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Friday

24 March, 2017

3 Chaitra, 1939 (Saka)

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

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Website : <http://rajyasabha.nic.in>
<http://parliamentofindia.nic.in>
E-mail : rsedit-e@sansad.nic.in

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RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 24th March, 2017/3rd Chaitra, 1939 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Sir, I have a point of order. ...(*Interruptions*)...

Report (2015-16) of the Ministry of Railways and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Report on the Progress made in the intake of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes against vacancies reserved for them in recruitment and promotion categories on the Railways, for the year 2015-16.
- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6680/16/17]

Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture

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

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare), under sub-section (3) of Section 36 of the Insecticides Act, 1968:—
 - (1) G.S.R. 79 (E), dated the 1st February, 2017, publishing the Insecticides (Amendment) Rules, 2017.
 - (2) G.S.R. 106 (E), dated the 6th February, 2017, publishing the Insecticides (Second Amendment) Rules, 2017.[Placed in Library. For (1) and (2) *See* No. L.T. 6762/16/17]
- II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare) Notification No. S.O. 349 (E), dated the 6th February, 2017, publishing the Fertilizer (Control) Amendment Order, 2017, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6664/16/17]

I. Report and Accounts (2015-16) of the Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited (KAPL), Bangalore and related papers**II. MoU (2016-17) between Government of India and BCPL and IDPL**

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

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

(a) Thirty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited (KAPL), Bangalore, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6673/16/17]

(2) *Review by the Government on the working of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL), for the year 2015-16.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6385/16/17]

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

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Pharmaceuticals) and the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals (BCPL), for the year 2016-17.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6674/16/17]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Pharmaceuticals) and the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL), for the year 2016-17.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6675/16/17]

Notifications of the 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 (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and

* Thirty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL), 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 was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 16.12.2016.

Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) Notification No. G.S.R. 1133 (E), dated the 14th December, 2016, publishing the Food Corporations (Amendment) Rules, 2016, under sub-section (5) of Section 45 of the Food Corporations Act, 1964.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6568/16/17]

- 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. 142 (E), dated the 17h February, 2017, regarding Factory-wise fair and remunerative price of sugarcane for the sugar year 2015-16, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6768/16/17]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

II. Reports and Accounts (2015-16) of the ERNET India, New Delhi and STPI, New Delhi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE;
AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): Sir, I lay on the Table—

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Department of Electronics and Information Technology), under sub-section (3) of Section 87 of the Information Technology Act, 2000:—

- (1) G.S.R.660 (E), dated the 26th August, 2015, publishing the Digital Signature (End entity) Rules, 2015.
- (2) G.S.R.661 (E), dated the 26th August, 2015, publishing the Information Technology (Security Procedure) Amendment Rules, 2015.
- (3) G.S.R.662 (E), dated the 26th August, 2015, publishing the Information Technology (Certifying Authorities) Amendment Rules, 2015.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (3) See No. L.T. 6689/16/17]

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

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the ERNET India, New Delhi, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Society.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6687/16/17]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), New Delhi, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Society.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6688/16/17]

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

SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY: Sir, I lay on the Table, under Section 55 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution):—

- (1) S.O. 371 (E), dated the 8th February, 2017, regarding the incorporation of requirement of Aadhaar Number/Aadhaar authentication for getting the benefits of subsidized foodgrains/Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy to beneficiaries under National Food Security Act. 2013.
- (2) S.O. 752 (E), dated the 6th March, 2017, publishing corrigendum to Notification No. S.O. 371 (E), dated the 8th February, 2017 (in Hindi).

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (2) *See* No. L.T. 6758/16/17]

Report of Comptroller and General of India

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, under clause (1) of article 151 of the Constitution, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 2016 – Union Government (Civil), Union Territories without Legislatures Compliance Audit Observations, Report No. 8 of 2017.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6714/16/17]

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

DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU (Jharkhand): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Thirtieth Report on Action Taken by the

Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-first Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (2016-17) on 'Research and Development in Iron and Steel Sector' relating to the Ministry of Steel.

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

महंत शम्भुप्रसादजी तुंदिया (गुजरात): महोदय, मैं पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय से संबंधित "कोल बेड मीथेन का उत्पादन" के संबंध में विभाग संबंधित पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के चौदहवें प्रतिवेदन (सोलहवीं लोक सभा) में अंतर्विष्ट सिफारिशों पर सरकार द्वारा की गई कार्रवाई संबंधी उन्नीसवें प्रतिवेदन की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूं।

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Eighteenth Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings on 'Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO)' relating to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the Twenty-third report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (साध्वी निरंजन ज्योति): महोदय, मैं खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय की अनुदान मांगों (2016-17) पर विभाग संबंधित कृषि संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के तेईसवें प्रतिवेदन में अंतर्विष्ट सिफारिशों/समुक्तियों के कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति के संबंध में एक वक्तव्य सभा पटल पर रखती हूं।

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Sixth report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers

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 make a Statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers on Demands for Grants (2015-16) pertaining to the Department of Pharmaceuticals.

STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that the Government Business during the week commencing the 27th March, 2017 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any items of Government Business carried over from today's order paper consisting of:—
 - (a) Consideration and return of the Finance Bill, 2017, as passed by Lok Sabha.
 - (b) Consideration and return of the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2017, as passed by Lok Sabha.
 - (c) Consideration and return of the Appropriation (Railways) No.2, Bill, 2017, as passed by Lok Sabha.
 - (d) Discussion on the working of Ministries of Railways, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Information and Broadcasting.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Lok Sabha:—
 - (a) The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2016.
 - (b) The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2016.
 - (c) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:—
 - (a) The National Institute of Technology, Science Education and Research (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016.
 - (b) The Indian Institutes of Management Bill, 2017.
 - (c) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

- (d) The Footwear Design and Development Institute Bill, 2017.
 - (e) The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2017.
 - (f) The Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
 - (g) The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
4. Consideration and agreeing to the amendments made by Lok Sabha to the Mental Health Care Bill, 2016, as passed by Rajya Sabha, after it is passed by Lok Sabha.

REFERENCES

Re. Demand for discussion under Rule 267

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav first. ...(Interruptions)...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, मैंने रूल 267 के अंतर्गत नोटिस दिया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav first because he has given notice. ...(Interruptions)...

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will call you. ...(Interruptions).... आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान).... Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav has given notice. ...(Interruptions).... I have called him. Listen to him. ...(Interruptions)...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव: उपसभापति जी, मैंने रूल 267 के अंतर्गत नोटिस दिया है। ...(व्यवधान).... उपसभापति जी, संसद के दोनों सदनों के Backward Classes के एम.पीज़. कई वर्षों से मांग कर रहे थे कि Backward Classes का जो कमीशन है, उसको संवैधानिक दर्जा दिया जाए। इस गवर्नमेंट ने यह किया कि उस Backward Classes Commission को तो खत्म कर दिया और उसकी जगह एक एजुकेशनली एंड सोशली बैकवर्ड क्लास कमीशन का गठन करके उसको संवैधानिक दर्जा देने का काम किया है। यह कितनी बड़ी साजिश है? आज हिन्दुस्तान की सारी Backward communities अपने आपको ठगा-सा महसूस कर रही हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर): यह गलत है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री शंकरभाई एन. वेगड़ (गुजरात): ऐसा नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव: ये इसके अंतर्गत आरक्षण को धीरे-धीरे खत्म करना चाहते हैं। Backward Classes की कुछ कम्युनिटीज़ को उससे बाहर लाना चाहते हैं। ...(व्यवधान).... ये बड़े पैमाने पर बदलाव करना चाहते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him complete. *...(Interruptions)...* सभी लोग बैठिए। *...(व्यवधान)...* I allowed him to speak. *...(Interruptions)...* सभी लोग बैठिए। *...(व्यवधान)...* Let him complete. *...(Interruptions)...* I allowed him. Let him complete. *...(Interruptions)...* Ali Anwarji, sit down. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, I am on Business. *...(Interruptions)...* I am on Business. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will call you. *...(Interruptions)...*

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव: उपसभापति जी, इंदिरा साहनी केस के बाद जब ये चीजें खत्म हुई थीं। *...(व्यवधान)...*

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: यह सच नहीं है। *...(व्यवधान)...* हम आपको बताएंगे। *...(व्यवधान)...*

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव: उस वक्त भी creamy layer की व्यवस्था कर दी गई थी, इसलिए ये जो और चीजें जोड़ी गई हैं, इनकी कोई जरूरत नहीं थी, लेकिन इसके पीछे दूसरा उद्देश्य है। आपने देखा होगा कि कई बार जहां से ये गाइड होते हैं, वहां उनके heads कई बार कह चुके हैं कि आरक्षण को खत्म कर दिया जाए। यह Backward Classes के आरक्षण को धीरे-धीरे खत्म करने की एक साजिश है। *...(व्यवधान)...* जो Backward community *...(व्यवधान)...* कुछ थोड़ी-सी कम्युनिटीज ऐसी हैं, जो थोड़ी-सी पढ़-लिख गई हैं, नौकरी में हैं, कुछ पोलिटिक्स में हैं, उन communities को, चाहे वे यादव हों, *...(व्यवधान)...* यह एक चरणबद्ध तरीके से पहले यादवों को, कुर्मियों को, गुर्जरों को, लोधियों को, मौर्यों को और कुशवाहों को धीरे-धीरे Backward community से बाहर लाने की साजिश है। *...(व्यवधान)...* इसके अंतर्गत यह लाया जा रहा है। हम इसका विरोध करते हैं। *...(व्यवधान)...* हम सारे सदन के सदस्यों से कहेंगे कि जब यह संविधान संशोधन विधेयक यहां आए, तो राज्य सभा किसी कीमत पर उसको पास न होने दे।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, you have made your point. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभापति जी, एक मिनट। *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister wants to react. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार): सर, हमसे कहा था *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If the Minister wants to react, I have to allow. *...(Interruptions)...* Ali Anwar Ansariji, the Minister wants to react. *...(Interruptions)...* इसके बारे में मिनिस्टर बोलना चाहते हैं, आप सुनिए। *...(व्यवधान)...* इस बारे में आप मिनिस्टर को सुनिए। *...(व्यवधान)...* चिल्लाने से क्या फायदा है? *...(व्यवधान)...* चिल्लाने से क्या फायदा है? आप मिनिस्टर को सुनिए। *...(व्यवधान)...* Minister, please. *...(Interruptions)...* You listen to the Minister. He is responding. *...(Interruptions)...* I will call you. *...(Interruptions)...*

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री (श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत): माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन को और सदन के माध्यम से देश की जनता को यह बताना चाहता हूँ

कि प्रधान मंत्री जी ने एक बार नहीं, अनेक बार यह बात स्पष्ट कर दी है कि संवैधानिक प्रावधान के अनुसार अनुसूचित जाति/जनजाति और पिछड़े वर्गों के आरक्षण जारी रहेंगे। हम जनसंघ के समय से आज तक इसके पक्षधर हैं, थे और आगे भी रहेंगे। ...**(व्यवधान)**... जहां तक सवाल है ओबीसी कमीशन को संवैधानिक दर्जा देने का ...**(व्यवधान)**....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is very clear. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत: एक लंबे समय से यह मांग की जा रही थी। इस सरकार ने नरेंद्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में यह एक ऐतिहासिक निर्णय लिया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह पिछड़े वर्गों के, गरीबों के हित में निर्णय लिया है। इस आयोग को संवैधानिक दर्जा देने की लंबे समय से मांग की जा रही थी, उस मांग को पूरा किया जा रहा है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... संवैधानिक दर्जा मिलने से इस आयोग को भी अनुसूचित जाति और जनजाति आयोग की भांति सभी समस्त अधिकार होंगे। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is very clear. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत: इसमें किसी प्रकार से कहीं किसी दुर्भावनावाश निर्णय नहीं लिया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Ram Gopalji, now, it is very clear. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत: यह एक ऐतिहासिक निर्णय है, यह पिछड़े वर्गों और गरीबों के हित में है। यह सरकार गरीबों को समर्पित सरकार है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इसी उद्देश्य की पूर्ति के लिए यह निर्णय लिया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is now very clear. There is no need of further discussion. ...**(Interruptions)**... It is very clear. ...**(Interruptions)**... The Minister has given a very clear assurance. ...**(Interruptions)**... What is this? It is very clear. ...**(Interruptions)**...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव: सर, ये गलत जवाब दे रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: आप क्या कर रहे हैं? मिनिस्टर ने एश्योरेंस दिया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... राम गोपाल जी, ...**(व्यवधान)**... सुनिए, वन सेकंड। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Ram Gopalji, first listen to me. ...**(Interruptions)**... Ram Gopalji is one of the most respected and most disciplined Members of this House. ...**(Interruptions)**... I consider you the most disciplined and most respectable Member of this House. You raised a point, a very valid point. That is why, I allowed you full time for whatever you wanted to say, and your concern is very genuine. I appreciate that, but the Minister, very categorically, replied to what you said. ...**(Interruptions)**...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव: सर, ये गलत जवाब दे रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I do not know what more do you want?
...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, मिनिस्टर सही नहीं बोल रहे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: सुनिए, मंत्री जी जो बोले, वह हिन्दी में बोले, क्या वह आपकी समझ में नहीं आता है? ...(व्यवधान)... सुनिए, ...(व्यवधान)... ज़रा सुनिए, ...(व्यवधान)... आप सुनिए ...(व्यवधान)... एक मिनट, सुनिए, सुनिए। ...(व्यवधान)... मंत्री जी जो बोले, क्या वह आपकी समझ में नहीं आया? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत: सर, अगर आप अनुमति देंगे, ...(व्यवधान)... तो मैं एक बार और बोल दूँगा। ...(व्यवधान)...

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री; तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी): सर, ये दोबारा बोल देंगे। ...(व्यवधान)... If they can not understand Hindi, he can speak in English also. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री उपसभापति: अभी आप अंग्रेजी में बोलिए। ...(व्यवधान)... आप हिन्दी में बोले, इसलिए उनकी समझ में नहीं आया, अभी आप अंग्रेजी में बोलिए। ...(व्यवधान)... आप हिन्दी में बोले, इसलिए समझ में नहीं आया, अब आप अंग्रेजी में बोलिए। ...(व्यवधान)... अब क्या करें? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत: उपसभापति महोदय, ...(व्यवधान)... मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जो लोग अनुसूचित जाति, जनजाति और पिछड़े वर्ग के नाम पर ...(व्यवधान)... राजनीति करते आए हैं, ...(व्यवधान)... इस निर्णय से उनको खुश होना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव: यह गलत बात है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: यह गलत बात है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत: देश का सारा पिछड़ा वर्ग, अनुसूचित जाति और जनजाति वर्ग इससे खुश भी है, ...(व्यवधान)... परन्तु इनकी पुरानी नीति उजागर हो रही है। ...(व्यवधान)... देश के प्रधान मंत्री जी ने एक बार नहीं, बल्कि अनेक बार यह कहा कि हम अनुसूचित जाति, जनजाति और पिछड़े वर्ग से सम्बन्धित लोगों के आरक्षण के पक्षधर हैं, थे और आगे भी रहेंगे। ...(व्यवधान)... पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग को संवैधानिक दर्जा देने की जो मांग थी, हमने उसको संवैधानिक दर्जा देने का निर्णय लिया है और इस निर्णय के आधार पर SC/ST आयोग को जो अधिकार है, ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: संवैधानिक दर्जा देने का निर्णय लिया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत: उसी प्रकार का संवैधानिक दर्जा पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग को भी दिया गया है और वह इन वर्गों की समस्याओं का समाधान कर सकेगा। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned for ten minutes.

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

The House reassembled at twenty-eight minutes past eleven of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

Re. Point raised about Revised List of Business

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, I am on the Business. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will call you. ...*(Interruptions)*... What is your problem? ...*(Interruptions)*... Are you on a point of order? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Yes, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am on the Business. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order? ...*(Interruptions)*... I will allow you. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will call you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... What is your point of order? ...*(Interruptions)*... Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't talk like this. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will call you also. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, my point of order is on the Revised List of Business. I am on Rule 29. Here is my point. Please hear me out. Today being Friday, I think there is a list of about 11 Private Members' Bills. And after that, the first item listed under "Government Legislative Business" is the Finance Bill, 2017. In the Business Advisory Committee meeting or in the morning meeting, sometimes informal agreements are reached. My appeal to this Government, through you, Sir, is this. On Friday, the Enemy Property Bill was listed. And everyone here was taken by surprise. So, in a spirit of understanding between the Government and the Opposition, the Enemy Property Bill was taken up after the Private Members' Bills when there were four Members in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: ...when it collapsed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You should say the full truth. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Yes, yes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Say the full truth. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: When it collapsed. I am making the point now that, today, there are eleven Private Members' Bills. Collapsed or no collapsed, the appreciation. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I can assure you. *...(Interruptions)...* I understood your point. *...(Interruptions)...* I can assure you. *...(Interruptions)...* I understood your point. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: The Finance Bill is not....*(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I can assure you one thing. *...(Interruptions)...* I have understood the point. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: I will finish. *...(Interruptions)...* One more point, Sir. *...(Interruptions)...* This is the understanding which we all have that after the Private Members' Bills, this legislation will not be taken up. That is the spirit we are appealing to this Government. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. *...(Interruptions)...* Derekji, sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* I have got your point. Your point is that the Finance Bill should not be taken up after Private Members' Bill, even if Private Members' Bill collapses. Okay. I can assure you that. That is assured for today. In any case, that assurance I am giving. *...(Interruptions)...* I will give. *...(Interruptions)...* We will not take up the Finance Bill. *...(Interruptions)...* No; I have already given. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, there is a broader point. *...(Interruptions)...* It is not about the *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; broader point, we will discuss later. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: It is not about the Finance Bill. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. *...(Interruptions)...* That is a disputed point. *...(Interruptions)...* That we can decide later. *...(Interruptions)...* That is a disputed point. *...(Interruptions)...* That we will take up later because I have a very definite view on that if a Private Member's Bill collapses, the Chair cannot *suo motu* adjourn the House. The Chair has to take the Business. But after 5 p.m., no problem, we can adjourn. Today also, I say, after 5 p.m. we will adjourn. And for today, I am giving the assurance, it being the Finance Bill, I will not take it up. I can say that to you. Now, Dr. Subbarami Reddy, what is your problem?

Re. Killing of family of an Indian software engineer in America

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, yesterday night, again, in America, a software engineer's wife and son were killed brutally. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Again in America? *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Again in America. ...(*Interruptions*)... Shri Narra Hanumantha Rao, a software engineer from Andhra Pradesh. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naqvi, please listen to this. ...(*Interruptions*)... Some Indians were again killed in the USA yesterday. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, yesterday night, one Narra Hanumantha Rao, software engineer, who has been working in America for the last 12 years and who belongs to Andhra Pradesh, when he came back from duty, found that his wife and their six year old son had been killed brutally by some unknown people. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: My God! ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: It is a serious matter. Three days back, Sushma Swarajji, assured that they will protect, they will make all efforts but this is very dangerous. Just two weeks back, two people were killed. Again, two people have been killed yesterday night. What I want is that the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, must take it with the President of America and take it very seriously. As I told that day, America being such a modern country and with such big resources and strategy planning, how could they not know who is behind this? What is the motivation behind this? ...(*Interruptions*)... Why are these killings going on? ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. ...(*Interruptions*)... This should be taken up at the highest level. ...(*Interruptions*)...

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री; तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी): माननीय उपसभापति जी, Hon. Member श्री टी. सुब्बारामी रेड्डी ने इस विषय को उस समय भी उठाया था और सुषमा जी ने बहुत categorically इस मुद्दे पर, जो भी भारतीय अमेरिका में रह रहे हैं, उनकी सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के बारे में जवाब दिया था। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is new. ...(*Interruptions*)... Yesterday, it has happened. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: सर, मैं बता रहा हूँ कि जो भी वहां रह रहे हैं, उनकी सुरक्षा और उनकी सुरक्षा के प्रति संवेदनशीलता और जिम्मेदारी के साथ माननीया मंत्री जी ने जवाब दिया था। अब, आज जो इन्होंने नया specific issue उठाया है और जो incident बताया है, उसके बारे में भी हम जानकारी देंगे। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes. ...(*Interruptions*)... The External Affairs Minister should be conveyed immediately about this for urgent action. ...(*Interruptions*)... She may be requested to inform the House what action is taken. ...(*Interruptions*)... Okay. ...(*Interruptions*)... Point of order? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, the issue has already been. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, okay. ...(*Interruptions*)... That is over. ...(*Interruptions*)... Now, Special Mentions. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: The Prime Minister must take it up, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, Zero Hour! ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Zero Hour. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I think, the matter has been raised. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; the Minister gave an assurance. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir,.....(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. ...(*Interruptions*)... I have to take up the Zero Hour. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Please. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. ...(*Interruptions*)... The Minister gave an assurance. ...(*Interruptions*)... Then, why do you speak on that? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: We respect that. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, please hear me. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, but how can I? ...(*Interruptions*)... It is Zero Hour. There are 11 Members waiting and pressuring me. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Zero Hour is there. This is also a Zero Hour matter that has been raised. We thank the Chair that you have registered the seriousness of the matter and the Government has also responded. ...(*Interruptions*)...

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

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: On this particular one. ...(*Interruptions*)...

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

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, please. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. ...(*Interruptions*)... You are cutting it. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, please. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why do you behave like this? ...(Interruptions)...
I have pressure from so many Members. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, unless and until....(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. ...(Interruptions)... You cannot repeat it again. ...(Interruptions)... The Minister has responded. ...(Interruptions)... Sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I am not repeating. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why do you say? ...(Interruptions)... Sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I am not repeating. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. ...(Interruptions)... What is this? ...(Interruptions)... It does not mean that on every subject you should speak. ...(Interruptions)... Now, the Minister responded and, then, again, you are standing. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: No. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are 11 MPs sitting and waiting for this. ...(Interruptions)... I know their pressure. ...(Interruptions)... They are raising and..... (Interruptions)... So, why do you do it? ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Just one minute. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why don't you see that it has already been raised? ...(Interruptions)...

श्री मोहम्मद अली खान (आंध्र प्रदेश): सर, मैं दरखास्त करना चाहता हूँ कि ...(व्यवधान)...
---(مداخلت)--- جناب محمد علی خان: سر، میں درخواست کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, please. ...(Interruptions)... What I am saying ...(Interruptions)...

श्री हुसैन दलवाई (महाराष्ट्र): माननीय उपसभापति जी, मेरा point of order है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No point of order. ...(Interruptions)... Sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: What I am saying is that the Prime Minister should take it up.... *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I said, it should be taken up at the highest level. *...(Interruptions)...* I said it here and you didn't hear that. *...(Interruptions)...* I said from the Chair... *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I thank you for that. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I said from the Chair that it should be taken up at the highest level. *...(Interruptions)...* मैंने बोला है। Ms. Dola Sen *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Why are you getting angry? *...(Interruptions)...* It is not... *...(Interruptions)...* You should calm down. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Ms. Dola Sen. *...(Interruptions)...* I am not allowing that. *...(Interruptions)...* Ordinary Members give notice, but those who did not give notice simply raise it as a point of order. This is not the way. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* I am not allowing. *...(Interruptions)...* Now, Ms. Dola Sen. *...(Interruptions)...* I have to protect the interest of the Members, those who give notices. *...(Interruptions)...* You don't give notice, but come here and raise point of order and create problem. *...(Interruptions)...* I don't agree with that. *...(Interruptions)...* Now, Ms. Dola Sen.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Need to look into the problems of people including tribals affected by Sardar Sarovar Project

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me a chance to make some points on this issue in Zero Hour.

श्री उपसभापति: जल्दी बोलिए।

MS. DOLA SEN: My subject today is regarding families affected by Sardar Sarovar Project; many of them are *Adivasis*. Sir, many families affected by Sardar Sarovar Project are still residing in the submerged area spread over 214 kilometres as on today. Many schools, dispensaries, *dharamshalas*, Government offices, rationing shops and other public amenities, temples, mosques, other religious and cultural centres and monuments, shops, markets and panchayat are yet to be shifted from

villages in submergence to new sites. Many families from Madhya Pradesh who were declared as Sardar Sarovar affected since 1980s are now excluded from 'Backwater Level Affected' category, even when most of their properties are already acquired and transferred in the name of the Narmada Authority. Not only that, a number of Sardar Sarovar affected Adivasis from Maharashtra are also yet to get any or, all of the agricultural land, house plots allotted with titles and amenities in places of Refugee, Relief and Rehabilitation sites, in their possession and yet to shift to new sites. Thousands of Sardar Sarovar affected landless families in Madhya Pradesh including fishermen, potters, labourers, shopkeepers and artisans have reportedly not been granted rehabilitation benefits. It is also ironical that no concrete action has yet been taken against the middlemen and officials who are held responsible for more than 1,500 fake sale deeds and massive corruption on other aspects of rehabilitation, and their offences are recorded by Justice Jha Commission after seven years' long inquiry!

Sir, the most alarming fact is that huge quantity of ponded water from Sardar Sarovar Reservoir is allocated to the Coca Cola factory and car industries like Nano and Ford, depriving the people living in the vast municipal areas of Gujarat, of adequate drinking water, particularly, in Kutch and Saurashtra.

I demand that a White Paper be published by the Central Government on the impact of Sardar Sarovar Project. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

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

डा. अनिल कुमार साहनी (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, all those who associate, their names may be added. Now, Shrimati Kahkashan Perween.

Concern over sex determination racket caught in a village in Delhi

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन (बिहार): महोदय, आज मैं सदन में आपकी अनुमति से एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे को उठाने जा रही हूँ।

[श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन]

सर, एक ओर हम बच्चियों और औरतों के मान-सम्मान और उनके सशक्तिकरण की बात करते हैं, लेकिन दूसरी तरफ देखा जाए, तो लैंगिक असमानता पर कानूनी व्यवस्था तथा सामाजिक संवेदनहीनता भारी पड़ती दिख रही है। यह समाज में सबसे बड़ी समस्याओं में से एक है। इसकी मार सबसे ज्यादा लड़कियों और औरतों पर पड़ रही है। इसका खामियाजा समाज को भुगतना पड़ता है। बेशक स्थिति बदल रही है, लेकिन कन्या भ्रूण-हत्या आज भी बंद नहीं हुई है। इसकी रोक के लिए एक तरफ आवाज उठाई जाती है, कड़े कानून बनाये जाते हैं, परन्तु दूसरी ओर कन्या भ्रूण-हत्या रुकने का नाम नहीं ले रही है।

सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने कई बार कन्या भ्रूण-हत्या की जांच तथा भ्रूण-हत्या को लेकर केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों को कई प्रकार के निर्देश जारी किये हैं। इसके बावजूद 22 मार्च को अखबार में यह खबर आई है कि दिल्ली के बक्करवाला गांव में भ्रूण परीक्षण गिरोह पकड़ा गया है। यह वही गिरोह है, जो डेढ़ वर्ष पहले इसी अपराध में पकड़ा गया था। जेल जाने के बाद भी सारे डर और खौफ को खत्म करके फिर से ये गलत काम, गैर-कानूनी काम कर रहे हैं, इनकी हिम्मत का अंदाजा इससे लगाया जा सकता है। कुछ नर्सिंग होम्स में सिर्फ लड़के ही जन्म लेते हैं। मैं कहीं और की बात नहीं करती हूँ, बल्कि आप दिल्ली में ही देख लीजिए। दक्षिणी दिल्ली में ऐसे अस्पतालों की संख्या ज्यादा है। यहां 18 नर्सिंग होम ऐसे हैं, जहां वर्ष 2015-16 के दौरान कुल 3,456 बच्चों ने जन्म लिया, इनमें से 3,123 लड़के और मात्र 333 ही लड़कियां हैं। यही हाल अन्य बड़े शहरों का भी है। क्या हम इस पर संजीदा हैं, संवेदनशील हैं?

आखिर कब तक गर्भ में बेटियां मरती रहेंगी? इनको बचाने के लिए मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के निर्देशों का सख्ती से पालन कराया जाए। इसके लिए जिला स्तर पर एक निगरानी कमेटी का गठन कराया जाए। जिन्हें सिर्फ बेटियां हैं, ऐसे माता-पिता को उनके लालन-पालन में विशेष सुविधा मिले। अगर ऐसे माता-पिता बैंक से लड़कियों की पढ़ाई, इलाज या विवाह के लिए लोन लेते हैं, तो उनसे ब्याज दर कम ली जाए। साथ ही साथ उन्हें इनकम टैक्स में भी छूट मिले, ऐसा सरकार प्रबंधन करे। अगर माता-पिता सरकारी सेवक हैं, तो पदोन्नति में भी उनको उसका लाभ मिले। आखिर में ऐसी बेटियों के लिए, जो गर्भ में मार दी जाती हैं और उन बेबस मजबूर औरतों के लिए, जिनके गर्भ में बेटियों का नाश किया जाता है, उनके दर्द को मैं एक शेर के माध्यम से इस सदन में रखना चाहूंगी।

"मुरझाए हुए फूल की तकदीर हूँ, मुरझाए हुए फूल की तकदीर हूँ,

लेकिन चुभ जाऊं किसी दिन, मैं वह कांटा तो नहीं हूँ।"

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार): महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

डा. अनिल कुमार साहनी (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

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

श्री हरिवंश (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री जावेद अली खान (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।
 † جناب جاوید علی خان (اُتر پردیش): مہودے، میں بھی خود کو اس وئے سے
 سمبڈھ کرتا ہوں۔

श्री आलोक तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री राम चंद्र प्रसाद सिंह (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री शमशेर सिंह ढुलो (पंजाब) : महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA (Jharkhand): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All the names of the hon. Members, who have associated themselves with it, may be included. It is a very important issue.

**Concern over high pendency of industrial disputes leading to
encouragement of violations of labour laws**

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I rise here to draw the attention of the Government as well as this House to an alarming phenomenon of increasing pendency of the industrial disputes throughout the country, both in the Central sector and State sector. If we see, even in the Central sector alone involving only 70 lakh workers, who represent hardly one per cent of the country's non-agricultural workforce and around ten per cent of the organized sector workforce, the pendency of the cases has increased and it is now 13,165. If you see the last three-four years, the figure is hovering from 12,000 to 15,000. It means that the issues are coming up and not getting settled. There are Central Government Industrial Tribunals in place. As per the Government statement, in many places the Presiding Officer is not there. It is surprising that even in my State Kolkata, in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal, Presiding Officer and Secretary to the Court are not there since the last ten months. This is the situation in a place like Kolkata, where industrial disputes are quite high. In Dhanbad also, the Presiding Officer is not there. In a place like Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Chandigarh, particularly, the areas where there are so many industries, the posts of Presiding Officer is lying vacant leading to rising of pendency, and its impacts reflect on the industrial relation in the workplace, and, finally, increasing industrial unrest and affecting productivity. I think, the Government must give a serious thought on this issue. It is not just failure. If we say that it is a failure—that the vacancy is there and they are not getting proper man—it is okay. But it is not like that. If you see the expenditure pattern of the respective Government—let me tell you about the Central sector only—at least, more than 45-50 per cent of the expenditure allocated by the Budget for the industrial relations and enforcement of labour laws has been lying unspent every year since the last five years. I am not particularly pointing out a particular Government. The issues of industrial relations and enforcement of mechanism involve the Labour Commissioners and CGITs. The Budget allocated is remaining unspent to the tune of 40-50 per cent and that.. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time over. *...(Interruptions)...* I can't allow. *...(Interruptions)...* It will not be recorded.

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY (West Bengal): I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. K. RAGESH (Kerala): I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI (Bihar): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

**Proposed shifting of All India Radio's language bulletin
units to the State Capitals**

SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Punjab): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, thank you. All India Radio broadcasts several central News Bulletins in prominent Indian Languages. These News Bulletins are still prime source of information for majority of population. The system of keeping regional News Bulletins of languages in State capital news units and Central News Bulletins at its headquarter in Delhi was evolved and approved by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Information and Broadcasting Minister of the country. During his tenure, central News Bulletin in 6 Languages, Assamese, Dogri, Kashmiri, Malayalam and Punjabi were started from Delhi when it was almost impossible to get regional language persons. Mobility in the country was comparatively very low and there were no permanent posts of newsreaders.

As per reply given in Lok Sabha by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Broadcasting, Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore to an Unstarred Question No. 2159 on 15.03.2017, "Indian language news bulletins are being shifted; and shifting of four news units *i.e.* Assamese, Odia, Malayalam and Tamil have already been ordered."

[Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa]

This decision of Prasar Bharati is detrimental to the national identity of these languages, as well as, the quality of these central news bulletins. Last minute news item cannot be incorporated in these bulletins from New Delhi to State Capitals since nothing good is expected from this move.

I, therefore, demand immediate and total reversal of throwing these language units out from the National Capital.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (Punjab): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by my colleague.

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

Issues relating to linking of Aadhaar with Mid Day Meal Scheme and ICDS

श्री मोतीलाल वोरा (छत्तीसगढ़): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं दिनांक 24.3.2017 को राज्य सभा में एक अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के 'मध्याह्न भोजन योजना और एकीकृत बाल विकास योजना को आधार से जोड़े जाने' से संबंधित विषय को सदन में उठाना चाहता हूँ। राजग सरकार पहले तो आधार कार्ड का विरोध करती रही और इसे अनावश्यक करार देती रही, किन्तु अब सरकार द्वारा बच्चों के लिए चल रही मिड-डे-मील और एकीकृत बाल विकास योजना के लाभार्थियों के लिए यह आवश्यक कर दिया है कि उनका आधार कार्ड हो। सरकार की घोषणा के अनुसार, मिड-डे-मील योजना के तहत कार्यरत रसोइया सह-सहायकों के साथ ही छात्रों के लिए इस सुविधा का लाभ लेने के लिए आधार कार्ड होना जरूरी होगा, अन्यथा उन्हें मिड-डे-मील नहीं मिलेगा।

मिड-डे-मील योजना शुरू करने का मूल उद्देश्य यही था कि अधिक से अधिक बच्चों को स्कूल लाया जाए। इस योजना में इस समय लगभग 12 करोड़ बच्चे पंजीकृत हैं। लगता है कि सरकार ने इन योजनाओं से बच्चों को अलग करने का मन बना लिया है, अन्यथा एक-एक स्कूल में आधार टीम भेजकर छात्रों व अन्य के आधार कार्ड तैयार कराए जाते, ताकि उनकी वास्तविक संख्या का पता लग सके।

सरकार का कर्तव्य है कि वह गरीबों में सबसे गरीब को रोजगार दे, ताकि उसे दो वक्त का खाना मिल सके, किन्तु सरकार '100 दिन की रोजगार योजना' को भी ठप करना चाहती है, इसीलिए इसे भी आधार से जोड़ने का निर्णय किया गया है।

मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि वह अपने निर्णय पर पुनर्विचार करे और गरीब लोगों व गरीब बच्चों के लिए जो योजनाएं पूर्ववर्ती सरकार के समय से चल रही हैं, उन्हें यथावत जारी रखे।

श्री तपन कुमार सेन (पश्चिमी बंगाल): महोदय, मैं इस विषय के साथ अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री आनन्द शर्मा (हिमाचल प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी इस विषय के साथ अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

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

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

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर): मैं सभी माननीय सदस्यों को अधिकृत रूप से बताना चाहता हूँ कि किसी भी छात्र को मिड-डे-मील से वंचित नहीं रखा जाएगा। सबको मिड-डे-मील मिलेगी और सबको आधार कार्ड भी मिलेगा। यह बहुत-से छात्रों के पास है। जिनके पास यह नहीं है, उनको वहाँ सुविधा भी दी जाएगी। जिनके पास वहाँ सुविधा भी नहीं है, वहाँ राज्य सरकार उनको एक यूनीक नम्बर देगी। जो छात्रों का बोगस नाम रजिस्टर कर चोरी करते थे, उसमें यह पहल शुरू होते ही कमी आने लगी है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I want to seek one clarification from the Minister. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री उपसभापति: अभी क्लैरिफिकेशन का टाइम नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: It is a simple clarification. ...**(Interruptions)**... I think he is in a position to reply.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If he responds, there is no problem.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, as per the latest stand of the Government, as it has been reported in the newspapers, not only Aadhaar cards of children are required, but the Aadhaar cards of the persons, who are cooking the food, are also required.

श्री उपसभापति: ये कह रहे हैं कि ऐसा कुछ नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: सर, जिनके पास आधार कार्ड नहीं है, ऐसे छात्रों को भी मिड-डे मील मिलेगी, लेकिन सबको आधार कार्ड भी मिलेगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister is very clear. ...**(Interruptions)**... सबको मिड-डे मील मिलेगी। That's all. ...**(Interruptions)**... Now, Mr. Budania. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री तपन कुमार सेन: उन मिड-डे मील वर्कर्स का क्या होगा, जिनके पास आधार कार्ड नहीं है? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: तपन जी, बैठिए, सबको मिलेगी। ...**(व्यवधान)**... अब क्या चाहिए? ...**(व्यवधान)**... अगर आपको चाहिए, तो आपको भी मिलेगी। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Now, Mr. Budania. ...**(Interruptions)**... No, no. I am not allowing you. Only Mr. Budania. ...**(Interruptions)**... Mr. Jairam Ramesh, I have not allowed you. ...**(Interruptions)**... Now, Budaniaji; nobody else. ...**(Interruptions)**... He is your own Member. ...**(Interruptions)**...**(Interruptions)**... Mr. Jairam Ramesh, I have not allowed you. Please sit down. ...**(Interruptions)**... Why are you doing this, Mr. Jairam Ramesh? ...**(Interruptions)**... You are disturbing your own Member. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, when is the Aadhaar Bill coming up? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति: आप बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Only what Mr. Budania says will go on record. बुढानिया जी, बोलिए।

Need to give constitutional status to the Backward Classes Commission

श्री नरेंद्र बुढानिया (राजस्थान): सर, हमारे देश की 125 करोड़ की आबादी में से सबसे बड़ा वर्ग ओबीसी का है और इसका जो प्रतिशत है, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति: इस बारे में एश्योरेंस आया है, फिर इसकी क्या जरूरत है? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री नरेंद्र बुढानिया: सर, जरूरत है। यह पहले से दिया हुआ है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

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

श्री नरेंद्र बुढानिया: सर, 52 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा हमारा ओबीसी वर्ग है, लेकिन बड़े अफसोस के साथ यह कहना पड़ रहा है कि वह मुख्य धारा में नहीं है। 70 वर्षों में केलकर कमीशन और मंडल कमीशन बने, लेकिन मुझे यह कहते हुए दुःख होता है कि आज एजिक्यूटिव, लेजिस्लेटिव और ज्यूडिशियरी में हमारे इस ओबीसी वर्ग का प्रतिनिधित्व नगण्य है, ज़ीरो के बराबर है।

महोदय, आज यह वर्ग, जिसका इस देश की जीडीपी बढ़ाने में बहुत बड़ा योगदान है, यह अपना खून और पसीना बहाकर देश की जीडीपी को बढ़ाता है, लेकिन जब इस वर्ग की अनदेखी होती है, तो बड़ी तकलीफ होती है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सभी पार्टीज के लोग, जो इस वर्ग से जुड़े हुए हैं, वे बहुत लम्बे समय से इस मांग को उठाते रहे हैं। सर, मुझे याद आता है कि वर्ष 1993 में जब नरसिंह राव जी की सरकार बनी थी, तब ओबीसी को 27 प्रतिशत रिज़र्वेशन दिया गया था। संविधान में यह स्पष्ट लिखा है कि सामाजिक एवं शैक्षणिक रूप से पिछड़े लोगों को आरक्षण दिया जाएगा। महोदय, मेरे पास संविधान है और इसकी धारा 340 में यह साफ लिखा हुआ है।

महोदय, मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आज हमारी सबसे बड़ी मांग यह है कि ओबीसी आयोग को संवैधानिक दर्जा दिया जाए। हालांकि उसको यह दर्जा अब दिया गया है, लेकिन मेरा यह ज़ीरो ऑवर जब कल लगा था, तब तक यह बात नहीं थी। महोदय, यह creamy layer कहां से आ गई? आज creamy layer की वजह से ओबीसी के लोगों को इतना बड़ा नुकसान हो रहा है कि उसके बारे में मैं आपको बता नहीं सकता। महोदय, इस creamy layer को हटाना चाहिए, क्योंकि यह कोई गरीबी हटाने का कार्यक्रम नहीं है, बल्कि यह शैक्षणिक और सामाजिक रूप से पिछड़े हुए लोगों को मुख्य धारा से जोड़ने का कार्यक्रम है। आज हमारी क्या हालत है? जो ओबीसी वर्ग के लोग हैं, लोग उनको चारपाई पर नहीं बैठने देते थे। मंदिरों में नहीं जाने देते थे, पास में नहीं बैठने देते थे। छुआछूत थी...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Time over. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, all names should be added.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI T. K. S. ELANGO VAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA (Jharkhand): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU (Jharkhand): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

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

श्री रवि प्रकाश वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

डा. चंद्रपाल सिंह यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री आलोक तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we too associate ourselves with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Jaya Bachchan, absent. Shrimati Kanimozhi.

**Concern over mercury contamination of the catchment
area of river Vaigai in Kodaikanal**

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, a mercury thermometer factory, which was set up in Kodaikanal, was closed down in 2001. The Hindustan Unilever Limited later admitted that more than 20 tonnes of mercury may have been lost in

[Shrimati Kanimozhi]

the environment — because they had not cleaned up after they had closed down the factory — of which, 1.3 tonnes was discharged into the forest. Mercury is very poisonous. Residents living around that area have complained of high sickness rates, high mortality and kidney ailments. There is a fear that the lake in Kodaikanal is getting contaminated. Moreover, children born in that area have been affected. There is a fear of the mercury flowing into the Vaigai River when there are rains because the forests are contaminated. That would affect people living along the Vaigai River. Also, agriculture and everything else would get affected.

Sir, the company is insisting on clean-up of 20 mg of mercury per kilogram of soil. Now, the international standards are around one mg; the Canadian standards are around 6.6 mg. We have heard that the Government is allowing clean up of 20 mg. of mercury per kilogram of soil. This is not a safe standard at all. There is a lot of fear amongst environmentalists and residents of that area that if a thorough and clear process is not adopted, it would affect the future generations and the entire area.

Sir, till now, there has not been much clarity on the procedures and recommendations for contaminated sites. But, in January, 2016, the Central Pollution Control Board had published a report titled ‘Guidelines for Implementing Liabilities for Environmental Damages due to Handling and Disposal of Hazardous Waste and Penalty’. These Guidelines must be followed. The Guidelines require levying of a penalty amount too. Why has this not been levied on Hindustan Unilever Limited?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. This is a very important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, yes. I know this is very poisonous. The point is very important. The Government should take note of this.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, I too associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI K. K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY (Karnataka): Sir, I too associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we too associate ourselves with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Mahendra Singh Mahra.

**Need to settle the issue of rights over the assets and resources
between Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh in terms of
article 301 of the Constitution**

श्री महेंद्र सिंह माहरा (उत्तराखंड): सर, मैं बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय की ओर सदन और सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

सर, 9 नवम्बर, 2000 को उत्तराखंड राज्य का सृजन हुआ, परंतु आज भी हमें उत्तराखंड में अपनी संपत्तियों/परिसंपत्तियों का पूर्ण अधिकार प्राप्त नहीं हुआ जब कि भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद-3 में साफ लिखा हुआ है कि जब राज्यों का बंटवारा होगा, तो वहां की चल-अचल संपत्ति जिस राज्य में रहेगी, उसी को उस का अधिकार मिलेगा, परंतु तत्कालीन सरकार ने उत्तराखंड के लोगों के साथ बहुत बड़ी ज्यादाती की कि इतना बड़ा टिहरी डैम बना जिससे कि 24 मेगावॉट बिजली पैदा होती है, लेकिन आज उस का सारा अधिकार उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार को है। सर, 14000 से अधिक कार्यालय तथा भवन भी उत्तर प्रदेश के अधिकार में हैं, 13000 हेक्टेयर irrigated land उत्तर प्रदेश के अधिकार में है, तीन बड़े-बड़े बैराज उत्तर प्रदेश के अधिकार में हैं, कई झील और आवास सब उन के अधिकार में हैं। यही नहीं 31 नहरें, जिनका head and tail उत्तराखंड में है, आज भी उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार के अधीन हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे हक-हकूक और संपत्तियों का निपटारा शीघ्र किया जाए। सर, हाई कोर्ट ने सरकार को निर्देश दिए हैं और सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने भी सरकार को निर्देश दिए हैं, लेकिन आज तक उत्तराखंड के साथ यह ज्यादाती होती रही है। मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि अतिशीघ्र उत्तराखंड में स्थित परिसंपत्तियों का अधिकार उत्तराखंड को होना चाहिए। धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajeev Shukla.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल (महाराष्ट्र): सर, मैं आपकी अनुमति से यह विषय उठाना चाहता हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)... जो 2017 की National Health Policy है, उसमें जीडीपी का सिर्फ 2.5 परसेंट खर्च है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rajeev Shukla, time is over. You repeat your notice. आप इसको फिर से रिपीट कीजिएगा।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: ठीक है, सर।

12.00 NOON(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*.)**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS****Covering loanee farmers under PMFBY**

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

(a) whether it is mandatory for Cooperative Banks to bring loanee farmers under the ambit of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);

(b) if so, the number of cases wherein eligible loanee farmers were not covered by the Cooperative Banks, State-wise, post-demonetization till date; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to compensate the farmers for their losses during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per the Operational guidelines of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) all farmers availing Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) loan from financial institutions including Cooperative Banks for the crops and areas notified under the scheme are compulsorily covered.

(b) and (c) The Operational Guidelines of the scheme stipulate, that all financial institutions including cooperative banks shall be liable for payment of claims in case farmers growing notified crops in notified areas and availing loans from these banks (loanee farmers) and who are otherwise eligible under the scheme are deprived from the insurance cover by the banks. No such cases have been reported in respect of Cooperative Banks in the said period. However, in view of possible delay in coverage under crop insurance due to demonetization, cut-off date for coverage of farmers under PMFBY was extended by 10 days *i.e.* from 31st December, 2016 to 10th January, 2017.

As per scheme guidelines assessment of yield losses suffered/likely to be suffered by farmers depend on the outcome of crop cutting experiments which are undertaken by the respective State Government. In respect of Rabi 2016, the cut off date for submission of yield data by the State Governments to the insurance companies is

one month from the date of harvest of Rabi crops. Therefore, yield based final assessment of losses can only be undertaken after that.

Some additional relief measures provided to farmers by the Government in the wake of demonetization included provision of additional 60 days for recognition of a loan account as substandard including crop loans/loans from cooperative sector for dues payable between 1.11.2016 to 31.12.2016; additional grace period of 60 days for prompt repayment incentive @3% for loans that fell due in this period of two months provided such farmers repaid the same within 60 days from the due date; grant of interest waiver for November and December 2016 for all short-term crop loans availed from cooperative banks between 1.4.2016 to 30.09.2016 and upfront deposit of same in the accounts of the concerned farmers.

SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Sir, damage to the cotton crop in Punjab in the last two years was caused by an insect attack. This has put the farmers in a very difficult situation because they are scared to fully utilise the fields to sow more as they fear higher losses. In the Fasal Bima Yojana, the calculation of the damage to the crops is made on the basis of average of the past seven years, and not according to the production of the crop concerned in the previous year. I would like to know whether the Government plans to overhaul this, and whether the Central Government plans to give any special compensation to farmers whose crops have been damaged due to the pest attack in Punjab.

श्री परषोत्तम रूपाला: सर, माननीय सदस्य ने जो प्रश्न पूछा था, वह था, सहकारी बैंको में जिन्हें कवरेज नहीं दिया गया था, ऐसे किसानों को किस तरह से मुआवजा मिल सकता है? सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य की और पूरे सदन की जानकारी के लिए बताना चाहूंगा कि जिनको भी कोऑपरेटिव बैंक से कर्ज लेना होता है, वे सारे किसान इसमें कवर्ड हैं, 100 परसेंट compulsory coverage हर किसान को मिल रहा है। हमारी सरकार के पास आज तक की जो जानकारी है, उसमें किसी भी सहकारी क्षेत्र के बैंक से या किसान की ओर से, जिन्होंने कर्जा लिया है और उन्हें coverage नहीं मिला, ऐसी एक भी शिकायत आज तक हमें प्राप्त नहीं हुई है।

SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Sir, my second supplementary is, report suggests that in Haryana, a large number of farmers who got their crops insured during the kharif season, decided against it in rabi season. I would like to know whether this is true, and whether nationally, a large number of farmers have opted out of this Scheme due to its shortcomings. What has the Central Government done about this?

श्री परषोत्तम रूपाला: सर, जो रबी सीज़न का crop insurance का मसला है, उसमें अभी crop cutting चल रही है। कई राज्यों से इसकी detail आ रही है। जो crop cutting का मसला होता है, आप सबकी जानकारी में है कि राज्य सरकार के द्वारा ये सारे कार्यकलाप किए जाते हैं। सारे crop cutting के नतीजे इकट्ठे करके वे उन्हें settlement के लिए भारत सरकार के पास

भेजते हैं। अभी तक वहां से ऐसी कोई दरखास्त नहीं आयी है, जब भी ऐसी कोई दरखास्त आएगी, तो उस पर जरूर गौर किया जाएगा।

श्रीमती रजनी पाटिल: सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह कहना चाहती हूं कि अपने उत्तर में मंत्री जी ने भाग "ग" में जो उत्तर दिया है, उसमें सरकार द्वारा 1.11.16 से 31.12.16 तक 60 दिन का ऋण माफ करने के बारे में बताया गया है। मैं आपके माध्यम से...

एक माननीय सदस्य: ऋण का ब्याज।

श्रीमती रजनी पाटिल: जी, ऋण का ब्याज। यह तो और भी खतरनाक है क्योंकि यह तो ऊंट के मुंह में जीरे जैसी बात हो गयी। मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहती हूं कि आज लगातार, खास तौर से हमारे महाराष्ट्र में सम्पूर्ण ऋण मुक्ति की मांग हो रही है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूं कि खास तौर से नोटबंदी की वजह से, अकाल की वजह से और आजकल होने वाली ओलावृष्टि की वजह से जो हमारे किसान बुरी तरह से त्रस्त हैं, उन्हें सम्पूर्ण ऋण मुक्ति देने का सरकार कोई विचार करेगी या नहीं?

श्री परषोत्तम रूपाला: माननीय सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने सवाल उपस्थित किया है कि अकाल की वजह से और अन्य कारणों की वजह से किसानों को बहुत नुकसान हुआ है, इसके चलते वे पूर्ण ऋण मुक्ति के बारे में जानना चाहती हैं। सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य को कहना चाहता हूं कि जो माननीय सदस्य का सवाल था, वह crop insurance के बारे में था। सभापति जी, इसी सवाल के तहत मैं इनका जवाब दे सकता हूं। आप अभी कोई नई मांग करेंगे और इस तरह पूर्ण रूप ...**(व्यवधान)**... पूर्ण रूप से सवाल में भी उनके लिए, आप जो नोटबंदी, विमुद्रीकरण का इश्यू उठा रही हैं, इस जवाब में वह लिखा भी है कि विमुद्रीकरण के समय में दो महीने के लिए, नवंबर और दिसम्बर में इनको इंटरवेंशन के रूप में 650 करोड़ रुपये का भुगतान कर दिया गया है, इनकी मुदत भी बढ़ाई गई है और इन्हें ऋण के लिए मान्य भी कर दिया गया है।

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Sir, the hon. Minister has answered the question on loan waiver. I think, a couple of days ago, farmers from Tanjavur in Tamil Nadu were protesting here in Jantar Mantar, Delhi; they had come and met the Minister. They were asking for a loan waiver. We know that the numbers of farmers' suicide is very high in Tamil Nadu. More than 400 farmers have committed suicide. There is a very bad drought condition in Tamil Nadu. There is no water for farming. The loans are so high and the farmers are not able to pay back. Will the Government consider waiving of these loans, as they have done in many other States, for the farmers in Tamil Nadu?

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (श्री राधा मोहन सिंह): सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने ऋण माफी के संबंध में अपनी बात रखी है। जहां तक तमिलनाडु का सवाल है, वहां पर जो भारी सूखा पड़ा था, उसके लिए बताना चाहता हूं कि कल 1700 करोड़ की राशि हाई लेवल कमेटी ने तमिलनाडु के लिए मंजूर की है।

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Sir, that is for the Government. I would like to know whether they will give the loan waiver for the farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has replied to that, is it not?

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Sir, no; it is only for the Government. What about the farmers?

श्री शमशेर सिंह दुलो: सभापति जी, कुदरती आपदाओं और ओला वृष्टि से पंजाब में भी फसलों का काफी नुकसान हुआ है। जो कम्पनसेशन की रकम दी जाती है, वह बहुत थोड़ी है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री जी इस रकम को बढ़ाने का कोई प्रावधान करेंगे? मेरा दूसरा सवाल है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: सिर्फ एक सवाल पूछिए।

श्री शमशेर सिंह दुलो: जो फार्मर्स होते हैं, उनको जो मुआवजा मिलता है, वह मुआवजा, जो जमाबंदी में ओनर होता है, उसी को मिलता है। कई किसान, जो लैंडलेस होते हैं, भूमिहीन होते हैं, वे जमीन को पट्टे पर लेते हैं, लेकिन जब उनकी फसलों का नुकसान होता है, तब क्या आपने उनको include करने के लिए कोई प्रावधान किया है या नहीं किया है?

श्री परषोत्तम रूपाला: सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने प्रश्न में बताया है कि उनको मुआवजे में जो राशि मिल रही है, वह कम मिल रही है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहूंगा कि राशि का जो निर्णय करना होता है, वह हर डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्तर पर scale of finance का निर्णय होता है। जिन क्रॉप्स का scale of finance जिले की कमेटी तय करती है, उसी को भारत सरकार मान्य करती है और उसी के आधार पर हम इनको भुगतान देते हैं। Sum insure करने की, बीमित राशि की जो लिमिट थी, अब उसको हटा दिया गया है। अब किसान उस पूरी राशि का बीमा ले सकता है और उन्हें इसका भुगतान भी किया जा सकता है।

श्री शमशेर सिंह दुलो: सभापति जी, मेरा यह प्रश्न है कि जो किसान लैंडलेस होता है, जो पट्टे पर जमीन लेता है, क्या उसको मुआवजा नहीं दिया जाता है? क्या उनको इसमें include किया जाएगा?

श्री सभापति: आप क्लेरिफाई कर दीजिए।

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: सभापति जी, पूरे देश में जो नई "प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा" योजना चली है, उसमें पहले जो कैपिंग थी कि कॉस्ट ऑफ कल्टिवेशन का पूरा भुगतान नहीं होगा, अब उस कैपिंग को हटाकर पूरा भुगतान किया जा रहा है। सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य पंजाब से आते हैं, मैं पिछले पांच वर्षों का रिकॉर्ड देख रहा था कि वहां के किसान, वहां की सरकार फसल बीमा नहीं कराती है। वहां से सूखे पर भी कोई मेमोरेंडम नहीं आता है। पंजाब में सरकार को इस बात की चिंता करनी चाहिए कि वहां भी फसल बीमा योजना को लागू करे। वे ऐसा नहीं करते हैं। सूखा पड़ने पर सभी राज्यों से मेमोरेंडम आते हैं, एनडीआरएफ से सहायता पहुंचाई जाती है, लेकिन यह मेमोरेंडम पंजाब से नहीं आता है।

श्री शमशेर सिंह दुलो: सभापति जी, इन्होंने मेरे सवाल का जवाब नहीं दिया।

MR. CHAIRMAN: No discussion on this. He has stated the position. Now, Question No. 242.

सॉइल हेल्थ मैनेजमेंट (एसएचएम) के अंतर्गत छत्तीसगढ़ को जारी की गई धनराशि

*242. डा० भूषण लाल जांगडे: क्या कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या छत्तीसगढ़ को सॉइल हेल्थ मैनेजमेंट (एसएचएम) के अंतर्गत वर्ष 2015-16 के लिए केंद्रीय हिस्से की धनराशि प्राप्त नहीं हुई है, यदि हां, तो क्या यह धनराशि अविलंब जारी की जाएगी; और

(ख) क्या छत्तीसगढ़ के इंदिरा गांधी कृषि विश्वविद्यालय में संचालित प्रयोगशाला को रेफरल सॉइल टेस्टिंग लेबोरेटरी के रूप में बनाए जाने का प्रस्ताव है, यदि हां, तो इसके लिए कब तक स्वीकृति प्रदान कर दी जाएगी?

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (श्री राधा मोहन सिंह): (क) और (ख) विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) वर्ष 2015-16 के दौरान मृदा स्वास्थ्य प्रबंधन (एसएचएम) योजना के तहत गठित कार्यकारी समिति ने 30.06.2015 को आयोजित अपनी बैठक में 300 लाख रुपए के केंद्रीय अंश के साथ छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य में 8 स्थायी मृदा परीक्षण प्रयोगशालाओं की स्थापना को अनुमोदित किया था जिसके लिए दिनांक 11.09.2015 को 225 लाख रुपए की पहली किश्त और दिनांक 30.01.2017 को 75 लाख रुपए की द्वितीय किश्त जारी की थी।

(ख) छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार ने कृषि एवं जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग, छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार के पत्र संख्या 12817/एफ-02/05/एसएचएम/2015/14-2 न्यू रायपुर दिनांक 14.09.2016 के तहत छत्तीसगढ़ के इंदिरा गांधी कृषि विश्वविद्यालय के तहत कृषि महाविद्यालय, रायपुर में संचालित मृदा परीक्षण प्रयोगशाला को रेफरल मृदा परीक्षण प्रयोगशाला घोषित किया है।

Release of amount to Chhattisgarh under SHM

†*242. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chhattisgarh has not received the amount from Central share for the year 2015-16 under Soil Health Management (SHM), if so, whether the amount will be released without delay; and

(b) whether there is a proposal of making the laboratory operational at Indira Gandhi Agricultural University in Chhattisgarh as referral soil testing laboratory, if so, by when approval for the same will be accorded?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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

Statement

(a) During the year 2015-16, under Soil Health Management (SHM) Scheme the Executive Committee in its meeting held on 30.06.2015 approved setting up of 8 static soil testing laboratories in Chhattisgarh with Central share of ₹ 300 lakh against which first installment of ₹ 225 lakh was released on 11.09.2015 and second installment of ₹ 75 lakh on 30.01.2017.

(b) Government of Chhattisgarh has declared the soil testing laboratory operational at College of Agriculture, Raipur under Indira Gandhi Agricultural University of Chhattisgarh as Referral Soil Testing Laboratory *vide* letter of Department of Agriculture and Biotechnology, Government of Chhattisgarh numbered 12817/F-02/05/SHM/2015/14-2 New Raipur dated 14.09.2016.

डा. भूषण लाल जांगड़े: सभापति जी, छत्तीसगढ़ की अधिकांश जलवायु ऐसी है कि किसानों की भूमि के साथ कारखाने खदानों में समाहित हो रहे हैं। किसानों के पास अभी कुछ उपजाऊ जमीन है, जिसके जरिए किसानों को अपना खर्च चलाना होता है। आज ऐसी स्थिति है कि रासायनिक खादों के कारण से वहां काफी जमीन खराब हो गई है, भूसर, बंजर हो गई है। वहां के किसानों के पास मुरम, पथरीली जमीनें हैं। किसानों की भूमि में वहां पैदावार किस तरह बढ़े, इसके लिए सरकार ने यह Soil Health Management की जरूरत पर ध्यान दिया और सारे देश में इसको लागू किया। इस पर मोदी सरकार ने अधिक ध्यान देने के लिए भी कहा है। इसके अंतर्गत छत्तीसगढ़ में कार्यक्रमों को कार्यरूप दिया जा रहा है, जिसमें प्रदेश सरकार को केंद्र सरकार से और सहायता की जरूरत है। मैंने इसके लिए यह प्रश्न किया था।

श्री सभापति: आपका प्रश्न क्या है?

डा. भूषण लाल जांगड़े: मैंने इसके लिए यह प्रश्न किया था कि क्या वर्ष 2015-16 के लिए केंद्रीय हिस्से की धनराशि उपलब्ध कराई गई है? जो करा दी गई है, इसके लिए मैं सरकार को बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

श्री सभापति: इसमें आपका कोई सवाल नहीं है। Thank you. आप अपना दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी प्रश्न पूछिए।

डा. भूषण लाल जांगड़े: सभापति जी, दूसरा प्रश्न, क्या छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार ने आपको इंदिरा गांधी कृषि विश्वविद्यालय में संचालित प्रयोगशाला को रेफरल सॉइल टैस्टिंग लेबोरेटरी के लिए प्रस्ताव भेजा था? क्या वह प्रस्ताव आपके पास आया है और क्या वह स्वीकृत हुआ है?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: सभापति जी, यूनिवर्सिटी में इसकी स्वीकृति दे दी गई है। माननीय सदस्य को मैं एक बात बताना चाहूंगा कि यह जो छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य है, वहां जो सॉइल हेल्थ कार्ड के वितरण का काम है, जो अभी पूरे देश में 50 प्रतिशत तक नहीं हुआ है, वहीं छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार ने 94 प्रतिशत किसानों को सॉइल हेल्थ कार्ड देने का काम पूरा कर लिया है।

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि छत्तीसगढ़ में वर्ष 2015-16 में कितने खेतों की मिट्टी की जांच की गई है? उसमें ऐसे कितने खेत हैं, जिनकी मिट्टी खेती के लायक नहीं है? क्या आपने इसकी जांच करवाई है? आपके पास इसकी क्या रिपोर्ट है?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: सभापति जी, छत्तीसगढ़ में हमारा जो लक्ष्य था, वह 7 लाख नमूने एकत्र करने का था, लेकिन उसकी तुलना में सरकार ने 7 लाख 87 हजार, मतलब कुछ ज्यादा ही नमूने इकट्ठे किए हैं। जैसा मैंने अभी आपको बताया कि उसमें 94 प्रतिशत किसानों को सॉइल हेल्थ कार्ड दे दिए गए हैं।

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन: सर, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं मिला।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question is over.

*243. [The questioner was absent.]

Flexi pricing in trains

*243. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's experiment with flexi/surge pricing for a few trains earlier has resulted in a loss of bookings, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the trains in which this surge pricing has been implemented and the revenue generated through ticket sales in these trains over the past six months, month-wise; and

(c) whether the Ministry is planning to extend this surge pricing for more trains in the coming days, if so, the details thereof?

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

Statement

(a) No fare structure by the name of surge pricing has been introduced on Indian Railways. However, Flexi Fare System has been introduced in all Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains with effect from 09.09.2016. On Indian Railways, occupancy pattern of reserved accommodation is not uniform. It varies over peak and lean periods, sector to sector and also over different types of trains. Hence, during peak periods, the trains run with higher occupancy (more than the berth potential) and sometimes during non-peak times, some berths remain vacant. Therefore, no conclusion can be drawn regarding occupancy based on the limited time for which this scheme has been in vogue.

(b) For the period 09.09.2016 to 28.02.2017, earnings in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains in which flexi fare system has been introduced has increased by 13.93% in comparison to corresponding period of the previous year.

Comparative statement showing details of earnings in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains during the past six months are given month-wise as under:—

(in ₹ crores)

Month	Actual earnings	
	2015-16	2016-17
September	274.92	286.34
October	323.59	364.56
November	336.80	380.07
December	357.45	411.72
January	334.73	395.80
February	304.11	353.75

(c) At present, there is no proposal to extend the flexi fare system to other Mail/Express/Superfast trains. However, to improve the occupancy of all trains including Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains, the following changes have been made:—

- (i) 10% rebate in basic fare is given on vacant berths/seats booked after preparation of first chart in all trains including Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains on an experimental basis for six months.
- (ii) Tatkal quota has been reduced in flexi fare trains from maximum of 30% to 10% of the total berths availability to enhance availability of berths during the advance reservation period.
- (iii) Discounted fare has been offered for the passengers of Jaipur-Ajmer and Ajmer-Jaipur in 12015/12016 New Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi Express and for the passengers of Bengaluru City-Mysuru and Mysuru-Bengaluru City in 12007/12008 Chennai Central-Mysuru Shatabdi Express on an experimental basis for a period of six months.
- (iv) From 1st April, 2017, the Vikalp/ATAS (Alternative Train Accommodation System) Scheme is being further expanded to provide shifting the waiting list passengers of one train across all categories of trains without realization of any difference of fare or grant of refund, as the case may be. Thus a passenger booked in a normal Mail/Express train can be shifted to an alternate Mail/Express, Rajdhani, Humsafar, Duronto, Shatabdi, Special train or Suvidha train in the same class of accommodation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questioner is not present. Let the answer be given.

SHRI LA. GANESAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to reply how many railway stations were selected to make them as Adarsh Stations with all the modern facilities in Tamil Nadu? Which is first station that you have selected to start the work? When will the work start and when is it supposed to end?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, I have great regard for my colleague, the hon. Member of Parliament. This is a priority for us. Unfortunately, it does not fall into this question. But, we will definitely consider it. Tamil Nadu is a very important State. Chennai is an important city. We are very concerned about all the travellers who go from there. I was in Chennai, as you know, for a long time in the last few days. I had a detailed meeting and we will follow it up.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: चेयरमैन सर, फ्लेक्सी फेयर स्कीम का मंत्री जी ने तो बताया है कि यह काफी सफल है और उसकी वजह से 13 प्रतिशत बढ़ोतरी हुई है, लेकिन असलियत यह है कि यह स्कीम उतनी सफल नहीं हुई है और इसी वजह से आप कह रहे हैं कि इसको दूसरी ट्रेन्स में इंट्रोड्यूस नहीं करेंगे। क्या आपके पास कोई ऐसा डेटा है कि अब रेलवे की बजाय कितने पैसेंजर्स एयरलाइन्स से चलने लगे हैं? Because of this scheme, आपने जो इसकी शुरुआत की, उससे न केवल आम पैसेंजर को परेशानी हो रही है, बल्कि उसको ज्यादा पैसे देने पड़ते हैं। इसकी वजह से बहुत से लोग एयरलाइन्स में शिफ्ट कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि किराया लगभग वही पड़ता है। तो क्या आप इस स्कीम को बंद करेंगे? अगर नहीं बंद करेंगे, तो दूसरी ट्रेन्स में आप इसको क्यों नहीं शुरू कर रहे हैं, यदि यह इतनी सक्सेसफुल है?

