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium (SFAC). CONCOR has informed that it is not operationally feasible to put reefer containers in passenger trains but VPUs (parcel van) can be attached to passenger trains.

Separate Court for appeals of High Courts apart from Supreme Court

1846. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to create a separate Court to handle all appeals of High Courts and to make the Supreme Court only a Constitutional Court, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of total number of cases pending before the Supreme Court and the number of cases pending which are appeals of lower court verdicts;

(c) whether Government is planning to create regional benches of the Supreme Court in places like Kolkata, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details regarding status of commercial/fast track courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) There is neither a proposal to create a separate Court to handle all appeals of High Courts and to make the Supreme Court only a Constitutional Court nor to create any regional benches of the Supreme Court.

As on 1.3.2017, there are 62161 pending matters in Supreme Court. Out of these, 35289 are miscellaneous admission matters and 26872 are regular hearing matters.

(d) The Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Court Act, 2015 has been notified on 1st January, 2016 for adjudication of commercial disputes. Four Commercial Divisions and two Commercial Appellate Divisions in the Bombay High Court have been constituted. Commercial Appellate Division and Commercial Benches in Delhi High Court and Commercial Courts in Delhi District Courts have been operationalised.

Establishment of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) falls within the purview of State Governments which in consultation with the High Courts set up such courts using their

own resources. The 14th Finance Commission has endorsed the proposal of the Union Government to strengthen the justice delivery system in the States at a cost of ₹4144 crore that includes, *inter alia*, establishing 1800 FTCs for a period of five years to take up trial of cases of heinous crimes, involving senior citizens, women, children, physically challenged and persons affected with terminal ailments etc. The 14th Finance Commission has also made suggestions to the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space made available due to the tax devolution for meeting additional requirements.

Repeal of outdated laws

1847. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Law Commission has recommended for scrapping of outdated laws from the statute book, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the action taken by Government thereon; and
- (c) by when Government proposes to scrap these redundant laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Review of all laws with a view to bring them in harmony with the current economic, social and political situation in the country is a continuous process. This task is undertaken by the different nodal Ministries/Departments of the Central Government administering their respective laws and generally by the Law Commission of India. The Law Commission has submitted its 248th, 249th, 250th and the 251st Reports on "Obsolete Laws: Warranting. Immediate Repeal", in which it recommended for repeal of 72, 113, 74 and 30 obsolete Acts respectively, including some State laws. The Legislative Department has examined the said Reports and letters have been issued to Ministries/Departments and the State Governments seeking their comments and also asking them to take necessary action. Further, a Two-member Committee was also constituted by the Prime Minister's Office on 1st September, 2014 for review of repeal of obsolete laws. The said Committee has submitted its Report, which has been examined by the Legislative Department.

Total Acts identified for repeal are 1824 and out of them 1175 Acts have been repealed so far through the Repealing and Amending Act, 2015 (17 of 2015), the Repealing and Amending (Second) Act, 2015 (19 of 2015), the Appropriation Acts (Repeal) Act, 2016 (22 of 2016) and Repealing and Amending Act, 2016 (23 of 2016). Two

Acts have been repealed by the Finance Act, 2016 and one Act is included in the Finance Bill, 2017 for its reappeal. Further, a Bill namely, the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2017 has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 09/02/2017, proposing to repeal 105 obsolete and redundant Acts and pending therein. Remaining obsolete Acts have been circulated among all the Ministries/ Departments in the Government of India for their comments for repeal of the Acts pertaining to their Ministry/Department. Out of the aforesaid 1824 Acts, 227 Acts are identified to be repealed by State Governments and the State Governments are requested to take necessary action to repeal them.

Further, the identification and review of all laws, including those enacted during the British era, with a view to bring them in harmony with the current economic, social and political situation in the country, is a continuous process.

Time taken by courts for disposal of cases

1848. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the time taken for disposal of cases in our country is more than the time taken by the courts of developed countries;
- (b) if so, whether any comprehensive assessment has been made in this regard;
- (c) the factors responsible for the delay in disposal of cases in our country; and
- (d) the efforts made by Government for quick disposal of cases pending in various courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) It may not be valid to compare the time taken for disposal of cases by courts in the country with the time taken by courts in developed countries. The courts in various countries operate in different environment on account of difference in availability of infrastructure facilities, use of technology, number of judicial officers per million of population (judge-population ratio), docket ratio (population case filing ratio), provisions of substantive laws and procedures in courts. No assessment in this regard has been made.

(c) Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. The time taken for disposal of a case depends on several factors such as category of the case

(civil or criminal), complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders *viz.* bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff and applicable rules of procedure.

(d) 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 court infrastructure including computerisation, increase in the strength of subordinate judiciary and initiating policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development.

In pursuance of resolution passed in the Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, High Courts have set up Arrears Committees to clear the backlog of cases pending for more than five years.

Proliferation of law colleges

1849. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently released list of law colleges in the country, prepared by the Bar Council of India, reveals that there has been a proliferation of new law colleges coming up in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether this has raised concerns in the legal and judicial fraternity about the quality of hundreds of advocates passing out through these institutions; and

(c) whether elite or well known universities like Allahabad, Banaras Hindu and Aligarh Muslim Universities have just one or two colleges affiliated with them to ensure quality education to their students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Appointment of independent regulators for professional services

1850. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is seriously considering to appoint independent regulators for professional services, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the effect thereof on the existing regulators like MCI for medicine, AICTE for technical education, ICAI for chartered accountants, BAC for lawyers, etc.; and

(c) the details of appointments of independent Directors, regulators, etc., made in various Ministries/departments since May, 2014, Ministry/Department/Institution-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vacancies of Judges

1851. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Judges in the country;

(b) the sanctioned strength of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts and Subordinate Courts;

(c) the working strength of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts; and

(d) the vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) The details of sanctioned and working strength and vacancies of Judges/Judicial Officers in Supreme Court and High Courts as on 01.03.2017 are given below:—

Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength of Judges	Working Strength of Judges	Vacancies of Judges
Supreme Court	31	28	3
High Courts	1,079	642	437

The filling of vacancies of Judges / Judicial officers in Districts and Subordinate Courts is within the domain of the State Governments and the High Courts concerned. However, as per the Court News (July-September, 2016) of Supreme Court, the details of sanctioned and working strength and vacancies of Judges / Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts as on 30.09.2016 are given below:—

Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength of Judges / Judicial Officers	Working Strength of Judges / Judicial Officers	Vacancies of Judges/Judicial Officers
District and Subordinate Courts	21,374	16,528	4,846

Cases pending in Family Courts

1852. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of functional Family Courts all over the country;
- (b) the number of cases pending in these Courts as on 31 March, 2016, State-wise data pertaining to number of Family Courts and cases pending;
- (c) the top five States where the proportion of cases pending for adjudication is the highest as also the five States where it is the lowest; and
- (d) the data pertaining to the increase or decrease in the number of cases registered across the States during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Family Courts are set up by the State Governments in consultation with the respective High Courts as per the provisions of the Family Court Act, 1984. As per the information available, the total number of functional Family Courts all over the country is 450 which is given in the Statement (*See* below). The data regarding the total number of cases pending in these Courts are not maintained centrally.

Statement

State/UT-wise number of functional Family Courts in the country

Sl. No	State	No. of Family Courts functional
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14
2.	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram	6
3.	Bihar	39
4.	Chhattisgarh	19
5.	Delhi	15

Sl. No	State	No. of Family Courts functional
6.	Goa	-
7.	Gujarat	20
8.	Haryana	9
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1
11.	Jharkhand	21
12.	Karnataka	21
13.	Kerala	28
14.	Madhya Pradesh	50
15.	Maharashtra	25
16.	Manipur	5
17.	Meghalaya	0
18.	Odisha	17
19.	Punjab	5
20.	Puducherry	2
21.	Rajasthan	28
22.	Sikkim	4
23.	Tamil Nadu	20
24.	Telangana	12
25.	Tripura	3
26.	Uttar Pradesh	76
27.	Uttarakhand	8
28.	West Bengal	2
TOTAL		450

All India Judicial Service

1853. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reopened the proposal to have an All India Judicial Service to appoint District Judges through a process conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC); and

(b) whether any discussions have been held inside or outside the Ministry on this subject, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) A comprehensive proposal was formulated for the constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) and the same was approved by the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2012. The proposal was included as an agenda item in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2013 and it was decided that issue needs further deliberation and consideration. The views of the State Governments and High Courts were sought on the proposal. There was divergence of opinion among the State Governments and among the High Courts on the constitution of All India Judicial Service. While some State Governments and High Courts were not in favour of creation of All India Judicial Service, some other State Governments and High Courts wanted changes in the proposal formulated by the Central Government. The proposal for constitution of All India Judicial Service with views from the High Courts and State Governments received thereon was included in the agenda for the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held on 5th April, 2015. However, no progress was made on the subject. The matter regarding creation of a Judicial Service Commission to help the recruitment to the post of district judges and review of selection process of judges / judicial officers at all level was also included in the agenda for the Chief Justices Conference, which was held on 3rd and 4th April, 2015, wherein it was resolved to leave it open to the respective High Courts to evolve appropriate methods within the existing system to fill up the vacancies for appointment of District judges expeditiously.

Keeping in view the divergence of opinion among the stakeholders on constitution of All India Judicial Service, the Government has undertaken the consultative process to arrive at a common ground.

Gram Nyayalayas

1854. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States which have set up Gram Nyayalayas for timely delivery of justice in rural areas;

(b) whether the delivery of justice through Gram Nyayalayas is faster than ordinary courts, if so, the details thereof in respect of Rajasthan;

(c) the funds allocated and released to the States for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the other steps being taken to provide speedy justice in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) As per information made available by State Governments / High Courts, 320 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified so far by 11 States, out of these, 204 are operational in 8 States at present.

(b) The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 provides special procedure for both criminal and civil disputes. Section 19 (1) of the Act *inter alia* provides for summary procedure for criminal offences. Section 24 of the Act *inter alia* provides that hearing shall be continued on day to day basis until its conclusion and that suit, claim, application, filed under the Act shall be disposed of within a period of six months from the date of its institution. The data on institution and disposal of cases in the State of Rajasthan including Gram Nyayalayas is not maintained centrally.

(c) State-wise details the financial assistance provided to State Governments for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas are as under:—

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Financial Assistance sanctioned
1.	Madhya Pradesh	1819.00
2.	Rajasthan	1240.98
3.	Karnataka	25.20
4.	Odisha	337.40
5.	Maharashtra	258.80
6.	Jharkhand	75.60
7.	Goa	25.20
8.	Punjab	25.20
9.	Haryana	25.20
10.	Uttar Pradesh	627.42
	TOTAL	4460.00

(d) The issues affecting operationalization of the Gram Nyayalayas were discussed

in the Conference of Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers of the States on 7th April, 2013. It was decided in the Conference that the State Governments and High Courts should decide the question of establishment of Gram Nyayalayas wherever feasible, taking into account their local problems.

Appointment of Notaries

1855. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government issues orders for appointment of advocates as Notary in all Courts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of number of Notaries appointed during last three years, State/Court-wise;

(c) whether services of Notaries are for a specific period/years and are to be renewed after their term ends, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of Certificates of Notaries renewed during the last year and the current year, State/Court-wise; and

(e) the number of requests for renewal of such Certificates pending with Government for approval/renewal, Court/State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Notaries Act, 1952 and the rules made thereunder do not provide for Court-wise vacancies and therefore, the department does not maintain the details of appointed notaries Court-wise. However, Rule 3 of the Notaries Act, 1952 empowers the Central Government to appoint advocates as Notary in any part of the country.

(b) State-wise number of notaries appointed during last three years is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Section 5(2) of the Notaries Act, 1952 provides that the services of Notaries are valid for a period of five years only after which it needs to be renewed.

(d) The State-wise number of Certificates of Notaries renewed during the last year and the current year is given in the Statement-II (*See below*). Court-wise data is not maintained in view of point (a) above.

(e) Approximately 530 requests for renewal of Notary Certificates are pending with

Government. State-wise details are given in the Statement-III. (*See below*) Court-wise data is not maintained in view of point (a) above.

Statement-I

State-wise number of Notaries appointed by Central Government during the last three years

State	2014	2015	2016
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	-	-
Andhra Pradesh	80	-	-
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-
Assam	-	-	-
Bihar	-	-	-
Chandigarh	-	-	24
Chhattisgarh	-	-	-
Delhi	90	-	-
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-
Daman and Diu	-	-	-
Goa	4	-	-
Gujarat	-	-	658
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-
Haryana	-	-	203
Jharkhand	-	-	-
Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-
Kerala	-	-	-
Karnataka	-	-	329
Lakshadweep	-	-	-
Meghalaya	-	-	-

State	2014	2015	2016
Maharashtra	165	-	
Manipur	-	-	-
Mizoram	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-
Nagaland	-	-	-
Odisha	-	-	-
Punjab	-	-	170
Puducherry	5	-	
Rajasthan	-	-	600
Sikkim	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	170	-	-
Tripura	-	-	-
Telangana	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	183	-	-
Uttarakhand	3	-	-
West Bengal	-	-	-

Statement-II*State-wise number of Notary Certificates Renewed during last year*

State	2016	State	2016
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	Delhi	46
Andhra Pradesh	54	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-
Arunachal Pradesh	-	Daman and Diu	-
Assam	2	Goa	1
Bihar	13	Gujarat	223
Chandigarh	8	Himachal Pradesh	2
Chhattisgarh	-	Haryana	165

State	2016	State	2016
Jharkhand	2	Punjab	128
Jammu and Kashmir	-	Puducherry	-
Kerala	94	Rajasthan	76
Karnataka	171	Sikkim	-
Lakshadweep	-	Tamil Nadu	171
Meghalaya	-	Tripura	2
Maharashtra	381	Telangana	10
Manipur	-	Uttar Pradesh	228
Mizoram	-	Uttarakhand	8
Madhya Pradesh	16	West Bengal	23
Nagaland	-		
Odisha	5	TOTAL	1829

Statement-III*State-wise number of Notary Certificates pending for renewal since last year*

State	2016	State	2016
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	Haryana	54
Andhra Pradesh	21	Jharkhand	-
Arunachal Pradesh	-	Jammu and Kashmir	-
Assam	-	Kerala	33
Bihar	1	Karnataka	32
Chandigarh	8	Lakshadweep	-
Chhattisgarh	2	Meghalaya	-
Delhi	19	Maharashtra	79
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	Manipur	-
Daman and Diu	-	Mizoram	-
Goa	-	Madhya Pradesh	2
Gujarat	37	Nagaland	-
Himachal Pradesh	-	Odisha	2

State	2016	State	2016
Punjab	53	Telangana	3
Puducherry	-	Uttar Pradesh	86
Rajasthan	22	Uttarakhand	2
Sikkim	-	West Bengal	12
Tamil Nadu	61		
Tripura	1	TOTAL	530

Complaints regarding EVMs

1856. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received a large number of complaints about Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in the recent elections in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and
- (c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government regarding reliability of EVMs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The Election Commission has informed that the following measures have been taken to ensure reliability of the Electronic Voting machines (EVMs) in the country:—

(1) **Technical Security of EVMs**

- (i) The machine is both mechanically and electronically protected to prevent any tampering/manipulation. The programme (software) used in these machines is burnt into a One Time Programmable/Masked chip (Hardware) so that it cannot be altered or tampered with. Further these machines are not networked either by wire or by wireless to any other machine or system. Therefore, there is no possibility of its data corruption.
- (ii) The software of EVMs is developed in-house by BEL a Defence Ministry PSU and ECIL an Atomic Energy Ministry's PSU independently.

- (iii) The vote can be recorded by an elector from the ballot unit only after the Presiding Officer enables the ballot on the Control Unit, the machine does not receive any signal from outside at any time.
- (iv) During production in the factory, functional testing is done by production group as per the laid down quality plan and performance test procedures.
- (v) Samples of EVMs from production batches are regularly checked for functionality by Quality Assurance Group, which is an independent unit within the manufacturing firms.
- (vi) Certain additional features were introduced in 2006 in ECI-EVMs such as dynamic coding between Ballot Unit and Control Unit, installation of real time clock, installation of full display system and date and time stamping of every key pressing in EVM.

(2) **Complete Procedural Security**

The Commission has put in place an elaborate administrative system of measures and procedural checks-and-balances aimed at prevention of any possible misuse or procedural lapses. These safeguards are implemented transparently with the involvement of political parties, candidates and their representatives at every stage to build their confidence on efficacy and reliability of EVMs, as they are actually representatives of electors. These safeguards are:—

- (i) Before every election a first level checking (FLC) is done for every EVM to be used in the election by the engineers of the manufacturers in the presence of political parties' representatives. Any malfunctioning EVM is kept separately and is not used in the election.
- (ii) Manufacturers certify at the time of FLC that all components in the EVM are original. After this, the plastic cabinet of Control Unit of the EVM is sealed using a "Pink Paper Seal", which is signed by representatives of political parties. After this, the plastic cabinet of control unit of the EVMs cannot be opened and there is no access to any component inside of EVMs.
- (iii) At the time of FLC, at least 1000 votes are cast by the representatives on 5% of EVMs randomly selected by them. A printout of the results of mock poll as well as a sequential print out of every vote polled during the mock poll at the time of First Level Checking of EVMs are taken out for at least 5% of EVMs and shown to the representatives of political parties.

Representatives of political parties are allowed to pick machines randomly for this purpose. In rest of the machines, number of votes polled during the mock poll are to the satisfaction of the representatives of political parties. Representatives of political parties are allowed to do mock poll themselves.

- (iv) Subsequently, EVMs are further randomized twice once for allocation of machines to assembly constituencies and second to polling stations in the presence of candidates or their representatives before they are distributed for use in individual polling stations. Such lists of EVM containing serial number of EVM allocated to particular polling station are provided to the political parties/candidates.
- (v) Candidates and their representatives are allowed to conduct mock polls on EVMs at the time of candidate setting and also before the actual poll on the poll day to satisfy themselves about the satisfactory functioning of EVMs being used.
- (vi) Once the candidate setting is done the Ballot Unit of the EVM is also sealed with thread/Pink Paper seals so that nobody has access to, the inside of the Ballot Unit too. These Pink seals also bear signatures of representatives of political parties/candidate.
- (vii) A printout of the results of mock poll as well as a sequential print out of every vote polled during the mock poll at the time of preparation of EVMs and candidate setting are also taken out for at least 5% of EVMs and shown to the representatives of political parties. Representatives of political parties are allowed to pick machines randomly for this purpose.
- (viii) On the poll day, a mock poll by casting at least 50 votes is conducted at every polling stations in the presence of the representatives of the candidates/ polling agents with their signature and a certificate to that effect is obtained from every Presiding Officer.
- (ix) After the mock poll is over, another thread seal and green paper seals are put on the EVM to block access to all buttons on the EVM, except those, which are used for the conduct of poll. These paper seals and thread seals are allowed to be signed by the polling agents. After the poll is over, the Presiding Officer presses the "Close" button on the EVM in the presence of polling agents. Thereafter, no votes can be polled in the EVM.
- (x) After this, the entire EVM is sealed. Candidates and their agents are allowed to put their signatures on the seals, which they can check for the intactness of the seal before counting.

- (xi) In addition to this, the strong rooms where EVMs are stored, pending for counting are also sealed and watched round the clock. The candidates and their representatives are allowed to put their own seals on the strong rooms. They are also allowed to keep a watch round the clock on the strong room.
- (xii) The representatives of candidates of all political parties are given opportunity to participate in all the above occasion of FLC, Preparation of EVMs before poll, mock poll, etc.

Report of Twentieth Law Commission

†1857. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the terms of reference of the 20th Law Commission and the remedial recommendations made by the Commission in respect of them;
- (b) whether the recommendations made by the 20th Law Commission have been implemented/are to be implemented, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the 21st Law Commission has been constituted, if so, the terms of reference assigned to the Commission on which remedial recommendations are to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The terms of reference of 20th Law Commission are given in Statement-I (*See* below). Recommendations made by the 20th Law Commission are as under:—

- (i) Report No. 244 - Electoral Disqualifications.
- (ii) Report No. 245 - Arrears and Backlog: Creating Additional Judicial (wo)manpower.
- (iii) Report No. 246 - Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.
- (iv) Report No. 247 - Sections 41 to 48 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 - Proposed Reforms.
- (v) Report No. 248 - "Obsolete Laws: Warranting immediate Repeal" - An Interim Report.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (vi) Report No. 249 - "Obsolete Laws: Warranting immediate Repeal" -Second Interim Report.
- (vii) Report No. 250 - "Obsolete Laws: Warranting immediate Repeal" - Third Interim Report.
- (viii) Report No. 251 - "Obsolete Laws: Warranting immediate Repeal" - Fourth Interim Report.
- (ix) Report No. 252 - Right of the Hindu Wife to Maintenance: A relook at Section 18 of the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956.
- (x) Report No. 253 - "Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts and Commercial Courts Bill, 2015".
- (xi) Report No. 254 - "The Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2013".
- (xii) Report No. 255 - Electoral Reforms.
- (xiii) Report No. 256 - Eliminating Discrimination Against Persons Affected by Leprosy.
- (xiv) Report No. 257 - Reforms in Guardianship and Custody Laws in India.
- (xv) Report No. 258 - Prevention of Bribery of Foreign Public Officials and Officials of Public International organization - A Study and Proposed Amendments.
- (xvi) Report No. 259 - Early Childhood Development and Legal Entitlements.
- (xvii) Report No. 260 - Analysis of the 2015 Draft Model Indian Bilateral Investment Treaty.
- (xviii) Report No. 261 - Need to Regulate Pet Shops and Dog and Aquarium Fish Breeding.
- (xix) Report No. 262 - The Death Penalty.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes Sir. The 21st Law Commission has been constituted and its terms of reference are given in Statement-II (*See* below). So far, the 21st Law Commission has submitted following 2 reports:—

- (i) Report No. 263 - The Protection of Children (Inter-Country Removal and Retention) Bill, 2016.
- (ii) Report No. 264 - The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Provisions dealing with Food Adulteration).

Statement-I*Details of the Terms of Reference of the 20th Law Commission***(A) Review/ Repeal of obsolete laws:—**

- (i) Identify laws which are no longer needed or relevant and can be immediately repealed.
- (ii) Identify laws which are not in harmony with the existing climate of economic liberalization and need change.
- (iii) Identify laws which otherwise require changes or amendments and to make suggestions for their amendment.
- (iv) Consider in a wider perspective the suggestions for revision/amendment given by Expert Groups in various Ministries/Departments with a view to coordinating and harmonizing them.
- (v) Consider references made to it by Ministries/Departments in respect of legislations having bearing on the working of more than one Ministry/ Department.
- (vi) Suggest suitable measures for quick redressal of citizens grievances, in the field of law.

(B) Law and Poverty:—

- (i) Examine the laws which affect the poor and carry out post-audit for socio-economic legislations.
- (ii) Take all such measures as may be necessary to harness law and the legal process in the service of the poor.

(C) Keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the times and in particular to secure:—

- (i) Elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction in costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decision should be just and fair.
- (ii) Simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice.

- (iii) Improvement of standards of all concerned with the administration of justice.
- (D) Examine the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy and to suggest ways of improvement and reform and also to suggest such legislations as might be necessary to implement the Directive Principles and to attain the objectives set out in the Preamble of the Constitution.
- (E) Examine the existing laws with a view for promoting gender equality and suggesting amendments thereto.
- (F) Revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.
- (G) Recommend to the Government measures for making the statute book up to date by repealing obsolete laws and enactments or parts thereof which have outlived their utility.
- (H) Consider and convey to the Government its views on any subject relating to law and judicial administration that may be specifically referred to it by the Government through Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs).
- (I) Consider the requests for providing research to any foreign countries as may be referred to it by the Government through Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs).
- (J) Examine the impact of globalization on food security, unemployment and recommend measures for the protection of the interests of the marginalised.

The Commission will concretize its recommendations after consultation with the nodal Ministry/Department(s) and such other stakeholders as the Commission may deem necessary for the purpose.

The Commission shall devote its time bound attention to all issues relating to item 'A' of the terms of reference as indicated above, *viz.*, review/repeal of obsolete laws and shall make its recommendations to Government for repeal of obsolete laws and for appropriate amendments in others as may be found necessary on top priority basis.

The Commission shall submit its reports in Hindi and English with sufficient number of copies for being placed on Tables of both houses of Parliament. The Law Commission shall also make its reports available through website or otherwise as soon as reports are submitted to the Government.

Various Law Commissions have given about 240 Reports so far. All of them are

made available on the website of Law Commission. Since many of the Reports are voluminous it will be difficult for researchers to read an entire Report online. To facilitate the researchers to choose the topics of their area and to create awareness amongst Judges, Lawyers, Law Teachers and Students on the various recommendations of the Law Commission, a brief summary of all the Reports of the Law Commission shall be made available by the Law Commission, online.

Statement-II

Details of the Terms of Reference of the 21st Law Commission

(A) Review/Repeal of obsolete laws:—

- (i) Identify laws which are no longer needed or relevant and can be immediately repealed.
- (ii) Identify laws which are not in harmony with the existing climate of economic liberalization and need change.
- (iii) Identify laws which otherwise require changes or amendments and to make suggestions for their amendment.
- (iv) Consider in a wider perspective the suggestions for revision/amendment given by Expert Groups in various Ministries/Departments with a view to coordinating and harmonizing them.
- (v) Consider references made to it by Ministries/Departments through the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, in respect of legislations having bearing on the working of more than one Ministry/Department.
- (vi) Suggest suitable measures for quick redressal of citizens' grievances, in the field of law.

(B) Law and Poverty:—

- (i) Examine the laws which affect the poor and carry out post-audit for socio-economic legislations.
- (ii) Take all such measures as may be necessary to harness law and the legal process in the service of the poor.

(C) Keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the times and in particular to secure:—

- (i) elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction in costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decision should be just and fair.
 - (ii) simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice.
 - (iii) improvement of standards of all concerned with the administration of justice.
- (D) Examine the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy and to suggest ways of improvement and reform and also to suggest such legislations as might be necessary to implement the Directive Principles and to attain the objectives set out in the Preamble of the Constitution.
- (E) Examine the existing laws with a view for promoting gender equality and suggesting amendments thereto.
- (F) Revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.
- (G) Recommend to the Government measures for making the statute book up to date by repealing obsolete laws and enactments or parts thereof which have outlived their utility.
- (H) Consider and convey to the Government its views on any subject relating to law and judicial administration that may be specifically referred to it by the Government through Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs).
- (I) Consider the requests for providing research to any foreign countries as may be referred to it by the Government through Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs).
- (J) Examine the impact of globalization on food security, unemployment and recommend measures for the protection of the interests of the marginalised.

The Commission will concretize its recommendations after consultation with the nodal Ministry/Department(s) and such other stakeholders as the Commission may deem necessary for the purpose.

The Commission shall devote its time bound attention to all issues relating to item 'A' of the terms of reference as indicated above, *viz.*, review/repeal of obsolete laws and shall make its recommendations to Government for repeal of obsolete laws and for appropriate amendments in others as may be found necessary on top priority basis.

The Commission shall submit its reports in Hindi and English with sufficient number of copies for being placed on the Tables of both Houses of Parliament. The Law Commission shall also make its reports available through website or otherwise as soon as reports are submitted to the Government.

Various Law Commissions have given about 262 Reports so far. All of them are made available on the website of Law Commission. Since many of the Reports are voluminous it will be difficult for researchers to read an entire Report online. To facilitate the researchers to choose the topics of their area and to create awareness amongst Judges, Lawyers, Law Teachers and Students on the various recommendations of the Law Commission, a brief summary of all the Reports of the Law Commission shall be made available by the Law Commission, online.

Repeal of obsolete laws

1858. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of colonial laws which are yet to be repealed by Government;
- (b) the reasons for not repealing the obsolete laws; and
- (c) whether Government has drawn up a time-frame by which all such laws will be repealed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) On the basis of the Law Commission Reports No. 248, 249, 250 and 251 on "Obsolete Laws: Warranting Immediate Repeal", and the report of the Two-member Committee constituted by the Prime Minister's Office on 1st September, 2014 for review of repeal of obsolete laws, total 1824 Acts identified for repeal. Out of them 1175 Acts have been repealed so far through the Repealing and Amending Act, 2015 (17 of 2015), the Repealing and Amending (Second) Act, 2015 (19 of 2015), the Appropriation Acts (Repeal) Act, 2016 (22 of 2016) and Repealing and Amending Act, 2016 (23 of 2016). Two Acts have been repealed by the Finance Act, 2016 and one Act is included in the Finance Bill, 2017 for its repeal. Further, a Bill namely, the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2017 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 09/02/2017, proposing to repeal 105 obsolete and redundant Acts and the said Bill is pending for consideration and passing. Out of the aforesaid 1824 Acts, 227 Acts are identified to be repealed by State Governments and the State Governments are requested to take necessary action to repeal them.

The remaining obsolete Acts identified for repeal, including 45 Acts and 11 Ordinances of pre-independence/colonial era have been circulated among all the Ministries/ Departments in the Government of India for their comments for repeal.

(c) No, Sir. Repeal of obsolete laws requires consultations and concurrence of the concerned Ministries/Departments.

Checking use of money and muscle power in elections

1859. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to designate malpractices, such as, bribing voters and paid political news, as specific crimes, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the concrete steps taken by Government to check use of money and muscle power during elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) A proposal for making electoral bribery a cognizable offence under IPC 171B is under the consideration of the Government. The Law Commission in its 255th Report has made several recommendations on electoral reforms which, *inter alia*, include making paid news an electoral offence. The recommendations of the Law Commission are under the consideration of the Government.

The Election Commission has taken various steps to check money power in election, such as appointment of Expenditure Observers, Surveillance Teams to keep vigil over movement of cash, monitoring media advertisements, maintenance of Shadow Observation Register in respect of each contesting candidate, and constitution Video Surveillance Team to oversee major items of expenditure and opening of separate bank accounts by the candidates, etc.

Sittings of Parliament

1860. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the number of scheduled sittings of Parliament have decreased in the last two years, if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government proposes to increase the number of sittings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) No Sir. The average number of sittings from the years 2004 to 2014 is 68 in respect of Lok Sabha and 67 for Rajya Sabha; whereas in the year 2015, there were 72 Sittings of Lok Sabha and 69 Sittings of Rajya Sabha. In the year 2016, there were 70 Sittings of Lok Sabha and 72 Sittings of Rajya Sabha.

(b) The question does not arise.

Railway line and other development projects in Jharkhand

1861. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria Railways adopt for its expansion in a State and whether Jharkhand fits into the same;

(b) whether Jharkhand generates highest revenue in proportion to the length of the railway line; and

(c) if so, whether, in view of high revenue generation from Jharkhand, Railways intend to give preference to it in various railway line and other developmental projects, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Railways do not adopt any criteria for its expansion State-wise. Expansion plan is usually based on operational requirement, technical feasibility, commercial justification and fund availability.

(b) and (c) No State-wise revenue data is compiled on Indian Railways. Development of Railways on South Eastern and East Central Railways serving the State of Jharkhand has been accorded due priority within the constraint of resources.

Sabotaging of railway tracks by terrorists

1862. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether terrorists have sabotaged railway tracks and carried out explosions to derail trains, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has ascertained the reasons for derailment of a train near Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh recently, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether teams from Japan, South Korea and Italy have visited the site of derailment and if so, the details of their findings; and

(d) the measures taken to prevent train mishaps due to fractured tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Two train accidents/derailments, in which sabotage is suspected, have been registered by Government Railway Police/National Investigation Agency in the year 2016.

(b) Statutory inquiries into the accidents of Train No. 19321 Indore-Rajendra Nagar Terminal (Patna Express) on 20.11.2016 between Pokhrayan and Malasa stations on Jhansi-Kanpur section of North Central Railway and Train No. 12987 Sealdah-Ajmer Express at Rura station on 28.12.2016 on Allahabad-Kanpur section of Allahabad Division of North Central Railway have been ordered to be conducted to determine the causes of the accidents by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Eastern Circle, Kolkata and the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Northern Circle, New Delhi respectively under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(c) Team from only South Korea visited the Rura site of derailment near Kanpur on 17.01.2017 and its report is awaited.

(d) Measures to prevent train mishaps due to fractured tracks are as under:—

- (i) The systematic maintenance of track is done as per system laid down in Indian Railway Permanent Way Manual utilising the track machines and available man power.
- (ii) Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) technology is being extensively used in Indian Railways to detect flaws in service rails and weld and remedial steps taken accordingly.
- (iii) Cold weather patrolling of the railway track is done as per provisions of Manual of Instructions on Long Welded Rails to look out for weld/rail fractures for ensuring safety.

Conduct of apprenticeship by Railways

†1863. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Railways conduct apprenticeship in various trades wherein thousands of youth are being trained in many trades under skill development;

(b) if so, the Zone-wise details of such courses conducted by Railways and the number of youth who have got training during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that earlier, Railways used to absorb such trained youth in the department and at present, the absorption has stopped which is rendering most of the youth jobless after getting training; and

(d) whether Railways would consider absorbing such youth, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Training is provided in different railway establishments under the Apprentices Act, 1961.

(b) Apprenticeship Training is provided in designated trades mentioned in the Apprenticeship Act, 1961. Zone-wise number of Apprentices trained under the Apprentices Act for the last three years is as under:—

Zonal Railways/ Production Units	Apprentice trained under the Act	Zonal Railways/ Production Units	Apprentice trained under the Act
Central	2524	South Eastern	144
East Coast	585	Southern	1800
East Central	15	South Western	1654
Eastern	116	West Central	Nil
Metro	43	Western	2881
North Central	280	Chittaranjan Locomotive Works	600
North Eastern	422	Diesel Locomotive Works	423
Northeast Frontier	114	Diesel Loco Modernisation Works	286
Northern	Nil	Integral Coach Factory	1332
North Western	219	Rail Coach Factory	312
South Central	1721	Rail Wheel Factory	243
South East Central	406	TOTAL	16120

(c) In the past, some Apprentices were appointed in a few Zonal Railways in exigencies of service, when there was no direct recruitment in Group 'D' through the Railway Recruitment Cells (RRCs). Now RRCs have come into existence and open market recruitment is being done through competitive examination. Further, a provision has been made that in future, 20% of erstwhile Group 'D' vacancies shall be filled by giving preference to Course Completed Act Apprentices (CCAAs) trained in Railways' establishments and possessing National Apprenticeship Certificate (NAC) granted by National Council of Vocational Training (NCVT).

(d) Yes, Sir. Provisions have been made in this regard.

Railway project proposals by Government of Maharashtra

1864. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals submitted by Government of Maharashtra for the widening of existing lines, construction of new lines and doubling of existing railway lines in the State during the last three years, project-wise;

(b) the action taken by Government thereon;

(c) whether many previous railway projects are running slow for want of funds or for any other reasons, if so, Government's response thereto; and

(d) the time by which such pending proposals are likely to be implemented completely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Proposals from State Governments or various public representatives and other organizations for construction of railway projects are received at Divisional Offices, Zonal Offices and in the Ministry from time to time. As receipt of such proposals is a continuous and dynamic process, compendium of such proposals is not maintained. However, due attention is given to the suggestions, subject to the overall availability of resources and feasibility of their implementation. Projects are sanctioned based on remunerativeness, operational requirements, missing links, strategic/socio-economic considerations etc.

(b) Projects included in Budget in last three years (since 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17) falling partly or fully in the State of Maharashtra are as under:—

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of project (length)	Latest anticipated cost
New Lines		
1.	Karad-Chiplun (112km)	1200
2.	Pune-Nashik (265 km)	2425
3.	Vaibhavwadi-Kolhapur (107 km)	2750
4.	Indore-Manmad <i>via</i> Malegaon (368 km)	9968
Doubling		
1.	Itarsi-Nagpur 3rd line (267 km)	2326
2.	Kazipet-Balharshah 3rd line (202 km)	2020
3.	Pune-Miraj-Londa (467 km)	4670
4.	Rajnandgaon-Nagpur 3rd line (228 km)	1273
5.	Hotgi-Kudgi-Gadag (284 km)	1618
6.	Teegaon-Chichonda Ghat Section 3rd line (17 km)	141
7.	Wardha-Ballarshah 3rd line (132 km)	630
8.	Jalgaon-Bhusawal 4th line (24 km)	199
9.	Daund-Manmad (236 km)	1876
10.	Manmad-Jalgaon 3rd line (160 km)	854
11.	Wardha-Nagpur 4th line (76 km)	912

(c) Railway projects have traditionally suffered on account of law and order, difficult geological conditions in some projects, delay in land acquisition, forestry and wild life clearances etc. However, sufficient fund allotment has been made for projects in the last three budgets commensurate with the physical progress.

(d) Completion of projects depends on many factors such as land acquisition, forestry and wild life clearances, shifting of services, construction of road over and road under bridges, law and order etc. As many of these factors are not within the control of Railways, it is not feasible to fix timelines for all the projects.

Implementation of TCAS and TPWS to prevent train accidents

1865. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of train accidents in last three years;

(b) whether Government plans to implement the recommendations of Anil Kakodkar Committee on railway safety, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of measures taken by Railways to improve the railway safety and whether the continuous decline in railway depreciation fund has impacted the efforts to improve the railway safety scenario; and

(d) whether the pilot implementation of Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) and Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) was successful in terms of preventing accidents and train collisions, particularly in recent railway derailments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Number of consequential train accidents (including accidents at unmanned level crossings (UMLC) caused due to negligence of road vehicle users) occurred during the last three years is 118 in 2013-14, 135 in 2014-15, 107 in 2015-16 and 99 in the current year up to February, 2017.

(b) Of the 106 recommendations of the High Level Safety Review Committee (Kakodkar Committee), 68 recommendations have been found fully acceptable, 19 partially acceptable and 19 not acceptable to the Ministry of Railways.

Of the accepted recommendations, 31 recommendations have been fully implemented and remaining recommendations are at various stages of implementation.

(c) Improvement in train safety is a continuous process. Constant upgradation of technology is being incorporated in all spheres of Railway operations and infrastructure to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. 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 replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being used to prevent accidents include complete track circuiting, provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Colour Light LED Signals, Vigilance Control Device (VCD), usage of 60kg rails and Pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers, long rail panels, better welding technology, progressive use of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) Coaches, Centre Buffer Couplers with Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Coaches, etc.

Expenditure on safety related activities forms part of both Revenue and Capital

segments of the Budget. The Railways' capacity to generate sufficient internal resources, including DRF, for financing of Plan activities has come under strain for some time. It has, however, not come in the way of deploying sufficient funds for safety related activities. Expenditure on safety has gradually increased from ₹ 30661 crore in 2009-10 to ₹ 63063 crore in 2016-17 (Revised Estimates).

(d) Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) has been provided and is operational on 342 route kilometers over Indian Railways and there has been no accident or collision of trains fitted with the system.

Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) developed indigenously is undergoing extended field trials and safety certification in 230 route kilometers over South Central Railway. Here again there are no accident or collision of trains fitted with the system.

Rail track sabotage cases

1866. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that rail track sabotage is on the rise in the country;
- (b) the number of rail track sabotage cases and the number of deaths due to such sabotages in the last three years, year-wise; and
- (c) the immediate action in place and the steps taken by Government to protect rail tracks in the country, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the years 2014, 2015 and 2016, 45, 53 and 51 incidents of suspected rail track sabotage have been reported respectively over Indian Railways. However, no death due to rail track sabotage has been substantiated during the years 2014, 2015 and 2016.

(c) Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains and security of railway tracks, tunnels and bridges are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/Civil Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP by providing better protection and security of passengers and passenger area and for matters connected therewith. Proper coordination at all levels is being maintained by the Railways with Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), State Governments, Central/State Intelligence Agencies and State Police/GRP authorities for

security of railway infrastructure including railway tracks and stations over Indian Railways. The security agencies responsible for the track protection have been requested to take appropriate steps to prevent track sabotage cases.

Three recent major train accidents

1867. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three major train accidents have taken place due to derailment in two months, causing large number of deaths and serious injuries and also resulting in cancellation and re-routing of several trains;

(b) whether all divisions of Railways are short of a huge number of personnel as against the total sanctioned manpower, especially in safety-related wings; and

(c) the details of the three train accidents, number of casualties-deaths and injured and the compensation offered to the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Three consequential train accidents of passenger trains have taken place in the recent past due to derailments on Indian Railways (IR) that have caused unfortunate deaths and injuries *i.e.* derailment of Train No. 19321 Indore-Rajendra Nagar Terminal (Patna Express) on 20.11.2016 on Jhansi-Kanpur section of North Central Railway, derailment of Train No. 12987 Sealdah-Ajmer Express at Rura station on 28.12.2016 on Allahabad-Kanpur section of Allahabad Division of North Central Railway and derailment of Train No. 18448 Jagdalpur-Bhubaneswar Hirakhand Express at Kunderu station on Singapuram Road-Vizianagaram Section of East Coast Railway on 21.01.2017. The number of persons died and injured in the three accidents since 20.11.2016 are 194 and 311 respectively. 68 Mail/Express trains were cancelled and 125 Mail/Express trains were diverted (re-routed) on account of these train accidents.

There are 225823 number of vacancies in Group 'C' and erstwhile Group 'D' in Zonal Railways as on 31.12.2016 out of which 122911 were vacant in posts designated as safety category. Efforts are made to fill up Safety Category vacancies. However, filling up of vacancies is a continuous process through various modes of intake. There is always a time lag between occurrence of vacancies and processing the same for filling up, which involves notification of vacancies, holding examinations, finalization of select panels and issue of appointment letters.

Compensation is paid by the Railways on receipt of a decree by Railway Claims

Tribunal. However, on humanitarian grounds, ex-gratia paid by Railways to the next of kin of the passengers who lost their lives and sustained injuries in the above three consequential train accidents is as follows:—

(₹ in lakhs)

Railways	Date of accident	Death	Grievous Injury	Simple Injury	Total
North Central Railway	20.11.2016	225	23.30	7.10	255.40
North Central Railway	28.12.2016	Nil	2.50	8.25	10.75
East Coast Railway	21.01.2017	80	8.50	5.25	93.75
TOTAL					359.90

Also, *ex-gratia* of ₹ 1.19 Crore has been paid from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to the victims of said train accidents.

Social service obligations of Railways

1868. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the social service obligations borne by Railways in the past five years;
- (b) the major components of social service obligations of Railways; and
- (c) whether Railways have received a reply from Ministry of Finance apropos reimbursement of cost on social services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The details of the social service obligations borne by Railways in the last five years are as under:—

Year	₹ in crore
2011-12	23,989
2012-13	26,868
2013-14	32,120
2014-15	33,560
2015-16	35,960

(b) The major components of social service obligations are losses relating to: Essential Commodities carried below cost; Passenger and Other Coaching services; Operation of Uneconomic Branch lines; and New Lines opened for Traffic during the last 15 years.

(c) No, Sir. The response from Ministry of Finance is still awaited.

Separate Railway Zone in Andhra Pradesh

1869. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee was constituted to study setting up of a separate Railway Zone in Andhra Pradesh as per the mandate of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act;

(b) if so, the details of each of the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether Railways have studied the recommendations; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken on each of the recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) As per Item 8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014, a Committee was set up to examine feasibility of establishing a new Railway Zone in the successor State of Andhra Pradesh. The Committee has been asked to consult various stakeholders, including the Members of Parliament, State Governments etc. before a final decision is taken.

Railway projects sanctioned on cost-sharing basis with Government of Maharashtra

1870. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sanctioned three railway projects in Maharashtra on cost-sharing basis with the State Government, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether share of funds has been released by Government for implementation of the projects; and

(c) if not, by when the share of funds is likely to be released by the Government to Maharashtra Rail Infrastructure Development Company (MRIDC)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Following three new railway line projects falling partly or fully in the State of Maharashtra have been taken up on cost-sharing basis with the Government of Maharashtra:—

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of project and (length)	Latest anticipated cost	Cost sharing ratio	
			Railway	Government of Maharashtra
1.	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vaijnath (261 km)	2826	50%	50%
2.	Wardha-Nanded <i>via</i> Yavatmal-Pusood (270 km)	2765	60%	40%
3.	Wadsa-Gadchiroli (50 km)	232	50%	50%

(b) Funds are released as per progress of the projects. Funds released approximately till date by Railways as well as Government of Maharashtra for these projects are as under:—

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of project (length)	Funds released by	
		Government of Maharashtra	Railways
1.	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vaijnath (261 km)	570	635
2.	Wardha-Nanded <i>via</i> Yavatmal-Pusood (270 km)	125	400
3.	Wadsa-Gadchiroli (50 km)	10	15

(c) These projects are being executed by Railways on cost-sharing basis. Therefore, funds are coming from State Government to Railways and not to Maharashtra Rail Infrastructure Development Company (MRIDC).

Delay in constitution of Railway Committees

†1871. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Railway Committees constituted at DRM and other levels have not been constituted, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the reasons for which these Committees, that include MPs, public representatives, Government representatives and Railway officials, have not been constituted and since when these have not been constituted, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is contemplating any scheme to enhance the honorarium and allowance given per meeting to the members of the above Committees and to provide them free railway passes, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) With a view to securing better representation of Railway Users and affording more frequent opportunities for consultation between Railway Administration and users on matters relating to the services provided by Railways and means of improving the efficiency of such service, the Ministry of Railways has established Railway Users' Consultative Committees at following levels:—

- (i) Railway Users' Consultative Committees at the Divisional levels.
- (ii) A Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee at the headquarters of each Zonal Railway.
- (iii) Konkan Railway Users' Consultative Committee at Konkan Railway.
- (iv) Metro Railway Users' Consultative Committee at Metro Railway, Kolkata.
- (v) Suburban Railway Users' Consultative Committee (SRUCC) at Central, Western, Southern, Eastern and South Eastern Railways.
- (vi) Station Consultative Committees (SCC) at important stations.

Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees (ZRUCCs), Konkan Railway Users' Consultative Committee (KRUCC) and Metro Railway Users' Consultative Committee (MRUCC) have been reconstituted for a two-year term from 01.10.2015 to 30.09.2017. Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees (DRUCCs) have been reconstituted for a two-year term from 01.08.2014 to 31.07.2016. The term of DRUCCs was, however, reviewed subsequently and was extended upto 30.09.2017 *i.e.* co-terminus with that of ZRUCC/KRUCC/MRUCC. SRUCC and SCC are constituted by Zonal Railways themselves as per extant instructions.

Out of the above mentioned committees, the provision to nominate Members of Parliament is there in ZRUCCs, KRUCC, MRUCC and SRUCCs.

In addition, Passenger Amenities Committee (PAC) to check the passenger amenities provided at railway stations and on trains and Passenger Services Committee (PSC) to

look into the various aspects of catering/vending stalls/book stalls/tourist information centers etc. are constituted at National Level for 2 years by Ministry of Railways (Railway Board). Both the Committees are standing and advisory in nature. At present, PAC consisting of a Chairman, Shri H. Raja and 17 other Members and PSC consisting of a Chairman, Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari and 16 other Members have been reconstituted by Ministry of Railways in February, 2016.

(c) Grant of allowances and other facilities, including Railway passes to Chairman/Members of these committees, is governed by their Constitution and the guidelines issued for their functioning from time to time. At present, there is no proposal under consideration to enhance them.

Extension of jurisdiction of East Coast Railway

1872. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the Ministry is considering for extension of the jurisdiction of East Coast Railway to include Banaspani-Padapahar, Rupsa-Bangirposi and Bhadrak-Laxmannath Road sections and to set up a new railway division with headquarters at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): At present, there is no decision to either extend the jurisdiction of East Coast Railway or to set up a new railway division with headquarters at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road.

Action against perpetrators of train sabotage

1873. SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of train accidents/derailments in the last three years and the current year in the country and the number of casualties occurred;
- (b) the major findings of the investigations carried out into these mishaps;
- (c) whether any case of sabotage has been found, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken against the perpetrators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Number of consequential train accidents (including accidents at unmanned level crossings (UMLC) caused due to negligence of road vehicle users) from 2013-14 to 2015-16 and the current year from 1st April, 2016 to 28th February, 2017 are given below:—

Year	No. of Consequential Train Accidents	Killed	Injured
2013-14+	118	152	234
2014-15*	135	292	457
2015-16@	107	122	188
2016-17# (01.04.2016 to 28.02.2017)	99	232	353

+ In 2013-14 out of 118, 47 consequential train accidents occurred at UMLCs caused due to negligence of road vehicle users. In these accidents, 98 persons were killed and 116 got injured.

* In 2014-15 out of 135, 50 consequential train accidents occurred at UMLCs caused due to negligence of road vehicle users. In these accidents, 130 persons were killed and 85 got injured.

@ In 2015-16 out of 107, 29 consequential train accidents occurred at UMLCs caused due to negligence of road vehicle users. In these accidents, 58 persons were killed and 41 got injured.

In 2016-17 (upto February, 2017) out of 99, 17 consequential train accidents occurred at UMLCs caused due to negligence of road vehicle users. In these accidents, 34 persons were killed and 16 got injured.

(b) to (d) All consequential train accidents on Indian Railways are inquired into either by Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation or Departmental Inquiry Committee of the Railway. During the last three years *i.e.* 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and the current year up to 28th February, altogether 459 accidents (including incidents at unmanned level crossings due to negligence of road vehicle users) occurred on Indian Railways. Out of the 459 accidents, 44 accidents have been inquired by the Commission of Railway Safety and balances have been inquired into by the Departmental Inquiry Committees of the zonal railways.

Based on the findings as contained in accident inquiry reports (including *prima-facie* causes), 230 accidents were caused due to Failure of Railway Staff, 172 due to Failure of persons other than Railway staff, 10 due to failure of equipments, 9 due to Sabotage, 28 due to Incidental factors and 04 due to combination of factors. Cause in respect of 03 train accidents could not be established or none held responsible. Cause in three accidents is under investigation.

Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains and security of railway tracks, tunnels and bridges are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/Civil Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF)

supplements the efforts of GRP by providing better protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith. 6 incidents of suspected sabotage leading to train accidents *i.e.* one each in 2014, 2015 and 2 each in 2016, 2017 have been registered by GRP/Police/National Investigation Agency.

Indore-Patna Express train accident

1874. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received investigation report of the Indore-Patna Express train accident occurred near Kanpur, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Statutory inquiry into the derailment of Train No. 19321 Indore-Rajendra Nagar Terminal (Patna Express) on 20.11.2016 between Pokhrayan and Malasa stations on Jhansi-Kanpur section of North Central Railway has been ordered to determine the causes of the derailment to be conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Eastern Circle, Kolkata under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Increase in incidents of crime in Railways

1875. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of crimes have increased in Railways in the last three years;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to stop these crimes against passengers;

(c) whether the concerned State Governments are cooperating in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/ District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP by providing better protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith.

The following steps are also being taken by the Railways to provide security:—

1. On vulnerable and identified routes/sections, 2500 trains (on an average) are escorted by Railway Protection Force daily, in addition to 2200 trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States daily.
2. Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras, provided at about 344 stations over Indian Railways, to ensure safety and security of passengers.
3. Security Help Line number 182 is made operational over Indian Railways for security related assistance to passengers in distress.
4. An Integrated Security System consisting of surveillance of vulnerable stations through Close Circuit Television Camera Network, Access Control etc. has been sanctioned to improve surveillance mechanism over 202 railway stations.
5. Close liaison is made by RPF with the State Police/GRP authorities at all levels for prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Regular coordination meetings are held by RPF with the State Police/ GRP authorities to review and streamline the measures taken for the safety and security of passengers.

Smart railway stations

1876. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allocated substantial funds for development of smart railway stations in the country, Tamil Nadu in particular;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds sanctioned in the last two years;

(c) whether Central Government has signed any agreements or MoU with foreign, countries/companies for infrastructure development of Railways and its related projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, country-wise, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The cost of redevelopment of stations is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the stations. Therefore, generally no funds are allocated for development of smart railway stations in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)/Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI)/Protocol with the following foreign Ministries/Railways for Technical Cooperation in Railway Sector which *inter alia* include cooperation areas viz. High Speed Railway, Station Development, Speed Raising, Modernization of rolling stock, modernization of infrastructure, development of logistic parks and freight terminals, safety in train operations etc.:-

- National Railway Administration of the Government of the People's Republic of China.
- RENFE-OPERADORA and AD IF of the Kingdom of Spain.
- Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Government of the Republic of Korea.
- French National Railways (SNCF).
- Department of Transport of Canada.
- Kazakhstan TemirZholy.
- Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic.
- Department for Transport of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO), India and Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI), Japan.
- Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan.
- Government of Japan.
- Czech Railway (CESKE DRAHY) of the Czech Republic and Association of Czech Railway Industry (ACRI) of the Czech Republic.
- Joint Stock Company "Russian Railways".
- Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation of the Kingdom of Sweden.
- Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure of the Federal Republic of Germany.

- DB Engineering and Consulting GMBH of Germany for Technological Cooperation.
- Ferrovie Dello Stato Italiane S.P.A. of the Republic of Italy.

Upgradation of Jammu Tawi railway station

1877. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the plan to upgrade the Jammu Tawi railway station under PPP model;
- (b) the time-frame for completion of the project; and
- (c) how much time will it take to complete the railway track from Katra to Banihal railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Jammu Tawi railway station has been taken up for redevelopment under PPP model. Bids have been invited for the work.

(b) After award of the bid, the redevelopment work is planned to be completed in approximately three years.

(c) Katra-Banihal section is intermediate portion of 326 km railway line project from Jammu to Baramulla. The work is in progress on intervening stretch of Katra-Banihal section (111 km). The work in Reasi area of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project in Jammu and Kashmir is hampering on certain forest issues raised by Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Efforts are being made through appropriate levels to remove the hindrances. Further, completion of railway projects depends on a number of factors such as land acquisition, forestry and wildlife clearances, challenging geography, terrain, shifting of various services, weather conditions, apart from availability of adequate funds. Since many of these factors are beyond the control of the Ministry of Railways, it is not feasible to give time-lines for completion of the project.

Ongoing railway projects in Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka

†1878. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of ongoing railway projects in Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka;
- (b) whether all the ongoing railway projects are being completed within fixed time-frame, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether Government has found out the reasons for the projects not being completed in time;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether new railway projects have also been started, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective action taken/proposed to be taken for the speedy implementation of these railway projects in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) 12 new lines, 7 gauge conversion and 40 doubling projects falling fully/ partly in the State of Uttar Pradesh have been sanctioned which are in different stages of implementation. 14 new lines, 01 gauge conversion and 10 doubling projects in the State of Karnataka have been sanctioned which are in different stages of implementation.

(b) and (c) Completion of Railway projects depends on a number of factors such as land acquisition, forestry and wildlife clearances, shifting of various services, apart from availability of adequate funds. Since many of these factors are beyond the control of the Ministry of Railways, it is not feasible to give time lines for completion of all the projects.

(d) (1) Requisite approvals for commencing the following projects included in budget 2016-17 have been received:

- (i) Doubling of Yamuna Bridge-Agra Fort with major Bridge at Yamuna river (2Km).
- (ii) Doubling of Domingarh-Gorakhpur-Gorakhpur Cant-Kusumhi (21.15Km).

(2) Following projects have been included in Budget 2016-17 subject to requisite approval:—

Sl. No	Plan Head	Project	Length (in km)
1.	New Line	Sahjanwa-Dohrighat	70.45.
2.	New Line	Bahraich-Shravasti-Bansi-Khalilabad	210
3.	New Line	Meerut-Panipat	104
4.	Gauge Conversion	Indara-Dohrighat	34
5.	Gauge Conversion	Bahraich-Mailani incl. bypass at Mailani	230
6.	Doubling	Jhansi-Khairar-Mamkpur & Khairar-Bhimsen	411
7.	Doubling	Iradatganj-Kunwadiah - const of flyover	20.1
8.	Doubling	Naini-Iradatganj - Const, of flyover	12

Sl. No	Plan Head	Project	Length (in km)
9.	Doubling	Jeonathpur - flyover	13
10.	Doubling	Mathura-Murhes Rampur - flyover	11.08
11.	Doubling	Flyover at Aligarh	25
12.	Doubling	Lalitpur-Birari with flyover at Lalitpur	16
13.	Doubling	Burhwal-Gonda 3rd line	61.72
14.	Doubling	Shahganj -Bhatni-Phephna-Indara, Mau-Sahaganj excl. Mau-Judara	150.28
15.	Doubling	Bhatai-Aurnihar with RE excl.Mau-Indara	.116.95
16.	Doubling	Aurruhar-J aunpur	68
17.	Doubling	Barabanki-Akbarpur	161
18.	Doubling	Janghai-Pratapgarh-Amethi	87
19.	Doubling	Jaunpur-Tanda	94
20.	Doubling	Delhi-Shamli-Tapri incl Saharanpur bypass	175
21.	Doubling	Birur-Shimoga	60

(e) To expedite completion of projects, Railways have arranged additional funds by way of Institutional Finance from Life Insurance Corporation for funding doubling projects, regular coordination meetings are being held with Ministries/ Department / State Government Authorities to expedite clearances. Other measures taken to expedite completion are prioritization of projects, delegation of powers at field level inviting the State Governments to participate with Railways for resource mobilization for projects, nomination of nodal officers for improved co-ordination with the State Governments etc.

Rail coach manufacturing unit at Kolar

1879. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has proposed to set up a rail coach manufacturing unit at Kolar in Karnataka;

(b) whether the factory is supposed to commence three years from the date of sanction; and

(c) if so, the present status of the same and by when it is likely to commence its operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Rail Coach Factory at Kolar was sanctioned in the Railway Budget 2014-15. The requirement of coaches *vis-a-vis* available production capacity is under review in the Ministry. The project to set up Rail Coach Factory at Kolar has been put on hold till the completion of review.

Yatri Mitra Sewa

1880. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Yatri Mitra Sewa, a battery-operated yatri sewa cab, is entirely a failed project of Railways, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) if not, the details of stations in the country which are facilitated with battery-operated car for the elderly people and the present status thereof; and

(c) the proposal of IRCTC to develop aged-friendly service thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) 80 Battery operated cars have been provided at 54 stations on Indian Railways.

(c) Wheelchairs have been provided at all railway stations on Indian Railways for convenience of the Passengers requiring assistance *viz.* physically challenged, ailing and old aged persons. In addition, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is providing pick up and drop facility with / without porter at railway platforms to assist the elderly and ailing passengers, book of E-wheel chair and E-bedroll.

The following services have been provided by IRCTC for enabling passengers *viz.* differently-abled, ailing and old aged persons to book wheelchair services cum porter services:—

(i) IRCTC has provided battery cabs / golf carts to railways at 19 locations under CSR. The stations are New Delhi, Bengaluru, Lucknow, Varanasi, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Haridwar, Amritsar, Ambala, Ghazipur, Chandigarh, Ayodhya, Agra, Patna, Rajendra Nagar, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Mughalsarai, Darbhanga and Dhanbad.

- (ii) Passenger can book e-wheelchairs on line through IRCTC portal *www.irctc.co.in*. The facility is presently available at 22 stations *i.e.* Ahmedabad, Agra Cantt, Vadodara, Varanasi, Bhusaval, Vijayawada, Kanpur Central, Mumbai CST, Mumbai Central, Howrah, Indore-Jansi, Jaipur, Lucknow Junction, Lucknow, New Delhi, Nagpur, Pathankot Cantt., Pune, Bengaluru City, Secunderabad and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra.
- (iii) The passengers can book cab/ coach and porter service online through IRCTC portal *www.irctc.co.in*. The facility is available at Chandigarh, Gaya, Guntur, Howrah, Jaipur, Lucknow, Lucknow Jn., Madurai, New Delhi, Delhi Junction, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi Safdarjung, Anand Vihar, Delhi Cant., Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Tirupati and Vijaywada.

Vacancies in South Central Railway

1881. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are about 20,000 vacancies in South Central Railway and out of them, 3000 are for Gangmen and Trackmen, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this is the main cause of frequent train accidents, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to mitigate train accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) There are 15040 vacancies in Group 'C' and erstwhile Group 'D' under South Central Railway as on 01.03.2017 out of which 3167 were vacant in Gangmen/ Trackmen category.

(b) Human error on the part of railway staff is one of the major causes of consequential train accidents. There were 107* consequential train accidents in 2015-16. Out of these 107 train accidents, 55 accidents are attributable to human failure on account of failure of railway staff and 38 accidents were on account of failure of persons other than railway staff. In the current year *i.e.* 2016-17 (upto February, 2017) there have been 99* consequential train accidents. Out of these 99 train accidents, 64 accidents are attributable to human failure on account of failure of railway staff and 19 accidents were on account of failure of persons other than railway staff.

* Including accidents at unmanned level crossing (UMLC) caused due to negligence of road vehicle users.