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: सर, हम लोग बहुत सारी premium trains भी launch कर रहे हैं। सम्मानित सदस्य की जानकारी के लिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि कुछ समय पहले ही हम लोगों ने हमसफर ट्रेन को भी launch किया। हमसफर ट्रेन भी एक premium train है और बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में सफल तरीके से चल भी रही है। कुछ समय में ही, जैसा हमने कहा था, हम और चार नई trains launch करेंगे। इनमें उदय और तेजस को बहुत ही जल्दी launch किया जाएगा। तेजस तो हमसफर से भी ऊपर होगी। आप जो question पूछ रहे हैं कि हम launch क्यों नहीं कर रहे हैं, हम launch करते जा रहे हैं और हम इसको भी launch करेंगे।

साथ ही, यह जो योजना है, उसके बारे में हमेशा review किया जाता है। मुझे आपसे यह कहने में खुशी होगी कि कुछ दिन पहले review करने के बाद उसका जो 30 परसेंट तत्काल कोटा हुआ करता था, उसको reduce करके 10 परसेंट किया गया। चार्ट बनने के बाद यदि कोई seat vacant रहती है, सिर्फ इसी के कारण नहीं, बल्कि किसी भी कारण, तो उसके लिए हमने इसमें 10 परसेंट discount देने की भी शुरुआत की है, ताकि occupancy बढ़े। Thirdly, एक अप्रैल से इस योजना का लाभ होगा। जैसा मैंने परसों कहा, उसको alternate train पर लगाया जाएगा। उसमें कोई भी आदमी, अगर उसने mail/express train में भी बुकिंग की होगी और अगर उसी दिशा में राजधानी जा रही है, तो उसको यह option रहेगा कि उसी किराए

में वह राजधानी से भी सफर कर सकता है या दूरंतो से भी सफर कर सकता है। हमने इस योजना को भी लागू किया है।

सर, आज मुझे यह कहने में खुशी है, क्योंकि सभी सदस्य इसके लिए कह रहे हैं, हम लोग एक अप्रैल से इसको और ज्यादा user-friendly करने के लिए, जिस तरह से हमने हमसफर ट्रेन में किया, वह हम करेंगे, आज मैं इसका भी ऐलान कर रहा हूँ, क्योंकि हमारी यह लगातार कोशिश है। पहले जो स्थिति थी, वह यह थी कि ये जो premium trains हैं या कोई भी train है, रेलवे के लिए आमदनी के दो ही main स्रोत हैं — एक तो freight और दूसरा fare. अभी हमने non-fare revenue का भी नया Directorate खोल कर वहां से भी पैसे लेने की कोशिश की है। हम freight के लिए भी बड़ी मात्रा में policy review कर रहे हैं, लगातार review कर रहे हैं। हमने freight reduce भी किया है, हम long-term contract भी करने जा रहे हैं, discount भी दिया जा रहा है। उसी तरह से fare में भी मुझे लगता है कि एक ही time fare fix करके हम शांति से बैठे रहेंगे, ऐसा नहीं होगा। हमें लगातार उसकी निगरानी करनी होगी। मैंने रेलवे बोर्ड को आदेश दे रखा है कि इसको immediate follow-up करते रहिए। जहां-जहां आप user-friendly कदम उठा सकते हैं, उठाइए, लेकिन उसमें revenue बढ़ना चाहिए और लोगों को भी लाभ होना चाहिए।

श्री हरिवंश: सभापति जी, आपका धन्यवाद, इसलिए भी कि आज बहुत दिनों के बाद आपने मुझे सवाल पूछने का मौका दिया। माननीय रेल मंत्री जी से मेरा सवाल है कि उपलब्ध सूचनानुसार सभी मद से टिकटों में रेल को अब तक 30 हजार करोड़ रुपए का सालाना नुकसान है। इसकी भरपाई के लिए रेल मंत्रालय के पास क्या ठोस योजना है? क्या महज flexi fare system से ही रेल यात्रा महंगी बना कर सरकार इसकी भरपाई करना चाहती है या अन्य कोई ठोस योजना भी सरकार के पास है?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, ₹ 30,000 crores is a public service obligation and our very respected former Prime Minister is here. He has also been saying this that by paying right user charges, यह पूरे देश के हित में भी होगा। सरकार जिस तरह से कोई भी योजना चलाती है, यह उसके हित में भी होगा, लेकिन रेलवे की एक unique situation है, क्योंकि आम आदमी भी उससे सफर करते हैं, उनको कम दाम पर ज्यादा से ज्यादा किस तरह से ले जाया जाए, इसके लिए हमने बड़े सालों से एक बहुत आसान तरीका ढूँढ़ा था। चूँकि दो-तिहाई आमदनी freight से आती है और सिर्फ एक-तिहाई आमदनी fare से आती है, इसलिए हम लोग freight बढ़ाते थे। Freight बढ़ाते-बढ़ाते यह स्थिति आ गई कि आज रेलवे में freight के मामले में handling कम हो गई। उस कारण से भी रेलवे को और नुकसान हो रहा है। इसलिए हमने freight को कम करने की शुरुआत की है। हम flexi fare system से 30 हजार करोड़ पूरा करने की स्थिति में नहीं हैं और यह हो भी नहीं सकता है। इसलिए कुछ अच्छी व्यवस्था बनानी होगी, लेकिन साथ ही, हमने Non-fare Revenue Directorate भी खोला है, जो रेलवे में पहले नहीं था। आपने पूछा कि हम किस तरह से घाटे को पूरा करेंगे, तो हमने देश के इतिहास में पहली बार Non-fare Revenue Directorate खोला है और उसमें हमने 17,500 करोड़ रुपए का target भी दिया है। हम जो station re-development करने जा रहे हैं, उसमें एक लाख करोड़ रुपए का निवेश होगा, उससे कम से कम 10 हजार करोड़ रुपए रेलवे को मिलेंगे over a period of time. साथ ही, घाटा कम करने के लिए हम लोग यह भी कर रहे हैं कि हम cost

कम करें। 41 हजार करोड़ रुपए, जो salary के बाद रेलवे की second highest railway cost है, हमने उसमें energy cost कम करने के लिए भी कोशिश की है। यानी सभी चीजों के ऊपर लगातार काम हो रहा है। सिर्फ एक माध्यम से ही घाटे को दूर करने का रास्ता नहीं है। जैसा हमारे मित्र, राजीव शुक्ल जी ने कहा कि premium passengers train से नहीं, बल्कि plane से जाएँगे, तो यदि आपका यह कहना है कि सिर्फ आम आदमी ही ट्रेन से सफर करता है, तो बात अलग है, लेकिन सभी लोगों की सहायता करने के लिए, चाहे आम आदमी भी हो, चाहे premium passenger भी हो, उसमें segmentation करके उनके लिए हम कैसे सुविधा दे सकते हैं। हमने गतिमान एक्सप्रेस शुरू की, यह दिल्ली से आगरा जाती है, यह भी एक premium train है।

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: जो लोग दे सकते हैं, यदि वे देने की स्थिति में हैं, तो उनसे लेना चाहिए, लेकिन उन पर अतिरिक्त भार भी नहीं आना चाहिए, साथ ही हमारे competitor को भी benefit नहीं मिलना चाहिए। यदि हम पैसेंजर खो कर एयरलाइंस को फायदा पहुंचा रहे हैं, तो उसका भी कोई फायदा नहीं है। इस बात पर मैं आपसे सहमत हूँ, इसलिए अपने रेलवे बोर्ड से मैंने कहा है कि वे लगातार रिव्यू करते रहें। केवल एक बार रिव्यू करने से बात नहीं बनेगी, हम लगातार रिव्यू करते रहेंगे और उचित कदम भी उठाते रहेंगे।

***244. [The questioner was absent.]**

Use of solar water pumps for irrigation

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

(a) whether Government is aware that energy-efficient and cheap solar water pumps are being put to use for irrigation purposes in some parts of the world very successfully;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to promote and popularize solar water pumps in the country as well; and

(c) if so, whether any plan has been chalked out for the same, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. In order to maintain quality, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has developed technical standards for Solar Pumps derived from standards followed internationally and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). The cost of solar pumps has reduced in the last few years due to reduction in Solar

Module prices and due to sanctioning of solar pumps through Government assistance programmes in the last two years.

(b) During 2014-15, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is promoting Solar Pumps by providing financial assistance for capital subsidy through States and NABARD. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is also promoting Solar Pumps through Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM).

(c) MNRE is promoting and creating awareness of solar pumps by conducting workshops, seminars, radio programmes, television media and Print media. NABARD is also popularizing Solar Pumps by organizing State and District Level Workshops through Banks to bring more public awareness.

Government has sanctioned 2,09,045 number of solar pumps as on date in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 244. Questioner is not present. Are there any supplementaries? Okay, Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Respected Chairman, Sir, irrigation through borewell is done at the risk of farmer and, many a time, pushes him into debt trap.

If we provide solar water pump sets for irrigation, it will help. But, solar water pump set is not fully catering to the needs of the farming community to pump water from borewells.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is contemplating to utilize both solar and wind hybrid versions of power generation water pump sets so that they are assured of getting power 24 X 7 to cater to their irrigation needs.

श्री परषोत्तम रूपाला: माननीय सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने अपने प्रश्न में जो मुद्दे उपस्थित किए हैं कि किसानों ने जो solar water pump अभी लगाने शुरू किए हैं, वे किसान फ्रेंडली नहीं है, इस बात से मैं भी सहमत हूँ। सर, यह नयी टेक्नोलॉजी है और अभी दुनिया में इस पर नये-नये आविष्कार हो रहे हैं। खेती में बहुत भारी मात्रा में जो बिजली और डीज़ल की खपत होती है, उससे खेती की cost of production बढ़ जाती है। इसको किस प्रकार कम किया जाए, इसके लिए हमारा गैर परम्परागत ऊर्जा विभाग कार्य करता रहता है और मुख्य रूप से उसी के माध्यम से इस प्रकार की योजनाएं चलाई जा रही हैं। अभी तक देश में 2,09,045 सोलर पम्पस लगाए जा चुके हैं। उनका राज्यवार ब्यौरा भी मेरे पास है।

माननीय सदस्य ने दूसरा सवाल उठाया है कि wind farm को भी इसके साथ जोड़ कर काम किया जाए। मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगा कि अभी तक योजना में ऐसे मॉडल लागू करना स्वीकृत नहीं किया गया है। इसमें संशोधन करके और इसका अभ्यास करके यदि इसको लागू करने में किसानों को सहूलियत लगती है, तो उस दिशा में भी सोचा जाएगा और आगे काम किया जाएगा।

डा. अनिल कुमार साहनी: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं आदरणीय मंत्री महोदय से जानकारी लेना चाहता हूँ कि अभी तक भारत में सौर ऊर्जा पम्प विकसित नहीं हुए हैं और बहुत सारे किसानों को इसके संबंध में जानकारी भी नहीं है। इसके प्रचार के लिए आपने क्या व्यवस्था की है, जिससे आने वाले दिनों में किसान इसके प्रति उत्साहित हों और अपने खेत में सौर ऊर्जा के द्वारा चलाए गए उपकरणों से काम करें। इसके प्रचार के लिए कृषि मंत्रालय ने क्या व्यवस्था की है?

श्री परषोत्तम रूपाला: सर, ऐसे जो भी नये-नये आविष्कार या संशोधन होते हैं, चाहे वे mechanism से संबंधित हों, बीज से संबंधित हों या खाद से संबंधित हों, उनको किसानों तक पहुंचाने के लिए हमारे विभाग की ओर से किसानों के मेले लगाए जाते हैं। मुझे यह बताते हुए बहुत खुशी है कि हमारे यहां भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद के माध्यम से राज्य स्तर के मेले लगाए जाते हैं, जिनमें इन सारी techniques को प्रदर्शित किया जाता है।

सभापति जी, मुझे यह बताते हुए खुशी हो रही है, पहले भी मैं किसान मेलों में जाया करता था, लेकिन पहले वहां सिर्फ किसान लोग ही आते थे, उनमें भी ज्यादातर सिर पर पगड़ी बांधे हुए किसान ही देखने को मिलते थे। अभी मैं हरियाणा सरकार के द्वारा आयोजित किए गए एक किसान मेले में गया था, साथ ही कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद के द्वारा लगाए गए एक मेले में भी मुझे जाने का मौका मिला, वहां मैंने देखा बहुत सारे यंग लड़के और लड़कियां घूम रहे थे और नयी-नयी techniques में रुचि ले रहे थे। इस तरह इन मेलों के माध्यम से और कृषि विज्ञान केंद्रों के माध्यम से, किसानों के बीच में जाकर हम इन चीजों का प्रचार कर रहे हैं और उनको समझाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (श्री राधा मोहन सिंह): माननीय सभापति जी, मैं माननीय सदस्य को इस बारे में यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि ICAR, कृषि विज्ञान संस्थान, रेडियो और दूरदर्शन के माध्यम से तो हम अपने मंत्रालय द्वारा प्रचार करते हैं, लेकिन इसका प्रचार बड़े पैमाने पर जागरूकता लाने के लिए जो व्यवस्था है, उसके अन्तर्गत NABARD, बैंकों के जरिए और राज्य एवं जिला स्तर की कार्यशालाओं के माध्यम से भी सोलर पम्पों को लोकप्रिय बनाने का पूरे देश में अभियान चलाया जा रहा है और इसमें राज्यों का भी सहयोग हो रहा है, क्योंकि हम चाहते हैं कि यह field तक पहुंचे।

डा. प्रभाकर कोरे: माननीय सभापति जी, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सोलर पम्प का प्रयोग खेती में बहुत जरूरी है। Agriculture के लिए तीन बातें बहुत important हैं। एक तो पानी उपलब्ध कराया जाना चाहिए, दूसरे fertilizer और तीसरे power. जब तक किसानों को इन तीनों की facility नहीं दी जाएगी, तब तक वे तरक्की नहीं कर सकते हैं। इनके अभाव में आजकल farmers की हालत बहुत खराब है। मैं आपके माध्यम से solar pumps के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ कि ये pumps तो सब जगह successful हो गए, लेकिन इनकी cost बहुत ज्यादा है। यदि आपको minimum 5 hp का solar pump लगाना है, तो 10 लाख रुपए खर्च आएंगे। इस पर सरकार सिर्फ 2 लाख रुपए ही subsidy दे रही है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने NABARD और बैंकों की बात कही, मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि इनसे यदि किसान loan लेता है, तो उनका interest भी 11 per cent से ऊपर है। इसलिए it is not affordable. Has the Government any plan? At least agriculture का production बढ़ाना है, तो ये सब facilities देनी पड़ेंगी। अतः एक hp के लिए कम से कम एक लाख रुपए subsidy दी जाए, तो यह farmers के लिए उपयोगी हो सकता

है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि 1 hp पर यदि सरकार एक लाख रुपए subsidy, दे, तो इससे किसानों को लाभ हो सकता है। अतः मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि solar pump लगाने के लिए क्या सरकार farmers को और ज्यादा subsidy देने पर विचार करेगी?

श्री परषोत्तम रूपाला: महोदय, माननीय सदस्य श्री कोरे ने बहुत ही अहम मुद्दा उठाया है। जब भी कोई नई चीज आती है, तो उसकी cost बहुत ज्यादा होती है और उसका cost of production पर असर होता है। अभी तक हमारी जो situation है, उसके अनुसार हम 30 प्रतिशत subsidy दे रहे हैं। माननीय सदस्य ने 1 hp पर एक लाख रुपए subsidy दिए जाने की जो मांग की है, उस सुझाव पर भी सरकार गौर करेगी।

गुजरात में जानवरों के लिए न्यायालयिक प्रयोगशाला (फोरेन्सिक लेबोरेटरी) की स्थापना

245. **श्री लाल सिंह वडोदिया:** क्या कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) विषाक्त चारे के उपभोग के फलस्वरूप गाय, भैंस, ऊँट, बकरी जैसे घरेलू दुधारु मवेशियों की मृत्योत्तरशव परीक्षा के लिए देश में राज्य-वार किन-किन स्थानों पर न्यायालयिक प्रयोगशालाओं (फोरेन्सिक लेबोरेटरीज) की स्थापना की गयी है;

(ख) क्या गुजरात में जानवरों के लिए कोई न्यायालयिक प्रयोगशाला है;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो क्या सरकार गुजरात में ऐसी प्रयोगशाला की स्थापना करने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री परषोत्तम रूपाला): (क) से (घ) एक विवरण सदन के पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) देश में चारा विषाक्तता इत्यादि से मरने वाले दुधारु गोपशुओं जैसे गाय, भैंस, ऊँट, बकरी इत्यादि के पोस्टमार्टम परीक्षण के लिए कोई विशिष्ट फोरेन्सिक प्रयोगशाला स्थापित नहीं है। तथापि, उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य सरकार ने उत्तर प्रदेश में मथुरा में एक फोरेन्सिक प्रयोगशाला स्थापित की है। इसके अतिरिक्त राज्य रोग नैदानिक प्रयोगशालाएं केंद्रीय/क्षेत्रीय रोग नैदानिक प्रयोगशाला (आरडीडीएल), पशुचिकित्सा महाविद्यालयों/भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद (आईसीएआर) के अधीन प्रयोगशालाएं पशुचिकित्सा-वैधिक (Vetero-legal) संबंधी मामलों को देखती हैं तथा नियमित रूप से विभिन्न पशु रोगों तथा पशुओं में विषाक्तता संबंधी पोस्टमार्टम जांच पड़ताल करती है।

(ख) से (घ) पशुपालन विभाग, गुजरात सरकार से प्राप्त सूचना के अनुसार गुजरात में विशेष रूप से पशुओं के लिए कोई उक्तानुसार फोरेन्सिक प्रयोगशाला नहीं है। ऐसी किसी प्रयोगशाला को स्थापित करने की गुजरात सरकार की कोई योजना नहीं है क्योंकि ऐसी जांच-पड़ताल की जब और जैसे आवश्यकता होती है, वह राज्य की सामान्य फोरेन्सिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला की सहायता से की जाती है।

Setting up of forensic laboratory for animals in Gujarat

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

(a) the locations where forensic laboratories have been established in the country for the postmortem investigations of domestic milch cattle like cows, buffaloes, camels, goats etc., dying due to fodder poisoning, State-wise;

(b) whether there is a forensic laboratory for animals in Gujarat;

(c) if not, whether Government intends to establish such a laboratory in Gujarat; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There are no specified forensic laboratories established in the country for the postmortem investigations of domestic milch cattle like cows, buffaloes, camels, goats etc., dying due to fodder poisoning etc. The State Disease Diagnostic Laboratories, Central/Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratories (RDDLs), Laboratories under Veterinary Colleges/Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) are dealing with vetero-legal cases and are routinely conducting the postmortem investigations for various animal diseases and poisoning in animals.

(b) to (d) As per the information received from Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Gujarat, there is no forensic laboratory specifically for animals in Gujarat. There is no plan to establish such a laboratory by the Government in Gujarat as the animal forensic related investigations are carried out with the help of State Forensic Science Laboratory as and when required.

श्री लाल सिंह वडोदिया: माननीय सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि दुधारू जानवर गाय, भैंस, ऊँट और बकरी आदि जहरीली घास, cattle feed या कभी-कभी अंदरूनी दुश्मनी के कारण भी उन्हें जहर दिया जाता है। गुजरात में किसान और पशु-पालक बहुत ज्यादा संख्या में जानवर रखते हैं। जहर से मरने वाले जानवरों की जांच गुजरात में नहीं होती है। गुजरात के गांधी नगर से ये सैम्पल पूना भेजे जाते हैं। वहां से जांच होकर आती है और उसकी रिपोर्ट किसान को मिलती है। जब किसान उस रिपोर्ट को बीमा कंपनी को देते हैं तब उन्हें पशु के बीमे की राशि प्राप्त होती है, जिसमें बहुत समय लग

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

जाता है। जैसा माननीय मंत्री जी जानते ही हैं कि गुजरात राज्य दुग्ध उत्पादन के मामले में देश में अग्रणी राज्य है, इसलिए क्या वे यह उचित नहीं समझते हैं कि जहर से मरने वाले जानवरों की जांच गुजरात राज्य में ही होनी चाहिए ताकि postmortem की रिपोर्ट किसानों को जल्दी मिले, जिससे उन्हें बीमे की राशि शीघ्र मिल सके और वे अपने जानवर खरीद सकें। माननीय मंत्री जी इस बात से भी अवगत होंगे कि जब तक किसानों को उनके मृत जानवरों की रिपोर्ट नहीं मिलेगी और जब तक वे बीमा कंपनी को रिपोर्ट नहीं सोंपेंगे, तब तक उन्हें उनके insurance claim की धनराशि भी नहीं मिलेगी। इसलिए क्या केंद्र सरकार गुजरात राज्य में ही कोई एक ऐसी प्रयोगशाला स्थापित करने पर विचार करेगी, जिससे वहां उनकी जांच हो और शीघ्र रिपोर्ट मिल सके?

श्री परषोत्तम रूपाला: महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो मूल प्रश्न पूछा था वह गुजरात में जानवरों के लिए न्यायालयिक प्रयोगशाला (फॉरेन्सिक लेबोरेटरी) की स्थापना के बारे में था। उन्होंने गुजरात से मरे हुए जानवरों की रिपोर्ट को जांच के लिए हैदराबाद या पूना भेजने की जो बात कही है, वह बात संपूर्ण रूप में सही नहीं है। कुछ विशेष प्रकार की जांच के लिए नमूनों को गुजरात से बाहर भेजना पड़ता है। फॉरेन्सिक लेबोरेटरी का मतलब यह है कि राज्य सरकार के गृह विभाग द्वारा किसी लेबोरेटरी को मान्यता प्रदान करना। यह राज्य सरकार का अधिकार भी है और यदि वह राज्य सरकार करना चाहे, तो ऐसा कर सकती है।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सदस्य महोदय को बताना चाहता हूं कि उनके सवाल को देखकर मुझे पता लगा कि यह मामला तो गुजरात राज्य से संबंधित है। इसलिए मैंने गुजरात के पशुपालन मंत्री से आज सुबह ही बात की और मैंने उनसे पूछा कि आपको इस विषय में कोई असुविधा हो, तो बताएं। तो उन्होंने मुझे बताया कि कभी भी यदि ऐसी कोई न्यायिक बात की जरूरत पड़ती है, तो गुजरात की जो फॉरेन्सिक लेबोरेटरी है, उसके माध्यम से वे नमूने का पृथक्करण करवा लेते हैं। लेबोरेटरी की हर जिले में व्यवस्था है और हमारे डेयरी सेंटर्स के माध्यम से उनके भी बहुत सारे सेंटर्स वहां चल रहे हैं। उनको फॉरेन्सिक लेबोरेटरी की जो आवश्यकता है, उसकी बात नहीं है, क्योंकि राज्य सरकार की ओर से ऐसी कोई दरखास्त भी नहीं है। अगर उनको जरूरत होगी, तो राज्य सरकार उनको कर भी सकती है।

श्री लाल सिंह वडोदिया: सर, मेरे आनंद जिले के काली तलावडी गांव में एक साथ बहुत सारी गायें मर गई थीं। अभी जो किसान गाय लाता है, 50-50 हजार की लाता है। जब तक उसकी जांच का सर्टिफिकेट नहीं मिलता है, तब तक उसको इसके बीमा की जो राशि है, वह नहीं दी जाती है। इस बारे में किसानों ने आकर मुझसे प्रश्न किया, इसलिए मैंने इसे यहां उठाया है। अगर हो सके तो इसकी एक प्रयोगशाला गुजरात में बनायी जाये। हम इनके बहुत आभारी रहेंगे।

श्री परषोत्तम रूपाला: सर, मैंने बताया कि लेबोरेटरी ऑलरेडी है। यदि आपके डिस्ट्रिक्ट की लेबोरेटरी को भी फॉरेन्सिक लेबोरेटरी घोषित करना है, तो राज्य सरकार चाहे तो ऐसा कर सकती है। यदि वह चाहे तो गुजरात की किसी भी लेबोरेटरी को, जो हमारे डिपार्टमेंट की है, उसको भी वह मान्यता दे सकती है और यह पोस्टमॉर्टम रिपोर्ट अपने वहां की फॉरेन्सिक लेबोरेटरी आपको दे सकती है। यदि फिर भी आपको इसमें कोई असुविधा है, तो आप हमारे पास उस पर्टिकुलर केस को भी लेकर आइए, तो हम इसको देखेंगे कि इसमें आपकी क्या सहायता की जा सकती है, वह हम जरूर करेंगे।

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ, चूँकि यह दुधारु जानवरों को अच्छे किस्म की घास, चारा उपलब्ध कराने के सम्बन्ध में है, भारत सरकार के कई ग्रास अनुसंधान केंद्र चल रहे हैं, जैसे झांसी में है तथा कई जगहों पर है, वे सफेद हाथी की तरह हैं। उनका क्या काम है? उन्होंने अब तक क्या काम किया है? हमारे बुदेलखंड क्षेत्र में झांसी में तो कहीं एक भी सेमिनार नहीं करते, न कोई मीटिंग करते हैं, केवल कागजों में मीटिंग करते हैं। तो पूरे देश स्तर पर ये जो ग्रास अनुसंधान केंद्र बने हैं, इन्होंने विषाक्त चारा न पैदा हो, इसके लिए क्या कुछ काम किया है?

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (श्री राधा मोहन सिंह): महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य को सबसे पहले यह बताना चाहूँगा कि चारा ही नहीं, किसी भी किस्म के अनुसंधान केंद्र यदि बने हैं, तो उनका पहला काम है— उच्च वेराइटी की पैदावार निकालना। वे अपने कैम्पस के अन्दर और कुछ किसानों के खेत में उसका front line extension करते हैं। यह हर किसान के खेत पर जाए, इसके लिए राज्यों के अन्दर भारत सरकार ने एक योजना अलग से चलाई है। वह चारा के लिए अनुदान देती है। फील्ड तक ले जाने की जिम्मेवारी राज्य सरकार की बनती है, इसके लिए हर जिले के ब्लॉक के अन्दर एग्रीकल्चर, हॉर्टिकल्चर, फिशरीज और allied sector के लगभग 250-300 कर्मचारी होते हैं। इसके लिए पंचायत लेवल पर भी farmers' friends की व्यवस्था की गई है। कृषि अनुसंधान केंद्र के 12 वैज्ञानिक यूपी के सभी किसानों या देश के सभी किसानों के फील्ड तक या खेत तक नयी वेराइटी का चारा नहीं ले जा पाएँगे। इसमें राज्य सरकार की भूमिका अहम होती है। वहां पर जो चारागाह संस्थान है, उसको हम बढ़ाई देना चाहेंगे कि पिछले तीन-चार वर्षों में उसने बहुत अच्छी वेराइटी का चारा पैदा किया है, जिसकी दूध के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने में बड़ी भूमिका है।

Fall in prices of pulses below MSP

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

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the fall in prices of pulses below the Minimum Support Price (MSP);

(b) if so, the details and the reasons for not relaxing the ban on export of pulses so that farmers can export them and at least get the MSP;

(c) whether it has also come to the notice of the Ministry that Government of Karnataka has announced ₹ 450 as bonus on tur dal to protect farmers; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not following the same and protect the farmers?

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 the agricultural commodities including pulses are

determined by the market forces of supply and demand, quality of produce, seasonality, market arrival of produce etc. Some Reports indicate that recently prices of pulses in some of the mandis have fallen below Minimum Support Price (MSP). However, in most of the mandis prices are above the MSP.

To ensure remunerative prices to farmers, Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops including pulses on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of concerned State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, the CACP considers, *inter alia*, a number of important factors which include cost of production, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc.

Government also implements Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement of pulses directly from the farmers through central agencies viz. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), Small Farmers' Agri-business Consortium (SFAC), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) and Food Corporation of India (FCI). The procurement of pulses is undertaken by these Central agencies at MSP as and when prices fall below MSP.

In the current year (2016-17) the Government has procured 769.84 thousand tonnes of Tur, 210.30 thousand tonnes of Moong and 88.67 thousand tonnes of Urad, till 18.03.2017.

As per Foreign Trade Policy of the Government, the export of pulses is banned. However export of kabuli chana is permitted. Export of 10,000 tonnes of organic pulses and lentils per annum is also permitted. The domestic production of pulses ranges between 17-19 million tonnes and the requirement is around 24 million tonnes per annum and the gap is met by import of around 4-5 million tonnes of pulses every year. In current year (2016-17) as per 2nd Advance Estimates, production of pulses is estimated at 22.14 million tonnes. India is a net importer of pulses.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka has announced a bonus of ₹ 450 per quintal for Tur for 2016-17 season.

Government has increased MSPs of pulses including Tur for 2016-17 season. Government has increased the MSP of tur to ₹ 5050 per quintal including a bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal for 2016-17 from ₹ 4625 per quintal including a bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal in 2015-16. The MSP of Tur fixed by the Government for 2016-17 seasons provides return of 55.82 per cent over all India weighted average all paid out costs including family labour (A2+FL) as estimated by CACP.

In addition, in order to facilitate better price realization and ensure remunerative prices to farmers, the Government has also launched a scheme to develop a pan India electronic trading platform under 'National Agriculture Market' (NAM) aiming to integrate 585 regulated markets with the common e-market platform. Each State is being encouraged to undertake three major reforms – allow electronic trading, have a single license valid throughout the State and a single entry point market fee. Government is also promoting Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs) to facilitate access to fair and remunerative markets.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sharadji. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, questioner is here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questioner is here! Sorry. I am sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*...
I am sorry. आप अपना प्रश्न पूछिए।

SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, the hon. Minister has, no doubt, given a comprehensive reply to my question but, Sir, I have a list of *Mandis* where prices of Tur, Masoor, Green Gram, Black Gram and others have fallen much below the MSP. The price fall is in almost all major *Mandis*. Sir, it is not prepared by me; it is prepared by Agmark. So, the reply might have to be rechecked.

Sir, due to efforts of our farmers, this year, we have a bumper crop of pulses. This has happened primarily because farmers have grown pulses in more acreage because they got a good price last year. For example, last year, the price of whole unmilled tur dal was around ₹ 9,300 per tonne; now it has fallen to around ₹ 4,800 per tonne, which is much below the MSP of ₹ 5,050 announced by the Government, which includes a bonus of ₹ 425 and also an additional bonus of ₹ 450 given by the Government of Karnataka.

Sir, I would like to know from the Minister, when you are allowing export of kabuli chana, when you are allowing export of 10,000 tonne of pulses and lentils and export of all pulses to Bhutan and Maldives, what constraints does the Ministry have in permitting export of pulses other than tur dal to countries which would help farmers in getting remunerative prices? Also, if the Government of India does not want to permit export, will it consider procuring tur dal through the Market Intervention Scheme or the Price Support Scheme?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question, please. You have asked one question. Don't make a speech. You have asked a question; let the answer be given.

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: सभापति महोदय, भारत सरकार ने दलहन के समर्थन मूल्य में न सिर्फ भारी वृद्धि की है, बल्कि बोनस भी दिया है और कर्णाटक की सरकार भी यदि बोनस दे रही है,

तो मैं इसके लिए उस सरकार को बधाई देता हूँ। जहां तक खरीद का सवाल है, उस संबंध में यह बताना है कि जिन राज्यों से यह सूचना आई है कि वहां पर कीमत समर्थन मूल्य से नीचे है, वहां पर ही नहीं, बल्कि पूरे देश में बड़े पैमाने पर उसकी खरीददारी हो रही है और हमने उसकी तिथि बढ़ा कर 15 अप्रैल तक कर दी है।

SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, the Government has got five-six lakh tonne of shortage. I would like to know this from the hon. Minister: You are importing pulses from Mozambique and other places. What is the landing cost of pulses from Mozambique? Is the cost in tune with what we are paying as MSP in our country?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: सभापति महोदय, हम दलहन के मामले में आत्मनिर्भर नहीं रहे, यह हम सबको पता है। हमें 24 मिलियन टन दलहन की जरूरत है, जब कि हम 17 मिलियन टन ही उपजाते हैं। इस वर्ष पहली बार इसमें रिकॉर्ड बना है, इसमें देश के किसानों ने मेहनत की है, राज्य सरकारों ने भी मदद की है, हमारे वैज्ञानिकों ने भी काफी मेहनत की है, जिसके कारण दाल का बम्पर उत्पादन होने का अंदाजा है, लगभग 4.5 या 5 मिलियन टन होने का अंदाजा है, लेकिन फिर भी हमें जितना चाहिए, हम उतने पर नहीं पहुंच पाए हैं। पहले से भी हमारे यहां कमी रही है, लेकिन बम्पर उत्पादन के बाद भी हम उतने पर नहीं पहुंच पा रहे हैं, जितने की हमें जरूरत है। इस स्थान तक पहुंचने में हमें दो-तीन साल का समय लगेगा। हम यह विश्वास दिलाना चाहेंगे कि दो-तीन साल होते-होते हम दलहन के मामले में भी जरूर आत्मनिर्भर हो जाएंगे। इसके अलावा दलहन के जो आयात हो रहे हैं, उन्होंने निर्यात के विषय में जो कहा, लेकिन अभी तो हमारी जितनी जरूरत है, बम्पर उत्पादन के बाद भी हम उतने पर नहीं पहुंच पा रहे हैं। अभी उत्पादन आवक शुरू हुआ है, इसलिए हमने कहा है कि हम बाहर से जो दलहन आयात कर रहे हैं, उस पर आयात शुल्क बढ़ाया जाए, लेकिन हमें जितने की जरूरत है, उतने पर हम दो-तीन साल तक पहुंच जाएंगे।

श्री सभापति: मंत्री जी, उनका सवाल लैंडेड कॉस्ट के संबंध में है।

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: सभापति महोदय, मैंने बताया कि दलहन के मामले में हम अभी आत्मनिर्भर नहीं हुए हैं।

श्री सभापति: वह बात सही है, लेकिन वे यह पूछ रहे हैं कि आप जहां से भी दलहन का आयात करते हैं, उसका लैंडेड कॉस्ट क्या है?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: सभापति महोदय, मैं यह जानकारी माननीय सदस्य को उपलब्ध करा दूंगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: That information will be given to you. Now, Shri Sharad Yadav.

श्री शरद यादव: चेयरमैन सर, माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी ने अभी लगभग सब तरह के प्रयासों के बारे में बताया। सरकार की तरफ से, राज्य सरकारों की तरफ से और वैज्ञानिकों की तरफ से जो प्रयास किए गए, उन सबके बारे में उन्होंने बताया। इससे उत्पादन लगभग 30 प्रतिशत आगे बढ़ा है। दाल का जो एमएसपी है, उसके संबंध में मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से कहूंगा कि दालों की जो डिस्ट्रेस सेल हो रही है, वह हमारे सारे प्रयासों को पूरी तरह से खत्म करेगी। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस मौके पर आपने कितनी दालें इम्पोर्ट की हैं? आपने अपने

जवाब में काबुली चने के बारे में बताया है, लेकिन आपने कितना काबुली चना इम्पोर्ट किया और वह कितने दाम पर किया है?

चेयरमैन सर, मैं यह आपके माध्यम से इसलिए पूछ रहा हूँ, क्योंकि मंत्री जी को इतनी बड़ी बात नहीं मालूम है कि इन सारे प्रयासों में संतुलन चाहिए। वह संतुलन आयात की कीमत और यहां की कीमत में होना चाहिए, क्योंकि इससे डिमांड और सप्लाई पर बड़ा भारी असर पड़ता है और इस प्रकार से डिस्ट्रेस सेल शुरू हो जाती है।

श्री सभापति: ठीक है।

श्री शरद यादव: चेयरमैन सर, अभी पूरे देश में डिस्ट्रेस सेल हो रही है, हर तरह की दालों की एक हजार रुपए, सात सौ रुपए या पांच सौ रुपए पर डिस्ट्रेस सेल हो रही है। और मैं जिस इलाके से आता हूँ, वे दोनों इलाके दाल पैदा करने वाले हैं, चाहे वह कोसी का इलाका है या जबलपुर से लेकर भोपाल के बीच का इलाका है। यहां बड़े पैमाने पर दालों की distress sale हो रही है। इसके लिए सरकार की तरफ से क्या उपाय किए जा रहे हैं, क्या प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं? मंत्री जी, कृपया इसके import के बारे में भी बताइए।

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: जिन 10 राज्यों से हमारे पास जानकारी आई है, मैं आपको बता दूँ कि खरीद का काम मूल्य स्थिरीकरण फंड से Food and Civil Supplies Ministry के माध्यम से होता है। जिन-जिन राज्यों से मांग आई, ऐसे 10 राज्य हैं — मध्य प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, आंध्र प्रदेश, तेलंगाना, कर्णाटक, गुजरात, राजस्थान, तमिलनाडु और हरियाणा — यहां इसे प्रारंभ कर दिया गया है। जैसा मैंने बताया कि इस date को ही, 15 दिन तक बढ़ाया गया है। जहां तक मांग और आपूर्ति का प्रश्न है, इसके लिए Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies, Ministry of Commerce और कृषि मंत्रालय — तीनों की एक समिति बनी हुई है, जो इसका ध्यान रखती है। बाकी जो विवरण आप मांग रहे हैं, मैं आपको उपलब्ध करा दूंगा।

श्री शरद यादव: मैं आपसे विनती करता हूँ कि जब गेहूं पर Zero Import Duty है और इस पर भी Zero Import Duty है, लेकिन आपका जो प्रयास है, वह इसे पूरी तरह खत्म कर देगा — इस बारे में आपका क्या प्लान है, क्या योजना है?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: इस संबंध में मैंने पहले ही बताया कि हमारे तीन मंत्रालय हैं, जिनकी संयुक्त रूप से, Cabinet Secretary की अध्यक्षता में, एक समिति बनी हुई है जो समय-समय पर इसकी समीक्षा करती है।

श्री शरद यादव: नहीं, इस पर जो Zero Import Duty है, उस बारे में आपका क्या प्लान है, क्या योजना है?

श्री सभापति: शरद जी, ठीक है। Thank you. ...(व्यवधान)... ठहर जाइए, ठहर जाइए।

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री रामविलास पासवान): शरद जी ने यहां दो सवाल पूछे। जहां तक production का मामला है, पिछली बार 170 लाख टन production हुआ था। उससे पहले 172 लाख टन हुआ था। हमारी हर साल एक मिलियन टन demand बढ़ती जा रही है, अब वह population के कारण हो या जो भी वजह हो। उत्पादन जो पहले 226 लाख

टन था, वह बढ़कर 236 लाख टन हो गया और उसके बाद फसल 172 लाख टन से घटकर 170 लाख टन रह गई। इसकी Demand and Supply में काफी अंतर था, लगभग 59 लाख टन का अंतर था, लेकिन जब Import हुआ, वह बहुत कम हुआ। Import हम नहीं करते हैं। Import का काम Private sector के लोग करते हैं और कुछ हम भी करते हैं। उसके कारण दाम बहुत आगे बढ़ गया। फिर सरकार ने MSP भी बढ़ा दिया और दूसरी सारी चीजें कीं, जिससे इस बार 224 लाख टन हमारा उत्पादन का लक्ष्य है। उसके बावजूद जैसा मंत्री जी ने कहा, जब 236 लाख टन हमारी demand होगी, उसमें कमी होगी। Import का काम Private sector के लोग करते हैं। सरकार ने अपने स्तर से बिल्कुल बंद कर दिया है और अभी zero per cent आयात duty है। तूअर दाल के आयात पर import duty लगाने पर हम विचार कर रहे हैं।

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: सभापति महोदय, मूल प्रश्न यह है कि केंद्र सरकार, किसानों को दलहन का जो भाव मिलना चाहिए, उसे देने के बजाय import में ज्यादा रुचि दिखा रही है। अभी हमारे एक माननीय सदस्य ने बहुत अच्छा प्रश्न पूछा, जिसका उत्तर मंत्री जी नहीं दे पाए। मेरे पास जो आंकड़े मौजूद हैं, उनके अनुसार तूअर दाल की average landed import price लगभग 10,000 रुपए per quintal रही है, लेकिन आपने Minimum Support Price 5,500 रुपए quintal रखी है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ, अगर अभी वे जवाब न दे सकें तो कम-से-कम लिखकर हमें उत्तर भिजवा दें, सदन को उपलब्ध करा दें कि पिछले वर्ष तूअर, मूंग और उड़द की landed price क्या थी और उनकी Minimum Support Price क्या है? अगर लिखित रूप में हमें उपलब्ध करा दें तो हमें जानकारी मिल जाएगी...(व्यवधान)... इसी 2016 वर्ष की figures दे दें। पहले तो मंत्री जी के पास जानकारी होनी चाहिए थी, यह माननीय मंत्री जी असफलता है कि आप landed price सदन को नहीं बता पा रहे हैं, लेकिन फिर भी एहतियात आपने बरती है, हम आपको benefit of doubt देना चाहते हैं। सर, माननीय मंत्री जी हमको इतना भर बता दें कि तूअर, उड़द और मूंग की landed price कितनी थी और हमने मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइस कितनी दी? माननीय महोदय, हमारा सुझाव यह है कि अगर आप मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइस landed price के आस-पास रख देंगे, तो किसान अपनी पैदावार अपने आप बढ़ा देगा। मेरी आपसे यही प्रार्थना है, इस पर माननीय मंत्री जी अपना उत्तर दें।

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: सर, मैंने शुरू में ही बताया कि landed price तो मैं उपलब्ध करा दूंगा, लेकिन जो समर्थन मूल्य है, वह पिछले लगभग दो वर्षों में, आप पिछले दो सीज़न देखें, तो पता चलेगा कि उसमें 1,000 रुपये की बढ़ोतरी हुई है। पिछली बार 500 रुपये और फिर उसके बाद 500 रुपये, यानी 1,000 रुपये की बढ़ोतरी हुई। इतनी बढ़ोतरी शायद ही कभी हुई होगी।

दूसरी बात यह उठी कि हम किसानों को उसका समर्थन मूल्य देने में कंजूसी कर रहे हैं, लेकिन शायद आपको जानकारी का अभाव है कि पहली बार देश में समर्थन मूल्य से जिस राज्य में भी ...(व्यवधान)... मेरा उत्तर सुन लीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: जानकारी का अभाव तो माननीय मंत्री जी आपको है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: दिग्विजय जी, बैठ जाइए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: माननीय सदस्य को शायद जानकारी का संकट है। पहली बार देश में ऐसा हुआ है कि किसी भी दलहन की कीमत यदि समर्थन मूल्य से कम हुई है और राज्यों

ने प्रस्ताव दिया है, तो हमारी फूड एंड सप्लाई मिनिस्ट्री ने "मूल्य स्थिरीकरण फंड" और अन्य योजनाओं के तहत खरीददारी शुरू की है। अभी खरीददारी चल रही है। मैंने 10 राज्यों का नाम लिया। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, मेरी पूरी बात सुनिए। यदि कहीं किसी राज्य में इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर मुहैया नहीं कराया जाता है, तो हमारी फूड एंड सप्लाई मिनिस्ट्री को थोड़ी कठिनाई होती है, लेकिन हमारी फूड एंड सप्लाई मिनिस्ट्री बड़ी तेजी से पहली बार किसानों को यह लाभ दे रही है और पूरे देश में खरीद हो रही है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: एक मिनट। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री शरद यादव: सर, आपको प्रोटेक्शन देना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इन्होंने landed price के बारे में ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: मैंने तो कहा कि वह मैं उपलब्ध करा दूंगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: वे आपको दे देंगे। That assurance has been given.

श्री शरद यादव: सर, जो सवाल पूछा गया, उसका ठीक जवाब आना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री रामविलास पासवान: सर, माननीय शरद जी सिविल सप्लाई मिनिस्टर रहे हैं और सारे लोगों को यह मालूम है कि सरकार एमएसपी का रेट 22 वस्तुओं पर तय करती है। वह केवल धान, चावल और गेहूँ खरीदती है, बाकी चीजों को नहीं खरीदती है। आज़ादी के बाद पहली बार ऐसा हुआ है कि जब हमको दाल के संबंध में ऐसा लगा, तो हमने कहा कि हम दाल का buffer stock बनाएँगे। आज तक कभी buffer stock नहीं बना था, लेकिन दाम की बढ़ोतरी को देखते हुए, ...**(व्यवधान)**... सुनिए, जो इन्होंने कहा कि सरकार ने बोनस दिया, एमएसपी दी, ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता: क्या आज तक 200 रुपये किलो में दाल बिकी थी? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: गुप्ता जी, बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Please, don't interrupt. ...**(Interruptions)**... आप जवाब सुन लीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री रामविलास पासवान: हम तो कह रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... देखिए, सरकार को दोनों तरफ से मार पड़ती है। जब 200 रुपये किलो बिके, तो भी मार और यदि एमएसपी से कम में बिके, तो भी मार। ...**(व्यवधान)**... एक मिनट। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री जयराम रमेश: सर, एक सवाल, दो मंत्री। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... It is a good example of co-operation. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: उसके बाद भी जवाब नहीं आ रहा है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: नहीं, नहीं। दिग्विजय सिंह जी, आप पहले जवाब सुन लीजिए।**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: It is a contradiction. The Minister is talking about buffer stock. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. Minister complete. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: When there is a shortfall of 10 lakh tonne of pulses, where is the question of buffer stock? ...(Interruptions)... It is a contradiction by itself. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री सभापति: आप जवाब सुन लीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रामविलास पासवान: सर, दिग्विजय बाबू बहुत ही टॉप पोस्ट्स पर रहे हैं, मुख्य मंत्री रहे हैं और ये सारी चीजों को समझते भी हैं। देखिए, हम सिर्फ इतना ही कहना चाहते हैं कि सरकार ने जब यह देखा कि दाम बढ़ रहे हैं, तो हमने कहा कि हम 20 लाख टन का buffer stock बनाएँगे। पहले यह डेढ़ लाख टन हुआ, फिर 5 लाख टन हुआ और फिर 20 लाख टन हुआ। हमने कहा कि 20 लाख टन में से 10 लाख टन हम इम्पोर्ट से पूरा करेंगे और 10 लाख टन को यहां से पूरा करेंगे। लेकिन, जब यहां पैदावार ज्यादा होने लगी, तो हम यहां से 15 लाख टन खरीद चुके हैं। जैसा कि हमने पहले कहा, 170 लाख टन पिछली बार पैदावार हुई थी और अब 240 लाख टन पैदावार हुई है, लेकिन हमारे पास इतना इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर नहीं है कि हम एक ही बार में सबको खरीद लें। हम धीरे-धीरे खरीद रहे हैं, लेकिन हम मैक्सिमम खरीद चुके हैं और खरीदेंगे।

श्री सभापति: थैंक यू। श्री शंकरभाई एन. वेगड़। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री शरद यादव: सर, ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: शरद जी, आप पूछ चुके हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री शरद यादव: सर, आपको प्रोटेक्ट करना चाहिए, एक छोटा-सा सवाल पूछा गया था। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: अगर जवाब....(व्यवधान)...

श्री शरद यादव: Landed price और MSP में आप कैसे संतुलन कायम करेंगे, यह पूछा है। इसका क्या कारण है, इसमें इतना अंतर क्यों होता है? यही इन्होंने पूछा है। यदि आप protect नहीं करेंगे तो कौन करेगा?...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: उन्होंने कहा है कि वे आपको information दे देंगे। It is an assurance.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: सर, buffer stock कहां से होगा, जब shortfall दस लाख टन का है। कहां से buffer stock होगा?...(व्यवधान)...

श्री जयराम रमेश: रेल मंत्री जी जवाब दे दें तो अच्छा होगा। ...(व्यवधान).... रेल मंत्री जी जवाब दे दें। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री शंकरभाई एन.वेगड़: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि किसान खेत में फसल की खेती करके जब APMC के सेंटर में आते हैं तो उसका दाम बहुत कम हो जाता है। कभी-कभी ऐसी नौबत आती है कि टमाटर, आलू या पत्ता गोभी को खेत से बाहर निकालने के लिए उन्हें पैसे भी लगाने पड़ते हैं। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि पूरे इंडिया में हर स्टेट के जितने APMC सेंटर्स हैं, उनको ऑनलाइन जोड़ने की बात पहले हुई थी। क्या अभी उसका काम चल रहा है? अगर चल रहा है तो वह कब तक पूरा होगा? इससे

किसान को फायदा मिलता है, ऐसा मैंने प्रत्यक्ष देखा है। हैदराबाद में एक ऐसी संस्था थी, जो हैदराबाद के आस-पास के डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में से कलर-कलर के गुलाब के फूल लेकर आयी थी और हिन्दुस्तान में कहीं भी ऑनलाइन बेचे जा रहे थे, विदेशों में भी बेचे जा रहे थे और मनमानी कीमत ली जा रही थी।...(व्यवधान)... इस संबंध में सरकार की तरफ से काम हो रहा है या नहीं?

श्री सभापति: ठीक है। आपने सवाल पूछ लिया है। अब जवाब सुन लीजिए।

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: माननीय सदस्य का प्रश्न बहुत अच्छा प्रश्न है। राष्ट्रीय कृषि मंडी की लाइविंग 14 अप्रैल, 2016 में हुई थी। 2 अक्टूबर, 2016 तक ढाई सौ मंडियों में यह काम शुरू हो गया है, बाकी में भी यह चल रहा है। मुझे लगता है कि अगले महीने तक डेढ़ सौ और मंडियां इससे जुड़ जाएंगी और 585 मंडियां मार्च, 2018 तक निश्चित रूप से इस व्यवस्था में जुड़ जाएंगी।

Selling of water bottles above MRP

*247. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the sale of water bottles at a price much above the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) in shopping malls and at airports;

(b) if so, the steps taken for price control of essential item like water in shopping malls and at airports; and

(c) whether Government would consider to bring legislation or to amend the existing laws to penalize the shop owners for selling products over and above the MRP, if so, the details thereof?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 have been made under the provisions of Section 18 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. As per Rule 18(2) of the said rules, provision is made to prevent the sale of any pre-packaged commodity at a price higher than Maximum Retail Price (MRP), which is as following:

“No retail dealer or other person including manufacturer, packer, importer and wholesale dealer shall make any sale of any commodity in packed form at a price exceeding the retail sale price thereof.”

Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 provide for penalties in case of violation of the provisions of the Act and Rules.

Under these provisions State Governments take action against selling of packaged commodities at a price higher than MRP in various States/Union Territories, as the enforcement of weights and measures is done by the concerned State Governments.

(c) As sufficient provisions are available under the existing Act and Rules thereof, need to bring any new legislation or to amend the existing law to penalize the shop owners for selling products over and above MRP has not been felt.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: सर, मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में कहा है कि जो Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 है, उसके हिसाब से कोई भी अगर खुदरा मूल्य से, Maximum Retail Price से ऊपर सामान बेचता है, तो उसके खिलाफ कड़ी कार्यवाही की जाती है और राज्य सरकारें यह कार्यवाही करती हैं, लेकिन आप देख रहे हैं कि खुलेआम, चाहे shopping malls हों, airports हों, cinema halls हों या दूसरी जगहें हों, यहां तक कि retail shops में भी MRP के ऊपर सामान बिकता है, खासकर पानी की बोतलें। Five Star Hotels में तो यह बहुत ही अनाप-शनाप कीमत पर बिकता है। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि कितने लोगों के खिलाफ आपने अभी तक कार्यवाही की है? क्या इसका कोई data आपके पास है? क्या राज्य सरकारों ने कोई data आपको दिया है? इस संबंध में आप क्या-क्या उपाय कर रहे हैं, कि लोगों को, consumers को नुकसान न हो?

श्री रामविलास पासवान: सभापति महोदय, MRP के संबंध में तीन तरह की शिकायतें आती हैं। एक शिकायत होती है कि MRP डिक्लेयर नहीं किया जाता है। दूसरी तरह की शिकायत आती है कि कुछ लोग dual MRP रखते हैं, एक ही product के लिए दो कीमतें रखते हैं, जैसे पानी की बोतल है तो एक बोतल के लिए एक जगह 20 रुपए दाम रख दिया, दूसरी जगह 25 रुपए रख दिया या 30 रुपए रख दिया। तीसरा है कि MRP से अधिक दाम लिए जाते हैं। होता यह है कि एक चीज़ का एक ही MRP है, यदि सिनेमा हॉल के भीतर जाएं तो उसकी यह कीमत होगी, बाहर हैं तो उसकी कम कीमत होगी, होटल में जाएंगे, किसी starred hotel में जाएंगे तो वह कीमत double या triple हो जाएगी, प्लेन में जाएंगे तो MRP लिखा ही नहीं रहता है। ये तीन तरह की दिक्कतें हैं। 2009 के एक्ट में एक धारा 36 है, उसके तहत पहले 25,000 रुपए तक जुर्माना है, दूसरी बार करेगा तो 50,000 रुपए तक जुर्माना है, तीसरी बार जब करेगा तो 1 लाख रुपए जुर्माना या एक साल की सजा या एक साल की सजा और जुर्माने का प्रावधान किया गया है। हम धन्यवाद देना चाहते हैं, NCDRC ने इस संबंध में कदम उठाया है और बोतल बंद पानी के संबंध में उन्होंने पांच लाख रुपए जुर्माना भी किया है। इसी तरह से BCCI से राजीव शुक्ल जी हैं, BCCI के यहां भी MRP के संबंध में शिकायत गयी थी। Comptroller ने इस संबंध में लिखा, BCCI ने तुरंत उस पर एक्शन लिया और उन्होंने सबको आदेश दिया कि इसको बंद करिए। आपने दूसरा सवाल पूछा कि कितनी शिकायतें आयी हैं? सर, हमारे पास राज्य सरकारों के माध्यम से 2016-17 में 5698 शिकायतें आयी हैं। सर, जहां तक action का सवाल है, इन मामलों में राज्य सरकारें action लेती हैं। हमने राज्य सरकारों को 4 बार लिखा है — 24.10.2016 को लिखा, दोबारा 2016 को लिखा और 22.3.2017 को लिखा है, लेकिन अभी तक किसी राज्य सरकार ने कोई जवाब नहीं दिया है। मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहता हूं कि यह consumers के साथ धोखाधड़ी है, इसलिए मैंने अभी 18 तारीख को सारे Comptrollers की एक बैठक बुलायी

थी। उस में सब लोगों से कहा कि आप लोग राज्यों से आते हो, आप इस पर कड़ी कार्यवाही करो, जिससे consumers के interest की रक्षा हो सके। महोदय, हम आप के माध्यम से राज्य सरकारों से आग्रह करना चाहते हैं कि वे जल्द-से-जल्द action लेकर हमें जानकारी दें।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: सर, मंत्री जी के जवाब से यह मामला और भी गंभीर हो गया है कि राज्य सरकारें सुन ही नहीं रही हैं और कोई कार्यवाही नहीं कर रही हैं और उपभोक्ता को लूटा जा रहा है। सर, एयरलाइंस में छोटी बोतल 50 रुपए की है, जोकि 10 रुपए की मिलनी चाहिए। इस तरह यह तो एक बड़ी लूट consumers के साथ हो रही है। सर, मैंने यह सुझाव भी दिया कि क्या आप इसके लिए कानून में संशोधन करना चाहते हैं या नया कानून लाना चाहते हैं ताकि राज्य सरकारें सुन सकें? फिर ऐसी चीजें जोकि सीधे सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के अधीन हैं, जैसे कि Civil Aviation Ministry आपके अधीन है, फिर ये इतने महंगे दाम पर वहां क्यों मिलता है? ऐसी तमाम चीजें आपके अधीन हैं, तो क्या आप इस बारे में कानून में संशोधन लाने की सोच रहे हैं?

श्री रामविलास पासवान: सर, हम कानून में संशोधन ही नहीं बल्कि नया कानून लाने जा रहे हैं। सर, यह कानून 1986 का है। इसे 30 साल हो गए हैं। यह बहुत ही पुराना कानून है। हम ने 2016 में नया कानून पेश किया था, लेकिन वह Standing Committee में चला गया। उसमें उनके बहुत अच्छे सुझाव आए। उन्होंने celebrities और manufacturers के संबंध में बहुत अच्छे सुझाव दिए हैं। हमने उन्हें देखा और फिर उस में 80 संशोधन करने पड़े। उस के बाद Law Ministry ने कहा कि आप नया बिल ले आइए। सर, हमने नया बिल तैयार कर लिया है। वह एकाध हफ्ते में Cabinet के पास चला जाएगा और वहां से हम नया बिल आपके सामने लाएंगे। सर, हम ने उस में Authority बनायी है और कड़ी-से-कड़ी सज़ा का प्रावधान रखा है। ये प्रावधान celebrities, manufacturers और जो लोग एम.आर.पी. से ज्यादा दाम पर बेचते हैं, उनके खिलाफ भी रखे हैं।

श्री अजय संचेती: महोदय, packaged drinking water और mineral water के बीच में एक thin line है, लेकिन consumers को यह बात समझ में नहीं आती है। सर, packaged drinking water की बोतल 2-3 रुपए में बनती है, लेकिन mineral water महंगा बनता है। अब बेचते समय ट्रेडर्स एक ही price में बेचते हैं। क्या इसे रोकने के लिए भी दो different categories बनाने का काम किया जाएगा?

श्री रामविलास पासवान: सर, हमने इस बारे में बहुत कोशिश की है, लेकिन हम inspector raj भी नहीं लाना चाहते हैं। सर, हम लोग तो सोशलिस्ट पार्टी में रहे हैं और हमेशा कहते थे कि cost of production क्या है और उस से डेढ़ गुना दाम में चीज नहीं बेची जानी चाहिए, लेकिन वह कभी होता नहीं है। इसलिए वे क्या बनाते हैं, कितना एमआरपी रखते हैं, उसे हम नहीं देखते हैं। हम सिर्फ इतना ही देखते हैं कि वह उसे एमआरपी से ज्यादा दाम पर तो नहीं बेच रहे हैं, dual एमआरपी तो नहीं है और उसमें भीतर जो लिखा गया है, उससे ज्यादा बाहर तो कुछ नहीं लिखा गया है।

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता: श्रीमन्, bottled water price का इश्यू बहुत गंभीर है, लेकिन इस से भी ज्यादा serious issue इस की quality का है। मेरे एक known manufacturer ने मुझे बताया कि मैं जितना पानी बनाता हूं, उस से 10 गुणा माल मेरे ब्रांड से बिकता है। श्रीमन्, यह एक बड़ी गंभीर समस्या है। अगर आप बड़े शहरों से थोड़ा बाहर जाएंगे, तो वहां जितना bottled

water मिलता है, उस में 90 परसेंट कहें, 99 परसेंट कहें या 100 परसेंट कहें, वह नकली पानी है। उसके ऊपर कोई quality control नहीं है, वह पानी unauthorized bottling plants से भरा गया है। इस गंभीर समस्या का आप क्या solution निकाल रहें हैं?

श्री रामविलास पासवान: सभापति जी, उसमें सारी मार्किंग लगी रहती है, बीआईएस की मार्किंग लगी रहती है, लेकिन हमारे सामने भी दिक्कत है। अभी जैसा मैंने कहा कि हम अथॉरिटी बना रहे हैं, लेकिन हमारे पास अभी जो पुराना एक्ट है, उसमें हमारे पास *suo motu* ऐसा कोई अधिकार नहीं है, जिससे कि हम जाकर किसी को पकड़ सकें या किसी पर कार्यवाही कर सकें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question hour over. Now, Statement by Minister correcting answer to question; Shri C. R. Chaudhary.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Migration of farmers to cities

†*248. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are migrating to cities in search of other alternatives due to continuous loss making in farming;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the policies of liberalisation are destroying the agriculture sector; and

(c) whether the migration can be stopped after establishing anti-migration task force and agriculture can be made a remunerative profession, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The shift in workforce from primary (agriculture) sector to secondary and tertiary sectors is a normal phenomenon of the development process experienced by countries across the world and the same is true for India as well. As per the Census data, the share of workforce engaged in the agriculture sector (comprising of cultivators and agricultural labourers) has come down from 58.2 per cent in 2001 to 54.6 per cent in 2011. The reasons for this shift include, *inter alia*, better employment opportunities in industry and services sectors, increasing urbanization, low income in agriculture, etc. However, the foodgrain production in the country has continued its upward trend and will be reaching the record level of 271.98 million tonnes in 2016-17 (Second Advance Estimate).

(c) In a market economy like India, movement of people for better economic

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

opportunities cannot be curbed. However, several steps have been taken to improve the economic conditions of farmers and making agriculture attractive to farmers. These include, *inter alia*, implementation of schemes like, National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchaiyee Yojana, Soil Health Card, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Neem Coated Urea, creation of a unified National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), etc. Further, the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of major agricultural commodities has been progressively increased to ensure remunerative price to the farmers.

**Targets set for land development and modernisation
of facilities under Railways**

*249. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways could not achieve several targets set over the past two years towards development of railway land and modernisation of facilities in Railways despite having enough funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the reasons for the slow progress against the targets set for the doubling, electrification and maintenance of railway tracks in the country; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Railways for improving the railway infrastructure speedily?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) Modernisation of facilities in Railways *inter alia* involves development of Railway land is an on-going, continuous process on Indian Railways. In the last two years Railways has spent ₹ 1.50 lakh crore for modernization in Railways *inter alia* about 9066 hectares of Railway land got developed for laying tracks of New Lines, Doubling/Tripling, Gauge Conversion and other infrastructural facilities and achieved most of the set targets. For improving the Railways infrastructure speedily, Ministry of Railways has taken many steps *e.g.*:

- (1) (i) Ministry of Railways has approached State Governments to form Joint Venture Companies (JVCs) with Ministry of Railways to undertake mutually identified rail infrastructure projects for project development, resources mobilization and monitoring.
- (ii) 17 State Governments (Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Odisha, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Assam, Bihar and Himachal Pradesh) had consented for formation of JVCs with Ministry of Railways.

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up JVCs have been signed with 8 State Governments (Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Gujarat and Haryana).
- (iv) JVCs with 3 State Governments (Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Kerala) have already been formed.
- (2) Indian Railways has adopted Detailed Project Report (DPR) approach for new works which has resulted into saving of time in starting the work. Earlier, it used to take 2 to 3 years for starting a work which has now been brought down to less than a year.
- (3) The Zonal Railways have been delegated full powers with respect to acceptance of works contracts and to sanction estimates. This has resulted in cutting down time for estimate sanctions and tenders.

National Policy on Fishery

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

(a) whether Government has any National Policy on Fishery, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by Government for the welfare of fishermen and for enhancing fish production in the country; and

(c) the initiatives taken by Government in the last two years to ensure that climate change does not affect fish production adversely?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Union Government had promulgated a 'Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy' in November, 2004 with the objectives of (i) to augment marine fish production of the country up to the sustainable level in a responsible manner so as to boost export of sea food from the country and also to increase per capita fish protein intake of the masses, (ii) to ensure socio-economic security of the artisanal fishermen whose livelihood solely depends on this vocation, (iii) to ensure sustainable development of marine fisheries with due concern for ecological integrity and bio-diversity.

(b) The Central Plan Scheme has been restructured into an umbrella scheme 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries' to increase both fish production and productivity in the country. The steps taken for enhancing fish production in the country include intensification of aquaculture practices, introduction of diversified fish species, utilization of open water bodies for cage culture and pen culture, establishment of fish hatcheries and brood banks, promotion of mariculture

and convergence with other schemes like Project Sagarmala, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) etc.

There are four sub-components under the 'Blue Revolution' Scheme for welfare of fishermen (i) saving-cum-relief, (ii) housing for fishers, (iii) other basic amenities for fishers such as drinking water facility, construction of community hall etc., and (iv) Group Accident Insurance for active fishermen. During the past four years, *i.e.*, from 2012-13 to 2015-16, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) has provided a sum of ₹ 201.08 crore to various State Governments/Union Territories and other implementing agencies for (i) construction of 21,809 houses for fishers, (ii) coverage of an average 3.85 lakh fishers annually under saving-cum-relief, (iii) providing insurance coverage to an average of 46.15 lakh fishers annually, and (iv) to train a total of 17,790 fishers.

(c) The fisheries research institutes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) implement a number of research programmes to address the issues related to the possible impact of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture.

Facility of cold storages of moderate size at village level

*251. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there has been a bumper yield of potato, onion, carrot, tomatoes, etc., and farmers are forced to sell them in Mandis at throw away prices because of their perishable nature;

(b) whether Government proposes to come out with Minimum Support Price and procurement policy for perishable produce also to avoid miseries to farmers; and

(c) the steps Government has taken to create a network of cold storages of moderate size for storage of agro and horticulture produces to increase their shelf-life at village and town levels throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) There has been increased production of most of the vegetables, including potato, tomato, carrot etc. in the country in current year because of which the prices at few centres are low.

(b) To safeguard the interests of the farmers and preventing them from distress sale situation, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) operates Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural commodities including potato, carrot, onion, tomatoes etc. which are perishable in nature and are not covered under Price Support Scheme. MIS aims 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. MIS is implemented at the request of a State/UT Government which is ready to bear 50 per cent of the loss (25 per cent in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation.

(c) Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for development of Horticulture in the country. It includes assistance for creation of post-harvest infrastructure under Post Harvest Management (PHM) Scheme, including establishment of cold storages including those of moderate sizes, staging cold room, processing units, pack houses, pre-cooling units, controlled atmospherestorage, reefer vans, Integrated Cold Chain and setting up of ripening chambers. These cold storages can be set up at village and town level throughout the country. Further, the staging cold room available under the scheme are essentially meant to be established at the production sites of perishable horticulture crops.

Under Post-harvest component, credit-linked back-ended subsidy @ 35%-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.

Supply of fertilizers in backward, remote and hilly areas

*252. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the production and consumption of urea in the country at present;
- (b) the gap between demand and supply of urea along with the targets of production fixed for the next three years;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to eliminate the shortage and irregularities in supply of urea; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to ensure regular supply of fertilizers in backward, remote and hilly areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The production and consumption of urea in the country for the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 (upto February, 2017) are given below:—

(Figure in 'LMT')

Year	Production	Consumption/Sale
2015-16	244.75	319.68
2016-17 (Upto Feb., 17)	222.24	271.00

(b) The demand of fertilizers is assessed and projected season-wise by the Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) in consultation with the State Governments for which bi-annual conferences are held before commencement of each cropping season. The gap between demand and production is met through imports. The requirement for Kharif 2017 (April to September, 2017), as assessed by DAC&FW, is 144.24 LMT. The requirement (demand) is fulfilled through indigenous production and imports. The production target of urea for the FY 2017-18 for Kharif season is 116.94 LMT.

The season-wise target and demand for next 3 years is to be assessed before commencement of the season.

(c) and (d) To ensure adequate availability as per demand and to eliminate the shortage and irregularities in supply of urea including in backward, remote and hilly areas, the Department of Fertilizers takes following steps:—

- (1) The month-wise demand is assessed and projected by the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) in consultation with the State Governments before commencement of each cropping season.
- (2) On the basis of month-wise and State-wise projection given by DAC&FW, Department of Fertilizers allocates sufficient/adequate quantities of fertilizers to States by issuing monthly supply plan and continuously monitors the availability through following system:—
 - (i) The movement of all major subsidized fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system (www.urvarak.co.in) also called as Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS);
 - (ii) The State Governments are regularly advised to coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies through timely placement of indents for railway rakes through their state institutional agencies like Markfed etc.
 - (iii) Regular Weekly Video Conference is conducted jointly by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Department of Fertilizers (DoF), and Ministry of Railways with State Agriculture Officials and corrective actions are taken to dispatch fertilizer as indicated by the State Governments.

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

Welfare schemes for families of farmers who committed suicide

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

(a) how many welfare schemes are being introduced by the Government for the family members of those farmers who have committed suicide during the last two years due to their crop loss;

(b) whether Government is planning to introduce some more schemes for such families; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) Agriculture, including agricultural indebtedness, being a State subject, the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture in the State. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. Normally, it is the State Governments that provide relief to families that face farmer suicides. As per information available from the States, the details of relief etc. being provided are as follows:

- State Government of Maharashtra gives *Ex-gratia* relief of ₹ 1.00 lakh to the heirs of the deceased farmer as per scheme of State Government. The three norms of eligibility for *Ex-gratia* are crop failure, indebtedness and harassment due to inability to pay agriculture related loans.
- The Punjab Government had constituted committee for providing compensation to victims' family to ₹ 3.00 lakh. The Punjab Government has also introduced "Punjab Relief of Agriculture Indebtedness Bill" which will provide relief to the farmers from debt trap.
- Government of Andhra Pradesh is providing ₹ 5.00 lakh compensation to the family members of the deceased farmers. Out of which ₹ 1.50 lakh is as one time settlement to wipe off loans/liabilities and ₹ 3.50 lakh towards rehabilitation of the family members.
- The Government of Telangana has enhanced the *Ex-gratia* from ₹ 1.00 lakh to ₹ 5.00 lakh to the family of the deceased farmer towards rehabilitation of the family and enhance loan settlement ceiling limit from ₹ 50 thousand to ₹ 1.00 lakh to the persons entitled as one time settlement and to wipe off all the liabilities on the part of deceased families of farmers.