(c) Improvement in train safety is a continuous process. Constant upgradation of technology is being incorporated in all spheres of Railway operations and infrastructure to prevent accidents and enhance safety. 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 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 Systems (AWS), Colour Light LED Signals, Vigilance Control (VCD), usage of 60kg rails and Pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers, long rail panels, better welding technology, progressive use of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) Coaches, Centre Buffer Couplers with Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Coaches, etc.

In addition to above, Railways have taken various measures to reduce failure of railway staff which includes the following:—

- (i) Staff are sent for periodical training/refresher courses.
- (ii) Implementation and monitoring of Railway Servants (Hours of Work and Period of Rest Rules, 2005 to provide proper rest to railway staff including running staff.
- (iii) Periodic medical examination of safety category employees including running staff.
- (iv) Structured training at various stages, namely, initial and promotional stages alongwith refresher courses for safety category employees including running staff to help them assimilate new technologies and enable skill upgradation.
- (v) Improvement in running rooms to provide stress free environment to the outstation crew and to enable them to take proper rest at outstations.
- (vi) Yoga/mediation and physical training lessons have been introduced in training centres for safety category staff to enable them to cope with the stress involved in their job.
- (vii) Progressive mechanization in maintenance of track and rolling stock including locomotives, coaches and wagons to reduce human dependence and enhance productivity.

- (viii) Vigilance Control Devices (VCD) as an aid to the driver for keeping them vigilant has been provided in most of the diesel and electric locomotives.
- (ix) Auxiliary Warning System (AWS) has been provided in Electrical Multiple Unit (EMU) trains in Mumbai suburban area so that motormen maintain speed as per aspect of the signal.
- (x) Other devices/systems being introduced to reduce human dependence include Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Train Protection and Warning Systems (TPWS), Anti Collision Device (ACD)/Train Collision Avoidance system (TCAS).
- (xi) Safety literature is published and circulated to educate common public/road users thereby avoiding mishaps.

New MEMU trains in Telangana

1882. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is planning to introduce any new MEMU trains in Telangana in view of heavy demand for them; and
- (b) whether any sectors have been identified in the State for these trains, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Indian Railways do not run/introduce trains on State-wise basis as rail network and train operations straddle across State boundaries.

However, presently 14 MEMU trains are being run which serve the stations situated in Telangana. Moreover, introduction of new trains including MEMU trains is an ongoing process over Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification, availability resources, commercial viability etc.

Compensation given to victims of train accidents

1883. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons died or injured due to train accidents in the last six months;

(b) the details of *ex-gratia* and compensation announced and paid so far for the victims/kin of victims;

(c) how many cases are still pending and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the reasons for the accidents have come out after the preliminary enquiry and if so, the details thereof, for each accident; and

(e) the steps taken by Railways to ensure passengers' safety and to infuse confidence among the travelling public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) 197 persons died and 330 were injured due to train accidents in the last six months.

(b) The amount of *ex-gratia* paid to the victims/ kin of victims in train accidents during the last six months by Railways is ₹8.56 Crore. Apart from this, a sum of ₹1.19 crore has also been paid from Prime Minister National Relief Fund. No compensation has been paid in the matter.

(c) A total of 38 cases are pending for payment of *ex-gratia* on account of bodies being unidentified or cases under process or persons not traceable.

(d) For the train accidents in the last six months *i.e.* 01.09.2016 to 28.02.2017, preliminary reports in two accidents have been received from the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) which establish passing off of the automatic signal at 'ON' position by Train No. 78404 in accident of rear end collision with Train No.78408 on 29.09.2016 and failure of equipment in derailment of Train No.54703 on 19.11.2016.

(e) Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP by providing better protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith. The steps taken to ensure passengers' safety are train escorting by RPF in addition to trains escorted by GRP, surveillance through CCTV cameras, helpline number for security related assistance to passengers in distress, utilization of sniffer dog squad, joint drives by RPF and Commercial Department against unauthorized persons in trains and railways premises, announcements on public address system to educate passengers and close liaison by RPF with State Police/ GRP for prevention of crime.

Humsafar trains in Andhra Pradesh

1884. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have introduced Humsafar trains in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether these trains have been proposed to start in Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such trains being introduced in Andhra Pradesh, the details thereof, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Introduction of Humsafar Express trains had been announced in Railway Budget 2016-17. As of now, 4 (four) Humsafar Express trains have been introduced.

(b) and (c) Indian Railways do not introduce new train on State-wise basis as railway network and train operations straddles across State boundaries. However, the Humsafar train services serving the stations situated in the State of Andhra Pradesh are as under:—

- (i) 22833/22834 Bhubaneswar-Krishnarajapuram Humsafar Express (Weekly) *via* Vizianagram Jn., Visakhapatnam.
- (ii) 22887/22888 Howrah-Yesvantpur Humsafar Express (Weekly) *via* Vizianagram Jn., Visakhapatnam, Vijaywada.
- (iii) 19423/19424 Ahmedabad-Chennai Humsafar Express (Weekly) *via* Guntakal, Reningunta.
- (iv) 22705/22706 Tirupati-Jammu Tawi Humsafar Express (Weekly) *via* Reningunta, Guntakal.
- (v) 12503/12504 Kamakhya-Bengaluru Cantt. Humsafar Express (Weekly) *via* Vizianagram Jn., Vijaywada.

Employees belonging to SC/ST category in Railway Board and Zonal Railways

†1885. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IRS officers of SC and ST category, including details of those working as Chairman and Members of the Railway Board, during the last ten years upto January, 2017, year-wise; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of persons belong to SC and ST category who are working as General Managers and Divisional Railway Managers in each of the Zonal Railways at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Officers belonging to the eight organised Group 'A' Railway Services are eligible for appointment/posting as Chairman and Members/ Railway Board, General Managers and Divisional Railway Managers in Zonal Railways. Appointments to the posts of Chairman, Members and General Managers are decided with the approval of Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) following laid down guidelines. Similarly, posting of eligible officers as Divisional Railway Managers is done by following laid down norms.

Number of SC/ST officers posted as Chairman, Railway Board and Members, Railway Board in the last 10 years is given below:—

Sl. No.	Post	SC	ST
1.	Chairman	0	0
2.	Members	1	0

(b) Number of SC/ST officers presently posted as General Manager(GM) and Divisional Railway Manager(DRM) in Zonal Railways is as under:—

Sl. No.	Zonal Railways	Post	SC	ST
1.	East Central	GM	1	0
		DRM	0	0
2.	Northern	GM	0	0
		DRM	2	0
3.	North Eastern	GM	0	0
		DRM	1	0
4.	South Central	GM	0	0
		DRM	1	0
5.	South East Central	GM	0	0
		DRM	1	0

In addition, one SC officer is posted as General Manager of a Production Unit.

Conversion of Kacheguda-Guntur passenger train into express train

1886. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is committed to convert the Kacheguda-Guntur passenger train to express train, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any requests have already been received in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A large number of representations regarding conversion of passenger trains into express trains are received at various levels of Railway administration which *inter-alia* include Railway stations, Divisions, Zonal headquarters, Railway Board's level etc. Representations from 02 Hon'ble Members of Parliament for conversion of passenger trains into express have also been received.

National Railway University in Gujarat

1887. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether country's first National Railway University is being set up in Gujarat, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any blueprint has been drawn in this regard, if so, the highlights thereof;

(c) by when this University would start functioning; and

(d) how far Railways would benefit from this University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways have decided to establish one Railway University at Vadodara in Gujarat.

(b) An initial project report had been prepared and thereafter, M/s RITES Limited has been engaged to get the blueprint prepared.

(c) No time-limit has so far been worked out.

(d) The University would benefit not only the Indian Railways but also the growing 'Railway' sector which includes Metro Railway, private manufacturers of railway equipments, Port Railways, Consultancy etc. The University will act as a Centre for conducting interdisciplinary research on Railway Engineering and Management.

Cold storage facility

1888. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are maintaining cold storage facilities in different parts of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Railways are considering to set up more cold storage facilities for smooth movement of fruits and vegetables by rail, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) With a view to providing cold-chain facility to the highly perishable cargo, six locations *i.e.* Singur (West Bengal), New Azadpur (Adarsh Nagar, Delhi NCR), Dankuni (West Bengal), Mecheda (West Bengal), Nasik (Ojhar in Maharashtra) and New Jalpaiguri (West Bengal) were identified to be developed as temperature controlled perishable cargo centres by Public Sector Undertakings like Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), Central Railside Warehouse Company Limited (CRWC) etc through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode under a pilot project called "Kisan Vision Project".

Out of these six locations, Perishable Cargo Centres at Nasik (Ojhar in Maharashtra), New Azadpur (Adarsh Nagar, Delhi NCR) are functional. Perishable cargo centres at Singur and New Jalpaiguri (West Bengal) were also developed. However these could not succeed due to low utilization and requisite license from State Government authorities could not be obtained.

Further, temperature controlled cold storage/ perishable cargo centres are also targeted to be developed at two new locations *i.e.* Raja Talab and Gazipur Ghat by Container Corporation of India. Proposals from Central Railside Warehouse Company Limited for construction of temperature controlled storages at Bhivandi Road and Fathua are also under consideration.

Train accidents

1889. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fifteen per cent of all railway accidents across the world took place in India; and

(b) if so, the causes of the highest number of train accidents taking place in the country, along with the efforts made by Government to prevent them and to ensure security of railway passengers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Statistics of train accidents all over the world is not maintained by Indian Railways. However, accidents per million train kilometers are used as an important index reflecting the rate of accidents keeping the density of traffic on a particular railway in view. In respect of Indian Railways the train accidents per million train Kilometers has decreased from 0.55 in 2001-02 to 0.10 in 2015-16 despite quantum increase in the volume of traffic carried by Indian Railways over the years.

(b) Causes of Consequential train accidents in the current year from 1st April, 2016 to 28th February, 2017 are given below:—

Broad Cause	2016-17
Failure of Railway Staff	64
Failure of other than Railway staff	19
Failure of equipment	1
Sabotage	2
Combination of factors	3
Incidental	7
Could not be established/ None Held Responsible	-
Under Investigation	3*
TOTAL	99

* Causes are under investigation.

Improvement in safety and security is a continuous process. For improving safety, constant upgradation of technology is being incorporated in all spheres of Railway operations and infrastructure to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. 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 replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being used to prevent accidents include complete track circuiting, provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Colour Light LED Signals, Vigilance Control Device (VCD), usage of 60kg rails and Pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers, long rail panels, better welding technology, progressive use of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) Coaches, Centre Buffer Couplers with Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Coaches, etc.

For improving Security:- Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/ District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP by providing better protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith. RPF escorts important trains in affected areas and also provides access control duties at important and sensitive stations.

Besides, the following steps are also being taken by the Railways to provide security:-

1. On vulnerable and identified routes/ sections, 2500 trains (on an average) are escorted by Railway Protection Force daily, in addition to 2200 trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States daily.
2. Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras, provided at about 344 stations over Indian Railways, to ensure safety and security of passengers.
3. Security Help Line number 182 is made operational over Indian Railways for security related assistance to passengers in distress.
4. The ladies special trains running in Metropolitan cities are being escorted by lady RPF constables.

5. An Integrated Security System consisting of surveillance of vulnerable stations through Close Circuit Television Camera Network, Access Control etc. has been sanctioned to improve surveillance mechanism over 202 railway stations.
6. Joint drives by Commercial Department and RPF are conducted from time to time against the entry of unauthorized persons in trains and railway premises.
7. Frequent announcements are made through Public Address system to educate passengers to take precautions against theft, snatching, drugging etc.
8. Dog squads are extensively used at station/platforms/trains for anti sabotage checking.
9. Close liaison is made by RPF with the State Police/ GRP authorities at all levels for prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains.
10. RPF holds regular coordination meetings with the State Police and GRP besides sharing intelligence inputs with Intelligence Bureau and other intelligence agencies of State.

Conspiracy in Kanpur train accident

1890. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Kanpur train accident was a conspiracy from across the border, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this accident; and
- (c) when will the investigation report be made available to the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Policing on Railways being a State subject, criminal investigation into the accidents of Train No. 19321 Indore-Rajendranagar Terminal (Patna Express) between Pokhrayan and Malasa Railway stations over Jhansi Division 20.11.2016 and Train No. 12987 Sealdah-Ajmer Express near Rura Railway station over Allahabad Division of North Central Railway on 28.12.2016 have been taken up by the Government Railway Police (GRP)/Bhimsen and GRP/Kanpur Central respectively. However, the case pertaining to accident of Train No. 19321 Indore-Rajendranagar Terminal (Patna Express) has now been entrusted to National Investigation Agency (NIA) for further investigation.

(b) and (c) Statutory inquiries into the accidents of Train No. 19321 Indore-Rajendra Nagar Terminal (Patna Express) on 20.11.2016 between Pokhrayan and Malasa stations on Jhansi-Kanpur section of North Central Railway and Train No. 12987 Sealdah-Ajmer Express at Rura station on 28.12.2016 on Allahabad-Kanpur section of Allahabad Division of North Central Railway have been ordered to be conducted to determine the causes of the accidents by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Eastern Circle, Kolkata and the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Northern Circle, New Delhi respectively under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Business done by Railways

1891. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the business done by Railways from 8 November, 2016 till 31 December, 2016 along with the form of payments received;

(b) whether there has been increase or decrease in freight by Railways, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the sector/month-wise details of incentives and offers announced by Railways to increase the freight business; and

(d) whether it is a fact that IRCTC is losing ₹2 crore a day post demonetisation due to the discontinuation of service charge on online ticket bookings, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Business done by Railways is reflected in Railway's earning position for the month of November, 2016 and December, 2016 as reproduced below:—

(₹ in crores)

Category of Earnings	For the month of November 2016	For the month of December 2016	Remarks
Passenger Earnings	3802.63	3776.75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of Passenger Earnings through digital mode is 68% of total Passenger Earnings. Earnings reported are extracted from the Monthly Accounts submitted by Railway Units.
Goods Earnings (Freight)	7176.55 (8.11.2016 to 30.11.2016)	9383.71	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freight loading (in Million tonne) for 8.11.2016 to 30.11.2016 is 72.46 MT, while for December, 2016 loading is 95.68 MT. During 8.11.2016 to 31.12.2016 around 97% of freight earning was collected through cashless mode including electronic payment system, Bank draft/Bankers Cheque and Bank Pay Order.
Other Coaching	344.14	355.67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earnings reported are extracted from the Monthly Accounts submitted by Railway Units. Mode of receipts is not maintained by Railways.
Sundry Earnings	322.31	262.96	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earnings reported are extracted from the Monthly Accounts submitted by Railway Units. Mode of receipts is not maintained by Railways.

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(b) and (c) There was no increase in freight business during the reported period. However, the Government has initiated various freight rationalization measures which have resulted in decrease in freight rates. Besides, various other administrative measures have also been taken to promote 'Ease of doing Business'. Some of these steps are as under:—

1. Withdrawal of Port Congestion Charge from 13.4.2016.
2. Extension of Automatic Freight Rebate Scheme for traffic loaded in empty flow direction upto 31.3.2017.
3. Withdrawal of Busy Season Charge for traffic loaded in BCN group and BCNHL wagons w.e.f. 1.5.2016 till 30.6.2016.
4. Withdrawal of dual freight policy for iron ore w.e.f. 10.5.2016.
5. Re-introduction, of short lead concession and reduction of minimum distance for charge from 125 km to 100 km w.e.f. 15.7.2016.
6. BCN group permitted for two point booking and mini rake w.e.f. 15.3.2016.
7. Distance for mini rake increased from 400 km to 600 km w.e.f. 15.3.2016.
8. A liberalized policy with delegation of powers to Zonal Railways introduced for two point booking of covered wagons in which any two stations within a distance of 200 km in busy season and 400 km in lean season have been permitted for two point booking w.e.f. 22.7.2016.
9. Rationalisation of Merry-Go-Round (MGR) system w.e.f. 1.4.2016, which has led to reduction in freight rate to the extent of 80%.
10. Proliferation of Roll-on-Roll-off (RORO) service launch on East Central Railway from 25.5.2016 and subsequently on all Indian Railways.
11. Permission to notify Group I and Group II station/goods sheds as CRTs for lift on-lift off operations w.e.f. 12.7.2016.
12. Charging of commodities for transportation by containers has been liberalized. 43 additional commodities de-notified for charging at FAK rates w.e.f. 2.9.2016.
13. Guidelines for Station to Station Rate Policy issued on 29.9.2016.
14. Class of various commodities has been rationalized and new commodities have been added in Goods Tariff.

15. Instruction for movement of HSD Oil in BTPN rates from Numaligarh refinery siding (NRSR) to Parbatipur, Bangladesh has been issued w.e.f. 13.3.2016.
16. The system of transportation to Bangladesh through 'Dump' and 'Load adjustment' has been discontinued.
17. Withdrawal of levy of congestion charge for stone traffic transported from Eastern Railway to Bangladesh *via* Darsana/Benapole.
18. Weighment of Standard Bagged consignment policy has been rationalized.
19. Discount of loading of bagged consignment in open and flat wagons w.e.f. 24.10.2016.

(d) Approximately, an amount of ₹184 crore has not been realized from Passengers on account of service charges forgone and service tax thereon on reserved tickets booked online from 23.11.2016 to 28.2.2017.

Survey on safety in Railways

1892. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether authorities have recently carried out any survey on the safety in Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (c) the steps taken by Railways on improving passenger safety and passenger amenities in train services across the country; and
- (d) the measures taken to improve the safety and security of women passengers who are often harassed in suburban trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, safety on Indian Railways is an ongoing and continuous process. Safety in train operations is achieved through comprehensive and multi-pronged exercises encompassing all aspects of railway operations. Since safety is accorded highest priority, constant endeavours are made to prevent accidents and to enhance safety in train operations.

(c) The Ministry of Railways has taken several steps for improving the passenger safety and passenger amenities in the train services across the country. Some of these are given below:—

- (i) Proliferation of Linke Hofmann Busche (LHB) coaches: A policy decision has been taken to manufacture only LHB type coaches from 2018-19 onwards as these coaches are based on new technology and are of superior design in comparison to the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) type coaches.
- (ii) Retrofitment of Centre Buffer Coupler (CBC) on Integral Coach Factory (ICF) coaches: A policy decision has been taken to retrofit CBC on ICF coaches in a phased manner. The inherent anti-climbing feature of CBC will mitigate the chance of overriding of coaches one over the other during accidents.
- (iii) Improving Fire Retardancy in coaches: Coaches are being provided with fire retardant furnishing materials. The specifications of these materials are being upgraded from time to time.
- (iv) Provision of Fire Extinguishers: Dry chemical powder type fire extinguishers are being provided in all mainline trains. Besides, Automatic Fire and Smoke Detection System have been provided in about 200 coaches.
- (v) Provision of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system in coaches on a pilot basis for improving the passenger safety, without compromising on their privacy.

Further, improvement of passenger amenities in trains is a continual process. In this regard, some of the instructions issued by the Ministry of Railways in the recent past are with regard to the provision of cushioned seats in the unreserved coaches, provision of snack table, magazine bags and bottle holders in Sleeper Class coaches, provision of Braille signage in coaches to facilitate the visually impaired passengers, provision of dustbins in Non-Air Conditioned coaches as in the Air conditioned coaches, provision of ladder arrangement in the First AC coaches for climbing on the upper berth etc.

(d) Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP). However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of the GRP by providing better protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith. RPF escorts important trains in affected areas and also provide access control duties at important and sensitive stations.

Besides, the following measures are being taken by Railways for safety and security of passengers including women passengers in trains:—

- (i) An Integrated Security System consisting of surveillance of vulnerable stations

through Close Circuit Television Camera Network, Access Control etc. has been sanctioned to improve surveillance mechanism over 202 railway stations.

- (ii) Security Help Line number 182 is made operational over Indian Railways for security related assistance to passengers in distress.
- (iii) Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras, provided at about 344 stations including suburban railway stations over Indian Railways, to ensure safety and security of passengers.
- (iv) Dog Squads are extensively used at stations/platforms/trains for anti-sabotage checks.
- (v) Suburban trains are being escorted by RPF/GRP.
- (vi) The ladies special trains running in Metropolitan cities are being escorted by lady RPF constables.
- (vii) The ladies compartments in suburban trains running in metropolitan cities are being escorted by RPF and GRP. Staff deployment is made during late night and early morning in such trains to ensure proper security to the lady passengers.
- (viii) Special teams of lady RPF staff have been formed to act against offenders indulging in crime against women passengers.
- (ix) Regular drives are conducted to prevent entry of male passengers in compartments reserved for ladies, and if found, they are prosecuted under the provisions of Railways Act.
- (x) RPF holds regular coordination meetings with State Police at all levels to ensure proper registration and investigation of crime by GRP.

Making Aadhaar compulsory for concessionary tickets for senior citizens

1893. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the Supreme Court order dated 11 August, 2015 and 15 October, 2015 on Aadhaar;
- (b) if so, whether making Aadhaar compulsory for concessionary tickets for senior citizens from April, 2017 is a violation of the Supreme Court order;
- (c) if so, whether Government will consider revoking its decision and adhere to the Supreme Court order; and

(d) if so, whether Government will reconsider plans to make Aadhaar mandatory for booking tickets of any category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) W.e.f. 01.01.2017, requirement of Aadhaar verification for getting concessional tickets for senior citizen is on voluntary basis. Even after 01.04.2017, this will continue on voluntary basis and the concession to senior citizen shall not be denied only for the reason that the person does not possess the Aadhaar Number.

Railway lines in Chhattisgarh

†1894. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway lines laid in Chhattisgarh as against other States in the country;

(b) whether Government has any policy in place to overcome the shortage of railway lines in the backward rural regions of Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the rural and tribal- dominated areas in Chhattisgarh which have been connected with railway lines by Government in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The length of railway lines in Chhattisgarh in terms of Route Kilometres is 1212.91 as on 31.03.2016 and that of remaining States in the country is as given under:—

State/UT	Route Kilometres	State/UT	Route Kilometres
Andhra Pradesh	3703.25	Jammu and Kashmir	298.19
Arunachal Pradesh	11.67	Jharkhand	2394.46
Assam	2442.57	Karnataka	3281.36
Bihar	3730.57	Kerala	1045.36
Delhi	183.23	Madhya Pradesh	5000.00
Goa	69.31	Maharashtra	5745.48
Gujarat	5258.49	Manipur	1.35
Haryana	1710.49	Meghalaya	8.76
Himachal Pradesh	296.26	Mizoram	1.50

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

State/UT	Route Kilometres	State/UT	Route Kilometres
Nagaland	11.13	Tripura	192.54
Odisha	2572.16	Uttarakhand	339.80
Punjab	2269.27.	Uttar Pradesh	9077.45
Rajasthan	5893.10	West Bengal	4135.19
Sikkim	0.00	Chandigarh	15.70
Tamil Nadu	4027.08	Puducherry	22.16
Telangana	1736.67		

(b) and (c) At present there is no separate proposal with the Government to provide railway lines to the States for backward rural regions expansion of railway network. However, many of these projects have been taken up on socio-economic considerations despite negative rate of return. Railway projects are taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon throwforward of ongoing projects, overall availability of funds and competing demands which also covers connectivity to tourist, historical, pilgrimage, backward and extremist infested areas. However, in Chhatisgarh State, the following sections have been commissioned in the last three years:—

Sl. No.	Year	Commissioned section
1.	2016-17	Part of Amgura-Kirandul Doubling (17 kms.)
2.	2016-17	Saragaon-Kharsia (35 kms.) 3rd line
3.	2016-17	Harri-Pendra Road(8.2 kms) doubling
4.	2016-17	Silyari-Mandhar-Ukura (18.10 kms.) 3rd line
5.	2016-17	Lajkura-Brajrajnagar (4 kms) 4th line
6.	2016-17	Salka Road-Tenganmada (16.90 kms) doubling
7.	2015-16	Jaithar-Harri (28.10 kms) doubling
8.	2015-16	Dallirajhara-Gudum (17 kms) New Line
9.	2014-15	Jaithari-Chhulha-Anuppur (13.77 kms) doubling

Vacuum cleaning system

1895. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some students of Mumbai have developed a vacuum cleaning system and demonstrated it to the railway officials; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A project developed by a group of students of Mumbai was presented at Railway Board. The project concept includes an arrangement for collecting trash generated by the passengers in the Railway coaches into collection bins through foot pedal operated trash chutes fitted beneath the coach windows.

Soiled toilets of trains

†1896. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that toilets of all kinds of trains are found utterly soiled;

(b) whether it is also a fact that toilets of Rajdhani Express trains are also found untidy and absence of sanitation also persists there; and

(c) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government for their better maintenance and improvement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Cleaning of coaches including toilets is done at both ends in all trains.

On Board House keeping Service (OBHS) has been provided in nearly 800 trains including Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duronto and other important long distance Mail/Express trains for cleaning of coach toilets, doorways, aisles and passenger compartments during the run of the trains.

Clean My Coach Service is also provided in OBHS trains in which passenger may send a Short Message Service (SMS) on a specified mobile number. On Board Housekeeping Service (OBHS) staff travelling on the same train, contacts the passenger and carries out the cleaning work as per demand.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Clean Train Station (CTS) scheme has also been prescribed for limited mechanised cleaning attention to identified trains including cleaning of toilets during their scheduled stoppages enroute at nominated stations. 39 Clean Train Stations are presently working.

Catering units under Railways

†1897. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the catering service of Railways is not up to the mark, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the number of catering units operational in Indian Railways currently;
- (c) the Zone-wise names of the catering companies; and
- (d) whether any ceiling has been fixed for allotment of such catering units and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. However, 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. Penal action is taken against the licensee depending upon the gravity of offense which *inter alia* includes imposition of hefty fines, termination of contract etc. Further, new Catering Policy, 2017 has been issued on 27/02/2017. With the objective to provide quality food to rail passengers, unbundling of catering services on trains has been envisaged in the new Catering Policy. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has been mandated to carry out the unbundling by creating a distinction primarily between food preparation and food distribution. In order to upgrade quality of food preparation, IRCTC shall be setting up new kitchens and upgrading existing ones.

(b) As on 31.01.2017, there were 359 mobile and 9878 static catering units available in the Railways.

(c) Zone-wise details of the names of the contractors (individual/companies/firms) providing catering services in trains are as under:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Zonal Railways	Names of the contractors (individual/ companies/firms) providing catering services in trains
1	2
Central	A A Catering Company A.K. Roy Ambuj Hotel and Real Estate Private Limited Boon Catering Company Private Limited Deepak and Company Express Food Services Food World Galav Foods J K Ghosh Krishna Enterprises Poorvanchal Caterers R K Associates and Hoteliers Private Limited Sai Balaji Food Corporation Salasar Enterprises Satyam Caterers Private Limited Sunshine Caterers Private Limited Variety Pantry Services Private Limited
East Coast	A A Catering Company ABC Enterprises Ambuj Hotel and Real Estate Private Limited Deepak and Company Doon's Caterers Express Food Services

1	2
East cost	Hakmichand D and Sons J K Ghosh P K Shefi Poorvanchal Caterers R K Associates and Hoteliers Private Limited Roop Caterers Sree Venkateswara Enterprises Sunshine Caterers Private Limited Variety Pantry Services Private Limited
East Central	Ambuj Hotel and Real Estate Private Limited Brandavan Food Products Golden Caterers Hotel Rajasthan Krishna Enterprises Om Sai Enterprises Otik Hotels and Resorts Private Limited Poorvanchal Caterers R K Associates and Hoteliers Private Limited Sanraj Hospitality Singh Caterers and Venders Speed Catering Services Sunshine Caterers Private Limited Variety Pantry Services Private Limited
Eastern	Doon's Caterers Food World Krishna Enterprises

1	2
Eastern	Otik Hotels and Resorts Private Limited R K Associates and Hoteliers Private Limited Sanraj Hospitality Sunshine Caterers Private Limited
North Central	Brandavan Food Products
North Eastern	Deepak and Company Doon's Caterers Express Food Services Hakmichand D and Sons Om Sai Enterprises R K Associates and Hoteliers Private Limited Singh Caterers and Venders
Northeast Frontier	A K Ghose Catering Private Limited A S Sales Corporation Deepak and Company Express Food Services Griham Food and Hotel Private Limited J K Ghosh Quality Caterers R K Associates and Hoteliers Private Limited Roop Caterers
Northern	A S Sales Corporation Ambuj Hotel and Real Estate Private Limited Brandavan Food Products Deepak and Company Doon's Caterers

1	2
Northern	Express Food Services Food World Krishna Enterprises Kwality Caterers Om Sai Enterprises Otik Hotels and Resorts Private Limited Pplus Facility Management Services Private Limited Quality Caterers R K Associates and Hoteliers Private Limited Roop Caterers Sanraj Hospitality Satyam Caterers Private Limited Srinathji Caterers
North Western	A.K.Roy Arenco Catering Boon Catering Company Private Limited Brandavan Food Products Express Food Services Om Sai Enterprises Sai Balaji Food and Beverage (India) Private Limited Variety Pantry Services Private Limited
South Central	Ambuj Hotel and Real Estate Private Limited Brandavan Food Products Doon's Caterers Fine Caterers and Suppliers Food World

1	2
South Central	Sunshine Caterers Private Limited
South East	A S Sales Corporation
Central	Doon's Caterers
	R C Goel
	Roop Caterers
South Eastern	A S Sales Corporation
	Arencos Catering
	Deepak and Company
	Doon's Caterers
	Express Food Services
	Food World
	Griham Food and Hotel Private Limited
	J K Ghosh
	New Classic Caterers
	Poorvanchal Caterers
	Roop Caterers
	Sanraj Hospitality
	Satyam Caterers Private Limited
Southern	A S Sales Corporation
	Arencos Catering
	Deepak and Company
	Doon's Caterers
	Express Food Services
	J K Ghosh
	K.M. Musthafa

1	2
Southern	New Classic Caterers Om Sai Enterprises Ours Arya Bhawan P. Sivaprasad Sai Bala ji Food Corporation Sanraj Hospitality Satyam Caterers Private Limited Singh Caterers and Venders Srinathji Caterers Vasntham Catering
South Western	Arengo Catering Deepak and Company Doon's Caterers Griham Food and Hotel Private Limited K M A Caterers P K Shefi Satyam Caterers Private Limited Seema Caterers
West Central	A S Sales Corporation Express Food Services
Western	A.K. Roy Ambuj Hotel and Real Estate Private Limited Boon Catering Company Private Limited Brandavan Food Products Deepak and Company J K Ghosh

1	2
Western	K.M. Musthafa New Classic Caterers Om Sai Enterprises R C Goel Roop Caterers Sanraj Hospitality Satyam Caterers Private Limited Sunshine Caterers Private Limited

(d) As per the provisions of New Catering Policy 2017, the following ceiling limits are applicable for various categories of catering units:—

- (i) Stand alone AVMs: An entity is allowed to hold a maximum of 10 AVMs over each zonal railway.
- (ii) Milk Stalls: Authorized franchisee/agencies of allottees (apex dairy cooperative societies approved by Government, dairy cooperative federations/members of NCDFI and/or developed under the aegis of Operation Flood Programme, bodies/agencies registered/certified by FSSAI) are allowed to hold a maximum of five milk stalls per Railway Division.
- (iii) Minor catering units: A licensee is allowed to hold a maximum of five minor catering units per Division.
- (iv) Food Plaza, Food Courts and Fast Food Units: An individual/firm/company is allowed to hold a maximum of two units per Division, subject to a further limit of 25 units over Indian Railways.