- In Karnataka an amount of ₹ 1.00 lakh has been given to each of the deceased family from 2003-04 to 2014-15. From 01.04.2015 an amount of ₹ 5.00 lakh relief is provided to each of the deceased family and the children of the deceased will get free education up to post graduation including hostel facilities.

In so far as the Central Government is concerned, the strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Farm viability is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The Department has, therefore, been implementing various schemes to meet this objective. Schemes that promote efficiency of natural resources and help reduce cost of cultivation are Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, Neem Coated Urea (NCU), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchaiyee Yojana (PMKSY). National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), has been launched to create an efficient integrated market. Further, Government supports farmers by way of notifying MSP and undertaking procurement operations including through Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Stabilization Fund (PSF). In case of horticultural and plantation crops, where no MSP is notified, procurement operations are undertaken under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). As regards improving productivity to realize higher production, Government has been implementing National Food Security Missions (NFSM) for various field crops, NMOOP for oilseeds and oilpalm and MIDH for Horticultural crops. In addition, Government has successfully rolled out Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to cover crop risk by way of easy insurance. Infrastructure in agriculture sector is catered to by RKVY.

There are also various other schemes/programms being implemented by the Government like Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana, etc. in rural as well as urban areas and farmers and other agricultural labourers who fulfil the eligibility criteria are also eligible for assistance under these schemes.

Misuse of social media to spread hate campaign

*254. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that social media is increasingly used to hurt religious sentiments and create communal polarization in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has identified such accounts spreading the hate campaign; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against such people and accounts, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Instances of misuse of social media to hurt religious sentiments and create communal hatred in the country have come to the notice of the Government from time to time. Such behaviour in cyberspace is facilitated by virtual and borderless nature of the technology.

(b) and (c) Whenever any inflammatory harmful and hateful content on various social networking sites is brought to the notice of the Government by the Security/Intelligence Agencies, action under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 is taken in the interest of Sovereignty and Integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above. On a case-to-case basis, the concerned social media platforms are also approached for removal/blocking of specifics.

The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has provisions for removal of objectionable online content. Also the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 under section 79 of the IT Act requires that the Intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable, affect minors and unlawful in any way.

Use of MIS for data updation of projects under RKVY

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

(a) whether States are using Management Information System (MIS) for real-time data updation of implementation of projects under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY); and

(b) if not, the details of the existing monitoring system being used and whether it is as comprehensive as the MIS, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) States have been using a web-based Relational Database and Management Information System (RDMIS), developed by the Department for real-time updation of implementation of projects under RKVY.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in Tamil Nadu**

2557. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers registered for the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, State-wise;

(b) the number of farmers from Tamil Nadu who have availed the Yojana for both Kharif and Rabi seasons, district-wise; and

(c) the number of insured farmers who were provided compensation due to the failure of crops in Tamil Nadu during the Rabi season (October-March)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) State-wise details (including Tamil Nadu) of farmers registered under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) during Kharif 2016 and Rabi 2016-17 seasons are given in the Statement-I (*See below*). The number of farmers from Tamil Nadu, who have availed the Yojana for both Kharif and Rabi seasons, district-wise is given in the Statement-II (*See below*). As per scheme guidelines assessment of yield losses suffered/likely to be suffered by farmers depend on the outcome of crop cutting experiments which are undertaken by the respective State Government. In respect of Rabi 2016-17, the cut off date for submission of yield data by the State Government to the insurance companies is one month from the date of harvest of Rabi crops. Therefore, yield based final assessment of losses can only be undertaken after that. Further, no claims have been paid in Tamil Nadu under prevented sowing/failed germination, mid season adversity, localised calamity during this period.

Statement-I

State-wise details of tentative coverage of farmers under PMFBY during Kharif and Rabi 2016-17

Sl. No.	State	No. of farmers covered (in lakh)	
		Kharif 2016*	Rabi 2016-17**
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Not Implemented	0.00324
2.	Andhra Pradesh	8.60	1.44
3.	Assam	Not Implemented	0.078
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	Not Implemented	

1	2	3	4
5.	Bihar	14.86	11.54
6.	Chandigarh	Not Implemented	
7.	Chhattisgarh	13.96	1.47
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	1.12	2.03
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	Not Implemented	Data Not Available
16.	Jharkhand	8.28	0.54
17.	Karnataka	15.56	11.76
18.	Kerala	Not Implemented	Data Not Available
19.	Lakshadweep	Not Implemented	
20.	Madhya Pradesh	37.91	29.27
21.	Maharashtra	109.41	8.05
22.	Manipur	0.09	Not Implemented
23.	Meghalaya	0.0006	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	49.85	30.76
30.	Sikkim	Not Implemented	Data Not Available
31.	Tamil Nadu	0.16	14.73
32.	Telangana	5.91	1.56
33.	Tripura	0.02	0.15
34.	Uttar Pradesh	33.90	36.26

1	2	3	4
35.	Uttarakhand	1.29	0.84
36.	West Bengal	30.89	9.69
TOTAL		374.83	167.75

* Kharif 2016 data does not include coverage under Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) totalling 15.47 lakh.

** Rabi 2016-17 data includes both coverage under PMFBY and RWBCIS as no segregated data is available.

Statement-II

Tentative details of district-wise coverage of farmers in Tamil Nadu during Kharif 2016 and Rabi 2016-17 under PMFBY

Sl. No.	Name of District	Farmers Covered (in lakhs)	
		Kharif 2016	Rabi 2016
1	2	3	4
1.	Ariyalur	0.001	0.170
2.	Dindigul	0.002	0.395
3.	Erode	0.002	0.115
4.	Kanyakumari	0.000	0.012
5.	Karur	0.000	0.036
6.	Madurai	0.001	0.188
7.	Namakkal	0.002	0.205
8.	Perambalur	0.003	0.614
9.	Tiruchirapalli (Trichy)	0.003	0.207
10.	Thiruvavarur	0.014	1.611
11.	Ramanathapuram	0.000	1.260
12.	Coimbatore	0.003	0.018
13.	Cuddalore	0.008	0.761
14.	Kancheepuram	0.004	0.173
15.	Nilgiris	0.001	0
16.	Salem	0.007	0.259
17.	Sivagangai	0.000	0.781
18.	Tirunelveli	0.003	0.533
19.	Thiruvallur	0.007	0.314

1	2	3	4
20.	Tiruvannamalai	0.038	0.887
21.	Tiruppur	0.004	0.091
22.	Dharmapuri	0.001	0.126
23.	Krishnagiri	0.001	0.056
24.	Nagapattinam	0.007	1.313
25.	Pudukottai	0.006	0.838
26.	Thanjavur	0.021	0.959
27.	Theni	0.006	0.049
28.	Thoothukudi	0.000	0.973
29.	Vellore	0.004	0.297
30.	Villupuram	0.009	1.042
31.	Virudhunagar	0.004	0.451
TOTAL		0.161	14.735

Implementation of NADAMS

2558. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the States which are covered under National Agriculture Drought Assessment and Monitoring System (NADAMS);

(b) the manner in which agricultural drought monitoring is carried out under NADAMS;

(c) the details of the benefits farmers would get under the scheme; and

(d) the number of farmers benefited by the system during the last two years and the current year, State-wise including Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The 14 States covered under NADAMS project are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The drought assessment for 14 States is carried out at District level. However, drought assessment is also carried out at sub-district levels in 6 States (Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha and Telangana).

(b) The agriculture drought assessment and monitoring, under NADAMS project is carried out using multiple satellite data, rainfall, soil moisture index, potential sowing area, irrigation percentage and ground observations. A logical modeling approach is followed to classify the districts into Alert, Watch and Normal during June, July and August and Severe, Moderate, Mild drought or Normal condition during September and October. The monthly Drought Assessment Reports are communicated to all concerned State and National level agencies and also kept on the MNCFC website (www.ncfc.gov.in).

(c) and (d) NADAMS project provides an early assessment of drought situation and thus helps the State Governments to take remedial measures and also use this information for drought declaration. The assessment reports provided under the NADAMS project can thus prove beneficial to the farmers at large by way of a crucial decision support input.

Slow release of high yielding pest resistant varieties

2559. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the slow release of new high yielding, disease pest resistant varieties in agriculture during last two decades or so; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the slow release of new varieties as compared to twenty years back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Scientists in the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) comprising of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) are continuously breeding and releasing High Yielding Varieties (HYVs) with resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses, besides nutritionally rich varieties on the basis of yield superiority recorded in multi-location testing.

During the decade from 1997-06, 1417 crop varieties were released, while in the recently completed decade from 2007-2016, a total of 1545 HYVs were released and notified through 'Central Sub-Committee on Crop Standards, Notification and Release of Varieties for Agricultural Crops'. Thus there has been a steady and progressive increase in the pace of release of varieties during the last two decades.

(b) Not applicable.

Setting up of Centre for Cotton Excellence in Gujarat

2560. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA:

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:

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

(a) whether Government of Gujarat had demanded from the Central Government to establish Centre for Cotton Excellence in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Ministry is considering the proposal;

(c) when such a centre is likely to be established; and

(d) the time-frame in which the Cotton Excellence Centre will function fully?

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

(b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi (ICAR) has decided to establish a Regional Research Centre on Cotton for strengthening the cotton cultivation in the State of Gujarat.

(c) ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur in collaboration with Junagadh Agricultural University are in the process to finalize the site after examining the suitability of soils, availability of water and other logistic facilities essentially required for establishing the Regional Research Centre.

(d) After receiving the report, action will be taken on priority.

Improving seeds and fertilizers procurement system

2561. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the hardships faced by farmers in procurement of seeds and fertilizers due to demonetisation;

(b) whether Government is considering to improve the procurement mechanism in the country to rescue the farmers, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is considering to streamline or bringing an innovative state of the art procurement system in the agricultural sector, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) The availability

of certified/quality seeds and fertilizers for the current Rabi season (2016-17) is adequate in the country.

The Government had allowed farmers to use old ₹ 500 denomination notes for making payments towards purchase of seeds from the centers, 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 Institutes for sale of seeds upto 15.12.2016.

For online purchase of inputs like seeds, fertilizer, the farmers can purchase agricultural inputs from dealers and payment can be made through National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) Kisan Card, ATM Card of farmers etc. State Governments are also encouraging input dealer to be equipped with Point of Sale (PoS) machine to receive payment from farmers as against purchase of agricultural inputs.

To ensure that the sales of fertilizers is not hampered due to lack of cash in the system, Manufacturing Companies and Importers of various fertilizers were directed to provide fertilizers to dealers/wholesalers/retailer on credit and the credit limit was extended by additional 30 days by the companies.

The farmers can sell their agriculture produce in the APMC markets, mandis, direct procurement centers and receive payments in their bank account through cheque/RTGs.

MSP announced by Government

2562. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the peasants, who feed the entire country, are taking away their own lives because they are not getting even the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their produce;

(b) if so, the MSP announced by Government in respect of wheat, rice and other essential pulses; and

(c) the appropriate action Government is taking to address farmers' concerns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) Government

fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the major agricultural produce on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The Government offers to procure the agricultural produce at MSP. However, farmers are free to sell their produce to Government procurement agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them.

Government has announced the MSP of agricultural produce including wheat, rice and pulses for 2016-17 season. The MSP fixed by Government for wheat rice and pulses for 2016-17 are given below:—

Crop	MSP (₹ per quintal)
Wheat	1625
Rice	1470
Tur	5050*
Urad	5000*
Moong	5225*
Gram	4000**
Masur	3950***

*including bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal.

** including bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal.

*** including bonus of ₹ 150 per quintal.

Government also implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Support Price on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production. Losses, if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared by the Central Government and the concerned State Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States).

Government has taken several initiatives to increase agricultural production and productivity which, *inter alia*, include National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchaiyee Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Health Card etc.

In addition, Government is also implementing e-National Agriculture Market and promoting Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to ensure remunerative prices to farmers.

Suicides by farmers

2563. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of farmers committing suicides is increasing every year;

(b) the details of the number of farmers who committed suicide in the last three years and in the current year, year-wise and the average acreage holding by them;

(c) whether Government would review the scheme of providing relief to farmers in distress by making their loan and interest burden reduced by financial assistance, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, how does Government plans to deal with increasing farmers' suicides, with details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). As per ADSI Report of 2015, the number of suicides by farmers/cultivators has gone up from 5650 in 2014 to 8,007 in 2015, registering an increase of 41.7%. Suicides by agricultural labourers have however, come down from 6,710 in 2014 to 4,595 in 2015. Thus, total number of suicides in Farming Sector has increased by 2% in 2015 over 2014. As per ADSI Reports for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015, the State-wise details of suicides have been compiled in the Statement which are given in the Statement-I (*See below*). As per ADSI Reports for the years 2014 and 2015, the State-wise details of Land Holding Status have been compiled in the Statement which are given in the Statement-II (*See below*). The Report for the year 2016 has not yet been published.

(c) and (d) In order to bring more and more farmers within the institutional fold, the Government is providing, through institutional sources (commercial banks, cooperative banks and regional rural banks), short term crop loans and medium/long term loan to farmers.

Short term crop loan of upto ₹ 3.00 lakh is provided to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum. Farmers, who promptly repay their crop loans as per the

repayment schedule fixed by the banks, get the benefit of interest subvention of 3%. Thus, the effective interest rate for the short term crop loan is 4% per annum.

In order to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against warehouse receipts, the benefit of Interest Subvention Scheme has been extended to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of upto six months post harvest on the same rate as available to crop loan against negotiable warehouse receipt for keeping their produce in warehouses.

In order to ensure that all eligible farmers are provided with hassle-free and timely credit for their agricultural operations, the Government has introduced the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme, which enables them to purchase agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. and draw cash to satisfy their consumption needs. The KCC Scheme has since been simplified and converted into ATM-enabled debit card with, *inter alia*, facilities of one-time documentation, built-in cost escalation in the limit, any number of draws within the limit, etc.

Reserve Bank of India has revised the criteria of crop loss in their Master Circular dated 01.07.2015 keeping in view the GoI notification dated 8.4.2015. RBI has allowed State Level Bankers' Committee/District Level Consultative Committees/Banks to take view on rescheduling of loans if the crop loss is 33% or more. Banks have been advised to allow maximum period of repayment of upto 2 years (including the moratorium period of 1 year) if the crop loss is between 33% and 50%. If the crop loss is 50% or more, the restructured period for repayment is extended to a maximum of 5 years (including the moratorium period of 1 year). The Banks have further been advised that all short-term loans eligible for restructuring are converted into term loan. In all cases of restructuring, moratorium period of at least one year is granted. The existing term loan instalments are rescheduled.

Agriculture, including agricultural indebtedness, being a State subject, the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture in the State. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. The strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Farm viability is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The Department has, therefore, been implementing various schemes to meet this objective *viz.* Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchaiyee Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Interest Subvention Scheme etc.

Statement-I*State-wise details of suicide*

State/UT	2013	2014			2015		
	Farmers and Labourers	Farmers	Labourers	Total	Farmers	Labourers	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh	2014	160	472	632	516	400	916
Arunachal Pradesh	37	0	3	3	7	3	10
Assam	305	21	38	59	84	54	138
Bihar	127	0	10	10	0	7	7
Chhattisgarh	0	443	312	755	854	100	954
Goa	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	582	45	555	600	57	244	301
Haryana	374	14	105	119	28	134	162
Himachal Pradesh	33	32	31	63	0	46	46
Jammu and Kashmir	18	12	25	37	0	21	21
Jharkhand	142	0	4	4	0	21	21
Karnataka	1403	321	447	768	1197	372	1569
Kerala	972	107	700	807	3	207	210
Madhya Pradesh	1090	826	372	1198	581	709	1290
Maharashtra	3146	2568	1436	4004	3030	1261	4291
Manipur	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Meghalaya	5	0	2	2	2	1	3
Mizoram	6	0	5	5	0	1	1
Nagaland	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Odisha	150	5	97	102	23	27	50
Punjab	83	24	40	64	100	24	124
Rajasthan	292	0	373	373	3	73	76
Sikkim	35	35	0	35	15	3	18
Tamil Nadu	105	68	827	895	2	604	606
Telangana	NA	898	449	1347	1358	42	1400

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Tripura	56	0	32	32	1	48	49
Uttar Pradesh	750	63	129	192	145	179	324
Uttarakhand	15	0	0	0	0	2	2
West Bengal	0	0	230	230	0	0	0
TOTAL (STATES)	11744	5642	6694	12336	8007	4583	12590
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5	8	0	8	0	0	0
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi (UT)	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puducherry	0	0	16	16	0	12	12
TOTAL (UTs)	28	8	16	24	0	12	12
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	11772	5650	6710	12360	8007	4595	12602

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

Statement-II*State-wise details of landholding status*

Sl. No.	State/UT	2014					2015				
		Marginal farmers	Small farmers	Medium farmers	Large farmers	Total	Marginal farmers	Small farmers	Medium farmers	Large farmers	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	64	48	47	1	160	202	163	149	2	516
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	7
3.	Assam	4	10	7	0	21	52	17	7	8	84
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	136	195	89	23	443	354	310	153	37	854
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	3	8	30	4	45	4	29	19	5	57
8.	Haryana	0	2	10	2	14	3	7	18	0	28
9.	Himachal Pradesh	14	18	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	11	0	1	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	51	149	117	4	321	209	751	235	2	1197

13. Kerala	44	43	18	2	107	0	2	1	0	3
14. Madhya Pradesh	403	267	150	6	826	154	289	134	4	581
15. Maharashtra	627	1335	544	62	2568	834	1285	899	12	3030
16. Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
17. Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
18. Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20. Odisha	0	5	0	0	5	13	7	3	0	23
21. Punjab	3	14	7	0	24	18	70	11	1	100
22. Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
23. Sikkim	22	0	13	0	35	1	14	0	0	15
24. Tamil Nadu	48	17	3	0	68	0	2	0	0	2
25. Telangana	129	366	377	26	898	301	605	373	79	1358
26. Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
27. Uttar Pradesh	13	38	11	1	63	49	56	30	10	145
28. Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29. West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL (STATES)	1572	2515	1424	131	5642	2195	3618	2034	160	8007

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
30.	Andaman and Nagar Islands	7	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Delhi (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL (UTs)		7	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)		1579	2516	1424	131	5650	2195	3618	2034	160	8007

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

Excessive use of chemical fertilizers

2564. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that excessive use of chemicals fertilizers, particularly urea by farmers across the country, has posed threat to the soil as well as resulted in decline in farm production;

(b) if so, whether Government has chalked out any awareness programme for farmers to discourage excessive use of chemical fertilizers, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether various fertilizer cooperatives would be engaged in the awareness programme of impact of chemical fertilizers on soil and farm production, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) There is no harmful effect of chemical fertilizers on soil health with balanced and judicious use. However, imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter over years may cause multinutrient deficiencies as evident from the study conducted under All India Coordinated Research Project on Long-Term Fertilizer Experiment in different soil types (fixed locations) under dominant cropping systems. There is also possibility of nitrate contamination in ground water above the permissible limit of 10mg NO₃-N/L due to excessive use of nitrogenous fertilizers including urea particularly in light textured soils that has consequence on human/animal health if used for drinking purpose.

(b) 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 holding 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.

Under Soil Health Management Scheme farmers are educated on balanced use of fertilizers through various components namely training of farmers, field demonstrations and frontline field demonstrations. Financial assistance is also provided under the

scheme for promotion of organic manure, soil amendment (lime/basic slag) in acidic soils and micronutrients.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is recommending soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of plant nutrients to reduce the use of costly chemical fertilizers and to improve soil health and quality. ICAR also imparts training, organises Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) to educate farmers on these aspects.

(c) There is no proposal to engage fertilizer cooperatives in the awareness programme of impact of chemical fertilizers on soil and farm production as the Government is giving wide publicity through print and electronic media about Soil Health Programmes.

Achievements in solving the problems of farmers

†2565. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

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

(a) whether the efforts being put in to improve the state of farmers are not yielding positive results, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the omissions occurring in the process of understanding the problems and redressing the problems of farmers because of which they are forced to commit suicide;

(c) the extent of success achieved in the direction of doubling the income for farmers, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken during the last three years because of which farmers obtained satisfactory benefits and the steps proposed to be taken in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) In order to increase growth in the agriculture sector by enhancement in the production and productivity of crops in the country, the Government is implementing, through State Governments, various Schemes/Programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(BGREI), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), Price Support Scheme (PSS), etc. The Agriculture and Allied sector witnessed a growth of 4.4 per cent in 2016-17 at 2011-12 basic prices.

(b) As per the report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2015' 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' and 'Farming Related Issues' are reported as major causes of suicides among farmers/cultivators. Other prominent causes of farmers/cultivators suicides are family problems and illness etc.

In order to bring more and more farmers within the institutional fold, the Government is providing, through institutional sources (commercial banks, cooperative banks and regional rural banks), short term crop loans and medium/long term loan to farmers. Short term crop loan of upto ₹ 3.00 lakh is provided to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum. Farmers, who promptly repay their crop loans as per the repayment schedule fixed by the banks, get the benefit of interest subvention of 3%. Thus, the effective interest rate for the short term crop loan is 4% per annum.

In order to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against warehouse receipts, the benefit of Interest Subvention Scheme has been extended to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of upto six months post harvest on the same rate as available to crop loan against negotiable warehouse receipt for keeping their produce in warehouses.

In order to ensure that all eligible farmers are provided with hassle-free and timely credit for their agricultural operations, the Government has introduced the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme, which enables them to purchase agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. and draw cash to satisfy their consumption needs. The KCC Scheme has since been simplified and converted into ATM-enabled debit card with, *inter alia*, facilities of one-time documentation, built-in cost escalation in the limit, any number of drawls within the limit, etc.

Reserve Bank of India has revised the criteria of crop loss in their Master Circular dated 01.07.2015 keeping in view the GoI notification dated 8.4.2015. RBI has allowed State Level Bankers' Committee/ District Level Consultative Committees/ Banks to take view on rescheduling of loans if the crop loss is 33% or more. Banks have been advised to allow maximum period of repayment of upto 2 years (including

the moratorium period of 1 year) if the crop loss is between 33% and 50%. If the crop loss is 50% or more, the restructured period for repayment is extended to a maximum of 5 years (including the moratorium period of 1 year). The Banks have further been advised that all short-term loans eligible for restructuring are converted into term loan. In all cases of restructuring, moratorium period of at least one year is granted. The existing term loan installments are rescheduled.

(c) and (d) In order to achieve the target of doubling of income of farmers by the year 2022, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, for the following aspects:—

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

The Committee has so far held five meetings so far to evolve a suitable strategy.

Apart from the above, the focus of the Government is on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Farm viability is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The various ongoing schemes/programmes of the Department *viz.* Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchaiyee Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) are intended to meet this objective.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP). The Commission collects and analyses data on cost of cultivation and recommends MSP.

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 Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS

is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production.

Providing proper price of farmers' produces

†2566. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) whether farmers are discouraged due to not getting good prices of pulses as the rates have gone down at the time of harvesting of Rabi crops;

(b) the reasons for fall in prices of crops of farmers during their harvesting season and increase in their market prices as soon as it reaches traders; and

(c) whether such an arrangement would be in place whereby farmers get the highest price of their crops in the market and their situation could improve, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) Market price of agricultural produces is determined by market forces of demand and supply. However, Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the major agricultural produce on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). While formulating its recommendations on price policy, CACP considers various important factors that include cost of cultivation, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc.

The prices of agricultural produce tend to fall after the harvest season due to increase in market arrival of new crops. Government fixes MSP to protect the farmers from distress sale.

The Government offers to procure the agricultural produce at MSP. However, farmers are free to sell their produce to Government procurement agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them.

Government also implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Support Price on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production. Losses, if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared by the Central Government and the concerned State Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States).

Government has also taken several steps to ensure MSP for agricultural produce which, *inter alia*, includes setting up of procurement centers keeping in view the potential in the areas; creating awareness among the farmers of the MSP operations; making payment through arthias/co-operative societies to the farmers; encouraging decentralized procurement; adopting e-procurement system; engaging private players in certain States to participate in procurement operations, implementing e-National Agriculture Market, promoting Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) etc.

Farmers' suicides

2567. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government to ensure implementation of the policies to curb farmers' suicides, the details of the schemes and their current status of implementation; and

(b) whether the studies and recommendations of the renowned agriculture scientist M.S. Swaminathan have been taken into consideration, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) 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. The Union Government is according high priority for its progress and improving the welfare of the farmers. Government of India has taken several steps to revitalize agriculture sector and improve economic condition of farming community on sustainable basis by increasing investment, improving farm practices, creating rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs, such as, extension, marketing, etc. Keeping in mind the dependence of a large section of India's society on agriculture and also the need for ensuring food and nutrition security, the Government supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. During the last two years, the strategy of the Government has been to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Farm viability is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their

produce. The Department has, therefore, been implementing various schemes to meet this objective, viz. Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchaiyee Yojana (PMKSY), the National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM) and the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). Brief details of the above schemes is as below:—

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme has been formally launched on 19.2.2015 by Hon'ble Prime Minister at Suratgarh (Rajasthan). During the current year i.e. 2016-17, 2.74 crore soil sample have been collected and 2.11 crore have been tested. 6 crore SHCs have been printed and 5.82 crore SHCs distributed as on 21.3.2017.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate urea use, enhance its availability to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer application. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured urea and imported urea is now neem coated.
- (iii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promote organic farming in the country. This will improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realise premium prices. Under this scheme, an area of 5 lakh acre is targeted to be covered through 10,000 clusters of 50 acre each, from the year 2015-16 to 2017-18. So far 7186 clusters have been formed during 2015-16. The remaining 2814 clusters would be formed during 2016-17.
- (iv) The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchaiyee Yojana (PMKSY) is being implemented to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency. The target for the year 2016-17 is 8 lakh ha. under micro irrigation and so far 5.08 lakh ha. have been covered as on 13.2.2017.
- (v) The National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM) was approved on 1.7.2015 with a budget allocation of ₹ 200 crore to be implemented during the period 2015-16 to 2017-18. 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 will support creation of infrastructure to enable e-marketing in 585 regulated markets across the country by March, 2018. As on date 399 markets have been integrated.
- (vi) Government has approved a new crop Insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to replace National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified NAIS (MNAIS) from Kharif 2016

season. PMFBY has addressed all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and would be available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. The farmers will get full insurance cover as there will be no capping of sum insured and consequently the claim amount will not be cut or reduced. This scheme would provide insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances. The area coverage would be increased from 23% presently to 50% in two years.

Under PMFBY, the Scheme would provide insurance cover for all stages of crop cycle including post harvest risks in specified instances. A total number of 381.61 lakh farmers have been covered and 386.75 lakh hectares area insured with a sum of ₹ 1,41,883.3 crore under PMFBY/Weather Base Crop Insurance Scheme during Kharif 2016.

Apart from the above schemes, the Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2015-16, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. The benchmark for initiating relief measures by banks has also been reduced to 33% crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management Framework.

Further, the Government is implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is also notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP). In addition, the Government has declared bonus on pulses for Kharif 2016 over and above the MSP. Even last year, the Government offered bonus over and above the MSP in case of pulses.

The Government also undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations' to protect the interests of the farmers. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the MSP 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.

(b) The Commission constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. S. Swaminathan submitted five reports to the Government. The major recommendations of the Commission contained in the five reports were included in the 'Draft National Policy for Farmers' submitted by the Commission itself.

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

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

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

Statement

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

Gist of Recommendations	Reasons
(a) To permit farmers to protect crops by killing wild boars, nilgai and to curtail free grazing of cattle in Rabi season	These are not policy issues and may be taken up separately with the Ministry of Environment and Forest for appropriate action by them to protect the crops
(b) MSP should be at least 50% higher than weighted average cost of production	MSP is recommended by CACP on objective criteria considering variety of relevant factors. Hence, prescribing an increase of at least 50% on cost may distort the market. A mechanical linkage between MSP and cost of production may be counter-productive in some cases.
(c) Formation of All India Agricultural Council	Mandate of ICAR can be expanded to discharge this function (This has been suggested in the policy).
(d) To set up an Agricultural Risk Fund	DEA has expressed reservations and stated that subsidizing agriculture insurance premium is a better option.

Gist of Recommendations	Reasons
(e) A Food Guarantee Act shall be enacted	NREG Act and revamped PDS should take care of food security of BPL families.
(f) To establish an Indian Trade Organisation to help Government to operate Livelihood Security Box for farmers and to link global policies with local action	Department of Commerce (DOC) has expressed reservation on this proposal and has stated that DOC alongwith DAC are recommending necessary steps to safeguard farmers' interests from time to time.
(g) Every State should set up a State Farmer Commission	State Government will have to take necessary decision in this regard. Hence this may not be incorporated in National Policy for Farmers.
(h) To include Agriculture under Concurrent List under Article 246 of the Constitution	Some of the State Governments have opposed this recommendation. It may not be incorporated in Policy as a Constitutional amendment is required for which separate action may be needed.
(i) National Livestock Development Council to be established at the National level. Livestock Feed and Fodder Corporations to be set up at the State level	Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries have decided not to establish National Livestock Development Council. Livestock Feed and Fodder Corporation can be considered separately.
(j) National Agricultural Biosecurity Council, National Centre for Agriculture Biosecurity and National Agricultural Biosecurity Network would be put in place	This is implementation issue and can be considered by Government subsequently. Hence, it is not incorporated in the Policy.
(k) PDS would be made universal	In view of reservations expressed by Ministry of Finance and Department of Food and Public Distribution, this may not be incorporated in NPF.

Gist of Recommendations	Reasons
(l) Gram Panchayat Mahila Fund to assist women SHGs	Existing schemes implemented by Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj can take care of women livelihood and capacity building issues.
(m) MSP and Procurement operations should be treated as two separate initiatives	Department of Food and Public Distribution has reservation on this, since it will be difficult to implement.

Safeguarding livelihood of poultry farmers

2568. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to lift the ban on import of poultry meat and egg from USA and other countries in view of WTO remarks, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if so, how Government is planning to safeguard the livelihood of Indian Poultry farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Sir, the import of poultry meat and egg from United States of America (USA) and other countries was not banned as the product fall under the category of freely importable items as per the extant EXIM Policy of Government of India. Import of all poultry products including the poultry meat are allowed from all countries against Sanitary Import Permit after conducting the Risk Analysis on International Principles as per Notification No. 2666 (E) dated 17th October, 2014 issued under the provision of Livestock Importation Act, 1898 to prevent the ingress of exotic diseases through such imports. However, in July, 2011, the import of all poultry products and live poultry was prohibited from the countries where Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) was reported as per Notification No.1663 (E) dated 19th July, 2011 issued under the provision of Livestock Importation Act, 1898. Since, the United States of America was continuously reporting Avian Influenza in their country, the export of poultry products from USA was hampered due to the India's measure issued *vide* notification no. S.O. 1663(E) dated 19th July, 2011.

The USA sought intervention of World Trade Organization (WTO) Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) stating that India's measure is inconsistent with the recommendations of World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as India did not allow import of poultry products from the zones or compartments which are free

from Avian Influenza. India put country wise ban whenever any country including USA notifies Avian Influenza in a part of a country.

The Panel set up by Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of WTO ruled that India's Avian Influenza measures were inconsistent with India's obligations under the WTO Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) Agreement and, therefore, recommended that India to bring its measures in conformity with its obligations under the SPS Agreement.

Since the WTO Dispute Panel Rulings are binding to the WTO member countries, therefore, India has amended the S.O. 1663(E) dated 19th July, 2016 and new notification S.O. 2337(E) dated 8th July, 2016 has been issued in compliance to the panel ruling. In the revised notification the provision for allowing import of poultry products only from the countries or zones or compartments free from Avian Influenza has been kept.

(b) With a view to protect the interest of the Indian poultry farmers, the following measures, are in place:—

- (i) At present, the Customs Duty on chicken legs has been retained at India's bound rate of duty, which is the maximum permissible level of duty committed to the WTO. Import duty on Meat and edible offal of poultry (cuts and offal) is 100%.
- (ii) India has a system in place for import of poultry products through Sanitary Import Permits (SIP). SIPs are granted for import of poultry products only after detailed Risk Analysis from the angle of human and animal health. Import of poultry products are allowed from the country/zone/compartiment which are free from Highly Pathogenic and Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza.
- (iii) The Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries has framed robust questionnaire and verification system in the exporting country including USA. The exporting country has to furnish information as per the set questionnaire.
- (iv) The importer of poultry meat has to fulfil the Food Safety Standards laid down by Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI).

Milk production in NER

2569. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total production of milk in the States of North Eastern Region (NER) in liters, State-wise;
- (b) the total sale of packaged liquid milk daily in the NER States; and

(c) the daily sale of total quantity of milk products in the States of NER?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) The total State-wise milk production in the States of North Eastern Region (NER) during 2015-16 is given in the table below:—

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Milk Production (000 Tonnes)
1.	Assam	843.46
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	50.13
3.	Manipur	78.97
4.	Meghalaya	83.95
5.	Mizoram	22.00
6.	Nagaland	77.00
7.	Sikkim	66.74
8.	Tripura	152.23
TOTAL NER STATES		1374.48

(b) and (c) As per available data reported by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) the average daily liquid milk sale by cooperatives during 2015-16 in NER States is 105.3 thousand litre per day. The data on sale of milk products is not maintained by the Department.

Compensation under Fasal Bima Yojana

2570. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are not receiving compensation for the loss of crop or damage to the crop due to unseasonal rains under Fasal Bima Yojana, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps Government is taking to compensate farmers under the scheme at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) As per provisions of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) assessment of yield losses suffered/likely to be suffered by farmers due to non-preventable natural risks including unseasonal rains depend on the outcome of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) which are undertaken by the respective State Government at the end of crop season. However, for immediate

respite from such occurrences some measure of relief is also provided to insured farmers by way of 25% of the sum insured in instances of prevented sowing/failed germination in 75% or more of the insurance unit. Similarly, in case of mid season adversity during the crop season due to which expected yield during the season is likely to be less than 50% of the Threshold Yield then 25% of estimated claims are provided. Besides unit area based assessment of loss, in cases of localised calamities such as hailstorm, landslide and inundation, claims are immediately settled at individual farm level with balance if any provided at the end of season as per actual yield data. In case of adverse impact of unseasonal rains, cyclonic rains and cyclone on post harvest produce, lying in the field in 'cut and spread' condition for sole purpose of drying, up to maximum period of two weeks (14 days) from harvesting immediate relief is paid on basis of loss assessment and ultimately according to shortfall in yield.

Government has taken several steps to compensate insured farmers under the scheme at the earliest. The guidelines stipulate strict timelines for completion of every activity, be it submission of proposals by banks to insurance companies, assessment of yield by State Government agencies 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 real-time flow of information among stakeholders and prompt service delivery. Further, to ensure smooth and timely implementation regular follow up is being done with all stakeholders at the level of Central Government including for release of subsidy by Centre and State and for settlement of claims.

Implementation of RKVY, NMOOP and PMKSY in Tamil Nadu

2571. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any funds under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds earmarked for the same in the last three years;

(c) whether Government has conducted any studies on the impact of Per Drop More Crop on farmers in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated in the last two years for the Per Drop More Crop Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) A Statement showing the details of funds allocated to the State of Tamil Nadu for Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) and “Per Drop More Crop” component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Per drop more crop component of PMKSY is being implemented from 1st July, 2015 and no impact evaluation study has been carried out under Per Drop More Crop. However, an impact evaluation study for Micro Irrigation which is being implemented after subsuming under Per Drop More Crop component of PMKSY was carried out in the year 2014 and the major findings of the study are:—

- (i) Irrigation cost reduced by 20% to 50 % with an average of 32.3%.
- (ii) Electricity consumption reduced by about 31%.
- (iii) Saving of fertilizers vary from 7% to 42%.
- (iv) Average productivity of fruits and vegetables increased by about 42.3% and 52.8%.
- (v) Overall income enhancement of farmers in the range of 20% to 68% with average of about 48.5%.

(d) Funds for “Per Drop More Crop” are allocated under PMKSY which is given in the Statement annexed to part (a) of the reply.

Statement

*Details of funds allocated to the State of Tamil Nadu for RKVY, NMOOP and
“Per Drop More Crop” Component of PMKSY*

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	Allocation		
		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1.	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	301.53	298.95	259.94
2.	National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) [#]	0	10.59	8.88
3.	Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)*	0	0	129.78

[#]NMOOP Programme is implemented since 2014-15.

*Per Drop More Crop scheme being implemented from 2015-16.

Implementation of NFSM

2572. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of the National Food Security Mission (NFSM);
- (b) whether it is a fact that all States have not so far implemented the NFSM;
- (c) if so, details of the States which have not implemented it and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the performance of implementation of NFSM in States where it is being implemented; and
- (e) what is Electronic Point of Sale and its performance in States where it is being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is being continued during Twelfth Five Year Plan with new target of additional production of 25 million tonnes of food grains comprising of 10 million tonnes rice, 8 million tonnes of wheat, 4 million tonnes of pulses and 3 million tonnes of coarse cereals by the end of Twelfth Plan. The aims and objectives of the mission are as under:—

- (1) Increasing production of rice, wheat, pulses and coarse cereals through area expansion and productivity enhancement in a sustainable manner in the identified districts of the country.
- (2) Restoring soil fertility and productivity at the individual farm level; Creation of employment opportunities.
- (3) Enhancing farm level economy (*i.e.* farm profits) to restore confidence amongst the farmers.

(b) and (c) NFSM is being implemented in 29 States of the country. The NFSM component-wise details are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Component	No of States Covered
1.	NFSM-Rice	25
2.	NFSM-Wheat	11
3.	NFSM-Pulses	29
4.	NFSM-Coarse Cereals	28
5.	NFSM-Commercial Crops	19

The State of Kerala covered under NFSM-Rice and NFSM-Pulses has not implemented during the year 2016-17. Similarly, Assam has not implemented NFSM-Commercial Crop (Cotton) for the last three years. Karnataka has not implemented NFSM-Commercial Crops (Cotton and Sugarcane) during 2016-17. Madhya Pradesh has not implemented NFSM-Commercial Crop (Cotton) during 2015-16. Punjab has not implemented NFSM-Commercial Crops (Cotton and Sugarcane) during 2015-16. Rajasthan has not implemented NFSM-Commercial Crop (Cotton) during 2015-16. Haryana has not implemented NFSM-Commercial Crops (Cotton) during 2015-16. Telangana has not implemented NFSM-Commercial Crops (Cotton and Sugarcane) during 2015-16. Uttar Pradesh has not implemented NFSM-Commercial Crops (Cotton) during 2014-15 and 2015-16 and Bihar has not implemented NFSM-Commercial Crops (Sugarcane) during 2015-16.

(d) The Mission has helped in increasing production from the average of Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12) compared to the year 2016-17 (2nd Advance Estimates) which is as under:—

(Million tonnes)			
Crop	Average of 11th Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12)	2016-17 *	Increase in production (%)
Rice	97.25	108.86	11.94
Wheat	84.36	96.64	14.56
Coarse Cereals	39.95	44.34	10.99
Pulses	15.86	22.14	39.60

*DES, Second Advance Estimates.

(e) In order to provide an additional support for marketing of agricultural products, Government of India has implemented e-NAM (National Agriculture Market) in various Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) with selected commodities to provide better price to the farmers. Department has launched National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) on 14th April, 2016 with the objective to create barrier free market, enhance competition and transparency in transactions and widen choices to the farmers for sale of their produce.

Late sowing of crops

2573. SHRI K. T. S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey to evaluate the total number of farmers, in percentage and number, who were affected on account of late sowing

and delayed application of fertilizers due to their inability to buy seeds and fertilizers in the last three months; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare implements the Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Census, Economics and Statistics to collect data on various facets of Agriculture Sector through various components of the Scheme. However, no specific Survey has been conducted by the Ministry in the last three months to evaluate the total number of farmers, in percentage and number, who were affected on account of late sowing and delayed application of fertilizers due to their inability to buy seeds and fertilizers.

(b) Question does not arise.

Availability of fodder

2574. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total milk production in the country;

(b) the availability of fodder in the country;

(c) whether it is adequate for the total number of cattle; and

(d) if not, how Government proposes to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) As per Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2016 report, the total production of milk, during the year 2015-16 was 155.5 million tonnes of milk.

(b) and (c) As per Indian Council of Agriculture Research, Jhansi based Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute vision-2050 document, at present in the country, there is an estimated deficit of 35.6% green fodder (supply of 526 MT against demand of 817 MT) and 11.0% of dry forage (supply of 453 MT against demand of 509 MT)

(d) Government of India has already taken necessary steps to increase feed and fodder production in various parts the country by providing financial assistance to the States and UTs under Centrally Sponsored National Livestock Mission of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) with a Sub Mission on Feed and Fodder Development for the following components:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Components
1.	Fodder Production from Non-forest Wasteland/rangeland/grassland/non-arable land
2.	Fodder Production from Forest Land
3.	Fodder Seed Procurement/Production and Distribution
4.	Introduction of Hand Driven Chaff-Cutter
5.	Introduction of Power Driven Chaff-Cutter
6.	Distribution of low capacity, tractor mountable Fodder Block Making Units, hay baling machines/reapers/forage harvesters
7.	Establishment of Silage Making Units
8.	Establishment of by-pass Protein Production Units
9.	Establishment of Area Specific Mineral Mixture/Feed Pelleting/Feed Manufacturing Unit.
10.	Establishment/Modernization of Feed Testing Laboratories

Additional Fodder Development Programme (AFDP) as a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) of Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare is also being operational since 2014-15 to mitigate the adverse impacts of drought in drought affected States which is continuing at present.

Further, in addition to this, financial assistance is also provided under the normal programme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) of Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare for other fodder developmental activities planned by the States which is supported by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.

Raising productivity of indigenous breed

2575. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to focus on activities like dairy, fisheries and horticulture to double the income of farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the climate change is also a challenge for milk production, but indigenous breeds will be least affected by global warming; and

(c) if so, whether Government is considering to raise productivity of indigenous breed in the wake of climate change, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is focussing on activities in dairy, fisheries and horticulture sectors to double the income of farmers through the implementation of various schemes which are as follows:—

- (i) Dairy Development-The Schemes implemented are (a) National Programme for Bovine Breeding (NPBB); (b) Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM); (c) National Kamdhenu Breeding Centre (NKBC); (d) National Mission on Bovine Productivity (NMBP); (e) National Dairy Plan-I; (f) National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD); (g) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS).
- (ii) Fisheries: The restructured Central Sector Scheme on Blue Revolution Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries has been initiated with an outlay of ₹ 3000 crore.
- (iii) Horticulture: Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented w.e.f. 2014-15, for holistic growth of the horticulture sector.

(b) Yes, Sir. As per information supplied by Indian Council of Agricultural Research “the study pertaining to impact of climate stress on milk production of dairy animals has shown that current annual milk loss is 1.8 million tonnes. (Based on Milk production and climate records of several locations viz. Karnal, Jhansi, Bangalore, Hisar and Kalyani were used for developing the relationship between milk production and temperature humidity index. Developed algorithm for milk production decline were validated on high and low producing crossbred indigenous cows and buffaloes using 2005 to 2006 data of the Institute)”. In another study conducted at NDRI showed that, during Heat Stress period (01st April to 31st October) about 82g, 87g and 144g daily Milk Yield decreased with Unit increase in THI value in 50%, >50% to 62.5% and >62.5% Exotic Inheritances of Crossbred (Karan Fries) Cattle, respectively.

(c) In order to compliment and supplement the efforts made by the States to raise productivity of indigenous breed in the wake of climate change, Government of India is implementing the following schemes:—

- (i) National Programme for Bovine Breeding (NPBB) has been launched in February, 2014 with an integrated, holistic and scientific approach to improve and upgrade the genetic makeup of bovines with the aim of enhancing their production and productivity.
- (ii) Rashtriya Gokul Mission is being implemented 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.

- (iii) 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) Hariana cattle breeds and (i) Murrah (ii) Mehsana (iii) Pandharpuri (iv) Jaffarabadi (v) Banni and (vi) Nili Ravi buffalo breeds.
- (iv) Government has initiated a comprehensive scheme, National Mission on Bovine Productivity (NMBP) in November, 2016 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
- (v) 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.

Rules to curb farmers' suicides

2576. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise data of farmers' suicides in the last three years;
- (b) whether the Ministry is taking any steps to provide relief to State Governments and compensation to farmers' families, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Ministry is planning to draw up rules to curb farmers' suicides, if so, the details and timeline thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides upto 2015 are available at its website. The Report for the year 2016 has not been published yet. As per ADSI Reports for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015, the State-wise details of suicides have been given in the

Statement [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No. 2563 (Part 'a' and 'b')]. It is only from the year 2014 that NCRB has delineated the suicides as those of farmers and labourers.

(b) and (c) Agriculture, including agricultural indebtedness, being a State subject, the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture in the State. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. As per information available from the States, the details of relief etc. being provided are as follows:—

- State Government of Maharashtra gives *ex-gratia* relief of ₹ 1.00 lakh to the heirs of the deceased farmer as per scheme of State Government. The three norms of eligibility for *ex-gratia* are crop failure, indebtedness and harassment due to inability to pay agriculture related loans.
- The Punjab Government had constituted committee for providing compensation to victims' family to ₹ 3.00 lakh. The Punjab Government also introduced "Punjab Relief of Agriculture Indebtedness Bill" which will provide relief to the farmers from debt trap.
- Government of Andhra Pradesh is providing ₹ 5.00 lakh compensation to the family members of the deceased farmers. Out of which ₹ 1.50 lakh is as one time settlement to wipe off loans/liabilities and ₹ 3.50 lakh towards rehabilitation of the family members.
- The Government of Telangana has enhanced the *ex-gratia* from ₹ 1.00 lakh to ₹ 5.00 lakh to the family of the deceased farmer towards rehabilitation of the family and enhance loan settlement ceiling limit from ₹ 50 thousand to ₹ 1.00 lakh to the persons entitled as one time settlement and to wipe off all the liabilities on the part of deceased families of farmers.
- In Karnataka an amount of ₹ 1.00 lakh has been given to each of the deceased family from 2003-04 to 2014-15. From 01.04.2015 an amount of ₹ 5.00 lakh relief is provided to each of the deceased family and the children of the deceased will get free education up to post graduation including hostel facilities.

In so far as the Central Government is concerned, the strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Farm viability is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The Department has, therefore, been implementing various schemes to meet this objective, *viz.* Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Interest Subvention Schemes, etc.

Unique and concrete efforts for farmers

†2577. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has made various unique and concrete efforts during the last two and a half year for providing environment friendly, time-bound, reliable and high quality agricultural produces and services to farmers to make them economically prosperous, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether IFFCO is making a significant contribution to achieve Government's target to double the farmers' income with the help of NABARD, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Realizing the potential and benefits of organic farming particularly in areas like hilly, tribal and also in rainfed areas where utilization of chemical fertilizers and pesticides is relatively lower, the Government of India has made various and unique and concrete efforts by promoting organic farming in country through the dedicated schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVDNER) under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). The details about the Schemes PKVY and MOVDNER are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) No information is available in this Ministry.

Statement***Details of PKVY and MOVDNER Schemes***

Government of India is promoting organic farming in country through the schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVDNER) under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).

Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

The Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is a newly launched scheme under National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) to promote organic farming. The Government had allocated ₹ 300 crore for the year 2015-16. The farmers will form a cluster of 20 hectare land. The farmer will be provided ₹ 50, 000 per hectare per farmer in cluster during the 3 years to develop 10,000 organic clusters of 20 hectare

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

each so as to cover certified area by 2 lakh hectare during the 3 years and as per the guidelines of PKVY organic farming is promoted in such areas like hilly, tribal and also rainfed areas where utilization of chemical fertilizers and pesticide is less and of the total number of farmers in a cluster, a minimum of 65% and marginal farmer should belong to the small categories.

All India Status: The Annual Action Plan of 29 States and 1 Union Territory has been approved with total out lay of ₹ 511.67 crore to develop 7186 clusters.

Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region

Realizing the potential of organic farming in the North Eastern Region of the country, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched a Central Sector Scheme entitled “Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region” for implementation in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, during 2015-16 to 2017-18. The scheme aims at development of certified organic production in a value chain mode to link growers with consumers and to support the development of entire value chain starting from inputs, seeds, certification, to the creation of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing, marketing and brand building initiative. The scheme was approved with an outlay of ₹ 400 crore for three years.

The assistance is provided for cluster development, on/off farm input production, supply of seeds/ planting materials, setting up of functional infrastructure, establishment of integrated processing unit, refrigerated transportation, pre-cooling/cold stores chamber, branding labeling and packaging, hiring of space, hand holdings, organic certification through third party, mobilization of farmers/processors etc. Under this scheme, areas of 0.50 lakh ha have been targeted to be covered under organic farming in North Eastern Region of the country during 2015-16 to 2017-18.

Status of Scheme: An amount of ₹ 158.87 crore was allocated to the North-Eastern States during 2015-16 and during 2016-17 the allocation was made as ₹ 100 crore.

DBT Scheme for agriculture subsidy

2578. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total percentage of villages and districts covered under the Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) Scheme in agriculture subsidy;

(b) whether using DBT in agriculture subsidy has increased agricultural productivity; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Government has initiated implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in respect of 10 Schemes (both Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes).

The DBT aims to cover identified schemes across the country up to the Block Level for achieving the objectivities of the schemes/programmes.

(b) and (c) DBT is expected to increase the efficiency in delivery of various services and inputs envisaged in schemes covered by DBT.

Implementation of MIDH

2579. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets and achievements of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) since last three years;

(b) the details of the States where this scheme has been implemented very well;

(c) if this scheme is not being implemented properly in some States, whether Government is planning to overcome the same; 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) For the Integrated and holistic development of horticulture sector in the country, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is being implemented w.e.f. 2014-15. MIDH has six Sub-Schemes National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), National Agro-forestry Bamboo Mission (NABM*), National Horticulture Board (NHB), Coconut Development Board (CDB) and Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH) Nagaland. All the States and UTs are covered under the said mission.

The NHM and HMNEH are being implemented through State Governments on the basis of Annual Action Plan submitted by State Horticulture Mission (SHM). The details of the targets and achievements under MIDH since last three years are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) to (d) Some States such as Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka and Haryana have been performing better than other States. However, all the States under MIDH are endeavouring to achieve the agreed targets in a best possible manner

* NABM may not be part of MIDH post 31st March, 2017.

despite region specific issues and challenges. All necessary supports in terms of adequate fund allocation, training and hand holdings, expert advice and knowledge extension and continued guidance are extended to States which are lagging behind.

Statement

Details of the targets and achievements under MIDH scheme since last three years

Components	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17 (as on 15.03.2017)	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Area Coverage (Ha)	144315	139809	148035	138658	126756	100679
Rejuvenation (Ha)	48124	44620	22977	17487	13667	8869
PHM (Nos.)	20746	9178	11326	8622	11604	6496
Markets (Nos.)	1009	246	631	452	1906	267
Nurseries (Nos.)	252	97	113	62	94	50
Protected Cultivation (Ha)	29546	26189	34431	32043	36945	28776
IPM (Ha)	149080	103043	101001	75497	101578	40745
Water Resources (Nos.)	8362	6513	7015	4882	4016	2089

Note: This is based upon data uploaded by the States on NHM web portal. Targets stated above are based upon comprehensive targets indicated by the State while preparing their Annual Action Plans. The targets are dynamic and achievement against them depends upon availability of funds, State specific changes on priorities and specific issues and challenges.

More productivity with GM mustard

2580. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which Government is saying that GM mustard will boost edible oil production and bring down burden of huge import of edible oil into the country;

(b) the basis on which Government is claiming that there would be 26 per cent more productivity with GM mustard;

(c) whether Delhi University has developed five varieties of hybrid mustard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to bring them into market; and

(e) the details of provisions incorporated with regard to GM crops in the revised Seed Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) GM technology

is one of the technology (among the available technologies) to break the yield barrier in many crops including mustard through higher yield, pest and disease resistance, abiotic stresses tolerance, value addition and quality improvement. Genetically Modified Mustard hybrid DMH-11 developed by Delhi University had yielded 26 per cent more than the leading check varieties in the multi location trials conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research- Directorate of Rapeseed Mustard Research, Bharatpur over a period of three years. This will boost edible oil production and bring down import of edible oil.

(c) and (d) Delhi University has developed three non-Genetically Modified mustard hybrids DMH-1, DMH-3 and DMH-4 using Cytoplasmic Male Sterility technology.

(e) The provisions of compulsory registration and regulation of Genetically Modified crop varieties, mandatory clearance to be obtained under Environmental Protection Act 1986 from Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change, prescription of minimum labeling standards for transgenic seeds, regulation of import and sale of transgenic seeds and prohibition on the use of Genetic Use Restriction Technology (GURT) etc. had been duly incorporated in the Seeds Bill, 2004.

Enhancing Government's share under Micro Irrigation Schemes

2581. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether the Ministry of Agriculture is considering to enhance the share of Government of India under Micro Irrigation Schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): The funding pattern for Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) under which funds are made available to States for micro irrigation, is 90:10 between Government of India and State Government for the 8 North-Eastern and 3 Himalayan States and 60:40 for other States. There is no change in the funding pattern. However, the allocation for Micro Irrigation Scheme has increased by about 47% during 2016-17 over 2015-16 and the allocation for 2017-18 has been kept about 50% more than that of 2016-17.

Payment of wages to agricultural labourers

2582. SHRI K. T. S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the mode of payment of wages by farmers to labourers working in their fields; and

(b) the total number of such labourers, who remained unpaid on account of unavailability of cash with farmers post demonetisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) The mode of payment of wages by farmers to labourers is in cash or kind and both. Payment in kind is very common in rural areas and includes foodgrains, cooked food, tea, etc. For reporting purpose, wages paid in kind are evaluated at local market retail prices. However, no information is available on the number of labourers who remained unpaid on account of unavailability of cash with farmers post demonetisation.

Diversification of agricultural production

2583. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any comprehensive plan for diversification of agricultural production in view of increasing population against fast decreasing agricultural land; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) There is no separate plan for diversification of agricultural production. Indian Agriculture is bestowed with the diversified production in agriculture and allied sectors.

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Government of India is already implementing Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) in the States which provides flexibility to the States to take up any project to raise production and productivity in agriculture and allied sectors. Besides, DAC&FW is also supplementing the efforts of the State Governments for increasing agricultural production by providing assistance under various ongoing Schemes *viz.*, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET), Soil Health Card Scheme, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) etc. for agriculture sector, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for horticulture sector. Crop Diversification Programme in Original Green Revolution States of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh, a sub scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) also ensures to divert the area of water guzzling paddy to

alternate crops like pulses, oilseeds, maize, cotton and agro forestry system. The Programme has been extended to tobacco growing States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal to encourage tobacco growing farmers to shift to alternate crops/cropping system w.e.f. 2015-16.

Research Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also endeavor through research programmes to explore suitable crop diversification options for diversification of predominant cropping systems for sustainability, higher productivity and profitability.

Upgradation and modernisation of KVKs

2584. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to upgrade and modernise the existing Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs); and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the Twelfth Plan, selected existing KVKs have been provided with additional facilities like Rain Water Harvesting Structure with Micro Irrigation System(44), Soil and Water Testing facility(167), Minimal Processing facility(39), Carp Hatchery facility(30), Integrated Farming System (IFS) (362), and e-Extension facility(141). Similarly, selected KVKs have been provided with new facilities viz. Technology Information Unit(245), Mini Seed Processing facility(12), Provision of 25 KVA silent Genset(98), Micro Nutrient Analysis facility(7), establishment of vKVK and KVK Net(74), e-Farmers facility(141), Specialized KVKs(12), Mini Soil Testing Labs(400), and Pulses Seed Hubs(97).

The State/UT-wise number of existing KVKs considered for modernizing with additional facilities and new facilities during Twelfth Plan is given in the Statement.

9.	Gujarat	0	1	2	0	28	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	21	6
10.	Haryana	0	1	0	0	15	9	14	0	2	0	0	0	15	2
11.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	12	6	11	0	2	0	0	0	7	1
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	12	13	8	0	5	0	0	0	11	0
13.	Jharkhand	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	0	16	3
14.	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	8
15.	Kerala	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	10	0
16.	Madhya Pradesh	0	4	2	2	41	0	0	0	9	0	0	1	31	9
17.	Maharashtra	11	31	0	0	11	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	35	8
18.	Manipur	2	6	2	0	8	3	5	1	5	1	9	0	6	1
19.	Meghalaya	2	2	3	0	5	1	5	0	2	0	5	1	3	0
20.	Mizoram	2	2	2	1	4	3	4	1	4	0	8	1	8	0
21.	Nagaland	2	6	2	0	9	3	5	2	3	1	9	1	8	0
22.	Odisha	0	13	1	4	29	0	0	0	9	0	0	1	10	7
23.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
24.	Punjab	0	3	0	0	16	11	15	0	4	0	0	0	16	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
25.	Rajasthan	0	1	1	0	42	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	25	8
26.	Sikkim	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	4	0	3	0
27.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	19	6
28.	Telangana	1	7	0	1	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
29.	Tripura	1	0	1	2	3	2	3	1	1	0	4	0	0	0
30.	Uttarakhand	9	6	1	2	13	13	10	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
31.	Uttar Pradesh	5	45	6	5	67	68	50	4	10	0	0	0	45	10
32.	West Bengal	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	3
TOTAL		44	167	39	30	362	141	245	12	98	7	74	12	400	97

Implementation of Soil Health Card Scheme

2585. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Soil Health Cards given to the farmers so far, State-wise, since inception of the scheme;

(b) the number of farmers who got their Soil Health Cards in Tamil Nadu, district-wise; and

(c) the number of Soil Testing laboratories in the country, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) As on 21.03.2017, 582.76 lakh Soil Health Cards have been issued to farmers. The details of State-wise number of Soil Health Cards given to farmers are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) District-wise Number of farmers given Soil Health Cards in Tamil Nadu is given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) There are 1460 Number of Soil Testing Laboratories in the country. State-wise details are given in the Statement-III.

Statement-I

Number of Soil Health Cards Distributed to farmers since inception of the scheme

Sl. No.	State	No. of SHCs Distributed to farmers (in lakh)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	43.55
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.01
3.	Assam	1.40
4.	Bihar	29.04
5.	Chhattisgarh	36.79
6.	Goa	0.20
7.	Gujarat	24.15
8.	Haryana	4.88
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4.60

1	2	3
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.28
11.	Jharkhand	1.82
12.	Karnataka	37.89
13.	Kerala	2.37
14.	Madhya Pradesh	47.11
15.	Maharashtra	102.85
16.	Manipur	0.05
17.	Meghalaya	0.48
18.	Mizoram	0.08
19.	Nagaland	0.17
20.	Odisha	16.73
21.	Punjab	6.45
22.	Rajasthan	32.90
23.	Sikkim	0.27
24.	Tamil Nadu	58.06
25.	Telangana	28.42
26.	Tripura	0.85
27.	Uttarakhand	5.78
28.	Uttar Pradesh	73.57
29.	West Bengal	21.01
TOTAL		582.76

Statement-II

District-wise number of farmers who got their Soil Health Cards in Tamil Nadu

Sl. No.	District	Soil Health Card Distribution/No. of Farmers		
		2015-16	2016-17 upto 15.03.17	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Kancheepuram	61011	60014	121025
2.	Thiruvallur	74317	54060	128377
3.	Cuddalore	146696	162195	308891

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Villupuram	135000	236565	371565
5.	Vellore	86813	114036	200849
6.	T.V. Malai	134579	132656	267235
7.	Salem	107334	147772	255106
8.	Namakkal	91993	81209	173202
9.	Dharmapuri	70663	107826	178489
10.	Krishnagiri	83518	160165	243683
11.	Coimbatore	38000	76482	114482
12.	Tiruppur	31986	76934	108920
13.	Erode	57944	103662	161606
14.	Trichy	96379	127524	223903
15.	Perambalur	38261	81554	119815
16.	Ariyalur	31016	73186	104202
17.	Karur	78053	64078	142131
18.	Pudukkottai	120811	86091	206902
19.	Thanjavur	60046	185224	245270
20.	Nagapattinam	79127	63007	142134
21.	Thiruvavur	60627	108866	169493
22.	Madurai	87527	145498	233025
23.	Theni	79545	64999	144544
24.	Dindigul	45021	171149	216170
25.	Ramnad	61588	85816	147404
26.	Sivagangai	156857	163497	320354
27.	Virudhunagar	65931	69144	135075
28.	Tirunelveli	84203	140120	224323
29.	Tuticorin	70287	104800	175087
30.	Kanyakumari	66442	84003	150445
31.	Ooty	27884	43677	71561
TOTAL		2429459	3375809	5805268

Statement-III*Details of State-wise number of Soil Testing Labs*

Sl. No.	State	Number of STLs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	95
2.	Karnataka	65
3.	Kerala	34
4.	Tamil Nadu	49
5.	Puducherry	2
6.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
7.	Telangana	24
8.	Gujarat	141
9.	Madhya Pradesh	63
10.	Maharashtra	181
11.	Rajasthan	114
12.	Chhattisgarh	32
13.	Goa	4
14.	Haryana	40
15.	Punjab	71
16.	Uttarakhand	16
17.	Uttar Pradesh	291
18.	Himachal Pradesh	21
19.	Jammu and Kashmir	24
20.	Delhi	1
21.	Bihar	45
22.	Jharkhand	16
23.	Odisha	33
24.	West Bengal	36
25.	Assam	15
26.	Tripura	8
27.	Manipur	8
28.	Meghalaya	6
29.	Nagaland	4

Sl. No.	State	Number of STLs
30.	Arunachal Pradesh	8
31.	Sikkim	6
32.	Mizoram	6
TOTAL		1460

Procurement of agricultural commodities

2586. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fund allocated and spent during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticulture and agricultural commodities, which are perishable and not covered under Price Support System, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the details of procurement made by Government under MIS during last two years and the current year, State-wise and item-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) 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 audited accounts submitted by them. A Statement indicating the Central Share of losses released to the State Governments/State Agencies along with the details of the commodities procured under MIS during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, State-wise, year-wise and item-wise is given in the Statement.

Statement

(A) Details of Central Share of losses released under MIS during
2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17

Year	State Government/State agency	Commodity	Amount (₹ in lakhs)
2014-15	Himachal Pradesh	Apple	390.57
	Nagaland	Pineapple	249.79
2015-16	Mizoram	Iskut (Chayote)	31.50
	Nagaland	Ginger	522.61
2016-17		Nil	

*(B) Details of commodities procured under MIS during
2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17*

Sl. No.	Year	Commodity	Market Intervention Price (MIP) (₹ per MT)	State	Sanctioned Qty. (in MTs.)
1.	2014-15 01.05.2014 to 16.06.2014	Chilli	42,000/-	Mizoram	2,850
2.	2014-15 15.08.2014 to 15.10.2014	'C' Grade Apple	6,500/-	Himachal Pradesh	27,000
3.	2014-15 25.11.2014 to 25.12.2014	Ginger	9,050/-	Nagaland	32,000
4.	2015-16 20.05.2015 to 20.06.2015	Potato	4,250/-	Uttar Pradesh	1,00,000
5.	2015-16 15.12.2015 to 14.03.2016	Oil Palm FFB	7,888/-	Andhra Pradesh	1,14,963
6.	2016-17 01.09.2016 to 30.09.2016	Grapes	42,000/-	Mizoram	3,800
7.	2016-17 01.11.2016 to 30.11.2016	Onion	6,240/-	Karnataka	1,00,000
8.	2016-17 01.12.2016 to 30.12.2016	Onion	7,070/-	Telangana	5,000
9.	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
10.	2016-17 14.12.2016 to 12.01.2017	Palm-Oil	7,650/-	Tamil Nadu	1,000
11.	2016-17 17.02.2017 to 18.03.2017	Ginger	8,750/-	Arunachal Pradesh	12,675

Suicide by farmers

2587. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers' suicides increased by 42 per cent between 2014 and 2015;

(b) if so, what factors have contributed to the phenomenon;

(c) whether the data include the deaths of agricultural labourers, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has drawn up plans to address the agrarian crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). As per ADSI Report of 2015, the number of suicides by farmers/cultivators has gone up from 5650 in 2014 to 8,007 in 2015, registering an increase of 41.7%. Suicides by agricultural labourers have however, come down from 6,710 in 2014 to 4,595 in 2015. Thus, total number of suicides in Farming Sector increased by 2% in 2015 over 2014. Further, as per this Report, 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' and 'Farming Related Issues' are reported as major causes of suicides among farmers/cultivators. Other prominent causes of farmers/cultivators suicides are family problems, illness, etc.

(d) The focus of the Government is on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Farm viability is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The Department has been implementing various schemes to meet this objective, viz. Soil Health Card Scheme (SHC), Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM) and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

In addition, the Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2015-16, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount.

Further, the Government is implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Assessment of damage caused due to drought in Karnataka

2588. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any detailed assessment of the damage caused to the farmers due to severe drought in Karnataka, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the districts of Karnataka affected due to failure of rainfall this year; and

(c) the kind of support, other than loans, Central Government has provided to the affected farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) The State Governments are primarily responsible for taking necessary relief in the wake of natural calamities including drought 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). Entire Central Share of SDRF amounting to ₹ 217.50 crores has been released for 2016-17.

If fund available in SDRF is insufficient to cater to relief operations, State can request additional central assistance over and above SDRF for natural calamities of severe nature, from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) by submitting a detailed relief memorandum to the Central Government. On receipt of such a Memorandum, Central Government constitutes an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) to visit the affected areas, assess the situation and submit a report on assessment of damages for recommending appropriate Central assistance to the State.

During 2016-17, State Government of Karnataka submitted memorandum seeking central assistance for drought during Kharif after declaring drought in 26 districts {Bagalkote, Ballari, Belagavi, Bengaluru (Rural), Bengaluru (Urban), Chamarajanagar, Chikballapur, Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Dharwad, Gadag, Hassan, Haveri, Kodagu, Kolar, Koppal, Mandya, Mysuru, Raichur, Ramanagara, Shivamogga, Tumkur, Uttara Kannada, Vijayapura, and Yadgir}. The Government of Karnataka also declared drought in all the 30 districts in the State during Rabi 2016-17.

The Central Government constituted IMCTs which after visits to the drought affected areas in Karnataka submitted their report and recommendations. On the basis of IMCT reports, ₹ 1782.44 crores has been approved from NDRF for Kharif. However, assistance for drought during Rabi is under consideration of the Central Government.

Steps to double the income of farmers

2589. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any effective steps to double the per-capita income of farmers with small, medium and marginal land holdings by 2020;

- (b) if so, details thereof and the funds earmarked for the same;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any studies on the Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers to calculate the average definite income of farmers;
- (d) if so, details thereof and the per-capita income of farmers with small, medium and marginal land holdings; and
- (e) the process through which Government segregate the poor, small, medium and marginal farmers from the rich landlords having large land holdings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) In order to achieve the target of doubling of income of farmers by the year 2022, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, for the following aspects:—

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

The Committee has so far held five meetings so far to evolve a suitable strategy.

The focus of the Government is on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Farm viability is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The Department has been implementing various schemes to meet this objective, viz. Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

In addition, the Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2015-16, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to

be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. The Government is also implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.* National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP). The Commission collects and analyses data on cost of cultivation and recommends MSP.

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 Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production.

The Government has enhanced the budget allocation for the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare from ₹ 35,983.69 crore BE (including ₹ 20,400.00 crore for Plan) during 2016-17 to ₹ 41,855.00 crore (including non-schemes) BE during 2017-18.

(c) to (e) The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducted "Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households" during NSS 70th round (January 2013-December 2013) in the rural areas of the country with reference to the agricultural year July 2012-June 2013. The survey estimated the average monthly income per agricultural household as ₹ 6426/. The details for different size classes of land possessed are given in the Statement (*See below*).

The Agriculture Census in the country is conducted at an interval of five years to collect data on operational holdings. In Agriculture Census, farmers are not classified as rich and poor. However, according to the size of the holding, the operational holdings are categorized in various size groups as per the following criteria:—

Size Groups	Size of holding (in hectare)
Marginal	Below 1.00 ha.
Small	1.00-below 2.00 ha.
Semi-Medium	2.00-below 4.00 ha.

Size Groups	Size of holding (in hectare)
Medium	4.00-below 10.00 ha.
Large	10.00 ha. and above

Statement

Estimated average monthly income (₹) from different sources per agricultural household during July 2012-June 2013 for each size class of land possessed (ha.)

Size class of land possessed (ha.)	Average monthly income				
	Income from wages/salary	Net receipt from agricultural activities		Net receipt from non-farm business	Total
		Cultivation*	Farming of animals		
1	2	3	4	5	6
<0.01	2902	30	1181	447	4561
0.01-0.40	2386	687	621	459	4152
0.41-1.00	2011	2145	629	462	5247
1.01-2.00	1728	4209	818	593	7348
2.01-4.00	1657	7359	1161	554	10730
4.01-10.00	2031	15243	1501	861	19637
10.00 +	1311	35685	2622	1770	41388
ALL SIZES	2071	3081	763	512	6426

*cultivation includes field crops and plantation/orchard crops.

Source: Table 1, Appendix A of NSS Report No. 576: Income, Expenditure, Productive Assets and Indebtedness of Agricultural Households in India, 2012-13.

Production and Procurement of Wheat and Rice

2590. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of wheat and rice during the last two years, year-wise; and

(b) the procurement of wheat and rice during 2014-15 and 2015-16?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) The details of

production and procurement of wheat and rice in the country during the last two years *i.e.* 2014-15 and 2015-16 are as under:—

(million tonnes)

Year	Production		Procurement	
	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
2014-15	86.53	105.48	28.02	32.04
2015-16	92.29	104.41	28.09	34.22

Revival of defunct fertilizer plants

2591. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to involve Central Public Sector Undertakings to collaborate for revival of fertilizer plants in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of fertilizer plants presently under consideration of the Government for such collaboration and revival and the steps taken for revival of those plants which are left out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to revive five closed units namely Gorakhpur, Sindri, Talcher and Ramagundam Units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and Barauni Unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) through 'Nomination Route' by nominating Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSU). Unit-wise detail about the CPSUs nominated and steps taken, so far, for the revival of these units are as under:—

Talcher Unit:

- A consortium of four PSUs namely Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, GAIL (India) Limited, Coal India Limited and FCIL has been nominated to revive the Talcher Unit of FCIL by setting up a coal based fertilizer plant of 1.27 Million Metric Tonne Per Annum capacity.
- Joint Venture Company named "Talcher Fertilizers Limited (TFL)" has been formed.
- Selection of coal gasification technology for the Talcher unit has been finalized.

Ramagundam Unit:

- 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 by setting up a gas based fertilizer plant of 1.27 MMTPA capacity.
- Joint Venture Company named “Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited” has been formed.
- Project activities are in progress.

Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni Units:

- A Special Purpose Vehicle of Public Sector Units namely, National Thermal Power Corporation, Coal India Limited, Indian Oil Corporation Limited and FCIL/HFCL has been nominated to revive Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni Units.
- Pre-Feasibility studies has been completed.
- Geo Technical Investigation and Topographic studies has been completed.
- Bathymetric and Topographic studies for Chilwa Taal at Gorakhpur have been completed.
- The selection of LSTK contractors is in progress.

Those plants which are left out:

A view on revival of Korba Unit of FCIL would be taken later after viewing the progress of revival of above mentioned Units of FCIL/HFCL as well as based on the assessment of demand-supply gap of urea in the country. HFCL has no land lease agreements for land of its units at Haldia and Durgapur. Keeping in view land issues at Haldia and Durgapur, no plan has been formulated, so far, to revive Haldia and Durgapur Units of HFCL.

Quality of imported fertilizers

†2592. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the imported fertilizers are of inferior quality;

(b) if so, whether adequate testing facilities are available as per international standards for testing of imported fertilizers; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the steps taken for import of good quality fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) No, Sir. During last three years the number of non standard fertilizers ships/containers are in the range of 3-4.5% only.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The methods for analysis of various parameters of all the fertilizers have been prescribed in Schedule II of the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985, in consonance with Association of official Analytical chemist (AOAC) Method” that is internationally recognised. At present, there are four notified Central Government Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCLs), namely, Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute (CFQC&TI) and its three Regional Fertilizer Control Laboratories (RFCLs), which have been entrusted with the responsibility to check the quality of imported fertilizers. These laboratories carry out the analysis as per the methods notified in the FCO.

Slash in price of Stents

2593. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: 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 about 85 per cent, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether NPPA has also been advised to bring out a notification in this regard;

(c) whether Government is aware that prices of stents are still very high and serious irregularities are taking place in the market; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to control the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) 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%).

(c) and (d) The ceiling prices of stents have been fixed by NPPA after taking into account the prices of various types and brands of stents prevailing in the market. Government, through NPPA, is continuously monitoring the situation.

Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy

2594. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether the recently released draft National Pharmaceutical Policy attempts to address the twin concerns of keeping medicines affordable and taking on board the industry concerns;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the policy moves away from cost of production based system to the more transparent market based pricing system; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) No draft National Pharmaceutical Policy has been recently released. The last Policy *i.e.* National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Policy, 2012 (NPPP, 2012) was notified on 7th December, 2012. The objective of this Policy was to put in place a regulatory framework for pricing of drugs so as to ensure availability of required medicines – “essential medicines” at reasonable prices even while providing sufficient opportunity for innovation and competition to support the growth of pharma industry, thereby meeting the goals of employment and shared economic well-being for all.

(b) and (c) The NPPP, 2012 however, has moved from cost based to market based pricing. The main features of NPPP, 2012 are that it is based on essentiality and the price control is on formulations only. Further, as per this policy the price is fixed based on market data.

Setting up of clusters in Pharma Sector

2595. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has invited companies to set up pharma clusters in various parts of the country;

(b) whether only one cluster is operational, so far;

(c) whether Government is yet to come out with rules for marketing by pharmaceutical and medical devices companies; and

(d) whether Government has been consulting the industry on this for quite some time and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Pharmaceuticals is operating a Scheme for assistance to Pharma Clusters. The Scheme is to be implemented on Public-Private Partnership format through a one time grant-in-aid to be released in various phases for creation of identified infrastructure and common facilities to Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) set up for the purpose. The Scheme Steering Committee (SSC) has so far approved the proposal for 1 project at Chennai.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government after consulting the industry has announced a Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) for Pharmaceutical and Medical Device companies, which has been in operation since 01.01.2015.

Pharma Companies manufacturing Generic Drugs

2596. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the manufacturers of generic drugs and the companies registered for their manufacture in the country;

(b) whether these manufacturers are associated with Food and Drug Administration (FDA); and

(c) the detailed list of the drugs manufactured by the aforesaid companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (c) Manufacturing of drugs in the country is regulated under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 made thereunder through a system of inspection and licensing. Licenses for manufacturing of drugs are granted by State Licensing Authorities appointed by respective State Governments. However, data regarding manufacturers of drugs and names of drugs manufactured by them is not maintained at Central level. Under the said Act and Rules, there is neither any separate definition for generic drugs nor any separate system of Licensing of generic drugs.

PSUs in Pharma sector

2597. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Sector Undertakings in the pharmaceutical sector along with those that have been disinvested;

(b) whether Government proposes to increase participation in the pharmaceutical industry to manufacture low cost drugs to improve accessibility of medicines for the lower sections of the society; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) There are five Public Sector Undertakings functioning under the aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals, namely, Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (KAPL), Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL), Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL), Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (RDPL) and Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL). All these PSUs except KAPL, are sick/loss making. The Government has decided for closure of IDPL and RDPL and strategic sale of BCPL and HAL.

(b) and (c) The domestic Pharma Industry is well developed and has achieved a leadership position and global presence as a world class cost effective generic drugs manufacturer. The Government does not intend to increase its presence in manufacture of drugs. Government is ensuring access of quality, cost effective generic medicines to lower sections of the society through Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).

Setting up of Jan Aushadhi Kendras

†2598. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Jan Aushadhi Kendras in the country under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana has increased by seven times in the last two and a half years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up Jan Aushadhi Kendras at the level of each block and Gram Panchayat of the country; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra' (PMBJK) in the country under 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana' (PMBJP) has increased manifold. The details of PMBJKs opened is as under:—

Upto May 2014	As on 31.03.2015	As on 31.03.2016	As on 20.03.2017
82	99	269	956

(c) and (d) The scheme does not have any special provision for opening PMBJKs in each block and gram panchayat of the country. However, the Government has amended the guidelines to provide that PMBJKs may be opened by State Governments or Government Agencies in any Government building premises owned by Government Bodies like Railways/State Transport Department/Urban Local Bodies/ Panchayati Raj Institutions/Post Offices/Defence/PSUs etc. In view of the above, it is expected that many blocks and gram panchayats may also get covered under the scheme. Besides, eligible private applicants can also open the Kendras at a place of their choice.

Complaints to NPPA on pharma companies

2599. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has received a complaint from a whistleblower alleging that some leading pharma companies colluded to fix the price of diabetes drug Vildagliptin;

(b) if so, the details of the complaint;

(c) whether NPPA has conducted any inquiry into the allegation;

(d) whether NPPA has sought views of the concerned companies on the allegation; and

(e) if so, the details of their defence to the allegation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has received an email complaint regarding this matter. Also, there was a news item in Economic Times, Mumbai on 01.03.2017 that a whistleblower alleged that M/s Novartis, M/s Abbott, M/s Emcure and

M/s USV Pharma colluded to fix price of Vildagliptin. Vildagliptin is a non-scheduled formulation and hence no ceiling price has been fixed by NPPA for the formulation. As provided in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013), there is no control on the launch price of non-scheduled medicines. The only monitoring tool available with NPPA for such cases in accordance with DPCO, 2013 is to check that the MRP of the formulation does not exceed 10% of the MRP of the preceding 12 months.

(c) The complaint and news item has been forwarded to Competition Commission of India.

(d) and (e) DPCO, 2013 does not provide for price fixation of such medicines which are non-scheduled formulations.

Opening more Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Government Hospitals

†2600. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to increase the number of Jan Aushadhi Kendras within the premises of Government hospitals;

(b) whether Government has any national level data regarding the total number of such Kendras opened till date for providing medicines through these Kendras in view of the large number of poor people coming to Government hospitals for treatment throughout the country; and

(c) the Government's plans for maintaining continuous supply of medicines in these Kendras after opening them, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 20.03.2017, 956 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra' (PMBJK) have been opened across the country out of which 269 PMBJKs are functional in various Government building premises including Government hospitals of the country. A State-wise list of 269 PMBJKs functional in Government building premises including Government hospitals is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The logistics and supply chain have been streamlined by appointing Carrying and Forwarding (C&F) agents and Distributors across the country for continuous supply of medicines to all PMBJKs including those located in Government hospital premises of the country.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

State-wise list of PMBJKs functional in Government building premises including Government hospitals

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of PMBJKs functional in Government building premises including Government hospitals
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
3.	Assam	1
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	13
5.	Bihar	0
6.	Chandigarh	4
7.	Chhattisgarh	132
8.	Daman and Diu	0
9.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
10.	Delhi	5
11.	Goa	0
12.	Gujarat	0
13.	Haryana	0
14.	Himachal Pradesh	10
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	13
16.	Jharkhand	12
17.	Karnataka	8
18.	Kerala	0
19.	Lakshadweep	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	0
21.	Maharashtra	1
22.	Manipur	0
23.	Meghalaya	0
24.	Mizoram	2

1	2	3
25.	Nagaland	0
26.	Odisha	22
27.	Puducherry	0
28.	Punjab	21
29.	Rajasthan	1
30.	Sikkim	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	0
32.	Telangana	0
33.	Tripura	7
34.	Uttar Pradesh	1
35.	Uttarakhand	6
36.	West Bengal	0
TOTAL		269

Benefits of Neem coated Urea

2601. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Neem coated urea has helped in curbing diversion of urea up to 20 per cent which is worth ₹ 12000 crore;

(b) whether 100 per cent Neem coating of urea has led to reduction in consumption and higher yield;

(c) when was the idea of Neem coating came to Government and the steps taken thereafter for its roll out; and

(d) whether cut in prices of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers has helped in balanced use of fertilizers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) was entrusted to conduct a study to determine the impact of Neem Coated Urea. The interim report prepared by Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre (ADRTC), Bengaluru has been submitted by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW). The brief findings of the study are as follows:—

- (i) Improvement in soil health.
- (ii) Reduction in costs with respect to plant protection chemicals.
- (iii) Reduction in pest and disease attack.
- (iv) An increase in yield of Paddy, Sugarcane, Maize, Soybean and Tur/Red Gram to an extent of 5.79%, 17.5%, 7.14%, 7.4% and 16.88% respectively.
- (v) Diversion of highly subsidized urea towards non-agricultural purposes negligible among farmers after the introduction of the mandatory policy of production and distribution of only Neem coated urea.

Moreover, the availability of Urea during 2015-16 and in the current year is more than the requirement and sales. Further, some State Governments have reduced their requirement which was initially projected. There is no report of shortages received from any of the State Government. It is, therefore, perceived that Neem Coating of Urea has helped in curbing the diversion.

The details of consumption of urea during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Urea			
	Kharif	Rabi	Total	Kg/Hectare
2014-15	141.67	164.63	306.10	152.53
2015-16	152.70	153.64	306.35	149.61
2016-17	143.64*	Not finalized Yet		

*Estimated

The figures regarding production and yield is as under:—

Year	Area (Million Hectares)	Production (MT)	Yield (Kg./Hectare)
2010-11	126.67	244.49	1930
2011-12	124.75	259.29	2078
2012-13	120.78	257.13	2129
2013-14	125.04	265.04	2120
2014-15	124.30	252.02	2028
2015-16	123.22	251.57	2042
2016-17*	126.48	271.98	2150

*Second Advance Estimates.

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics.

(c) With the approval of CCEA, the Government on 2nd June, 2008 had notified the policy for encouraging production and availability of fortified and coated fertilizers in the country wherein the indigenous manufacturers/producers of the subsidized fertilizers were allowed to produce fortified/coated subsidized fertilizers up to a maximum of 20% of their total production of respective subsidized fertilizers. This ceiling of production of Neem Coated Urea (NCU) was increased from the limit of 20% to a maximum of 35% of their total production *vide* notification dated 11th January, 2011.

The Government *vide* notification dated 7th January, 2015 removed the cap/restriction to produce Neem Coated Urea and *vide* subsequent notification dated 24th March, 2015 made mandatory for all the indigenous producers of urea to produce 75% of their total production of subsidized urea as Neem Coated Urea.

Subsequently, *vide* notification dated 25th May, 2015 Department of Fertilizers has made it mandatory for all the domestic producers of urea to produce 100% as Neem Coated Urea with an extra MRP of 5% (of ₹ 5360/- per MT) to be charged by the fertilizer manufacturing entities from farmers. Entire quantity of indigenously produced urea and imported urea is being neem coated w.e.f 1st September, 2015 and 1st December, 2015 respectively.

(d) The P&K fertilizer companies have reduced the MRP of MOP, DAP and NPK by ₹ 5000/MT, ₹ 2500/MT and ₹ 1000/MT respectively in the month of June 2016 and again ₹ 1300/MT for DAP in the month of December, 2016 and it seems that the reduction of prices of P&K fertilizers will encourage the farmers to use more P&K fertilizers which will help the balanced use of fertilizers.

Delay in OFC-Based Network for Defence Services

2602. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that OFC-based network for Defence Services is witnessing considerable time and cost overrun due to one reason or the other, if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(b) whether Government has formulated any strategy to complete the work in a time-bound manner for putting an effective communication network in place, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) OFC based network for Defence Services has two components:

- (i) Laying of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC).
- (ii) Procurement and installation of equipments.

The Project is being executed by BSNL. As per tenders for OFC, the tendered cost is more than the estimated cost. Similarly, for tenders issued for equipments, the tendered amount is more than the estimated cost. Thus, there will be cost overrun for the project.

The time overrun has occurred due to numerous reasons, such as:—

- Delay in Right of Way (RoW) approval from State and Central Government and their agencies.
- Limitation of working season in mountainous areas, due to snow cover and weather conditions etc.
- Law and Order situation in Jammu and Kashmir State and some North Eastern States.
- Delays in tender finalisation.
- Court cases by bidding parties.

In order to ensure early completion of project regular meetings are being held by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) with concerned State and Central Government Departments and their agencies. The bottlenecks and hindrances are sorted out in these co-ordination and monitoring meetings.

Number of telephone exchanges in the country

†2603. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of telephone exchanges existing in the country, as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges in the rural areas of the different States during the present Five Year Plan;

(c) the details of those areas where telephone exchanges are not functional as on date, State-wise;

(d) the details of the telephone exchanges which have undergone modernisation and upgradation, so far, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by Government to ensure smooth functioning of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

these telephone exchanges and upgradation of the present telephone exchanges with State of the art technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), telecom operator-wise, service area-wise number of telephone exchanges in the country as on 31st December 2016 with urban and rural bifurcation is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) to (e) As reported by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), all telephone exchanges are functioning properly and all the telephone exchanges are modernized and upgraded from time to time using State of the art technology.

Statement

(A) Details of Telecom Service Provider-wise telephone exchanges in the country

Sl. No.	Name of Telecom Service Provider	No. of Telephone Exchanges (Q.E Dec-2016)		
		Rural	Urban	Total (Urban + Rural)
1.	Bharti Airtel	0	36	36
2.	BSNL	25976	8697	34673
3.	MTNL	0	593	593
4.	Quadrant	0	4	4
5.	Reliance	0	25	25
6.	Sistema Shyam	0	3	3
7.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	0	35	35
8.	Vodafone	1	53	54
TOTAL		25977	9446	35423

(B) State-wise details of number of telephone exchanges in the country for quarter ending December-2016

Sl. No.	Name of Telecom Service Area	Bharti			BSNL		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh (Total)	0	1	1	2511	599	3110
(a)	Andhra Pradesh (Excluding Telangana)		1	1	2511	599	3110
(b)	Telangana			0			0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Assam			0	400	170	570
3.	Bihar (Total)	0	0	0	1256	425	1681
(a)	Bihar (Excluding Jharkhand)			0	963	233	1196
(b)	Jharkhand			0	293	192	485
4.	Delhi		8	8			0
5.	Gujarat		1	1	1879	546	2425
6.	Haryana		1	1	796	239	1035
7.	Himachal Pradesh			0	946	127	1073
8.	Jammu and Kashmir			0	205	111	316
9.	Karnataka		4	4	2199	596	2795
10.	Kerala		1	1	1049	258	1307
11.	Kolkata		1	1	0	486	486
12.	Madhya Pradesh (Total)	0	5	5	2150	872	3022
(a)	Madhya Pradesh (Excluding Chhattisgarh)		5	5	1793	670	2463
(b)	Chhattisgarh			0	357	202	559
13.	Maharashtra (Including Goa and Mumbai)	0	4	4	3831	691	4522
(a)	Maharashtra (Excluding Mumbai and Goa)		1	1	3831	691	4522
(b)	Goa			0			0
(c)	Mumbai		3	3			0
14.	North East (Total)	0	0	0	271	136	407
(a)	Arunachal Pradesh			0	129	72	201
(b)	Manipur			0			0
(c)	Meghalaya			0			0
(d)	Mizoram			0			0
(e)	Nagaland			0	142	64	206
(f)	Tripura			0			0
15.	Odisha			0	811	272	1083
16.	Punjab		2	2	1194	289	1483

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17.	Rajasthan		1	1	1671	399	2070
18.	Tamil Nadu (Including Chennai)	0	5	5	1276	1058	2334
(a)	Tamil Nadu (Excluding Chennai)		5	5	1196	808	2004
(b)	Chennai			0	80	250	330
19.	Uttar Pradesh East		1	1	1542	571	2113
20.	Uttar Pradesh-West (Total)	0	1	1	817	609	1426
(a)	Uttar Pradesh West (Excluding Uttarakhand)		1	1	502	481	983
(b)	Uttarakhand			0	315	128	443
21.	West Bengal (Total)	0	0	0	1172	243	1415
(a)	West Bengal (Excluding Andaman and Nicobar and Sikkim)			0	1128	237	1365
(b)	Andaman and Nicobar Islands			0	44	6	50
(c)	Sikkim			0			0
TOTAL		0	36	36	25976	8697	34673

Sl. No.	Name of Telecom Service Area	MTNL			Quadrant		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1	2	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh (Total)	0	0	0	0	0	0
(a)	Andhra Pradesh (Excluding Telangana)			0			0
(b)	Telangana			0			0
2.	Assam			0			0
3.	Bihar (Total)	0	0	0	0	0	0
(a)	Bihar (Excluding Jharkhand)			0			0

1	2	9	10	11	12	13	14
(b)	Jharkhand			0			0
4.	Delhi	0	338	338			0
5.	Gujarat			0			0
6.	Haryana			0			0
7.	Himachal Pradesh			0			0
8.	Jammu and Kashmir			0			0
9.	Karnataka			0			0
10.	Kerala			0			0
11.	Kolkata			0			0
12.	Madhya Pradesh (Total)	0	0	0	0	0	0
(a)	Madhya Pradesh (Excluding Chhattisgarh)			0			0
(b)	Chhattisgarh			0			0
13.	Maharashtra (including Goa and Mumbai)	0	255	255	0	0	0
(a)	Maharashtra (Excluding Mumbai and Goa)			0			0
(b)	Goa			0			0
(c)	Mumbai	0	255	255			0
14.	North East (Total)	0	0	0	0	0	0
(a)	Arunachal Pradesh			0			0
(b)	Manipur			0			0
(c)	Meghalaya			0			0
(d)	Mizoram			0			0
(e)	Nagaland			0			0
(f)	Tripura			0			0
15.	Odisha			0			0
16.	Punjab			0	0	4	4
17.	Rajasthan			0			0
18.	Tamil Nadu (Including Chennai)	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	9	10	11	12	13	14
(a)	Tamil Nadu (Excluding Chennai)			0			0
(b)	Chennai			0			0
19.	Uttar Pradesh East			0			0
20.	Uttar Pradesh-West (Total)	0	0	0	0	0	0
(a)	Uttar Pradesh West (Excluding Uttarakhand)			0			0
(b)	Uttarakhand			0			0
21.	West Bengal (Total)	0	0	0	0	0	0
(a)	West Bengal (Excluding Andaman and Nicobar and Sikkim)			0			0
(b)	Andaman and Nicobar Islands			0			0
(c)	Sikkim			0			0
TOTAL		0	593	593	0	4	4

Sl. No.	Name of Telecom Service Area	Reliance			Sistema		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1	2	15	16	17	18	19	20
1.	Andhra Pradesh (Total)	0	2	2	0	0	0
(a)	Andhra Pradesh (Excluding Telangana)		1	1			0
(b)	Telangana		1	1			0
2.	Assam			0			0
3.	Bihar (Total)	0	1	1	0	0	0
(a)	Bihar (Excluding Jharkhand)		1	1			0
(b)	Jharkhand			0			0
4.	Delhi		2	2			0
5.	Gujarat		2	2			0

1	2	15	16	17	18	19	20
6.	Haryana		1	1			0
7.	Himachal Pradesh		1	1			0
8.	Jammu and Kashmir			0			0
9.	Karnataka		1	1			0
10.	Kerala		1	1			0
11.	Kolkata		1	1			0
12.	Madhya Pradesh (Total)	0	1	1	0	0	0
(a)	Madhya Pradesh (Excluding Chhattisgarh)		1	1			0
(b)	Chhattisgarh			0			0
13.	Maharashtra (including Goa and Mumbai)	0	4	4	0	0	0
(a)	Maharashtra (Excluding Mumbai and Goa)		2	2			0
(b)	Goa			0			0
(c)	Mumbai		2	2			0
14.	North East (Total)	0	0	0	0	0	0
(a)	Arunachal Pradesh			0			0
(b)	Manipur			0			0
(c)	Meghalaya			0			0
(d)	Mizoram			0			0
(e)	Nagaland			0			0
(f)	Tripura			0			0
15.	Odisha		1	1			0
16.	Punjab		1	1			0
17.	Rajasthan		1	1	0	3	3
18.	Tamil Nadu (Including Chennai)	0	2	2	0	0	0
(a)	Tamil Nadu (Excluding Chennai)		1	1			0
(b)	Chennai		1	1			0

1	2	15	16	17	18	19	20
19.	Uttar Pradesh East		1	1			0
20.	Uttar Pradesh-West (Total)	0	1	1	0	0	0
(a)	Uttar Pradesh West (Excluding Uttarakhand)		1	1			0
(b)	Uttarakhand			0			0
21.	West Bengal (Total)	0	1	1	0	0	0
(a)	West Bengal (Excluding Andaman and Nicobar and Sikkim)		1	1			0
(b)	Andaman and Nicobar Islands			0			0
(c)	Sikkim			0			0
TOTAL		0	25	25	0	3	3

Sl. No.	Name of Telecom Service Area	Tata			Vodafone		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1	2	21	22	23	24	25	26
1.	Andhra Pradesh (Total)	0	5	5	0	2	2
(a)	Andhra Pradesh (Excluding Telangana)		2	2	0	2	2
(b)	Telangana		3	3	0	0	0
2.	Assam		0	0	0	1	1
3.	Bihar (Total)	0	1	1	0	2	2
(a)	Bihar (Excluding Jharkhand)		0	0	0	1	1
(b)	Jharkhand		1	1	0	1	1
4.	Delhi		3	3	0	10	10
5.	Gujarat		2	2	0	1	1
6.	Haryana		1	1	0	1	1
7.	Himachal Pradesh		1	1	0	1	1
8.	Jammu and Kashmir		0	0	0	0	0

1	2	21	22	23	24	25	26
9.	Karnataka		2	2	0	3	3
10.	Kerala		1	1	0	1	1
11.	Kolkata		1	1	0	1	1
12.	Madhya Pradesh (Total)	0	1	1	0	8	8
(a)	Madhya Pradesh (Excluding Chhattisgarh)		1	1		8	8
(b)	Chhattisgarh		0	0			0
13.	Maharashtra (Including Goa and Mumbai)	0	9	9	0	6	6
(a)	Maharashtra (Excluding Mumbai and Goa)		3	3		2	2
(b)	Goa		0	0	0	0	0
(c)	Mumbai		6	6	0	4	4
14.	North East (Total)	0	0	0	0	1	1
(a)	Arunachal Pradesh		0	0			0
(b)	Manipur		0	0			0
(c)	Meghalaya		0	0		1	1
(d)	Mizoram		0	0			0
(e)	Nagaland		0	0			0
(f)	Tripura		0	0			0
15.	Odisha		1	1	0	1	1
16.	Punjab		1	1	0	1	1
17.	Rajasthan		1	1	0	1	1
18.	Tamil Nadu (Including Chennai)	0	2	2	1	3	4
(a)	Tamil Nadu (Excluding Chennai)		0	0	0	2	2
(b)	Chennai		2	2	1	1	2
19.	Uttar Pradesh East		1	1	0	3	3
20.	Uttar Pradesh-West (Total)	0	1	1	0	5	5

1	2	21	22	23	24	25	26
(a)	Uttar Pradesh West (Excluding Uttarakhand)		1	1	0	5	5
(b)	Uttarakhand		0	0			0
21.	West Bengal (Total)	0	1	1	0	1	1
(a)	West Bengal (Excluding Andaman and Nicobar and Sikkim)		1	1	0	1	1
(b)	Andaman and Nicobar Islands		0	0	0	0	0
(c)	Sikkim			0	0	0	0
TOTAL		0	35	35	1	53	54

**Quality upgradation and capacity augmentation
in BSNL and MTNL**

2604. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the immediate necessity of quality upgradation and capacity augmentation in BSNL and MTNL, if so, the measures taken thereon; and

(b) how many mobile connections and landline connections were increased or decreased during the last two years along with the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are in general meeting Quality of Service (QoS) benchmarks prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). However, quality upgradation and capacity augmentation is a continuous process and in this regard BSNL and MTNL are taking following steps so as to provide better services to their customers:—

Steps taken by BSNL:

- In case of Mobile Services, BSNL keeps on adding new mobile equipment in its network.

- Presently GSM (Global System for Mobile Communication) Phase VII+Project is under roll out. Out of the planned 13605 3G Node Bs and 9346 2G BTSs (Base Transceiver Station), 9962 3G Node Bs and 6059 3G BTSs are already on air.
- In case of Wireline Service, BSNL has launched integrated services *i.e.*, voice, video and data by using the Next Generation Network (NGN) System in the country.
- With migration to NGN, customer will get enhanced Value Services like Multi Media Video Conferencing and IP centrex etc.
- NGN will be implemented in two phases. BSNL has upgraded existing one million legacy Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) network in to IP Multimedia subsystem based on NGN technology and three million lines conversion to NGN in progress.

Steps taken by MTNL:

- **Expansion of GSM/3G RF network in Delhi:** MTNL is in the process of expansion of mobile network by adding 1080 number of 3G sites for higher Data handling capacity. Purchase Order has been placed for adding 1080 number of 3G sited in Delhi.
- **3G Network Upgradation in Delhi:** Advance Purchase Order has been placed for upgradation of existing 720 3G Node Bs for HSPA+ (High Speed Packet Access) capability.
- **3G Network Upgradation in Mumbai:** MTNL has also planned to upgrade the existing 3G network in Mumbai to make it a high speed network of “HSPA+” version. Purchase Order has been placed for Mumbai. After the proposed upgradation, the customers will get a download speed of 21.1 Mbps (Megabytes per second) and upload speed of 5.76 Mbps which is presently of 3.6 Mbps and 384 kbps (Kilobytes per second) respectively. Project is under advanced stage of implementation.
- **Microwave Backhaul Connectivity:** Purchase Orders for adding 800 Microwave Hops in Delhi and 470 in Mumbai have been placed.
- **Redeployment of DSLAMs of existing Broadband Network:** MTNL has launched a special program to progressively increase the fibre length by redeploying the broadband nodes Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAM) near to the subscriber premises in Delhi and Mumbai thereby reducing copper length and enhancing the quality of broadband service. 148 DSLAMs in Delhi and approx.. 140 in Mumbai have been redeployed thereby

reducing copper length and enhancing the quality of Broadband service. This has improved customer experience and reduced the number of complaints.

- **Fibre to the Home (FTTH):** High speed Broadband connections on optical fibre are proposed to be added on revenue share basis in Delhi and Mumbai. The customer will be provided data speeds up to 100 Mbps on optical fibre.

(b) State/Circle-wise details of mobile and landline connections of BSNL and MTNL during the last two years is given in the Statement.

Statement

*Details of increase/decrease in landline and mobile connection of
BSNL and MTNL during 2014-15 and 2015-16*

Sl. No.	Circle	During 2014-2015		During 2015-16	
		Landline	Mobile	Landline	Mobile
1	2	3	4	5	6
BSNL					
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-1014	4977	208	129030
2.	Andhra Pradesh	-160753	-291525	-156088	70576
3.	Assam	-16910	-19250	-7222	84464
4.	Bihar	-13480	-275451	-28574	374330
5.	Chhattisgarh	-717	-732817	-6685	364615
6.	Gujarat	-137116	-982043	-150289	497910
7.	Haryana	-101681	-590259	-44477	471487
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-45839	8055	-36177	296079
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	-37306	-44353	-18135	111561
10.	Jharkhand	-10719	-146968	199	149098
11.	Karnataka	-133753	-622349	-107452	294451
12.	Kerala	-288690	-1399386	-297031	1168572
13.	Madhya Pradesh	-2985	-982728	-82103	855061
14.	Maharashtra	-200229	-1444780	-146968	773480
15.	North East-I	-9566	-15546	-2461	87633

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	North East-II	-3661	23454	-12	14860
17.	Odisha	-29200	107954	-12614	716179
18.	Punjab	-114701	-1593073	-102424	562282
19.	Rajasthan	-107992	-2741561	-43434	739119
20.	Tamil Nadu	-132163	-1154187	-110694	2826
21.	Uttarakhand	-19717	-26638	-12759	107260
22.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	-291065	-2746257	-12783	1463406
23.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	-38543	-1139442	-45268	866271
24.	West Bengal	-63431	-174903	-75191	-259240
25.	Calcutta	-82188	-75655	-96102	11072
26.	Chennai	-32782	12811	-55040	108667
TOTAL BSNL		-2076201	-17041920	-1649576	10061049

MTNL

1.	Delhi	42305	136072	7489	15380
2.	Mumbai	4517	133873	6155	-53738
TOTAL MTNL		46822	269945	13644	-38358

Payment of DA as per Sixth Pay Commission recommendations

†2605. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has paid 78.2 per cent D.A. to staff and officers of BSNL as per recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission whereas the staff and officers of MTNL have not been paid the same so far; and

(b) if so, the time by which Government would pay 78.2 per cent D.A. to staff and officers of MTNL as per Sixth Pay Commission as paid to BSNL staff and officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) In Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), on the basis of recommendations of Second Pay Revision Committee for revision of pay

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

scales for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) with effect from 01.01.2007, the benefit of merger of 50% DA (Dearness Allowance) effectively amounting to 78.2% for the purposes of fitment is being paid. The additional expenditure being incurred due to revision is being borne by BSNL.

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has recommended to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for extending the benefit of merger of 50% DA effectively amounting to 78.2% for which it has sought full financial support from the DoT due to its present financial situation. The proposal of MTNL has been examined and it has been observed that there will be financial implications of ₹ 140 crores per annum towards additional burden on salaries and around ₹ 1136 crores for payment of arrears. Further there will be financial implications on account of pensionary benefits to be paid by Government. As per DPE (Department of Public Enterprises) guidelines the CPSE concern has to bear the additional financial implication on account of pay revision from their own resources.

Use of cable TV infrastructure for Broadband Delivery

2606. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to use cable TV infrastructure for broadband delivery in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the fresh steps taken by Government to boost broadband penetration in order to ensure success of Digital India Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Telecom service providers are free to provide broadband services through any media such as Optical Fibre Cable, Copper Cable, Cable TV network and wireless depending on techno-commercial feasibility. 14,75,228 subscribers are being provided broadband services on cable TV network as on 31st December, 2016. However, Government is examining various issues related to facilitating broadband service by using Cable TV infrastructure.

(b) BharatNet is planned to create network infrastructure for providing 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country in two phases. 1,00,000 GPs are targeted to be covered in Phase-I and the balance 1,50,000 will be covered in Phase-II.

Through various auctions conducted for sale of spectrum from the year 2012 to the year 2016, a total of 1893.75 MHz spectrum has been allotted to telecom service providers, which can also be used for provision of wireless broadband.

Auction of spectrum every year

2607. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is looking for re-auction of spectrum in July-December, 2017;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is going to auction spectrum every year and will also permit telecom players to sell spectrum;

(c) if so, the details thereof and reasons for permitting players to sell or mortgage spectrum; and

(d) whether the Ministry is thinking about introducing 5G services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The Department has not made any plan for re-auction of spectrum in July-December, 2017.

(b) The Government has not made any plan to auction spectrum every year. The Government has permitted for sharing and trading of spectrum among Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) providing commercial cellular mobile services.

(c) The Government has permitted spectrum trading considering that spectrum trading leads to greater competition, provides incentives for innovation, better/new services being available to consumers at cheaper tariffs, better choice to consumer, etc. This also facilitates ease of doing business in India by allowing free play in the commercial decisions and leads to optimisation of resources apart from improving the spectral efficiency and quality of service.

(d) The standardization of technology for 5G services is in progress at the International Telecom Union (ITU), Geneva, Switzerland. It is for the TSPs to decide when to introduce 5G services which usually is determined by market demands and the availability of 5G eco-system.

Promotional offers of telecom operators

2608. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of loan defaults by telecom operators in the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether promotional offers and zero revenue policies of certain telecom operators are leading to delay in the spectrum payments to Government; and

(c) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government to regulate these offers and policies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) There has been no default in repayment of loans by telecom services providers so far.

(b) and (c) As of now there is no delay in the Spectrum payment to Government. All deferred payment dues of 2012, 2013 and 2014 auction have been realized by their respective due dates. There is fall in revenues of telecom operators due to falling tariff. The decline in revenues impact their capacity to invest and delay in spectrum payment can happen. The tariff are prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

Allocation of funds from USOF

†2609. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to allocate funds from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to the mobile companies in remote areas of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the amount of money allocated to various phone companies from this fund in the last three years; and

(c) the number of villages provided with phone facility, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Subsidies are being provided to Telecom Service Providers for mobile connectivity in inaccessible, rural and remote areas of the country including North Eastern Region, Left Wing Affected States, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Subsidy disbursed to various phone companies from USOF under different projects during the last three years is as below:

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Service Provider	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL)	70.27	610.15	622.06
2.	Dishnet Wireless Ltd. (DWL)	1.24	0.04	0.93
3.	GTL Infrastructure Ltd. (GTL)	3.09	0.00	0.00

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl. No.	Service Provider	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
4.	KEC International Ltd. (KEC)	5.24	1.53	0.00
5.	QUIPPO Telecom Infrastructure Ltd. (QTIL)	0.33	0.00	0.00
6.	Reliance Communications Infrastructure Ltd. (RCIL)	2.55	0.21	0.05
7.	Reliance Communications Ltd. (RCL)	0.01	0.00	0.01
8.	Vadofone Essar Cellular Ltd. (VECL)	3.62	0.90	0.00
9.	Vadofone Essar South Ltd. (VESL)	1.28	0.00	0.00
TOTAL		87.63	612.83	623.05

(c) The number of villages provided with phone facility (from Universal Service Obligation Fund) State-wise is as below:

Sl. No.	State	No of uncovered villages covered with mobile services under LWE Project
1.	Andhra Pradesh	81
2.	Bihar	276
3.	Chhattisgarh	735
4.	Jharkhand	1173
5.	Maharashtra	90
6.	Madhya Pradesh	33
7.	Odisha	372
8.	Telangana	258
9.	Uttar Pradesh	117
10.	West Bengal	144
TOTAL		3279

Re-tendering the technology contract of department of posts

2610. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Posts had to re-tender its technology contract after it failed to get bids from any of the major Indian technology firms;

(b) whether it is also a fact that top information technology companies had stayed away from bidding for the project, terming the initial offer vague; and

(c) if so, whether Department of Posts did consult any information technology companies to prepare the bid documents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Posts had floated tender for selection of System Integrator for setting up of India Post Payments Bank on 08.08.2016. As only one bid was received on e-procurement portal, the tender process was cancelled on 22.09.2016. Afterwards, a modified tender was issued on 17.10.2016. In response to the second tender, two bids have been received and are under evaluation.

(c) M/s Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Limited Liability Partnership, Mumbai is providing consultancy to the Department and is involved in preparing the bid documents (Request for Proposal).

Another auction of spectrum

2611. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some telecom operators have enough quantity of spectrum and do not want another auction of spectrum this year while some others want to get more spectrum;

(b) whether many players in the field are in deep debt amounting to 4-5 trillion rupees;

(c) whether this is a consequent result of continuous reduction of BSNL's reach in the market during the last decade; and

(d) in what way Government intends to overcome this contradiction and make IT an effective tool in the hands of people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The Government has not yet decided to conduct another spectrum auction immediately. No request from telecom operators has so far been received in this regard.

(b) As per available information from industry, the debt is of the order of ₹ 460 thousands crores.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) BharatNet Project is being implemented for providing Broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayat (approximately 2,50, 000) in the country, and to provide non-discriminatory access to service providers, for provisioning of broadband services in rural areas.

Bringing OTT services under statutory regulatory framework

2612. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to bring Over The Top (OTT) services, predominantly used over the internet, under a statutory regulatory framework; and

(b) in the absence of an institutional mechanism, how does Government aim to protect user privacy and provide remedy to citizens in case of violation by the service providers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had issued a consultation paper on 27.3.2015 regarding “Regulatory Framework for OTT Services”. This consultation paper discusses various issues relating to OTT services. TRAI is yet to submit its recommendations in this regard to Department of Telecommunications.

(b) The provisions of section 43A of Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 establish a legal framework for data privacy protection in India. It provides remedy to citizens in case of violation by way of compensation in case of unauthorized access of information and leakage of sensitive personal information.

Merger of BSNL and MTNL

2613. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is mulling to merge BSNL and MTNL, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether both organisations are making losses consecutively for the last ten years; and

(c) if so, the extent of losses incurred and the concrete steps Government is taking to make the behemoth entities viable in the background of stiff competition in the telecom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) At present, there is no proposal for merger of Bharat

Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

(b) and (c) Details of profit/loss of BSNL and MTNL for the last ten years are as under:—

(₹ in crores)

Sl. No.	Financial Year	BSNL	MTNL
1.	2006-07	7806	681.74
2.	2007-08	3009	586.9
3.	2008-09	575	211.71
4.	2009-10	(1823)	(2610.97)
5.	2010-11	(6384)	(2801.92)
6.	2011-12	(8851)	(4109.78)
7.	2012-13	(7884)	(5321.12)
8.	2013-14	(7019)	7825*
9.	2014-15	(8234)	(2893.39)
10.	2015-16	(3880)	(2005.74)

*In 2013-14, MTNL made profit due to payment of pension amount and writeback of amortization of Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) Spectrum amounting to ₹ 11,620.93 crores.

Government has taken various steps to make BSNL and MTNL viable in the background of stiff competition in the telecom sector by:—

- Refund of surrendered BWA (Broadband Wireless Access) spectrum in two service areas held by MTNL and in 6 service areas held by BSNL. Under this head, ₹ 4533.97 crore has been refunded to MTNL through bonds and ₹ 6724.51 crore is being refunded to BSNL through budgetary resources.
- The pension liability of MTNL for its staff who got absorbed from DoT, has been taken over by the Government.
- Notional loan of ₹ 1411 crore to BSNL which was due to be paid to the Government was waived-off.
- Financial support of ₹ 492.26 crore has been given to MTNL on account of liability arising from levy of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT).
- Refund of ₹ 458.04 crore to MTNL and ₹ 169.16 crore to BSNL on account of surrender of CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) spectrum.

Government has also assigned some projects to BSNL, namely:—

- Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region for provision of mobile services in uncovered villages in Arunachal Pradesh and

two districts of Assam at estimated project cost of ₹ 1975.38 crore and implementation of Transmission-Media Plan for North Eastern Region at an estimated cost of ₹ 295.97 crore on 10.9.2014.

- Implementation of providing mobile connectivity in 2199 identified locations in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas at an estimated cost of ₹ 3567.58 crores on 4.6.2013.
- Implementation of Comprehensive Telecom Development plan for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands through augmentation of satellite connectivity/bandwidth at an estimated cost of ₹ 120.49 crores on 7.11.2014.

Internet users in the country

2614. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the likely increase in the internet users in the country because of fast adoption of digital technology;

(b) if so, the data on internet users in the country till February and how much of increase is anticipated by the end of next calendar year; and

(c) whether Government is prepared to deal with the situation and is capable to provide internet facility of high speed to the new consumers uninterruptedly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Due to fast adoption of digital technology, it is expected that number of internet users will increase in the country.

As per information received from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), there were 391.50 million Internet subscribers as on 31.12.2016. Data on internet users for the subsequent period is presently not available.

The anticipated increase in the internet users by the end of next calendar year is not available at present. However, National Telecom Policy-2012 envisages 600 million broadband connections by the year 2020 at minimum 2 Mbps download speed. Further, as per National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) – Akamai report launched on 17.08.2016 regarding “The Future of Internet in India”, 730 million Internet users are anticipated in the country by 2020.

(c) 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 facilitate proliferation of high speed internet facility.

Further, for provision of broadband facility in rural areas, BharatNet Project is also being implemented 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.

Pendency of cases in Consumer Fora

2615. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases are pending in Consumer Fora;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, level-wise;
- (c) whether there are vacancies of Presidents and Members in the Fora, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) by when these posts are going to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The details of the number of cases pending in various Consumer Fora in the country are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) As per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, it is the responsibility of the State/UT Governments concerned to fill up the vacancies of President and Member in the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions and the District Fora in the States/UTs. The Central Government is concerned with filling up of the vacancies of President and Member in the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) located at New Delhi. At present there are two vacancies of Member in NCDRC and action has already been initiated to fill the said two vacancies. The details of vacancies in the Consumer Fora are as under:—

Sl. No.	No. of vacancies of President	No. of vacancies of Members
1.	95	307

Statement

(A) Details of pending cases in the National Commission and State Commissions

Sl. No.	Name of State	Cases Pending	As On
National Commission		12609	28.02.2017
1.	Andhra Pradesh	897	31.01.2017

Sl. No.	Name of State	Cases Pending	As On
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5	30.06.2015
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	31.12.2016
4.	Assam	420	31.01.2017
5.	Bihar	3352	31.10.2016
6.	Chandigarh	521	31.01.2017
7.	Chhattisgarh	449	28.02.2017
8.	Daman and Diu and DNH	5	31.03.2011
9.	Delhi	6276	28.02.2017
10.	Goa	106	28.02.2017
11.	Gujarat	4935	31.01.2017
12.	Haryana	1473	31.12.2016
13.	Himachal Pradesh	183	31.01.2017
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	1489	31.05.2016
15.	Jharkhand	517	31.12.2016
16.	Karnataka	8065	28.02.2017
17.	Kerala	2193	31.01.2017
18.	Lakshadweep	2	31.01.2017
19.	Madhya Pradesh	8894	28.02.2017
20.	Maharashtra	15204	31.01.2017
21.	Manipur	6	31.12.2015
22.	Meghalaya	15	31.03.2015
23.	Mizoram	10	31.01.2017
24.	Nagaland	29	30.09.2015
25.	Odisha	6774	31.10.2016
26.	Puducherry	54	31.01.2017
27.	Punjab	1416	31.12.2016
28.	Rajasthan	6939	31.12.2016
29.	Sikkim	3	31.03.2015
30.	Tamil Nadu	3225	31.12.2016

Sl. No.	Name of State	Cases Pending	As On
31.	Telangana	1901	31.01.2017
32.	Tripura	38	31.12.2016
33.	Uttar Pradesh	26243	31.12.2016
34.	Uttarakhand	1026	31.01.2017
35.	West Bengal	4462	31.12.2016
TOTAL		107136	

(B) Details of pending cases in District Fora

Sl. No.	Name of State	Cases Pending	As On
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1989	31.01.2017
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	47	30.06.2015
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	29	31.12.2016
4.	Assam	1421	30.06.2016
5.	Bihar	14417	31.10.2016
6.	Chandigarh	1660	31.01.2017
7.	Chhattisgarh	5355	28.02.2017
8.	Daman and Diu and DNH	18	31.03.2011
9.	Delhi	17579	31.03.2015
10.	Goa	401	28.02.2017
11.	Gujarat	16135	31.01.2017
12.	Haryana	11187	31.12.2016
13.	Himachal Pradesh	2713	31.01.2017
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	1937	31.12.2007
15.	Jharkhand	4154	31.12.2016
16.	Karnataka	9396	28.02.2017
17.	Kerala	10744	31.01.2017
18.	Lakshadweep	15	31.01.2017
19.	Madhya Pradesh	16741	28.02.2017
20.	Maharashtra	37874	31.01.2017
21.	Manipur	57	31.12.2015

Sl. No.	Name of State	Cases Pending	As On
22.	Meghalaya	80	31.03.2015
23.	Mizoram	38	30.06.2015
24.	Nagaland	54	30.09.2015
25.	Odisha	8213	31.10.2016
26.	Puducherry	195	31.01.2017
27.	Punjab	5322	31.12.2016
28.	Rajasthan	34638	31.12.2016
29.	Sikkim	14	31.03.2015
30.	Tamil Nadu	8721	31.12.2016
31.	Telangana	4548	31.01.2017
32.	Tripura	136	31.12.2016
33.	Uttar Pradesh	74537	31.12.2016
34.	Uttarakhand	2885	31.01.2017
35.	West Bengal	7475	31.12.2016
TOTAL		300725	

Sale of bottled water at one rate

2616. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to make available bottled water at one rate at all places, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken to strengthen the complaint redressal mechanism for punishing those who are violating the consumer norms, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) *Vide* its order dated 01 February, 2016 the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi in Revision Petition No. 2038 of 2015 held that “there cannot be two MRPs, except in accordance with the law”. Therefore, same pre-packaged product, including bottled water, of a company should be available at one rate at all the places.

(b) Enforcement Authorities of the State Governments are competent for taking action against the violators, as the Enforcement of Weights and Measures Laws is

done by the State Government under provisions of Section 18 and 36 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. Necessary advisories have been issued by the Central Government.

Pendency of proposals of Government of Chhattisgarh

†2617. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the Ministry for development works during the last three years from the Government of 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 Government are still pending;

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

(d) whether more time taken in the execution of proposals hampers the development works and how the cost overruns are adjusted, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) In so far as Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is concerned, financial assistance is provided for Strengthening of Consumer Fora and also for construction of Laboratories in the States/UTs. In the last three years, no proposal has been received from Government of Chhattisgarh under the above schemes.

Online business in the country

2618. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that online market is increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the number of products available in e-markets;

(c) whether many people are being cheated by e-market organisations/traders; and

(d) if so, whether any mechanism is in place to check/avoid cheating in e-market system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. With advancement of information technology and increasing internet penetration,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the online market is increasing in the country. However, record of number of products available in e-markets is not Centrally-maintained by the Government. As regards protection of consumers from being cheated by e-market organization/traders within the country, the rights of Indian Consumers are protected in relevant provisions of various Acts such as The Consumer Protection Act, 1986, The Information Technology Act, 2000, The Sales of Goods Act, 1930, The Indian Contract Act, 1872, The Indian Penal Code, 1860 etc. Consumers are entitled to get relief in three level of consumer fora at District, State or National level in case of cheating in online trade in similar fashion as in normal business transaction.

Implementation of National Food Security Act

2619. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines to identify the Priority Households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY);

(b) the percentage of rural population receiving entitlements under the National Food Security Act, 2013, since its implementation, State-wise;

(c) the number of Anganwadi workers working under the Scheme, State-wise;

(d) the criteria for selection of Anganwadi workers and the training module, if any; and

(e) the details of budget allocated, sanctioned, released and utilized for various schemes under the Act during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides for giving subsidized foodgrains to upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population of the country. Coverage for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains under the Act is under two categories—households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and priority households. Within the coverage determined for each State/UT, State Governments are required to identify AAY households in accordance with the guidelines applicable to the scheme and the remaining households as priority households in accordance with such guidelines as the State Government may specify. The guidelines stipulated by the Government of India for identification of AAY households *inter alia* include households headed by widows or terminally ill/disabled persons/HIV positive persons/ persons aged 60 years or more with no assured means of subsistence or societal support.

(b) State/UT-wise details of percentage coverage, total coverage in terms of number of persons (using Census, 2011 population) and the current coverage under NFSA are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) State-wise number of Anganwadi Workers working under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme as on 31.12.2016 is given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) As per the ICDS Scheme guidelines, Anganwadi Worker should be from the local village and are selected by a Selection Committee constituted by the State Governments/UT Administrations consisting of the District Social Welfare Officer, the Block Development Officer, the Child Development Project Officer, the Medical Officer of the primary health Centre, the President of the Taluka Panchayat/ Block Advisory Committee, the district representative of the State Social Welfare Advisory Board and any other non-officials which the State Government may consider appropriate. Recently approved Strengthened and restructured ICDS prescribe for qualification of Matriculation and age limit of 18-35 years for engagement as Anganwadi Worker and Anganwadi Helper.

(e) Foodgrains at subsidized prices is/was made available by Food Corporation of India (FCI) to the States/UTs under NFSA/erstwhile Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), and the food subsidy is released to FCI. Only in the case of States participating in the Decentralized Procurement (DCP), under which State Governments take the responsibility of procurement of foodgrains and its distribution to the eligible households, the food subsidy is released to State Governments. Details of food subsidy released to FCI and States/UTs during last three years is given in the Statement-III (*See* below).

Under NFSA, entitlements regarding nutritional support to pregnant women and lactating mothers and children upto 14 years of age are delivered through ICDS, Maternity Benefit Programme (erstwhile Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana) and Mid Day Meal Scheme. State-wise details of funds released under these schemes during last three years are given in the Statement-IV, Statement-V and Statement-VI respectively.

Statement-I

*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
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	74.132
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	323.22
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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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	1234.1	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
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		75.00	50.00	6249.33	1885.61	8134.94	7999.84

Statement-II*State-wise number of Anganwadi workers*

Sl. No.	State	No. of Anganwadi workers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	53823
2.	Telangana	33159
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	6028
4.	Assam	62153
5.	Bihar	85980
6.	Chhattisgarh	48770
7.	Goa	1241
8.	Gujarat	50403
9.	Haryana	25348
10.	Himachal Pradesh	18772

Sl. No.	State	No. of Anganwadi workers
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	28707
12.	Jharkhand	35424
13.	Karnataka	63186
14.	Kerala	33102
15.	Madhya Pradesh	94413
16.	Maharashtra	106784
17.	Manipur	10274
18.	Meghalaya	5891
19.	Mizoram	2244
20.	Nagaland	3455
21.	Odisha	68980
22.	Punjab	26390
23.	Rajasthan	58581
24.	Sikkim	1289
25.	Tamil Nadu	38827
26.	Tripura	9911
27.	Uttar Pradesh	172367
28.	Uttarakhand	18995
29.	West Bengal	107872
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	720
31.	Chandigarh	450
32.	Delhi	10806
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	302
34.	Daman and Diu	102
35.	Lakshadweep	107
36.	Puducherry	855
TOTAL		1285711

Statement-III

*Details of subsidy released to FCI and State Governments/UTs
during the last three years and current year*

(₹ in crores)

FCI/States/UTs		Subsidy released		
Sl.No.		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
(A)	Food Corporation of India	75500.02	91995.35	112000.00
(B)	Name of the State/UT			
1.	Bihar	0.00	1146.41	2540.92
2.	Punjab	0.00	75.00	300.00
3.	Madhya Pradesh	3398.88	5668.11	5737.29
4.	Andhra Pradesh	1554.83	2254.42	1364.25
5.	Telangana	0.00	200.00	1390.08
6.	Uttar Pradesh	5.18	0.00	0.00
7.	West Bengal	1551.14	2578.38	2465.86
8.	Chhattisgarh	2374.87	3332.71	3328.93
9.	Uttarakhand	318.22	385.42	408.67
10.	Tamil Nadu	1007.49	914.55	936.89
11.	Odisha	3041.11	3785.00	3331.39
12.	Karnataka	492.95	0.00	0.00
13.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	55.57
14.	Kerala	427.82	744.84	834.42
15.	Rajasthan	67.50	90.97	155.11
16.	Chandigarh*	—	—	14.31
17.	Puducherry*	—	—	54.59
18.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli*	—	—	0.71
TOTAL (B)		14240.00	21175.81	22919.00
GRAND TOTAL (A+B)		89740.02	113171.16	134919.00

* Under DBT Scheme w.e.f. 2015-16

Statement-IV

*State-wise position of funds released under ICDS Scheme [ICDS (General),
Construction of AWC buildings, Supplementary Nutrition
Programme and Training]*

(₹ in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Fund Released		
		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	111334.49	99446.78	68818.48
2.	Bihar	107609.68	116266.84	102372.56
3.	Chhattisgarh	50459.30	51703.52	51151.54
4.	Goa	1567.58	2617.25	1228.04
5.	Gujarat	60807.51	48886.15	64185.05
6.	Haryana	31266.40	31158.68	16081.19
7.	Himachal Pradesh	17278.95	17184.09	19507.32
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	29610.25	26031.19	27362.65
9.	Jharkhand	49930.46	46904.30	46217.72
10.	Karnataka	75135.57	82856.77	96394.53
11.	Kerala	35995.97	24726.35	28554.27
12.	Madhya Pradesh	102418.63	122544.60	108673.52
13.	Maharashtra	129519.81	90781.88	104166.66
14.	Odisha	97438.29	87511.73	65643.69
15.	Punjab	24546.11	25893.06	13689.39
16.	Rajasthan	65232.45	73992.88	49851.78
17.	Tamil Nadu	65605.57	67902.29	63744.93
18.	Uttarakhand	17763.50	20165.67	35710.06
19.	Uttar Pradesh	235448.38	272553.08	281398.92
20.	West Bengal	123227.84	97578.85	79465.80
21.	Telangana	0.00	46057.10	37918.23
22.	Delhi	17700.74	17855.94	13775.25
23.	Puducherry	736.39	1275.34	1673.27
24.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	391.79	891.78	1421.03

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Chandigarh	731.19	996.18	1420.25
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	378.31	281.31	210.97
27.	Daman and Diu	161.19	195.77	133.55
28.	Lakshadweep	147.46	138.16	155.91
29.	Arunachal Pradesh	10344.16	15557.38	12923.23
30.	Assam	103145.19	103517.50	92972.20
31.	Manipur	16140.54	14929.58	10267.27
32.	Meghalaya	14287.83	14357.78	12418.60
33.	Mizoram	4772.89	5695.57	5371.93
34.	Nagaland	8912.80	12202.63	8796.00
35.	Sikkim	2607.14	2998.60	2022.73
36.	Tripura	13651.31	14074.26	18194.62
TOTAL		1626305.67	1657730.84	1543893.15

Statement-V

*State/UT-wise details of funds released under the Maternity Benefit Programme
(erstwhile Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana)*

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Fund Released (₹ in lakhs)		
		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1814.47	3004.65	1502.32
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	41.49	20.74
3.	Assam	149.78	1744.74	872.38
4.	Bihar	1758.10	4862.81	2431.40
5.	Chhattisgarh	1456.53	859.86	429.94
6.	Goa	300.95	164.30	82.16
7.	Gujarat	1007.80	1504.88	1090.90
8.	Haryana	343.65	—	171.82
9.	Himachal Pradesh	124.30	295.19	537.11
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	665.24	522.38	261.20

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Jharkhand	34.64	—	17.32
12.	Karnataka	1452.81	—	894.95
13.	Kerala	1390.69	934.59	515.60
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2128.07	3627.44	2358.21
15.	Maharashtra	3160.24	838.51	1419.26
16.	Manipur	0.00	—	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	53.93	—	26.96
18.	Mizoram	0.00	19.39	9.70
19.	Nagaland	60.64	56.90	28.46
20.	Odisha	2038.85	1796.57	1606.61
21.	Punjab	66.20	—	33.10
22.	Rajasthan	935.01	3640.40	1820.20
23.	Sikkim	7.87	24.12	12.06
24.	Tamil Nadu	3032.19	2241.40	1837.75
25.	Telangana	—	1877.78	938.90
26.	Tripura	161.76	209.70	479.83
27.	Uttar Pradesh	95.29	—	47.64
28.	Uttarakhand	322.64	570.58	1182.74
29.	West Bengal	394.82	3016.90	1508.46
30.	Delhi	58.65	371.42	929.70
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	122.32	44.35	72.67
32.	Puducherry	32.75	24.58	29.50
33.	Chandigarh	20.23	—	162.37
34.	Daman and Diu	4.13	18.70	9.34
35.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	11.29	—	5.62
36.	Lakshadweep	0.00	—	0.00
TOTAL		23205.84	34313.63	23346.92

Statement-VI

Central Assistance (including all components of the scheme such as cost of foodgrains, cooking cost, honorarium to cook-cum-helpers, transport assistance and management monitoring and evaluation)

Released to States/UTs under Mid-Day Meal Scheme

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Central Assistance Released (₹ in lakhs)		
		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44374.15	31556.76	29064.76
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4028.6	3351.71	3273.34
3.	Assam	45710.81	47985.16	55376.49
4.	Bihar	117682.53	136532.1	120013.29
5.	Chhattisgarh	34264.11	31564.09	26991.77
6.	Goa	1404.07	1403.61	1297.2
7.	Gujarat	49903.26	44783.33	38053.3
8.	Haryana	19719.92	16398.99	12382.8
9.	Himachal Pradesh	7909.36	7460.91	8141.23
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	8454.62	6203.3	8366.3
11.	Jharkhand	35017.2	21508.92	24518.16
12.	Karnataka	73323.24	56610.57	41939.61
13.	Kerala	19201.38	22575.34	17120.97
14.	Madhya Pradesh	81863.87	79567.82	60698.68
15.	Maharashtra	98376.59	95059.83	103072.93
16.	Manipur	1444.64	3281.86	2452.83
17.	Meghalaya	6333.2	6247.18	7024.57
18.	Mizoram	1999.56	2049.78	2060.99
19.	Nagaland	1754.48	4226.96	1073.68
20.	Odisha	61429.29	49303.55	39731.89
21.	Punjab	21402.83	13500.81	16650.04
22.	Rajasthan	44905.67	41757.13	41934.63
23.	Sikkim	1226.31	1040.14	1001.38
24.	Tamil Nadu	49354.83	63991.1	44253.83

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Telangana		20114.42	17435.58
26.	Tripura	5073.29	4827.01	5129.42
27.	Uttarakhand	9525.47	8931.74	10419.33
28.	Uttar Pradesh	120750.57	105142.49	86192.86
29.	West Bengal	111333.22	109189.56	75582.33
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1119.15	322.2	281.46
31.	Chandigarh	933.17	810.479	756.43
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	480.64	409.772	569.38
33.	Daman and Diu	270.22	213.31	272.37
34.	Delhi	9948.48	7892.3	9449.23
35.	Lakshadweep	115.06	108.81	127.04
36.	Puducherry	401.52	597.7	520.77
TOTAL		1091035	1046521	913231

Hiring of private warehouses

2620. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data of hiring of private warehouses to keep foodgrains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The details of storage capacities hired by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to keep foodgrains during last three years are given below:-

(Fig. in lakh MT)

Scheme	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Private warehouses hired for short-term requirement	16.79	13.43	12.35
Warehouses hired by FCI from Private parties on long-term basis	64.23	86.32	98.01

Scheme	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Silos hired by FCI from Private parties on long-term basis	5.50	5.50	5.50
TOTAL	86.52	105.25	115.86

Misleading advertisements

2621. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering proposal of a Panel of Ministers for putting a ban on celebrities for misleading advertisements as also imposing a heavy fine and dropping a jail terms is also under active consideration of the Government;

(b) whether Government has accepted the above proposals of the Panel; and

(c) if so, the details of recommendations of the Panel and the extent of their acceptance by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The proposal of the Department of Consumer Affairs to carry out certain amendments in the Consumer Protection Bill, 2015, already introduced in Parliament, was examined by an informal Group of Ministers.

(b) and (c) The suggestions are under consideration.

Creation of silos

2622. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India (FCI), in collaboration with State Governments, is expected to award contracts for creation of 3.6 Million Tonnes of silos capacities;

(b) whether FCI has set an ambitious target of creation of 10 Million Tonnes of silos capacities by the end of financial year 2020;

(c) whether FCI handles around 50-55 Million Tonnes of wheat and rice annually; and

(d) whether FCI expects benefits from creation of silos through private sector participation, 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. Food Corporation of India (FCI) has awarded contracts for creation of 1.6 Million MT silos and State Governments have completed/awarded contracts for 2.15 Million MT silos. Thus, contracts for silos of 3.75 Million MT have been awarded.

(b) Government has approved an action plan of FCI for construction of steel silos of capacity 10 Million MT by FCI as well as State Governments in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode in a phase-wise manner (3 phases) by the end of year 2019-20.

(c) FCI handles about 60 Million MT of wheat and rice annually. The details of procurement and offtake for the last 3 years are as below:—

(Fig. in LMT)

Marketing Year	Procurement			Offtake		
	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
2013-14	318.45	250.92	569.37	295.83	306.18	602.01
2014-15	320.40	280.23	600.63	355.74	271.61	627.35
2015-16	342.18	280.88	623.06	321.34	315.73	637.07
2016-17 [#]	318.51	229.61	548.12	303.50	269.54	573.04

[#]Data reported as on 17.03.2017.

(d) The Silos are being constructed through Private Sector participation in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. FCI will be benefited as it will not incur any capital investment for any of the projects. The responsibility of designing, building, financing and operating the silos will be of private parties. Further, there will be benefits from creation of silos as it is a safer and modern means of storage. Foodgrains can be stored for a longer period, with reduced losses and less handling and labour costs.

Procurement of crops

2623. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of percentage of foodgrains and other crops procured directly from the farmers during the last five years by various Government agencies; and

(b) whether Government is taking any concrete measures to increase direct procurement from the farmers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The percentage of procurement of foodgrains and other crops by various Government Agencies during last five years is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) The steps taken by the Government of India/Food Corporation of India (FCI) along with various State Governments to increase procurement are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

The Percentage of procurement of foodgrains and other crops by various Government agencies during last five years

(A) The percentage of procurement of paddy in terms of rice by various Government agencies for Central Pool during last five years:—

(Figures in Lakh Metric Ton (LMT))

Kharif Marketing Season (KMS)	Production	Procurement	Procurement Percentage
2012-13	1052.41	340.44	32.35
2013-14	1066.45	318.45	29.86
2014-15	1054.83	320.40	30.37
2015-16	1044.10	342.18	32.77
2016-17	1088.60	318.96	29.30

(B) The percentage of procurement of wheat by various Government agencies for Central Pool during last five years:—

(Figures in LMT)

Rabi Marketing Season (RMS)	Production	Procurement	Procurement Percentage
2012-13	948.80	381.48	40.21
2013-14	935.06	250.92	26.83
2014-15	958.49	280.23	29.24
2015-16	865.26	280.88	32.46
2016-17	922.9	229.61	24.88

(C) The percentage of procurement of coarsegrains by Government agencies during last five years:—

(Figures in LMT)

KMS	Production	Procurement	Procurement Percentage
2012-13	378.5	0.718	0.19
2013-14	410.3	12.31	3.00
2014-15	408.6	4.65	1.13
2015-16	367.0	2.60	0.71
2016-17	420.7	0.72	0.17

(D) The percentage of procurement of Rabi Pulses by FCI, NAFED and SFAC during last five years:—

(Figures in LMT)

RMS	Production	Procurement	Procurement Percentage
2012-13	110.3	--	
2013-14	124.3	--	
2014-15	132.5	3.64	2.75
2015-16	114.2	--	
2016-17	108.2	0.69	0.64

(E) The percentage of procurement of Kharif Pulses by FCI, NAFED and SFAC during last five years:—

(Figures in LMT)

KMS	Production	Procurement	Procurement Percentage
2012-13	59.1	0.95	1.61
2013-14	59.9	0.50	0.83
2014-15	57.3	--	
2015-16	55.3	0.51	0.92
2016-17	87.2	10.12	11.60

(F) The percentage of procurement of Sunflower by FCI, NAFED and SFAC during last five years:—

(Figures in LMT)

Marketing Year	Production	Procurement	Procurement Percentage
2012-13	5.44	0.02	0.37
2013-14	5.04	0.05	1.00
2014-15	4.34	0.04	0.92
2015-16	2.96	0.04	1.35
2016-17	2.41	0.05	2.07

(G) The percentage of procurement of Groundnut by FCI, NAFED and SFAC during last five years:—

(Figures in LMT)

Marketing Year	Production	Procurement	Procurement Percentage
2012-13	69.64	—	
2013-14	46.95	0.16	0.34
2014-15	97.14	0.06	negligible
2015-16	74.02		
2016-17	67.33	2.11	3.13

Statement-II

Steps taken by the Government of India/FCI along with various State Governments to increase procurement

1. The Minimum Support Prices (MSP) are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) which determines the MSP based on the input costs and margin to farmers. FCI and State Government Agencies procure the foodgrains at MSP fixed by GoI.
2. MSP (Minimum Support Price) operations are given wide publicity through pamphlets, banners, sign boards, radio, TV and advertisements through print and electronic media regarding MSP, quality, specifications, purchase system, and so on to spread awareness so that the farmers may bring their produce conforming to the specifications.