New Catering Policy

1898. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced New Catering Policy for popular trains by giving responsibility to the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways have made any survey about catering in the trains provided by private vendors; and

(c) if so, the success ratio and passenger satisfaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. New Catering Policy 2017 has been issued on 27.02.2017. With the objective to provide quality food to rail passengers, unbundling of catering services on trains has been envisaged in the new catering Policy. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has been mandated to carry out the unbundling by creating a distinction primarily between food preparation and food distribution. In order to upgrade quality of food preparation, IRCTC shall be setting up new kitchens and upgrading existing ones. New Catering Policy, *inter alia*, includes the following features for unbundling of catering services (i) IRCTC shall manage catering services on all mobile units, (ii) Meals for all mobile units will be picked up from the nominated kitchens owned, operated and managed by IRCTC. (iii) IRCTC will engage service providers for hospitality industry for service of food in trains, (iv) IRCTC shall not outrightly outsource or issue licenses for provision of catering services to private licensees. IRCTC shall retain the ownership and shall be fully accountable for all the issues pertaining to setting up and operation of the Base Kitchens and quality of food.

(b) and (c) In its endeavour to provide quality and hygienic food for enhanced passenger satisfaction, Railways have developed and operationalized an institutionalized mechanism for monitoring of quality and hygiene of catering services. Accordingly, 20369 inspections at various levels during the last year (*i.e.* 01.01.2016 to 31.12.2016) have been conducted in trains, which also include taking feedback from passengers through surveys. A total of 7005 catering complaints have been reported on trains during this period, on which action has been initiated as per extant penal provisions depending on the gravity of the lapse.

New and ongoing railway projects in Bihar and Jharkhand

†1899. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ongoing railway projects in Bihar and Jharkhand;

(b) whether all ongoing railway projects are getting completed as per schedule, if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government has ascertained the reasons for non completion of the projects as per schedule;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether new railway projects have been started in the States, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective action taken or proposed to be taken for speedy implementation of these projects in Bihar and Jharkhand States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At present, Railways have taken up 81 major projects comprising 42 New Lines, 32 Doublings and 7 Gauge Conversions falling fully/partly in the States of Bihar and Jharkhand.

(b) and (c) Completion of project depends upon several factors including availability of funds, complete handing over of encumbrance-free land by the State Government, forestry clearances, shifting of utilities, Road over/under bridges, canal & electrical crossings, etc. Since most of these factors are beyond the control of Ministry of Railways, no time-frame has been fixed for completion of the projects.

(d) Yes, Sir. In the Budget 2017-18, one new Railway project namely 'Wazirganj-Natesar via Gehlaur (20 km) new line' falling in the State of Bihar has been included, subject to approval of Government.

(e) To expedite completion of all the above mentioned ongoing projects, regular coordination meetings with the State Government for resolving issues of land acquisition, providing clearances for forest land, Rehabilitation and Resettlement, provision of funds, etc. have been taken up at highest level. Simultaneously, fund allotment has been substantially enhanced for all these projects.

Routes of Talgo trains

†1900. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached with any foreign company to run Talgo trains in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the routes where Talgo trains are expected to be run;

(c) whether it would be considered to run Talgo trains from Delhi to Dehradun and Kotdwar and from Anand Vihar to Tanakpur and Haldwani; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. No agreement has been reached with any foreign company to run Talgo trains in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No decision has been taken for the introduction of Talgo trains on Indian Railways.

Old currency notes as compensation to victims of train accidents

†1901. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that old currency notes were provided as compensation to the family members of people deceased and injured in Kanpur train accident;

(b) if so, the justification for providing old currency notes in view of the fact that notes of ₹500 and 1000 denomination were demonetised in the country;

(c) whether any action would be taken against the officials disbursing demonetised old currency notes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Generally, *ex-gratia* is paid from the station earnings for quick disbursement. The said accident occurred in wee hours and the money, which was withdrawn from station earnings for immediate disbursement, was a mix of old and new currency notes as old currency notes were acceptable by the Railways during that period of demonetisation. Subsequently, old currency notes were exchanged with new notes later on the same day when new currency notes were made available by RBI/Kanpur.

(c) and (d) Appropriate action in this regard has already been taken.

New trains for Bihar

†1902. SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new trains proposed to be run in Bihar during the current financial year;

(b) the number of trains whose destinations are decided to be extended during the said financial year;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the number of new Shatabdi trains proposed to be run through Bihar in the current financial year; and

(d) whether Railways plan to run another Rajdhani train for Patna on the route other than the one on which one Rajdhani train already runs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Indian Railways do not run trains on State-wise basis as rail network straddles across State boundaries. However, following four pairs of train services as announced in Railway Budget 2016-17 will serve the stations in the State of Bihar:—

(i) 22913/22914 Bandra (T)- Patna Humsafar Express.

(ii) 15563/15564 Jaynagar-Udhna Antyodaya Express.

(iii) 15567/15568 Darbhanga-Jalandhar City Antyodaya Express.

(iv) 22317/22318 Sealdah-Jammu Tawi Humsafar Express.

(b) Extension of train services is an ongoing process on Indian Railways keeping in view traffic demand, operational feasibility, availability of resources, etc.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no such proposal.

New technology for laying of railway tracks

1903. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways plan to introduce any new technology for laying of railway track of 9.5 kilometres per day during current fiscal year; and

(b) if so, the details of the new technology to be used for laying of railway track and whether any MoU has been signed with any country for the same, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Indian Railways has fixed the target of commissioning of 3500 Km of New Line/Gauge Conversion/Doubling during 2017-18 which works out to average progress of 9.59 Km per day. On important projects like dedicated freight corridors, Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCCIL) has awarded Design Build Lump-sum Contract for Civil, Structure and Track Works. In these contracts, the Agency has roped in one of the specialized sub-contractors for Mechanized Track Laying, who is bringing NTC (New Track Construction) Machine for Mechanized Track Laying which is capable of track laying approx. 1.5 km per day. Presently, no MoU has been signed with any country for bringing new technology for laying Railway Track.

Manufacture of trainsets

1904. DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have decided to go ahead with manufacture of 160 kilometre per hour Trainset, eliminating the need for locomotive, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it will have all facilities including bio-toilets;
- (c) by when the rakes will be ready;
- (d) the amount earmarked for the project; and
- (e) in what sectors it is likely to be operational, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Two Train sets have been included in production programme for 2017-18 for Integral Coach Factory (ICF), as a development measure.

(b) The train sets will have all modern facilities including bio-toilets.

(c) Since this is a developmental activity being taken up for the first time by Indian Railways, the dates for readiness of the rakes cannot be specified at this stage.

(d) Provision for acquisition of 15 train sets at a cost of ₹2500 Crore has been made under the Rolling Stock Programme (Item No.735 of 2017-18).

(e) No such sections have been identified, as these will depend on technical specifications, sanction of Commissioner of Railway Safety, line capacity and other infrastructural constraints at the time the rakes are ready after manufacture.

Train accidents and improvement in speed of late running trains

†1905. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite all claims, neither the number of train accidents have come down nor there is any improvement in the speed of trains running late, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) if not, the steps taken to check train accidents and improve the condition of trains running late; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the number of train accidents which took place in the last two years and the number of casualties in such accidents, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (c) Number of consequential train accidents (including accidents at unmanned level crossings (UMLC) caused due to negligence of road vehicle users) from 2014-15 to 2015-16 and the current year from 1st April, 2016 to 28th February, 2017 are given below:—

Year	No. of Consequential Train Accidents	Killed	Injured
2014-15*	135	292	457
2015-16@	107	122	188
2016-17# (01.04.2016 to 28.02.2017)	99	232	353

* In 2014-15 out of 135, 50 consequential train accidents occurred at UMLCs caused due to negligence of road vehicle users. In these accidents, 130 persons were killed and 85 got injured.
 @ In 2015-16 out of 107, 29 consequential train accidents occurred at UMLCs caused due to negligence of road vehicle users. In these accidents, 58 persons were killed and 41 got injured.
 # In 2016-17 (upto February, 2017) out of 99, 17 consequential train accidents occurred at UMLCs caused due to negligence of road vehicle users. In these accidents, 34 persons were killed and 16 got injured.

The trains lose punctuality on Indian Railways due to factors related to its internal working as well as external factors which Railways are not in control of. Other than assets failures, various constraints/difficulties which adversely affect punctuality are numerous such as – line capacity constraints on account of increasing passenger and freight traffic, adverse weather conditions (Fog, Rains, Breaches), intermittent natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, heavy rains, heavy road traffic at level crossing gates across the Indian Railways network, multi faceted Law and Order problems, miscreant activities such as theft of Railway assets, mid-section run over cases involving cattle and human etc.

(b) Improvement in train safety is a continuous process. Constant upgradation of technology is being incorporated in all spheres of Railway operations and infrastructure to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. 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 replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training

of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being used to prevent accidents include complete track circuiting, provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Colour Light LED Signals, Vigilance Control Device (VCD), usage of 60kg rails and Pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers, long rail panels, better welding technology, progressive use of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) Coaches, Centre Buffer Couplers with Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Coaches, etc.

Indian Railways has initiated various measures to improve punctuality such as prioritization of preventive maintenance of assets to minimize asset failures, capacity enhancement projects by construction of additional loop lines at stations, doubling, construction of third line corridors, automatic signaling, construction of low height subway to replace level crossings, Rail Under Bridges and Rail Over Bridges, etc. In addition, Zonal Railways have also been advised to have better co-ordination with Civil and Police authorities of States to deal with situations arising out of law and order problems.

Job Guarantee Scheme in textile sector

†1906. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating or proposes to enforce Textile Job Guarantee Scheme to help the rural families living below the poverty line, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action plan of Government to enforce this policy in the backward regions of various States of the country to improve the economy of those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Functional and sick textile units

†1907. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile units which are functional and are producing textiles as on date;

(b) the number of sick and closed textile units, respectively;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether any steps have been taken to revive the closed and sick units; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) The details of functional and closed textile mills of National Textile Corporation Limited are given in the Statement-I and II respectively (*See* below).

(c) and (d) As per Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) approved revival scheme Modified Scheme (MS)-08, National Textile Corporation Limited has closed 78 mills under Industrial Dispute Act (ID Act) which were unviable; where the workers had taken Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme enmass; and also on account of relocation of mills. National Textile Corporation Limited has no mandate to revive these mills as per the revival scheme.

Statement-I

Details of functional textile mills of NTC

State	Sl. No.	Name of the Mills	Location
(A) List of 23 Mills Modernized by NTC itself			
Andhra Pradesh			
	1.	Tirupathi Cotton Mills	Renigunta
Gujarat			
	2.	Rajnagar Mills	Ahmedabad
Karnataka			
	3.	New Minerva Mills	Hassan
Kerala			
	4.	Algappa Textile Mills	Alagappanagar
	5.	Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills	Cannanore
	6.	Kerala Laxmi Mills	Trichur
	7.	Vijayamohini Mills	Trivandrum
Madhya Pradesh			
	8.	Burhanpur Tapti Mills	Burhanpur

State	Sl. No.	Name of the Mills	Location
Maharashtra	9.	New Bhopal Textile Mills	Bhopal
	10.	Podar Mills	Mumbai
	11.	Tata Mills	Mumbai
	12.	India United Mill No.5	Mumbai
	13.	Barshi Textile Mills	Barshi
	14.	Finlay Mills	Achalpur
Mahe			
Tamil Nadu	15.	Cannanore Spg.& Wvg.Mills	Mahe
	16.	Pioneer Spinners Mills	Kamudakudi
	17.	Kaleeswarar Mills 'B' Unit	Kalayarkoil
	18.	Cambodia Mills	Coimbatore
	19.	Coimbatore Murugan Mills	Coimbatore
	20.	Pankaja Mills	Coimbatore
	21.	Sri Rangavilas S.& W. Mills	Coimbatore
	22.	Coimbatore Spg & Wvg Mills	Coimbatore
West Bengal			
	23.	Arati Cotton Mills	Dass Nagar
B List of 5 Mills modernized through JV Route			
Maharashtra			
	1.	India United Mills No.L	Mumbai
	2.	Apollo Textile Mills	Mumbai
	3.	Goldmohur Mills	Mumbai
	4.	New City of Bombay Mfg. Mills	Mumbai
	5.	Aurangabad Textile Mills	Aurangabad

Statement-II*Details of closed textile mills of NTC*

List of 78 Mills Closed Under I.D. Act

State	Sl. No.	Name of the Mills	Location	Reasons of Closure
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh				
	1.	Azam Jahi Mills	Warangal	Unviable
	2.	Natraj Spinning Mills	Adilabad	Unviable
	3.	Adoni Cotton Mills	Adoni	Unviable
	4.	Netha Spinning Mills	Secunderabad	Unviable
	5.	Ananthapur Cotton Mills		En-Mass MVRs
Assam				
	6.	Associated Industries	Chandrapur	En-Mass MVRs
Bihar				
	7.	Gaya Cotton & Jute Mills	Gaya	Unviable
	8.	Bihar Co-Operative Mills	Mokameh	En-Mass MVRs
Gujarat				
	9.	Ahmedabad Jupiter Tex. Mills	Ahmedabad	Unviable
	10.	Jehangir Textile Mills	Ahmedabad	Unviable
	11.	Mahalaxmi Tex.Mills	Bhavnagar	Unviable
	12.	New Manekchowk Tex.Mill	Ahmedabad	Unviable
	13.	Petlad Tex.Mills	Petlad	Unviable
	14.	Rajkot Tex.Mills	Rajkot	Unviable
	15.	Viramgam Tex.Mills	Viramgam	Unviable
	16.	Rajnagar II	Ahmedabad	Unviable
	17.	Himadari Textile Mills	Ahmedabad	Unviable

1	2	3	4	5
	18. Ahmedabad New Textile Mills	Ahmedabad	En-Mass	MVRS
Karnataka	19. M.S.K. Mills	Gulbarga		Unviable
	20. Mysore Spg. & Mfg. Mills	Bangalore		Unviable
	21. Shree Yallama Cotton Mills	Davangere	En-Mass	MVRS
	22. Minerva Mills	Bangalore	Relocated A	Hassan
Madhya Pradesh	23. Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills	Rajnandgaon		Unviable
	24. Hira Mills	Ujjain		Unviable
	25. Indore Malwa United Mills	Indore		Unviable
	26. Kalyan Mal Mills	Indore		Unviable
	27. Swadeshi Textile Mills	Indore		Unviable
Maharashtra	28. India United Mills N0.2	Mumbai		Unviable
	29. India United Mills No.3	Mumbai		Unviable
	30. India United Mills No.4	Mumbai		Unviable
	31. Kohinoor Mills No.2	Mumbai		Unviable
	32. Kohinoor Mills N0.3	Mumbai		Unviable
	33. Jam Mfg. Mills	Mumbai		Unviable
	34. Model Mills	Nagpur		Unviable
	35. R.S.R.G. Mills	Akola		Unviable
	36. Shri Sitaram Mills	Mumbai		Unviable
	37. Vidharbha Mills	Achalpur		Unviable
	38. Bharat Textile Mills	Mumbai		Unviable
	39. Digvijay Textile Mills	Mumbai		Unviable
	40. Elphinstone Spg. & Wvg. Mills	Mumbai		Unviable

1	2	3	4	5
	41. Jupiter Textile Mills	Mumbai	Unviable	
	42. Mumbai Textile Mills	Mumbai	Unviable	
	43. New Hind Textile Mills	Mumbai	Unviable	
	44. Podar Processors	Mumbai	Unviable	
	45. Shree Madhusudan Mills	Mumbai	Unviable	
	46. India United Mills No.6 (Dye Works)	Mumbai	En-Mass MVRs	
	47. Kohinoor Mills No. 1	Mumbai	En-Mass MVRs	
	48. Finlay Mills	Mumbai	Relocated at Achalpur	
Punjab				
	49. Dayalbagh Spg. & Wvg. Mills	Amritsar	Unviable	
	50. Panipat Woollen Mills	Kharar	Unviable	
	51. Kharar Textile Mills	Kharar	En-Mass MVRs	
	52. Suraj Textile Mills	Malout	En-Mass MVRs	
Rajasthan				
	53. Edward Mills	Beawar	Unviable	
	54. Shree Bijay Cotton Mills	Bijjanagar	En-Mass MVRs	
Uttar Pradesh				
	55. Atherton Mills	Kanpur	Unviable	
	56. Bijli Cotton Mills	Hathras	Unviable	
	57. Laxmi Rattan Cotton Mills	Kanpur	Unviable	
	58. Lord Krishna Tex.Mills	Saharanpur	Unviable	
	59. Muir Mills	Kanpur	Unviable	
	60. New Victoria Mills	Kanpur	Unviable	
	61. Rae Bareilly Tex. Mills	Raebareilly	Unviable	
	62. Shri Vikram Cotton Mills	Lucknow	Unviable	
	63. Swadeshi Cotton Mills	Kanpur	Unviable	

1	2	3	4	5
	64. Swadeshi Cotton Mills		Naini	En-Mass MVRs
West Bengal				
	65. Bangasri Cotton Mills		Sonepore	Unviable
	66. Bengal Fine S.&W.Mills No.II		Kataganj	Unviable
	67. Manindra B.T. Mills		Cossim Bazar	Unviable
	68. Jyoti Wvg. Factory		Patipukur	Unviable
	69. Central Cotton Mills		Belur	Unviable
	70. Shree Mahalaxmi Cotton		Palta	Unviable
	71. Bengal Fine S.&W. Mills No. I		Konnagar	Unviable
	72. Bengal Luxmi Cotton Mills		Serampore	Unviable
	73. Rampooria Cotton Mills		Rishra	Unviable
Tamil Nadu				
	74. Balarama Varma Textile Mills		Shencottah	Unviable
	75. Kishnaveni Textile Mills		Coimbatore	Unviable
	76. Om Parasakthi Mills		Coimbatore	Unviable
	77. Somasundaram Mills		Coimbatore	Unviable
	78. Kaleeswarar Mills 'A' Unit		Coimbatore	Unviable

Integrated Skill Development Scheme

1908. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of students placed under the Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) after completion of their courses, State-wise;

(b) the funds disbursed towards ISDS;

(c) the income generated so far under the above-mentioned Scheme;

(d) the success of Northern India Textile Research Organisation in carrying out the work delegated to it as an implementing agency of the ISDS; and

- (e) the status of implementation of ISDS in Karnataka in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) State-wise details of students placed under Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

- (b) So far, ₹ 735.99 crore has been released to implementing agencies under ISDS.

- (c) There is no provision in ISDS for income generation.

(d) Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA) was an implementing agency under Component-I of ISDS. As per the information uploaded in the Management Information System (MIS) of ISDS, NITRA had trained 9978 persons from 2010-11 till closure of the project in March, 2015, of which 693 persons were provided placement.

(e) As per MIS of ISDS, a total of 54787 persons were trained during last three years in Karnataka of which 42691 persons have been provided placement.

Statement

State-wise details of students placed under ISDS

Sl. No.	State	No. of trainees placed after training (as on 14.03.2017)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	62989
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	139
3.	Assam	2957
4.	Bihar	18031
5.	Chandigarh	100
6.	Chhattisgarh	6684
7.	Daman and Diu	301
8.	Delhi	8728
9.	Gujarat	81558
10.	Haryana	29663
11.	Himachal Pradesh	724
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	2371
13.	Jharkhand	6918
14.	Karnataka	84156

Sl. No.	State	No. of trainees placed after training (as on 14.03.2017)
15.	Kerala	6284
16.	Madhya Pradesh	41016
17.	Maharashtra	21493
18.	Manipur	1205
19.	Meghalaya	517
20.	Nagaland	29
21.	Odisha	21800
22.	Puducherry	282
23.	Punjab	6412
24.	Rajasthan	32567
25.	Sikkim	273
26.	Tamil Nadu	124657
27.	Telangana	20671
28.	Tripura	5308
29.	Uttar Pradesh	45939
30.	Uttarakhand	146
31.	West Bengal	35658
TOTAL		669576

Profit making by NIFT

1909. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether Government has any data of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) making profit, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): NIFT is an institute for professional education and research in Fashion Technology under Ministry of Textiles, and is a non-profit organization.

Skill development programmes for North Eastern State handicrafts

†1910. MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether Government has any proposal for skill development

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

programme for North Eastern State handicrafts, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): Yes, Sir. Skills development needs of the artisans are addressed through two schemes of office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) namely Human Resource Development and Design and Technical Development scheme. In addition, under Cluster Scheme *i.e.* Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana, skill upgradation and design training are also provided for holistic upliftment of handicraft artisans. These programmes are implemented throughout the country including North Eastern States.

Training is provided through Established Institutions, Guru Shishya Parampara model, Design and Technical Development Workshops and Integrated Design and Technical Development Projects.

Textile and apparel exports

1911. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how far it is a fact that the textile and apparel exports from India contributed majority to its total export in the last three years, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes to give required push to the textile industry to increase textile and apparel export to more than double in future, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to achieve this target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) Textile and apparel exports from India contributed majority to its total export in the last three years. The details are given below:—

	Exports in 2013 (USD bn)	Exports in 2014 (USD bn)	Exports in 2015 (USD bn)
Total T&A Exports	40.3	40.7	40.0
Total India's Commodity Exports	314.4	310.4	262.3
Share of T&A in total India's Exports	12.8%	13.1%	15.3%

Source: Director General of Commerce Intelligence and Statistics Database.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. In order to give boost to the textile industry. Government has introduced special packages for apparel and made-ups sector in June, 2016 and December, 2016 respectively. The government is also implementing schemes like Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS), Pradhan Mantri Paridhan Rojgar Protsahan Yojna (PMPRPY), Scheme of Rebate of State Levies (RoSL) on export of garments, Schemes for Technical textiles, Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), Integrated Skill Development Scheme etc. to modernize textile industry, increase production and global competitiveness.

Apart from the steps taken by the Government mentioned above, the Government has taken following initiatives to augment the textile exports:

- (i) MEIS Scheme under new Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20.
- (ii) Restoring Interest rate subvention for pre and post shipment credit for the textile sector.
- (iii) Expanding the scope of Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) since 29.10.2015 to 110 new tariff lines and increase rates or country coverage or both for 2228 existing tariff lines.
- (iv) Increased Duty Drawback rates for some textile articles.
- (v) Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme.
- (vi) Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme.
- (vii) Duty Free import of trimmings, embellishments and other specified items under Export Performance Certificate Entitlement Scheme.

Setting up of textile park in Himachal Pradesh

1912. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up a Textile Park in Himachal Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has finalized the site therefor, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Textile Park is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY

TAMTA): (a) to (c) Under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP), the entrepreneurs have to submit a proposal for establishing a textile park through an empanelled Project Management Consultant (PMC) as the scheme is industry driven. At present, there is no proposal for setting up a new textile park in Himachal Pradesh.

Production of textiles

1913. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the volume of production of textiles during the first three quarters of the current financial year compared to the last year;

(b) the production, particularly of hosiery, readymade goods and such MSME products; and

(c) the exports of this year compared to the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA):

(a) Production of textile items during first 3 quarters of the current financial year compared to last year are given below:—

Segments	Unit	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		TOTAL	
		2015-16	2016-17	2015-16	2016-17	2015-16	2016-17	2015-16	2016-17
Man Made fibre	Mn.Kg.	311	341	338	356	350	340	999	1037
Spun yarn	Mn.Kg.	1416	1452	1436	1426	1399	1376	4251	4254
Man Made filament yarn	Mn.Kg.	298	279	283	295	292	288	873	862

(b) The information is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The exports of textile items during 2016-17 (Apr-Dec) were US \$26 Billion as compared to US \$27.2 Billion during 2015-16 (Apr-Dec).

Statement***Details of production of fabrics in different sectors***

(Mn. Sq. Mtrs.)

Items	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	(April -Dec.) (P)	
								2015-16	2016-17
Mill									
Cotton	1465	1604	1724	1684	1622	1592	1504	1134	1139
Blended	482	526	521	674	818	808	733	551	532
Man-Made Fibre Fabrics	69	75	68	60	91	86	78	56	54
TOTAL	2016	2205	2313	2418	2531	2486	2315	1741	1544
Handloom									
Cotton	5857	5973	6021	6239	6315	6427	6827	5020	5299
Blended	137	143	121	115	145	88	106	79	83
Man-Made Fibre Fabrics	812	791	759	598	644	688	705	523	630
TOTAL	6806	6907	6901	6952	7104	7203	7638	5622	6011
Powerloom									
Cotton	10128	11883	12027	13955	14320	15241	15696	11752	11730
Blended	5487	5853	6302	6655	7117	7511	7826	5829	5994
Man-Made Fibre Fabrics	21382	20279	19116	17428	15353	14997	13462	10105	9173
TOTAL	36997	38015	37445	38038	36790	37749	36984	27686	26896
Hosiery									
Cotton	11464	12258	10798	11992	13256	13699	14413	10571	10788
Blended	1661	1756	1524	1838	1982	2042	2144	1596	1557
Man-Made Fibre Fabrics	577	620	624	711	961	1153	1090	885	757
TOTAL	13702	14634	12946	14541	16199	16894	17647	13052	13103
All Sectors									
Cotton	28914	31718	30570	33870	35513	36959	38440	28477	28956
Blended	7767	8278	8468	9282	10062	10449	10809	8055	8165
Man-Made Fibre Fabrics	22840	21765	20567	18797	17049	16924	15335	11568	10614
TOTAL	59521	61761	59605	61949	62624	64332	64584	48101	47735
Khadi. Wool. Silk.	812	798	848	843	876	944	921	691	691
TOTAL	60333	62559	60453	62792	63500	65276	65505	48792	48426

P = Provisional

Development of textile sector

1914. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any ambitious programme to develop infrastructure in Textile sector;
- (b) whether employment opportunities will be generated with the commencement of this programme;
- (c) whether Government would take care of the financial aspect completely; and
- (d) whether Government will be able to earn foreign exchange when it becomes fully functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) In order to develop Textile Industry/ infrastructure the Government has already launched various textile sector schemes such as Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), Scheme for Integrated textile parks (SITP), North East Region Textiles Promotion Scheme (NERTPS), Schemes for the Development of the Powerloom clusters, Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry (ISDSI), Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS), National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP), etc. Further, the Government of India has recently notified the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (A-TUFS) for Technology upgradation in the textiles sector. These schemes are aimed at setting up of new units as well as expansion of the existing units which have potential for generating large employment opportunities.

(c) The extent of financial support from the Central Government differs across scheme and across component within the schemes and invariably involves contribution from beneficiaries/entities.

(d) The above schemes are aimed to increase the production of textiles and apparels. These schemes will help the country to save foreign exchange and also earn foreign exchange through increase in exports.

Awards for innovative design and branding in handloom sector

1915. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to institute awards for innovative design and branding initiatives in Handloom sector, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the proposed award has been given from this year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) Government of India has already been instituted National Awards and National Merit Certificate Awards in the field of Design Development for the promotion of Handloom products and Marketing of Handloom products for the excellence and these awards are being conferred from the year 2016 (Award for the year 2015).

(c) Details of above awards are as follows:

Sl. No.	Field of awards	Name and number of the awards	
		National awards	National Merit Certificate Awards
1.	Design Development for the promotion of Handloom products	03	06
2.	Marketing of Handloom products	05	10

Integrated Spentex Park in Telangana

1916. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Integrated Spentex Park announced for Ranga Reddy district in Telangana;

(b) the status of the project; and

(c) by when it would become fully operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) to (c) Whitegold Integrated Spentex Park Pvt. Ltd. (WISP) in Ranga Reddy District of Telangana was sanctioned under the Scheme for Textile Park in December 2012. Presently the project is at construction stage. As per scheme guidelines the Park would be considered functional when 33% production units start operation.

The House then adjourned for lunch at one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-four minutes two of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 2016-17

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Sir, I lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 2016-17.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now it is Shri Tiruchi Siva's Resolution. How are you getting it again and again? Earlier you had a Bill. It is a good thing. Congratulations. Now you can move the Resolution.

Amending the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I move the following Resolution:—

"Having regard to the fact that:—

- (i) from time immemorial, India has been an agrarian economy as the agricultural sector employs 263.1 million Indians, which accounts for 54.6% of the total Indian workforce;
- (ii) agriculture contributed 15.4% of the Gross Value Added in 2015-16;
- (iii) over the years, indigenous breeds of cattle have been the backbone of the agricultural economy as prior to the introduction of modern farm equipments, agriculture would not have been possible without cattle and even today, cattle play an important role in agricultural activities, particularly for the small and medium farmers;
- (iv) bull power is used for ploughing and transportation, which saves electricity and consumption of large volumes of fossil fuel that are harmful to the environment;

[Shri Tiruchi Siva]

- (v) India imported 2.28 lakhs TMT of crude oil and other petroleum products in the year 2015-16, worth Rs. 5.24 lakh crores, 60 lakh tonnes of diesel worth Rs. 4000 crores which can be potentially saved by replacing tractors by cattle for the purposes of ploughing and transportation;
- (vi) cattle manure has been traditionally used in India as fertiliser which helps reduce reliance on chemical fertilisers and pesticides, that have a negative effect on soil quality and harm quality of food crops produced as India consumed 256 lakh tonnes of fertilizers in 2014-15;
- (vii) indiscriminate use of fertilisers and pesticides in agriculture has been linked to spread of diseases through food products but use of dung and urine from cattle has a positive impact on the environment and soil quality, with no negative effects on health;
- (viii) a higher dependence on fossil fuels and chemical based farm inputs significantly raises the cost of farming resulting in higher food prices;
- (ix) by increasing reliance on cattle in agriculture, one can reduce cost of food products and avoid negative effects on environment and health;
- (x) cattle used in agriculture are reared with great care, and are fed a high-quality diet, including grass fodder grown exclusively for the cattle and their health is monitored and taken care of on a periodic basis by qualified veterinary doctors;
- (xi) native breeds of cattle are gradually being phased out due to the onslaught of modern farm equipments and the import of exotic breeds;
- (xii) as per the Livestock Census conducted by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries of the Government of India, the total indigenous cattle population in India has reduced by 8.94% from 1660.15 lakhs in 2007 to 1511.72 lakhs in 2012, which is a small fraction of the total actual requirement for cattle for agricultural practises;
- (xiii) the population of exotic breeds of cattle has increased by 20.18% in the same period, from 330.6 lakhs in 2007 to 397.32 lakhs in 2012;
- (xiv) owing to the decline in the population of the indigenous bulls, artificial insemination is increasingly being relied upon for breeding of cows;

- (xv) article 48 of the Constitution of India directs that the State shall endeavour to take steps for preserving and improving breeds of animals; and
- (xvi) all possible steps are needed to be taken to preserve, improve and protect the stock of indigenous cattle of the country,

this House urges upon the Government to: —

- (a) suitably amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 to exempt bulls from the application of provisions that restrict their utility and training for various purposes by using of various techniques to train them to perform agricultural tasks such as ploughing and transportation;
- (b) include the amended Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution of India; and
- (c) take steps to encourage and incentivise the use of indigenous cattle for agricultural purposes and improve their health and stock."