3. Procurement centres are opened by respective State Government Agencies/ FCI taking into account the production, marketable surplus, convenience of farmers and availability of other logistics/infrastructure such as storage and transportation etc. Large number of temporary purchase centres in addition to the existing Mandis and depots/godowns are also established at key points for the convenience of the farmers.
4. The agricultural produce brought by a farmer is procured by Government agencies and payments are made through account payee cheque/RTGS/ electronic mode within 48 hours of purchase of his produce.
5. Thrust has been given upon enlarging the reach of MSP operations in the eastern States *i.e.* U.P (Particularly Eastern UP), Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Assam. GOI has allowed engagement of private players in procurement of paddy/rice at MSP in eastern States and accordingly, private players were engaged in U.P., Jharkhand and W.B. As a result during last year (KMS 2015-16), around 70.70 LMT rice was procured in eastern States compared to 53.65 LMT during KMS 2014-15.
6. Under Price Support Scheme (PSS), the procurement of oilseeds, pulses and cotton through Central Nodal Agencies at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) is also undertaken. 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.
7. 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.

Hallmarking of gold and silver items

2624. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps for mandatory hallmarking of gold and silver items, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the extent to which it will ensure purity of the metal items;

(c) whether Government has set up recognized hallmarking centres all over the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 has enabling provisions for making hallmarking of precious metal articles mandatory by the Central Government.

(b) Hallmark on the precious metal article ensures marked purity on the article. Under BIS hallmarking scheme, the purity of the precious metal article is marked on the article only after testing by BIS recognized Assaying and Hallmarking Centres as per the relevant Indian Standard.

(c) and (d) Sir, no Hallmarking Center has been set up by Central Government or by Bureau of Indian Standards. Hallmarking Centres are generally set up by private entrepreneurs. As on 25th February, 2017, there are 441 BIS recognized Hallmarking Centres across the country State-wise, details of which are given in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise distribution of the BIS recognized Assaying and Hallmarking Centres as on 25th Feb 2017

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Assaying and Hallmarking Centres
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23
2.	Assam	02
3.	Bihar	03
4.	Chandigarh	03
5.	Chhattisgarh	02
6.	Delhi	33
7.	Gujarat	51
8.	Goa	01
9.	Haryana	09
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	02
11.	Jharkhand	04
12.	Karnataka	27
13.	Kerala	41

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Assaying and Hallmarking Centres
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10
15.	Maharashtra	65
16.	Odisha	07
17.	Puducherry	01
18.	Punjab	14
19.	Rajasthan	22
20.	Tamil Nadu	55
21.	Telangana	09
22.	Tripura	02
23.	Uttar Pradesh	18
24.	West Bengal	37
TOTAL		441

Buffer stock policy for pulses

2625. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is Government-to-Government agreements to import pulses from other countries;

(b) if so, details of such agreements entered into/proposed during last two years and current year;

(c) the reasons for not having buffer stock policy for pulses like paddy and wheat;

(d) the details of MSP and bonus given to farmers for various kinds of pulses in last three years and current year, year-wise, Rabi and Kharif crop-wise and variety-wise; and

(e) whether there are any plans to have crop-neutral incentive structure like wheat and rice, if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mozambique for import of pulses on Government-to-Government (G2G) basis during 2016-17. The MoU aims at promoting the production of Pigeon Peas/Tur and other pulses in Mozambique through active cooperation between the two countries by encouraging progressive increase in the trading of these pulses.

(c) For effective market intervention on pulses, Government has approved creating a buffer stock of upto 20 lakh tonnes of pulses.

(d) and (e) Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the major agricultural produce including pulses on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of the State Governments, concerned Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors. The CACP recommends MSP taking into consideration the cost of production, overall demand-supply, domestic and international prices, inter-crop price parity, the likely effect of the price policy on the rest of the economy and rational utilization of natural resources like land and water. Details of MSP of pulses including bonus are given in the Statement.

Statement

*Details of Minimum Support Prices including Bonus Fixed by
Government for Pulses (in ₹/Qtl)*

Pulses		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Kharif Pulses	Tur	4300	4350	4625\$	5050^
	Moong	4500	4600	4850\$	5225^
	Urad	4300	4350	4625\$	5000^
Rabi Pulses	Gram	3100	3175	3500#	4000^^
	Masur	2950	3075	3400#	3950*

Source: Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare

\$: Including Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal

#: Including Bonus of ₹ 75 per quintal

^: Including Bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal

^^: Including Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal

*: Including Bonus of ₹ 150 per quintal

Fertilizer subsidy to farmers

2626. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of subsidy provided on various fertilizers during each of the last three years and the current year, State/Union Territory and fertilizer-wise;

(b) whether poor and marginal farmers are unable to reap the benefits of fertilizer subsidy;

(c) if so, Government reaction thereto;

(d) whether Government proposes to provide fertilizer subsidy directly to farmers through their bank account on the line of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme; and

(e) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) The details of subsidy provided on various fertilizers during each of the last three years and the current year is given in the Statement (*See below*).

State/UT-wise subsidy paid figures are not available as the subsidies are released to fertilizers companies.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Subsidy on Urea and 21 grades of Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers is passed-on to farmers through fertilizer companies in the form of MRP, which is much below the delivered cost. While Urea is provided at the fixed price of ₹ 5360/- MT (excluding taxes), the P&K fertilizers are provided to farmers at subsidized price based on the nutrient content in each grade of P&K fertilizer. The fertilizer companies are required to clearly print the MRP alongwith applicable subsidy on each fertilizer bag. Any sale above the printed MRP is punishable under the Essential Commodities Act. In order to check whether the prices fixed by fertilizer companies are reasonable, the companies are required to submit cost data of their fertilizer product so that the Government can ensure that the subsidy has been passed on to the farmers. Thus all the farmers are benefitted from the grant of subsidy on fertilizers.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Under the proposed fertilizer DBT System, which is being implemented on Pilot basis, 100% subsidy on various fertilizer grades shall be released to the fertilizer companies on the basis of sale of fertilizers to beneficiaries through the Point of Sale devices installed at retailer point.

Statement

Details of subsidy provided on various fertilizers during each of the last three years and the current year

(₹ in crores)

Particulars	Indigenous Urea	Imported Urea	Indigenous P&K Fertilizers	Imported P&K Fertilizers
2013-14	26500.00	15353.30	15500.00	13926.86
2014-15	38200.01	16200.00	12000.00	8667.30
2015-16	38200.00	16400.00	11969.00	9968.56
2016-17	39482.60	11146.34	11787.17	6772.19
(As on 20.03.2017)				

Policy on printing MRP on products

2627. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any policy on Maximum Retail Price (MRP) to be printed on various products;

(b) whether Government is aware that, very often, these prices are two to three times higher than the actual price thereby giving a tool to sellers to overcharge the consumers; and

(c) if so, the measures Government proposes to take so that the end consumer is not overcharged by the seller?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Maximum Retail Price (MRP) to be printed on various products is determined by the manufacturing companies themselves. Competition in market place determines the sale price of a commodity, depending on demand, availability and quality.

(b) and (c) No such type of complaint is received that prices are two to three times higher than the actual price thereby giving a tool to sellers to overcharge the consumers.

On the direction of Kerala High Court, the Government had constituted an Expert Committee in August, 2007 under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. Govinda Rao, Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy to examine the feasibility of declaring a normative price on a pre-packaged commodity, as applicable for the entire country, adequately reflecting the cost incurred by the producer in reaching the package to the end consumer. The Committee unanimously found that it is neither feasible nor desirable to declare a normative price for various customer goods. The Committee also observed that the consumer's interest will be well served by the Government taking a pro-active role in creating and deepening the markets and empowering the institution such as the Competition Commission to monitor the market conditions to promote healthy competition.

The Committee also examined the question of whether there should be declaration of any other price in addition to MRP. The majority view in the Committee was that it would be impossible to enforce accurate declaration of MRP by requiring the manufacturer to declare the First Point Price in addition to MRP. The Committee recommended that the solution to prevent exploitation of consumer lies in activating competition in the markets. The Committee also noted that for goods covered under

Schedule 4 of the Central Excise Act, there is an automatic disincentive to inflate the MRP because higher MRP would attract higher taxes.

The Government has accepted these recommendations of the Committee.

Claims under LSPEF

2628. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Levy Sugar Price Equalization Fund (LSPEF) claims have not been released to Rajasthan State Food Civil Supplies Corporation;

(b) if so, the amount of claims that have to be released and the reasons for not releasing these LSPEF claims; and

(c) whether Government intends to release these fund claims, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) The Levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund (LSPEF) claims are submitted by Rajasthan State Food Civil Supplies Corporation (RSFCSC) Ltd., to Food Corporation of India (FCI) for payment. FCI has informed that the RSFCSC Ltd., has submitted to them 14 supplementary bills for the period 2012-13 and 2013-14; amounting to ₹ 53,10,592.32. These bills have been processed and found to be eligible for ₹ 50,34,103.00 and payment has been released to RSFCSC Ltd., by FCI.

ICEGOV 2017 Conference

2629. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many countries participated in the ICEGOV 2017 Conference organised by the Government in the country;

(b) whether this was part of the Digital India initiative being carried out by Government; and

(c) if so, the details of the outcome of the conference with resolution, if any, passed in the event?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Citizens from more than 50 countries participated in ICEGOV 2017 Conference.

(b) and (c) No, Madam. ICEGOV is a series of International Conferences on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance taking place annually around the world. The series focuses on the use of technology to transform the working of Government and its relationships with citizens, businesses and other non-State actors. The tenth edition was organized in India under the aegis of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, in view of the strong resonance between the objectives of the ICEGOV series and Digital India Programme of Government of India.

There was a good response to the call for papers: 560 papers were received which is more than 3 times the earlier record of ICEGOV Conference. These papers were written by authors from over 40 different nationalities. Based on multiple reviews by an international team, 71 papers across 12 different tracks (themes), and 40 posters were selected for presentation at the conference. Additionally, apart from the opening and the closing sessions, the 3-day conference covered 6 keynotes by renowned academicians/practitioners and 4 plenary sessions. There was a doctoral colloquium on Day-4 for Ph.D students.

Amendment to the I.T. Act, 2000

2630. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering making amendment to the Information Technology Act, 2000 to bolster privacy and data security protections in the light of Government's push for a Digital Economy, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government shall consider holding consultations on the proposal in line with the Pre Legislative Consultation Policy, 2014; 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 Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provides adequate legal framework for data protection and privacy in the digital domain. Section 43, Section 43A, Section 72 and Section 72A of the Act provide for privacy and security of data in digital form. To address specific requirement of security arising out of Government push for digital economy, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has formulated draft rules for security of Prepaid Payment Instruments under provisions of IT Act, 2000. The draft rules have been published on MeitY website inviting public comments.

MeitY, as a policy, follow the norms prescribed in Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy, 2014 for formulation of legislation, rules etc. by uploading the draft policy/legislation inviting comments from public as well as all stakeholders.

Currently there is no proposal with the Government to amend the IT Act, 2000.

Transaction frauds under Aadhaar Scheme

2631. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of cases of transaction frauds registered under the Aadhaar Scheme in the last two years;

(b) the details of action taken in these cases; and

(c) the details of the steps taken so far by the Ministry to ensure that Aadhaar linked transaction frauds are minimized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) No case of transaction frauds has been registered under the Aadhaar Scheme in the last two years.

(b) Not Applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) A number of steps have been undertaken to ensure the transactions are carried out in secure manner. The same have been enforced through legal and technological measures. Legal measures are enforced through Aadhaar Act 2016 and Aadhaar (Authentication) Regulations, 2016. Key legal provisions as mentioned in Aadhaar (Authentication) Regulation are enumerated below:-

- Chapter-II: Aadhaar Authentication Framework
- Chapter-III: Appointment of Requesting Entities and Authentication Service Providers
- Chapter-IV: Authentication Transaction Data and Authentication Records

Increase in cyber security threats

†2632. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cyber security threat due to internet has increased continuously;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of Government/non-Government reports in this regard and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether most organisations in the country have begun to believe that all their information gathered through cloud systems is not safe, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial steps being taken by Government to ensure safety of all kinds of information, adopt higher security systems to minimize cyber threats and transform and upgrade safety strategies and mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) With the proliferation of Information Technology and related services there is a rise in number of cyber security incidents in the country like elsewhere in the world. As per the information reported to and tracked by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), a total no. of 44679, 49455 and 50362 cyber security incidents were observed during the year 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. The types of cyber security incidents include phishing, scanning/probing, website intrusions and defacements, virus/malicious code, Denial of Service attacks, etc. Over a period, the nature and pattern of incidents are becoming more sophisticated and complex. In tune with the dynamic nature of Information Technology continuous efforts are required to be made to detect and prevent cyber attacks.

(c) There is no such study conducted by the Government.

(d) Government has taken a number of legal, technical and administrative policy measures for addressing cyber security. This includes National Cyber Security Policy (2013), Framework for enhancing Cyber Security (2013), enactment of Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and setting up of Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) under the IT Act, 2000.

(i) The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has adequate provisions for safety of sensitive personal information.

(ii) Government is implementing a Framework for enhancing cyber security, with a multi-layered approach for ensuring defence-in-depth and clear demarcation of responsibilities among the stakeholder organizations in the country.

(iii) Government has established National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) as per the provisions of Section 70A of the IT Act, 2000 for protection of Critical Information Infrastructure in the country.

- (iv) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats and countermeasures on regular basis. CERT-In has published guidelines for securing IT infrastructure, which are available on its website (www.certin.org.in). In order to detect variety of threats and imminent cyber attacks from outside the country, periodic scanning of cyber space is carried out.
- (v) Government has formulated Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism for implementation by all Ministries/Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.
- (vi) Cyber security mock drills are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors.
- (vii) Government has initiated setting up of National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive and protective actions by individual entities.
- (viii) Cyber Crime Cells have been set up in all States and Union Territories for reporting and investigation of Cyber Crime cases.
- (ix) Government has set up cyber forensic training and investigation labs in the States of Kerala, Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir for training of Law Enforcement and Judiciary in these States.
- (x) Industry associations such as Data Security Council of India (DSCI), NASSCOM, Cyber Forensic Labs, set up in certain States, have taken up tasks of awareness creation and training programmes on Cyber Crime Investigation. Academia like National Law School, Bangalore and NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad are also engaged in conducting several awareness and training programmes on Cyber Laws and Cyber Crimes for judicial officers.
- (xi) A number of Cyber forensics tools for collection, analysis, presentation of the digital evidence have been developed indigenously and such tools are being used by Law Enforcement Agencies.
- (xii) CERT-In and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) are involved in providing basic and advanced training to Law Enforcement Agencies, Forensic labs and judiciary on the procedures and methodology of collecting, analysing and presenting digital evidence.

- (xiii) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issues Circulars/advisories to all Commercial Banks on phishing attacks and preventive/detective measures to tackle phishing attacks. RBI also issues advisories relating to fictitious offers of funds transfer, remittance towards participation in lottery, money circulation schemes and other fictitious offers of cheap funds.
- (xiv) All banks have been mandated to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In expeditiously.
- (xv) All authorised entities/banks issuing Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) in the country have been advised to carry out audit by the empaneled auditors of Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (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. CERT-In has empaneled 32 security auditing organisations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.
- (xvi) Government has formulated Cyber Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks for implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors. Regular workshops are conducted for Ministries, Departments, States and UTs and Critical Organizations to sensitize them about the cyber security threat landscape and enabling them to prepare and implement the Cyber Crisis Management Plan.
- (xvii) Government has launched the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre). The Centre is providing detection of malicious programs and free tools to remove the same for banks as well as common users.
- (xviii) Ministry of Home Affairs has issued National Information Security Policy and Guidelines (NISPG) to Government Organizations to ensure safety of data and minimize cyber threats.

Collection of fee for issue of Aadhaar Card

2633. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN:
SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Aadhaar issuing centres are collecting a fee of nearly 100 or 300 rupees for issue of Aadhaar Card, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to take stringent action against the Aadhaar Centres which are collecting fee for issue of Aadhaar Cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Enrolment for Aadhaar is free. In addition to that biometric update on attaining the age of 5 or 15 years by the resident is also free. The maximum charges that can be collected from the resident for other updates and other Aadhaar related services are given below:

Sl. No.	Services	Assistance paid to Registrars (in ₹)	Fee collected from resident by service provider (in ₹)
1.	Aadhaar generation	50	-
2.	Mandatory biometric update	25	-
3.	Other biometric update	-	25
4.	Demographic update (any type/ any channel)	-	25
5.	Aadhaar Search using eKYC/ Find Aadhaar/any other tool and colour print out A4 sheet	-	20
6.	Aadhaar Search using eKYC/Find Aadhaar/any other tool and B/W print out on A4 sheet	-	10
7.	BFD/States Query	-	Free

In the instances of violations of the established processes and guidelines at the enrolment centres, including charging of money for enrolment or overcharging for other Aadhaar related services, required action like blacklisting of the personnel involved, imposition of penalty etc. is taken as per the policy of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) in force.

Data breach of UIDAI

2634. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an instance of data breach has raised privacy concerns and questions over the security of biometric data in the possession of UIDAI;

(b) whether UIDAI has filed a police complaint against a prominent bank and other private companies, alleging unauthorised authentication and impersonation by illegally storing Aadhaar biometrics, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the timing of this incident gains significance when the Apex Court is poised to debate the concerns of privacy surrounding Aadhaar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) No instance of data breach has occurred in UIDAI till date.

(b) UIDAI has filed a police complaint with Crime Branch, Delhi Police in the matter. The police investigation is in progress.

(c) It is not possible to comment on the bearing of any incidence as the matter is *sub-judice*.

Digital Village Pilot Project

2635. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be please to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to implement Digital Village Pilot Project;

(b) if so, the details along with the aims and objectives thereof;

(c) the number of Gram Panchayats identified for the project in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise;

(d) whether Government has stipulated any time limit to launch the project in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Government of India has envisaged a Pilot Project of Digital Village (DigiGaon) to be implemented in 1050 Gram Panchayats (GPs) spread across 30 States/UTs. This project intends to provide a platform for availability of services namely tele-education, tele-medicine, LED street Lighting and Wi-Fi Hotspot and skill development to the citizens at the Gram Panchayats across various States/UTs. The aims and objectives of “Digital Village Pilot Project” are:—

- To provide basic development services to rural areas using digital technology and demonstrate the positional of digital technologies to improve quality of life in rural areas.

- To provide Wi-Fi access at common place in the village.
- To facilitate access to regional medical centres for local population for expert opinion thus, ensuring availability of basic medical facilities at village level.
- To provide access to interactive teaching in local schools facing shortage of teachers.
- To provide LED lighting at a common area in the village.
- To provide resource centres to be used for providing skill development training, holding information sharing sessions and organizing interactive sessions with experts, Government officers etc.
- To create market/demand for digital services in rural areas thereby creating market pull for Telecom Services 3G/4G to unreached areas.

(c) Digital Village Pilot Project is envisaged to be implemented in 30 Gram Panchayats in Himachal Pradesh. Government of India proposes to undertake a consultative approach with State Government to identify the Gram Panchayats for the project.

(d) and (e) The Pilot Project of Digital Village has already been approved with a total outlay of ₹ 423.26 crores for a period of three years.

**IT infrastructure for digital connectivity of rural areas
of Himachal Pradesh**

2636. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to augment information technology infrastructure for digital connectivity of Gram Panchayats across the country, if so, the details thereof along with the amount allocated for the project;

(b) whether Government proposes to collaborate with private sector for augmenting information technology infrastructure for digital connectivity of rural areas of Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the time stipulated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) 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. On 14.12.2016, Telecom Commission approved the revised implementation strategy for phase-II of BharatNet to provide connectivity 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 2,50,000 GPs in the country which is targeted to be completed by December, 2018. ₹ 10,000 crore has been allocated for the BharatNet Project for the year 2017-18.

(b) and (c) State Governments, State Government Agencies and Private Sector are proposed to be implementing partner in implementation of BharatNet Phase-II.

Projects in Goa

2637. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any projects of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology are being implemented in the State of Goa;

(b) if so, the names of the projects; and

(c) the amount sanctioned and targets achieved, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India is implementing following projects in the State of Goa:

- (i) **State Portal, State Service Delivery Gateway and e-Form:** The State e-Governance Service Delivery Gateway (SSDG), a core component in e-Governance infrastructure, aims to achieve a high order of interoperability among autonomous and heterogeneous entities of the States by acting as a standards-based messaging switch based on a framework of e-Governance Standards. A total amount of ₹ 6.37 crore has been sanctioned and the project gone live with 50 Government to Citizen (G2C) services and approx 1.80 lakh transactions so far.
- (ii) **State Data Centre (SDCs):** The State Data Centre (SDC) is one of the core infrastructure pillars to be set up in all 36 States/UTs. SDCs are envisaged as state level digital nerve system hosting all Government owned applications and data. SDC provides key functionalities such as secure data storage, online e-delivery of Government to Government (G2G), Government to Business (G2B) and Government to Citizen (G2C) services, citizen information/services portal, Disaster Recovery, Remote Management and Service integration. SDC

Goa was approved by MeitY in August, 2010 with a total outlay of ₹ 36.46 crore. Further, operations and management of the project will be supported for 5 years from the date of implementation. The project is under advanced stage of implementation and Final Acceptance Test process is in progress.

- (iii) **e-District Mission Mode Project (MMP):** The e-District Project was conceptualized to improve and enhance the efficiencies of the various Government Departments to enable seamless service delivery to the citizen in a sustainable manner, within a specific time frame electronically, through automation of workflow, back end digitization, integration and process redesigning across participating sections/departments. Some of the services planned include Certificates, Social Welfare Schemes, Revenue Court, Ration Card, RTI among other State specific services. A total amount of ₹ 1.90 crore has been sanctioned for e-District MMP and the project is under implementation in the State of Goa.
- (iv) **Common Service Centres (CSCs):** The CSCs are Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enabled kiosks with broadband connectivity to provide various Government, private and social services at the doorstep of the citizen. It aims for establishing self sustaining network of 2.5 lakh CSC Centres at least one in each Gram Panchayat (GP). The approved outlay for the State of Goa is ₹ 1.9 lakhs. Total 57 CSCs have been registered across the State of Goa out of which 7 CSCs have been registered at Gram Panchayat level.
- (v) **Special Manpower Development Programme for Chips to System Design (SMDP-C2SD):** An umbrella programme was initiated under 'Digital India Programme' in December 2014 at 60 Academic/Research and Development Institutions across the country including IITs, NITs, IISc, IIITs and other Engineering Colleges with an aim to train specialized manpower in the area of Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI) design and inculcate the culture of System-on-Chip/System Level Design at Bachelors, Masters and Research level. The Project has an outlay of ₹ 99.72 crore with duration of 5 years. An amount of ₹ 16.95 Lakhs as Grant-in-Aid has been released to NIT Goa. VLSI Design Laboratory equipped with Electronic Design Automation Tools and Hardware Platform has been set up at NIT Goa. 99 specialized manpower has already been trained at NIT Goa. Faculty of NIT Goa has been trained under Instruction Enhancement Programme (IEP) organized as part of the SMDP-C2SD Programme. Projects for development of Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs) have been initiated at NIT Goa.

- (vi) **Greenfield Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC):** MeitY has accorded final approval to Department of Information Technology, Government of Goa, on 3rd March 2017, for setting up of Greenfield Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) over an area of 147.55 acres with total project cost of ₹ 161.32 crore including grant-in-aid of ₹ 73.78 crores at Village-Tuem, Pernem Taluk of North Goa.

North East BPO Promotion Scheme

2638. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was decided to establish 5000 seats under the North East BPO Promotion Scheme to incentivize BPO/ITES operations in North East Region for creation of employment opportunities for the youth and growth of IT-ITES industry;

(b) if so, how many seats out of these 5000 promised seats have been created till date; and

(c) by when Government plans to set up the 5000 promised seats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under Digital India Programme, the Government has launched North East BPO Promotion scheme (NEBPS), to incentivize setting up of 5,000 seats for BPO/ITES operations in North East Region (NER) for creation of employment opportunities to the youth and growth of IT-ITES industry with an outlay of ₹ 50 crore up to 31.03.2019. Under NEBPS, till now 10 companies have entered into a preliminary agreement with Software Technology Parks of India (implementing agency of NEBPS) to setup BPO/ITES operations for a total of 1,460 seats distributed across 5 States of NER. Bidding under NEBPS is conducted in continuous manner by Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) to select eligible entities. Further, the details of the scheme are available at www.meity.gov.in/nebps

India Post Payments Bank

2639. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the concept of India Post Payments Bank mooted;

(b) the reasons for enormous delay in opening up of this Bank;

(c) the difference between regular bank and India Post Payments Bank; and

(d) whether it is a fact that there are companies which are keen to partner with India Post Payments Bank, if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Department of Posts (DoP) applied to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) during January 2015 for setting up India Post Payments Bank (IPPB). RBI granted in-principle approval to the Department for Setting up Payments Bank on 7th September 2015 with a guideline to set up the bank within 18 months from the date of issue of the approval. Final License authorizing the bank to carry on Payments Bank business has been obtained from the Reserve Bank of India in terms of Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 on 20.01.2017. The India Post Payments Bank has launched its two branches in Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and Ranchi (Jharkhand) on 30.01.2017 with basic products and banking services in partnership with Punjab National Bank.

(c) Payments Banks are different from regular Banks in the following fundamental ways as per RBI guidelines for Licensing of Payments Banks:

- (i) Payment Banks are not allowed to undertake lending activities directly.
- (ii) Payment Banks can accept demand deposits only that is savings and current accounts and will initially be restricted to holding a maximum balance of ₹ 100,000 (Rupees one lakh only) per individual customer.
- (iii) Payment Banks cannot accept Non Resident Indian (NRI) deposits.
- (iv) The Payment Banks cannot set up subsidiaries to undertake non banking financial services activities.

(d) Yes, Sir. Many companies have approached the Department of Posts for collaboration with India Post Payments Bank. While the Department is in various stages of discussions with them, (a) decision on formal partnerships will be taken after carefully evaluating the entire value proposition that they propose for the common man. A list of companies interested in partnering with India Post Payments Bank is given in the Statement.

Statement

List companies keen to partner with India Post Payments Bank

-
1. YES Bank
 2. Union Bank
 3. Punjab National Bank
 4. IDBI Bank (Industrial Development Bank of India)
-

-
5. SBI (State Bank of India)
 6. Axis
 7. Bank of Baroda
 8. IDFC Bank (Industrial Development Finance Company)
 9. Deutsche Bank
 10. Barclays Bank
 11. Citibank
 12. NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development)
 13. HSBC (Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation)
 14. MICRO SAVE
 15. Allahabad Bank
 16. Indian Overseas Bank
 17. Dena Bank
 18. FIA (Financial Inclusion)
 19. Kotak Mahindra Bank
 20. United Bank of India
 21. HDFC Life (Housing Development Finance Corporation)
 22. Royal Sundaram
 23. PNB Metlife (Punjab National Bank)
 24. ICICI Lombard (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Bank)
 25. ICICI Prudential (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Bank)
 26. Bajaj Allianz Life
 27. India First Life Insurance
 28. Max Life Insurance
 29. LIC (Life Insurance Corporation)
 30. Transfort, USA
 31. Western Union
 32. UAE Exchange (United Arab Emirates)
 33. Transfast, USA
 34. UTI Asset Management (Unit Trust of India)
 35. CMS Infosystem (Content Management System.)
 36. Reliance Capital Limited
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37. Ambay Forex
 38. Centre for Digital Financial Inclusion (CDFI)
 39. IDRBT (Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology)
 40. NIBM (National Institute of Bank Management)
 41. Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs
 42. National Stock Exchange
 43. Access Assist
 44. Muthoot Fin Corp
 45. AnG India Ltd.
 46. Nomura Research Institute
 47. Aumentis
 48. Randstad
 49. IBRT-Institution for Bank Recruitment and Training
 50. Shilpi Architects
 51. MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited)
 52. Abc Infosystems
 53. PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority)
 54. Visa
 55. Methodex Systems
 56. iValue infosolutions
 57. Inspira
 58. Indepay
 59. Mindgate Solutions
 60. Layered Security
 61. Nelito Systems
 62. ITI Limited (Indian Telephone Industries Limited)
 63. NCR Corporation (National Cash Register)
 64. Finacus Solutions
 65. BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited)
 66. Tata Communication Payment Solutions
 67. Mfino
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68. Span Technologies
 69. AGS Transact Technologies Ltd.
 70. Wipro Ltd.
 71. Ezeetap
 72. Diebold Systems Pvt Ltd.
 73. Hitachi Payments Services Pvt. Ltd.
 74. EPS
 75. Fiorano Software
 76. Worldline India Pvt. Ltd.
 77. Transaction Analyst
 78. Pay e, USA
 79. Perpetuity
 80. Edgeverve
 81. Obopay
 82. Wordline
 83. Oberthur
 84. Burroughs Inc
 85. Intellect Design Arena
 86. 3i Infotech
 87. RS Software
 88. Empays
 89. Hughes Communication India Ltd.
 90. Tsys (Total System Services)
 91. AKS IT Services
 92. Aditya Birla
 93. Safeage
 94. Tata AIG
 95. Crane PI
 96. Finsall
 97. OKI
 98. Agmatel
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Establishment of CSCs in Tamil Nadu

2640. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has completed establishment of Common Service Centres (CSCs), which are crucial in providing G2C (Government to Citizens) and other B2C (Business to Citizen) services in all villages of Tamil Nadu; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Till February, 2017, 12,824 nos. of CSCs have been registered across the State of Tamil Nadu, out of which, 12,333 are at GP level.

District-wise details of registered CSCs are given in the Statement.

Statement*District-wise details of registered Common Service Centres*

Sl. No.	District	Total Registered CSCs Till Feb,17	No.of GPs	CSCs Registered at GP Till Feb,17
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ariyalur	295	158	284
2.	Chennai	581	113	561
3.	Coimbatore	604	226	586
4.	Cuddalore	552	628	531
5.	Dharmapuri	502	362	481
6.	Dindigul	444	290	427
7.	Erode	377	269	363
8.	Kancheepuram	409	808	395
9.	Kanniyakumari	204	116	198
10.	Karur	324	138	314
11.	Krishnagiri	680	490	668
12.	Madurai	456	446	441
13.	Nagapattinam	376	370	362
14.	Namakkal	414	309	398

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Perambalur	183	120	179
16.	Pudukkottai	345	561	332
17.	Ramanathapuram	315	300	303
18.	Salem	603	478	582
19.	Sivaganga	262	389	254
20.	Thanjavur	329	615	316
21.	The Nilgiris	121	42	119
22.	Theni	287	92	276
23.	Thiruvallur	332	495	319
24.	Thiruvarur	321	408	309
25.	Thoothukkudi	225	347	219
26.	Tiruchirappalli	195	367	194
27.	Tirunelveli	325	380	313
28.	Tiruppur	396	253	381
29.	Tiruvannamalai	390	819	375
30.	Vellore	830	682	765
31.	Viluppuram	845	1098	798
32.	Virudhunagar	302	451	290
GRAND TOTAL		12824	12618	12333

Huge debt of IT companies

2641. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that companies working in IT Sector have huge debts totaling about 5 trillion rupees;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is every chance that it may lead to pauperization of many of them, resulting in one or two companies owning the whole field, to the detriment of IT users; and

(c) noticing the net result of amalgamation and appropriation of companies, whether Government would intervene to bring in financial accountability and stability to enable people to get responsible and uninterrupted IT services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) According to National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), no data on debt of IT companies is maintained. However, the Indian IT-ITES industry revenue aggregate (Exports+Domestic but excluding hardware) has witnessed a growth of about 8.0% and estimated to reach US \$ 141.0 billion in FY 2016-17 as compared to US \$ 129.5 billion in FY 2015-16.

(c) Does not arise.

Manufacturing of foreign smartphones in the country

2642. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smart phone makers around the world have started or are planning to manufacture some or all of their products in the country after Central Government's ambitious 'Make in India' initiative;

(b) if so, the number of proposals received by Government from smart phone makers to manufacture their products; and

(c) the details and the status of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per information made available by the Indian Cellular Association (ICA), 40 new units for manufacturing of mobile handsets have been set up in the country after the "Make in India" initiative of the Government of India. A total of 19 proposals have been received from smart phone makers to manufacture their products with financial support from the Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The details and the status of these proposals are given in the Statement.

Statement*Details of proposals received from smart phone makers to manufacture their products*

Sl. No.	Applicant	State	Project Location	Proposed Investment Amount (₹ in crore)	Products	Project type	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	VSUN Mobile Pvt. Ltd.	Haryana	Bawal, Distt. Rewari, Haryana	32.40	EMS (Mobile phones)	New	Approved
2.	Flextronics	Tamil Nadu	Plot 3, Phase II, SIPCOT Industrial Park Sandavellur C Village, Sriperumbudur Talu K Kanchipuram, Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu	643.95	Mobile phones, power chargers, printers and PCBA for automotive	Diversification	Approved
3.	Lava International Limited-2	UP	A-47, Sector-58, Noida, UP	45.16	Mobile phone assembly	Expansion	Approved
4.	Padget Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	UP	Noida, UP	62.38	Mobile phones	New	Approved
5.	Adit Infratel Pvt. Ltd.	Haryana	Manesar, Haryana	4.21	Mobile Phone batteries, chargers etc.	Expansion	Approved

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Salcomp Manufacturing India Pvt. Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	Nokia Telecom SEZ SIPCOT Industrial Park, Phase 3, Sriperumbudur, Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu	614.30	Mobile phones chargers, transformers, battery pack, cable assembly, LED Drivers	Expansion	Approved
7.	Axiom Energy Conversion Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	Plot No.207/4&5 Phase-II IDA, Cherlapally, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	10.00	Chargers for mobile phones	Expansion	Under appraisal
8.	Bhagwati Products Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	Plot No,S-1,E-City Raviryal, Hyderabad, Telangana Raviryal Rangareddi Andhra Pradesh	120.00	Mobile phones	New	Under appraisal
9.	Celkon Impex Pvt. Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	IT Park, Tirupati, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh	49.85	Smartphones and Tablets	New	Under appraisal
10.	Essline Engineers and Consultants	Haryana	Killa No. 17/15/2/1/2(0-7),	60.00	EMS for mobile phones	New	Under appraisal

			16/1/2(2-9), Kundli, Sonepat, Haryana				
11.	Hong Kong De Technology India Pvt. Ltd.	UP	Lot No- 55, Block-A, Sector-64, Phase-III, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP	14.00	Mobile charges and Adaptors and allied II, accessories of various designs	New	Under appraisal
12.	Intex Technologies India Ltd.	UP	A-3 Ecotech-VI, Greater Noida, Sector-83, Noida, UP	450.03	Washing machine, LED, Mobile phone and batteries	New	Recom mended for approval
13.	Lava International Ltd.	UP	Plot No.154-D, Block-A, Sector-63, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP	74.16	Mobile phones	New	Under appraisal
14.	Lava International Ltd.-I	UP	A47, Sec-58, Yamuna Express Way, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, UP	2569.57	Smart phone mobile handsets	New	Under appraisal
15.	m2i India Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	UP	B 4 Ecotech-1 Extension, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP	158.33	Manufacturing of smart devices inclusive of mobile phones tablets IoT biometric and related products	New	Under appraisal

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Oppo Mobiles India Pvt. Ltd.	UP	1. Industrial Plot 1, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida, UP 2. Plot No. A-154 B, Block A, Sector 63, Phase III, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, UP	544.35	Smart phones	New	Under appraisal
17.	Pacific Cyber Technology Pvt. Ltd.	U/T	Daman Distt., Daman and Diu, Union Territory	131.09	EMS of Mobile phones, Tablets, Adopters, Power Banks, Battery Pack, USB Dongle	New	Under appraisal
18.	Vivo Mobile India Pvt. Ltd.	UP	1. Tec-1, World Trade Centre, Plot No.TZ-13A, Tec Zone, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP 2. 4th and 6th Floor, Tec-2, World Trade Centre, Plot No. TZ-13A, Tec Zone	473.49	Smart phones	Expansion	Under appraisal

19.	XOR Tech Ltd.	Delhi	Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP A-40, Phase 1, Mayapuri Industrial Area, New Delhi, Delhi	51.15	Mobile phone chargers, Lithiumion Power Banks, CCTV Camera, DVR and NVRs	New	Under appraisal
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Penal provisions for breach of Aadhaar data

2643. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the last three years there has been any incident where Aadhaar data and biometrics have been breached with or without the connivance of any intermediary or Aadhaar data handler, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there are any penal provisions for punishment for such breach, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action initiated against those responsible for breach of Aadhaar data; and

(d) whether any steps are being taken or contemplated to strengthen the security of Aadhaar database?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) No instance of Aadhaar data or biometrics breach has occurred till date.

(b) Offences and penalties have been identified in the Chapter VII of The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits, and Services) Act, 2016. The various Sections for offences and penalties are:—

34 – Penalty for impersonation at time of enrolment.

35 – Penalty for impersonation of Aadhaar number holder by changing demographic information or biometric information.

36 – Penalty for impersonation.

37 – Penalty for disclosing identity information.

38 – Penalty for unauthorised access to the Central Identities Data Repository.

39 – Penalty for tampering with data in Central Identities Data Repository.

40 – Penalty for unauthorised use by requesting entity.

41 – Penalty for non-compliance with Intimation requirements.

42 – General penalty.

43 – Offences by companies.

44 – Act to apply for offence or contravention committed outside India.

45 – Power to investigate offences.

46 – Penalties not to interfere with other punishments.

47 – Cognizance of offences.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) UIDAI has adequate legal, organizational and technological measures in place to strengthen the security of the data stored in UIDAI. Data protection measures have also been mandated for the requesting entities and ecosystem partners to address the security concerns surrounding Aadhaar.

Common Service Centres

2644. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Common Service Centres (CSCs), which are the corner stone of the Digital India project have been set up in every village of the country, the details thereof;

(b) the details of CSCs that have been established and operational, State-wise;

(c) the details of funds allocated and spent for the same over the past three years; and

(d) the details of the employment generated and average income/commission earned by a village level entrepreneur from the CSC, State-wise in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The CSC 2.0 envisages establishment of at least one CSC covering all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakhs) of the country over a period of four years. It is envisaged as a service/transaction oriented model with a large bouquet of services made available at the CSCs for delivering to the citizens.

So far, 2,91,366 Common Service Centres (CSCs) have been registered across the country, among which, 1,81,173 are at GP level. Out of the total registered CSCs, 2,50,345 CSCs are active and transacting for delivery of eServices out of this 1,59,633 are at GP level.

The State-wise details of Common Service Centres established and operational are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) Under the CSC 2.0 project the funds are being released to the single implementing agency: CSC-SPV. Out of the total approved outlay of ₹ 475.11 crore, ₹ 145 crore has been released in financial year 2015-16 as Grant-in-Aid (GIA) 1st instalment to the implementing agency: CSC-SPV.

(d) The current working model of CSC is completely a transaction oriented self-sustainable model. On an average, 2-5 persons are engaged in each CSC kiosk. Hence, it is estimated that around 4.85 lakh to 12 lakh persons are employed in the CSCs. The average income/commission earned by a village level entrepreneur from the CSC varies between ₹ 5000 – 10,000 per month.

Details of the estimated employment generated are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

*State-wise details of Common Service Centres established and operational
as on 28 February, 2017*

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Gram Panchayat (GP)	No. of CSCs established including GP	No. of CSCs established at GP level	Total No. of functional CSCs including GP	Total No. of functional CSCs at GP level
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12833	9632	5613	7108	3598
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1779	208	136	49	42
3.	Assam	2196	5227	1485	1997	1469
4.	Bihar	8463	16825	8213	14284	8108
5.	Chhattisgarh	9734	14355	9734	10932	9103
6.	Goa	189	57	7	29	2
7.	Gujarat	13735	18062	13885	15805	13885
8.	Haryana	6155	6941	6105	5666	4857
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3243	3791	3469	3111	2232
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	4128	1669	1219	1293	854
11.	Jharkhand	4423	7386	4393	6381	4393
12.	Karnataka	5628	4837	2599	4390	2292
13.	Kerala	979	3034	1095	2075	880
14.	Madhya Pradesh	23012	20511	12564	20425	11607
15.	Maharashtra	27920	29708	18807	29402	17307
16.	Manipur	165	778	256	418	256

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	Meghalaya	1463	374	276	127	44
18.	Mizoram	776	376	316	69	58
19.	Nagaland	1123	232	230	58	47
20.	Odisha	6234	9655	5913	5869	5484
21.	Punjab	12800	8656	4818	3525	3259
22.	Rajasthan	9946	30436	15038	29814	14878
23.	Sikkim	165	116	68	30	22
24.	Tamil Nadu	12618	12824	12333	7001	6307
25.	Telangana	8787	4955	2819	4930	2819
26.	Tripura	1038	621	442	353	322
27.	Uttarakhand	7555	5902	4633	3911	3812
28.	Uttar Pradesh	51914	59098	38123	57506	35321
29.	West Bengal	3351	12873	6406	11723	6203
	STATE TOTAL	242352	289139	180995	248281	159461
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	69	45	19	40	19
31.	Chandigarh	17	81	21	63	21
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	11	22	11	21	9
33.	Daman and Diu	14	23	10	18	9
34.	Delhi	0	1844	0	1803	0
35.	Lakshadweep	10	14	14	13	11
36.	Puducherry	98	198	103	106	103
	UT TOTAL	219	2227	178	2064	172
	GRAND TOTAL	242571	291366	181173	250345	159633

Statement-II*State-wise and year-wise details of CSCs set up and estimated employment generated*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Year-2014	Avg. employment	Year-2015	Avg. employment	Year-2016	Avg. employment
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4116	14406	4550	15925	9632	33712
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	200	700	200	700	208	728
3.	Assam	3915	13703	2753	9636	5227	18295
4.	Bihar	8286	29001	8243	28851	16825	58888
5.	Chhattisgarh	4394	15379	5100	17850	14355	50243
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	57	200
7.	Gujarat	13685	47898	13685	47898	18062	63217
8.	Haryana	228	798	1932	6762	6941	24294
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3336	11676	3036	10626	3791	13269
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	989	3462	1111	3889	1669	5842
11.	Jharkhand	4693	16426	4705	16468	7386	25851
12.	Karnataka	904	3164	904	3164	4837	16930
13.	Kerala	2004	7014	2682	9387	3034	10619
14.	Madhya Pradesh	13207	46225	13207	46225	20511	71789

15.	Maharashtra	31272	109452	31207	109225	29708	103978
16.	Manipur	392	1372	399	1397	778	2723
17.	Meghalaya	227	795	221	774	374	1309
18.	Mizoram	136	476	43	151	376	1316
19.	Nagaland	220	770	45	158	232	812
20.	Odisha	6335	22173	5469	19142	9655	33793
21.	Punjab	3569	12492	3567	12485	8656	30296
22.	Rajasthan	7453	26086	10360	36260	30436	106526
23.	Sikkim	0	0	191	669	116	406
24.	Tamil Nadu	1130	3955	5440	19040	12824	44884
25.	Telangana	3464	12124	843	2951	4955	17343
26.	Tripura	146	511	202	707	621	2174
27.	Uttar Pradesh	17882	62587	19776	69216	59098	206843
28.	Uttarakhand	2079	7277	2152	7532	5902	20657
29.	West Bengal	6337	22180	5534	19369	12873	45056
STATE TOTAL		140599	492097	147557	516450	289139	1011987

Sl. No.	State/UT	Year-2014	Avg. employment	Year-2015	Avg. employment	Year-2016	Avg. employment
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	35	123	35	123	45	158
31.	Chandigarh	28	98	28	98	81	284
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8	28	9	32	22	77
33.	Daman and Diu	1	4	7	25	23	81
34.	Delhi	91	319	91	319	1844	6454
35.	Lakshadweep	15	53	15	53	14	49
36.	Puducherry	56	196	56	196	198	693
UTs TOTAL		234	819	241	844	2227	7795
GRAND TOTAL		140833	492916	147798	517293	291366	1019781

Hacking of websites of Central and State Ministries/Departments

2645. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 700 websites of Central Ministries/Departments and of State Governments were hacked during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government is considering to take help of IIT or any other Institute of prevent hacking and manipulation problems in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The total number of websites hosted on NICNET that have been defaced since 2014 is 201. The details are given below:

Year	Websites
2014	57
2015	41
2016	81
2017 till date	22
TOTAL	201

Currently about 8000 websites are hosted on NICNET.

NIC protects the cyber resources from possible compromises through a layered security approach using secure practices, procedures and technologies. NIC has deployed state-of-the-art security solutions including firewalls, intrusion prevention systems, anti-virus solution. Additionally, periodic security audits of resources are performed followed by subsequent hardenings. These are complemented by round-the-clock monitoring of security events and remedial measures are carried out for solving the problems subsequently.

(c) No, Sir.

SAMPADA Scheme for Mini Food Parks

2646. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to introduce Sampada Scheme to promote setting up of Mini Food Parks in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the incentives proposed to be given under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has incorporated a Scheme for Creation of infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters under the new Central Sector Scheme–SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) for the period coterminous with the Fourteenth Finance Commission cycle. This scheme aims at creation of modern infrastructure for development of processing clusters closer to production areas.

(b) The scheme envisages grants-in-aid @35% of eligible project cost in general areas and @50% of eligible project cost in hilly and difficult areas (*i.e.* North East Region including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, ITDP notified areas and Islands) subject to maximum of ₹ 10.00 crore per project.

Employment potential in food processing units

2647. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a growth in the number of persons employed in registered food processing units during the last five years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of registered food processing units along with their employment potential, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Annual Survey of Industries conducted by Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, total number of persons engaged in registered food processing units has increased from 16.62 lakh in 2010-11 to 17.73 lakh in 2014-15.

(b) As per Annual Survey of Industries (2013-14) conducted by Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the latest State-wise details of the number of registered food processing units along with the number of persons engaged are given in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise estimated number of units and total persons engaged in Food Processing Industries for 2013-14

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Number of registered units	Total persons engaged
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5,739	1,39,067
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5	127
3.	Assam	1,294	88,449
4.	Bihar	794	22,406
5.	Chandigarh (UT)	19	1,008
6.	Chhattisgarh	1,049	23,052
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	222
8.	Daman and Diu	31	1,810
9.	Delhi	166	13,841
10.	Goa	86	6,936
11.	Gujarat	1,904	1,00,025
12.	Haryana	631	41,879
13.	Himachal Pradesh	172	13,237
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	144	9,102
15.	Jharkhand	198	4,736
16.	Karnataka	2,033	1,08,406
17.	Kerala	1,460	1,58,000
18.	Madhya Pradesh	672	40,134
19.	Maharashtra	3,040	2,34,197
20.	Manipur	21	433
21.	Meghalaya	18	749
22.	Nagaland	15	135
23.	Odisha	932	27,170
24.	Puducherry	69	4,610
25.	Punjab	2,786	1,04,003

1	2	3	4
26.	Rajasthan	862	37,530
27.	Sikkim	21	1,843
28.	Tamil Nadu	5,204	1,94,331
29.	Telangana	3,850	79,191
30.	Tripura	71	1,547
31.	Uttar Pradesh	2,037	1,66,327
32.	Uttarakhand	380	30,344
33.	West Bengal	1,739	85,966

Source: Annual Survey of Industries, 2013-14.

Growth rate of processing of agro products

2648. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate of processing of agro products including fruits and vegetables and its share in the global trade is on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether Government has undertaken research and development works to modernise food processing units for the development and promotion of food processing industries in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated and utilised for the purpose during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) and (b) As per an assessment of the extent of food processing in various food sub-sectors done in 2014 by the Institute of Economic Growth on behalf of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the average extent of processing of agro-products in 2010-11 was 6.76%. India's share in world exports of processed food products including fruits and vegetables are given in the Table:

Year	Share
2013	2.93%
2014	2.61%
2015	2.34%

Source: ITC Trade Map, 2017.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not undertake research and development on its own. However, Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a scheme for Research and Development for the development and promotion of food processing industries. 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 in the year	Fund Allocation	Total Grant-in-Aid released under R&D scheme
1.	2013-14	38	955.00	1097.73
2.	2014-15	21	760.00	638.66
3.	2015-16	23	667.0	613.37
4.	2016-17 (upto 28.02.17)	Nil	580.00	312.80

Assistance to set up food processing units

†2649. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the places where food processing units have been established from financial year 2014-15 to January, 2017, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether any form of assistance has been provided to the established units through the Ministry, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds are being allocated under this head to the States through the Ministry; and

(d) if so, the total amount allocated from financial year 2014-15 till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not establish food processing industries on its own in the country

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and no Centralized data is maintained in this regard. However, under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries implemented during Eleventh Plan, the financial assistance has been provided for setting up of new food processing units as well as Technological Upgradation and Expansion of existing units in the country. This scheme was subsequently subsumed in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)-National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) with effect from 01.04.2012 till 31.03.2015. Thereafter, the said scheme got delinked from Government of India's assistance and it was left to the State Governments to decide on its continuance from their increased resources as per recommendation of 14th Finance Commission. The Committed/spillover liabilities of cases received upto end of Eleventh Plan are being considered by Ministry of Food Processing Industries for sanction of Grant-in-aid during the Twelfth Plan under the said scheme as per availability of funds and merits of proposals. The details of Food Processing Industries assisted during last three years and current year as part of meeting committed liabilities of Eleventh Plan are shown below:—

2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
No. of units.	Amount [in Cr.]	No. of units.	Amount [in Cr.]	No. of units.	Amount [in Cr.]	No. of units.	Amount [in Cr.]
996.00	162.08	889.00	143.80	562.00	99.12	491.00	85.45

(c) and (d) Through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)-National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) with effect from 01.04.2012 till 31.03.2015, funds were allocated to State Governments/UTs. During the financial year 2014-15, an amount of ₹ 125.32 crore was allocated to State Governments/UTs. In 2015-16, an amount of ₹ 2.10 crore was allocated to UT Governments.

Setting up of food processing units

2650. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been shortage of food processing units in the country resulting in wastage of large quantity of agricultural produce and loss to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the requirement and availability of food processing facilities;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up more food processing units and revive closed food processing units, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) whether Government proposes to formulate any scheme for development and promotion of food zones/clusters to ensure adequate supply of raw material to food processing units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) and (b) As per Annual Survey of Industries conducted by Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the total number of factories in the registered food processing industries in the country was 38,594 in 2014-15, as compared to 35,838 in 2010-11.

(c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up any food processing units on its own. However, MoFPI provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid under the Central Sector Schemes for promotion and development of food processing sector in the country. These are: (1) Scheme for Mega Food Parks (2) Scheme for Modern Abattoirs (3) Scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure (4) Scheme for Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation (5) Scheme for Quality Assurance (6) Scheme for Human Resource and Institutions. The detailed guidelines of these schemes having the pattern of financial assistance, eligibility criteria, procedure for approval of projects etc. are available on the Ministry's website at www.mofpi.nic.in. Farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations, Individuals, Group of Entrepreneurs, Cooperative Societies, Self Help Groups, NGO's, Central/State PSU etc. are eligible to avail financial assistance under these schemes for setting up food processing industries in the country.

(d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has incorporated a scheme for Creation of Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters under the new Central Sector Scheme-SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) for the period conterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle.

This schemes aims at creation of modern infrastructure for development of processing clusters closer to production areas.

Promotion of FPIs in rural areas

†2651. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government gives priority to create employment opportunities in rural areas;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by Government to promote Food Processing Industries (FPIs) especially in rural areas so that rural population may get employment;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been bumper production of potatoes in the country this year reducing thereby the price of the same at half and causing losses to farmers; and

(d) if so, the assistance being provided by Government to set up potato based processing industries, especially in those areas where its production is abundant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) and (b) The Ministry is providing financial assistance under the Central Sector Schemes for promotion and development of food processing sector thereby creating employment opportunities in the country including rural areas. These are: (1) Scheme for Mega Food Parks (2) Scheme for Modern Abattoirs (3) Scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure (4) Scheme for Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation (5) Scheme for Quality Assurance (6) Scheme for Human Resource and Institutions. These schemes are demand driven and not specific to any region. Farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations, Individuals, Group of Entrepreneurs, Cooperative Societies, Self Help Groups, NGOs, Central/ State PSU etc. are eligible to avail financial assistance under these schemes for setting up food processing industries in the country. The detailed guidelines of these schemes having the pattern of financial assistance, eligibility criteria, procedure for approval of projects etc. are available on the Ministry's website at www.mofpi.nic.in

(c) and (d) As per the Estimates released by Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, production of potato during 2016-17 (1st Advance Estimate) is estimated to be around 439 lakh tonnes as compared to 434 lakh tonnes in 2015-16 (Final Estimate). Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries implemented during Eleventh Plan, the financial assistance has been provided for setting up, expansion and technology upgradation of food processing industries in the country including potato processing industries under fruit and vegetable sector. Under this scheme, Ministry extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of plant and Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of ₹ 50 lakh in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of ₹ 75 lakh in difficult areas. This scheme was subsumed in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)-National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) with effect from 01.04.2012. However, the said scheme got delinked from Government of India's assistance with effect from 01.04.2015. The Committed liabilities of Eleventh Plan are being liquidated during Twelfth Plan under the scheme. The details of financial assistance provided under the scheme under fruit and vegetable sector including potato processing industries in the country during last three years and the current

year is given below:—

(In ₹ crore)							
2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
Number of Units	Amounts	Number of Units	Amounts	Number of Units	Amounts	Number of Units	Amounts
29	3.82	24	4.26	22	3.86	22	4.16

Sanctioned/working strength of Judges and pending cases

2652. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts;

(b) the number of current strength of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts; and

(c) the number of cases pending in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The details of sanctioned and working strength 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
Supreme Court	31	28
High Courts	1,079	642

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 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
District and Subordinate Courts	21,374	16,528

Data on pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and the High Courts. As per the information available on the website of the Supreme Court, 62,161 cases were pending in the Supreme Court as on 01.03.2017. As per the Court News (July-September, 2016) of the Supreme Court, 40.11 lakh cases were pending in various High Courts, and 2.85 crore cases were pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 30.09.2016.

Separate High Courts for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

2653. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan of bifurcating the High Court between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether, resolving the issues like division of High Court and distribution of assets and liabilities between the newly formed States, is going at a snail's pace, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to resolve the crisis and establish separate High Courts for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh without any further deferment in view of the problems being faced by both the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, provides for setting up of a separate High Court for the State of Andhra Pradesh. The Act also provides that once separate High Court for the State of Andhra Pradesh is established, the existing High Court will go to the State of Telangana. Till such time the existing High Court *i.e.* the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad will serve as common High Court for the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

To enable the creation of separate High Court for the State of Andhra Pradesh, all necessary infrastructures such as Court buildings, quarters for the Judges and officials/ staff of the Court has to be created by the State Government in consultation with the High Court of judicature at Hyderabad. The Central Government had requested the Chief Justice of the High Court and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to take all the necessary steps towards the creation of separate High Court for the State of Andhra Pradesh. Presently, the matter is *sub-judice* at High Court of judicature at Hyderabad for the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Setting up of commercial courts for disposal of cyber crimes

2654. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court Bench, which was looking after cyber crimes, has opined that Government should gear up for setting up Commercial Courts for disposal of cyber crimes quickly, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the stand of Government in this regard?

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.

E-filing of cases in the Courts

†2655. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the status regarding use of information and communication technology in the Courts of the country;

(b) whether e-filing has started in the Courts;

(c) if so, the Court-wise details thereof including the High Court of Jharkhand along with the current status thereof;

(d) the number of cases registered through the e-filing mode; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by Government to create an awareness across the country regarding the procedure of e-filing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (e) E-Courts Mission Mode Project envisages induction of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Indian Courts in a comprehensive manner. Phase-I of the E-Courts project, approved in 2010 with a project cost of ₹ 935 crore, ended in March 2015 with an expenditure of ₹ 639 crore. Under that Phase, out of the total target of 14,249 courts, 13,672 district and subordinate courts had been computerised, by providing the requisite LAN, hardware, software and connectivity. The Government approved Phase II of the eCourts Project in July, 2015 with the objective of enhanced ICT enablement of District and Subordinate courts for implementation in four years with a cost of ₹ 1670 crores. The Government has released ₹ 475.10 crores under this phase so far.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The national e-Courts portal (<http://www.ecourts.gov.in>) is one of the outputs which provides online services such as case registration, cause lists, case status, daily orders and final judgements. As per the information available on the National Judicial Data Grid, there are 16,934 computerised courts in the country as on 1st December, 2016. Currently litigants can access case status information in respect of over 7.8 crore pending and decided cases and more than 4 crore orders/judgements pertaining to these computerised district and subordinate courts.

The Policy and Action Plan Document for Phase-II of the E-Courts Project prepared by the E-Committee of the Supreme Court of India envisages an e-filing portal for High Courts and the district judiciary to facilitate online e-filing of cases. Presently, online or offline e-filing, *i.e.* e-filing of soft copy along with physical copy, is being carried out in the High Courts of Delhi, Bombay, Punjab and Haryana and Madhya Pradesh, but not in other High Courts, including Jharkhand High Court.

Pending cases in Kerala High Court

2656. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in the Kerala High Court as well as in the Subordinate Courts of the State at present; and

(b) the steps taken to clear the backlog of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Data on pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and the High Courts. As per the information made available by High Court of Kerala, 1,66,735 cases were pending in High Court of Kerala, and 14,82,667 cases were pending in the District and Subordinate Courts of Kerala as on 31.12.2016.

High Court of Kerala has intimated that in accordance with the Resolution adopted in the Chief Justices' Conference, 2016, "Delay and Arrears Committee" has been constituted in the High Court for the effective monitoring of disposal and pendency of cases. The work turnout in each district of the State is being scrupulously overseen by the respective portfolio Judges of the High Court. Necessary directions are issued periodically to expedite disposals and to bring down pendency at all levels. As per the Supreme Court's direction, a special drive has been launched in the Courts of the State for the elimination of pendency of 5+ year old cases.

Commercial Benches of High Courts

2657. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the High Courts which have Commercial Benches;
- (b) the number of commercial cases pending in each High Court;
- (c) the names of High Courts where the process of establishing Commercial Benches is in progress; and
- (d) whether there is any proposal to give specialised training to the judicial officers in dealing with commercial litigations, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) The Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Court Act, 2015 has been notified on 1st January, 2016. In terms of Section 4 (1) of the said Act, it is for the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court to constitute Commercial Division having one or more Benches consisting of a single Judge for the purpose of exercising the jurisdiction and powers conferred on it under said Act. The Central Government has no role in the matter.

The training of judges lies within the domain of the judiciary. The National Judicial Academy and State Judicial Academies have been set up expressly for the purpose of training judges and judicial officers. The Government has, however, requested the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal to prepare a training module for the purpose and share with the State Judicial Academies. The Government has also requested Maharashtra Judicial Academy, Mumbai, to prepare such a module tailored to the kinds of commercial dispute prevailing in Courts and provide such training to the presiding officers of such Commercial Courts.

All India Judicial Service

2658. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there were objections to the proposal of All India Judicial Service from certain quarters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons cited therefor; and
- (c) the likely benefits of the unified All India Judicial Service and the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) 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.

Requirement of the knowledge of local language is one of the important factors affecting creation of All India Judicial Service. It is apprehended that lack of knowledge of local language will erode the judicial efficiency both in regard to understanding and evaluating the evidence as well as in pronouncing the judgment. The second apprehension has been regarding the erosion of control of State High Courts over the district/subordinate judiciary. The third apprehension is whether All India Judicial Service based on direct recruitment for twenty five percent posts of District Judges will have an all India character.

All India Judicial Service will help to strengthen the federal governance by not only attracting some of the best talent in the country, but also by bringing to the States judicial officers from other parts of the country having different cultural background and speaking other language from that of the state of allotment. It will also facilitate inclusion in judiciary of competent persons belonging to underprivileged and marginalised communities. By this, greater national integration will be promoted and knowledge of judicial administration from other parts of the country will be shared. AIJS will enable better application of laws and procedures

across the country and the harmonized procedures would, in turn, help in promoting better judicial governance.

However, 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.

Funds for infrastructure of Courts

†2659. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided during each of the last three years, including 2016-17, for extension of buildings of the High Court, District Courts and Sessions Courts of Madhya Pradesh as well as for the convenience of lawyers and petitioners, location-wise; and

(b) the current status of the number of cases pending, subject-wise, during each of the last five years in each High Court of the country, including Madhya Pradesh and the immediate measures taken for deciding the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The primary responsibility for development of infrastructural facilities for judiciary in the States rests with the State Governments. However, in order to augment the resources of the State Governments, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary has been in operation since 1993-94. It now covers the construction of court buildings and residential accommodation of judicial officers of District and Subordinate Courts. High Court Buildings are not covered under the Scheme. With higher devolution of funds to the State Governments on the recommendations of Fourteenth Finance Commission, the fund sharing pattern under the Scheme has been revised to 60:40 between Central and State Governments with effect from 2015-16. For the States in the North Eastern Region and Himalayan States, it has been kept at 90:10. The States are free to spend additional amounts as per their requirements from their own resources. Location-wise details are not maintained Centrally.

The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has been provided Central assistance to the tune of ₹ 301 crore since inception of the scheme in 1993. Out of this, an amount of ₹ 61.41 crore was sanctioned in the year 2013-14, ₹ 61.41 crore in the year 2014-15, and ₹ 50.00 crore in the year 2015-16.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Data on pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and the High Courts. As per information received from High Courts, the details of the pendency of civil and criminal cases in various High Courts including Madhya Pradesh during last five years are given in the Statement (*See below*).

Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, which, *inter alia*, involves better 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.

Statement

Details of pendency of civil and criminal cases in High Courts during last five years

Sl. No.	High Court	2012		2013		2014	
		Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Allahabad	678946	329733	695431	347967	655793	358353
2.	Andhra Pradesh	184408	25693	201425	31034	216157	33544
3.	Bombay	293169	48800	299931	49906	310766	53810
4.	Calcutta	315444	46687	230317	49689	230697	55609
5.	Delhi	47758	14594	49000	15652	51464	15525
6.	Gujarat	46632	29377	60131	31822	61543	33759
7.	Gauhati	44099	8774	33534	7378	35138	7910
8.	Himachal Pradesh	50002	5595	54015	6058	34860	4756
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	78127	4179	87794	5244	95546	6610
10.	Karnataka	167080	16772	179379	17593	196677	17443
11.	Kerala	92880	31181	99573	32586	109392	36514
12.	Madras	437069	63305	490383	67096	228914	34655
13.	Madhya Pradesh	167575	80582	174665	86946	166961	91755
14.	Odisha	299402	33508	168794	38028	165724	36358
15.	Patna	71940	47251	79896	52259	81338	59652
16.	Punjab and Haryana	195815	55305	200549	62211	209167	70532
17.	Rajasthan	233046	59505	244020	63620	170222	58131

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Sikkim	52	11	95	25	68	40
19.	Uttarakhand	13930	6257	15269	5417	16669	6436
20.	Chhattisgarh	31223	16528	27146	16993	28209	16868
21.	Jharkhand	31694	30263	38001	34957	42490	38325
22.	Tripura*			4743	1091	3772	693
23.	Manipur*			3761	92	4234	140
24.	Meghalaya*			1115	74	691	47

*Operationalisation of 3 new High Courts was notified on 23rd March, 2013.

Sl. No.	High Court	2015		2016	
		Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
1	2	9	10	11	12
1.	Allahabad	559499	359330	550375	365671
2.	Andhra Pradesh	232061	38211	249855	41906
3.	Bombay	199902	46539	210459	51190
4.	Calcutta	181344	39938	180098	38966
5.	Delhi	52962	15822	49358	17724
6.	Gujarat	56700	30372	50328#	24773
7.	Gauhati	21169	4779	24044	5425
8.	Himachal Pradesh	20924	5609	19648	5499
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	52108	4345	53909	5495
10.	Karnataka	217635	19819	253613	24007
11.	Kerala	121306	36063	128355	38380
12.	Madras**	250133	34295		
13.	Madhya Pradesh	171853	101974	180952	108493
14.	Odisha	130748	38705	127573	40430
15.	Patna	79102	49636	82874	51585
16.	Punjab and Haryana	208844	79507	209997	92316
17.	Rajasthan	182501	62365	184451	69680

1	2	9	10	11	12
18.	Sikkim	81	33	129	41
19.	Uttarakhand	18560	8120	22564	9440
20.	Chhattisgarh	31136	18975	35078	20564
21.	Jharkhand	42570	37849	44568	41189
22.	Tripura	2485	552	2151	394
23.	Manipur	3179	136	3169	117
24.	Meghalaya	576	21	667	33

#Figure is under verification.

**Information for the year 2016 is not received from Madras High Court.

Expediting disposal of pending Court cases

2660. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of cases are pending before various Courts in the country for shortage of Judges, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the details of the cases pending with each High Court as on date;
- (c) the details of the Judges available and vacancies thereof;
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to fill up the posts of Judges; and
- (e) the steps being taken by Government to expedite the disposal of cases and for appointment of Judges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (e) Data on pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and the High Courts. As per the information available on the website of the Supreme Court, 62,161 cases were pending in the Supreme Court as on 01.03.2017. As per the Court News (July-September, 2016) of the Supreme Court, 40.11 lakh cases were pending in various High Courts and 2.85 crore cases were pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 30.09.2016. The details of the pending cases in various High Courts as on 30.09.2016 are given in the Statement (See below).

Some of the main factors responsible for pendency of cases in courts are increasing number of State and Central legislations, accumulation of first appeals, continuation of ordinary civil jurisdiction in some of the High Courts, vacancies of Judges, appeals

against orders of quasi-judicial forums going to High Courts, number of revisions/appeals, frequent adjournments, indiscriminate use of writ jurisdiction, lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

The sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court is 31 and 3 posts of judges are vacant as on 01.03.2017. The sanctioned strength of judges in the High Courts is 1079 in March, 2017. 437 posts of judges in the High Courts are vacant as on 01.03.2017 which includes 173 newly created posts. 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, out of sanctioned strength of 21,374 Judges/Judicial Officers, 16,528 Judicial Officers were working as on 30.09.2016, leaving 4,846 vacancies of Judges/Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts.

Filling up of the vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous process, as it requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and increase in Judge strength. In view of the large number of vacancies and the fact that the process of supplementing the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for improvement in the “Collegium System” as per Supreme Court Order dated 16.12.2015 was likely to take some time, on the initiative of Government, the matter was taken up with the Supreme Court and the process of appointment of judges has been resumed. During the year 2016, 126 fresh appointment of Judges in High Courts and 131 Additional Judges have been made permanent, which is the highest number of appointments made in the last 26 years. In addition, the tenure of 22 Additional Judges of High Courts was also extended. 4 Judges have also been appointed in Supreme Court in 2016. In 2017 (up to 21.03.2017), 9 fresh appointments of Judges in High Court and 16 Additional Judges have been made permanent. 5 Judges have been appointed in Supreme Court in 2017 (upto 21.03.2017). The subject matter relating to filling up of vacancies in the District and Subordinate Courts falls within the domain of the High Courts and the State Governments concerned. The Central Government has no role in appointment of Subordinate Judiciary.

The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, which, *inter alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerisation, increase in strength of judicial officers/judges, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development.