Sir, it is a very important Resolution which may appear to be very simple, but involves our rich tradition, culture and the native people of this country. From time immemorial India has primarily been an agrarian country. Of course, our nation contributes 15.4 per cent of the GVA, Gross Value Added, in the years 2015-16. It employs 263.1 million Indians which accounts for 54.6 per cent of the total work force. Sir, today India like many other developing countries with a rich agricultural tradition and heritage of their own, the worse improved agriculture forms as a substitute or synonymous with the increasing use of high yielding variety seeds and usage of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and tractors among other modern inputs.

Sir, the spread of modern technology or the modern methods uprooted several traditional agricultural methods like that of crop rotations, use of cattle and inter-cropping patterns which have been an integral part of heritage. However, in the goal of increasing the short-term yield, the long-term impacts of these modern methods have been severely neglected. Sir, we should not ignore certain facts. Over the years, indigenous cattle have been the backbone of the agriculture of our country rather our economy. Prior to introduction of modern farm equipments, carrying on agricultural activities would not have been possible without the use of cattle. From ploughing to transportation, use of dung and urine as manure and fertilizers, use of cattle for agriculture are many. Even today cattle are an integral and important part of agriculture particularly for the landless, the marginal and the small farmers. Sir, the bulls are used for ploughing and transportation.

[Shri Tiruchi Siva]

This not only helps to save consumption of power but also in using volumes of fossil fuels that are harmful to the environment. Fossil fuels are a primary source of energy, no one can deny, but at the cost of what? Sir, the fossil fuels release carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxides among other Green House gases that will severely harm the environment as such. The consequences, in the long run, will be felt. Burning of fossil fuels is one of the primary causes of global warming. It results in the rise of temperature, flooding of low-lying areas in sea levels and submerging of islands. Sir, sulphur dioxide is one of the pollutants released by the fossil fuels, which causes acid rain. Acid rain not only leads to destruction of monuments but also severely affects crops due to acidification. We cannot ignore this very, very important thing. As of today, fossil fuels are being extracted and mined at an exorbitant cost to meet the current demand and supply. However, it is estimated that fossil fuels would become extinct in the long run since this is a non-renewable energy. It is highly likely that fuel prices will also increase steeply in the future. Sir, in the year 2014-15, the sale of tractors in India was 5.51 lakh. In 2015-16, India imported 2.2 lakh TMT of crude oil and other petroleum products worth Rs. 5.24 lakh crores. It is estimated that 60 lakh tonnes of diesel worth Rs. 4000 crores can be potentially saved by replacing tractors with cattle for the purposes of ploughing and transportation. This would have a huge saving not only economically, but also environmentally. Sir, cattle dung has been traditionally used in India as manure and fertilizers. This tremendously helps to reduce the reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides that have a negative effect on the quality of the soil as well as harms the quality of food crops that are produced. Sir, given the serious issue of depleting ground water sources, over utilization of chemical based fertilizers and pesticides is further adding to the problem of non-usability of existing ground water resources. Sir, India consumes 256 lakh tonnes of fertilizers in 2014-15. Indiscriminate use of pesticides and fertilizers in agriculture has also led to the rampant spread of diseases through food products. Use of such inputs leading to ground water contamination has been linked to gastric cancer and hypertension and stomach cancer among a number of other diseases. Sir, however, on the other hand, dung and urine from cattle contain various natural minerals which are extremely beneficial for the soil and have other environmental friendly uses as well. Dung is also collected and used as biogas to generate electricity and heat. The gas is rich in methane and is renewable, stable and an inexpensive source of electricity. Further, the use of dung as manure has no negative impact on our health. Sir, a high dependence on fossil fuels and chemical-based input for agriculture not only harms the environment, but is also extremely expensive. The usage of such inputs significantly raises the cost of farming which is not feasible for the small and marginal farmers who are living a

hand-to-mouth existence. Such farmers find it more economical to rear bulls rather than to purchase or rent tractors. Sir, in order to maintain their agricultural inputs they get loans from the banks which they are not able to repay and we hear so many number of farmers committing suicides in recent days across India. Not only in any particular region, but across India, farmers commit suicide only for the reason that they don't get rain, they don't get water, and for incurring costs on inputs for agriculture like pesticides and fertilizers which they believe would fetch them more yield, which rather put them to disastrous end. So, the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides rather than helping the farmers brings their life to an end. So, it is very imminent. Sir, we have to consider that. It has to be replaced with a traditional and heritage form of cultivation. Use of cattle will not only help the farmers, but also preserve the soil as well as the food products that are cultivated. Sir, as per the Livestock Census conducted by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries of the Government of India, the total indigenous cattle population in India has reduced by 8.94 per cent from 1660.15 lakhs in 2007 to 1511.72 lakhs in 2012 lakhs, which is a small fraction of the total actual requirement for cattle for agricultural practices. On the other hand, the population of exotic breeds of cattle has increased by 10.18 per cent in the same period, from 330.6 lakhs to 397.32 lakhs in 2012. So, native breed of our cattle are diminishing and are being extinct whereas the exotic breeds of cattle are increasing in number. What is the result of that? Sir, I have got a very good example. There is a saying in Tamil about the cows which yield milk. I think, the milk which the cows yield has a protein which is called Beta-Casein, A-1 and U-1, A-2 and U-2. The milk which native cows are giving has A-2 and U-2. It helps the people to live in good health and, of course, blood circulation is increased. Whereas milk, which breed cows are giving, has A1 and U1 and they are the source of cancer. Sir, this is not something which is imaginary; it is proved by way of research. So, milk that we get from our native cows keeps our children healthy; whereas, milk given by exotic breed cows brings new diseases. Just to get more milk, we cannot keep the health of our people at stake.

Owing to this decline in cattle population, artificial insemination is increasingly been relied upon for breeding cows. This is a very sad thing. Not only is the process of artificial insemination expensive, but it also led to a reduction in the demand for bulls. Sir, bulls are used for plowing, transportation, breed cows and also for other sports like *Jallikattu*.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): That is the real purpose.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Yes, maybe. Why not?

[Shri Tiruchi Siva]

So, when native bulls actually become extinct, the focus on certain specific breeds through the process of artificial insemination also results in loss of genetic variation. In fact, according to a recent news report, 59 live bulls of Jersey breed imported from Denmark! Studies have shown that due to artificial insemination and the way animals are treated, the life span of animals is drastically impacted. In an ideal situation, cattle live for around 25 years. However, animals that are intensively milked live up to only around 10 years. So, Sir, our cows also will become extinct in the coming years. Other breeds will be imported. These also live for a short period. And, even for insemination and growing cattle, we have to depend on other nations. So, my point is, when we have a rich tradition and heritage, we are just giving it up for more income. But, in reality, we would not get more income, rather we are only keeping the lives of our children and the country at stake. So, the native cattle in India have evolved in perfect harmony with their local region and adapting to the local environment conditions. The State of Tamil Nadu has six indigenous cattle breeds — Kangayam, Pulikulam, Umbalachery, Barugur, Alambadi and Malai Maadu. However, today, owing to increase in artificial insemination and lesser people rearing cattle, most of these breeds have dwindled to a few thousands and are on the verge of extinction. This is majorly due to lack of incentives to farmers, introduction of tractors and popularization of exotic breeds.

Sir, I think, hon. Deputy Chairman is well aware, now-a-days, the people are reverting back to original form of cultivation. They are totally giving up chemical fertilizers as organic products are being welcomed by consumers as well as farmers. It is more remunerative to farmer as well as it is healthier for consumer. Now, I am converting my farm into organic. Earlier, we were using chemical fertilizers. Now, agriculture experts instructed me to totally stop that. Only two native cows and two native bulls are enough for 15 acres of land whose cow dung and urine can be used as manure as well as pesticides. People are waiting for produce that come out from such farm. So, awareness has come. But, we are resorting to other means.

Article 29 of the Constitution says that it is the fundamental right of every citizen, residing in any part of India and having a distinct culture of its own, to conserve the same. Article 51A of the Constitution directs that it is the fundamental duty of every citizen to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture.

Artificial insemination is the worst thing which we have to stop immediately. When

we have got our own bulls used for plowing, transportation and sports, these can otherwise be used for breeding our own cows.

I should confess here and I tender my apology for telling this. Through artificial insemination, cow may breed and give milk. But, its natural pleasure is deprived. It is not just saving an animal from cruelty meted out by human or anyone else. Just because it does not have voice, we should not underestimate its feelings. It has to give birth to a cow and for that it has to be with a bull. But you are totally depriving it of a bull. No bull is there, whereas it is impregnated, it gives birth and it also gives milk. Sir, I am very sorry to say this, but I have to share this. They are all animals. How can we deprive them, just for the sake of milk or money? Only artificial insemination can fetch you more money does not mean that we should use this technique. I think, Sir, we have to apply our mind. We should have some humanitarian consideration, not only with fellow human beings, but also with animals, who come along with us and who are always with us. So, there are many such things which I would like to say; I think it is not out of place. Cows and bulls are being domesticated. They are brought up like children. Not only in Tamil Nadu, but also in many other areas, these animals are being used for other activities. In Tamil Nadu, there is an ancient tradition that has been observed for over 2,000 years, the *Jallikattu*, a bull taming sport, conducted as a part of the annual Pongal festivities to celebrate the harvest season. A glimpse of the *Jallikattu* sport can also be seen in the ancient relics from the Indus Valley Civilization, which are on display at the National Museum, New Delhi. So, it is not something which is happening today. It is there since the Indus Valley Civilization and is still in the National Museum, New Delhi. So, it requires the use of indigenous breed of bulls. The bulls are identified, nourished and trained for the event. They are not tortured. They are fed well as that of a child. Without activities like the *Jallikattu*, a lot of native breeds will be sent to slaughter houses. With reduced availability of bulls, farmers will be forced to adopt artificial insemination techniques, which is cost prohibitive, and is in direct contravention of *in situ* conservation. So, Sir, in a bid to extract more commercial value and more milk from the cows, artificial insemination methods are used rather than breeding of the indigenous breeds of a cattle. Thus, a ban of traditional and cultural practices such as *Jallikattu*, Kambala in Karnataka, etc. further aggravates the problem of extinction of indigenous cattle. Sir, societal peace and harmony comes about by taking proactive action and not just by talking about it. Despite religious, class and caste diversities prevalent in India, many principles, functions, events are sustainably shared for a peaceful co-living. *Jallikattu* is one such festival that is celebrated with full

[Shri Tiruchi Siva]

enthusiasm across the State of Tamil Nadu, by the people, breaking through numerous class, caste and religious barriers. So, Sir, the native bulls or the native cattle are essential for agricultural purpose, to preserve our ancient and heritage method of agricultural farming. Moreover, it is in the interest of small and marginal farmers who consider it better to rear a bull to maintain their livelihood than to resort to chemical fertilizers to get some more yield in the farms. Sports like Jallikattu will also encourage the people to develop that. Here, I would like to quote Article 51A. It says, "It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood among all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic, regional or sectional diversities." Sir, just for an example, I say, it does not create any controversy, rather, it brings in more harmony among the people of various culture, diversities, castes, classes and religions. In Madurai, the Muslim Imams offer holy ash to the bulls before the sport is started. In fact, in Madurai, the first bull that enters the arena belongs to a Scheduled Caste family. Further, in Dindigul, the Christian priest hoists the flag to start the event and in Alanganallur, priest belonging to the Scheduled Caste perform a puja before the vadaivasal is opened. So, there is no caste barrier. No religion is there. People are together. For example, if people have to come together, some festivals have to be there. When Ramzan comes, we go there. When Christmas comes, we come to a place. When Deepavali comes, they go to other places. Like that, such events also bring people together. Some sports, by showing some reason, if curtailed, may spoil the ancient heritage, culture and tradition of the country. So, Sir, in the interests of several things, I am moving this Resolution; namely, first, to preserve the traditional form of agriculture and also to save the interests of small and marginal farmers who cannot afford to pay for the chemical fertilisers. And it contaminates the soil. It depletes the ground water. It spoils even the food products. The crops which are produced in that soil by way of these inputs cause harm and it is hazardous to the health of human also. So, we have to replace it. It is high time we concentrated on it. The Ministers are here. The Government is here. All the learned Members are also here, Sir. Should we give it up for other expectations which don't fetch anything?

So, Sir, I would like to conclude with my emphasis on social harmony. In light of the importance of social harmony, it is a goal that must be pursued at all costs. In light of the directives mandated by our Constitution and importance of the events like *Jallikattu*, the bulls, the native cattle, have to be protected. Sir, events like *Jallikattu* play an important role in maintaining such harmony, which I just mentioned as an example.

Given the added benefits in achieving this goal by events such as *Jallikattu* and

the Constitutional importance granted to the same, the Government must also take steps to preserve this unique culture and heritage of our country. I also urge the Government to take all positive steps to promote the use of indigenous cattle, and actively engage in preserving and protecting the native breeds.

For that, the House urges upon the Government to take the following measures:—

(i) Suitably amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, to exempt bulls from the application of provisions that restrict their use and training for various purposes. This includes the use of various techniques to train them to effectively perform their agricultural tasks such as ploughing and transportation.

(ii) Include this amended Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, to the 9th Schedule of the Constitution of India; and

(iii) Take steps to educate, encourage and incentivize people about the numerous uses of indigenous cattle for agricultural purposes and improve their health and stock.

Thank you very much, Sir.

The question was proposed.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Respected Deputy Chairman, before starting my observations on the submission of my esteemed colleague, Shri Tiruchi Siva, for suitable amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, I salute the recent Marina March which has replicated the Dravidian Renaissance, the inherent, indigenous, native, traditional emotions and their importance. By reflecting their commitment to the Tamil heritage which is part of the Dravidian heritage and which is part of the larger Indian heritage, the Marina March has attracted the attention of all the sensitive citizens of the globe.

Sir, we have our own cock fights in Andhra Pradesh, we have our own type of bull fights in Rayalaseema, we have our own bullock cart races in Telangana and the variety of races, variety of seasonal and festive-related celebrations involving the animals are there almost all across the nations.

With the focus on the *Jallikattu*, the World Council of Indigenous Peoples and their indigenous traditional habits, is again focusing to enlarge the demand to encourage, sustain and preserve the traditional knowledge and traditional festivity.

[Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu]

3.00 P.M.

We have forgotten to protect the earthworm. The protection of earthworm is directly related to organic farming. Organic farming is directly related to the health of the ecology, the environment and human beings. What is happening to soil health all over in the absence of earthworms is well known not only to the illiterate farmers of our country, but also to our extraordinary agricultural scientists. Yet, we are not able to protect the earthworms. Not just the earthworms, we are not able to protect the frogs and tortoises either. Where is this leading to? We advocate and champion the cause of protection of our biodiversity, but until and unless we protect the original natural resources such as earthworms, frogs and tortoises, we won't be able to protect organic farming. How are we going to protect agriculture in the real sense?

Sir, recently, I travelled to Maharashtra. I visited the Kaneri Math at Siddhagiri, the place of Kolhapur Maharaja. Sambhaji Maharaj is here in this House. In the Siddhagiri gowshala, I saw the rarest of the rare breeds of cattle and cow. Sahiwal, khillari, dangi, ongole and other breeds are not seen in their original form in our agricultural fields, but I could see the rarest of the rare breeds of cow of not just India, but of the world there. I visited *Narasimha Wadi* on the banks of the Krishna River, just 70 kilometres away from Kolhapur. Even there I could see the commitment, care and concern to protect the original breed of cattle so as to protect organic farming and to preserve the traditional knowledge, the real treasure of our natural breeds, and the relevance of our indigenous breeds. In this context, I would like to again talk about my own State, particularly Andhra Pradesh's, *kodi pandalu*. It looks odd in these modern times, but it is shastra, respected, Sir, it is *kukkuta shastra*. It has got astronomical and astrological relevance. The colours of the fighting cocks, especially the winning cocks, were used to adjudge the relevance of planets and their effects in a particular year. They are centuries and millennia old. There was a necessity to depend on them because they did not have ready calculations or calendars. They used to depend on this *kukkuta shastra*, these cock fights, during the time of *Sankranti*, *Maha Sankranti* or *Makara Sankramana*. Likewise, *jallikattu* and all other traditional fights have their significance. It is not just for encouragement and enthusiasm, but also to protect the nativity of breeds. Can anybody imagine a hybrid variety of the bull taking part in *jallikattu*, bull fights in Rayalaseema or bullock cart races in Telangana? Only the native, original and well-bred bulls can take part in such races. These are having the relevance directly to the traditional knowledge and their preservation. Hence, I appreciate the initiative of Tiruchi Sivaji to focus on this vital aspect and to lead

towards preservation of traditional festivities involving animals. At this juncture and in this context, I plead to the modern and the newer generation, while you take part in those traditional heritage-oriented festivities and competition between animals, ensure to have humanitarian ground and ensure not to give them any sort of anaesthesia-type of medication just to win your race. This is the reflection of the traditional heritage of Indian sub-continent to protect that. We need to have the traditional capacities to continue our activities with the modern understanding of the age-old traditions. For that, the initiative by Tiruchi Sivaji is appreciable and I welcome it. Thank you, very much.

श्री बसावाराज पाटिल (कर्नाटक) : माननीय उपसभापति जी, आदरणीय श्री तिरुची शिवा इस हाउस में आज जो खास Resolution लाए हैं, उसके लिए मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि वे एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय लेकर आए हैं। सरकार को इस पर बहुत गंभीरता से सोचते हुए इसके सभी पहलुओं पर विचार करना चाहिए। उन्होंने अपने अध्ययन के द्वारा यह जितना बड़ा काम किया है, उसके लिए मैं श्री तिरुची शिवा का अभिनंदन करता हूँ।

आधुनिकता के नाम पर हम अपनी वास्तविकता और कुछ परंपरागत सच्चाइयों को कितनी दूर तक नजरअंदाज कर सकते हैं और इसके क्या दुष्परिणाम होते हैं, इसके बारे में हमें गंभीरता से सोचना होगा। एक जमाने में भारत में केमिकल्स और फर्टिलाइजर्स के कारण पंजाब दुनिया का सबसे आकर्षक स्थान बना, लेकिन आज पंजाब सबसे ज्यादा कैंसर रोग पाया जाने वाला राज्य बन गया है। इस प्रकार तात्कालिक सुख के लिए, थोड़े समय के आनंद के लिए अनंतकाल के दुख को भोगना देश के हित में ठीक नहीं होगा। भारत की जो संस्कृति है, जीवन शैली है, वह उत्तम है।

उपसभापति जी, एक होती है घर की माँ, दूसरी धरती माँ और तीसरी गौ माता होती है। इन तीनों माताओं के बीच में एक अन्यान्य संबंध है, जिसके आधार पर यह सृष्टि चलती है। भारत की गाय के गोबर, भारत की गाय के गौमूत्र के द्वारा जमीन की फर्टिलिटी बढ़ती है। घर की माँ उसके उत्पाद को यूज करती है, घर के बाल-बच्चों को और सबको दूध पिलाती है। इसके कारण जो एक सुंदर वातावरण बनता है, वह घर के लिए बहुत आनंददायक होता है। इस महत्वपूर्ण गाय की रक्षा आवश्यक है।

उपसभापति जी, हमारे देश में इसको कामधेनु कहा गया है। इसको केवल नाम के लिए कामधेनु नहीं कहा गया है, बल्कि इसलिए कहा गया है कि यह बहुत उपयोगी जंतु है। जब गाय के दूध से घी बनता है, तब उसमें ऑक्सीजन की मात्रा 47 परसेंट तक पहुंच जाती है। इतना ही नहीं, सृष्टि के अंदर गाय एकमात्र ऐसा प्राणी है, जो ऑक्सीजन लेती है और दुनिया को वापस ऑक्सीजन देती है। ऐसी कई चीजों के कारण उनके इस Resolution को रखने का समर्थन करते हुए मैं सरकार से विनती करता हूँ कि अपने देश की जो भी परंपरागत ब्रीड है, उसका जो गोबर है, जिसके अन्यान्य उपयोग के कारण अच्छा अन्न बनता है, अच्छे फल बनते हैं, अच्छी तरकारी बनती है, इस सब चीजों को छोड़कर, हमारी जेनरेशन केमिकल्स के नाम पर जो एक बरबादी की ओर चली जा रही है, उसको रोकना होगा। इसके कारण आज का अन्न खाकर हमारी सारी कमाई एक प्रकार से हॉस्पिटल को जा रही है। नेपाल हमारा पड़ोसी देश है, उस देश के अंदर आज भी गाय को एक राष्ट्रीय प्राणी के नाते स्वीकार किया जाता है।

[श्री बसावाराज पाटिल]

वहां जिस प्रकार एक मनुष्य के ऊपर आहत करने पर जितना बड़ा अपराध माना जाता है, उतना ही बड़ा अपराध गाय के ऊपर आहत करने पर माना जाता है। हमारे देश में परंपरागत गौ की आने वाली कितनी ही रेस हैं, जैसे कि हमारे कर्णाटक में देवणी है, मलेनाडुगिड्डा है, खिलारी है, कृष्णवेड़ी है। आज इस प्रकार की अलग-अलग जाति की गौ-संपत्ति अपने देश के अंदर है, जिनका विकास होना चाहिए और जिनके आधार पर हमारा विकास होना चाहिए। इससे ने केवल पैसे बचेंगे, बल्कि इसान स्वस्थ रहेगा, आरोग्य रहेगा और आरोग्य रहने के कारण आदमी स्वस्थ रहेगा और जो पैसा रोज दवाखाने को जाता है, वह भी बचेगा। आज कैंसर, इत्यादि नाम के भयानक रोग जो अपने देश को खा रहे हैं, उससे भी हम बच सकते हैं। अपने देश की एक-एक ब्रीड की महत्ता इतनी है कि अगर आज भी वर्ल्ड में दूध का कॉम्पिटिशन होता है, तो the top two highest milk-yielding breeds in the world are Indian breeds. इसमें वर्ल्ड कॉम्पिटिशन में आंध्र प्रदेश की होंगल 49 लीटर तक दूध देती है। इस प्रकार इतिहास के पन्नों में आधुनिकता के नाम पर हम अपनी कुछ मौलिक चीजों को खो बैठे हैं। हमने अभी तक जो गलती की है, वह की है, लेकिन इसे आगे ले जाना आत्मघातक होगा। मुझे एक प्रकार से डर लगता है कि अगर इसी प्रकार का नेग्लिजेंस रहेगा, तो शायद हमें अपनी सभी ब्रीड्स को एक एग्जिबिशन की वस्तु के रूप में देखना पड़ेगा। बाद में इसके अभाव में हम जिंदगी में कितने भी तड़पेंगे, हमारी गई हुई वह मौलिक संपत्ति हम वापस नहीं ला सकेंगे। इस प्रकार यह हाई-ब्रीड, जिसमें न आनंद है, जिसमें न आरोग्य है, जो स्वास्थ्य के लिए उपयोग नहीं है, विश्व में यह साबित हो गया है कि भारत का ए-वन और यू-वन दूध और उसके सभी प्रोडक्ट्स मनुष्य के स्वास्थ्य के लिए और नाना प्रकार के रोगों से मुक्ति के लिए सर्वश्रेष्ठ हैं। इन सब चीजों को जानते हुए मैं आदरणीय तिरुची शिवा जी के इस महत्वपूर्ण संकल्प का समर्थन करता हूँ।

उपसभापति जी, मैं अभी गुजरात गया था। अहमदाबाद में इसकी 12 जातियां हैं, जैसे नक्षत्र होते हैं, ऐसे 12 प्रकार हैं। एक विदेशी कंपनी वालों ने एक नंदी, he asked for ₹ 8 crore to purchase that bull. वे क्या करते हैं कि उसे ले जाते हैं और सीमेन क्रॉस ब्रीड कराते हैं, उससे 80 करोड़ रुपए कमाते हैं। जैसा तिरुची शिवा जी ने कहा, जैसे मनुष्य की फीलिंग्स होती हैं, वैसे ही प्राणियों की भी फीलिंग्स होती हैं, नेचुरल ब्रीडिंग होनी चाहिए। नेचुरल ब्रीडिंग के आधार पर जो उत्पत्ति होती है, वह अनंत काल के लिए, स्वास्थ्य के लिए, अपने जीवन के सुखी जीवनयापन के लिए महत्वपूर्ण होती है। इन चीजों को ध्यान में रखते हुए हमारे देश में इन फर्टिलाइजर्स से छुट्टी लेना जरूरी है। आज जनता की तरफ से तेजी से यह आवाज आ रही है और लोग ऑर्गेनिक फूड की तरफ जा रहे हैं, ऑर्गेनिक आहार के पीछे आज लाइन लगा कर खड़े हो रहे हैं। वे कहते हैं कि हमें यह तरकारी चाहिए, हम यह चीज चाहिए। इस प्रकार भारत की अपनी जो अनमोल संपत्ति है, जो गौ-वंश है, इसके पीछे केवल धार्मिक भावनाएं नहीं हैं। यह एक सहज बात है कि अगर मेरे कष्ट में किसी आदमी ने कोई सहायता दी, तो हम उसे याद करते हैं, उसे स्मरण करते हैं, वैसे ही एक गाय के इस देश में जन्म लेने के बाद, उसकी मृत्यु के बाद भी अगर उसे गाड़ा जाता है, तो दो साल के अंदर जमीन में से जो उसका कैमिकल एक्शन होकर निकलता है, वह लगभग आठ हजार रुपए का एक प्रकार का फर्टिलाइजर बन कर निकलता है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time is over. Please conclude.

श्री बसावाराज पाटिल: इन चीजों को ध्यान में रखते हुए, माननीय उपसभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से विनती करता हूँ कि तिरुची शिवा जी के इस संकल्प को सरकार बहुत गंभीरता से ले और देश की अनमोल संपत्ति को बचाकर एक स्वस्थ भारत का निर्माण करने की दृष्टि से महत्वपूर्ण काम करे। मैं यही प्रार्थना करता हूँ, धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: As Mr. La. Ganesan has to catch a flight, let me call him first. Of course, Mr. Jairam Ramesh has agreed.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: But, Sir, he should listen to me also.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes. He will be happy to listen to you. At least, the Chair will listen to you. Don't worry.

SHRI LA. GANESAN (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me. Sir, I whole-heartedly support the Resolution moved by my friend, and, hon. Member of this House, Shri Tiruchi Siva. I went to him and appreciated the way the Resolution was drafted and the way he spoke while presenting the Resolution. Sir, I am here to support this Resolution. वास्तव में यह Resolution बीजेपी के मेम्बर द्वारा present किया जाना चाहिए, लेकिन अगर इसको डीएमके के मेम्बर present करते हैं, तो मुझे बहुत खुशी होती है।

Sir, I will make one or two brief points as all the points have been mentioned by Siva ji and are mentioned in the Resolution also. Sir, now-a-days, the dogs, our local, Indian dogs, swadeshi dogs, are not seen. In Tamil Nadu, we call rajapalayam dog or kombai dog, which is very watchful, and which is a traditional one. Now-a-days in houses also, the pet dogs are there. They never bark, they never bite but they are called dogs. This is the position everywhere.

Let us take the example of a variety of rice seed, Japonica Indica. It is a cross-breed between the *videsh* Seed and Indian seed. We eat that rice, and, so, in our blood also, already the *videshi* and *swadeshi* are mixed. In the same way, as he rightly mentioned, there are cows and the bulls. Our Ongole bull, Kangayam bull, or, even Sindhi also, are not prevalent now-a-days. Gradually, they are decreasing now. Only to get more milk artificially, we are bringing more and more jersey cows and other cows. Already Mr. Siva has mentioned about the capacity of the milk, the strength of the milk, and the protein content of the milk. Sir, we all are consuming that. Gradually, a day will come when you won't be able to call yourself an Indian. When everything is mixed, our blood will also be mixed blood. Only *swadeshi* will not be there in our blood. So, I think, a very important point has been mentioned by Mr. Siva, and, I agree with him.

[Shri La. Ganesan]

Sir, as far as *Jallikattu* is concerned, it is a blessing in disguise. The main thing was to give permission to conduct *Jallikattu*. Of course, with the efforts of the State Governments and with the cooperation of the hon. Prime Minister and the Central Government, we were successful in conducting *Jallikattu*. Sir, what has happened is that, saath-saath, an awareness has come in the people of Tamil Nadu, particularly, kisans, students and youngsters, that they have to protect our *swadeshi* cows, *swadeshi* bulls. That is an important thing. Now, immediately after all this, Mr. Siva has moved this Resolution. So, Sir, once again, I say that I whole-heartedly support this Resolution. Sir, *Jallikattu* is observed for only one day in a year. For all the other 364 days, the bull is maintained only for breeding, for production just as the indigenous cows. This is the most important aspect. We don't simply want to protect the celebration of *Jallikattu* but the maintaining of the cows for that purpose is very important. This has created awareness in Tamil Nadu. That is why, I whole-heartedly support this move. There are some things which people are not aware of. They should be properly educated. The kisans or other people grow their cows or bulls in their houses but after some time, after a particular age, when that animal is not useful for ploughing, or, if some cows are there, which are not able to give milk, then, they sell it. As he himself rightly mentioned, now-a-days, it has been found that if only the urine and the dung of these animals are properly maintained, it can give more income to the kisan than what he can get from the cows that give milk. This has been proved beyond doubt. Awareness should be created among the kisan also. One more thing is that transportation of cows also is very cruel. I also demand, it is not mentioned in it, that transportation of the cows should be stopped. Most of the cows and bulls are transported to Kerala for butchering. That should also be stopped. Also, the cows are transported in a very inhuman way.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are more incidents of cancer in Kerala because of that, I am telling you.

SHRI LA. GANESAN: That is why in one short sentence, I would say in Tamil, '*nattai padukakka vendum, aanal mattaiyum padukakka vendum.*'

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. We all really stand with the farmers and also the traditional way of ploughing by farmers in our place, especially in our State of Tamil Nadu, which is actually a State of agriculture. People, mainly our forefathers, they all depended only on agriculture as their main source of income. So, as I come from an agrarian State, I do want to put forth my

views. First of all, I have to thank the Central Government on behalf of people of Tamil Nadu for early clearance of the *Jallikattu* Bill, which paved the way for the conduct of *Jallikattu* this year in the State. As rightly pointed out here by my colleague, the organic farming has to be promoted in the nation as general. Cattle manure has been traditionally used in India as a fertilizer, which has been clearly brought out here.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA) *in the Chair*]

I also want to state here that Tamil Nadu being the first in agriculture industry, our then hon. Chief Minister, a mass leader and our revered, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, set up five model villages to promote organic farming. Tamil Nadu will boast of its eco-friendly organic villages. As part of its efforts to promote organic farming, the Tamil Government, under the dynamic leadership of our late leader, hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, announced five model organic villages in Vellore, Erode, Dharmapuri, Tiruvannamalai and Krishnagiri districts. The eco-friendly initiative was taken to strengthen the integrated pest management, that is, 150 eco-friendly villages were set up in the State. She made this announcement in the wake of concerns over the deterioration of organic content in the soil. A programme under the Centre's National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture would ensure the villages to adopt no-pesticide, no-insecticide concept to promote organic farming. Based on these pilot projects, a number of villages were raised. She also announced seven new liquid bio fertilizer production units and two organic fertilizer testing units besides a laboratory complex in the Department of Organic Agriculture at the Tamil Nadu Agriculture University. Incidentally, out of 17,500 fertilizer samples tested by the fertilizer control laboratories in the State, 635 samples were found to be non-standard and legal action was initiated against the defaulters. Another major announcement which the Government made under the leadership of hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was selling of Amma seeds. Amma seed was proposed and Amma outlets were formed across the State. In a bid to encourage farmers to use high quality certified seeds, the Government set up Amma Seed Agency by coordinating with the Government Seed Farms, Seed Production Units and farmers. The agency was set up with adequate staff at Rs. 156.74 crore. The quality seeds produced here will be supplied as Amma seeds through Amma outlets at reasonable rates. This is one part of the Tamil Nadu Government's efforts to intensify grain production for the fiscal year. Despite poor monsoon, grain production stood at 110,00,000 tonne per year. Despite the monsoon failure, the grain production shot up thanks to the farmers who switched to millet cultivation instead of water-intensive paddy crop.

I also wanted to put forth here one thing which is about the traditional ploughing

[Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth]

methods used by farmers. Why have they gradually reduced using them? Why have they started using tractors which run on diesel? Because that was time-consuming and the farmers wanted to speed up the process. Earlier when they used to start ploughing the field in the morning, it used to go on up to two o'clock or three o'clock. Now everything is about time management. This is the ground reality.

Coming from farming background, I know this. Earlier, many people from rural areas used to come to do all kinds of jobs like ploughing the field and weeding. Nowadays we don't get people for these jobs. Why? Because it is time-consuming. The traditional way of ploughing the field used to take a lot of time. Gradually, people started using tractors. That also should be looked into.

Bulls are part and parcel of our life. We rear them as our children and we take care of them. Then they are used for bull-taming sport. It is our tradition. It is a heritage of Tamil tradition. These bulls were fed like a child. They were fed all good things. They were happily kept at home.

In Spanish bull fighting, bulls are killed. But here bulls are pampered. We only rear them for keeping up with our tradition and culture. Jallikattu has become a part and parcel of our life. After the Government passed the legislation, it is going to be a regular event in our State.

Use of cow dung is a natural way of improving soil health. It enhances soil fertility. This way we can reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides.

The use of cow dung, which is popularly known as gobar gas, gives healthier and more fertile soil. We have to take a turn from here to there. But the main thing is that people have gradually stopped using traditional ploughing methods. Now the people have become aware of time management and they want more things to be done in a short duration. The ground reality is that we don't get farmers. Why? Improve farming methods and encourage farming among people. Minimum support price is not there. There is frequent monsoon failure. So, there was no harvest and many people lost their paddy. They lost their crops. It was burnt. So, we are looking forward in this regard. We want the farming community to be lifted up. We have to encourage farming. We have to give them proper education. Give them proper techniques and give them more. Most of the farming community leave farming because they don't get what they have invested in it. So, they move out. They sell their lands. If it is in city, they sell their land for exorbitant rates and real estate owners benefit. Then, what happens to farming? In a few years, or in another 10-20 years, we will have money but where will be food?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: So, we have to make improvement in the whole thing. Improve farming methods and give them latest techniques and methods. We have to encourage farming. We have to give them Minimum Support Price and give them whatever they have spent. It has to be profitable for the farmers. Farming should become more profitable. That is the main thing. I support it and I also congratulate him. A battle has begun. The view of the Central Government should be as to how to improve agriculture in India and how to improve the living standards of farmers in India and how to make farming community more blessed in this country. Thank you so much.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Thank you. Next speaker is Mr. B.K. Hariprasad.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Thank you, Vice-Chairman, Sir. I rise to support the Resolution moved by Mr. Siva on agrarian issues. Sir, as you know, in this country, almost 65 per cent of the population is involved in agricultural activity. In terms of contribution to the GDP, agriculture may not contribute more than 20 per cent, but in terms of the employment generation, it contributes almost 54 per cent. When compared to the service sector, agriculture contributes almost 54 per cent and employment generation of service sector, I think, is around 18 per cent. Mr. Siva has moved this Resolution and it is regarding the agricultural activities. We all know this. It is an age-old practice. Animals and human beings co-exist in this world and in this country. Especially India being a vast country with diversity, we have seen different types of culture all over. Right from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Narmada to Brahmaputra, we have seen how animals and human beings co-exist. If you talk about animals, especially Mr. Siva was talking about *Jallikattu*, of course, farmers are also human beings. They also need some recreation and entertainment. As I said, animals and human beings co-exist. They love their animals. When I see here, they talk of cow and bull. I come from the coastal part of Karnataka where the agricultural activities are mainly dependent upon buffaloes. We groom buffaloes, we love buffaloes. During the non-agricultural season, they have a buffalo race called *Kambala*, where in a muddy slushy field, there will be buffalo races with pairs of buffalo tied to ploughs. Really, it is one of the oldest traditions of Karnataka, especially in the coastal belt. It is a 900-year old tradition which has been practised. When it comes to buffaloes, I can see, in this country, discrimination is a part of life. Whereas the cow is protected very well, buffaloes are totally neglected. Sir, I was shocked about PETA. I believe in non-violence on any kind of animals whether it is cow, buffalo or

[Shri B.K. Hariprasad]

chicken or whatever it is. I believe in that but when it comes to horses, horse is also a part of the agricultural activities but in most of the places, especially, in Delhi and Bangalore, there are huge horse races. The jockey sits on the horse, whips the horse but no PETA goes there because it is the sport of the elite. When it comes to the sports of the farmers, definitely, these PETA or whatever the organisations, they raise objections whether it is *Jallikattu* or *Kambala*. Sir, for *Jallikattu*, as Shrimati Vijila and Mr. Siva said, they groom the bulls with love and affection as we groom the buffaloes with love and affection. We do not treat them as enemies or treat them cruelly. All the 365 days, we groom them, we feed them and only once in a year, after the completion of agricultural activities, as a kind of sport, we encourage these farmers. Unfortunately, it was banned almost ten years back. Mr. Oscar is the patron of this *Kambala* sport in Udupi and Mangalore. He knows pretty well better than me. These animals contribute to the development of the region. As we all know, today, India is the largest producer of milk in the world. That is because we protect and groom these animals whether it is buffaloes, cows or bulls. It is not *Jallikattu* alone or buffalo race or the horse races, even as Bhaskarji said, the cock fights. In some places we have goat fights. All these animals also need some sports, I think there should not be any objection to this. I thank Mr. Jairam Ramesh for giving me permission to speak before him because I have to catch a flight. So my support is to Mr. Siva regarding this. There should not be discrimination against buffaloes because it does not mean that we should only protect cows. Buffaloes are also a part of our life and the milk of buffaloes has got more protein than the cow. It should also be protected. ...*(Interruptions)*... I do not go into the religious aspect. Sir, as you know, even in Assam the goat fights are there. We have been seeing. So, I think, what Mr. Siva has moved is a commendable Resolution. I think the Government should come out and support this. Thank you very much, Sir.

श्री मेघराज जैन (मध्य प्रदेश): आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, तिरुची शिवा जी ने जो संकल्प प्रस्तुत किया है, वह वास्तव में स्वागत योग्य है। उन्होंने अपने उद्बोधन में संपूर्ण बात यानी सभी विषयों को लिया है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि किसान के लिए गाय और बैल इसलिए आवश्यक है, क्योंकि खेत का wastage बैल खाए, गाय खाए और गाय का wastage खेत खाए ताकि इससे किसान की लागत कम हो जाए। यह आवश्यक है और हमने यह प्रयोग करके देखा है। जैविक कृषि के लिए गोबर आवश्यक है, जब कि आज हमारी स्थिति यह हो रही है कि हमारी भूमि खराब हो रही है, जैव विविधता नष्ट हो रही है, प्रदूषण बढ़ रहा है, हमारा जल प्रदूषित हो रहा है, रासायनिक कीटनाशक और रासायनिक खाद के कारण अनाज प्रदूषित हो रहा है और उसके कारण अनेक बीमारियाँ हो रही हैं। अगर जैविक खाद का प्रयोग किए जाए, तो हम इन सब बीमारियों से बच सकते हैं, स्वस्थ रह सकते हैं और अपने पशुओं को बचा सकते हैं। इसके साथ ही हम इस तरह से किसान की लागत कम कर सकते हैं। ये सब इसके

वैज्ञानिक कारण हैं और केन्द्र सरकार के जो अनुसंधान केंद्र हैं, वहां के वैज्ञानिकों ने इसके बारे में अनुसंधान किया है। जिस समय मैं करनाल में अनुसंधान केंद्र में था, उस समय जब वहां पर एक युवा वैज्ञानिक बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ, तो जिन्होंने यहां पर Jersey और Holstein लाने का विचार किया था, जो रिटायर हो गए थे, उनके पैर छू कर उन्होंने कहा कि सर, मैं आपका बहुत सम्मान करता हूँ, आप हमारे गुरु हैं, पर अगर मेरा वश चलता, तो मैं आपको फांसी पर लटका देता। मैं वहां उस कार्यक्रम में मौजूद था। उन्होंने कहा कि जो जरसी का दूध और Holstein का दूध है, वह देश के लिए घातक है और बीमारी का कारण है। गेहूं के बारे में अनुसंधान करने वाले वैज्ञानिकों ने कहा कि अगर गाय का मूत्र, बैल का मूत्र, पानी के साथ खेतों में दिया जाए तो हमारी गेहूं की फसल अच्छी होगी। गन्ने पर रिसच करने वाले वैज्ञानिकों का कहना है कि गन्ने के खेत में अगर गौमूत्र का पानी दिया जाए तो गन्ना लम्बा होगा, मोटा होगा और मीठा होगा। उसमें शक्कर ज्यादा होगी। ऐसा वैज्ञानिकों ने कहा है। मेरा कहना है कि वैज्ञानिकों की एक कमेटी गठित करके कृषि मंत्री जी इस बारे में देखें।

आज हिन्दुस्तान के अंदर लगभग 200 गौशालाएं ऐसी हैं, जहां गौमूत्र पर आधारित औषधियां बन रही हैं। मनुष्य उनका लाभ ले रहे हैं। मैं स्वयं, जब मेरी तबियत खराब होती है या जरूरत पड़ती है तो गौमूत्र का सेवन करता हूँ। अनेक लोग गौमूत्र का सेवन करते हैं। गौमूत्र पर आधारित हमारे यहां अनेक गौशालाएं चल रही हैं, जो किसी अनुदान पर आश्रित नहीं हैं। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि समग्र रूप से गाय के बारे में, बैलों के बारे में हम ध्यान केन्द्रित करें। आज देश में हम जितना कीटनाशक प्रयोग करते हैं, उससे हमारा पानी खराब हो रहा है। गौमूत्र के प्रयोग में कुछ लगता नहीं है। यदि गाय का मूत्र एकत्रित किया जाए और इसके साथ हमारे किसान नीम, करंज के पत्ते, सीताफल के पत्ते, बेशर्म के पत्ते, धतूरे के पत्ते और थोड़ा आकरा डालकर, उबालकर, उसका कीटनाशक बना लें, फिर कोई दूसरा कीटनाशक डालने की जरूरत नहीं है। इसे हमारा किसान अपने घर में तैयार करके पैसा बचा सकता है और हमें प्रदूषण से भी मुक्ति मिल सकती है। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि तिरुची शिवा जी ने जो संकल्प सदन में प्रस्तुत किया है, उनके संकल्प पर गम्भीरता से विचार करने की आवश्यकता है। अभी हमारे यहां वलसाड के पास वागलधारा नामक एक स्थान है, जहां कैंसर का निःशुल्क उपचार पंच-गव्यों से होता है। वहां लोगों की भारी भीड़ लगी रहती है। वैसे ही बीकानेर में पंच-गव्यों का प्रयोग करके एक अस्पताल खोलने की तैयारी चल रही है। इसके अलावा टाटा मैमोरियल कैंसर अस्पताल में भी इस पर प्रयोग हुआ और पाया गया कि जो लोग गौमूत्र का सेवन करते थे, उनका हीमोग्लोबिन कीमोथेरेपी के बाद भी गिरता नहीं है। इसलिए इन सब चीजों पर वैज्ञानिक आधार पर अनुसंधान सरकार द्वारा कराया जाना चाहिए। जहां प्राइवेट लोग यह काम करते हैं, उस पर कई लोग विश्वास करते हैं, कुछ नहीं करते हैं। इसलिए मेरा माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी से निवेदन है कि इन सभी लोगों की एक कमेटी बनाई जाए। कानपुर गौशाला में, हमारे तोशनीवाल जी ने ऐसा यंत्र बनाया है, जो काम एक tractor करता है, वे सारे काम बैलों को चलाकर उस यंत्र से किए जा सकते हैं। बैल से बिजली पैदा की जा सकती है, बैल से चक्की चलाई जा सकती है, बैल से श्रेशर चलाए जा सकते हैं। हमारी जो केन्द्र सरकार की कृषियंत्र निर्माण से संबंधित कार्यशालाएं हैं, वहां उसी प्रकार के यंत्र बनने चाहिए और किसानों को वे यंत्र दिए जाने चाहिए ताकि हमारे बैल भी सुरक्षित रहें, किसान की लागत भी कम आए और जैविक कृषि भी हम गोबर से कर सकें। इन सारे कामों को करने के लिए मैं कृषि मंत्री जी से निवेदन करता हूँ और तिरुची शिवा जी ने जो संकल्प सदन में रखा है, मैं

[श्री मेघराज जैन]

उसका अनुमोदन करते हुए निवेदन करता हूँ कि उन्होंने कृषि मंत्री जी से जो सिफारिश की है, उस सिफारिश से मैं उनका साथ देता हूँ। मुझे ईर्ष्या हो रही है कि ऐसा संकल्प मुझे यहां रखना चाहिए था, लेकिन उन्होंने इसे सदन में रखा। काश मुझे इसे यहां रखने का मौका मिलता। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं उनका अभिनन्दन करता हूँ और संकल्प का समर्थन करता हूँ।

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I rise to oppose Mr. Tiruchi Siva's Bill. Mr. Tiruchi Siva is an old friend of mine. He has also gained Parliamentary fame for his Private Member's Bill. His earlier Private Member's Bill created history. But before I speak on his Bill, let me say straightway....

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: It is a Resolution and not a Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mine is a Resolution and not a Bill.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, before I speak on his Bill....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): No; you have to speak on the Resolution.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Let me say straightway that all my life I have been inspired by Silappadikaram, Manimekalai and Thirukkural. My wife is a Tamilian and I am as much a Tamilian as *Amma* was. If *Amma* was a Tamilian, I am also a Tamilian. So, I am a great admirer and a student of Tamil history and Tamil culture. I myself have written a number of articles on the Tamil Nadu model of development which is far superior to the Gujarat model of development. So, I want to say this. What I am now going to say, I am sure, will not appeal to many of my friends here in the House because the objective of Mr. Siva is not animal welfare. The objective of Mr. Siva is not organic farming. यहाँ गलती से कृषि मंत्री को बिठाया गया है, असली निशाना तो पर्यावरण मंत्री हैं। पर्यावरण मंत्री को यहाँ ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: You cannot decide about my intention....*(Interruptions)*...

श्री जयराम रमेश: निगाहें और कहीं, निशाना और कहीं! His real objective is not organic farming. His real objective is not improving agricultural practice. His real objective is not animal welfare. His real objective is to bring back Jallikattu. That is his real objective. Mr. Tiruchi Siva has given 16 reasons for improvement in Indian agriculture and Radha Mohan Singhji will agree with all of them. I also agree with all of them. Organic farming must be promoted. केमिकल फर्टिलाइजर्स के इस्तेमाल पर कुछ नियंत्रण होना चाहिए। Traditional agricultural practices should be encouraged. इसमें कोई दो रायें नहीं हो

सकती हैं। Farm mechanization should not destroy the animal economy. I agree with it 100 per cent. My friend Basawaraj Patilji said that cow is a *Kamadhenu*. Yes, cow is a *Kamadhenu*. We should protect, preserve and worship this *Kamadhenu* along with the other dark *Kamadhenu*, the buffalo, which is, unfortunately, neglected in our society. So I agree with all that has been said, but, to do all this, जैन साहब, सुनिए। आपका मकसद सही है, पर आपके मकसद को पाने के लिए शिवा जी क्या करना चाहते हैं? ये Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. में संशोधन लाना चाहते हैं। यह अजीज-सी बात है! ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री मेघराज जैन: मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि जो पशु क्रूरता निवारण अधिनियम है, उसमें केवल 200 और 250 रुपए तक का जुर्माना है। मैं सात साल तक गोसंवर्धन बोर्ड का अध्यक्ष रहा हूँ और मैं जानता हूँ कि लोग इस अधिनियम का किस प्रकार से दुरुपयोग करते हैं। उसके अंतर्गत लोग इतने बैल और गाय हत्या करने के लिए ले जाते हैं, लेकिन उनके ऊपर कोई कार्रवाई नहीं होती है, इसलिए उसमें संशोधन होना चाहिए।

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, may I continue? The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, यह कैसे बना? मुझे अफसोस है कि शिवा जी ने इस ऐक्ट का गौर से विश्लेषण या अध्ययन नहीं किया। राज्य सभा की एक नॉमिनेटेड मेम्बर हुआ करती थीं, जो एक मशहूर महिला थीं और उनका नाम रुक्मिणी देवी अरुंडेल था। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (श्री राधा मोहन सिंह): सर, हमारी एक मीटिंग है, इसलिए मैं अभी जा रहा हूँ। हमारे राज्य मंत्री यहाँ बैठे हैं, मैं फिर आ जाऊँगा।

श्री जयराम रमेश: सर, सन् 1952 से लेकर सन् 1962 तक रुक्मिणी देवी जी नॉमिनेटेड मेम्बर रहीं। Rukmini Devi Arundale, a pure blooded Tamilian, was a Nominated Member of this House from 1952 to 1962. She moved a Private Members' Bill that India must have an Act of prevention of cruelty to animals. उन्होंने उस प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिल को पेश किया। उस समय के प्रधान मंत्री, पंडित नेहरू उससे बहुत प्रभावित हुए और उन्होंने रुक्मिणी देवी जी से यह निवेदन किया कि आप यह बिल withdraw कीजिए, सरकार एक कानून बनाएगी। तब सन् 1960 में Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 बना। संविधान के कुछ प्रावधान थे और उन प्रावधानों के तहत वह ऐक्ट बनाया गया। अब तिरुची शिवा जी क्या करना चाहते हैं? तिरुची शिवा जी इस ऐक्ट में संशोधन लाना चाहते हैं और वे क्या संशोधन लाना चाहते हैं? इन्होंने कहा कि: Bull must be removed from the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Why? Because bull must be trained; and bull must be equipped for agriculture. I want to inform my friend, he can do all these things without amending the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Now, all that you have said in the Resolution about bulls, I agree with. But my difference with you is this. The State Government is fully empowered. All States are fully empowered to pass their own laws for improving the quality of livestock. You don't need to amend

[श्री जयराम रमेश]

the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act is to prevent cruelty. It is not meant to train bulls. It is not meant to improve the milk yield. It is not meant to improve organic agriculture. It is meant to prevent cruelty to animals. That's it. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will take two minutes and conclude. The Tamil Nadu Assembly had passed the Tamil Nadu Animal Preservation Act, 1958; and most States have passed Animal Preservation Acts because according to Entry 15, List-11 of the Indian Constitution, it says, "State is responsible for preservation, protection and improvement of animal stock and prevention of animal disease." यानी की राज्य सरकार का पूरा अधिकार है कानून बनाने के लिए, उत्पादकता बढ़ाने के लिए। Why doesn't the State Government amend the Tamil Nadu Animal Preservation Act, 1958 to fulfill the 16 objectives that you want to fulfill through your amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act? सर, मैं जल्लीकट्टू में नहीं पड़ना चाहता हूँ। यह बहुत भावुक मुद्दा बन गया है। मैं साफ कर देना चाहता हूँ, जो मैं यहां कह रहा हूँ, वह मैं यहां व्यक्तिगत रूप से कर रहा हूँ, क्योंकि मेरी पार्टी ने भी यह स्टैंड लिया है कि जल्लीकट्टू होना चाहिए पर मैं जल्लीकट्टू के विरोध में रहा हूँ। मैं जब पर्यारण मंत्री था, तभी मैंने यह निर्णय लिया था कि जल्लीकट्टू पर प्रतिबंध लगाना चाहिए। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने मेरे निर्णय को सही बताया। पर बाद में बहुत कुछ चला और वह जल्लीकट्टू का चैप्टर अब बंद हो चुका है, उसको मैं नहीं खोलना चाहता हूँ। अभी तमिलनाडु को पूरा अधिकार है कि साल के एक दिन में जल्लीकट्टू बनाने का और कोई नहीं रोक सकता, कानून नहीं रोक सकता। पर उसके बाद अब यह बिल लाना मुझे नहीं पता चलता कि इसका मकसद क्या है? जल्लीकट्टू आज भी हो सकता है, आज के कानून के आधार पर! Let me translate it for you. According to the laws of the land passed by this Government with the cooperation of all parties *Jallikattu* is permitted. Now, what do you hope by amending the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act? I fail to understand. There is nothing. Let me say once again very clearly, please read the Act. There is nothing in the Act that prohibits the State Government from doing any of the 16 things that you wanted. There is nothing in the Act. The Act only prevents cruelty. How can you remove a bull? Tomorrow, you would start removing animal after animal and you would not have any Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act! So, why do you want to remove only the bull? The reason why you want to remove the bull is that it is because of *jallikattu*. But on *jallikattu* you have already got the Government pass an Ordinance. That Ordinance became a law; the Assembly approved it. *Jallikattu* can now be performed. Fourteen people have died because of *jallikattu* this year. उसके बारे में कोई शोक व्यक्त नहीं करता है। 14 व्यक्ति मारे गए हैं, जल्लीकट्टू की वजह से, लेकिन उसका कोई ज़िक्र नहीं होता है। वह सब छोड़िए, ये छोटी-छोटी बातें हैं। आप जल्लीकट्टू कर सकते हैं, धूम-धाम से मना सकते हैं, लेकिन इस कानून में संशोधन क्यों लाना चाहते हैं? Sir, Mr. Tiruchi Siva is a very, very close friend of mine. Our friendship goes back many years. I agree with the 16

reasons that he has given for his Resolution. But I disagree with the conclusion of this Resolution. The 16 reasons -- Sudarshan Bhagatji is here -- आपके लिए हैं, लेकिन ये जो दो तीर अंत में इन्होंने मारे हैं, वे आपके लिए नहीं हैं क्योंकि उसका और इन्होंने यह जो विश्लेषण किया है, इन दोनों के बीच में कोई संबंध नहीं है। So, I request Mr. Siva not to persist with this Resolution; Rather, he should persist with putting pressure on the Government to promote organic farming, to promote animal welfare, to improve animal productivity, to improve dairying, to protect indigenous breeds, to protect indigenous varieties and so on. He should not persist with this folly of amending the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which has stood this country well.

Sir, when passing this Bill in 1960, Rukmani Devi had said, "The test of a civilized society is how it treats its animals." If Mr. Tiruchi Siva's amendments are approved, I am afraid, we would have opened the doors for becoming an uncivilized society.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Thank you. Shri D. Raja. You have only two minutes.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, at the outset, I congratulate our colleague, Mr. Tiruchi Siva, for this Resolution.

What is the essence of this Resolution? The essence is to urge upon the Government to:—

"(a) suitably amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which has been referred to by my colleague, Shri Jairam Ramesh, to exempt bulls from the application of provisions that restrict their utility and training for various purposes by use of various techniques to train them to perform agricultural tasks such as ploughing and transportation;

(b) include the amended Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution of India; and

(c) take steps to encourage and incentivise the use of indigenous cattle for agricultural purposes and improve their health and stock."

This is the essence of the Resolution, Sir.

Before making my observations, I must salute the youth of Tamil Nadu, the students who came together and gave a collective expression to the aspirations of the Tamil people on the issue of *jallikattu*. Yes, this Resolution does have a context. It has reference to the recent events in Tamil Nadu where people wanted *jallikattu*; all political parties

[Shri D. Raja]

wanted *jallikattu*. The youth came together and stood by what they believed in. It is a part of the Tamil culture. It is a part of the Tamil tradition. India is a country with tremendous diversities, India is a country of composite culture, and this Tamil culture must be understood in a proper historic perspective, and appreciated. That is how the young people stood together and fought for *jallikattu*. Sir, let us understand that *jallikattu* became a turning point in the polity of Tamil Nadu, in the polity of the whole country, and it has made tremendous impact on the thinking of political parties and politicians in this country, and the young people of Tamil Nadu. They did not stop with *jallikattu* only. They said, "Let us say no to Pepsicola. Let us promote indigenous drinks." This is what the young people of Tamil Nadu declared. They said, "Come on, let us say no to Pepsicola. Why should we promote such drinks? We can promote indigenous drinks." That is a campaign going on. Now, she spoke. She is from that district. Thamirabarni river is there, and even I have my own understanding of law. The court, somehow, allowed the Cola company and other companies to take huge amount of water. So, what is going to happen to our water resources? So, we are talking about cattle. Yes, we should increase the population of our cattle. Our cattle population should increase, and we should also protect and preserve our water bodies and water sources.

Having said that, Sir, now, I take the point what our friend, Mr. Jairam Ramesh, has touched upon. Yes, it is 1960 law, and yes, we should be worried about cruelty to animals, cruelty to human beings, and we should be worried on both counts. But, what do you mean by cruelty to animals? That is the point. I can be more objective than Mr. Jairam Ramesh. I do not own land. I do not own cattle. So, I can be more objective. What do you mean by cruelty to animals? Because, I see in Tamil Nadu in the houses of farmers, agriculture workers, cattle are there around. Cows, bulls, buffalos, they are all living as family members. They live within house premises, and they take care of these animals. This *jallikattu* is a sport; it is a game only at the time of Pongal festival which is the main festival of Tamil people. During that period also, people decorate these cattle, cows, bulls and buffalos. They give them good bath; they paint their horns; they garland them, they take them around, and they treat them as human beings that way. They are all family members. They are all family animals. So, let us not get into that argument as though it is cruelty to animals. What do we mean by cruelty? That is the point, and that is where the case went to the Supreme Court, that is where the case went to the court, the Judiciary, and that is where the State Government had to intervene in the situation, and the State Government had to take the opinion of all political parties. That is where the elected State Legislative Assembly had to take up this issue, and had to pass its own law

in the State Legislative Assembly. So, we are a country who believe in the rule of law; we are a country having our own Constitution, we should respect our Constitution. That is why, there is an Act called the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. This is an Act of the Parliament, and if there is a need to amend this Act of Parliament, this Parliament is supreme; this Parliament is competent to do that. That is why, my friend, Mr. Tiruchi Siva, has brought this issue for the consideration of this Parliament. We will have to stand by the rule of law. I go by Mr. Jairam Ramesh. Why should we have an Act of Parliament? Why should we have Constitution? Why should we have Judiciary? We are bound by Parliament Acts. This Parliament Act needs certain Amendments in a changed situation, at a time when we need to acknowledge and appreciate the great diversities of our country. This law needs certain appropriate Amendments. That is why he has brought this up. It is for the Government to take this in a proper perspective. This Parliament has to consider this. I am saying that it is not only for Tamil Nadu. Tomorrow, it can be for some other State also; maybe, for Karnataka or for some other States. After all, we are a civilized country and we can't have a kind of authoritarian rule. We have to go by certain laws. The civilized society, the civilized nation needs civilized laws. That is where this Act needs certain Amendments at this point of time.

Once again, I salute the young people of Tamil Nadu who have given a proper expression to the aspirations and to the cultural values of Tamil Nadu. It applies to all parts of our country, to all the young people. We will have to come forward taking up such issues in the interest of the country and its progress. I appreciate this Resolution. I urge upon the Government to give due consideration to this Resolution. Thank you.