Statement*Details of Number of cases pending in High Courts as on 30.09.2016*

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Number of cases pending in High Courts as on 30.09.2016
1.	Allahabad	9,25,084
2.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	2,85,663
3.	Bombay	2,58,826
4.	Calcutta	2,17,594
5.	Chhattisgarh	55,649
6.	Delhi	66,281
7.	Gujarat	84,898
8.	Gauhati	28,638
9.	Himachal Pradesh	29,739
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	59,604
11.	Jharkhand	83,942
12.	Karnataka	2,70,223
13.	Kerala	1,65,387
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2,88,365
15.	Madras	3,00,921
16.	Manipur	3,268
17.	Meghalaya	662
18.	Odisha	1,70,891
19.	Patna	1,33,880
20.	Punjab and Haryana	2,96,696
21.	Rajasthan	2,50,824
22.	Sikkim	145
23.	Tripura	3,162
24.	Uttarakhand	31,623
TOTAL		40,11,965

National Level Examination for Judicial Services

2661. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has considered a proposal to conduct an examination for Judicial Services at the National level on the pattern of Civil Services;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the proposal; and
- (c) the hurdles that came in the way of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) 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.

Requirement of the knowledge of local language is one of the important factors affecting creation of All India Judicial Service. It is apprehended that lack of knowledge of local language will erode the judicial efficiency both in regard to understanding and evaluating the evidence as well as in pronouncing the judgement. The second apprehension has been regarding the erosion of control of State High Courts over the district/subordinate judiciary. The third apprehension is whether All India Judicial

Service based on direct recruitment for twenty five per cent posts of district judges will have an all India character.

However, 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.

Increase in train accidents

2662. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether accidents are on the rise in Railways, including the blast that took place recently in the general compartment of the passenger train between Bhopal and Ujjain, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of persons injured grievously and with simple injury, separately, and assistance provided to them by Railway authorities;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made into the cause of these accidents and the preliminary report thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent such occurrences in running trains in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. During the last two years *i.e.* from 2014-15 to 2015-16 and the current year from 1st April, 2016 to 28th February, 2017, the number of consequential train accidents (including accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings (ULMC) caused due to negligence of road vehicle users) has decreased. Details of these consequential train accidents and persons killed and injured therein 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	235	371

#including accidents occurred at Unmanned Level Crossings (ULMC) caused due to the negligence of road vehicle users.

On 07.03.2017, a blast took place at about 09.40 hours in general coach of train No. 59320 (Bhopal-Ujjain Passenger) at Km. No. 177/13-15 at Jabri Railway Station

while the train was on its way to Ujjain from Bhopal. 11 passengers (04 Grievous and 07 Simple) were injured in the bomb blast. In this regard, GRP/Ujjain has registered a case *vide* Cr. No. 47/2017 u/s 3/4 of Explosive Act. The case has been handed over to Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS)/Bhopal for further investigation. Medical assistance to injured passengers in the case of rail accidents is provided by Railways.

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 two years *i.e.* 2014-15, 2015-16 and in the current year up to 28th February, 2017, altogether 341 accidents (including incidents at unmanned level crossings due to negligence of road vehicle users) occurred on Indian Railways. Out of the 341 accidents, 31 accidents have been inquired by the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and balance has been inquired into by the Departmental Inquiry Committees of the zonal railways. Out of 31 CRS consequential train accidents cases, 27 preliminary reports from CRS have been received.

(d) 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.

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 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.

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) An Integrated Security System consisting of surveillance of vulnerable stations through Close Circuit Television Camera Network, Luggage Scanner including other Access Control etc. has been sanctioned to improve surveillance mechanism over 202 railway stations.
- (5) Sniffer Dog Squads are utilized at some important stations for anti-sabotage checks.
- (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) 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.

Khurda-Bolangir Railway Project

2663. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target to run the first train in the section between Bolangir and Bhainsapalli, in view of the fact that Government of Odisha has handed over land for 19 Kilometres (Km. 270-289) from Bolangir to Bhainsapalli station of Khurda-Bolangir railway project and work has already started; and

(b) by when Railways would commission the Khurda Road-Bolangir line upto Nayagarh and by when this line would reach upto Dasapalla station under the Khurda-Bolangir Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Khurda Road-Begunia (0 km to 32 Km.) and Begunia-Rajsunakhala (32 Km. to 41.5 Km.) sections of Khurda Road-Bolangir (289 Km.) new Railway line have been completed and commissioned. Another section between Rajsunakhala-Bolagarh Road (41.5 Km. to 54.3 Km.) has also been completed and Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) has authorised Railway to open the line for passenger traffic and passenger services introduced. Work on Bolagarh Road-Nayagarh Town (54.3 Km. to 65.6 Km.) section is in advanced stage.

The work has been taken up beyond Nayagarh Town from Km. 65.6 to Km. 80. 29 Minor Bridges, sub-structure of 1 major bridge, 10 RUBs and about 6 lakh cum earthwork have been completed. Land acquisition and forestry clearances are in process between Nuagaon and Dasapalla. In Bhainsapalli-Bolangir section (Km. 274.15

Km. to 288.10 Km.), the work has been taken up simultaneously with balance land acquisition. About 8.5 lakh cum earthwork, 16 minor bridges, 3 RUBs and 7000 cum ballast supply work have been completed.

However, no target date has been fixed for completion of Bhainsapalli-Bolangir section, Bolagarh Road-Nayagarh sections and upto Dasapalla as completion of project depends upon several factors including complete handing over of encumbrance-free land by the State Government, forestry clearances, shifting of utilities, etc. Since most of these factors are beyond the control of Ministry of Railways, time-frame for completion of above two sections of Khurda-Bolangir new railway line has not been fixed.

Bomb blast in Bhopal-Ujjain passenger train

2664. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of persons injured and died in the bomb blast which occurred in the Bhopal-Ujjain passenger train on 7 March, 2017;

(b) the details of *ex-gratia* announced and paid by Railways to the victims of the bomb blast; and

(c) the details of steps Government has taken to ensure the safety of passengers in trains and at railway premises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) 11 passengers were injured in the bomb blast which occurred in the Bhopal-Ujjain passenger train on 7 March, 2017.

(b) An amount of ₹ 23,500/- has been paid as *ex-gratia* to 04 grievous and 07 simple injury passengers.

(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 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 matter 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.

New technology to prevent train accidents

2665. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest safety measures taken by Government to safeguard railways and its passengers during the last six months, especially in the present security scenario of the country; and

(b) whether any new technology is being introduced in railways to identify and prevent train accidents, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) 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.

Besides, the following steps are also being taken by the Railways to provide security:—

- (1) 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.
- (2) Security Help Line number 182 is made operational over Indian Railways for security related assistance to passengers in distress.
- (3) 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.

- (4) On vulnerable and indented routes/sections, 2500 trains (on an average) are escorted by RPF daily, in addition to 2200 trains escorted by GRP of different States daily.
- (5) Sniffer Dog Squads are utilized at some important stations for anti-sabotage checks.
- (6) Minister of Railways held a video conference with the Director Generals/Commissioners of Police of all States/Union Territories for improving passenger safety, security of tracks and railway property.

(b) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis including upgradation of technology to prevent trains accidents and to enhance safety. These include complete track circuiting of stations, Axle Counter for Automatic Clearance of Block Section Counters (BPAC), Electrical/Electronic Interlocking System, Interlocking of Level Crossing Gates, Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Vigilance Control Device (VCD) in Locomotives, Colour Light LED Signals, Train Protection Warning System (TPWS), Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), Fog Safe Device (FSD), use of 60 kg rails and Pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers, Long rail panels, Better welding technology in the tracks, Digital types of machines for Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD), Electronic monitoring of tracks using Track Recording Cars (TRC) and portable Oscillation Monitoring System (OMS), progressive use of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches, Centre Buffer Couplers in Integral Coach Factory (ICF) design Coaches, Remote Monitoring and Management of Locomotives and Trains (REMMLOT), Air Conditioning (AC) of Locomotive Cabs and Installation of video/voice recording system of locomotives.

Kanpur train tragedy

2666. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Kanpur train tragedy of 20th November, 2016 was an act of terror, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the meeting taken by the Minister of Railways *via* video conferencing in which DG, Railways, Uttar Pradesh Police said that the accident was a result of fatigue of tracks; and
- (c) the details of all the reports which the Ministry of Railways have prepared on the Kanpur train tragedy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) In the accident case of train No. 19321 Indore-Rajendranagar Terminal (Patna Express) between Pokhrayan and Malasa Railway Stations over Jhansi Division

of North Central Railway dated 20.11.2016, enquiry has been ordered to be conducted to determine the reasons of the accident by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Eastern Circle, Kolkata under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Simultaneously, policing on Railways being a State subject, Government Railway Police/Bhimsen has registered a case *vide* Cr. No. 55/2016 *u/s* 337, 338, 304 (a), 427 IPC and 151, 154 of Railways Act. However, the case has now been entrusted to National Investigation Agency (NIA) for further investigation.

(b) In the light of recent repeated incidents of placing obstruction on railway tracks and attempts of cutting of railway tracks by miscreants, Hon'ble Minister of Railways held a video conference on 27.02.2017 with the Director Generals/Commissioners of Police of all States/Union Territories in the Rail Bhawan, New Delhi. During the video conference, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, also addressed the Police Chiefs. Senior Officers from Ministry of Home Affairs, Railway Board, Railway Protection Force and Delhi Police took part in the meeting.

Hon'ble Minister of Railways emphasised the need for better cooperation and coordination between agencies involved for passenger safety, security of tracks and railway property. Minister of State for Home Affairs in his address shared his concern about recent criminal activities on Railways resulting in accidents. He advised State Police to be careful about the designs of criminals, anti-national elements and to render full cooperation to Railways. All the participants of States and Union Territories came up with valuable suggestions to improve safety and security of Railways and also shared their expectations from Railways.

(c) Statutory inquiry into the incident of Train No. 19321 Indore-Rajendra Nagar Terminal (Patna Express) on 20.11.2016 between Pokhrayan and Malasa station on Jhansi-Kanpur section of North Central Railway has been ordered to be conducted to determine the reasons of the accident by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Eastern Circle, Kolkata under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Unused railway land in Kerala

2667. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the unused railway land in Kerala at present;
- (b) whether Government has formulated any plan to utilize the waste railway land in the States;
- (c) the railway land under unauthorised occupation at present; and
- (d) the steps taken to reclaim such land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Railways maintain only Zonal Railways-wise details of vacant/encroached (unauthorized occupation) of railway land. At present, out of 4.73 lakh hectare land assets available with Indian Railways, approximately 879.51 hectare (0.18%) land is under encroachment. State of Kerala falls only in Southern Zone of Indian Railways. At present, 2722 hectares of land is vacant and 60.49 hectares is under unauthorized occupation/encroachment in this Zone.

The vacant land, which is mostly in the form of narrow strips along the tracks, is used for servicing and maintenance of track, bridges and other railway infrastructure. The vacant land is also utilized for execution of various infrastructural projects for meeting future growth needs of Railways which include projects like doubling/tripling and traffic facilities works, etc. Railway's operations also necessarily require development of ancillary logistic support/infrastructure such as bulk oil installations and oil depots, steel yards, concrete sleeper plants, coal dumps, connectivity to private sidings, connectivity to ports and other infrastructure, commercial plots, vending stalls, etc. for which land is leased/licensed. The vacant land, which is not required by Railways for its immediate operational needs, is utilized in the interim period for commercial development through Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), wherever feasible, in order to mobilize additional financial resources. At present about 497 hectares of land has been entrusted to RLDA for commercial development which includes 1.70 hectares of land in Kerala.

Most of the encroachments are in the approaches of the Stations in Metros and big cities. For these encroachments, Railways carry out regular surveys and take action for their removal. If the encroachments are of a temporary nature (soft encroachment) in the shape of jhuggies, jhopries and squatters, the same are got removed in consultation and with the assistance of Railway Protection Force and local civil authorities. For old encroachments, where party is not amenable to persuasion, action is taken under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 (PPE Act, 1971), as amended from time to time. Actual eviction of unauthorized occupants is carried out with the assistance of State Government and Police. Railways have taken measures to protect Railway land assets from encroachment which include licensing of land to Railway employees for Grow More Food (GMF) Scheme, provision of boundary wall, fencing, tree plantation at vulnerable locations.

Flexi fares

2668. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is earning extra revenue by introducing flexi fares in different trains;

(b) if so, the details of the effect on revenue generation reflected so far on the decision of the Railway Board in this regard;

(c) whether Government has provided accommodation to travel by air to the waitlisted passengers as per its commitment to the people, during the last three months; and

(d) the response on the passenger earnings, services and the ticketing during the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The additional earnings from introduction of Flexi Fare in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains during 9th September, 2016 to 28th February, 2017 when compared to same period of last year is about ₹ 260.31 crore.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Railways has not introduced any scheme to provide accommodation to travel by air to the waitlisted passengers.

Development of Gandhinagar railway station

†2669. MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to construct hotel and other related infrastructural facilities for the development of Gandhinagar railway station within the stipulated time;

(b) if so, the details of the budget provided and other details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government has decided to award contract for the above work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) It has been decided to take up the project of redevelopment of Gandhinagar railway station and construction of a 300 room hotel utilizing the air space of the station along with operation and maintenance of Mahatma Mandir and Helipad Exhibition ground. The total cost of the project is ₹ 250 crore, of which in-principle approval exists for providing grant of ₹ 50 crore each by Government of Gujarat and Ministry of Railways, and balance funds to be contributed by Government of Gujarat, Ministry of Railways or to be raised as loan by the Joint Venture executing the project. An allocation of ₹ 40 crore has been provided by Ministry of Railways for this work in the current financial year.

A contract for redevelopment of railway station along with construction of hotel has been awarded in January 2017 with a completion period of two years from the appointed date.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Clone trains to deal with heavy rush

2670. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to run clone trains to deal with the heavy rush;
- (b) the routes shortlisted for introducing the clone trains; and
- (c) by when the Ministry proposes to run such trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At present, there is no proposal to run Clone trains over Indian Railways.

- (b) and (c) Question do not arise.

Clone trains

2671. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to introduce new or clone trains in major cities to meet the heavy demand;
- (b) how does the Ministry proposes to meet the demand of additional engines and coaches for such new trains;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to start new engine and railway coach manufacturing factories; and
- (d) if so, whether there is any proposal to have such factories in the State of Odisha, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At present, the concept of clone train has not been developed over Indian Railways. However, introduction of new trains is an ongoing process over Indian Railways keeping in view operational feasibility, commercial viability, availability of resources etc.

- (b) Production programme of coaching electric loco has been increased over the years to meet out the additional requirement of new trains being taken over on electric traction. Production target of coaching locomotive during 2016-17 has been increased by 20 locomotives and production target of CLW has been revised accordingly from 280 to 300 locomotives during 2016-17 with 02 electric locomotives at DLW.

- (c) One Engine (Diesel Locomotive) and three Coach Manufacturing Factories are sanctioned to manufacture 100 diesel locomotives per year and 1180 coaches

per year respectively. Contract for setting up of a locomotive factory at Madhepura, Bihar for manufacturing High Horse Power Electric Locomotives has been awarded and the work for construction of the factory has been commenced. The factory would produce 100 locomotive annually. In addition, the bidding process for setting up of a Rail Coach Factory at Kanchrapara, West Bengal has been initiated for selection of a suitable joint venture partner.

- (d) There is no proposal to have such factories in the State of Odisha.

Cases of cheating in purchase of materials

2672. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of cases of cheating in purchase of materials found in different divisions of Railways during the last two years and the current year, year-wise and Division-wise;
- (b) the details of officers found guilty and action taken against them;
- (c) the details of amount, quantity and type of material seized; and
- (d) the number of railway officers who have been involved in these incidents even after their retirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Details of cases of cheating in purchase of materials are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Details of officers found guilty and action taken against them are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) Nil. However, Zonal Railways/Production Units have intimated the cases of rejections/recovery, the details of which are given in the Statement-III (*See below*).

- (d) There are no such cases.

Statement-I

Details of cases of cheating in purchase of materials

Zonal Railway/Production Unit	Division/ Production Unit	2015 (No. of cases)	2016 (No. of cases)	2017 (current year) (No. of cases)
1	2	3	4	5
Central Railway	Mumbai	1	1	0
Northern Railway	Delhi	2	2	0

1	2	3	4	5
	Moradabad	1	0	0
	Alambagh Workshop	1	0	0
North Western Railway	Ajmer	2	1	0
	Bikaner	2	0	0
	Jodhpur	0	2	0
South Eastern Railway	Kharagpur	1	1	0
Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE)	CORE	0	2	0
Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW)	CLW	2	0	0
Integral Coach Factory (ICF)	ICF	1	0	0
Rail Coach Factory (RCF)	RCF	1	1	0

Note: The cases of cheating pertain to short supply, sub-standard quality, excess payment, fake certification.

Statement-II

Details of officers found guilty and action taken against them

Zonal Railway/ Production Unit	Division/ Production Unit	Action Taken	
		Gazetted (No. of Officers)	Non-Gazetted (No. of Officers)
1	2	3	4
Northern Railway	Delhi/ Moradabad/ Lucknow	01 (Administrative Action)	05 (Minor Penalty)
South Eastern Railway	Kharagpur	—	01 (RITES Inspector taken under Disciplinary Rules)
Integral Coach Factory (ICF)	ICF	0	01 (Major Penalty Action)

1	2	3	4
Rail Coach Factory (RCF)	RCF	01 (Minor Penaty Action) and 02 (Administrative Action)	01 (Major Penalty Action) and 01 (Minor Penalty Action) and 02 (Administrative Action)

Statement-III*Details of cases of rejections/recovery*

Northern Railway	₹ 10.27 Lakh recovery proposed for rejected materials.
South Eastern Railway	Material worth ₹ 19.36 Lakh (399 Numbers flap doors and 1780 Litres paint) rejected.
Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW)	₹ 1,65,33,846/- recovered from firms for fake material Ferrite Core.
Integral Coach Factory (ICF)	₹ 87.36 Lakh recovered but later on repaid after the firm made good the short supply of EMU Coupler.
Rail Coach Factory (RCF)	Material worth ₹ 46,88,268/- for 78 Retention Tanks rejected and returned to firm after joint inspection with RITES.

Patti-Makhu railway link

2673. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the final sanction of the Patti-Makhu rail link, which will connect Amritsar with Ferozepur and reduce the distance between Amritsar and Mumbai by upto 240 kilometres, from NITI Aayog is expected;

(b) the expected date of commencement of work for laying of Patti-Makhu rail link; and

(c) the main reasons for the continuous delay in implementing this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The direct link between Patti and Makhu can be established by constructing 25 km. long new railway line from Gharyala station falling on Amritsar-Khemkaran railway line to Mallanwala station on Jalandhar-Firozpur Railway line. The work of construction of new line between Firozpur and Patti (Mallanwala Khas-Gharyala) was included in Works Programme 2013-14, subject to obtaining requisite approvals. Now all requisite approvals have been obtained.

(b) and (c) The starting/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 the project.

Collective funding of railway projects by Central and State Governments

†2674. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of such railway projects which will be funded collectively by Central and State Governments;

(b) whether some of these projects have been delayed, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the length of new railway lines announced during the last three Rail Budgets and the status of Bihar and Jharkhand regarding such new projects;

(d) the Zone-wise details of such projects where work has been started and to what extent work has been completed; and

(e) the steps being taken to expedite the railway projects regarding new railway lines, especially the ones which are passing through Bihar and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The details of Railway projects funded collectively by Central and State Governments are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Completion of a Railway project is dependent upon acquisition of land, obtaining statutory clearances like forestry and wild life clearances, shifting of services, cutting of trees, construction of road over bridges and road under bridges by road maintaining agencies etc. which needs involvement of various Ministries and Departments of State/Central Governments. As many of these factors are beyond control of Railways, majority of Railway projects are facing delay.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) During the last three years *i.e.* 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 22 New Lines covering a length of 2425.45 km. have been included in Rail Budget. Out of these, 19 projects are under requisite Government clearance. Further, out of these 19 projects, 1 project *viz.* Vikramshila-Katreah (18 km.) falls in the State of Bihar and 2 projects *viz.* Chitra-Basukinath (37 km.) and (ii) Godda-Pakur (80 km.) fall fully/partly in the State of Jharkhand and have been included in Rail Budget 2016-17 subject to requisite Government clearances. The works will be taken up after obtaining requisite Government clearances.

(e) To expedite completion of projects, various other steps taken/being taken by the Government for effective and speedy implementation of rail projects in the country are (i) substantial increase in allocation of funds, (ii) prioritisation of projects, (iii) delegation of powers at field level, (iv) nomination of nodal officers for improved co-ordination with the State Governments etc. This has resulted in substantial increase in pace of execution of projects in the last three years.

Statement

(A) Details of collective funding of railway projects by Central and State Governments of 42 ongoing sanctioned projects taken up on 'cost sharing' basis with the State Governments.

Sl. No.	Project	Plan Head	Project falling in State	State Entity sharing cost	Length (in km.)	Total Latest Cost (₹ in cr.)	Share (%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parle Vajjnath	NL	MAH	MAH	250	2826	50
2.	Wardha-Nanded	NL	MAH	MAH	284	3168	40
3.	Wadsa-Gadchiroli	NL	MAH	MAH	50	469	50
4.	Kotipalli-Narsapur	NL	AP	AP	57	2125	25
5.	Nadikude-Srikalahasti	NL	AP	AP	309	2299	50+Land
6.	Vijaywada-Gudivada-Bhimavaram-Nidadavolu-Narsapur, Machlipatnam with RE	DL	AP	AP	221	1503	50
7.	Guntur-Tenali DL with RE	DL	AP	AP	24	168	50
8.	Bhadrachalam-Kovvur	NL	AP, TEL	TEL, AP	151	923	50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Cuddapah-Bangalore (Bangarapet)	NL	KAR, AP	AP	255	2050	50
10.	Rayadurg-Tumkur <i>via</i> Kalyandurg	NL	KAR, AP	KAR, AP	213	2000	50
11.	Mandirhasaud-Naya Raipur-Kendri	NL	CG	CG	20	100	Land
12.	Dallirajahara-Jagdalpur	NL	CG	CG, SAIL, NMDC	235	3400	Land
13.	Rewari-Rohtak including elevated track between Rohtak and Gohana	NL	HAR	HAR	81	1025	50
14.	Rohtak-Mehem-Hansi	NL	HAR	HAR	69	576	50+Land
15.	Bhanupalli-Bilaspur- Beri	NL	HP, PUN	HP	63	5000	25
16.	Chandigarh-Baddi	NL	PUN, HP	HP	33	1672	50
17.	Giridih-Koderma	NL	JHA	JHA	103	952	66
18.	Hansdiha-Godda	NL	JHA	JHA	30	589	50
19.	Koderma-Ranchi	NL	JHA	JHA	189	3021	66
20.	Koderma-Tilaiya	NL	BIH, JHA	JHA	68	649	66
21.	Rampurhat-Mandarhill <i>via</i> Dumka and 3rd line Rampurhat- Murarai	NL	BIH, WB, JHA	JHA	159	1350	66
22.	Pirpainti-Jassidih	NL	BIH, JHA	JHA	127	1536	50
23.	Ranchi-Lohardaga with extension to Tori	GC	JHA	JHA	113	596	66
24.	Bagalkot-Kudachi	NL	KAR	KAR	142	1065	50+Land
25.	Bangalore- Satyamanglam	NL	KAR, TN	KAR	260	1524	50+Land
26.	Gulbarga-Bidar	NL	KAR	KAR	140	1544	50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
27.	Hassan-Bangalore <i>via</i> Shraavanabelgola	NL	KAR	KAR	166	1290	50
28.	Kadur-Chickmagalur-Sakleshpur (land for Chickmagalur-Sakleshpur-47 km.)	NL	KAR	KAR	93	1156	50+Land
29.	Munirabad-Raichur (163 km.) of Munirabad-Mahabubnagar	NL	TEL, KAR	KAR	246	2641	50
30.	Shimoga-Harihar	NL	KAR	KAR	79	832	50+Land
31.	Tumkur-Chitradurg-Davangere	NL	KAR	KAR	200	2193	50+Land
32.	Whitefield-Kolar	NL	KAR	KAR	53	375	50+Land
33.	Gadag-Wadi	NL	KAR	KAR	252	2617	50+Land
34.	Ramanagaram-Mysore (91.5 km.) with RE	DL	KAR	KAR	92	875	66
35.	Khurda road-Bolangir (289 km.) new line	NL	ODI	ODI	177	2000	Cost sharing of part project (km. 112-289) with Land + 50%
36.	Rama Mandi (Raman)-Sada Singh Wala <i>via</i> TalwandiSaboo (29.11 km.) of Mansa-Bhatinda Doubling	NL	PUN	PUN	29	218	Land
37.	Ratlam-Dungarpur <i>via</i> Banswara	NL	MP, RAJ	RAJ	176	3450	50+Land
38.	Ajmer (Nasirabad)-Sawai Madhopur (Chauth Ka Banwara) <i>via</i> Tonk	NL	RAJ	RAJ	165	874	Land

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
39.	Akkanapet-Medak	NL	TEL	TEL	17	118	50+ Land
40.	Manoharabad-Kotapalli	NL	TEL	TEL	149	1160	33+ Land+ Annuity 1st 5 years
41.	Deoband (Muzzafar Nagar)-Roorkee	NL	UP, UTRA	UK	27	700	50
42.	Kichha-Khatima	NL	UTRA	UK	58	584	Land
TOTAL					5,625	63,213	

MAH - Maharashtra	AP - Andhra Pradesh
BIH - Bihar	CG - Chhattisgarh
JHA - Jharkhand	TN - Tamil Nadu
UP - Uttar Pradesh	KAR - Karnataka
HAR - Haryana	MP - Madhya Pradesh
RAJ - Rajasthan	WB - West Bengal
PUN - Punjab	UTRA - Uttarakhand
HP - Himachal Pradesh	ODI - Odisha
TEL - Telangana	
SAIL - Steel Authority of India Limited	NMDC - National Mineral Development Corporation

(B) In addition, consent of State Government has been received for the following three projects, which are under requisite approvals

Sl. No.	Project	Plan Head	Project falling in State	State Entity sharing cost	Length (in km.)	Total Latest Cost (₹ in cr.)	Share (%)
1.	Ferozepur-Patti	NL	PUN	PUN	25	450	Land
2.	Jeypore-Nabarangpur	NL	ODI	ODI	38	485	Land + 50
3.	Jeypore-Malkangiri	NL	ODI	ODI	130	1277	25
TOTAL					193	2212	

(C) The following Metropolitan Transport Projects (MTP) have also been taken up on cost sharing basis with State Government

Sl. No.	Project	Plan Head	Project falling in State	State Entity sharing cost	Total Latest Cost (₹ in cr.)	Share (%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Belapur-Seawood-Uran-Electrified Double Line	MTP	MAH	MAH	1781.98	66
2.	Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) Phase-II	MTP	MAH	MAH	8087	50
3.	CSTM-Panvel/Andheri-Running of 12 coach EMU train on Harbour corridor	MTP	MAH	MAH	714.1	50
4.	Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) Phase-III	MTP	MAH	MAH	10947	54
5.	Chennai-Extension of Mass Rapid Transit System Phase-II from Velachery to St. Thomas Mount	MTP	TN	TN	732.9	66
6.	Hyderabad-Secunderabad-Multi Modal Transport System (Phase-II)	MTP	TEL	TEL	816.55	66

(D) In addition, consent of State Government of Maharashtra has been received for the following three projects, which are under requisite approvals

- **New suburban rail corridor between Virar-Vasai-Panvel (140 T-Km):** This Project is included in Pink Book 2017-18 and is proposed to be taken up after obtaining requisite approvals of the Government. Total estimated cost of the projects is ₹ 8787 crore.
- **Fast elevated corridor between CSTM-Panvel with Spur to Navi Mumbai International Airport (104 Track km.):** This Project is included in Pink Book 2017-18 and is proposed to be taken up after obtaining requisite approvals of the Government. Total estimated cost of the projects is ₹ 12,131 crore.
- **New suburban corridor on 3rd and 4th line between Pune-Lonavala (128 Track km.):** This Project is included in Pink Book 2017-18 and is proposed to be taken up after obtaining requisite approvals of the Government. Total estimated cost of the projects is ₹ 4,253 crore.

Survey for new rail routes in Uttarakhand

†2675. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he had made an announcement for conducting a survey of new rail routes during his visit to Uttarakhand;
- (b) if so, the names of those rail routes;
- (c) whether funds have been allocated for survey of new rail routes; and
- (d) if so, the amount of funds allocated route-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Minister of Railways announced survey of rail line connecting Char Dham Uttarakhand in November, 2016.

(b) to (d) Final location survey for new line rail connectivity to Char Dham (Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath involving route length of 327 km.) in Uttarakhand has been sanctioned at a cost of ₹ 120.92 crore in budget 2017-18. Survey is being taken up.

New trains for Gujarat

2676. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government of Gujarat has been regularly requesting Railways to start new trains;
- (b) whether Railways have agreed in-principle to start the new trains; and
- (c) if so, the progress made on each of the trains demanded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received at various levels of Railways' Administration for introduction of new trains. Action as found feasible and justified is taken from time to time. This is an ongoing exercise in Indian Railways. Sriganganagar-Tiruchchirapalli Humsafar Express train had already been introduced with effect from 27.02.2017.

The following trains serving the State of Gujarat will be introduced shortly:—

- (i) Ahmedabad-Chennai Humsafar Express.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (ii) Jainagar-Udhna Antyodaya Express.
- (iii) Bandra-Jamnagar Uday Express.
- (iv) Bandra-Patna Humsafar Express.
- (v) Bandra-Gorakhpur Antyodaya Express.

Joint venture with Odisha for railway projects

2677. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Odisha was one of the State Governments who had come forward to take up railway projects through joint venture;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with details of projects proposed to be taken up for development;

(c) whether land has been acquired for these projects, particularly for Behrampur-Sambalpur line;

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

(e) the progress made so far in respect of clearances, mobilisation of funds, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways and State Government of Odisha have signed the Joint Venture (JV) Agreement to incorporate a State level Joint Venture Company (State JV). State JV, after its incorporation, in its Board meeting will decide to undertake the survey and development of mutually identified viable railway project(s) including project(s) with viability gap funding.

(c) Behrampur-Sambalpur line is not yet a sanctioned work. It has been listed in 2016-17 in the Annexure to the Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme of Railways proposed through Joint Ventures, SPVs, Partnership with State Governments and Stakeholders.

(d) and (e) Question do not arise.

2678. **[The question was cancelled.]**

Ro-Ro freight service

2679. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently introduced Ro-Ro freight service by Railways is intended only for Delhi or it will be extended to other metro cities as well; and

(b) if so, by when this will be implemented, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Roll-on-Roll-off (Ro-Ro) service was initially introduced on Konkan Railway during the year 1999. Since then, the service is running on Konkan Railway on Diesel route. On electrified routes, there are operational constraints for running of Ro-Ro service due to Over Head Equipment (OHE). However, during the recent past, trial run of Roll-on-Roll-off (Ro-Ro) Service has been carried out on following routes:—

- (i) Across the Ganga River in Bihar between Bihta and Turki over East Central Railway;
- (ii) Between Bhanga and Churaibari in Northeast Frontier Railway for carriage of loaded/empty petrol tankers;
- (iii) Between Nagothane and Boisar;
- (iv) Between Garhi Harsaru to Muradnagar.

Roll-on-Roll-off (Ro-Ro) Service can be tried out on other routes also subject to demand and operational feasibility.

End to Train Telemetry (EoTT) device in trains

2680. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation (DFCC) is going to introduce End to Train Telemetry (EoTT) device in the freight trains to help the driver monitor the train movement through this device and thus, eliminate services of about 1000 guards;

(b) whether once the 3344 kilometres dedicated corridor is fully operational, the corridor may be free from all level crossings and will ensure time-bound transportation of goods; and

(c) by when this project is going to be fully operational and what would be the fate of guards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. (DFCCIL) is an infrastructure provider. End to Train Telemetry (EoTT) device is an alternative of running trains without guard on an exclusive freight corridor.

(b) Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) has been envisaged to be free from level crossings gates, to help enhance the operational efficiency and safety standards. However elimination of level crossings is feasible only in a phased manner.

(c) The commissioning of Western and Eastern DFCs (excluding few sections) is targeted in phases by 2019/2020. The End to Train Telemetry (EoTT) device does not require services of guards on DFC network.

Dedicated freight corridors

2681. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dedicated Freight Corridors, that connect Delhi to Mumbai and Punjab to West Bengal, will be taken up seriously during the current financial year;

(b) if so, whether Government has set any target to complete this project; and

(c) the anticipated cost of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The work on two Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC), *i.e.* Western DFC (Jawaharlal Nehru Port to Dadri) and Eastern DFC (Ludhiana to Dankuni) has already been taken up at various locations.

The commissioning of Western and Eastern DFCs (excluding a few sections) is targeted in phases by 2019/2020.

The revised cost estimate of the Western DFC and Eastern DFC (excluding construction cost of Sonnagar-Dankuni to be implemented through Public Private Partnership) is ₹ 81,459 crore.

Unmanned Level Crossings in Rajasthan

2682. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Unmanned Level Crossings (ULCs) are there in Rajasthan;

(b) how many accidents have taken place during the last three years at such ULCs, the details regarding casualties, etc.;

(c) whether any inquiries were conducted into causes of such accidents, if so, the findings of such inquiries, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time-frame by which Railways propose to remove all ULCs in Rajasthan and how?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) As on 01.04.2016, there are 940 Unmanned Level Crossings (UMLCs) in the State of Rajasthan.

(b) Railway does not maintain the accident data State-wise. However, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Bikaner Divisions of North Western Railway, Agra Division of North Central Railway and Kota Division of West Central Railway cover mostly or partly the State of Rajasthan. Consequential UMLC train accidents caused mainly due to the negligence of road vehicle users over these regions during the last three years and the current year from 1st April, 2016 to 28th February, 2017 alongwith casualties of road vehicle users are as under:—

Year	No. of Unmanned Level Crossing (UMLC) accidents	Killed	Injured
2013-14	12	22	14
2014-15	10	16	14
2015-16	7	09	04
2016-17 (upto Feb 2017)	2	03	02

(c) 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 Railways. All these accidents were caused due to negligence of road vehicle users.

(d) The Unmanned Level Crossings on Broad Gauge are targeted for elimination by March, 2020. It is the endeavour of Railways to eliminate all Unmanned Level Crossings in a phased manner by either of the following:—

- **Closure**-Closing unmanned level crossings having NIL/negligible Train Vehicle Unit (TVU).
- **Merger**-Merger of unmanned level crossing gate to nearby manned/unmanned level crossing or subway/Road Under Bridge (RUB)/Road Over Bridge (ROB) by construction of diversion road.
- **Provision of Subways/RUBs.**
- **Manning**-Phased manning of unmanned level crossings which cannot be eliminated by above means.

Launch of a new app by IRCTC for cab and hotel bookings

2683. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IRCTC has tied up with non-rival companies, seeking to tap rail portal's 42.5 million users, with 15,000 being added every day on an average;

- (b) whether IRCTC received ₹ 18 crore from co-branding initiative;
- (c) whether IRCTC is launching a new app that will incorporate cab and hotel bookings and food delivery services; and
- (d) whether IRCTC is considering to monetize segments such as packaged water and catering, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) IRCTC has tied up with various companies to monetize its website like Oyo Hotels, Bla Bla Car (contextual advertising), Amazon (cobranded marketplace), Snapdeal (cobranded marketplace), Google (online advertising), Galileo (Air Ticketing) etc.

(b) IRCTC has earned an amount of ₹ 24 crore from M/s Amazon through marketplace co branding association from February-2015 to June-2016.

(c) An Integrated Mobile App will be launched offering different services required by passengers.

(d) Monetization is done through e-catering for railway passengers which includes the sale of packaged drinking water also. During April-2016 to February-2017, a total of 15,12,457 meal orders have been booked through e-catering website of IRCTC having total monetary value of ₹ 17,25,62,852. Revenue from advertisement on packaged drinking water (Rail Neer) was approximately ₹ 3 crore during the period from April-2016 to February-2017.

Net profit of IRCTC

2684. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IRCTC's net profit grew 44 per cent to ₹ 189 crore in the financial year 2016, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that IRCTC's portal sold train tickets worth ₹ 24,022 crore during the year, although growth halved to 17 per cent from a year earlier; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that its revenue comes from service charge on tickets, sale of Rail Neer packaged water, onboard catering services and licence fees from outsourced catering vendors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. The net profit of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has grown to ₹ 189 crore in Financial Year 2015-16 as against ₹ 131 crore in Financial Year 2014-15. It is a growth of 44%.

(b) Yes, Sir. During the year 2015-16, a total of ₹ 24,023 crore has been collected towards the sale of train tickets through IRCTC portal. IRCTC has registered 17% growth and it is a fact that its growth in this sector has come down from 34% to 17%.

(c) Yes, Sir. The revenue is generated from the following activities:- (i) Service charges on internet tickets; (ii) Sales of Rail Neer packaged water; (iii) Sales of on-board catering services; (iv) License fee from outsourced catering vendor; (v) Revenue from tourism services.

Unmanned Level Crossings in Telangana

2685. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were 72 Unmanned Level Crossings (ULCs) in Telangana as of April 2016, if so, the details thereof, District-wise;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 14 ULCs have been manned in the last two years;

(c) how many more years will it take to man all the ULCs at this pace; and

(d) whether there are any plans to make special financial provision to man the above ULCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 01.04.2016, there are 72 unmanned level crossings in the State of Telangana. District-wise data is not being maintained. During 2014-15 and 2015-16, 14 unmanned level crossings have been manned in the State of Telangana.

(c) The unmanned level crossings on Broad Gauge are targeted for elimination by March 2020 by either of the following:—

- **Closure**-Closing unmanned level crossings having NIL/negligible Train Vehicle Unit (TVU).
- **Merger**-Merger of unmanned level crossing gate to nearby manned/unmanned level crossing or subway/Road Under Bridge (RUB)/Road Over Bridge (ROB) by construction of diversion road.
- **Provision of Subways/RUBs.**
- **Manning**-Phased manning of unmanned level crossings which cannot be eliminated by above means.

(d) Funds for elimination of unmanned level crossings come from Rashtriya Rail Shuraksha Kosh (RRSK).

Use of LPG gas burners at railway stations on Delhi-Mumbai route

†2686. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway stations along with platform number and railway passenger services on Delhi-Mumbai route where food and other eatables are prepared on LPG gas burners; and

(b) the railway stations where above facilities of providing fresh and hot food and eatables to the passengers are available under Ratlam railway division of the Western Railway including Ujjain, Nagda, Ratlam, Neemach, Indore in reference to 'a' above, the reasons for absence of such facilities at other places and the measures to provide the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) In order to provide good quality, fresh and hygienic food to the travelling passengers, zonal railways may permit restricted cooking by following two modes of cooking (i) electrical induction cooking (ii) cooking through LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) on platforms of stations except suburban stations for preparation of food items like tea, poori-bhaji and other small consumable items with the permission of General Manager of Railway. Zone-wise details of the names of railway stations along with platform number and type of passengers service on Delhi-Mumbai route where food and other eatables are prepared on LPG gas burners are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) In Ratlam Division, cooking through LPG has been permitted only at Chittorgarh railway station, as a special case with the approval of General Manager as there is a short supply of electricity at the station. Use of LPG at all/most of the stations is not desirable due to safety reasons.

Statement

Zone-wise details of the names of railway stations alongwith platform number and type of passengers service on Delhi-Mumbai route where food and other eatables are prepared on LPG gas burners

Zonal Railway	Division	Name of stations	Platform No.	Type of Unit
Northern	Delhi	Shivaji Bridge	1-2 and 3-4	Stall/Trolley
		Tilak Bridge	1-2 and 3-4	Stall/Trolley
		Okhla	3-4	Trolley

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Zonal Railway	Division	Name of stations	Platform No.	Type of Unit
North Western	Jaipur	Delhi Sadar Bazar	1-2 and 3-4	Stall/Trolley
		Delhi Kishan Ganj	1-2	Stall/Trolley
		Delhi Sarai Rohilla	1-2 and 4-5	Stall/Trolley
		Rewari	2-3, 4-5, 6-7 and 8	Stall/Trolley
		Khairthal	1	Stall
		Alwar	1 and 2	Stall/Trolley
		Bandikui	1, 2-3 and 6	Stall/Trolley
		Dausa	1	Stall
		Jaipur	1, 2-3 and 4-5	Stall/Trolley
		Phulera	1, 2-3 and 4-5	Stall/Trolley
	Ajmer	Narnaul	1	Stall
		Nim ka Thana	1	Stall
		Ringas	1 and 2-3	Stall/Trolley
		Ajmer	1, 2-3 and 4-5	Stall/Trolley
		Beawar	1	Stall/Trolley
		Sendra	1	Stall/Trolley
		Sojat Road	1	Stall/Trolley
		Marwar	1 and 2-3	Stall/Trolley
		Falna	1	Stall/Trolley
		Jawai Bandh	1	Stall/Trolley
West Central	Kota	Moti Bera	1	Trolley
		Sirohi Road	1	Stall/Trolley
		Abu Road	1 and 2-3	Stall/Trolley
		Bharatpur	1, 2-3 and 4-5	Stall
		Bayana	1 and 2	Stall
		Hindaun City	1	Stall
		Gangapur City	1 and 2	Stall
		Sawai Madhopur	1 and 2-3	Stall

Zonal Railway	Division	Name of stations	Platform No.	Type of Unit
		Indergarh	1	Stall
		Sumerganj Mandi		
		Kesorai Patan	1	Stall
		Kota	1 and 2-3	Stall
		Bhawani Mandi	1	Stall
		Suwarsa	1	Stall
		Shamgarh	1 and 2-3	Stall
		Chaumahla	1	Stall
		Baran	1	Stall
		Antah	1	Stall
		Salpura	1	Stall
		Chhabra Gugor	1	Stall
		Bundi	1	Stall
Western	Ratlam	Chittorgarh	1 to 5	Stall

Shifting the headquarter of Western Railway

2687. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any representation to shift the headquarter of Western Railway from Mumbai to Ahmedabad;

(b) whether it is a fact that the railway network of Western Railway is more in Gujarat than in the other States; and

(c) if so, whether the demand of Government of Gujarat to shift the Western Railway headquarter to Gujarat is justifiable, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The location of the headquarters of a Zonal Railway depends on operational and administrative requirements, consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency and not on regional considerations. The Western Railway headquarter at Mumbai is working satisfactorily and no change is considered necessary.

Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad Project as an elevated one

†2688. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to construct the entire Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail project as an elevated one; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard so far, along with the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It was decided to construct Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail project as a fully elevated corridor to enhance safety and reduce land requirement for the project. According to preliminary assessment of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), fully elevated corridor entails an additional cost implication of approximately ₹ 10,000 crore.

General Consultant has been appointed by JICA in December, 2016 to prepare Design documents, bidding documents and technical standards and specifications for the project considering the corridor as fully elevated.

PoS Machines at reservation counters

2689. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have asked bankers to provide around 15,000 Point of Sale (PoS) machines at reservation counters with about a thousand of these machines to be made available urgently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways do not provide PoS service for debit and credit card payments at its ticket counters; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways will also go cashless for paying vendors and contractors, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) With a view to promoting cashless transaction, it has been decided to install 10,000 Point of Sale (POS) machines in association with State Bank of India at various locations of Indian Railways including ticket counters of Indian Railways.

At present, more than 4000 PoS machines have been installed across Zonal Railways.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The payments to all vendors and contractors are already cashless. The payments are made through National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)/Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) mode only.

Easy access for persons with disabilities in rail compartments and toilets

2690. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways, for the benefit of persons with disabilities, under Section 44 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1955, will take special measures to adapt rail compartments in such a way as to permit easy access to such persons and adapt toilets in rail compartments and waiting rooms in such a way as to permit wheel chair users to use them conveniently;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Railways to comply with the provisions of the Act; and

(c) the details of complaints received from disabled persons against Railways in this regard together with action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) In order to provide additional facilities for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), Indian Railways has developed designs of coaches having a compartment for PWDs as well as additional features in the lavatories. Some of these features are given below:—

- Wider entrance door of 920 mm opening for easy movement of wheelchair.
- Wider, bi-fold inward opening lavatory door of 910 mm for easy movement of wheelchair.
- Size and cushioning of PWDs berth as per standard of Air-Conditioned 2-Tier berth with knee space of 900 mm for easy movement of wheelchair.
- Two way alarm communication system between lavatory and compartment.
- PWDs berth number engraved in Braille lipi also.
- Anti-slip flooring in lavatory area.
- Handrails in lavatory as well as in compartment area for wheelchair parking.

As on 31.03.2016, there were more than 3400 disabled friendly coaches in the coach holding of Indian Railways.

Instructions exist for provision of at least one toilet on ground floor at the station suitable for differently-abled persons. Instructions also exist for provision of one urinal and shower suitable for differently-abled persons in waiting room at the station.

Almost all the Mail Express trains (except special type of trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Jan Shatabdi, AC Special, Duronto and Mail Express trains running with LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches), including Garib Rath trains, have been provided with a specially designed disabled friendly cabin in at least one disabled friendly coach for the benefit of differently-abled passengers.

(c) The complaints as received from rail users and general public including those from disabled persons, are addressed promptly. However, data regarding complaints received from disabled persons against Railways is not maintained separately in the Passenger Grievances Directorate of Railway Board.

Regular drives/raids are conducted by the personnel of RPF (Railway Protection Force) in order to tackle the issue of unauthorized passengers travelling in the coaches meant for the disabled passengers and appropriate action is taken against the offenders.

Production of LHB coaches

2691. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present production capacity of LHB coaches per year;

(b) whether it is a fact that it will take several decades to replace all ICF coaches at the current rate of LHB coach production; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to enhance production of LHB coaches in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The present coach production capacity of the two established Coach Production Units *i.e.* Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai and Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala is 3200 different type of coaches including LHB coaches. A new Modern Coach Factory (MCF), Rae Bareilly is in project stage and its planned production capacity is 1000 LHB coaches.

(b) Indian Railways is completely switching over to production of LHB coaches w.e.f 2018-19, and is replacing ICF coaches of only Mail/Express trains in a phased manner.

(c) A new Modern Coach Factory (MCF), Rae Bareilly has been set up with planned production capacity of 1000 LHB coaches.

Introduction of premium trains from Amritsar

2692. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the fact that Amritsar is known for its major tourist attractions like Golden Temple, Jalianwala Bagh, Durgiana Temple, Wagah Border, etc., and lakhs of tourists visit Amritsar from across the world, the Ministry is in process to introduce premium trains such as Rajdhani Express/Duronto/Tejas or new Shatabdi trains from Amritsar;

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

(c) the list of new trains proposed to be introduced from Amritsar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) At present, there is no proposal to introduce Rajdhani/Duronto/Tejas/Shatabdi Express trains from Amritsar due to operational and resource constraints. However, introduction of new trains including Rajdhani/Duronto/Shatabdi/Tejas Express is an ongoing process over Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, commercial viability, availability of resources etc.

Effectiveness of Railway Safety Commission

2693. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the effectiveness of Railway Safety Commission was ever assessed;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) the reasons for so many accidents if it is effective; and

(d) if not, what is being done in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The Commission of Railway Safety working under the administrative control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (Government of India) deals with the matters pertaining to safety of rail travel and train operations and is charged with certain statutory functions laid down in the Railway Act, 1989. These functions are inspectorial, investigatory and advisory in nature. The Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety prepares Annual Report on the activities of the Commission of Railway Safety in terms of section 10 of the Railway Act, 1989. This report is laid in the Parliament.

(c) and (d) The number of accidents per million train kilometers has come down from 00.23 in 2006-07 to 00.10 in 2015-16. Broad classification of causes of consequential train accidents during the last two years and current year are as under:—

Causes	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Failure of Railway Staff	60	55	64
Failure of Other Than Railway Staff	58	38	19
Failure of Equipment	04	02	01
Sabotage	03	01	02
Combination of Factor	0	01	03
Incidental	08	09	07
Could not be established/Non Held	02	01	0
Under Investigation	0	0	03
GRAND TOTAL	135	107	99

Cab services by Railways

2694. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to introduce cab services at railway stations in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Railways offer App based cab services at important stations with the objective of enhancing passengers' convenience and increasing non-fare revenue of Railways, which is being expanded in a phased manner.

Construction of 3500 kilometres new railway line

†2695. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has worked out a plan to construct three thousand five hundred kilometres new railway lines in the country during 2017-18, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the length of new railway lines, in kilometres, proposed to be constructed by Government in the country, State-wise, the details thereof including Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Indian Railways has fixed the target of commissioning of 3500 km of New Line/Gauge Conversion/Doubling during 2017-18.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) As on 01.04.2016, there are 166 ongoing New Line Projects taken up to cover a length of 18592 km. The details of these New Line Projects falling fully/partly in various States including the State of Bihar are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of new line projects

Sl. No.	State	Project	Length (in km.)
1	2	3	4
1.	AP	Nadikude-Srikalahasti	309
2.	AP	Mannuguru-Ramagundum	200
3.	AP	Kotipalli-Narsapur	57.21
4.	AP	Manoharabad-Kotapalli	148.9
5.	AP	Obulavaripalle-Krishnapatnam	113
6.	AP	Bhadrachalam-Kovvur	151
7.	AP	Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad	177.49
8.	AP	Nandyal-Yerraguntla	126
9.	AP	Cumbam-Proddutur	142
10.	AP	Kondapalli-Kothagodum	125
11.	AP	Macherla-Nalgonda (Suppl.)	92
12.	AP	Bhadrachalam Road-Sattupalli	56.25
13.	AP	Jaggayyapet-Mallacheruvu with new MM for Mallacheruvu-Janpahad	48.1
14.	AP	Gudur-Durgarajapatnam	41.55
15.	AP	Kakinada-Pithapuram	21.5
16.	AP	Akkanapet-Medak	17.2
17.	AP, KAR	Munirabad-Mahabubnagar	246
18.	AP, KAR	Srinivasapura-Madanapalli	75
19.	BIH	Sitamarhi-Jayanagar-Nirmali <i>via</i> Susand	188
20.	BIH	Nawada-Laxmipur	137
21.	BIH	Fatuha-Islampur incl. MM for extn. of NL from Neora to Daniawan, Daniawan to Biharsharif, Biharsharif to Barbiga, Barbiga to Shekhpura	171.5

1	2	3	4
22.	BIH	Ara-Bhabua Road	122
23.	BIH	Rajgir-Hisua-Tilaiya and Natesar-Islampur	67
24.	BIH	Chhapra-Muzzafarpur	84.65
25.	BIH	Kosi Bridge	21.85
26.	BIH	Bihta-Aurangabad <i>via</i> Anugrahanarayan Road	118.45
27.	BIH	Sakri-Hasanpur	79
28.	BIH	Hajipur-Sagauli <i>via</i> Vaishali	148.3
29.	BIH	Araria-Supaul	92
30.	BIH	Muzaffarpur-Darbhangha	66.9
31.	BIH	Muzaffarpur-Katra-Orai-Janakpur Road	66.55
32.	BIH	Motihari-Sitamarhi	76.7
33.	BIH	Darbhangha-Kusheshwarasthan	70.14
34.	BIH	Kursela-Bihariganj	35
35.	BIH	Khagaria-Kusheshwarasthan	44
36.	BIH	Dehri on Sone-Banjari	36.4
37.	BIH	Bikramshila-Katareah (Pirpainthi-Naughachia)	18
38.	BIH	Sultanganj-Katuria <i>via</i> Asarganj, Tarapur and Belhar	74.8
39.	BIH	Bariarpur-Mananpur <i>via</i> Kharagpur, Lachimpur-Barhat	67.78
40.	BIH	Maharajganj-Masrakh with MM for NL between Masrakh-Rewaghat	65.49
41.	BIH	Araria-Galgalia (Thakurganj)	100
42.	BIH, JHA	Gaya-Bodhgaya-Chatra, Gaya-Natesar (Nalanda)	97
43.	BIH, JHA	Gaya-Daltonganj <i>via</i> Rafiganj	136.88
44.	BIH, JHA	Koderma-Tilaiya	68
45.	BIH, JHA	Pirpainty-Jassidih	97
46.	BIH, JHA	Deogarh-Sultanganj incl. Banka-Barahat and Banka-Bhitiah Road	147
47.	BIH, Nepal	Jogbani-Biratnagar (Nepal)	18.6
48.	BIH, UP	Chhitauni-Tumkuhi Road	62.5
49.	BIH, UP	Hathua-Bhatni	79.64

1	2	3	4
50.	BIH, WB	Jalalgarh-Kishanganj	50.077
51.	BIH, WB, JHA	Rampurhat-Mandarhill <i>via</i> Dumka with new MM for Rampurhat-Murarai 3rd line	159.48
52.	CH	Dallirajahra-Jagdalpur	235
53.	CHH	Gevra Road-Pendra Road	121.7
54.	CHH	Raigarh (Mand Colliery)-Bhupdeopur	63
55.	CHH	Dongargarh-Kharigarh-Bilaspur	270
56.	CHH	Dharamjaigarh-Korba	63
57.	CHH, JHA	Barwadih-Chirmari	182
58.	CHH, ODI	Raipur-Jharsuguda	310
59.	DLI, HAR, RAJ	Delhi-Sohna-Nuh-Ferozpur-Jhirka-Alwar	104
60.	GUJ	Bhimnath-Dholera	28
61.	GUJ, MP	Chhota Udepur-Dhar	157
62.	HAR	Yamuna Nagar-Chandigarh <i>via</i> Sadhaura, Narayanagarh	91
63.	HAR	Rewari-Rohtak	81.26
64.	HAR	Hissar-Sirsa <i>via</i> Agroha and Fatehabad	93
65.	HAR	Rohtak-Mehem-Hansi	68.8
66.	HP, PUN	Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri	63.1
67.	HP, PUN	Nangal Dam-Talwara new broad gauge line and Taking over siding of Mukerian-Talwara	83.74
68.	J&K	Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramula	272
69.	JHA	Koderma-Ranchi	189
70.	JHA	Giridih-Koderma	102.5
71.	JHA	Hansdiha-Godda	30
72.	JHA	Gooda-Pakur	80
73.	KAR	Gulbarga-Bidar	110
74.	KAR	Gadag-Wadi	252
75.	KAR	Tumkur-Chitradurg-Davangere	199.7
76.	KAR	Hassan-Bangalore <i>via</i> Shravanabelgola	167

1	2	3	4
77.	KAR	Bagalkot-Kudachi	142
78.	KAR	Kadur-Chickmagalur-Sakleshpur	93
79.	KAR	Shimoga-Harihar	78.66
80.	KAR	Chickballapur-Gowribidanur	44
81.	KAR	Whitefield-Kolar	52.9
82.	KAR	Hubli-Ankola	167
83.	KAR	Marikuppam-Kuppam	23.7
84.	KAR, AP	Cuddapah-Bangalore (Bangarapet)	255.4
85.	KAR, TN	Bangalore-Satyamanglam	260
86.	KAR, AP	Rayadurg-Tumkur via Kalyandurg	213
87.	KAR, AP	Chickballapur-Puttaparthysri Satya Sai Nilyam	103
88.	KER	Angamali-Sabarimala	116
89.	KER	Tirunnavaya-Guruvayur	35
90.	MAH	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parle Vajinath	261
91.	MAH	Wardha-Nanded (via Yevatmal-Pusood)	270
92.	MAH	Amravati-Narkher	138
93.	MAH	Baramati-Lonand	54
94.	MAH	Karad-Chiplun#	112
95.	MAH	Dighi Port-Roha	34
96.	MAH	Indore-Manmad via Malegaon	368
97.	MAH	Pune-Nasik	265
98.	MAH	Vaibhavwadi-Kolhapur	107
99.	MAH	Wadsa-Gadchiroli	49.5
100.	MP, GUJ	Dahod-Indore via Sardarpur, Jhabua and Dhar	206
101.	MP, RAJ	Ratlam-Dungarpur via Banswara	176.47
102.	MP, RAJ	Ramganjmandi-Bhopal	262
103.	MP, UP	Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Singrauli and Mahoba-Khajuraho	541
104.	NER and Assam	Murkongselek-Pasighat	30.617
105.	NER and Meghalaya	Byrnihat-Shillong	108.4

1	2	3	4
106.	NER and Mizoram	Bhairabi-Sairang	51.38
107.	NER and Nagaland	Dimapur-Tizit	257
108.	NER and Tripura	Agartala-Sabroom	110
109.	NER and Tripura and Bangladesh	Agartala-Akhaura (Bangladesh)	13
110.	NER, Assam	Bogibeel bridge with linking lines between Dibrugarh and North Bank line	73
111.	NER, Assam, Meghalaya	Teteliya-Byrnihat	21.5
112.	NER, Assam, WB	New Moynaguri-Jogighopa	288.88
113.	NER, Manipur	Jiribam-Imphal	125
114.	NER, Nagaland	Dimapur-Kohima	88
115.	NER, WB	Sivok-Rangpo	44.39
116.	ODI	Khurda Road-Bolangir	289
117.	ODI	Haridaspur-Paradeep	82
118.	ODI	Talcher-Bimlagarh	154
119.	ODI	Angul-Sukinda Road	98.7
120.	ODI	Jeypore-Malkangiri	130
121.	ODI	Jeypore-Nabarangpur	38
122.	PUN	Qadian-Beas	39.68
123.	PUN	Ferozpur-Patti	25
124.	PUN	Rajpura-Mohali	24
125.	PUN, HP	Chandigarh-Baddi	33.23
126.	RAJ	Ajmer-Kota (Nasirabad-Jalindri)	145
127.	RAJ	Dausa-Gangapur City	92.67

1	2	3	4
128.	RAJ	Pushkar-Merta	59
129.	RAJ	Thiyat-Hamira-Sanu	58.5
130.	RAJ	Ajmer-Sawai Madhopur	165
131.	TN	Sriperumbudur-Guduvanchery with Spur to IRUN, Kattukotti-Avadi-Sriperambudur	60
132.	TN	Madurai-Tuticodin via Aruppukkottai	143.5
133.	TN	Erode-Palani	91.05
134.	TN	Tindivanam-Gingee-Tiruvannamalai	70
135.	TN	Morappur-Dharmapuri	36
136.	TN, AP	Tindivanam-Nagari	179.2
137.	TN, AP	Attipattu-Puttur	88.3
138.	TN, Puducherry	Chennai-Cuddalore via Mahabalipuram	179.28
139.	UP	Kapilvastu-Basti	91
140.	UP	Anandnagar-Ghugli	50
141.	UP	Mau-Ghazipur-Tarighat	51
142.	UP	Sahjanwa-Dohrighat	70.45
143.	UP	Bahraich-Shravasti-Balrampur/Tulsipur	80
144.	UP	Faizabad-Lalganj via Raibareilly	116
145.	UP	Unchhar-Amethi	66.17
146.	UP	Chola-Bulandshahar	16
147.	UP, HAR	Meerut-Panipat	104
148.	UP, UTRA	Deoband (Muzzafar Nagar)-Roorkee	27.45
149.	UTRA	Kichha-Khatima	57.7
150.	UTRA	Rishikesh-Karanprayag	125.09
151.	WB	Tarakeshwar-Bishnupur	154.27
152.	WB	Laxmikantapur-Namkhana	83.7
153.	WB	Tarakeshwar-Magra	73.7
154.	WB	Hasnabad-Hinalganj	14
155.	WB	Azimganj-Murshidabad (Jiyaganj) incl. Rly. Bridge over river Bhagirathi	5

1	2	3	4
156.	WB	Eklakhi-Balurghat	175.91
157.	WB	Balurghat-Hilli	29.6
158.	WB	Kaliyaganj-Buniadpur	33.13
159.	WB	Haldibari-International Border	3
160.	WB	Tamluk-Digha	167.6
161.	WB	Howrah-Amta	109.8
162.	WB	Bhadutola-Jhargram <i>via</i> Lalgarh	54
163.	WB	Bowaichandi-Arambagh	31
164.	WB, JHA	Chitra-Basukinath	37
165.	WB, ODI	Digha-Jaleswar with new MM for Digha-Egra	72
166.	MP	Indore-Jabalpur	342
AP	- Andhra Pradesh	MAH - Maharashtra	
CG	- Chhattisgarh	BIH - Bihar	
TN	- Tamil Nadu	JHA - Jharkhand	
KAR	- Karnataka	UP - Uttar Pradesh	
MP	- Madhya Pradesh	HAR - Haryana	
WB	- West Bengal	RAJ - Rajasthan	
UTRA	- Uttarakhand	PUN - Punjab	
ODI	- Odisha	HP - Himachal Pradesh	
TEL	- Telangana		

Withdrawal of flexi fare system

2696. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that a large number of passengers are being affected by the flexi fare system introduced for the Rajdhani Express trains;

(b) if so, when the Government is going to withdraw this system; and

(c) whether it was introduced on the basis of pilot project and whether Government has made any assessment thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Only about 0.35% of the total passengers carried by Indian Railways are affected due to introduction of flexi fare system in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Durgam Express trains.

(b) There is no proposal at present to withdraw the flexi fare system in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains.

(c) Flexi fare system has been introduced in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains w.e.f. 09.09.2016. An interim review of the flexi fare system has been made and the following changes have been made with effect from 20.12.2016:-

- (i) 10% rebate in basic fare on vacant berths/seats after preparation of first chart in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains on an experimental basis for six months.
- (ii) Provision of Tatkal quota has been reduced in flexi fare trains from maximum 30% to 10% of the total available berths.
- (iii) Discounted fare has been offered for the passengers of Jaipur-Ajmer and Ajmer-Jaipur in 12015/12016 New Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi Express and for the passengers of Bengaluru City-Mysuru and Mysuru-Bengaluru City in 12007/12008 Chennai Central-Mysuru Shatabdi Express on an experimental basis for a period of six months.

Hauling of unfit empty wagons

2697. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on an average, more than 10,000 empty wagons are being hauled daily over the railway network, as they are unfit for loading;

(b) whether the Ministry keeps track of the freight loss due to unfit wagons and whether the loss is of the tune of ₹ 9000 crore;

(c) the details of the number of empty unfit wagons over the past two years, month-wise, along with the losses incurred per wagon; and

(d) the details of funds spent on repairing of unfit wagons over the past three years and the cost incurred per wagon on an average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) A close watch is kept on the running of unfit empty wagons in loaded rakes and all efforts are made to minimize it. However, given the scale and complexity of freight operations on Indian Railways, it is not possible to totally eliminate running of unfit empty wagons in loaded rakes. During 2014-15 and 2015-16, the average number of unfit empty wagons in rakes loaded were 199 wagons and 247 wagons per day respectively. Month wise details are given in the Statement (See below). There is no substantive freight loss due to this negligible running of unfit

empty wagons in loaded rakes, per se, as the quantity left out of the total quantity offered by the customers generally gets transported in the next rake.

(d) The cost incurred on repair and maintenance of wagons during the last three years is as under:—

Year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Cost per wagon (in Rupees)	87,351.18	1,00,324.53	1,20,184.59

The above cost includes the amount spent on regular preventive maintenance of wagons (Regular over-hauling and Periodic over-hauling) apart from the amount spent on repairs of unfit wagons. The details of amount spent only on repair of unfit wagons are not maintained separately, as the maintenance infrastructure and staff are shared between preventive maintenance activities and repairs to unfit wagons.

Statement

Month-wise details of Unfit Empty Wagons in Loaded Rakes (Units/day) for the last two years

Month	<i>Unfit Empty Wagons in Loaded Rakes (Units/day)</i>	
	2014-15	2015-16
April	217	198
May	213	215
June	157	213
July	159	271
August	166	284
September	192	282
October	213	271
November	223	243
December	212	229
January	225	237
February	204	253
March	206	269
Average per Month	199	247

Nalgonda-Macherla railway line

2698. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Railways is brought to the matter of Nalgonda-Macherla railway line, which was sanctioned in 1997-98, and mere budgetary allocations were made in every year of the Railway Budget;

(b) the reasons for sudden decision of Railways to shelve the project on the pretext of non-viability;

(c) the reasons for allocating funds every year to this project in case the project is non-viable; and

(d) the stand of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Macherla-Nalgonda (92 km) new line project in the State of Andhra Pradesh was included in Supplementary Budget 1997-98 at an abstract cost of ₹ 125.09 crore with Rate of Return of 5.86%. Macherla is located in Andhra Pradesh and Nalgonda falls in the newly created Telangana State. Detailed Estimate for this project was sanctioned on 20.9.2011 at a cost of ₹ 458.26 crore. The latest anticipated cost of this project is ₹ 815 crore. At the stage of Final Location Survey, issue of change of alignment was raised by public representatives and the State Government. A bankability study was conducted by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited and it was found that the project is financially unviable and can neither be implemented through Special Purpose Vehicle route nor through Public Private Partnership mode. As such, the project could not be taken forward. Though the project is socially desirable, the unremunerative nature of the project, huge throwforward of ongoing projects and limited overall availability of funds preclude taking up of this project further. But so far, this project is not shelved and exploration of avenues for taking up of this project is alive. For the year 2017-18, an outlay of ₹ 0.5 crore has been proposed. Provision of fund allotment is done to all projects which have been included in Rail Budget.

Public facilities outside all railway stations

2699. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received suggestions through Twitter and Social Media to build public facilities outside all railway stations in cities and town to help lakhs of visitors, drivers, hawkers and self employed people who work around stations;

(b) whether it is a fact that even in the Capital's railway stations—Nizamuddin, New Delhi and Old Delhi, there are no public facilities outside the stations; and

(c) how does Government proposes to rectify such neglect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Policy/instructions exist for provision of passenger amenities within station premises only for use of bonafide railway passengers.

Actionable tweets including suggestions pertaining to railways are forwarded to the concerned authority for necessary action.

Train accidents due to derailments

†2700. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the train accidents are attributed to derailments;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to undertake a thorough investigation thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Consequential train accidents have occurred due to various factors, one of them is derailment. During the year, 2014-15 out of total 135 consequential train accidents, 63 (46.7%) were derailments. In the year 2015-16, out of total 107 consequential train accidents, 65 (60.7%) train accidents were attributed to derailments. In the current year also from 1st April, 2016 to 28th February, 2017, out of total 99 consequential train accidents over Indian Railways, 76 train accidents (76.7%) are attributed to derailments.

(b) and (c) Each and every consequential train accident on Indian Railways is 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 consequential train accidents (including incidents at unmanned level crossings mostly caused due to negligence of road vehicle users) occurred on Indian Railways. Out of the 459 accidents, 44 accidents have been inquired by the Commissioner of Railway Safety and balance have been inquired into by the Departmental Inquiry Committees of the Zonal Railways.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Loss to railways due to train accidents

†2701. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of train accidents have increased this year, the details of number of train accidents that happened since year 2014 till now along with the number of people who lost their lives in these accidents;

(b) the details of total loss to Railways due to these accidents; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure safety of railway tracks and also make the travelling of rail passengers safe and comfortable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Details of number of consequential train accidents (including accidents occurred at Unmanned Level Crossings (UMLC) caused due to the negligence of road vehicle users), number of casualties therein and loss of Railway property due to rail accidents during the last three years, *i.e.* from 2013-14 to 2015-16 and in the current year *i.e.* 2016-17 (upto February, 2017) are given as under:—

Year	Number of consequential train Accidents#	Casualties		Loss to Railway Property
		Killed	Injured	
2013-14	118	152	234	₹ 38.01 crore
2014-15	135	292	457	₹ 72.07 crore
2015-16	107	122	188	₹ 45.23 crore
2016-17	99	235	371	₹ 59.06 crore*

Upto February, 2017)

#including accidents occurred at Unmanned Level Crossings (UMLC) caused due to the negligence of road vehicle users.

*Provisional figures

(c) 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.

Measures adopted/being adopted to improve safety of railway track are as under:—

- In order to improve safety, modern track structure consisting of Prestressed Concrete Sleeper (PSC), 60 kg., 90 or higher Ultimate Tensile Strength (UTS)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

rails, fanshaped layout turnout on PSC sleepers, Steel Channel Sleepers on girder bridges is used while carrying out primary track renewals.