महंत शम्भुप्रसादजी तुंदिया (गुजरात): उपसभापति जी, आदरणीय तिरुची शिवा जी जो संकल्प लेकर आए हैं, उसके संदर्भ में इस सदन में सभी ने अपनी बात रखने का प्रयत्न किया है। मैं भी इस संदर्भ में अपने मन के विचार से जुड़ी कुछ बातें यहां रखना चाहूंगा।

महोदय, शिवा जी द्वारा यह संकल्प पेश किए जाने के संबंध में उनका ध्येय क्या है, इस बारे में श्री जयराम रमेश जी ने बताया कि उनका ध्येय कुछ और है और यहां बिल में संशोधन लाने के लिए ध्येय, पशु पर क्रूरता के संदर्भ में कुछ और बताया जा रहा है। महोदय, भारतीय परम्परा में कृषि और ऋषि की संस्कृति को बहुत महत्व दिया गया है और हमारे यहां कृषि और ऋषि आधारित संस्कृति पर देश और गांव जी रहे हैं। महोदय, कृषि के आधार पर जीने वाले लोग गाय को मानते हैं, पूजते हैं और हमारे शास्त्रों में तो गाय के लिए "गावो विश्वस्य मातरः" कहा गया है, मतलब गाय पूरे विश्व की माता है। महोदय, गाय का दूध संपूर्ण आहार की श्रृंखला में आता है। उसके गोखल के सेवन से मानव जीवन को बहुत आरोग्य मिलता है। इस से लगभग 75 प्रकार के रोग नष्ट हो जाते हैं। आज के जमाने में ऑर्गेनिक फूड और जहां हम chemical fertilizers का उपयोग करते हैं, उससे हमें शुद्ध, सात्विक खाद्य पदार्थ नहीं मिलते जब कि गाय के गोबर के प्रयोग से अच्छे खाद्य और सब्जी मिलती है। मगर

[महंत शम्भुप्रसादजी तुंदिया]

जैसा कि आदरणीय जयराम रमेश जी ने बताया, उसके संदर्भ में मैं इस सदन के माध्यम से कुछ और बात रखना चाहता हूँ। मैं गुजरात से आता हूँ। हमारे यहां एक मंदिर में कुछ महीने पहले एक हाथी को permission लेकर पाला गया, लेकिन उसे केवल पालने के लिए नहीं पाला गया था, हाथी का गणपति का अवतार मानने वाले लोगों ने गणपति को भगवान मानते हुए उसकी पूजा करने के लिए वहां रखा था। अब उसके ऊपर वहां पशु क्रूरता अधिनियम के अंतर्गत एक केस हो गया। उस समय मेरे ध्यान में एक किस्सा और आया। महोदय, हम घोड़े का प्रयोग बग्घी के लिए करते हैं और यहां जो पशुओं की बात करते हैं, उन पर क्रूरता के संदर्भ में बात रखते हैं, तो मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि हमारी भारतीय परंपरा में, भारतीय जीवन पद्धति और ज्ञान में धर्म शास्त्रों में लिखा गया है कि 84 लाख प्रकार की योनियों के जीव इस धरती पर पनपते हैं। मनुष्य के अलावा उनमें जितने भी जीव हैं, उनकी चार कोटि में अलग-अलग प्रकार से गणना की गई है। हम लोग जब पशुओं की बात करते हैं, तो पशुओं के संदर्भ में वन्य जीवन के आधार पर रहने वाले पशुओं की अलग बात है और मानव द्वारा परिपालित होने वाले पशुओं का उपयोग होता है। यहां गाय का उपयोग होता है, बैलों का उपयोग होता है, भैसों का उपयोग होता है, भेड़-बकरियों का उपयोग होता है। भेड़ों का ऊन के लिए उपयोग होता है, इसलिए हम उसका परिपालन करते हैं। हम बकरियों को भी पालते हैं और हम यहां यातायात के प्रयोग हेतु घोड़ों को भी पालते हैं। हम यहां इस तरह के विचार के लिए इकट्ठा होकर यह सोच रहे हैं कि आदरणीय शिवा जी ने जो यह संकल्प लिया है, यह अच्छा संकल्प है।

जहां तक गौ-संवर्धन की बात है, जहां तक भारतीय परम्परा की बात है, आपके क्षेत्र में, आपके राज्य में अलग से उत्सव होते होंगे, हमारे यहां गुजरात में अलग से उत्सव होते हैं। हमारे यहां भी पशुओं के लिए उत्सव मनाये जाते हैं। हमारे यहां त्योहार मनाए जाते हैं तथा पशुओं को पूजा जाता है और उनको सम्मान दिया जाता है। जहां तक पशु क्रूरता अधिनियम की बात है और उसमें सुधार लाने की बात है, तो इस बारे में मेरा स्पष्ट रूप से यह मत है कि वन्य जीवन के आधार पर जीने वाले जो पशु हैं, उनके लिए अलग से संशोधन होना चाहिए और जो मानव द्वारा पालित पशु हैं, जो मानव जीवन के लिए उपयोगी हैं तथा जिनका हम कृषि क्षेत्र में अच्छे तरीके से उपयोग करते हैं, ऐसे पशुओं के लिए अलग से संशोधन होना चाहिए।

महोदय, आदरणीय शिवा जी जल्लीकटू के संदर्भ में जिस ध्येय से यह संकल्प लाए हैं, मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि भारतीय परम्परा में जितने भी उत्सव हैं, जितने भी त्योहार हैं, वे मूल रूप से मानव जीवन में अपने धर्म की स्थापना के लिए और अपनी संस्कृति के संवर्धन के लिए रखे हुए हैं, यदि आप उस संदर्भ में भी यह संकल्प लाए हैं, तो बहुत अच्छी बात है। मैं आपकी सराहना करते हुए, अपनी बात को समाप्त करता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Mr. Elangovan. You have only two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGOVAN (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, hon. Vice-Chairman, Sir. While I rise to support Mr. Tiruchi Siva, I have to make certain clarifications in this House

as a reply to my hon. colleague, Shri Jairam Ramesh. Rukmani Devi Arundale was a resident of Chennai. She might have insisted for an Act, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, but did not talk about Jallikattu at that time. It means she knows what is Jallikattu. Sir, he also said he knows Thirukkural, Silappadikaram and other things. There is one Thirukkural which I want to quote which means *maadu* is cattle in Tamil. Education is the most invaluable among all wealth, rest are not wealth. Cattle are called as wealth. That was the only wealth of the people of Tamil Nadu in the rural areas. Even today there are temple bulls in every village which will not be touched upon. Those bulls can do any atrocity. They can go to any field to eat. Nobody will touch it, nobody will question it. If somebody tries to throw stone on a bull, that fellow will be sent out of the village. That is how bulls are treated in Tamil Nadu. Sir, this Jallikattu is part of a celebration with the bulls. It is not cruelty to bulls. The question which I want to raise is this. He raised the point that there should be an amendment. Hon. Jairam Ramesh did one thing successfully by stating that it is not the subject for the Minister of Agriculture, so he can go. He wanted Environment Minister to come back. The Minister also left. Sir, we need an amendment.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): You have to conclude now.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN: In one minute, I will conclude. There is a need for an amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. One point about which we have doubt is that this amendment was made by the Government of India on the advice of PETA, an organization where an American citizen is the Chief Executive Officer. This American citizen is challenging every Tamilian. Sir, a festival, a cultural festival can support commercialism, but a cultural festival should not be stopped for the sake of commercialism. *Jallikattu* should not be stopped for the sake of killing Indian animal bulls and bringing Jersey Bulls. That is not the way. We want an amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Shri Siva talked much about agriculture, farming and everything, but the ultimate idea is to see that *Jallikattu* is performed because the most petted animal in Tamil Nadu are the bulls. The most pampered animal in Tamil Nadu are the bulls. So, this amendment should be made. With these words, Sir, I conclude. Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: If PETA enforces this, the bulls can be included in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. At that time, the UPA-II brought it. At that time DMK was also a part of that. So, we wanted to...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: This is totally unwarranted.

SHRI T. K. S. ELANGOVAN: Don't challenge us. When we were in power, *Jaliikattu* was there. When they came to power, it was stopped.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): We will not go into that. ...*(Interruptions)*... Okay, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुदर्शन भगत): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, माननीय सदस्य श्री तिरुची शिवा द्वारा निजी सदस्य संकल्प में आग्रह किया गया है कि पशुओं के प्रति क्रूरता का निवारण अधिनियम, 1960 के उन उपबंधों के अनुप्रयोग से बैलों को छूट देने के लिए, जो उन्हें खेती एवं परिवहन जैसे कृषि कार्यों के निष्पादन में विभिन्न तकनीकों द्वारा प्रशिक्षण देकर उनकी उपयोगिता एवं प्रशिक्षण से रोकते हैं, में उपयुक्त संशोधन करें; संशोधित पशुओं के प्रति क्रूरता का निवारण अधिनियम, 1960 को भारत के संविधान की नौवीं अनुसूची में शामिल करें और कृषि प्रयोजनों हेतु स्वदेशी मवेशियों के उपयोग को प्रोत्साहित करने तथा उनके स्वास्थ्य में सुधार एवं उनकी संख्या बढ़ाने के लिए कदम उठाएं।

इस संबंध में मैं सदन को बताना चाहूंगा कि पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय पशु क्रूरता निवारण अधिनियम, 1960 को अधिनियमित एवं क्रियान्वित कर रहा है, इसलिए भाग (क) और (ख) मेरे मंत्रालय से संबंधित नहीं हैं। हालांकि पशुपालन डेयरी और मत्स्यपालन विभाग कृषि प्रयोजनों हेतु देशी गोपशुओं के प्रयोग को बढ़ावा देने, प्रोत्साहित करने तथा उनकी उत्पादकता, स्वास्थ्य और संख्या में सुधार हेतु पहले से ही योजनाएँ कार्यान्वित कर रहा है।

राष्ट्रीय गोकुल मिशन को दिसम्बर, 2014 में देश में पहली बार विशिष्ट रूप से देशी बोवाईन नस्लों के विकास के लिए और संरक्षण के लिए प्रारंभ किया गया है। इस योजना में गोकुल ग्रामों की स्थापना की जा रही है। अब तक कुल 14 गोकुल ग्राम स्वीकृत किए जा चुके हैं। राष्ट्रीय गोकुल मिशन के अंतर्गत 27 राज्यों से आए 35 प्रस्तावों को 582.09 करोड़ की राशि के साथ स्वीकृत किया गया है। जिसमें से 216.6 करोड़ रुपए की राशि जारी की गई। मैं यह भी बताना चाहूंगा कि इससे तमिलनाडु को 16 करोड़ रुपए जारी किए गए हैं। राष्ट्रीय बोवाईन प्रजनन कार्यक्रम (एनपीबीबी) को फरवरी, 2014 में प्रारंभ किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम का उद्देश्य किसानों के द्वार पर प्रजनन आदानों की सुपुर्दगी के माध्यम से बोवाईन आबादी का आनुवंशिक उन्नयन करना है। साथ ही जैविक खेती के विकास के लिए देश में एक नई योजना "परंपरागत कृषि विकास योजना" प्रारंभ की गई।

महोदय, राष्ट्रीय डेयरी योजना-1, विश्व बैंक सहायता प्राप्त राष्ट्रीय डेयरी योजना को फरवरी, 2012 में प्रारंभ किया गया। यह योजना गौ-पशुओं तथा भैंसों की 12 देशी नस्लों के विकास और संरक्षण पर भी ध्यान केन्द्रित करती है। देश में दुग्ध का उत्पादन तथा उत्पादकता बढ़ाने के लिए और दुग्ध उत्पादन को किसानों के लिए लाभकारी बनाने के लिए नई योजना "राष्ट्रीय बोवाईन उत्पादकता मिशन" की शुरुआत की गई है। योजना में चार घटक शामिल हैं। पहला, पशु संजीवनी, इसके तहत पशु स्वास्थ्य पत्र (नकुल स्वास्थ्य पत्र), साथ ही साथ यूआईडी (पशु आधार) द्वारा पशुओं की पहचान शामिल है। इस योजना के तहत 8.8 करोड़ दुधारु पशुओं की पहचान की जा रही है और उनका डाटा INAPH डाटा बेस में अपलोड किया जा रहा है। दूसरा, उन्नत प्रजनन तकनीक, तीसरा, देशी नस्लों के

लिए राष्ट्रीय बोवाईन जेनोमिक केन्द्र की स्थापना और चौथा, ई-पशुधन हाट पोर्टल, देश में पहली बार राष्ट्रीय इस तरह का पोर्टल स्थापित किया गया है।

मंत्रालय द्वारा डेयरी उद्यमशीलता विकास योजना चलाई जा रही है। योजना के अंतर्गत सब्सिडी प्रदान की जा रही है। पशुधन स्वास्थ्य एवं रोग नियंत्रण देशी बोवाईन नस्लों समेत पशुधन संख्या के बीच रोगों के नियंत्रण और रोकथाम हेतु कार्यान्वित की जा रही है।

महोदय, मंत्रालय द्वारा कार्यान्वित की जा रही उपरोक्त योजनाओं में तेजी से की जा रही कार्यवाही एवं प्रगति के आलोक में मैं माननीय सदस्य से अपने इस संकल्प को वापस लेने की अपील करता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Shri Tiruchi Siva, are you withdrawing your Resolution, or, should I put it to vote?

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, before that, I wish to say a few words.

First of all, I thank all the hon. Members. Sir, around ten hon. Members have deliberated on this Resolution for which I am very, very thankful.

The intention behind moving this Resolution was interpreted in another manner by my esteemed colleague and former Minister, Shri Jairam Ramesh. I don't deny it. Yes; my intention is for *Jallikattu*. But, at the same time, you cannot undermine my advocacy for organic farming and to protect and preserve indigenous cattle. It is no less than that. For example, as I said, while moving my Resolution, we have to preserve the traditional and ancient form of agricultural methods in our country. And, Sir, due to introduction of modern farm equipment, so many people have been displaced, lost jobs and, moreover, cattle are becoming extinct. Secondly, chemical fertilizers and pesticides which we are using are contaminating groundwater, spoiling soil, depleting water table and whatever it produces is very, very harmful to the health of people.

So, considering all these aspects, I am saying this. I agree with what my senior colleague, Mr. Oscar Fernandes, told me. When we revert back to the traditional form of agricultural methods, we will fall short of the requirement, the mismatch between demand and supply. But we have to find some other ways. We cannot totally give-up that. See, I don't want to leave moveable and immovable property to my children in the future. I want to live them in a world where they can have good water, good food and in a very hygienic atmosphere. Everyone of us has got that responsibility. We all think that we are leaving some estate to our people. No, that won't make them to live happily. After some ten or twenty years, in the present situation, they will be having oxygen cylinders to breathe. War will break out for the sake of water. So also, food will be in a very

[Shri Tiruchi Siva]

big demand. When the population in our country is increasing, the agricultural lands or cultivable lands are coming down. The production has to be increased. So, whatever we produce should be healthy in nature. That is the main reason for my bringing or moving this Resolution. I think, when the Minister replied, he was very much concerned about the cattle. I am concerned about the indigenous cattle. The imported or the other breeds like Jersey, Persian and all these breeds or even insemination bulls which are being brought will totally spoil our country, the health of our people as well as the cattle. So, my foremost reason is that.

The second is, one of my points in this Resolution was to amend the Prevention of Cruelty-to Animals Act. Why have I brought that? The Tamil Nadu Government has enacted a law unanimously and it has been, of course, supported by the Central Government also that *Jallikattu* can be performed and that Cruelty to Animals Act will not be a hindrance to that. But why then I move it again here? As my colleague, Mr. Raja, pointed out, it is an Act of Parliament and the Parliament can any time by way of another amendment supersede the Act which was passed by the Assembly. Moreover, the Act which was passed by the Assembly can be challenged in a court of law, and why I am concerned, I want to be very explicit. Only one Member spoke against this Resolution and that too only on one point. On the surface of it, he appeared to be very low but, at the end, he said, just by way of taking out bulls, don't open the gate or don't take us back to the barbarian society. I don't understand how. Sir, he said that I have not gone through the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act fully well. Of course, I may not like you because you were a Minister. You were concerned with that. But, as a Member of Parliament, I have gone to the extent I need to. Section 22 empowers the Central Government and Section 24 of the PC Act talks about, 'Power of Court to prohibit or restrict exhibition and training of performing animals.' Training of Performing Animals is one category and when you are using a bull for ploughing, when you are using it for transportation, the man on the cart will be whipping. Will you say that it is a cruelty to the animal? Yes, they will. Only in 2011, when he was the Minister for Environment -- there is nothing wrong in that; it is a history -- the Notification was made. Section 22 says, 'No person shall exhibit or train (i) any performing animal unless he is registered in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter; (ii) as a performing animal, any animal which the Central Government may, by notification in the official gazette, specify as an animal which shall not be exhibited or trained as a performing animal.' Sir, the Gazette Notification by the Central Government in the year 2011 -- when he was the hon. Minister -- included it. See which are the animals in that? They are 'Bears, Monkeys, Tigers, Panthers, Lions and last of all 'Bulls'.

Sir, all the other animals are forest animals, whereas, bull is being domesticated. It is used for agricultural purposes. Why should it be brought into that? That is what my colleague, Mr. Elangovan, said. Some organization which has its headquarters in USA is deciding what should happen in India. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: No, no. That is not true. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I don't mean 'you'. I don't mean 'you'. Who is challenging it again and again in the court of law? It is that organization which is interested in this. I don't blame you. You have done something when you were in the office. That's all. But who is challenging it again and again? It is the PETA, an organization which has its headquarters in the USA. Now, what interest do they have in India? They want to kill our traditional forms of agriculture.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, a Cabinet Minister of this Government is also in agreement on this.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I shall come to that point later.

So, they want to kill traditional methods of agriculture in our country. Now, we are cutting down some karuvelam trees in Tamil Nadu. These trees had been planted by the US. There are many other things, like Pepsi, that the hon. Member here mentioned. They are bringing all these things here to spoil the health of the people of our country. They are only commercializing things. It is in an attempt to do so that they want to take away our bulls. This would mean that people would not nurture them and they won't need them for agricultural purposes when trends change. When tractors were being brought in, I said that it consumed more of fossil fuel and that it was hazardous. We experience global warming only because of the excessive use of fossil fuels. We have many conventions taking place all over the world to ponder over bringing down global warming, which country needs to cut down what emissions, and so on. But no country is prepared to do that, whereas the farmers are being forced to do away with traditional methods of farming. Tractors came in and fossil fuels came in, which emit so many Greenhouse gases. So, that needs to be restored. They are attempting at this. When bulls are not used for agriculture, farmers won't rear them. When jallikattu is banned, they would not tame bulls for sport. When they are not available for breeding cows, artificial insemination would come in. So, there would be no need for rearing bulls after some time. We could then tell our children in some exhibition, 'this is a bull; this is what was found in our country once!' Do you want that to happen? So, bulls need not be brought in the category of 'performing animals'. We don't perform anything anywhere. For that matter, what is happening with elephants?

[Shri Tiruchi Siva]

They are tied with iron chains in the temples. They are used for begging on the streets. Why have they not paid attention to them? It is a forest animal. When they did not pay attention to the elephants, why are they paying attention to the bulls?

Sir, through a Notification in the Gazette in 2011, bulls were brought in. After that, our Party, when we were in power in Tamil Nadu, bypassed this Notification and conducted *jallikattu* with permission from the Court, though with some restrictions. Of course, we have been partners with them, but we were able to perform the *jallikattu* sport with the permission of the Court, with the restrictions that they had imposed. We abided by those rules and conducted the sport. After the next Government took over, they were not able to continue the sport. That is a different matter. In the year 2016, when Shri Prakash Javadekar was the Environment Minister, another Gazette Notification came, which said very clearly, "Provided that bulls may be continued to be exhibited or trained as a performing animal at events such as '*Jallikattu*' in Tamil Nadu and 'bullock cart races' in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, Haryana, Kerala and Gujarat in the manner by the customs of any community or practised traditionally under the customs or as a part of culture in any part of the country subject to the following conditions..."

Sir, I thank Mr. Prakash Javadekar for having brought out this Notification. Now, I think, Mr. Jairam Ramesh would agree that I have gone through the Bill. I have gone through the Gazette Notification and also the Supreme Court judgement which followed that. It says that after Mr. Prakash Javadekar brought out this Notification in the Gazette, it was challenged in the court of law by PETA. Now, let me quickly quote what the hon. Supreme Court said, "As an interim measure, we direct that there shall be stay on Notification dated 7th January, 2016, issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, until further orders." So, it was stayed. A big agitation came up in Tamil Nadu, on a scale that no one had ever witnessed in the past. It was a silent protest. Students, youngsters, women and even small children participated in the agitation, because they were concerned about the culture. Some people may say that they didn't need it, for one or the other reason. But people are concerned. India is basically a nation of varied cultures. It has got a tradition of its own. We have never been a capitalist country. We have never been a country with commercial basics. We live on the lines of tradition. So, Tamil Nadu witnessed a very big agitation and the Tamil Nadu Government passed an Act unanimously. I am afraid, Sir, that it may again be challenged in a court of law. Or, in future, I don't hesitate to say, if Shri Jairam Ramesh becomes the Minister of Environment and Forests may again impose something to ban Jallikatu. So, I have to be very cautious.

...(Interruptions)... In a democratic country, it may happen. If he or any like-minded person becomes the Minister -- unlike Shri Prakash Javadekar, who is very cordial with us -- then there may be ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I think, you should conclude now.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, it is a very serious issue. Either he or anyone like him may again come here. Or, it can also be challenged in the court of law. In that situation, I move this Resolution in this House that necessary amendments should be made and bulls must be exempted from the performing animals and it should be incorporated in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. That is my main emphasis in this Resolution. If it is included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution, it cannot be challenged in the court of law. We have got an experience. The Reservation Policy in Tamil Nadu was incorporated in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution after great efforts. We don't want to witness agitations in Tamil Nadu every year. Of course, we agitate in a peaceful manner. But, it does not mean that we should agitate again and again. When the Parliament is here to enact laws, when the Government is here to do certain things, the Members also have some responsibility. In that respect, I would like to move this Resolution that necessary amendments should be made in the PCA to exempt bulls as performing animals and also incorporate it in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution to enable Jallikatu to be performed as well as to encourage organic farming and to protect and preserve the indigenous cattle in our country. The bulls are becoming an extinct species. I am very much worried about that. Everyone is worried about that. I am very, very thankful to all the Members who expressed their concern and supported my Resolution. So, I am compelled to move my Resolution for adoption.

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री; तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी): सर, ऑनरेबल तिरुची शिवा जी ने जो प्राइवेट मैम्बर रिजॉल्यूशन रखा है, उसमें बहुत अच्छे सजैशन्स हैं। Some suggestions are very good and fruitful for us also. गवर्नमेंट द्वारा जो भी कानून बनाए जाते हैं, उनमें रिफॉर्म्स और अच्छी चीजें जोड़ने का एक अनवरत प्रोसेस होता है और उसमें कहीं कोई बाधा नहीं होती। श्री तिरुची शिवा ने बहुत अच्छे सुझाव दिए हैं, जिन्हें हम डेफिनिटली ध्यान में रखेंगे। इसमें बहुत अच्छे सुझाव हैं, जिन्हें ऑनरेबल मिनिस्टर ने भी एक्सेप्ट किया है। मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि जब हम इस दिशा में आगे बढ़ेंगे, तो डेफिनिटली आपके जो सजैशन्स हैं, जो सुझाव हैं, जो आपने इस बिल में रखे हैं, उन्हें हम बहुत पॉजिटिव और कस्ट्रक्टिव तरीके से लेंगे। इसलिए सर, हमारी आपके माध्यम से श्री तिरुची शिवा अपील है कि वे इस रिजॉल्यूशन को विदड़ों करें।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): So, Mr. Siva, with the assurance given by the Government, are you withdrawing your Resolution or should I put it to vote?

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, I am very much appreciative and thankful to the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs. He is always very much compassionate. Since the assurance has been given on behalf of other Minister, I am afraid what we will be able to do if something happens in future. In that situation, agitations cannot be made again and again. I think, it can unanimously be adopted. There is nothing wrong in it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH): Mr. Siva, everybody is supporting you; the whole House is supporting you. सारे लोग आपके साथ हैं। इससे बढ़कर और कोई चीज़ नहीं होती है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया (राजस्थान): हम सब लोग आपके साथ हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, I take the words of the Minister. And, since many hon. Members are supporting me, I should also consider it. I think, the ' message should be strong enough from the Government that my Resolution will be taken into consideration and necessary amendments will be made in the PC Act and it will be incorporated in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. If that assurance is given, I am prepared to withdraw this.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Also, there is no possibility of my becoming the Minister of Environment once more.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Has he the leave of the House to withdraw the Resolution?

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सर, मैंने पहले भी कहा है कि ऑनरेबल तिरुची शिवा जी के बहुत अच्छे सजेशन हैं। जब भी एप्रोप्रिएट टाइम होगा, उस समय हम लोग उस पर भी कंसिडर करेंगे। यह बहुत क्लियर कट बात है।

श्री गिरिराज सिंह: इसलिए पूरा हाउस आपके साथ है।

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, I withdraw this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Has he the leave of the House to withdraw the Resolution?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Now, we have another Resolution of Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad regarding need to take welfare measures for farmers in Bundelkhand region and steps for overall development of the region.

Need for taking welfare measures for farmers in Bundelkhand region and steps for overall development of the region

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे अवसर देने के लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ और मैं अपना निम्नलिखित संकल्प उपस्थित करता हूँ:-

"इस तथ्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए कि—

- (क) बुन्देलखण्ड क्षेत्र में सूखे, बाढ़, पाला पड़ने व ओलावृष्टि से किसानों की फसलें नष्ट हो जाने से उनमें निराशा उत्पन्न हो रही है;
- (ख) इस क्षेत्र में उ.प्र. के सात जिले अर्थात् झांसी, ललितपुर, जालौन, बांदा, चित्रकूट, महोबा एवं हमीरपुर तथा मध्य प्रदेश के सात जिले अर्थात् छतरपुर, पन्ना, सागर, दमोह, टीकमगढ़, दतिया और ग्वालियर शामिल हैं;
- (ग) पिछले कई दशकों से बुन्देलखण्ड के किसान लगातार रोजगार की तलाश में बाहर पलायन कर रहे हैं;
- (घ) बुन्देलखण्ड में जंगली जानवरों व 'नीलगायों' से किसानों की फसलों का भारी नुकसान होने से उनमें हताशा उत्पन्न हो रही है;
- (ङ) बुन्देलखण्ड क्षेत्र मुख्य रूप से वर्षा पर निर्भर रहने वाला कृषि क्षेत्र है और फसलें मुख्यतः मानसून पर निर्भर होती हैं जिससे उपज एवं आय में अनियमितता के कारण किसानों का जीवन अनिश्चित हो जाता है और जीना दूभर हो जाता है;
- (च) बुन्देलखण्ड क्षेत्र में लगातार पड़ रहे भयंकर सूखे के कारण फसलों की उपज निरंतर कम होती जा रही है जिसके फलस्वरूप किसान खेती से लागत मूल्य भी नहीं निकाल पा रहे हैं;
- (छ) इस क्षेत्र में कृषि आधारित उद्योगों और कुटीर उद्योगों की कमी के कारण रोजगार और वित्तीय आय की बहुत कमी है;
- (ज) नकदी फसलों के प्रतिकूल मूल्य निर्धारण तथा कारोबार के खुलेआम शोषण के कारण कृषि एक घाटे का कार्य बन गया है और यह उ.प्र. के किसानों में व्याप्त ऋण भार तथा हताशा का प्रमुख कारण है;

[श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद]

सभा की यह राय है कि—

- (i) क्षेत्र में लघु तथा कुटीर उद्योगों की स्थापना की जानी चाहिए;
- (ii) बुन्देलखंड के चित्रकूट, बांदा तथा सतना क्षेत्र में केन्द्रीय पुलिस बल का प्रशिक्षण केंद्र खोला जाना चाहिए जिससे कि क्षेत्र के किसानों को सुरक्षा मिल सके;
- (iii) बुन्देलखंड में किसानों से ऋण वसूली समाप्त कर कर्ज माफ करना चाहिए तथा उन्हें कृषि हेतु खाद, बीज व बिजली मुफ्त दी जानी चाहिए;
- (iv) बुन्देलखंड के किसानों को पचास हजार करोड़ रुपयों का पैकेज दिया जाना चाहिए जिससे क्षेत्र के बहुत सारे अधूरे पड़े कार्य पूरे होने में सहायता मिलेगी और संवहनीय फसल संवर्द्धन, वृहत्-सूक्ष्म सिंचाई योजनाओं तथा क्षेत्र में अवसंरचना के विकास से संबंधित अन्य योजनाओं में सहायता मिलेगी;
- (v) वृद्ध किसानों की वृद्ध पत्नियों को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने एवं उनके बच्चों को उच्च शिक्षा संबंधी सुविधाएं मुहैया कराने के लिए पांच सौ करोड़ रुपयों का एक पृथक कोष बनाया जाना चाहिए क्योंकि हजारों वृद्ध महिलाओं व विधवाओं को एक राहत और पुनर्वास पैकेज की बड़ी आशा है;
- (vi) जैसा कि वित्त मंत्री ने अपने भाषण में वादा किया था, सरकार को एक मूल्य स्थिरता कोष और कृषि उत्पादों के लिए राष्ट्रीय बाजार की स्थापना करनी चाहिए, सूखा संभावित क्षेत्रों में सूक्ष्म सिंचाई एवं जल संभरण योजनाएं शुरू करनी चाहिए, ऋण बहाली के लिए नई और वृहद नाबार्ड निधि की स्थापना करनी चाहिए और भंडारण क्षमता में वृद्धि के लिए कदम उठाए जाने चाहिए;
- (vii) सूखे के कारणों के संबंध में उपयोगी जानकारी प्रदान की जानी चाहिए और इसके प्रभाव को कम करने के लिए बुआई के उचित समय की भविष्यवाणी की जानी चाहिए और वर्षा जल का समुचित प्रबंधन और फसल की निगरानी की जानी चाहिए;
- (viii) बुन्देलखंड के सभी गरीबों एवं मजदूरों के बारे में सर्वेक्षण कराया जाना चाहिए और उसके आधार पर बी.पी.एल. कार्ड एवं निःशुल्क आवास व शौचालय की सुविधा मुहैया कराई जानी चाहिए;
- (ix) केन्द्र सरकार को जंगली जानवरों व नील गायों द्वारा फसलों की बर्बादी को रोकने के लिए कदम उठाने चाहिए;
- (x) केन्द्र सरकार को दलहन और तिलहन के उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देने हेतु निःशुल्क खाद और बीज उपलब्ध कराने चाहिए;
- (xi) जनपद बांदा के ग्राम ऑगासी के समीप यमुना नदी पर बांध बनाकर यमुना नहर बनायी जानी चाहिए जिससे बुन्देलखंड की सिंचाई की समस्या का समाधान हो सके;
- (xii) बुन्देलखंड क्षेत्र में मौजूदा तालाबों के अलावा खेतों में जगह-जगह वर्षा जल एकत्र करने के लिए पक्के तालाब बनाए जाने चाहिए जिससे आवश्यकता पड़ने पर किसान पक्के तालाब

से अपने-अपने खेतों की सिंचाई कर फसलों से पैदावार कर सकें और इसके लिए केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा ब्याज मुक्त ऋण दिया जाना चाहिए;

- (xiii) इस क्षेत्र से पलायन रोकने हेतु मनरेगा जैसी योजनाओं के तहत 100 दिन से ज्यादा रोजगार देने हेतु योजना में संशोधन कर पूरे वर्ष काम देने पर विचार होना चाहिए;
- (xiv) इस क्षेत्र में फलदार वृक्ष लगाये जाने हेतु केन्द्रीय योजना के तहत एक समय सीमा के भीतर योजनाबद्ध तरीके से कार्य योजना का संचालन होना चाहिए;
- (xv) इस क्षेत्र में सिंचाई हेतु जमीन के नीचे पाइप लगाकर किसानों की फसलों की सिंचाई सुनिश्चित करनी चाहिए जिससे फसलों के उत्पादन में वृद्धि हो सके और किसानों की दशा में सुधार हो सके;
- (xvi) बुंदेलखंड के किसानों को कृषि हेतु आधुनिक तकनीकों का प्रयोग करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है;
- (xvii) बुंदेलखंड के समग्र विकास के लिए, पलायन और किसानों द्वारा आत्महत्याएं पूरी तरह से रोकने के लिए सभी वर्गों के 18 वर्ष से ऊपर के सभी व्यक्तियों को रोजगार की गारंटी दी जानी चाहिए;
- (xviii) चूंकि यह क्षेत्र शैक्षिक रूप से भी बहुत पिछड़ा है इसलिए शैक्षिक नीति में इस क्षेत्र के लिए पृथक विशेष उपबंध होना चाहिए;
- (xix) बुंदेलखंड क्षेत्र में बिजली की समस्या को ध्यान में रखते हुए केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा विद्युत आपूर्ति रियायती दरों पर की जानी चाहिए; और
- (xx) किसानों की फसलों को जंगली जानवरों और नीलगायों से बचाने हेतु केंद्र सरकार को प्रत्येक न्याय पंचायत में एक पशु संरक्षण केंद्र और एक गौशाला की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए।"

उपसभाध्य, महोदय, मैं अपना यह निजी संकल्प इसलिए लाया हूँ, क्योंकि मैं बुंदेलखंड की धरती पर पैदा हुआ हूँ और वहाँ की आपदाओं से, वहाँ की परेशानियों से परिचित हूँ। मैंने परेशानियाँ झेली, देखी हैं। बुंदेलखंड का जो क्षेत्र है, वह 1.60 लाख वर्ग किलोमीटर का क्षेत्र है, जिसमें उत्तर प्रदेश के 7 जिले आते हैं - झांसी, ललितपुर, जालौन, बांदा, चित्रकूट, महोबा एवं हमीरपुर तथा मध्य प्रदेश के 7 जिले आते हैं, जिनमें छतरपुर, पन्ना, सागर, दमोह, टीकमगढ़, दतिया और ग्वालियर शामिल हैं।

महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि बुंदेलखंड लगातार 6-7 सालों से सूखे की चपेट में आ गया है। किसान वहाँ से पलायन कर रहे हैं, इसलिए मैं यह संकल्प लाया हूँ। पिछले कई दशकों से बुंदेलखंड के किसान लगातार रोजगार की तलाश में बाहर

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बसावाराज पाटिल) पीठासीन हुए]

पलायन कर रहे हैं। बुंदेलखंड में जंगली जानवरों और नीलगायों से किसानों की फसलों का भारी नुकसान होने से उनमें हताशा उत्पन्न हो रही है। बुंदेलखंड में वहाँ की जो कृषि है, वह वर्षा पर आधारित है। मान्यवर, मानसूनी वर्षा के आधार पर वहाँ का एग्रीकल्चर है। वर्षा कम होने की वजह से

[श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद]

वहाँ का किसान अपनी फसल की बुआई नहीं कर पाता है। लगातार कई वर्षों से सूखे के कारण किसान आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं, पलायन कर रहे हैं। उसको रोकने के लिए हम लोग संकल्प के रूप में चाहते हैं कि केन्द्र सरकार बुंदेलखंड के लिए एक सुनिश्चित व्यवस्था करे। एक केन्द्रीय दल वहाँ जाए, वह उसका अध्ययन करे। वहाँ की जो परिस्थितियाँ हैं, जैसे बुंदेलखंड में जो लगातार सूखा पड़ रहा है, वहाँ की फसलें निरन्तर कम होती जा रही हैं, जिसके फलस्वरूप किसान खेती से लागत मूल्य भी नहीं निकाल पा रहा है। इस क्षेत्र में कृषि आधारित उद्योगों एवं कुटीर उद्योग-धंधों की कमी के कारण रोजगार और वित्तीय आय की बहुत कमी है। नकदी फसलों के प्रतिकूल मूल्य निर्धारण तथा कारोबार के खुलेआम शोषण के कारण कृषि एक घाटे का कार्य बन गया है। यह उत्तर प्रदेश के किसानों में व्याप्त ऋण भार तथा हताशा का प्रमुख कारण बन गया है।

मान्यवर, बुंदेलखंड का जो क्षेत्र है, वहाँ पीने के पानी की भी समस्या है, सिंचाई के लिए पानी की भी समस्या है। वहाँ यह भी देखा गया है कि अर्द्धरात्रि में किसान, जब वर्षा कम होती है और जब ओस पड़ती है, उसमें भी वह सोचता है कि थोड़ी ओस पड़ गई, तो उसमें भी बुआई करने का प्रयास करता है, लेकिन वह भी कारगर नहीं हो पाया है। जहां तक पीने के पानी की समस्या है, उस संबंध में मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन का ध्यान इस बात की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि स्वर्गीय इंदिरा गांधी जी ने पाठा क्षेत्र के लिए विश्व बैंक से कर्जा लेने का काम किया था और उसके लिए एक बहुत बड़ी परियोजना बनाई गई थी, लेकिन आज तक पाठा क्षेत्र, बुंदेलखंड की पानी की समस्या उसी तरह से बनी हुई है। वहाँ का किसान निरन्तर हताश हो रहा है। वैसे बुंदेलखंड खनिज संपदाओं का भंडार है। जो बड़े-बड़े खनिज माफिया हैं, चाहे वे उत्तरप्रदेश के हों या मध्य प्रदेश के हों, पूरे देश के खनिज माफिया वहाँ पर कब्जा जमाए हुए हैं। जितने बड़े-बड़े पहाड़ थे, उनमें खनन होते-होते पहाड़ 100-100 मीटर नीचे चले गए। खनन के कारण वहाँ के पर्यावरण की स्थिति बहुत खराब हो गई है। अगर आप वहाँ पर दिन में भी जाएं, तो वहाँ पर अंधेरा लगता है, क्योंकि खनन के कारण वहाँ पर बहुत ज्यादा धूल उड़ती है। वहाँ पर इसके कारण किसान की पूरी फसल बरबाद हो जाती है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री शिव प्रताप शुक्ल (उत्तर प्रदेश): इस संकल्प को अपनी सरकार से कराया होता, जिसने यह सब कराया।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद: अब आपकी सरकार केन्द्र में भी है और प्रदेश में भी है, इसलिए आपसे यह मांग कर रहा हूँ कि आप इसको कराइएगा, क्योंकि आपके पास भारी बहुमत है।...(व्यवधान).... अगर आप नहीं कराएंगे, तो 2019 में आप बाहर हो जाएंगे।...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बसावाराज पाटिल): ठीक है, आप अपनी बात कहिए।

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद: मान्यवर, खनन के कारण किसानों के खेत में धूल की एक लेयर जम जाती है और वहाँ पर काम करने वाले जो मजदूर हैं, वहाँ के रहने वाले जो लोग हैं, उसके कारण वे नाना प्रकार की बीमारियों से ग्रसित हो जाते हैं। इसके कारण वहाँ के लोग कैंसर, टीबी आदि जैसे गंभीर बीमारी से ग्रसित हो जाते हैं। वहाँ के जो किसान हैं, गरीब आदमी हैं, मजदूर हैं, जो दिहाड़ी पर 100 रुपए या 50 रुपए में काम करते हैं, वे अपना इलाज नहीं करा पाते हैं।

मान्यवर, भारत सरकार ने 'स्वच्छता अभियान' भी चलाया है। 'स्वच्छता अभियान' के तहत बड़े पैमाने पर हर घर में शौचालय बनाए जाने हैं। उसके लिए भी बुंदेलखंड की ही मोरम, बालू, गिट्टी की आवश्यकता पड़ेगी। जब छत पड़ती है, तो बुंदेलखंड के ही ग्रेनाइट से पड़ती है। उधर की नदियों की लाल मोरम प्रसिद्ध है, वह दूर-दूर तक जाती है। वहां के निवासियों के लिए अलग से व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। वहां पर लोग आते हैं और खनन करके चले जाते हैं, लेकिन इससे वहां के लोगों को कोई फायदा नहीं होता है। जिस एरिया में खनन कार्य हो रहा है, जहां नदियां हैं, वहां के निवासियों के लिए अलग से व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। हम फिशरमैन कम्युनिटी से हैं। पहले जब देश में सड़कें नहीं थीं, यातायात के साधन नहीं थे, तब नदियों से सारा व्यापार होता था। आज गर्मी का मौसम है और हमारे फिशरमैन समाज के लोग नदियों के किनारे सब्जियां, खीरा, खरबूज, तरबूज आदि पैदा करने का काम करते हैं। हमारे फिशरमैन समाज के लोग नदियों के किनारे बालू में सब्जियां पैदा करने काम करते हैं और वहां से सब्जियां पूरे देश में जाती हैं। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि आज वहां पर किसान परेशान है और वहां पर सबसे बड़ी समस्या 'अन्ना प्रथा' की है। वहां पर झुंड के रूप में हजारों देशी गायें, नील गायें तथा अन्य जंगली जानवर किसान की फसल को नष्ट कर देते हैं। इससे वहां का किसान पूरी तरह से तबाह और बरबाद हो गया है। वहां पर किसान रात-रात भर अपनी फसल की रखवाली करने का काम करता है। आज भी वहां पर किसान खेत में पड़ा हुआ है। अगर रात में नींद आ गई, तो पता चला कि नील गायों का झुंड आया और पूरा खेत चट कर गया। इसके लिए भी अलग से व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। केन्द्र सरकार और हमारे मंत्रीगण चाहते हैं... अभी दूसरे संकल्प पर चर्चा हो रही थी... हम चाहते हैं कि गौशालाएं बनें। देशी गायें वहां इतनी ज्यादा तादाद में धूम रही हैं, जब तक गायें दूध देती हैं, लोग उन्हें रखते हैं, उसके बाद छोड़ देते हैं। ऐसी हजारों गायें वहां लावारिस घूम रही हैं जो किसानों की फसल को नुकसान पहुंचाती हैं। मैं चाहता हूं कि प्रत्येक ग्राम पंचायत में वहां एक-एक गौशाला बने और गौमूत्र से जितनी औषधियां या दवाएं बनती हैं, वहां उनका उत्पादन हो। केन्द्र सरकार और राज्य सरकार केवल बुन्देलखंड के लोगों को ही नहीं, बल्कि दूसरे प्रदेशों को भी, वहां उपलब्ध गौमूत्र और उससे बनी औषधियों से लाभ पहुंचाने का काम करे।

बुन्देलखंड में तालाबों की भरमार है। वहां करीब 7800 पुराने तालाब हैं। दोनों प्रदेशों में बुन्देलखंड के जो 13 जिले हैं, उनका जीर्णोद्धार करने की आवश्यकता है। हम अखिलेश यादव जी को बधाई देंगे कि पिछले साल, जब वहां सूखा पड़ा, उन्होंने 100 तालाबों की लगभग एक महीने के अंदर खुदाई कराई, जबकि 50 साल से उनकी खुदाई नहीं हुई थी। इस साल हमें देखने को मिला कि वे सभी तालाब लबालब भर गए, जिससे किसानों को सिंचाई के लिए पानी मिला। आज भी सभी तालाब उसी तरह पानी से भरे हैं। चरखारी नाम की हमारे यहां एक जगह है, जहां चंदेलों के 7 तालाब एक साथ connected हैं। उनमें पानी कभी नहीं सूखता था, लेकिन पिछले साल भयंकर सूखे के कारण, उनमें से कई तालाब सूख गए, जिससे वहां पीने के पानी की समस्या पैदा हो गई। बुन्देलखंड में कई बाँध हैं, जहां से पीने का पानी और सिंचाई का पानी किसानों को मिलता है और बिजली भी पैदा की जाती है। हमारे यहां माताटीला बाँध है, राजघाट बाँध है, अर्जुन बाँध है, उर्मिल बांध है, सपरार बाँध है। इन डैमों से बुन्देलखंड के लोगों का पूरा जीवन-बसर होता है। लोगों को पीने का पानी मिलता है और किसानों को सिंचाई का साधन मिलता है। जिस साल बारिश कम होती है, ये डैम सूख जाते हैं, तालाब सूख जाते हैं। हम यह संकल्प इसलिए लाए हैं ताकि बुन्देलखंड के लिए यह सरकार विशेष व्यवस्था करे।

[श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद]

जब चुनाव आते हैं, उस समय हर पार्टी कहती है कि हम वहां के लोगों के लिए काम करेंगे। कुछ लोग बुन्देलखंड राज्य बनाने के लिए वादे करते हैं, लेकिन हम कहते हैं कि पहले आप वहां कुछ व्यवस्था तो करिए। जो लोग वहां भूखे मर रहे हैं और भूख के कारण यहां तक देखा गया है कि लोगों द्वारा बच्चों को बेचने तक की घटनाएं सामने आई हैं। आत्महत्याएं हजारों की तादाद में वहां होती हैं। बुन्देलखंड की यह गम्भीर समस्या है।

मेरा निवेदन है कि भारत सरकार इस वर्ष के बजट में एक सरकारी संकल्प लाए। हम कहना चाहेंगे कि माननीय मुलायम सिंह जी ने, जब 1989 में उनकी प्रदेश में सरकार थी, वे उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री थे, उन्होंने बुन्देलखंड के पिछड़ेपन को देखते हुए बुन्देलखंड विकास निधि की स्थापना की थी। राजांश के रूप में, जिलांश के रूप में, 100-200 करोड़ रुपया प्रदेश सरकार अपने बजट में व्यवस्था कर देती थी। हम चाहते हैं कि उसी तरह से भारत सरकार भी वहां के लोगों को बचाने के लिए, लोगों के पलायन को रोकने के लिए, वहां होने वाली आत्महत्याओं को रोकने के लिए, अलग से बुन्देलखंड निधि की तरह कोई केन्द्रीय निधि बनाए, बजट बनाए जिससे बुन्देलखंड के लोगों का पलायन रुक सके। यदि ऐसा नहीं हुआ तो आने वाले समय में बुन्देलखंड एक रेगिस्तान का रूप धारण कर लेगा। बड़ी भयावह स्थिति पैदा हो जाएगी। वहां पानी को लेकर इतनी परेशानी होती है कि जब कुएं सूख जाते हैं, तो रात में 12 बजे के बाद, जो जल्दी उठा, जैसे ही 20-25 बाल्टी पानी कुएं में इकट्ठा हुआ, वह 4-6 बाल्टी पानी भरकर ले जाता है और बाकी जो लोग लेट हो गए, वे पानी से वंचित रह जाते हैं। वहाँ उत्तर प्रदेश के जिले हमीरपुर के ग्राम इचौली आदि 8-10 गाँवों के ऐसे एरियाज हैं, जहाँ लोग अपनी बच्चियों की शादी नहीं करते हैं। वे सोचते हैं कि अगर हम अपनी बच्चियों की वहाँ शादी करेंगे, तो हमारी बच्चियों को वहाँ रात में पानी भरने जाना पड़ेगा। वहाँ के लोग कहते हैं कि खाना तो खा लीजिए, लेकिन पानी की व्यवस्था नहीं है। वहाँ यह स्थिति है। पाठा क्षेत्र में कहावत है कि *खसम चाहे मर जाए, लेकिन हमारी गागर न फूटे*। मतलब, वहाँ पानी का इतना महत्व है।

पिछले वर्ष देश में जब सूखा पड़ा, तो उससे करीब 13 राज्य प्रभावित हुए। बुन्देलखंड, उत्तर प्रदेश सूखे की चपेट में ज्यादा था। भारत सरकार ने वहाँ एक खाली ट्रेन भेज दी। वहाँ तब वह ट्रेन खड़ी थी, तो एक पत्रकार ने सोचा कि मैं उसकी फोटो ले लूँ। जब वह पत्रकार झांसी में उस ट्रेन में चढ़कर उसकी फोटो खींचने लगे तो वे करेन्ट की चपेट में आए और उनकी जान चली गई। बुन्देलखंड के लोगों को पानी तो नहीं मिला, लेकिन हमारा एक पत्रकार शहीद हो गया।

मान्यवर, माननीय अखिलेश यादव जी ने पानी के लिए सुझाव दिया, तो कहा गया कि ठीक है, हम कहीं से ट्रेन में पानी भरत वहाँ भेज देंगे। रेल के किनारे सारी आबादी तो रहती नहीं है, बल्कि आबादी गाँव में रहती है। जब वहाँ के लिए टैंकर की आवश्यकता हुई, तो केन्द्र सरकार से साढ़े 10 लाख करोड़ रुपए की माँग की गई, ताकि वहाँ के लोगों तक पानी पहुँचाया जा सके। चूंकि केन्द्र सरकार ऐसा नहीं चाहती थी, इसलिए इनकी तरफ से पैसा नहीं मिला। जो सूखे के लिए पैसा माँगा गया था, वह पैसा भी नहीं मिला। हम चाहते हैं कि जिस तरह से बुन्देलखंड में तमाम भयावह स्थिति है, उसके लिए अलग से एक लाख करोड़ रुपये का पैकेज दिया जाए, जिससे वहाँ के लोगों के लिए और सिंचाई के लिए तमाम चीजों की व्यवस्था हो सके।

मान्यवर, बुंदेलखंड में जो लोग हैं, वे बैंकों से किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड ले लेते हैं। वहाँ की स्थिति यह है कि बैंक मैनेजर बिना रिश्वत लिए उनका क्रेडिट कार्ड नहीं बनाते और जब उनका रिन्यूअल करना होता है, तो उसके लिए भी वे पैसे लेते हैं। जब वहाँ सूखा पड़ जाता है, तो बीमा कम्पनियाँ उनको फसल दुर्घटना बीमा नहीं देती, जबकि वे उनके खाते से किश्त तो काट लेती हैं। इस प्रकार की तमाम घटनाओं की जानकारी हमें मिली है। हम लोगों ने ये तमाम मामले उठाए हैं कि किसानों ने अगर फसल दुर्घटना बीमा के तहत फसल के लिए, बीज के लिए या सिंचाई के लिए क्रेडिट कार्ड लिया है और अगर उनकी फसल नष्ट हो जाती है, तो उनके बीमे की रकम मिलनी चाहिए।

महोदय, मैं माननीय मुलायम सिंह यादव जी और अखिलेश यादव जी को बधाई दूँगा कि उन्होंने उत्तर प्रदेश में किसान दुर्घटना बीमा के अंतर्गत 5 लाख रुपये देने की व्यवस्था की। उसके अंतर्गत किसी भी किसान का कहीं एक्सीडेंट हो जाता है या उसके साथ कोई घटना हो जाती है अथवा उसको कोई पागल कुत्ता या सियार काट लेता है। और अगर उसके नाम पर एक बिस्वा भी जमीन है, तो उसको 5 लाख रुपए मिलेंगे। इसी प्रकार की व्यवस्था मैं भारत सरकार की तरफ से भी चाहता हूँ कि जैसी उत्तर प्रदेश में व्यवस्था है, उसी प्रकार से पूरे देश में व्यवस्था कर दी जाए। एक किसान के लिए 5 लाख रुपय की राशि तो कम है, इसलिए आप 10 लाख रुपये की राशि की व्यवस्था करें। आप किसान दुर्घटना बीमा के लिए कम से कम 10 लाख रुपए की व्यवस्था कर दें, ताकि हमारा किसान, जो इस आपदा से परेशान है, उसको कुछ राहत मिल सके। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बसावाराज पाटिल): अभी आप और कितनी देर बोलेंगे? ढाई घंटे पूरे होने में अभी पाँच मिनट बचे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सर, दो मिनट ही बचे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बसावाराज पाटिल): यह पाँच मिनट लेट शुरू हुआ है, इसलिए पाँच मिनट आगे लिया जाए।

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद: मान्यवर, हम यह चाहते हैं कि बुंदेलखंड के किसानों के सामने जिस तरह की परेशानी और आपदा है, उससे वे बदहाल और परेशान हैं। वहाँ न तो कोई कुटीर उद्योग-धंधा है और न ही वहाँ कोई रोजगार का साधन है। वहाँ का नौजवान वहाँ से बाहर निकलकर मुम्बई और सूरत जैसे शहरों में पलायन करता है। अभी जो नोटबंदी हुई, उसके कारण पूरे देश के उद्योग-धंधे बंद हो गए। आज वे लोग अपने घर वापस आ गए और लाखों लोग बेरोजगार हो गए। इस कारण काफी फैक्टरियां बंद हो गईं, कम्पनियां बंद हो गईं, तो उनके मालिक कहते हैं कि हमारी कम्पनी बंद होने के कारण आपको अब नहीं रख सकते। इस कारण वे लोग अपने घर आ गए, अपने वतन आ गए। अब वहाँ उनके पास रहने की समस्या है, क्योंकि वे 5 साल, 10 साल पहले नौकरी के लिए घर छोड़ कर चले गए थे। अब उनके पास मकान नहीं हैं और वे गरीबी रेखा के नीचे हैं। तो भारत सरकार को चाहिए, वैसे तो आजादी के 70 साल बीत गए, आज तक केन्द्र सरकार यह आंकड़ा नहीं लगा पायी कि देश में कितने लोग गरीब हैं, कितने लोग अमीर हैं, किन को बी.पी.एल. कार्ड मिलना चाहिए, किन को अंत्योदय कार्ड मिलना चाहिए, आज तक इसका सर्वे नहीं हुआ। स्थानीय निवासी जिनका नाम बी.पी.एल. में है उनको ए.पी.एल. में कर दिया और ए.पी.एल. वालों को बी.पी.एल. में कर दिया। तो लोगों को न तो राशन मिल पा रहा है और न उनके बच्चों को कोई सुविधा मिल पा रही है और न उनको मकान मिल पा रहा है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बसावाराज पाटिल): प्राइवेट मेंबर बिल के हिसाब से यह और 5 मिनट चलेगा।

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद: केन्द्र सरकार की जो योजना है, इसमें पहले इंदिरा आवास योजना चल रही थी। इंदिरा आवास योजना के बाद प्रधान मंत्री आवास योजना हो गई। मैं बधाई दूंगा। उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के मुख्य मंत्री अखिलेश यादव जी को, उन्होंने खास तौर से बुंदेलखंड के लोगों के लिए राम मनोहर लोहिया आवास योजना के तहत तीन लाख पांच हजार रुपए देने का काम किया। इससे दो कमरे का मकान बनेगा, जिसमें किचन और बिजली की व्यवस्था होगी। इसी तरह से हम केन्द्र सरकार से चाहते हैं कि एक लाख रुपए में प्रधान मंत्री आवास योजना के तहत कुछ नहीं होता। आपकी दाल इतनी महंगी हो गई। उत्तर प्रदेश में खनिज विभाग में बालू खनन पर सी.बी.आई. जांच भी चल रही है। वहां एक शौचालय भी नहीं बन पा रहा है। वहां पर किसी को बालू नहीं मिल पा रही है। कोई डस्ट से बना रहा है और कोई बना भी नहीं पा रहा है। तो आपकी यह स्वच्छता योजना भी फेल हो रही है। हम चाहते हैं कि आप लोग वहां के लोगों के लिए इसकी व्यवस्था करें, सब के लिए मकान, सब के लिए रोजगार। जो युवा 18 साल का हो जाता है उससे आप कहते हैं कि वोट दीजिए। वह बेचारा उत्साह से वोट देता है। लेकिन क्या उसको रोजगार की कोई व्यवस्था है? विदेशों में जो युवा 18 साल से अधिक का हो जाता है, चाहे उनको गवर्नमेंट जॉब मिले या प्राइवेट जॉब मिले, उसको रोजगार की गारंटी मिलती है। तो भारत सरकार को एक संकल्प लाना चाहिए, एक विधेयक लाना चाहिए कि नौजवानों के लिए जो 18 साल की उम्र का है और हमको वोट देता है तो उसको भी रोजगार पाने का अधिकार होना चाहिए।

बुंदेलखंड का हमारा नौजवान हताश है, निराश है, परेशान है। वह कभी-कभी गलत रास्ते पर चला जाता है। वहां का किसान रात में जब खेत की रखवाली करता है तो रात में बदमाश आकर उसको उठा लेते हैं। बदमाश उससे खाना मांगते हैं। अगर खाना नहीं देते हैं तो उसकी जान ले लेते हैं। फिर दिन में जब पुलिस आती है और कहती है कि तुमने बदमाश को खाना क्यों दिया, तो इससे वह अपना खेत छोड़ कर चला जाता है। तो इस प्रकार बुंदेलखंड की विषम परिस्थितियां हैं। वह पहाड़ों से घिरा हुआ है और इतना बीहड़ क्षेत्र है। वहां पर सिंचाई के साधन नहीं हैं। हम लोगों ने मांग की थी कि जिस तरह से गंगा नहर है, यमुना नदी है। तो यमुना नदी में एक तटबंध बना दिया जाए, जिससे पूरे बुंदेलखंड के लिए सिंचाई की व्यवस्था हो सके, इससे वहां का किसान जो परेशान है, वहां से पलायन कर रहा है, आत्महत्या कर रहा है, तो उससे वह परेशानियों से ऊपर उठे। तो मैं अपने संकल्प के माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार से मांग करता हूं, चूंकि वह यह कह कर बहाना नहीं बना सकती कि हमारे पास अधिकार नहीं हैं। अगर बुंदेलखंड के लोगों की आत्महत्या रोकनी है, उनकी भुखमरी दूर करनी है तथा उनकी आपदाओं से निबटारा करना है तो उनके लिए अलग से आपको पैकेज देना होगा। तो आपको उनके लिए अलग से पैकेज देना होगा। आप उन्हें एक लाख करोड़ का पैकेज दीजिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बसावाराज पाटिल): विशम्भर प्रसाद जी, यह चर्चा यहीं रुकेगी।

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद: सर, आप इसे आगे continue करिए, ताकि हमारी यह चर्चा जारी रहे।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बसावाराज पाटिल): जी, फिर आगे यह continue होगी। Now, Special Mentions.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demand to open Kendriya Vidyalayas in certain districts of Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तरप्रदेश के बुंदेलखंड क्षेत्र में केन्द्रीय विद्यालयों की कमी है। केन्द्र की सेवाओं में कार्यरत कर्मचारियों व अधिकारियों के बच्चों को शिक्षा अध्ययन कराने में परेशानियाँ होती हैं तथा पिछड़े क्षेत्र में ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के छात्रों को सरकारी विद्यालय न होने के कारण निजी स्कूलों में परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ता है। इसके कारण बच्चे पढ़ नहीं पाते हैं, क्योंकि निजी स्कूलों की फीस ज्यादा होती है, जिसको बुंदेलखंड के जनपद बांदा, हमीरपुर, जालौन, चित्रकूट आदि के बच्चे नहीं दे पा रहे हैं। भारत सरकार के मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने 50 नए केन्द्रीय विद्यालय खोले जाने की घोषणा की है। इस सम्बन्ध में हमारी माँग है कि बुंदेलखंड के पिछड़े क्षेत्र जनपद बांदा, हमीरपुर, जालौन और चित्रकूट में एक-एक नया केन्द्रीय विद्यालय खोला जाए, जिससे गरीब बच्चों को भी केन्द्रीय विद्यालय में शिक्षा मिल सके।

अतः सदन के माध्यम से मैं केन्द्र सरकार से माँग करता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश के जनपद बांदा, हमीरपुर, जालौन और चित्रकूट में 2017-18 में केन्द्रीय विद्यालय खोले जाएँ।

Demand to take necessary steps to celebrate the millennium birth anniversary of Saint Sri Ramanujacharya in the country

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, Sri Sankaracharya, Ramanujacharya and Madhvacharya are great philosophers of Sanatan Dharma and have emancipated the ignorants to the right path. Saint Ramanujacharya was born in a village near Chennai in the year 1017 AD and he lived for 120 years and inspired all the practice equality in the society. He was a great social reformer. He treated the downtrodden at par with the elite. He made temples as centres of society where all artisans took active part. He rooted out untouchability and other vices that existed in the society. He gave everyone the same privilege of worshipping God. He imbibed into the society that women need to be shown utmost respect and empowered them to serve the society as leaders.

Now Sri Ramanujacharya's thousandth year birthday is falling in May, 2017 and many organizations and associations have represented that the 1000th year birthday should be celebrated in a befitting manner by taking the following measures: (1) Issuing

[Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy]

Rs.100, Rs. 10 and Rs. 5 coins with Sri Ramanujacharya image; (2) Naming a prominent road in Delhi and at other cities, in the name of Sri Ramanuja Marg; (3) Launching a national scheme on social welfare in the name of Sri Ramanuja; and (4) Building a Mandapam/Memorial to commemorate his 1000th year birthday.

I, therefore, request the hon. Prime Minister and the Central Government to initiate necessary action for this Saint's Millennium birthday celebrations.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL): Shrimati Jharna Das Baidya, not here. Dr. V. Maitreya, not here. Shri Md. Nadimul Haque, not here. Shri Motilal Vora, not here. The House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. on Monday, the 20th March, 2017.

*The House then adjourned at seven minutes past
five of the clock till eleven of the clock on
Monday, the 20th March, 2017.*