- Long rail panels of 260 M/130M length are being manufactured at the steel plant to minimize number of Alumino Thermit joints in the track.
- Provision of Thick Web Switches (TWS) is planned for all important routes of IR. To expedite provision of TWS, procurement of Thick Web Switches has been decentralized to zonal railways.
- Cold weather patrolling of the railway tracks is done during the coldest part of the night in cold months of the year to look out for weld/rail fractures for ensuring safety.
- Track Management System has been introduced on Indian Railways for development of database and decision support system and to decide rationalized maintenance requirement and optimize inputs.

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 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.

Organisational factors behind frequent train accidents

2702. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether three serious train accidents within a span of two months indicate an alarming breakdown in the systems that ensure safety;

(b) whether statutory inquiry by Commissioner of Railway Safety normally limits itself to the sequence of events leading to the accident and not into the organisational factors behind the occurrence of the accident, with systemic failures remaining unrecognised and unaddressed; and

(c) whether, in hindsight, Government feels that such inquiries should go beyond the existing chain-of-events model and probe the management decisions that create latent unsafe conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. Statutory inquiries in respect of three consequential train accidents occurred in the recent past on Indian Railways (IR) *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 Kureru station on Singapuram Road-Vizianagaram Section of East Coast Railway on 21.01.2017 have been ordered to determine the causes to be conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Eastern Circle, Kolkata, the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern Circle, New Delhi and the Commissioner of South Central Circle, Secunderabad respectively under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(b) and (c) Statutory inquiry into Railway accidents by the Commissioner of Railway Safety takes input from a number of stakeholders and the inquiry looks into all aspects of the accident from information of accident to medical attention and relief, restoration, composition and marshalling order of the train, damage and disposition, local conditions like site conditions, type of tracks, signalling, system of working etc. and includes relevant evidence and tests if any. The inquiry report also analysis whether the accident could have been averted by any action of others and inadequacies in the system of working.

Expenditure incurred by railways in giving compensation

2703. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of incidents of train accidents, derailments and other such incidents occurred in the country post 2014;

(b) the total number of casualties occurred in these incidents;

(c) the average individual compensation given to the family of those died in these incidents; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred by Railways in giving compensation to the injured and to the family of those who died in such incidents since 2014?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Number of consequential train accidents/derailments (including accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings (UMLC) caused due to negligence of road

vehicle users) in the last two years *i.e.* 2014-15, 2015-16 and the current year from 1st April, 2016 to 28th February, 2017 are given below:—

Year	No. of Consequential Train Accidents/ derailments	Killed	Injured
2014-15*	135	292	457
2015-16@	107	122	188
2016-17# (01.04.2016 to 28.02.2017)	99	235	371

*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.

(c) The amount of compensation given to the next of kin of the deceased in train accidents was ₹ 4,00,000/- till 31.12.2016 and the same has been revised to ₹ 8,00,000/- w.e.f. 01.01.2017.

(d) Amount of compensation paid by Railways to the injured, and to the family of those who died in the train accidents since 2014 is as under:—

Year	Compensation paid by Indian Railways
2014	₹ 129.17 Lakh
2015	₹ 153.56 Lakh
2016	₹ 388.49 Lakh
2017 (01.01.2017 to 19.03.2017)	₹ 38.84 Lakh
TOTAL	₹ 710.06 Lakh

Note: The compensation paid in a year need not necessarily relate to the accidents/casualties in that year alone. This amount depends upon the number of cases which are finalized in a particular year irrespective of the year(s) in which the accident they pertain to, have occurred.

Implications of implementation of Seventh Pay Commission

2704. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that implementation of the Seventh Pay Commission recommendations has serious financial implications on Indian Railways, if so, the estimated additional financial implication over staff and pensioners; and

(b) whether Railways are planning to take up rationalisation of manpower in view of the financial implications, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The estimated additional financial impact of Seventh Pay Commission on Railways is around ₹ 15,000 crore (₹ 8,000 crore for staff and ₹ 7,000 crore for pensions). The Railways would be able to absorb the 7th CPC impact in 2016-17 within its resources.

(b) Manpower Planning is a continuous process and involves review of staff through work-studies, change in nature of work etc. No separate rationalization is proposed consequent upon the Seventh Pay Commission.

Survey for new railway lines

†2705. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have conducted any survey on laying of new railway lines and gauge conversion and electrification of old lines in various States, including Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the length of new railway lines to be laid in various States, including Uttar Pradesh and the length of railway lines for gauge conversion and electrification, location-wise;

(c) Government's plan for laying of new lines, gauge conversion and electrification during the current year; and

(d) whether Railways plan to construct a Dedicated Freight Corridor, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Since Railway projects generally straddle over more than one State, these are neither surveyed nor sanctioned State-wise. Survey for new lines, gauge conversion of Meter Gauge lines to Broad Gauge and Railway Electrification of these lines is a continuous and ongoing process of Indian Railways and are done based on demands raised by State Governments, Central Ministries, Members of Parliament, Other Public Representatives and Railway's own requirement. Based on the outcome of the survey, 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.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) In the last three years and current financial year, surveys for 176 New Line and 8 Gauge Conversion Surveys have been completed throughout the country including that of State of Uttar Pradesh. Out of these, 11 nos. of new line projects and 1 no. of Gauge Conversion Project have been included in Budget/sanctioned and electrification of such lines depends upon operational requirement and financial remunerativeness. As on 01.04.2016, a total of 166 ongoing New Lines, 39 Gauge Conversion, 99 Railway Electrification Projects spread across the country including the State of Uttar Pradesh have been taken up. Details of the projects are available in Pink Book laid on the Table of the House alongwith Budget papers. In the year 2017-18 for the State of Uttar Pradesh, 10 new line surveys and 6 projects (3 new line and 3 gauge conversion) have been proposed for inclusion in Budget.

(c) Target length of various Railway Projects for introduction of passenger/freight services is fixed on annual basis. For 2016-17, target of 2800 km. section for introduction of Passenger/Freight services has been fixed and for Electrification, a target of 2000 kms. has been fixed.

(d) Two Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC) viz. Eastern Corridor (Dankuni-Ludhiana, 1856 km.) and the Western Corridor (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal/JNPT-Dadri, 1504 km.) have been taken up.

Special trains for Tamil Nadu

2706. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of special trains run or deployed in Tamil Nadu since 1st November, 2016 upto 1st March, 2017 to meet traffic rush;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railways have not adequately met public demand for special trains for festivals, holiday rush and other occasions in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) how does Government propose to improve the performance of Railways in Tamil Nadu in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) About 379 special trains were operated by Southern Railway in Tamil Nadu during November 2016 to March 2017 (Upto 16.03.2017).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In order to meet the surge in passenger traffic in trains including in Tamil Nadu, Indian Railways runs special trains during peak seasons, festivals season, special events keeping in view the pattern of traffic, operational feasibility and availability of resources. This is an ongoing process and varies on day to day basis.

Also, the following trains serving Tamil Nadu have been introduced/are proposed to be introduced in the current financial year:—

Sl. No.	Train No.	From	To	Type of train	Frequency
1.	22919/20	Ahmedabad	Chennai	Humsafar	Weekly
2.	14715/16	Sriganganagar	Tiruchchirappalli	Humsafar	Weekly
3.	22841/42	Santragachi	Chennai	Antyodaya	Weekly
4.	22665/66	Coimbatore	Bengaluru	Uday	6 Days a week (Passing Tamil Nadu)
5.	22833/34	Bhubaneswar	Krishnarajpuram	Humsafar	Weekly
6.	22887/88	Howrah	Yesvantpur	Humsafar	Weekly
7.	12503/04	Kamakhya	Bangalore Cantt.	Humsafar	Weekly
8.	22877/78	Howrah	Ernakulam	Antyodaya	Weekly

Earnings of NIFT

†2707. MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether any data is available with the Government with regard to the earnings made by the NIFT, 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 income of NIFT during Financial year 2015-16 from its sources of revenue such as tuition fee, interest income and sponsored projects is ₹ 239.11 crores.

Development/welfare schemes for handicraft artisans

2708. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of handicraft artisans at present in the country, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of development/welfare schemes announced for handicraft artisans;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the amount allocated and spent, separately, from the Budget for handicraft artisans under various schemes in the last two years;

(d) whether any deficiency has been found in the implementation of these schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken to ensure that artisans are benefited out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) The present estimated number of artisans in the country is 68.80 lakhs. A special Nation-wide Artisans Identity Card campaign namely 'Pehchan' has been launched on 7th October, 2016 to register handicrafts artisans from all over the country. The details of State-wise artisans registered so far is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Office of the Development Commissioner [Handicrafts] implements various Schemes for promotion, development and welfare of handicrafts sector under one umbrella Scheme namely "National Handicraft Development Programme [NHDP]" to emphasize integrated approach for development of handicraft cluster in a holistic manner. The NHDP has following components:—

I. A. Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojna

(i) Dastkar Shashktikaran Yojna.

(ii) Design and Technology Upgradation.

(iii) Human Resource Development.

(iv) Direct Benefit to Artisans.

(v) Infrastructure and Technology Support.

B. Mega Cluster

II. Marketing Support and Services.

III. Research and Development.

(c) The State-wise fund released under various Schemes implemented by Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) during the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 upto January 2017 is given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(d) and (e) Scheme guidelines are modified from time to time on the basis of feedback received during implementation.

Statement-I

*Details of State-wise artisans registered so far status report
as per regional director record*

States	Total Application Forms collected as on till date (17.03.2017)
1	2
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	875
Andhra Pradesh	46486
Arunachal Pradesh	1662
Assam	29198
Bihar	37674
Chhattisgarh	5479
Delhi	7473
Goa	3357
Gujarat	49264
Haryana	6188
Himachal Pradesh	5172
Jammu and Kashmir	29122
Jharkhand	15952
Karnataka	15939
Kerala	22681
Madhya Pradesh	60553
Maharashtra	29159
Manipur	18475
Meghalaya	1913
Mizoram	1292
Nagaland	1912
Odisha	19172
Puducherry	6258
Punjab	9100
Rajasthan	26517

1	2
Sikkim	1932
Tamil Nadu	20454
Telangana	16744
Tripura	8302
Uttar Pradesh	602507
Uttarakhand	17579
West Bengal	38369
TOTAL	1156760

Statement-II*(A) State-wise fund released under handicrafts schemes during 2015-16*

Sl.No.	State	AHVV	Design	MSS	R&D	HRD	Welfare	Infra	Mega Cluster	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22.72	7.80	89.62	10.66	65.58		90.83	1140.28	1427.49
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-	1.00		-	-	1.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	6.00	-	5.00	12.71		-	-	23.71
4.	Assam	81.34	94.66	229.47	15.61	145.76		61.78	-	628.62
5.	Bihar	-	-	-	12.19	22.98		-	-	35.17
6.	Chandigarh	-	5.00	26.00	-	1.89		-	-	32.89
7.	Chhattisgarh	3.97	87.79	160.48	16.53	40.01		-	-	308.78
8.	Delhi	27.35	822.65	1429.88	154.74	73.76		3112.28	-	5620.66
9.	Goa	-	-	8.00	2.50	-		-	-	10.5
10.	Gujarat	648.61	35.98	31.85	9.26	169.79		-	300.00	1195.49
11.	Haryana	81.83	3.30	20.00	13.08	26.25		-	-	144.46
12.	Himachal Pradesh	13.85	23.01	23.88	5.00	7.08		-	-	72.82
13.	Jharkhand	51.45	4.71	-	-	25.60		-	1500.00	1581.76
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	56.84	19.05	9.00	17.99	89.80		19.52	470.00	682.2
15.	Karnataka	29.48	17.55	19.13	-	39.87		5.75	-	111.78

Sl.No.	State	AHVV	Design	MSS	R&D	HRD	Welfare	Infra	Mega Cluster	Total
16.	Kerala	7.25	6.07	19.13	15.28	24.57		-	909.00	981.3
17.	Madhya Pradesh	265.36	34.33	38.00	26.93	64.85		27.65	572.94	1030.06
18.	Maharashtra	17.71	26.37	31.35	13.99	34.44		-	-	123.86
19.	Manipur	33.45	4.85	79.21	7.47	23.23		114.21	-	262.42
20.	Meghalaya	-	3.71	-	14.29	29.54		-	-	47.54
21.	Mizoram	-	1.64	-	-	19.31		-	-	20.95
22.	Nagaland	16.96	12.87	35.9	3.47	17.92		-	-	87.12
23.	Odisha	34.78	10.27	18.00	1.75	86.53		300.0	-	451.33
24.	Punjab	59.95	41.80	43.75	29.28	191.67		-	-	366.45
25.	Puducherry	-	-	8.00	-	-		-	-	8.00
26.	Rajasthan	51.79	14.26	20.5	2.55	43.14		18.00	1068.30	1218.54
27.	Sikkim	-	6.80	-	10.00	15.44		-	-	32.24
28.	Telangana	-	-	27.75	6.73	9.8		-	-	44.28
29.	Tamil Nadu	21.62	5.62	67.25	-	39.56		119.57	1019.23	1272.85
30.	Tripura	-	29.33	-	9.53	12.3		-	-	51.16
31.	Uttar Pradesh	256.84	279.83	177.45	164.92	472.86		547.16	1876.29	3775.35
32.	Uttarakhand	15.83	32.84	7.25	14.23	39.96		-	1012.50	1122.61

33.	West Bengal	84.06	49.07	18.00	19.26	98.40	-	-	268.79	
34.	Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-	2.50	-	-	2.5	
35.	All States					*244.93			244.93	
TOTAL		1883.04	1687.16	2638.85	602.24	1948.10	244.93	4416.75	9868.54	23289.61

(B) State-wise fund released under various schemes implemented by DC (Handicrafts) during the year 2016-17 upto January 2017

(₹ in lakh)

Sl.No.	State	AHVV	Design	MSS	R&D	HRD	Welfare	Infra	Mega Cluster	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.83	32.85	0	8.39	52.73	-	78.85	765.32	945.97
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0		0	0	0	-	0	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	11.86	6.62	2.81	2.60	1.95	-	0	0	25.84
4.	Assam	90.12	22.37	167.05	15.34	50.46	-	0	0	345.34
5.	Bihar	42.35	1.58	20.81	0	15.41	-	0	1130.33	1210.48
6.	Chandigarh	0		21.57	0	0	-	0	0	21.57
7.	Chhattisgarh	29.04	3.08	40.70	0	27.10	-	0	0	99.92
8.	Delhi	6.00	153.14	2774.52	135.87	8.02	-	0	0	3077.55
9.	Goa	0	1.37	10.18	0	0	-	0	0	11.55
10.	Gujarat	72.38	147.98	35.83	36.92	69.99	-	0	0	363.1

Sl.No.	State	AHVV	Design	MSS	R&D	HRD	Welfare	Infra	Mega Cluster	Total
11.	Haryana	27.78	7.00	57.47	24.82	8.79	-	0	0	125.86
12.	Himachal Pradesh	59.50	56.26	28.31	1.16	3.29	-	0	0	148.52
13.	Jharkhand	33.97	5.22	23.49	0	3.75	-	0	0	66.43
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	103.92	6.66	0	6.16	21.12	-	78.15	870.00	1086.01
15.	Karnataka	1.11	8.33	37.50	1.20	48.63	-	18.76	173.49	289.02
16.	Kerala	24.65	20.63	23.14	0	15.06	-	23.98	0	107.46
17.	Madhya Pradesh	151.59	37.22	70.0	11.33	65.15	-	0	0	335.29
18.	Maharashtra	17.83	1.69	7.55	0	26.09	-	0	0	53.16
19.	Manipur	97.59	30.60	22.34	3.60	26.19	-	70.40	0	250.72
20.	Meghalaya	0		1.56	4.40	8.80	-	0	0	14.76
21.	Mizoram	0		0	7.99	14.12	-	0	0	22.11
22.	Nagaland	24.78		5.12	1.67	14.12	-	0	0	45.69
23.	Odisha	17.06	14.41	65.97	5.47	51.47	-	0	0	154.38
24.	Punjab	23.00	44.09	13.00	3.48	63.04	-	0	0	146.61
25.	Puducherry	0		9.00	0	0	-	0	0	9
26.	Rajasthan	8.47	30.48	63.78	5.30	12.08	-	3018.00	0	3138.11
27.	Sikkim	0.22	11.67	7.00	1.67	10.76	-	0	0	31.32

28.	Telangana	3.70	9.78	69.57	0	10.27	-	0	71.84	165.16
29.	Tamil Nadu	5.87	11.66	68.69	7.48	73.78	-	0	2141.0	2308.48
30.	Tripura	0.87	8.46	20.17	1.67	28.13	-	0	0	59.3
31.	Uttar Pradesh	249.56	155.34	125.95	37.96	289.84	-	138.91	0	997.56
32.	Uttarakhand	29.30	12.19	13.36	3.38	12.01	-	5.00	0	75.24
33.	West Bengal	57.75	35.51	38.03	1.20	11.61	-	108.92	0	253.02
34.	Daman and Diu	0		0	0	0	-	0	0	0
35.	All States						53.12			53.12
TOTAL		1198.1	876.19	3844.47	329.06	1043.76	53.12	3540.97	5151.98	16037.65

Promotion of Handloom Mark

2709. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total and year-wise turnover of handloom marked products since inception of the Handloom Mark;

(b) the estimated percentage of total handloom products currently bearing Handloom Mark; and

(c) the details of concrete proposals, if any, for further promotion of Handloom Mark and development of the handloom market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Textiles has been implementing 'Handloom Mark' scheme which provides a collective identity to the handloom products not only for popularizing the hand woven products but also for assuring the buyer that the product being purchased is genuinely hand woven. The Textiles Committee has been engaged as the implementation agency for the implementation of the Handloom Mark scheme across the country.

Under the Scheme 'Handloom Mark', registration are issued after onsite verification of looms, handloom products produced by the individual weavers, master weavers, apex and primary handloom weavers' co-operative societies, handloom development corporations, others, handloom retailers and exporters. As on 31.01.2017, a total no. of 19206 registrations have been issued and 90504555 no. of labels have been supplied. As an enforcement measures, periodic surveillance audit and random verification of Handloom Mark products are also carried out. However, this Ministry is not maintaining the total turnover in value terms of Handloom Mark products and percentage of handloom products bearing Handloom Mark.

(c) Recently, a proposal has been approved for digitalization of Handloom Mark scheme for further promotion of the scheme alongwith a mobile app facilitating producers for applying and getting them registered with Handloom Mark.

Closure of looms following demonetisation

2710. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any report on closure of looms and handlooms in the country as a result of demonetisation, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that around 12 lakh powerlooms in Maharashtra have closed since November, 2016, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the proposal of Government to revive the loom industry of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and particularly the handloom of West Bengal; and

(d) the financial packages proposed in the Budget for relief of the weavers of the country, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) No structured study has been carried out on the impact of demonetisation and closure of Powerlooms in country. Further, no report has been received with regard to closure of handlooms as a result of demonetization.

(c) and (d) Government of India implements various Schemes for the development and modernization of the decentralized powerloom sector *viz.*, (i) *In-situ* Upgradation of Plain Powerlooms; (ii) Group Workshed Scheme; (iii) Group Insurance Scheme for Powerloom Workers; (iv) Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Sector Development (ISPSD) covering Common Facility Centre (CFC), Corpus Fund for Yarn Bank, Buyer Seller Meet (BSM), Exposure visit, Seminar and Workshop, Technical Service Support etc.; and (v) Modified Comprehensive Powerloom Cluster Development Scheme.

For development/welfare of Handloom sector (i) National Handloom Development Programme; (ii) Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme; (iii) Yarn Supply Scheme; and (iv) Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme are being implemented throughout the country.

Officers on deputation in NIFT

2711. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether Government has any data of the IAS, IPS, IRS and IFS Officers on deputation in the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): Yes, Sir. Presently, there are 01 IAS officer and 02 IRS officers on deputation in National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) whose details are given below:—

Sl. No.	Name and Cadre of the officers	Designation at NIFT
1.	Ms. Sarada G. Muraleedharan, IAS (KL:1990)	Director General
2.	Ms. Sushma Singh, IRS (IT:90)	Chief Vigilance Officer
3.	Ms. Pramila Sharna, IRS (IT:92)	Additional Director General

Effect of demonetization on weavers

2712. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problems faced by the weavers all over the country, particularly in the State of Uttar Pradesh, after the demonetisation decision was announced on 8 November, 2016; and

(b) whether Government is considering to provide any relief to the weavers for revival of the Handloom sector, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) No specific problems faced by weavers was reported including from Uttar Pradesh in the wake of demonetisation.

(b) The development and revival of the handloom is a continuous process and the Government of India has been implementing the following Schemes/programme for over all development of the handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers in the country, including the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (i) National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP),
- (ii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS),
- (iii) Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS),
- (iv) Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS).

Revival of sick textile units

2713. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of textile units have gone sick in the last five years;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government has any plan to revive these textile units; and

(d) if so, the initiatives taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) During the last five years (FY 2011-12 onwards), 129 Cotton and Man-Made Fibre Textile Mills (Non-SSI) were reported closed/lying closed as on 30.09.2016. No textile mill of National Textile Corporation has been closed during this period. The main reasons for closure of textile mills include inadequate working

capital, insufficient cash flow, increase in cost of production, squeezed profit margin, stressed assets, etc.

(c) There is no such proposal, at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Urban Haats in Rajasthan

2714. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Rajasthan has sent projects report to the Central Government for establishment of Urban Haats in Sikar and Alwar;

(b) whether Central Government intends to issue administrative and financial sanctions for establishment of these Urban Haats; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the constraints therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) Yes, Sir. Proposals have been received from M/s Udhyam Protsahan Sansthan, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur (Rajasthan) for setting up of Urban Haats at Sikar and Alwar.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Administrative/Financial approval has not been issued for setting up of Urban Haats at Sikar and Alwar. The proposal for Sikar Urban Haat was not approved by the High Level Screening Committee. Regarding proposal for Urban Haat at Alwar, it was observed during inspection that the location is not suitable and the organization was advised to resubmit the proposal with another suitable location. The revised proposal has not been received till date.

Special plans for Muslin industry

2715. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether Government has any special plans for the Muslin industry of Murshidabad, West Bengal, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): The Government of India is implementing following Schemes for development of handlooms and welfare of weavers across the country, including West Bengal:—

- (1) National Handloom Development Programme.
- (2) Yarn Supply Scheme.
- (3) Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.
- (4) Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (for development of mega handloom clusters).

Under the Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme, Murshidabad has been taken up as one of the mega handloom clusters for its integrated and holistic development. In the mega cluster, projects for setting up of Automatic Silk Reeling Unit, Common Facility Centre, Printing Unit and Spun Silk Unit have been sanctioned.

Steps for promotion of handlooms

2716. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes/programmes being implemented by Government to promote traditional weaving crafts in the country;

(b) the steps taken to provide skill upgradation, technological upgradation and to market the handloom products;

(c) whether loans are made available to handloom weavers at concessional interest rates under various schemes, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the quality of life of these artisans and to generate more employment opportunities in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) to (d) The Government of India has been implementing following Schemes/programmes for development of Handloom and Handicrafts Sector to promote traditional weaving crafts and improve quality of life and earnings of weavers throughout the country. The Schemes in Handloom Sector also provide skill up-gradation, technological up-gradation and to market support for the handloom products:-

- (1) National Handloom Development Programme.
- (2) Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.
- (3) Yarn Supply Scheme.
- (4) Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme.

Yes, Sir. Concessional Credit Component is one of the components under National Handloom Development Programme. Concessional Credit Component for handloom sector was approved in September 2013 which *inter-alia* includes — (i) Margin money assistance @ 20% of loan amount subject to a maximum of ₹ 10,000/- per weaver, (ii) Loan at 6% interest and Interest subvention will be the difference of applicable rate of interest and 6% to be borne by the weaver for 3 years. However, the Government of India interest subvention will be capped at 7% and (iii) Credit guarantee for 3 years through Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).

Earlier the loans were sanctioned in the form of Weavers Credit Card (WCC). Now MUDRA platform has been adopted for providing concessional credit to handloom weavers and weavers entrepreneurs and the Scheme is being implemented as “Weaver MUDRA Scheme”. The status of sanction of loan in the financial year 2016-17 (upto the 28.02.2017) is given in the Statement.

Statement

*Status of RuPay issued, loan sanctioned, loan disbursed under MUDRA Scheme
(upto 28.10.2017)*

(As on 28.02.2017)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No of Application collected	No of Applications given to Banks	No of Applications sanctioned by banks	No of RuPay Card issued	Total Amount sanctioned (₹ in lakh)	Total Amount disbursed (₹ in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6891	6891	543	0	253.50	0.00
2.	Bihar	1333	1333	62	31	26.20	24.50
3.	Chhattisgarh	568	568	394	0	197.00	160.00
4.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
5.	Gujarat	702	702	153	78	69.20	53.85
6.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	42	42	6	0	8.50	8.50
8.	Jammu and Kashmir						

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Jharkhand	223	223	19	0	18.50	18.50
10.	Karnataka	1109	1109	813	763	660.10	660.10
11.	Kerala	401	401	123	13	64.50	64.50
12.	Madhya Pradesh	187	187	147	0	73.50	47.40
13.	Maharashtra	306	306	115	0	141.14	129.64
14.	Odisha	2596	2596	1331	250	761.00	0.00
15.	Rajasthan	791	791	144	37	72.50	72.50
16.	Tamil Nadu	23078	23078	13934	0	6791.00	5987.50
17.	Telangana	2038	1695	822	498	398.20	393.70
18.	Uttar Pradesh	4966	4966	999	0	610.85	348.74
19.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
20.	West Bengal	2851	2512	454	0	225.80	219.00
SUB TOTAL		48082	47400	20059	1670	10371.49	8188.43
1.	Arunachal Pradesh						
2.	Assam	837	837	36	0	9.90	9.90
3.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
4.	Meghalaya						
5.	Mizoram						
6.	Nagaland	181	181	34	33	16.80	15.50
7.	Sikkim						
8.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
SUB TOTAL		1018	1018	70	33	26.70	25.40
GRAND TOTAL		49100	48418	20129	1703	10398.19	8213.83

STATEMENT BY MINISTER CORRECTING ANSWER TO QUESTION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): Sir, I lay on the Table, a Statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the answer to Unstarred Question 1831 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th March, 2017, regarding 'Buffer stock of Pulses'.

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

The House then adjourned for lunch at one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-one minutes past two of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

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, after many days, this is the first time when there is no quorum bell on Friday.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do you know why it is so? Because the Opposition thinks you may bring some Bill.

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: As a precaution, everybody is present.

The Children with Specific Learning Disabilities (Identification and Support in Education) Bill, 2016

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to identify and support the children with learning disabilities in education and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2016

DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Amendment of Tenth Schedule)

SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY (Telangana): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment of Article 51A)

श्री प्रभात झा (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि भारत के संविधान का और संशोधन करने के लिए एक विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री प्रभात झा: महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

The Cow Protection Bill, 2017

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Nominated): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to create an Authority to ensure stabilization of population of cows (*Bos Indicus*) and to suggest such measures to comply with Articles 37 and 48 of the Constitution, to ban the slaughter of cows and to provide for deterrent punishment including death penalty for slaughter of cows and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Parliament (Enhancement of Productivity) Bill, 2017

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (Punjab): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an effective system to prevent and address the decline in productivity of Parliament due to disruptions of sittings by means of an appropriate legal framework to fix the minimum number of days in a year for which Parliament shall be in Session, introduction of special Session in addition to the existing three Sessions, compensation for the hours unutilised due to disruptions, and to provide obligations of the Presiding Officers of both Houses and the Members of Parliament and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am of the view that there should not be any disruption. We should do something so that there is no disruption. Disruption is

unwanted. I fully support you. Not only minimum 100 days, there should be more days. Earlier, Parliament used to work for more than 100 days a year. So, I agree with you. Something has to be done.

Now, we will take up the Bill for discussion. It is the Solid Waste Management Bill, 2016. Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BILL, 2016

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move:

That the Bill to provide for the segregation and re-cycling of municipal solid waste, use of re-cyclable waste in waste energy plants for generation of energy and transportation of non-recyclable waste into landfills and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.

Sir, it is a very important Bill. Actually, not only for the present generation, but for future generation also, this Bill is very important. I must say that when industrial growth is there and industries are operating, huge quantum of waste is generated. When it is generated, normally, what they do is they throw it very, very erratically and indiscriminately. In the Bill, what we suggest is that you must segregate and when you segregate, the useful waste should be used for recycling and also for creation of energy. Non-useful waste should also be systematically identified for good places, where they must go. It is very haphazardly going now which is very dangerous for the society.

I would also like to say, Sir, that in the UPA-I Government, while bringing the National Environment Policy 2006, they had suggested so many rules and regulations, for treatment system, for recycling waste and also devising measures for environmentally safe disposal. It is very important. For this also, they have given so many suggestions and measures in 2006. Now, what I would like say is this. Efficient waste management is very, very important because due to this problem not only India, all over the world, a number of countries are very much worried and concerned as to how best we could deal with the disposal of the waste by the industrial production. Here one more important thing is that even though there are so many rules and regulations instituted by various Governments for the disposal of waste management, we are supposed to see that the Central Pollution Control Board and the Ministry of Environment are supposed to coordinate with the State Pollution Control Boards. But to be frank, actually, — as I was Chairman for the Parliamentary Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests for five years — we do not find much coordination between the Central Pollution Control Board and the State

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Pollution Control Boards. This is another big problem and this is one of the reasons why we have failed. So, this is a challenge for the Government to take more steps to ensure smooth coordination between the Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Boards. I do not think even today Chairman of the Central Pollution Control Board has been appointed after so many years.

Sir, there are various types of waste being generated in our country. Now, I would like to mention briefly how this waste is actually created. Take for example, biomedical waste, municipal solid waste, chemical waste, toxic waste, plastic waste, electronic items waste, high-level radioactive waste, nuclear waste. So, the society is facing so many challenges due to this waste. The per capita waste generation is increasing by 1.3 per cent per annum in the country. It is also estimated that more than 10 lakh tonnes of waste is generated in our country. Waste is largely composed of metals, plastics, paper, glass and, presently, majority of waste is sent to landfills with only a small portion being used in waste energy plants and recycling. Now, I would like to say that per capita waste generation is increasing by 1.3 per cent per annum in the country. With urban population, it is increasing at 4 per cent per annum. India produces 42 million tonnes of municipal solid waste annually, as I told already. So the per capita generation of waste varies from 200 grams to 600 grams per capita. In the municipal solid waste, there are three categories, which I would like to say. Compostable or bio-degradable which comes to 45 per cent. This can be converted into manure. It is very important. When you get this type of biodegradable waste, if you convert it into the manure, you are controlling the environment atmosphere. It is going to be a great asset also for the cultivation. Then, inert material is 45 per cent, which cannot be recycled and goes to landfill. This also must go to landfill but not indiscriminately. They must select it. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister that such things must go into the selected landfills where it would not again create a very dirty atmosphere. And, also, recyclable material is 10 per cent. This can be recycled if there are efficient recyclable management systems. Even though, 10 per cent can be recycled and converted into energy, virtually, they are not doing it. I mean after segregation, whatever is available; though the information is 10 per cent, according to me much more is available for recycling. There are so many rules regulating the solid waste management in India like the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules. Sir, I must appreciate various Governments like the UPA Government which started this and even the present Government also as they are focussing on this in this Budget. They also introduced Waste Management Rules in 2015-16 and Shri Prakash Javadekar did a lot of things for this when he was the Minister. I must say that there are so many rules regulating solid waste management

in India like the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules; The Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, The E-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, The Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, The Hazardous and other Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules and Solid Waste Management Rules. So, so many rules, regulations and acts have been introduced but the main point is how to bring in an efficient solid waste management regime in this non-environment friendly atmosphere. So, we must see that waste management is channelized properly. So, these are the things the present Government is having today. So, here despite so many rules, I feel very sorry that still we are not successful and we are still failing to achieve it fully.

This NDA Government and the hon. Prime Minister has launched *Swachh* Bharat Abhiyan in the country. We welcome it and we are happy for it. But, even then domestic wastes are thrown on the streets. Construction wastes are left unattended. Bio-medical wastes are disposed into municipal waste stream, polluting the water further and making it dangerous. Now, I would like to mention the main reasons for improper management of waste. These are, improper planning of waste management while planning townships. It is very important. So, in the townships, whether in the industrial townships or in the urban townships or even in the rural areas, these days, they are going there and creating townships. So, there should be proper planning of waste management for it. Similarly, another reason is, impractical institutional set up for waste management and planning and designing in urban local bodies. Here also, as I said, they are not being practical and they are having a lot of mismanagement in the planning and designing of the urban local bodies. Next reason is lack of technical and trained manpower. On this also, the Government must focus. Next is less expertise and exposure on city waste management, not using modern techniques and best practices. The other one is need to create awareness among the public. This is very important actually. Unless public co-operate, with all efforts, no Government will be successful. Now, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to one point, as the NDA Government and the hon. Prime Minister are very much concerned about cleanliness and *Swachh* Bharat. Yes, we appreciate it. But how to get the results? This I would like to know from the Minister when he will give the reply. What are actually the efforts being done by the Government for creating awareness among the public? India's population is more than 120 to 130 crores. There are people living everywhere and public awareness doesn't mean creating awareness through newspapers and creating publicity on TV channels and through films. But public awareness means to create awareness among the common man. Thus creating awareness and bringing about consciousness on cleanliness has to be brought in the public interest and also

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in their own interest. For example, innocently, a lot of people in the villages and in the urban areas also particularly in the slum areas, they are not aware of it at all. It looks so haphazard and they are throwing the waste openly. They only wag and walk over it. And, when rain comes, the waste becomes infectious and as a result so many diseases are spread. Therefore, awareness should be done in a very big way by the Government through various channels. Then, another reason for improper management of waste is outdated management information systems. Of course, some newspapers also report about it and that can be also borne in mind. Then, the next reason is fund constraints with the urban local bodies. Here in my Bill, I propose that the Government of India should provide some funds to municipalities and also Panchayati Raj exclusively because when you say words like cleanliness and *Swachh Bharat*, you must provide some funds also for this purpose. Then, the next point is how to approach this waste management system. I would like to give some ideas. Efforts should be made to see that there is waste minimization. Secondly, as far as possible, materials should be recycled. Municipal solid wastes can be generated and processed into energy *i.e.*, waste is transformed into energy. So I say that efforts should be made to see that there is waste minimization. In the industries, there is new technology, modern technology. In the modern technology, when we will use the latest scientific system, we would be able to minimize the wastage. I have been already following up the technology and I am happy that the industries are doing their best, but still, besides industries, the other sources from where the waste is generated; they must also concentrate to minimize the wastage. Next is, sanitary land filling. Of course, in metropolitan cities, because of limited land availability, there will be a problem. The Government should explore the options. Sir, this is a very important matter. In cities, the segregated wastage which cannot be used for recycling or which cannot be converted into energy is just thrown indiscriminately. That is being thrown into the river, in the *nalas*, in the channels and on the streets. Here also, the Government, along with the State Governments, Municipalities, Panchayats, must make efforts to see that it is thrown properly. It must be thrown systematically in selected places and in selected pits. That must not be thrown indiscriminately. I suggest that there must be some management system for this.

In the Solid Waste Management Rules, the Government has mandated duties for various agencies. Rule 4 deals with the duties of waste generators. Rule 5 deals with the duties pertaining to the Ministry of Environment. Rule 6 deals with the duties pertaining to the Ministry of Urban Development. Rule 7 deals with the duties pertaining to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. Rule 8 deals with the duties pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture. These all are Solid Waste

Management Rules, which was introduced by the present NDA Government with some modification in 2015-16. Similarly, Rule 8 deals with the duties pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture. Yes; the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and the Ministry of Urban Development must play a very important role in minimizing and controlling the wastage. Rule 9 deals with the duties pertaining to the Ministry of Power. Rule 10 deals with the duties pertaining to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Sources. Rule 11 deals with the duties pertaining to the Secretary-in-Charge, Urban Development, in the States and Union Territories. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please stop talking, there, on the right side. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Mr. Javadekar is closely watching. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): I am listening.. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, in the Solid Waste Management Rules, the Government has mandated duties for various agencies. Rule 12 deals with the duties of the District Magistrate or District Collector or Deputy Commissioner. Rules 13, 14, 15, 16 provide for duties to be discharged by Village Panchayats or Rural Development Department in the State, Central Pollution Control Board, State Pollution Control Board or Pollution Control Committee. Rules 13, 14, 15 and 16 are very, very important. You can be successful in controlling the waste management provided the Government focusses on Village Panchayats, Central Pollution Control Board, State Pollution Control Boards, and Municipal Authorities. If there is coordination with this channel, you will be able to achieve that. But where is the coordination? I would like to know whether there is any constant monitoring of these activities at the Centre and whether State authorities are being periodically consulted. Here the issue is, all these things are to be dealt by the Ministry of Environment and Forest. All this has to be channelized and coordinated by the Central Pollution Control Board. I have seen that the Central Pollution Control Board has limited capacity, limited machinery, limited technology, equipment and resources. So, the Government must strengthen the Central Pollution Control Board in a big way. The Central Pollution Control Board, besides controlling the pollution, must have another thing to see that State Pollution Control Boards act very effectively and see how best the industrial area, municipal area or the rural area or various other channels that are producing the waste, are, actually, following the rules prescribed by the Government. Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, that is why, I am bringing this legislation which is not only very brief but also very effective and pointed.

[Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy]

Clause 3, of my Bill deals with the duty of waste generating unit and large manufacturing facility. Clause 4 of my Bill deals with the duty of the municipal authority. This is a very important authority. It has to play a very important role all over the country. Even though the Government of India is not directly connected, but, at the same time, it is the duty of the Environment and Forest Ministry to see to it that the municipality also plays a very effective role and implement the rules and regulations framed by the Government of India in controlling the waste management.

Clause 5 of my Bill provides for penalty, including imprisonment and fine. This is a very serious matter. If the Government's official machinery, including officials do not follow instructions, rules and regulations, I suggest that they be penalized.

Clause 6 of my Bill deals with the Central Government to provide requisite funds to the State Governments for carrying out the purpose of this Bill. Here the most important thing is, the entire nation, hon. Prime Minister and everybody wants Swachh Bharat, cleanliness and away from polluting atmosphere. For this, mind, heart and money are three important factors. Besides mind, heart and money, if there is no implementation, nothing can be done. The municipalities will always say, "We have no money." Therefore, there should be some thinking and some application of mind in the Government of India and in their budget. Yes, they must have a separate channel to provide some funds to the municipalities, and create awareness that it is very important work. The Central Government should give some funds to the municipalities. I do not think that they can give more funds to the municipalities and panchayat institutions in the country. The Centre can give some token money to create awareness. How much the Government is committed is very important.

Clause 7 of my Bill deals with Act not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force.

So, I request all my colleagues to support the Bill. I also request hon. Minister to support it.

In conclusion, I suggest that the waste should be recycled or reused. Here whether it is the NDA Government or the UPA Government or any Government, everybody, irrespective of the political affiliation, is committed for clean India. Every day we are seeing the message of the hon. Prime Minister that he is very much concerned over cleanliness and neatness, for which waste management is very important. That is why the present Government had introduced it in 2015-16. Sir, I will take two minutes and conclude.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. I am supporting you.

3.00 P.M.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Even as per rules, there is no time limit for Private Members' Business.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, you are requesting the Government to support you. I have already supported you.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: The Chair always knows which is a good point and which is a good subject. Everybody is interested because it is in the interest of the nation and the people. In the society, poor people in remote areas and municipalities are suffering from infections and so many other diseases. The main reason is the wastage is littered there. Even if you want to improve the health in these areas and even to reduce the burden of the Health Ministry also, waste must be controlled and managed. Then, it will be possible for the Government to control diseases also. Now, the challenge before the Government is, how best we can do it. In 2015-16, waste management and waste disposal rules and regulations were introduced, in addition to old rules and Acts given by the UPA Government. It is a challenge as to how they are going to implement and how they are going to overcome the bottlenecks, how the Ministry of Environment and Forests is going to implement this; and how they are going to have coordination between the Central Government, State Governments, Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Boards. If they monitor every quarter how to implement, then, results will be wonderful. For this, irrespective of political party affiliation, in this democratic country, everybody should support, and the Parliament will also unanimously support this Government. For that, Government needs to bring forward a white paper and a blueprint of the plan about how it is going to successfully implement the rules. There are so many rules and regulations and so many legislations. How are they going to be effectively implemented? What is going to be the net result? How are they going to achieve it? So, monitoring is very important.

I hope all Members would support this Bill. It is a challenge for everybody. My friend, Shri Prakash Javadekar, has been the Minister for Environment and Forests for the past three years. He knows the subject quite well. I am sure he would support it. He is a successful Minister and I am sure he would recommend my points. I am confident that the Government would take interest in it and successfully implement the waste management programme. Thank you, Sir.

The question was proposed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. This is a very good Bill. I extend my support. Now, Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Respected Deputy Chairman, Sir, our versatile, veteran Member, Dr. Subbarami Reddy, with his knowledge and commitment, has presented the Solid Waste Management Bill, which has eight clauses and lot of financial commitment from the Consolidated Fund of India, for our consideration. Now, keeping his anguish in view, as also the concerns of all, not only within the House but in the whole of India, the cleanliness and greenery is a priority for us in the light of development, climatic, environmental and ecological challenges before us. From this perspective, landfills surrounding our cosmopolitan and metropolitan localities are not mere landfills; these are landmines, and the grave problems of those landmines, the allied slums and slum dwellers have to be looked into while thinking about solid waste management. We have the Central Pollution Control Board and the National Green Tribunal. Recently, the NGT mentioned that after the 'Namami Gange' Ganga Rejuvenation Programme, not even a drop of the Ganga River has been treated. This is the plight from which we need to learn. सिर्फ़ प्रचार अभियान चलाने से स्वच्छ भारत का निर्माण होने वाला नहीं है। स्वच्छ भारत निर्माण के लिए, निर्मल और अविरल भारत का निर्माण होना चाहिए, तभी स्वच्छ भारत होने की संभावना है।

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY) *in the Chair.*]

Have we ever re-visited the *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* after three years of its inception? The Central Government is yet to revisit it and assess the requirements and priorities of the *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*. There is no strategy for waste management, except for photographs of people posing with brooms here and there. Just like the Treasury Benches are pre-occupied with discussions amongst themselves, a half-hearted treatment is not going to help clean up the nation. Committed and constructive treatment alone can be of some use. In the *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*, there is no component of waste management, either in rural or urban areas, municipal corporations, cosmopolitan or metropolitan cities. How are we then going to look at it? As on this date, we are yet to define the waste, solid waste coming from various sources. It is also having the chemical toxic contamination, and it is also having the recyclable, reusable waste level. But, when all get into one, do we have any facility to burn the non-cyclable waste? In India, even as a Pilot project, we are yet to get plasma technology to utilise with the modern, ultra energy generation capacities, with which we can burn out the toxic, non-recyclable waste. The Municipal Corporation of Pune tried to have one ultra energy generation technology from where Prakash Javadekarji comes. But, they could not utilise the plasma technology. With plasma technology, several nations are trying, and successfully using it to burn even glass and plastic. That will augment from the complications of waste. We are not able to look at the bio-waste, food waste; we are not able to look at the industrial waste; we cannot differentiate between the electronic computer waste and other biomedical

wastes, and these are complicating into landmines wherever they are being used as the land fills. And what about the life of slums? As today, happens to be the World Tuberculosis Day, infection causing tuberculosis, cancer, several types of fevers and gastro-intestinal complications are directly having relevance with the cleanliness of the environment. But, our commitment towards the cleanliness in its entirety is just very, very pathetic. That is why, demands are being raised. We, in Delhi, are reminded of the fog and smog. Whenever there is sugarcane cutting season, whole of Delhi and the National Capital Region is struck with smog. Yet, we are not able to instal any technological support in weeding out the complications of the sugarcane fields' burning. Can we do away with the sugarcane field burning? It will be occurring naturally as soon as the harvest cutting is over. But, when we are not able to address those complications, the prevalent conditions lead to dangerous toxic environment. With this, what are we going to achieve? The Central Pollution Control Board has admitted on record that they are not having any control, and they are not having the required human resource. As Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy has mentioned, the connectivity between the Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Boards is very meagre, and the inter-dependency of the public health, health and family welfare, and urban and rural development besides, the Environment Ministry and other allied Ministries is yet to evolve. When you are able to look at the problems in a comprehensive manner while addressing them, if you try to spend some amount for the prevention, the prevention will also include the waste management strategy. Until and unless we have the solid waste management strategy, the *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* is going to be just *prachar abhiyan* with Mahatma's glasses. In one glass, we will have swachh, and in another glass Bharat, and where swachh is written, there is no Bharat, and where Bharat is written, there is no swachh. This type of easy playing shall not help the situation. So, keeping the concerns of Dr. Subbarami Reddy with his Bill, I call upon the Union Government to come forward to evolve the required solid waste management strategy involving the installations of waste segregation, and their re-utilization, and the non-cyclable waste to be burnt through the plasma technology. This is my urge, and I appreciate Dr. Reddy for his initiative, and I encourage and support his move. Thank you very much.

SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL (Karnataka): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, a unique and magnetic personality of our House has brought an important Bill in this House regarding ...(Interruptions)... Dr. T. Subbarami Reddygaru, a unique and magnetic personality of our House has brought a very important Bill in this House.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): He would bring amendments also afterwards!

SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: I welcome the Bill. अब मैं आगे हिन्दी में बोलूंगा। देश में आने वाले दिनों में सबसे ज्यादा waste नगरों में उत्पन्न होगा। विश्व के आंकड़े बताते हैं कि आने वाले 12 साल में the city population will go up to 70 per cent and the rural population will come down to 30 per cent. It means, cities will be the headquarters of all types of waste materials. इसकी जगहें कहां-कहां पर होती हैं — बड़ी-बड़ी फैक्ट्रियां हैं, रेलवे स्टेशंस हैं, अस्पताल के परिसर हैं, पब्लिक फंक्शन करने वाली जगहें हैं, festivals की जगहें हैं, मेले लगते हैं, temple के festivals चलते हैं — ऐसी जगहों पर गंदगी के समुद्र का निर्माण होता है और यह बहुत तेजी से बढ़ रहा है। "स्वच्छ भारत अभियान" के नाम पर आदरणीय नरेंद्र मोदी जी के आने के बाद एक बहुत बड़ा अभियान चलाया गया है। इसके लिए बड़ी मात्रा में municipalities को धनराशि का वितरण किया गया, लेकिन मेरा कहना यह है कि डा. टी. सुब्बाराजी रेड्डी जैसे समझदार आदमी ने इस अच्छे बिल को लाते समय शायद इसके बारे में पूरा विचार नहीं किया, ऐसा मुझे लगता है। Wastage का निर्माण रोज बढ़ता जा रहा है, अगर wastage के निर्माण को रोका नहीं जाएगा, इसके लिए कोई दूसरा मार्ग नहीं ढूंढ़ा जाएगा तो मैं निश्चित कहूंगा कि हमारे जीवन के अनेक क्षेत्रों में नयी-नयी समस्याएं खड़ी हो जाएंगी। जैसे इस wastage के कारण जहां एक ओर रेलवे स्टेशंस पर गंदगी बढ़ती है, incidents involving all social evils will take place around every railway station in India. इसके स्वास्थ्य के ऊपर बहुत बुरे प्रभाव पड़ते हैं, फैक्ट्रियों के आस-पास गलत चीजें होती हैं। इन सबको रोकने के लिए डा. टी. सुब्बाराजी रेड्डी जी से मेरा कहना है कि आज हमारे देश में जीवन के हर क्षेत्र में mental pollution, मानसिक विकार आया है। जहां तक मैं अनुभव करता हूं, ये जो आवश्यकता से अधिक सुविधाएं हमें मिली हैं, ये हमें जीवन के हर क्षेत्र में गलत रास्ते पर जाने के लिए मजबूर करती हैं, इसलिए आवश्यकता से अधिक मिलने वाली सुविधाएं कम होनी चाहिए। आपने wastage को कम करने के लिए कोई रास्ता नहीं बताया, केवल management के बारे में बताया — यानी wastage और अधिक करो और फिर उसे और manage करो - यह ठीक नहीं है। Wastage आए ही नहीं...

डा. टी. सुब्बाराजी रेड्डी: सरकार पब्लिक में awareness लाए, यह रास्ता है। अगर पब्लिक को मालूम होगा तो उसका असर होगा।

श्री बसावाराज पाटिल: पब्लिक को मालूम होगा...(व्यवधान)... जैसे आपने यह नहीं कहा कि plastic के production को बंद करो, अन्य गलत चीजों को रोकने के संबंध में आपने नहीं कहा। जब तक इस प्रकार की गलत चीजों का उत्पादन नहीं रुकेगा, जिनकी easily recycling नहीं हो सकती है, जिनके ऊपर बड़ी मात्रा में पैसा खर्च होता है, तब तक कोई भी सरकार आए, इसे रोकना मुश्किल होगा। इसलिए हम लोग उन्हीं चीजों का उपयोग करें, जिनकी recycling हो सकती हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त समाज को दी जाने वाली जो सुविधा है — मैं बड़ी वेदना से कहता हूं, किसी गरीब के प्रति मेरा तिरस्कार नहीं है। हमारे देश के बहुत बड़े अर्थशास्त्री, विद्वान आचार्य चाणक्य जैसे आदमी ने कहा है कि सरकार जो गरीबों को विभिन्न प्रकार की सुविधाएं देती है, वे केवल लूले-लंगड़े हो सकते हैं, अपंग हो सकते हैं, विधवाएं हो सकती हैं, ओल्ड एज हो सकते हैं, ऐसे तीन से चार परसेंट लोगों को सुविधाएं देनी चाहिए। यह आचार्य चाणक्य ने कहा है, लेकिन हम अपनी राजनीति के कारण सुविधा के नाम पर रोज उनका परसेंटेज बढ़ाते जा रहे हैं, उनको सुविधाएं देते जा रहे हैं। मैं यह निश्चित रूप से कहूंगा कि व्यक्ति को आवश्यकता

से अधिक सुविधाएं देने से 99 परसेंट लोग गलत रास्ते पर जाएंगे, उसका दुरुपयोग करेंगे। इस तरह के कारणों से, आज इस प्रकार की देश के अंदर आने वाली कई समस्याओं में से wastage भी एक महत्वपूर्ण समस्या बन गई है। यह निश्चित है कि कई जगह पर municipalities काम ले रही हैं, उसको bifurcation करके ले रही हैं, उसके लिए पिछली सरकार ने और इस सरकार ने municipalities में अलग स्टाफ की व्यवस्था की है, जो waste recycle हो सकता है, उसका डिब्बा अलग है, जो नहीं हो सकता है, उसका डिब्बा अलग है और देश के विभिन्न भागों में इसके लिए कई काम किए जा रहे हैं। जब तक सरकार के द्वारा यह नीति नहीं बनेगी कि जिन waste वस्तुओं की recycling नहीं हो सकती है और जहां-जहां पर जो सार्वजनिक स्थान हैं जैसे रेलवे स्टेशन्स हों, सिनेमा थियेटर्स हों, बस स्टैंड्स हों, फैक्टरीज हों, इन जगहों पर जहां पर गंदगी बढ़ती है, मैरिज हाल्स हैं, टेम्पल्स हैं, इनके लिए सरकार को अलग से व्यवस्था करनी होगी। वहां पर कुछ नियमों को लागू करना होगा, उसके बिना परमानेंट स्वच्छता की ओर हम नहीं जा सकते हैं और वातावरण गंदा होगा, सरकार कितना भी पैसा खर्च करे और कितने भी नये-नये कानून लाये, उनके परिणाम अच्छे नहीं निकलेंगे।

आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं एक तरफ तो डा. टी. सुब्बारामी रेड्डी जी के ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन विधेयक, 2016 का स्वागत करता हूँ, लेकिन मुझे लगता है कि इन्होंने पूर्ण प्रमाण से इसके बारे में विचार नहीं किया है। इतने बड़े विद्वान डा. टी. सुब्बारामी रेड्डी जी, इसपर हंड्रेड परसेंट विचार करके और सारे विचारों को इसके अंदर डालकर, अगर एक परिपूर्ण बिल आप लाते, तो मैं पूरे दिल से आपके साथ खड़ा होता। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

डा. टी. सुब्बारामी रेड्डी: मैंने विस्तार में बताया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: आप पहले इनको बोलने दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुखेन्दु शेखर राय): उनको बोलने दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

डा. टी. सुब्बारामी रेड्डी: मैंने बाद में विस्तार से ज्यादा बताया है। हम बिल में ज्यादा बातें नहीं बता सकते थे। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री बसावाराज पाटिल: हमने डा. टी. सुब्बारामी रेड्डी जी की बात को समझ लिया है। इस बिल को वे तुरन्त वापस लेने वाले हैं, लेकिन सरकार इसके बारे में पूरा विचार करेगी। स्वच्छता पहले मन की शुद्धता से शुरू होती है, फिर घर की स्वच्छता से शुरू होती है, मोहल्ले की स्वच्छता से शुरू होती है, गांव की स्वच्छता से शुरू होती है, टेम्पल्स की स्वच्छता से शुरू होती है, स्कूलों की स्वच्छता से शुरू होती है, फैक्ट्रियों की स्वच्छता से शुरू होती है। हम जब हर जगह की स्वच्छता पर ध्यान देंगे, तो wastage का निर्माण अपने आप कम होगा। इस प्रकार की टोटल थिंकिंग का एक कॉम्पिहेंसिव बिल, अपने प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी का जो 2019 का लक्ष्य है, आदरणीय महात्मा गांधी जी के जन्म दिन को छोड़कर एक जो स्वच्छता के बारे में उन्होंने काल दिया है, हमें हर सप्ताह में कम से कम दो घंटे का समय देने के लिए कहा है, इसको हम सीरियसली लें। मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि सरकार भी और जो सारी मिनिस्ट्रीज हैं, जिसमें एनवार्यनमेंट मिनिस्ट्री मंत्रालय आता है, वाटर मिनिस्ट्री आती है, एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री आती है, हैल्थ मिनिस्ट्री आती है, रेलवे मिनिस्ट्री आती है, जहां-जहां ये गंदगी बढ़ती है, वे सब इन मिनिस्ट्रीज में आती हैं। जो भी गंदगी बनती थी, उस की automatic recycling होती थी

[श्री बसावाराज पाटिल]

— वह खेत में जाती थी या और जगह चली जाती थी, लेकिन आज हमारी कुछ गलत नीतियों के कारण, आधुनिकता के नाम पर हम ने खुद अपनी बरबादी कर ली है। इसलिए कम-से-कम आज तो हम आखें खोलें और सरकार इस दिशा में ठोस कदम उठाए। साथ ही, मैं आदरणीय टी. सुब्बारामी रेड्डी जी से विनती करूंगा कि आप बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण बिल यहां लाए हैं, लेकिन इस बारे में आपने परिपूर्ण विचार नहीं किया है। इसलिए आप इस बिल को वापस लेकर सरकार से विनती करें कि वह एक परिपूर्ण संशोधित विचार लेकर सदन में आए। ऐसी प्रार्थना करते हुए मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं।

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, माननीय टी. सुब्बारामी रेड्डी द्वारा "ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन विधेयक, 2016", एक निजी विधेयक सदन में पेश किया गया है। इस बिल के समर्थन में पाटिल जी, रापोलू जी ने जो विचार व्यक्त किए हैं, मैं उन से अपने आप को सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

महोदय, रेड्डी जी ने विस्तार से विधेयक के महत्व के बारे में चर्चा की है। मैं भी उन के इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं। महोदय, इस देश की आबादी तेजी से बढ़ रही है और ग्रामीण इलाकों से लोग रोजगार की तलाश में शहरों की तरफ आ रहे हैं। आज लोग रेलवे स्टेशन, बस स्टैंड और शहरों के नालों के किनारे या जो भी खाली सरकारी भूमि पड़ी है, वहां झुग्गी-झोंपड़ी बनाकर रह रहे हैं और वहां से निकलने वाला कचरा प्रदूषण पैदा करता है और आजादी के 70 साल बाद भी सरकार ने इस बारे में ठोस उपाय नहीं किए हैं। महोदय, आज किसानों की समस्या के बारे में मेरा एक बहुत अच्छा सवाल लगा था। आज किसान कृषि से हताश हो रहा है। पहले एक ज़माना था, जब कहा जाता था:—

"उत्तम खेती मध्यम बान, निकृष्ट चाकरी भीख निदान,
जो हल जोते खेती बाकी, और नहीं तो जाकी ताकी।"

महोदय, पहले लोग खेती और गांव की तरफ आकर्षित होते थे, अब चूंकि लागत से ज्यादा मूल्य नहीं मिल पा रहा है, इसलिए गांवों से शहरों की तरफ पलायन हो रहा है। देश में नगरपालिकाएं हैं, लेकिन आज भी कचरे के निपटान की स्थिति बहुत ही विषम है। उनके पास स्टाफ नहीं है। इस के अलावा लोगों की यह मानसिकता बन गयी है कि वे अपने घर का कचरा सड़क पर डाल देंगे। फिर सूअर और दूसरे आवारा पशु आएंगे, वे उसे पूरे रास्ते में फैला देंगे। इस से प्रदूषण फैलता है, बीमारियां पैदा होती हैं और कई लोग गंभीर बीमारियों का शिकार भी हो जाते हैं। इसलिए यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक है। हम चाहते हैं कि इस बारे में सरकार ठोस कानून बनाए और एक सरकारी बिल लाए। महोदय, केंद्रीय प्रदूषण बोर्ड पूरे देश में इस समस्या पर काबू पाने के लिए उपाय सोचे। हमने देखा है कि कुछ लोग सुलभ शौचालय चला रहे हैं। पटना में ये लोग सुलभ शौचालय चला रहे हैं और उसी से बिजली उत्पादन का काम भी कर रहे हैं। उसी से पूरे गांधी मैदान और सब जगह रोशनी भी मिलती है। महोदय, इस तरह का जो भी कचरा होता है, उसमें से प्लास्टिक, लोहा, कांच और तमाम तरह के अपशिष्ट तैयार होते हैं। उन सब को अलग-अलग करने के लिए यह भी देखने में आता है कि इस धंधे में लगे लोग गरीब महिलाओं का और छोटे बच्चों का प्रयोग करते हैं। वहां देखने में आता है कि जहां कचरा पड़ा है और सड़न है, फिर भी उस में बच्चों को लगाया जाता है क्योंकि उनके पास रोजगार

नहीं है। उनके पास पैसा नहीं है, पढ़ाई कर नहीं सकते, इसलिए पेट भरने के लिए छोटे-छोटे बच्चों को उन कचरों के ढेर में प्लास्टिक, कांच बीनने के लिए लगा दिया जाता है। हमें देखने को मिलता है कि वे कांच बीन रहे हैं, प्लास्टिक बीन रहे हैं और वे उस सामान को बेचकर अपना पेट भरने का काम करते हैं। सड़कों के किनारे कुत्ते, आवारा पशु दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो जाते हैं, लेकिन हमारे देश में ऐसी कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है कि यदि कोई एक्सिडेंट हो जाए, जिसमें सूअर, कुत्ता, बिल्ली या और कोई पशु सड़क पर खत्म हो जाए, तो कोई नंबर डायल कर दे और उसको तुरंत, दस मिनट में उठाकर ले जाएं। यह पता चलता है कि कोई जानवर खत्म हो गया है, तो चार जंगली जानवर और आ गए, उसी के ऊपर से सैकड़ों गाड़ियां गुजर रही हैं, उसका अपशिष्ट पूरी सड़क पर फैल रहा है और सड़न पैदा हो रही है, जिससे तमाम बीमारियां पैदा हो रही हैं। डा. टी. सुब्बारामी रेड्डी जो बिल लाए हैं, वह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है, अगर यह बिल आ जाएगा, तो उसमें सारी व्यवस्थाएँ हो जाएंगी।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, एक तरफ गरीबी है, तो दूसरी तरफ हमारे देश में सत्तर प्रतिशत से ज्यादा लोग कृषि पर निर्भर हैं। आज, बहुत से लोग, जो गरीब हैं, उनको दो वक्त की रोटी नहीं मिलती है, रहने के लिए साधन नहीं मिलते हैं, जबकि दूसरी तरफ इतना अंतर देखने को मिलता है कि जो बड़े-बड़े होटल हैं, उनका जो खाना बरबाद होता है, वह इतनी ज्यादा मात्रा में फेंका जाता है कि उससे सड़ांध और गंदगी पैदा होती है। उसके निपटान की कोई व्यवस्था होटल प्रबंधन के पास नहीं होती है। वह उस खाने को सीधे सड़क पर, नाले में या खुले में डालने का काम करता है, जिससे गंदगी की एक समस्या पैदा हो जाती है।

मैं अभी टी.वी. पर देख रहा था कि केरल की कोई महिला है, उसने एक होटल बनाने का काम किया है। उसके दिमाग में विचार आया कि हमारा जो वेस्ट खाना है, वह बरबाद न जाए, वह खाना कोई गरीब खा ले, इसलिए उसने अपने होटल के सामने ही बड़े-बड़े फ्रीजर रख दिए। उसने बचे हुए खाने की पैकिंग करके फ्रिजर में रख दी। जो भी गरीब लोग रेलवे स्टेशन से या कहीं और से घूमकर आ रहे थे, उन्होंने अपने पैकेट उठाए और खाना खा लिया। हम इसकी सराहना करते हैं। हमने इसको देखा, हमें अच्छा लगा। इसी तरह से अन्य लोगों को, जितने भी होटल वाले हैं, उनको इस तरीके को अपना चाहिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, शादी, ब्याह या पार्टियों में सब्जियां और खाना बहुत waste होता है। जब उसको खुली सड़क पर डाला जाता है और उससे जो बीमारियां उत्पन्न होती हैं, उसके कौन लोग शिकार होते हैं? जो लोग झुग्गी-झोंपड़ी के किनारे रहते हैं, गरीब लोग, जो ऐसी जगहों पर रहते हैं, वे इसके शिकार होते हैं। उन लोगों के पास दवा के लिए पैसा भी नहीं होता है, इसलिए उनमें बीमारियां पैदा हो जाती हैं। अगर यह विधेयक बन जाएगा, तो उनके लिए सारी व्यवस्था हो जाएगी और इससे लाभ मिलेगा।

मान्यवर, जैसे कि सभी लोगों ने चर्चा की है, इसके लिए हमें प्राइमरी एजुकेशन से, नीचे की एजुकेशन से यह कानून बनाना होगा। जब नीचे के स्तर से इसकी शिक्षा दी जाएगी कि भारत सरकार ने किस तरह से "स्वच्छता अभियान" चलाया है, तो उसका प्रभाव पड़ेगा। अभी एक प्रतीक के रूप में भारत सरकार द्वारा, माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी द्वारा, सभी लोगों द्वारा सफाई अभियान शुरू किया गया है, लेकिन यह अभी कारगर नहीं है। हमें इसके लिए प्राइमरी एजुकेशन से एक कानून बनाना पड़ेगा। माननीय मंत्री जी, आप एचआरडी मिनिस्टर भी हैं, इसके लिए एक सब्जेक्ट

[श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद]

लाना पड़ेगा। जब नीचे के स्तर से बच्चों को सिखाया जाएगा और बच्चे अपने घर में जाएंगे, तब वे अपने मां-बाप से पूछेंगे कि यह कचरा कहां फेंक रहे हो? बच्चे अपने मां-बाप को सिखाएंगे कि इसको कहां फेंकना चाहिए, जब यह संदेश शिक्षा में आ जाएगा, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि यह एक आदत बन जाएगी और हम लोग जो गंदगी फैलाते हैं, उसका निपटान होगा।

दूसरी तरफ सरकार "गंगा सफाई" अभियान और नदियों की सफाई के लिए करोड़ों रुपये का बजट खर्च कर रही है। मान्यवर, इसके लिए आपके पास कोई पुलिस फोर्स नहीं है कि यदि कोई गंगा नदी में या अन्य नदी में कूड़ा करकट डाल रहा है, तो उससे निपटे। सबसे पहले तो आपकी जितनी भी फैक्टरियां हैं, शहरों के किनारों पर या जहां कहीं भी फैक्टरियां हैं, उनके जो सेंट लगे हैं..। आपको कानून बनाना पड़ेगा और अधिकारियों को जवाबदेह बनाना पड़ेगा। जिस अधिकारी के क्षेत्र में ये इकाइयां लगी हुई हैं, उद्योग लगे हुए हैं, उनका कचरा नदियों में जाता है, तो अगर वहां के अधिकारी की जवाबदेही रहेगी, तो अपने आप अधिकारी उस उद्योग को लगाने वाले व्यक्ति के ऊपर अंकुश लगाने का काम करेगा, उसका लाइसेंस निरस्त कर देगा, उसके उद्योग में ताला लगा देगा। जब ऐसा करेगा, तब जाकर यह "गंगा सफाई अभियान" सफल हो पाएगा।

महोदय, हमारे माननीय रेड्डी साहब यह बिल लाए हैं। खास तौर पर शहरों में जो अपशिष्ट निकल रहा है, उसकी अलग-अलग छंटाई के लिए मशीनों का उपयोग होना चाहिए। दुनिया में तमाम ऐसी मशीनें हैं, जो नगर पालिकाओं को खरीदनी चाहिए, जो कचरे से प्लास्टिक को अलग कर दें, कांच को अलग कर दें, उसके चुम्बक से लोहे को अलग कर दें। हमने देखा है कि कबाड़ी लोग सारा कबाड़ इकट्ठा कर लेते हैं, उसके बाद प्लास्टिक को अलग करते हैं और चुम्बक लगाकर लोहे को अलग करते हैं। उसके बाद फिर अलग-अलग करके उनको अलग-अलग रेट पर बेचने का काम करते हैं। तो कानून बना कर सरकार की तरफ से नगरपालिकाओं को पावर देनी चाहिए, उनके लिए धन की व्यवस्था करानी चाहिए। हम यह देख रहे हैं कि प्लास्टिक से हमारा वाटर लेवल, हमारी जमीन की जो उर्वरा-शक्ति है, वह कम हो रही है, नालियां सब जाम हुई जा रही हैं। प्लास्टिक सड़ता नहीं है, जिसके कारण बड़ी परेशानियां होती हैं। सारा प्लास्टिक उड़-उड़ कर खेतों में जा रहा है, जिससे किसान की खेती बरबाद हो रही है, किसान हताश हो रहा है क्योंकि उसको पैदावार नहीं मिल रही। कहीं-कहीं किसी प्रदेश ने प्लास्टिक को बैन भी किया है। इसके लिए एक सेंट्रल कानून बनना चाहिए, ताकि प्लास्टिक का जो उपयोग किया जा रहा है, उसे पूरी तरह से बैन किया जाना चाहिए और जो नष्ट होने वाले साधन, लिफाफे वगैरह हैं, जो कागज के या अन्य ऐसे हैं, उनको उपयोग में लाया जाना चाहिए। आज आप ट्रेन से चले जाइए या रोड से चले जाइए, पूरी सड़क पर पोलीथिन उड़ रहे हैं। इसके निपटान के लिए माननीय रेड्डी साहब जो यह बिल लाए हैं, यह बहुत अच्छा है। हम इसका समर्थन करते हैं और माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहेंगे कि एक प्रतीक के रूप में रेड्डी साहब यह प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिल आपका ध्यान आकर्षण कराने के लिए लाए हैं। जो काम आपको करना चाहिए, वह हमारे रेड्डी साहब कर रहे हैं। मैं चाहूंगा कि आप इस बिल को सरकारी बिल बना कर लाइए, तभी आपका जो "स्वच्छ भारत अभियान" है, "गंगा सफाई अभियान" है, वह सफल हो पाएगा। अगर आप खाली मन की बात करते रहेंगे, लोग सुनते रहेंगे, तो उससे कोई फायदा होने वाला नहीं है। अंत में मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ, धन्यवाद।

डा. अनिल कुमार साहनी (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो "ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन विधेयक, 2016" हमारे वरिष्ठ और आदरणीय सदस्य डा. टी. सुब्बारामी रेड्डी साहब लाए हैं, यह बिल देखने से और इनकी बातों को सुनने से ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि यह आम गरीबों, शोषितों और उपेक्षितों के हित में है। आज जिस प्रकार शहर बसते जा रहे हैं और बीमारियां बढ़ती जा रही हैं, इनकी रोकथाम करने की तरफ इनका यह इशारा है। आज शहरों में गंदगी फैलने के कारण, घरों से कचरा निकलने के कारण जो बीमारियां हैं, वे महामारी का रूप लेती जा रही हैं, जिसमें चाहे शुगर हो, ब्लड प्रेशर हो, सांस की बीमारी हो, गांव-गांव में कैंसर के मरीज और शहर के वार्डज में कैंसर के मरीज आज सामने आ रहे हैं, ये सब गंदगी के कारण आ रहे हैं। इस गंदगी की रोकथाम के लिए इन्होंने जो सुझाव दिए हैं, मैं उनके समर्थन में आज यहां खड़ा हूँ। साथ ही, भारत सरकार का जो पर्यावरण मंत्रालय है या राज्य सरकार का जो पर्यावरण मंत्रालय है, उनको अन्य देशों के साथ इसका तुलनात्मक अध्ययन करना चाहिए। जिस प्रकार घरेलू कचरे के उपयोग से कई देशों में बिजली का उत्पादन किया जा रहा है, वैसे ही हमारे यहां भी इससे बिजली का उत्पादन करना चाहिए। अभी हमारे विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद जी बोल रहे थे कि इसकी अत्याधुनिक मशीन भी आ गई है, जो कचरे को अलग करती है। लोहे और प्लास्टिक को अलग-अलग करने वाली मशीन है। उसको हर नगरपालिका क्षेत्र में, चाहे वह पंचायती नगरपालिका हो, चाहे वह महापालिका हो, चाहे नगरपालिका हो, वहां इसकी व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए, ताकि उसको छांट कर उसके द्वारा बिजली बनाई जा सके। कई देशों की तरह भारत में भी कई जगह कचरे से बिजली और खाद बनाने की व्यवस्था की गई थी, मगर इसका विकास नहीं किया गया। किस कारण से इसका विकास नहीं किया गया, मैं इसकी ओर आपका ध्यान आकृष्ट करूंगा कि आप इस पर गहराईपूर्वक काम करें।

महोदय, मैं आपको एक उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ। हमारे आदरणीय राधा मोहन बाबू भी हमारे मुजफ्फरपुर के बगल के माननीय सांसद और मंत्री हैं। हमारे यहां कांटी में थर्मल पावर प्लांट है। वह पहले देहाती क्षेत्र में था, मगर धीरे-धीरे शहर का विकास होता गया, वहां थर्मल पावर प्लांट आया और अब वह नगर में परिवर्तित हो चुका है। आज वहां यह हालत है कि उस थर्मल पावर प्लांट से जो राख उड़ती है, उससे हमारा मुजफ्फरपुर जिला, जो लीची के लिए प्रसिद्ध था और वहीं मुजफ्फरपुर-मोतिहारी रोड पर कांटी में लीची की सबसे ज्यादा खेती होती थी, उस पूरे प्रदूषण के कारण वहां की लीची खत्म हो गई। उसके बगल में बूढ़ी गंडक का एक जलाशय था, उसकी छाई से वह पूरी तरह भर गया, जिसके कारण वहां के हजारों मछुआरे आज भुखमरी के कगार पर हैं। आपको इसकी तरफ भी ध्यान देना होगा। आज जब हम लोग energy बचाने के लिए LED लाइट लगा रहे हैं, तो जो बड़े-बड़े उद्योग हैं, क्या वहां यह व्यवस्था नहीं होनी चाहिए?

महोदय, हमारे रेड्डी साहब जो बिल लाए हैं, यह बिल गरीब से लेकर अमीर तक हर नागरिक के लिए जरूरी है, ताकि उसका स्वास्थ्य ठीक रहे। आज जितनी भी बीमारियां हैं, वे इसके कारण होती हैं। मैं आपसे यह अनुरोध करूंगा कि जिस प्रकार से अन्य देशों में इसके ऊपर विशेष ध्यान दिया जा रहा है, आप उसका अध्ययन करवाइए। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी, हमारे मंत्रीगण और हम सांसदगण भी, जब आप लोगों ने स्वच्छता अभियान शुरू करवाया, तो हम लोगों ने झाड़ू लेकर रोड वगैरह साफ करने का काम किया, मगर केवल ऐसा करने से इसका समाधान नहीं होगा, इसको ठोस रूप देना पड़ेगा। इसको ठोस रूप देने के लिए अभी यह बात सामने आई है कि लोगों को बचपन से ही यह सिखाया जाए कि किस सामान को कहां रखना है। अगर उसको सामान

[डा. अनिल कुमार साहनी]

को व्यवस्थित रूप से रखना सिखाया जाएगा, तो उसको पता होगा कि प्लास्टिक कहां रखना है। मैं तो कहूँगा कि प्लास्टिक के उपयोग को पूर्णरूपेण बंद कराया जाए, क्योंकि इसके कारण इतनी महामारियां फैल रही हैं। अभी इसके कारण कितने पक्षी मर गए। अभी हमारे मुजफ्फरपुर में एक मन है, उसके बगल में जो हॉस्पिटल है, केजरीवाल हॉस्पिटल, उसकी पूरी गंदगी उसी मन में गिराई जाती है। इससे वहां की भी पूरी मछलियां मर गईं। यह तो शहर की बात है। इसको कोई देखने वाला नहीं है, इसको कोई सुनने वाला नहीं है। इसके लिए भी कोई ठोस व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। जिस प्रकार से कई देशों में गांवों और शहरों में आवासीय या औद्योगिक इकाइयों के द्वारा इसका निराकरण किया गया है, उसका तुलनात्मक सर्वेक्षण करवा कर भारत में भी वैसी व्यवस्था कराने के लिए आप एक कार्यक्रम चलाइए, ताकि आने वाले दिनों में इस देश के लोगों का मन स्वस्थ रहे और देश स्वस्थ रहे। जय हिन्द, जय भारत।

KUMARI SELJA (Haryana): Sir, I would like to compliment and thank my colleague, Dr. Subbarami Reddy, for introducing such an important Bill to focus on the issue of waste management.

सर, एक कहावत है, लेकिन बुरा न मानिए, वह हम सब पर लागू होती है। जो सूअर होता है, वह गंदगी में पड़ा रहता है और गंदगी या गंदी नाली में पड़े-पड़े वह सोचता रहता है कि अब मैं यहाँ से उठूँगा, अब निकलूँगा, लेकिन वह पूरी जिंदगी उसी गंदगी में रहता है, वहीं पनपता है, and he starts enjoying that filth. He gets so used to that filth. Unfortunately, today, this is the plight of us Indians. हम सब लोग इसके बारे में बात जरूर करते हैं, लेकिन जब हम बाहर निकलते हैं, तो हमें गंदगी दिखती ही नहीं। अगर हमें दिखती, तो जरूर हम इसके बारे में कुछ न कुछ करते।

गवर्नमेंट की स्कीम्स आज भी हैं और पहले भी रही हैं। कोई भी सरकार आती है, आपकी सरकार भी आई और आपने भी इसे नया रूप दिया। हम स्कीम्स और प्रोग्राम्स बनाते हैं, but how serious are we about tackling this issue? जब तक हम गंदगी से नफरत नहीं करने लगेंगे, तब तक इसका समाधान नहीं होगा। इसके दो पहलू हैं, एक है generation और दूसरा है disposal.

सर, जब हम चारों ओर देखते हैं, तो सबसे ज्यादा गंदगी जो हमें नज़र आती है, वह है polythene की गंदगी। बहुत साल पहले, way back in the 90s, I had an occasion to visit Syria. We went into the countryside. Today, of course, it is a very troubled country; most of us cannot even think of going there. So, when we drove into the countryside, I was amazed to see the quantity of polythene in the fields everywhere. I thought, 'what is happening here? Why are they not dealing with this?' Unfortunately, the same thing is happening to our country. हम जहां भी जाते हैं, चाहे देहात में जाएं या शहरों में जाएं, स्लम्स के बारे में कह देना बहुत आसान है कि वहां गरीब लोग हैं। Sir, of course, as Indiraji said, poverty is the worst form of pollution. गंदगी बहुत होती है। सबसे पहले हमें यह देखना होगा कि हम गरीब लोगों को ठीक करें, लेकिन यह जिम्मेवारी हर नागरिक की है। Each one of us, as citizens, has to contribute to it. With increasing urbanization, pollution is also increasing and so is the generation of waste. इसका

मैनेजमेंट कहाँ है? These kind of sporadic initiatives, बीच में कभी कहीं थोड़ा-थोड़ा कुछ initiative हो गया या कुछ कर दिया, केवल उसी से इस समस्या का समाधान नहीं होगा। पहली बात तो यह है कि गंदगी की जो विजिबल फॉर्म हैं, like polythene, as I mentioned, उसका प्रोडक्शन और डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन बंद करना चाहिए। इसके यूसेज पर बैन लगाने का कोई मतलब नहीं है, वह तो बेमायने हो जाता है। कहीं न कहीं से तो वह आ ही रहा है। The Government must come down hard on people who are manufacturing these polythenes. We have to encourage alternative technologies. अगर हम सच में इसके बारे में सीरियस हैं तो आज के दिन दुनिया भर में जितनी भी technology available है, वे सारी की सारी technologies हमको लानी पड़ेंगी, if we want to stop this right away and right now. महोदय, Swachh Bharat Cess लगाया गया है, लेकिन उसके बारे में अभी तक यह नहीं मालूम है कि उस मद में कितना पैसा इकट्ठा हुआ और वह कहाँ लगा? No doubt, awareness is very important, लेकिन awareness शुरू से लाई जाए। स्कूल में बच्चों को बताया जाता है। ऐसा नहीं है कि इस बारे में नहीं बताया जाता हो। यह मैं समझती हूँ कि curriculum का यह एक हिस्सा है and children are more aware than adults, लेकिन क्या कारण है कि जब वे बच्चे बड़े हो जाते हैं, तो इस तरफ ध्यान नहीं देते? जब हम छोटे थे, तब हमें भी बताया जाता था कि गंदगी नहीं फैलानी चाहिए। आज हम सब बड़े हैं, लेकिन हम भी गंदगी फैला रहे हैं। इसलिए सिर्फ वह बात नहीं है। स्कूल में बच्चों को जरूर पढ़ाया जाता है। We have seen it; I have seen it. Earlier I was representing Ambala in Lok Sabha. अम्बाला के बीच में एक नाला है। उसमें इतनी गंदगी है कि देखा नहीं जाता। जब मानसून आता है, तब हर साल एक अभियान चलता है कि इसे साफ किया जाए and the poorest of the poor are given the task. अब उनके पास और कोई काम नहीं है। उन्हें उन गंदे नालों में उतार दिया जाता है कि आप सफाई करो, which is again a very, very inhuman thing to do और वह गंदगी वहाँ पर कौन फैलाता है? उसे सिर्फ गरीब लोग तो नहीं डालते। हमने वहाँ अच्छे-अच्छे लोगों को गंदगी फैलाते देखा है। डाक्टर्स जो गंदगी के बारे में सबसे ज्यादा और बहुत समझदार होने चाहिए, उनके वहाँ nursing homes हैं। सभी पढ़े-लिखे लोग उसमें गंदगी डालते हैं। यह हर शहर और हर गांव की कहानी है कि पढ़े-लिखे लोग, जो अपने आपको समझदार कहते हैं, वे ज्यादा गंदगी फैलाते हैं। यहां डा. जितेंद्र सिंह जी बैठे हुए हैं। मेरा निवेदन है कि आप बुरा मत मानिए, लेकिन यह सब जगह की कहानी है और सब जगह ऐसा होता है।

महोदय, जहाँ तक bio-medical waste की बात है, where are the incinerators? What is happening? Medical waste कैसे dispose of होता है, हमें नहीं मालूम। Again हम बड़े-बड़े और अच्छे-अच्छे hospitals से पूछते हैं, तो वे भी ठीक प्रकार से नहीं बता पाते कि bio-medical waste को कैसे dispose of किया जाता है। यहां NCR के एक बहुत well-known hospital से मैंने पूछा कि आप अपने waste को कैसे dispose of करते हैं, तो उन्होंने बताया कि इसके बारे में एक कानून है। इसे एक साथ इकट्ठा किया जाता है और फिर वह dispose of किया जाता है। उसका टैंडर होता है। Now, no one knows what is happening. So many times we see stories and we read stories in newspaper and media कि कहीं सड़क के किनारे पर कूड़ा पड़ा है। Needles पड़ी हैं, which are again reused which lead to another set of problems. कितनी गंदगी इन hospitals और पढ़े-लिखे लोगों द्वारा generate की जा रही है। इस प्रकार देखें, तो यह बहुत बड़ा मामला है। यहां पर डा. स्वामी यहां हैं। शायद अभी वे पशु-धन के बारे

[Kumari Selja]

में एक संकल्प introduce करने वाले हैं। हम अपनी गाय को गाय माता कहते हैं, परन्तु हम कहते कुछ हैं और करते कुछ हैं। आज गायों का शहरों में जो बुरा हाल हो रहा है, वह सभी को मालूम है। I hope you address this problem also. उनका क्यों बुरा हाल हो रहा है? आवारा पशु शहरों में घूमते हैं। Of course, they are adding to the problem also, but I think they are the victims. गंदगी में से उन्हें खाना पड़ता है। वे Polythene खा लेती हैं, इससे उनका बुरा हाल होता है। इसके कारण किस तरह से उनकी मौत होती है, यह सभी जानते हैं। एक तरफ हम धार्मिक बात करते हैं, उन्हें पूजने की बात करते हैं और दूसरी ओर हमारी ही नजरों के सामने, जब वे इतनी बदहाली में घूमती हैं, तो हम कुछ नहीं कर पाते। जब कोई बात हो जाती है, तो हम अपना धर्म लेकर खड़े हो जाते हैं। हमारी जिम्मेदारी कहां गई? इन सब चीजों पर हमें ध्यान रखना पड़ेगा।

महोदय, industrial waste की बात है। बड़े-बड़े उद्योग हैं। अब क्या कारण है कि इतने बड़े उद्योग जो industrial waste फैला रहे हैं, उन पर आज तक कोई अंकुश नहीं लग पाया है? कुछ न कुछ तो कारण होगा और यह हर स्टेट में और हर जगह है। इन पर रोक लगाने के बारे में जो भी जिम्मेदार होता है, उससे इंडस्ट्री वाले कुछ न कुछ जानकारी निकाल लेते हैं और वह अनदेखी कर देता है। कोई न कोई किसी का जानकार होता है। इसलिए पता नहीं वह किसी को बचाता होगा या क्या करता होगा, मुझे मालूम नहीं, लेकिन कुछ न कुछ तो कारण है कि इतना industrial pollution हो रहा है और हम कुछ कर नहीं पा रहे हैं। चाहे फिर गंगा की बात हो, जमुना की या किसी भी water body की हम बात ले लें। आज के दिन most of our water bodies are highly polluted. They are highly toxic in every way. एक ओर उनमें गंदगी डम्प की जाती है, तो दूसरी ओर सीवरेज जाता है, सॉलिड वेस्ट जाता है, पॉलिथीन जाती है। आप किसी भी नदी के पास चले जाइए। उसके किनारे पर गंदगी फेंकी जाती है। वहां ट्रक के ट्रक कूड़ा आता है और वहां पर डाला जाता है। कोई न कोई तो सर, वहां पर नजर फेर ही रहा होगा, जो देख तो रहा है, लेकिन जिसे दिखता नहीं है, यानी कुछ न कुछ तो हो रहा है।

मैं आपको toxicity का एक उदाहरण देना चाहूँगी। जैसा मैंने कहा, पहले मैं अम्बाला से लोक सभा में एमपी थी। हिमाचल से लगता हुआ कालका का हमारा एक बहुत ही सुन्दर क्षेत्र है। वहां के एक सरपंच मेरे पास आये और उन्होंने कहा कि हमें पीने के पानी के लिए आप इतना फंड दीजिए, तो मुझे हैरानी हुई। मैंने कहा कि आपके यहां तो पानी का इतना सुन्दर सोर्स है, झरना आ रहा था, उसका क्या हुआ? क्या उसका पानी खत्म हो गया या क्या हुआ? तो उन्होंने बताया कि पहले हम वह पानी पीते थे, लेकिन आज के दिन तो हमारे जानवर भी वह पानी नहीं पी सकते, because it has become so toxic. Irrigation के लिए भी उस पानी का इस्तेमाल नहीं कर सकते हैं। तो जो नदियां हैं, वे गंदे नाले बन चुकी हैं। यमुना जी हैं, आज के दिन यह sewerage बन गयी हैं। हर जगह हम ऐसा देखते हैं और बहुत दुख होता है। जब लोग पूजा करने के लिए जाते हैं, तो हम अखबारों में फोटो देखते हैं कि लोग उसी में गोते लगा रहे हैं, उसी में पूजा कर रहे हैं। सर, जब तक हम गंदगी से नफरत नहीं करेंगे, तब तक यह गंगा ऐसे ही मैली बहती रहेगी। हमें इससे नफरत करनी चाहिए। इसमें सरकार को आगे आना चाहिए।

अब municipalities की बात है। लोग गंदगी बाहर फेंकते हैं, उसे इकट्ठा करने की बात है। It has become a very symbiotic kind of a relationship between the polluters, enforcers

and those who have to collect. जावडेकर जी, आप यहां बैठे हैं। मैं आशा करूंगी कि आप इसका नोट लेंगे। I don't expect you to reply to this today, लेकिन एक बार एक स्कीम शुरू हुई थी कि जहां Air Force stations हैं, वहां solid waste managements के लिए plants दिए गए थे। अम्बाला में भी वह दिया गया, लेकिन unfortunately for whatever reasons, you know how different Departments work. With some private party यह शुरू हो गया, लेकिन उनका झगड़ा ऐसा हो गया कि उसमें बहुत पैसा इन्वेस्ट हुआ, परन्तु मशीनरी पर पन्नियां लगी रहीं और वह जंग खा गई, क्योंकि I think, they did not get environment clearance or something like that. तो क्या कारण है कि इस तरह गवर्नमेंट एक तरफ से पैसा लगाती है, लगाना चाहती है, लोग कोऑपरेट करना चाहते हैं, लेकिन things don't get off the ground. काम होता नहीं है। तो सरकार को इसे बहुत ही सीरियसली लेना चाहिए। इसे पूरी गम्भीरता से लेना चाहिए कि हम गंदगी में रह रहे हैं। जब हम छोटे थे, तब इतनी गंदगी नहीं थी, फिर भी स्थिति बेहतर थी। राजस्थान के मेरे साथी यहां पर बैठे हैं। जब हम छोटे थे, तो घर-घर में जो कागज इकट्ठा होता था, उसको गलाया जाता था। हम उसे गलाते थे और उसके utensils बनाते थे। उसमें रोटियां रखी जाती थीं। उसका इस्तेमाल होता था। Like Papier-mache उसका इस्तेमाल होता था, चीजें recycle होती थीं। तो आज फिर हमें यह जो traditional technology है, उसका इस्तेमाल करना चाहिए and the latest technologies are available around the world. हम इतना पैसा लगाते हैं, लेकिन वह सब ज़ाया हो जाता है। It comes to a naught because हमें जो एक linkage होना चाहिए, वह नहीं है। Municipalities हैं, गांव हैं, गंदगी दिन-ब-दिन बढ़ती ही जा रही है। It is assuming very large proportions and we must do something about it, not tomorrow, but today. That should be our attitude. दिल्ली से अगर आप बाहर निकलने लगे, तो वहां एक landfill था, landfill का fill नहीं, अब वह mountain बन चुका है और उसमें आग लगी हुई है। जगह-जगह आग लग जाती है। This is happening to our water bodies. This is happening to our landfills. We are generating more and more waste everyday. ...**(समय की घंटी)**... बहुत तरह के wastes हैं। मैं और ज्यादा कुछ न कहते हुए, यही उम्मीद करती हूँ कि डा. रेड्डी ने यहां पर यह जो एक मुद्दा उठाया है, सरकार इसको बहुत ही गम्भीरता से लेगी। यह 'स्वच्छ भारत' आदि सब मंत्र अपने आप में ठीक हैं, लेकिन ये सब बेमायने रह जाते हैं, क्योंकि जमीन पर कुछ नहीं हो रहा है। तो आप कृपा करके डा. सुब्बीरामी रेड्डी जी की बात को लेकर, इसको urgently address कीजिए और इस देश का तथा देश की आने वाली नस्लों का भला कीजिए। सर, आपने मुझे बोलने का जो मौका दिया, उसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI LA. GANESAN (Madhya Pradesh): Respected Vice-Chairman, Sir, this Bill mainly deals with how to make use of the waste and how to manage the waste. But my worry is different. My worry is, how to prevent the waste because here the problem starts. Instead of thinking about the cure, I am thinking about the prevention. Of course, I will talk about 'cure' a little later.

For prevention, the Department of Education has to play a major role. The hon. Minister is also sitting here. The teaching should start from the schools and colleges, and awareness should be created. Now-adays, these things are not taught. There are certain things, which they fail to teach. It is the responsibility of the families, schools,

[Shri La. Ganesan]

religious organizations and social organizations to teach the younger generations so that we can have a *Swachh Bharat* in the future. For that, the effort has to start now.

Sir, I do not want to mention the name of the medical college, Long back, I visited a medical college hostel to meet one of the college students. It was a rectangular construction with toilet in one corner. I could not go nearer the toilet area because of the bad smell. That was the hostel of the medical college students! Even he did not know how to use a toilet.

Sir, long back, on my cell phone, I received a video shot in some foreign country. One gentleman was sitting leisurely on the easy chair. His pet dog was playing with him. Suddenly, the dog goes out. With the help of his legs, it opened the toilet door. It was a western mode. With one leg, he lifted the cover of the seat, passed urine, and, surprisingly, he pressed the flush button, and, came out. More surprisingly, when he came out of the toilet, where there was a doormat, the dog stopped there, and brushed his legs at the doormat and cleaned his legs. When a dog can be trained to do all this, why can't we train our younger generations? The problem is not that the toilets are insufficient. Even in the cities where there are toilets, our younger generations do not know how to use them. Of course, these things are not publicly discussed. That is also another problem.

That is why, I insist that, the sense of cleanliness should be inculcated. That should become the second nature of everybody, at least amongst the next generation. Our fore fathers taught us all this in a better way. It was in our blood, it was due to our *sanskars*. Whether it was homes or other places of stay of an individual person, people used to maintain cleanliness. In the morning hours, the mother used to spill not only water but also water mixed with cow dung, and, in those days, it was considered better than *phenyl* or *dettol*. Things are changing now. We have to again inculcate these values. Even people used to keep the footwear outside. Now-a-days, there is no such restriction at all, even in temple and marriage places. I have seen youngsters entering the temple with footwear. Earlier, it was a practice to maintain cleanliness. I used to say that the *chappals* have become costlier, and, perhaps, because of that the value of *chappals* is more than the value of the value they do not care about it.

So, all such *sanskars*, which were normally prevalent in those days, are now to be inculcated again. Today, the parents have no time to teach the values. Most of the time. They are in the schools and colleges, and, hence it is the responsibility of the educational institutions to inculcate such *sanskars*. Somebody has mentioned that

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because of the issue of lack of cleanliness, not only in villages but even in other places, so many diseases are coming. I want to say that this is one of the reasons behind that. Again, I tell you, Sir, NSS students of every school and college can take one day is a week to clean the surrounding areas. In those days, the rivers, public places, temples, everything was revered. Nowadays, a road or a river, has become a dustbin for everybody. Anything they want to throw, they can throw it on the road or into the tank. In Chennai, there is a river by name Cooum.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*.)

People will be surprised if you call it a river, because that has become the drainage of the Madras city today. One research organisation in Chennai have a post card with them. This card was sent to a relative 50 years ago. In that, he mentioned, "I had bath in Cooum river and on the banks of Cooum, I did THARPANAM — (means remembering father or mother doing some rites once a year) — to my father." This is the information that he gave to his relative by a post card. Nowadays, if any body takes bath in the Cooum, you will have to do *darpanam* for that person. That is the situation of the Cooum now. But it can be changed. Shri Narendra Modi, when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, did it. The Sabarmati is well-known throughout the country because of Mahatama Gandhiji. Sabarmati is a river which was like what Cooum is now. Now, people say that Sabarmati is a place of tourist importance. Both the banks are so clean that people come with their families and take food and enjoy. I mean that, rivers and public places should be maintained. People think that we can throw things anywhere and there is somebody to clean it. So, first of all, this mental set-up, should be changed. I read a small story in Ramakrishna Vijayam, which is the monthly magazine of Sri Ramakrishna Math. It says, in Mathura, one Swamiji wanted to construct a new *Krishna mandir*. He formed a group of people. The meeting was arranged. All were ready. Swamiji come to attend the meeting. Somehow, his was seemingly restless. Somebody asked him, "Swamiji, it seems that you are not well; you are worried." Swamiji said, "Yes. Yesterday, I had a dream, and *Krishna* appeared in my dream." "If you had *Krishna* in your dream, you should be happy. Why do you feel sorry?" For that Swamiji replaced, "Instead of having his flute in his hand, *Krishna* came with a broomstick. He said, you want to build a *Krishna* temple for me. There is a place in Vrindavan where I played with *gopis and gopikas*. And now I cannot go there barefoot and stand there. It is full of waste, cow-dung and dirty. There used to be cows there and now only pigs are wandering. So, do you think even if you construct a temple, I will be present there?" They changed their decision and the decision taken was to go to Vrindavan and other areas to do *kar seva*, to clean these areas.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, (SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY) *in the Chair*]

If cleanliness is there, then only God will appear. So, these things should be inculcated among the younger generation. What is progress? Unfortunately, our people don't understand the real meaning of progress. I am telling you this from my experience. I was just walking outside a municipal town early in the morning. There was a tank. It was surrounded by bushes. Somebody was sitting behind the bush and talking over his phone. He was attending both the calls simultaneously. One was nature's call and the other one was the call on his phone. He is having a cell phone but he is not having any toilet in his home. I don't know whether he has a toilet in his home. Or even if it is there, probably he does not have the habit of using it. It is a questionable thing. This mindset should be changed.

Everybody knows about *Mananiya* Anna Hazare. I respect him. Long back when I was directly working for the RSS as a *pracharak*, I met him and heard him. I heard that he did in his Ralegan Siddhi village in Maharashtra. He was in the Military. After retirement, he came back to the village. He himself explained that. You could not walk on the road there. Waste was lying everywhere. The whole place was dirty. There was no toilet in that village. People used every public place as a public lavatory. Then he decided to change the situation. He planned and saw to it that every house has a small toilet. The toilet is connected to a biogas plant. From there, electricity supply reaches every house with one bulb in each house. It is recycled. The village has become very clean. I admire him because of his great service. Hence I say that prevention is better than cure.

Instead of thinking in Parliament and suggesting to the Central Government, the whole thing should, in fact, start from the house, the villages, the Gram Panchayats, the municipalities and at the State level. Of course, the Central Government has plans to make this country clean and great.

Before 1947, patriotism means you have to fight against the British, court arrest and even, if necessary, sacrifice your life. But after 1947, what does patriotism mean? Since 1947, our people are ruling the country. Where is the need to court arrest? I will tell you what patriotism means in the present age. I am telling this to the students. That is why I am repeating it.

A group of people from Germany came to meet me. They came to study our country. They came to Chennai. Naturally, I will be very happy to talk to anybody about the glorious past of our country, the greatness of our country, of our Hindustan. I started speaking to them. They told me that our temples are good, but whether it was possible for them to enter the temples. The approach road was so bad and yet we insisted on leaving *chappals* outside. That they were not able to walk barefoot.

That is the situation. There was no cleanliness. I felt very sorry. It was a shameful incident of my life. The foreigners think that our country is great. But practically speaking, our roads are not clean. Nothing is clean. They are afraid to take even water in India. That is why they bring water bottles from their own country. Is it not a shame for our country? It is to be explained to students that maintaining cleanliness is part of expressing our patriotism. We have to train our youngsters this. And whatever he said about recycling and making use of the waste, I am very happy about it.

"क्षुद्रं न किञ्चिदिह नानुपयोगि किञ्चिनपि
सर्वं संघटिन मत्रभवेत् फलायाः।

It is one of the *shlokas* in Keshav Ashtakam. Of course, this is known only to the RSS members. It says that nothing is waste. Everything will be useful if properly organised. Nothing is waste. We can recycle everything and make use of it. So many scientists are there. They have already found many things. They even use plastic waste to make roads. I support the points raised by him. But, I must tell that more than you, more than our hon. Members and more than the people who are present here, our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. is more concerned about Swachh Bharat.

SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY (Karnataka): Sir, first of all, I would like to thank Dr. Subbarami Reddy for having introduced such an important, meaningful and timely Bill. Sir, as all our friends were discussing, waste management has got two aspects—waste generation and waste management. As some of our distinguished Members have already mentioned, we need to control the generation part of it – how waste is generated, where it is generated and which are the regulatory agencies required to maintain and control the waste generation.

Sir, when it comes to building factories and all other building and when the plan is sanctioned strict guidelines as to the waste generation and management of that particular unit or of that particular industry or buildings should be in place. We need to start enforcing prevention and generation of waste at inception stage. If that is not done and if you try to regulate or control or give instructions afterwards, it might not work and waste would have already generated. So, we need to plan regulations from the generation point of view and see that it is controlled to a great extent. At different stages, we must regulate and control the waste-generating units through different agencies. Controlling them at that generating point is very important. I wish that aspect will be taken into consideration.

Next comes waste management. There are various technologies that have come up now and waste management is a very, very technical subject now. Throughout the

[Shri K. C. Ramamurthy]

world, different aspects have been used to see that waste management is effectively done. I would not like to dwell upon all these things because I requested the Chair for only two minutes' time. Sir, from various sources where the waste is generated the Government needs to perform an anchoring role. The Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Boards are virtually toothless organisations. They are not able to regulate, they are not able to enforce and they are not able to see that things are put in place. They need to be a little more empowered.

Sir, I would like to make one more point. Our friend, hon. M.P. Mr. Basawaraj Patil Sedam was mentioning that whatever points have been mentioned by Dr. Subbarami Reddy are very good but he needs to withdraw the Bill. I can't understand why we should think in that negative aspect at all. It is not required. I feel, the Government should be generous enough to see that these are good provisions and they will take it; and these are the additional provisions which need to be included. Maybe, the Government can think on adding additional provisions at a later stage also. But, he has taken a step, a forward step and when we are going in a forward direction, let us try and see that the Bill taken into account. I would request the entire House to see that the Bill and the initiation taken by Dr. Subbarami Reddy are accepted. If there is a necessity of adding more provisions and making the Bill stronger, nothing is lost or nothing prevents the Government. I wish that this aspect will be taken into consideration. Thank you very much.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY): Thank you. Now, hon. Minister.

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर सदन में बहुत अच्छी चर्चा हुई। इसके लिए मैं डा. टी. सुब्बाराजी रेड्डी जी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि हमेशा जैसा उनका हौसला होता है, वैसे he has ...(Interruptions)...

विधि और न्याय मंत्री; तथा इलेक्ट्रानिकी और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री (श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद): सर, हमेशा उनका बिल महत्वपूर्ण होता है, यह बहुत debatable question है। आज का बिल महत्वपूर्ण है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुखेन्दु शेखर राय): आज शुरू से ही उनकी प्रशंसा हो रही है। Treasury Benches की ओर से शुरू से ही उनकी प्रशंसा हो रही है।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: हां, मैंने हमेशा का हौसला कहा और वे आज का बिल बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर लाए हैं। शुक्रवार के दिन इतना वक्त होने पर भी इस बिल पर बहस में श्री आनंद भास्कर रापोलू, श्री बसावाराज पाटिल, श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद, डा. अनिल कुमार साहनी, कुमारी शैलजा, श्री ला. गणेशन और श्री के. सी. राममूर्ति ने भाग लिया। मुझे लगा कि सबसे बेहतर बात कुमारी शैलजा जी ने कही। उन्होंने सूअर का उदाहरण देते हुए कहा कि वह गंदगी में ही फिर मजा पाने लगता है और इसलिए उन्होंने कहा कि गंदगी से नफरत करनी चाहिए,

यह हमें सीखना है। सब लोग कह रहे थे कि स्वच्छता के बारे में बच्चों को ही नहीं सिखाना है, बल्कि हम सब को भी खुद इसके बारे में सीखना है कि रोज are we adding something good to the society?

पहले एक गाना बहुत पॉपुलर था, 'गंगा मैली हो गई, पापियों का पाप धोते-धोते', लेकिन यह सच नहीं है। पापियों का पाप ऐसे पानी से नहीं धोया जा सकता। परन्तु यह सत्य है कि आज after seventy years of Independence, 85 per cent of our sewage goes into the water bodies untreated because we have only 30 per cent capacity to treat the sewage and out of that only half is working. So, 85 per cent goes into water bodies. And that is the problem. Two-thirds of the agricultural waste means excessive fertilizers and excessive pesticides ultimately find their way to various water bodies. Solid waste, when it is strewn all over, when there is a flood, it goes all into water bodies. So, solid waste, sewage and plastic go along with that. अब जलचरों में, समुंदर की मछलियों के पेट में भी प्लास्टिक मिलने लगा है, यहां तक बात पहुंच गई है। यह जो एक संकट पैदा हुआ है, इसको हमें समझना चाहिए कि यह कैसे हुआ है और कैसे इसको सुधार सकते हैं? मैं आंकड़े बताता हूं। बहुत से प्रकार के wastes हैं, solid waste है, plastic waste है, e-waste है, पहले e-waste बहुत कम था, लेकिन अब 100 करोड़ मोबाइल हो गए हैं, तो इसका मतलब है कि 25 करोड़ मोबाइल हर साल खराब होने वाले हैं, माननीय मंत्री जी यहां पर बैठे हुए हैं, अगर चार साल की लाइफ पकड़ेंगे। उन 25 करोड़ मोबाइल की हालत क्या होगी, आप मुरादाबाद में जाकर देखिए, बाकी जगहों पर जाकर देखिए। किस तरह से होता है, उनका केवल metal निकालना और बाकी को ऐसे ही फेंक देते हैं। इससे एक leaching ही है और बहुत सारी problems होती हैं। जो hazardous waste है, bio-medical waste है, construction and demolition waste है, जब देश grow करता है और आबादी बढ़ती है, तो भवन निर्माण बढ़ता है, तो भवन निर्माण में pollution बढ़ता है और construction and demolition waste भी तैयार होता है। आज जगह-जगह पर नाले अगर भरे हैं, तो उसका एक बहुत बड़ा कारण construction and demolition waste है। साल में सात करोड़ टन total waste इस देश में तैयार होता है यानी रोज दो लाख टन होता है। यह बहुत विकट स्थिति है। इसमें सभी प्रकार की चीजें शामिल हैं। इसकी recycling और इसका disposal एक साइंटिफिक तरीके से अलग-अलग कराना एक उपाय है। अगर ऐसा करना है, तो इसकी शुरुआत होती है कि waste generation needs to segregate the waste, घर से शुरुआत है। अगर घर में सब प्रकार का waste आता है, तो उसमें से tin अलग करें, glass अलग करें, paper अलग करें, जो wet है, उसे अलग करें और जो dry waste है, उसे अलग करें, यह सब काम करना है। इस बारे में मुंबई जैसे बहुत बड़े शहर में भी campaign चलाकर रिजल्ट देखें तो पता चला कि hardly 25 per cent get segregated. इस तरह इस में एक बहुत बड़ी problem है। सर, फिर लोकल बॉडीज भी हैं और यह ग्राम पंचायत के स्तर पर भी है। जो दृश्य शैलजा जी ने सीरिया में देखा, वैसा ही दृश्य आज कहीं भी जाएं रोड के किनारे सब जगह दिखता है क्योंकि सब जगह प्लास्टिक फैला हुआ है, सब जगह गंदगी फैली हुई है। फिर ग्राम पंचायत और बाकी जगहों को regime में लिया ही नहीं गया था, इसलिए यह एक बड़ी समस्या है। सर, इस में लोकल बॉडीज का involvement है, जनता का है। यहां एक mindset की बात अनेक लोगों ने की कि mindset होना चाहिए, साफ-सुथरा रहने का mindset

[श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर]

बनना चाहिए। अब हमारे यहां तो साफ-सफाई के लिए भी पैसे देने पड़ते हैं। यह भी एक mindset का मुद्दा है। अगर लोक बॉडीज थोड़ा-सा भी टैक्स लगाएं तो तुरंत आंदोलन शुरू हो जाते हैं, लेकिन waste picking and waste disposal has a cost और वह cost लोगों को देनी होगी।

यहां राज्य सरकारों के बारे में कहा गया। सर, 6 राज्यों ने प्लास्टिक ban किया। उस में आधी या बहुत ज्यादा सफलता भी कुछ राज्यों को मिली है, लेकिन बाकी राज्यों ने ऐसा नहीं किया। अब federal structure में राज्य एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण इकाई है, तो उनका भी मुद्दा है। हमें विदेशों का आकर्षण, वहां के साफ-सुथरेपन की वजह से ही है और इसीलिए प्रधान मंत्री जी ने स्वच्छ भारत को सब से अधिक प्राथमिकता दी है। सर, मुझे इस बात की खुशी है कि तीन सालों में इस सरकार का सब से लोकप्रिय कार्यक्रम "स्वच्छ भारत" हो गया है क्योंकि जनता के एक बड़े तबके को यह नया एहसास हुआ और उस के रास्ते पर लोग चलने भी लगे। यह एक बड़ी उपलब्धि है।

सर, हमारे यहां धूल का संकट है, धुएं का संकट है और landfill की बात कई माननीय सदस्यों ने की। आज landfill भी किले जैसे बन गए हैं और उन में आग भी लग गयी क्योंकि उस से जो poisonous gases बाहर आती हैं, वे आग पकड़ती हैं। आप उसे पानी डालकर बुझा नहीं सकते क्योंकि वह अंदर से फिर पकड़ने लगती है। अब landfill को treat करने के बारे में मैंने देखा कि हमारे reforms कैसे होते हैं? हमारे यहां contractor-driven reforms हैं। उस के लिए एक नया contractor आता है और वह corporations को presentation दिखाता है और कार्यवाही के बाद उसे contract मिल जाता है। सर, जिन्होंने 5-6 साल पहले इस तरह से 15 शहरों का contract लिया, वे दुर्बर्ष भाग गए और बहुत सारा पैसा चला गया। सर, कचरा उठाने के लिए भी पैसा corporations देते हैं, जनता देती है, लेकिन अगर उसका ठीक से उपयोग नहीं हो पाया तो वह भी management की एक problem बन जाती है।

सर, बिजली में fly ash की problem है, लेकिन बिजली भी चाहिए, तो वह भी करना है। फिर toilets की बात है। अभी गणेशन जी ने कहा कि मेडिकल स्टूडेंट्स के होस्टल में बहुत गंदगी थी। अब इस तरह से अच्छे पढ़ने वाले स्टूडेंट्स के यहां गंदगी हो, तो यह बड़े अफसोस की बात है। यहां बात यह है कि अगर common facility है, तो उस की जिम्मेदारी किसी की नहीं है। That is the mindset that if it is common then it is nobody's baby. इसलिए जहां-जहां भी common toilets की बात आयी, वहां हमने यह प्रयोग किया और देखा कि अगर आप उसे common रखोगे, तो वे चार दिनों में इतने गंदे हो जाते हैं कि unusable हो जाते हैं। इसलिए हमने 5-5 फैमिलीज को उसकी मालिकी दी कि ये toilet आप का है, ताला आपका और पांच फैमिलीज के लिए पांच चाबियां। तब जाकर ये काम करने लगे और फिर उसका थोड़ा रख-रखाव भी शुरू हो गया। सर, हमारी मानसिकता भी ऐसी है कि हम अपना घर साफ रखते हैं, individual भी साफ रहते हैं, लेकिन बाहर कूड़ा-करकट फैलाते हैं। इस चैलेंज को बताने के लिए मैंने यह विश्लेषण किया।

आपने इस में 6 बड़े points लिखे हैं — पहला, obligation upon Central/State Governments to ensure that every waste generating unit segregates the waste before its disposal and to direct Municipal authorities accordingly. आप के बिल में दूसरा मुद्दा अच्छा है कि Empowering Governments to charge user fee for landfill.

(उपसभापति महोदय पीठासीन हुए)

तीसरा है, "Obligation upon large manufacturing facilities (with an investment of more than ₹ 20 crore) to segregate, reuse and recycle." आपका चौथा मुद्दा है "Further obligation upon such manufacturing facilities to transport recyclable waste to energy plant and non-recyclable and non-biodegradable waste to landfills." लास्ट में आपके दो बड़े सुझाव हैं, "Violation of the provisions of the Bill to be punishable; and Central Government to provide financial assistance." आप उस कमेटी के भी चेयरमैन रहे, अभी रेणुका जी हैं, अभी हमने उसमें, 2016 में — जब 2006 की पॉलिसी बनी थी, तब इसमें जयराम जी थे, 2006 में पॉलिसी बनी थी, लेकिन इससे पहले 2000 में सॉलिड वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट के रूल्स बने थे। 2000 के बाद, जब 2016 आया, तब हमने एकदम देखा कि यह स्थिति इतनी खराब हो गई है, इसलिए इस पर पूरे नये रूल्स आने चाहिए, इसलिए अब 2006 के कानून के आधार पर हमने 2016 में, इन पांचों, छहों वेस्ट्स, Solid Waste Management Rules, Plastic Waste Management Rules, E-Waste Management Rules, Hazardous Waste Management Rules, Bio-medical Waste Management Rules और भारत में पहली दफ़ा Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules नोटिफाई किए। Now, these are notified rules and they are justiciable. हमने, मंत्रालय ने उसके अंदर एनजीटी में पहली चार नगर पालिकाओं के खिलाफ कम्प्लेंट की है, जिसका अभी रिजल्ट आएगा। हमारे कानून में जो पर्यावरण मंत्रालय को अधिकार है, उस अधिकार का बार-बार उपयोग करते हुए हम सैक्शन 5 के अंदर आदेश देते हैं, बाकी आदेश देते हैं, लेकिन अगर सामने वाला, रिसीव करने वाला काम ही नहीं करेगा, तो क्या करेंगे? उसके लिए justiciable है, इसलिए we have gone to NGT against local bodies who are not complying with. यह एक शुरुआत है। अगर आपको प्रशासन ठीक करना है, तो आपको यह भी करना पड़ेगा, इसलिए हमने यह किया है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, 2016 के ये जो बड़े रूल्स बनाए हैं, इसके सेलियंट फीचर्स क्या हैं? पहले तो यह चंद शहरों के लिए और थोड़े बड़े गांव के लिए ही सीमित था। Now, we have expanded application of these rules beyond municipal area to cover outgrowth of urban agglomerations, census towns, 4,000, notified industrial townships; then, area under Indian Railways, airport, airbase, port, harbour, defence establishments, Special Economic Zones, State and Central Government organizations, places of pilgrims, religious and historical importance. छोटा गांव भी हो, लेकिन अगर वहां कोई मंदिर है और बहुत ज्यादा भीड़ हो रही है, तो वहां गंदगी होती है, इसलिए वे उसको भी उस नियम के दायरे में लाएं। ऐसे भी, अब लगभग सभी म्युनिसिपल टाउन्स से ज्यादा भी, 20-25 हजार और गांव, जहां ज्यादा गंदगी होती है, वे भी इस रूल के तहत लाए गए हैं। पहला काम तो यह हुआ है।

दूसरा, segregation at source, यह इसका एक मंत्र है और इसके लिए एक बड़ी मुहिम भी है। लोक शिक्षा, लोक अभियान और segregation के लिए उसको कोई ईनाम भी मिले, इसके लिए हम स्कूलों को भी उसके साथ जोड़ रहे हैं, छात्रों को भी जोड़ रहे हैं। इसके साथ-साथ जितना segregation होता है, उतना अच्छा है। यह सबसे बड़ा काम है। यह segregation का काम कौन करता है? वे बच्चे, जो कचरा उठाते हैं, वे इस काम को करते हैं। उनको, ये लोग, जो इनफॉर्मल सेक्टर में हैं, फॉर्मल सेक्टर में कैसे लाएं? उनको जो मान्यता आज नहीं है, वह

[श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर]

मान्यता कैसे देंगे? उनको कैसे पुरस्कार देंगे? जो कचरा इकट्ठा करते हैं, उनके प्रति उनको सम्मान मिले, क्योंकि वे समाज का एक बेहतर काम करते हैं इसलिए यह एक उपाय किया है कि responsibility of generators have been introduced for the first time. It is called Extended Producer Responsibility. इसमें कोका कोला कंपनी है, हमने उनको मंडेट किया है कि you will have to collect all your bottles. कोई भी प्रोडक्ट, जो बड़े पैमाने पर बाजार में लाते हैं, उसके लिए उन्हें एक सिस्टम तैयार करना पड़ेगा और मुझे खुशी है, मैं बताऊंगा कि लोगों ने इसमें कैसे काम शुरू किया है? मुझे यकीन है कि हम सही रास्ते पर जा रहे हैं। चौथा, the collection and disposable sanitary waste, यह एक बड़ा मुद्दा था। Waste stickers जो हैं, उनकी तरफ से मुझे अनेक बार कहा गया कि यह एक बड़ी समस्या हो रही है। तो हमने प्रोड्यूसर्स के लिए मण्डेट किया कि उनमें सेफ्टी पाउचेज दो, एलांग विद द नैपिकन्स दो। उन पाउचेज में डिस्पोज करने वाला नैपिकन महिलाएं डालेंगी, तो उससे वेस्ट उठाने वाले को तकलीफ नहीं होगी और साथ ही उसका सेफली, हेल्दी और हाइजनिक् यूज होगा।

Generator would have to pay "User Fee". What you have suggested is all in the notification. Generator would have to pay "User Fee" to waste collector and for "Spot Fine" for littering and non-segregation. अब यह काम लोकल बॉडीज को करना है। इसको अभी देखना है और अगर justiciable हो गया तो कहीं भी कोई भी किसी म्युनिसिपैलिटी के खिलाफ कोर्ट में जा सकता है। The role of local authorities has been mentioned more explicitly. It was general in nature and now I have made it more explicitly. The timelines have been given to local authorities for putting in place namely (i) door to door collection system by involving Self Help Groups/Ragpickers (ii) infrastructure for waste management, decentralised processing of wet waste, Material Recovery Facilities/collection centres for dry waste. (iii) transportation and secondary storage of segregated waste and (iv) waste processing facilities. मुझे खुशी है कि आज 6 राज्यों में नई इंडस्ट्रियल टाउनशिप घोषित करते समय उसमें 5 फीसदी जगह वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट के लिए रखो, ऐसा किया है और उन्होंने अलग से रखा है, क्योंकि नहीं तो वेस्ट डिस्पोजल के लिए कोई जगह ही नहीं। सेगरिगेशन के लिए मैंने MPLADS में देने का प्रोविजन किया है। हमारे कॉरपोरेशन को लिखा है कि यहां करो, क्योंकि किसी को सेगरिगेशन की शेड अपने कम्पाउण्ड में या अपने नजदीक नहीं चाहिए। वेस्ट डिस्पोज कैसे होगा? वेस्ट का सेगरिगेशन नहीं होगा और उसके लिए जगह ही नहीं देंगे, तो कैसे होगा? अब यह टाउन प्लानिंग का एक हिस्सा बनेगा। The developers of Special Economic Zone, Industrial Estate, Industrial Park to earmark, at least, 5 per cent of the total area of the plot or minimum five plots/sheds for recovery and recycling facility वह दिया है। Street Vendor to ensure segregation at source and deposit waste at designated places. जो बल्क है, वह भी मैं आगे बताता हूँ। जहां बड़े कार्यक्रम होते हैं, बड़ी सभाएं होती हैं, बड़े रिसेप्शंस होते हैं, बड़े मेले लगते हैं, वहां भी उन पर जिम्मेदारी डाली गई है, जो जेनरेटर है उस पर। To promote sale of compost along with chemical fertilisers, responsibilities for the Ministry of Chemical and Fertilisers and the Ministry of Agriculture have been introduced. वह कारगर हुआ। मैं आंकड़े भी बताऊंगा कि कितना उसका यह हुआ है? To promote waste to energy, क्योंकि जब तक

एनर्जी नहीं होगी, लैंडफिल बढ़ते जाएंगे। तो एनर्जी होना चाहिए, incineration होनी चाहिए। To promote utilisation of RDF, industrial units using fuel and located within 100 KMs from a solid waste-based RDF plant to replace, at least, 5 per cent of their fuel requirement by RDF. So, what is the progress now? यह 2016 में बना है। इसको एक साल हो गया है और एक साल में जो तरक्की हुई, वह कम नहीं हुई है, आशा देने वाली है। मैं सब का अभिनंदन भी करूंगा। मैं अपने पर्यावरण मंत्रालय की तरफ से सभी एमपीज़ को, यह जो 2016 के नियम हैं, वह सहज भाषा में समझने वाले नहीं, बल्कि जैसे पैम्फलेट्स निकलते हैं, उस रूप में भी आप सबको भेजेंगे, क्योंकि आप अपने म्युनिस्पल टाउन्स को, अपने लोगों को ये दे सकेंगे। ऐसा हम निश्चित करेंगे। Central Monitoring Committee has been constituted for overseeing the implementation of the Rules, by way of, making recommendations to the various Government agencies to amend the policies. सभी राज्य सरकारों के साथ ये केवल अभ्यास शिविर नहीं हुए, चिंतन शिविर नहीं हुए, एक्चुअली बहुत सारे वर्क शॉप्स हुए हैं। User fees, spot fines, rag-pickers integration, Urban Local Body Model by-laws notified by eight States and ten States are in process. तो बड़े 18 राज्यों ने जो अपने नियम, अपने राज्य के लिए नियम बनाने हैं, वह बनाने का काम किया है। यह भी एक महत्वपूर्ण पहल है, क्योंकि हमारे यहां कानून बनता है, उसके नियम बाद में बनते हैं, राज्य बाद में एडॉप्ट करते हैं और फिर उसके नियम और बाद में बनते हैं, लेकिन एक साल के अंदर यह हुआ है। Mandatory segregation and decentraised processing of waste by buildings with more than 5000 sq.mt. built up area is notified in EIA Notification. मैंने उस समय यह आग्रह से डाला कि अगर five thousand square meter, यानी fifty thousand square feet की building है, तो उसमें लगभग 50 flats हैं। अगर उसमें 50 flats हैं, तो उनमें भी waste generate होता है, इसलिए उनको भी कुछ liabilities देनी चाहिए। So, we have notified it in EIA Notification. Swachh Bharat Mission is providing special and higher funding at the rate of 35 per cent for establishing waste management projects to State Governments and local bodies directly or through PPP model. Many State Governments have now given proposals and funds are being sanctioned and given immediately. Hence, 35 per cent of the project cost of waste management will be given out of the Swachh Bharat fund; it is being given. We could even provide those accounts. Specific obligations have been made mandatory for Smart Cities to set up the system of segregation and develop — Recover, Recycle and Reuse Compliance. हमने यह भी किया है।

Integrated waste management funding through MNREGA. MNREGA का एक अच्छा उपयोग है, जैसे तालाब बनाने में, तालाब को गहरा करने में, नाले को गहरा करने में हम इसका उपयोग कर रहे हैं, जिससे जल संवर्द्धन होगा, जैसे लोगों के खेत के तालाब भी बन रहे हैं, वैसे ही यह integrated waste management का भी एक काम हम MNREGA के तहत कर सकते हैं, जो inhuman नहीं है, हमने उसका वह portion लिया है। आपने जो कहा है, यह सच है कि लगभग दो साल तक CPCB के चेयरमैन नहीं थे, लेकिन पिछले साल उनकी नियुक्ति हुई है। अब CPCB और SPCB की लगातार बैठकें हो रही हैं और हर महीने रिपोर्टिंग का एक नया सिस्टम तैयार किया गया है। जयराम रमेश जी को खुशी होगी। आखिर सब जगह से pollution होता है। Industrial pollution है, वह पानी में जा रहा है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It has been two-and-a-half hours already. The Bill was supposed to be completed in two hours.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Sir, I would take five minutes more. जो industrial pollution पानी में जाता है, उसके लिए हमने 24/7 monitoring mechanism लगाई है। पर्यावरण मंत्री के केबिन में एक monitor लगा है, वहां सांसद भी कभी जाएँ और जरूर देखें कि देश के प्रदूषणकारी 4,500 उद्योगों की क्षण-क्षण की खबर वहां होती है कि पानी में उनका कितना pollution जा रहा है या वह ठीक मानकों पर है, यह सब वहां दिख रहा है। हवा में होने वाला प्रदूषण भी दिखता है, पानी में होने वाला प्रदूषण भी दिखता है। हमने यह काम किया है।

Integration of rag-pickers, यह सबसे महत्वपूर्ण है। 148 equipments at the Central level to expedite procurement by cities, हमने यह भी किया है। मैं आपको composting के केवल आँकड़े बताता हूँ, क्योंकि ज्यादा समय नहीं है। Compost production capacity of plants under construction/upgradation/revival has increased from 20 lakh to 33 lakh MT/annum. The compost production capacity of functional plants has increased from 10 lakh to 62 lakh MT/annum. Total production of city compost has increased from 1.5 lakh to 13 lakh MT/annum. एक वर्ष में इसमें इतनी बढ़ोतरी होना, यह स्वच्छ भारत की दिशा में बहुत महत्वपूर्ण पहल है। There have been 45 tripartite agreements between fertiliser companies and urban local bodies. इनके बीच में agreement हुआ है, केंद्र ने इसको facilitate किया है। Waste-to-energy plants have also been installed; 56 plants with a capacity of 415 megawatt are under construction. अभी ये 7 थे, जिनमें 88 megawatt capacity थी। Construction and demolition waste पहली दफा शुरू हुआ। मुझे खुशी है कि तीन राज्यों ने उसके नियम घोषित किए हैं और 8 राज्यों में यह process में है।

आप समझेंगे कि आपने जो-जो माँगें की हैं, उन्हीं पर काम शुरू हुआ है। जैसा मैंने कहा कि हम सबको जानकारी भी देंगे कि क्या हुआ है और यह भी बताएँगे कि आप भी उसमें कैसे participate कर सकते हैं, because I think this is not just the Government's job. It is the job of the whole country. हम सब मिल कर देश को अच्छा बनाएँ, स्वच्छ बनाएँ। इसलिए हम सही दिशा में जा रहे हैं। हमें और भी सुझाव चाहिए और इसलिए मैं request करूंगा कि आप निश्चित रूप से बिल को वापस लीजिए, लेकिन जागरूक रहिए, क्योंकि कार्यक्रमों पर और उनके अमल पर आप जैसे लोगों की नजर होनी चाहिए, इसीलिए यह सदन बना है। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

कुमारी शैलजा: सर, हम सभी ने कई बातें कीं, लेकिन एक बात, जो हम सबने छोड़ दी, वह है देश की बढ़ती जनसंख्या। That is the biggest generator. उसके बारे में इस पूरे सदन को कभी न कभी बात करनी चाहिए। हमारी बहुत सी समस्याओं का एक मूल कारण यह है। The whole House must discuss that issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is a very valid point. I agree.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Nominated): Large populations are also assets. If you educate them properly, they will be very useful. She said, 'samasya'. It is not a *samasya*. It is an opportunity.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You should convert it into an opportunity. If population is properly used, it is an asset. Otherwise, it can be a problem also.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Of course, it will be a problem. But, it is a potential asset. We call it demographic dividend. They call it a problem; we call it a dividend.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I agree with you. But, to make it a dividend, you should invest.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I just want to make one submission. BARC and other scientific institutes of India have actually developed fantastic waste management systems, and BARC Mumbai, in particular, has a very viable and affordable 'can do' solution from municipal wastes, and municipalities should take that technology. There is no awareness about that. And if you direct all the States where you are ruling, you should be able to get the municipalities to use that system, and then, the waste that is disposed of, is sterilized, and actually enriched, and sold as fertilizer. So, you should use what our scientific community have already developed and contributed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If there is such a technology, then, it should be used.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: I know the technology also because I visited all landfill sites in Mumbai, and then, we asked the Mumbai Corporation to engage BARC, Tata Consultancy and others to look into the problem and get the direction. Now, the solutions have come, and I hope, the Corporations will take it really seriously.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, the Government can address the sitting Mayors to use that technology.

श्री बसावाराज पाटिल: माननीय उपसभापति जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे खाने की अनेक चीजें बनाई जाती हैं, उनके polluted होने के बारे में इसी पार्लियामेंट में चर्चा हुई कि पानी भी 70 per cent polluted है। यदि दूध के 100 packets लाए जाते हैं, तो उनमें से 70 packets नकली पाए जाते हैं और दिल्ली में जो मिठाई बनती है, उसमें भी बहुत मिलावट पाई गई।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is pollution. That is another problem.

श्री बसावाराज पाटिल: महोदय, मेरा आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से निवेदन है कि तैयार माल में मिलावट को रोकने के लिए Health Ministry को बहुत powerful होकर काम करना होगा।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is another problem.

SHRI D. P. TRIPATHI (Maharashtra): This is not pollution; this is adulteration...(Interruptions)... All these activities are anti by human beings in this country. Severe punishment should be devised for them.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, you are diverting the subject. Mr. Jairam Ramesh, you are diverting the subject. I know you will divert the subject.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, this is a historic Bill, because this is the first Bill where Dr. Reddy is not moving an amendment!

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is correct. Dr. Reddy, would you like to reply?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: I need two minutes. I would like to say that I am very happy that the hon. Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar, has given a comprehensive reply. He has studied this subject thoroughly because he has been the Environment Minister for three years. I told you in my speech that awareness is very important. We must bear in mind the awareness factor. The hon. Prime Minister wants *Swachh Bharat*. It is wonderful. Everybody welcomes it. What efforts are you making for making people aware of this? This is point No. 1. Secondly, I come to the municipal bodies. If municipal bodies are serious, they can do segregation. You said that now, segregation was enough. The municipal bodies have land and they can do it. So, now, municipal bodies means State Governments. It is the duty of the Environment Ministry to have some mechanism, some machinery, to give guidance once in six months by convening a meeting of the municipal bodies, and make them aware about this thing.

Last point is, non-recycling waste, hazardous waste, can be dumped in notified landfills. That is a very serious matter. That also you have to bear in mind. So, Clause 6 of my Bill proposes that the Central Government should provide some funds. It is difficult to provide big funds, but, some token funds can be given to the municipal bodies so that they may feel that the Central Government is so particular about this matter. If these four points are clarified, then I would tell you my decision.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Therefore, now, are you withdrawing the Bill or not?

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Sir, he is ready but he wants my answer. I will finish in two minutes. I agree that awareness is a very important aspect and it is not just a campaign. It is about curriculum, about real awareness. Now, we are installing in many schools five boxes. So, the students will bring one day in a week their wastes — paper waste, plastic waste, etc. They will bring those and put them in the right boxes. From that fund they can do their eco-friendly activities also. But, more importantly, on the ODF story, we must feel happy. 3 करोड़ 50 लाख टॉयलेट्स बने। उसमें स्कूल विल्ड्रन ने ज्यादा भूमिका अदा की। वे सुबह चार बजे उठ कर सीटी लेकर

बाहर जाते हैं और वे लोग, जो ओपन में डिफेकेशन के लिए जाते हैं, वे सीटी बजाकर उनको वहां से उठाते हैं। तो यह एक काम हो रहा है और इस तरह से एक लाख से ज्यादा गाँव आज ODF (Open Defecation Free) हो गए हैं, 1,76,000 गांव ODF हो गए हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री जयराम रमेश: पहले भी एक लाख हुए थे। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आपके आने के बाद भी हुए हैं, लेकिन आपके आने से पहले हिमाचल प्रदेश, केरल और सिक्किम खुले में शौच से मुक्त हो चुके थे।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: यह तो अच्छी बात है न?

श्री जयराम रमेश: इसलिए आप यह मत बताइए कि आप आये और अचानक यह सब हो गया। यह पहले भी हुआ था। ...**(व्यवधान)**... पहले भी हुआ था। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: मैं तो 70 साल का हिसाब दे रहा हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री; पंचायती राज्य मंत्री; तथा पेयजल और स्वच्छता मंत्री (श्री नरेंद्र सिंह तोमर): माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं जयराम रमेश जी को अवगत कराना चाहता हूँ कि सिक्किम, केरल और हिमाचल प्रदेश, ये तीनों स्टेट्स मई, 2014 में नरेंद्र मोदी जी के प्रधान मंत्री बनने के बाद ODF हुए हैं। मैं उसका गवाह हूँ और मैं उन स्थानों पर गया हूँ। यह सच है कि स्वच्छता का काम पहले से चल रहा था, इसे स्वीकार करने में हमें कोई संकोच नहीं है, लेकिन मई, 2014 के बाद 3 करोड़ 50 लाख टॉयलेट्स बने हैं और अभी तक 1 लाख 76 हजार गांव ODF हो गए हैं तथा स्वच्छता का काम ठीक प्रकार से चल रहा है। यह बात मैं आपकी जानकारी में लाना चाहता हूँ।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: तो इसमें मेरी यही रिक्वेस्ट है कि जैसे रेलवे में इतने बायो टॉयलेट्स लगे, रेलवे स्टेशंस साफ-सुथरे हो गए हैं, तो ये जिस दिशा में जा रहे हैं, आप जरूर नजर रखिए। आप यह बिल विद्‌ड्रॉ कीजिए, यही मेरी दरखास्त है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What do you say, Dr. Reddy?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: I am satisfied with his reply and assurance of the Government. Now, I am happy to withdraw the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are you satisfied?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: I am happy with his assurance. He has given a lot of assurance for a quicker implementation. So, I withdraw the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How good an MP he is, you see! He is satisfied.

SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, one last important point I would like to make.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, it is over. It will be against the rules. That subject is over. Now, if you continue to speak, that will not go on record. Once he withdraws, it is over.

The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall take up the next Bill moved by Shrimati Sasikala Pushpa. She is not present. The next one is by Dr. Subramanian Swamy.

**THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016**

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Nominated): Sir, I move:—

That the Bill further to amend the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity. This is a matter of law arising out of the passage of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. The Act had been widely welcomed but the drafting in some Sections has been so poor that many people in the Judiciary, particularly, have spoken to me about it and pointed out the harassment they themselves are being subjected to by the application of this Act. So, I begin that my Amendment Bill essentially aims at Section 19 and is seeking deletion of the entire Section. So, let me begin by saying what the Section says.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Is he trying to force us to bring a Bill?
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. He is moving his Bill. ...(Interruptions)...

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री; तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
(श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी): रमेश जी, आप चिन्ता मत कीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Section 19 of this Act says, ‘Reporting of offences: (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, any person..’ I underline the word ‘any person’ ‘..including the child who has apprehension that an offence under this Act is likely to be committed or has knowledge that such an offence has been committed, he shall provide such information – (a) the Special Juvenile Police Unit; or (b) local police.’ Then it goes on for other sections. Some of them are just routine and I don’t need to read all of them except that Sub-Section (5) which says, “Where the Special Juvenile Police Unit or local police is satisfied that the child against whom an offence has been committed is in need of care and protection, then it shall, after recording the reasons in writing, make immediate arrangement to give him such care and protection including admitting the child into shelter or to the nearest hospital within twenty four hours of the report,

as may be prescribed.” Now, on the face of it, you may not see any misuse of the law. But why the judiciary has been complaining this to me is that when it says that ‘any person who has the knowledge that such an offence has been committed shall provide the information to the police.’ Now, there are not one or two, there are, at least, 27 listed cases in different parts of the country at different levels particularly at the High Court level where a Judge is hearing a divorce case. In the divorce case, the estranged wife, she says, “I want divorce because my husband has molested my daughter.” Now, the Judge hears this. It is not that the Judge is at fault or it is not that the Judge is an eyewitness. The Judge has been assigned this brief by the Chief Justice of the High Court, for example, to hear this matter. Now, what happens is that if the Judge does not now go and file a report with the police, very often the husband or the wife, as the case may be, makes a complaint that the Judge having heard this should have gone and reported it to the police, therefore, Section 21, which takes it is a cognizable offence, an FIR is registered against the Judge. The Government should call for this report from the judiciary, often the State Government, and find out how many such things have been misused. This is the way of terrorizing the Judge by one of the clients, either the plaintiff or the respondent. Therefore, what happens is that the Judges are now increasingly refusing to take divorce cases and this has caused a big backlog of divorce cases because most of the Judges are afraid that this would happen. So, I would begin by saying this, and that is why I have said in my Statement of Objects and Reasons the following:— “Section 19 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 compels even the Court Judges...” – It says any person – “hearing a divorce case or any marriage discord case to provide information to the police authorities or otherwise face penal punishment under Section 21 of this Act.” This places an unacceptable onus on the public and public Judicial persons in their mere apprehension of a possible offence being committed. This Section should have had an exception. The exception should have said, ‘all those who conduct judicial proceedings or adjudication proceedings shall be exempt from this section.’ So, there is a big flaw in the drafting. Consequently, therefore, the whole section has to be struck down and a new amendment, maybe, brought by the Government. Now, I say this because having such a vague presentation leads to misuse; this badly drafted is capable of being misused. I don’t know how it escaped, whether it went to the Joint Select Committee, I have not been able to find out from the Parliamentary Library any evidence of that. This ought to have been important. I think because of Nirbhaya matter or something they rushed though this and brought it in, but now we must understand in our country that 0-18 years which is considered as juvenile constitute 35 per cent of the population and cases can easily be instituted because supposing the children are working in restaurants, that is, child labour is taking place, then

[Dr. Subramanian Swamy]

you have situations where these hotels and these establishments can be implicated. Then there are issues of paedophile and so many other things are there and these matters have to be gone through with great care. Therefore, I am saying... I am running out of time and you are...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No problem.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: I can't move beyond 5 o'clock.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will tell you. If within 5 o'clock you do not conclude, you can continue on the next day when the Private Members' Bill is taken up.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: So, therefore, I am asking today, where there is a question of where an authority has to report something, this causes a great deal of a problem. What happens in a road side restaurant? The children are working as child labour. Anyone who wants the restaurant owner into trouble because of personal animosity, he can go and say that I have witnessed this happen that the boy who was serving was given a tight slap and kicked and brutalized. So, where are the safeguards? This question of safeguards is where I am focussing my attention on. Now, I am asking you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, please read Section 6, "The Special Juvenile Police Unit or local police shall, without unnecessary delay but within a period of twenty-four hours, report the matter to the Child Welfare Committee and the Special Court or where there is no Special Court, it has been designated to the Court of Session, including need of the care and protection of the child and steps taken in this regard." Here again, supposing there is a custody matter, because of Section 5 and Section 6, the child whose custody is, say with the mother, the husband can ensure through this Section that that child is sent to a special home and therefore, taken out of the custody of the mother.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, you can continue your speech on the next day when the Private Member's Bill is taken up. Your speech is not concluded.

Now, I have some Special Mentions. I will read out the names. Shri Tiruchi Siva. Not present. Shri Oscar Fernandes. Not present. Shri T. Rathinavel. Not present.

The House stands adjourned till 11.00 a. m. on Monday, the 27th March, 2017.

*The House then adjourned at five of
the clock till eleven of the clock on
Monday, the 27th March, 2017.*

