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Friday

4 August, 2017

13 Shravana, 1939 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
RAJYA SABHA
OFFICIAL REPORT

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[P.T.O.]

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RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 4th August, 2017/13th Shravana, 1939 (Saka)

*The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.*

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MoU between Government of India and NHDC Limited

वस्त्र मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजय टम्टा): महोदय, मैं 2017-18 के वर्ष के लिए भारत सरकार (वस्त्र मंत्रालय) और राष्ट्रीय हथकरघा विकास निगम (एनएचडीसी) लिमिटेड के बीच संपन्न सहमति ज्ञापन की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7332/16/17]

MoUs between Government of India and various companies

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री तथा रेल मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री मनोज सिन्हा): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:—

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications) and the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), for the year 2017-18.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7325/16/17]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications), and the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), for the year 2017-18.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7323/16/17]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications) and the Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), for the year 2017-18.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7324/16/17]

Statements showing action taken by Government on various assurances

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Statements showing action taken by Government on the various assurances, promises and undertakings given during the Session shown against each:—

1. Statement No. XXXVIII One Hundred and Ninety-fifth Session, 2002
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7591/16/17]
2. Statement No. XXXII One Hundred and Ninety-seventh Session, 2002
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7592/16/17]
3. Statement No. XXIV Two Hundred and Ninth Session, 2006
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7593/16/17]
4. Statement No. XXIX Two Hundred and Tenth Session, 2007
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7594/16/17]
5. Statement No. XXIX Two Hundred and Eleventh Session, 2007
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7595/16/17]
6. Statement No. XXIV Two Hundred and Twelfth Session, 2007
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7596/16/17]
7. Statement No. XXIX Two Hundred and Thirteenth Session, 2008
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7597/16/17]
8. Statement No. XXV Two Hundred and Fourteenth Session, 2008
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7598/16/17]
9. Statement No. XXVIII Two Hundred and Seventeenth Session, 2009
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7599/16/17]
10. Statement No. XXVI Two Hundred and Eighteenth Session, 2009
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7600/16/17]
11. Statement No. XXV Two Hundred and Nineteenth Session, 2010
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7601/16/17]
12. Statement No. XXIV Two Hundred and Twentieth Session, 2010
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7602/16/17]
13. Statement No. XX Two Hundred and Twenty-first Session, 2010
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7603/16/17]
14. Statement No. XX Two Hundred and Twenty-second Session, 2011
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7604/16/17]
15. Statement No. XXIII Two Hundred and Twenty-third Session, 2011
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7605/16/17]
16. Statement No. XXI Two Hundred and Twenty-fourth Session, 2011
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7606/16/17]
17. Statement No. XX Two Hundred and Twenty-fifth Session, 2012
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7607/16/17]

18. Statement No. XVIII Two Hundred and Twenty-sixth Session, 2012
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7608/16/17]
19. Statement No. XVII Two Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session, 2012
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7609/16/17]
20. Statement No. XVII Two Hundred and Twenty-eighth Session, 2013
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7610/16/17]
21. Statement No. XV Two Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session, 2013
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7611/16/17]
22. Statement No. XIV Two Hundred and Thirtieth Session, 2013-2014
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7612/16/17]
23. Statement No. XII Two Hundred and Thirty-second Session, 2014
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7613/16/17]
24. Statement No. XI Two Hundred and Thirty-third Session, 2014
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7614/16/17]
25. Statement No. X Two Hundred and Thirty-fourth Session, 2015
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7615/16/17]
26. Statement No. IX Two Hundred and Thirty-fifth Session, 2015
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7616/16/17]
27. Statement No. VIII Two Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session, 2015
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7617/16/17]
28. Statement No. VII Two Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session, 2015
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7618/16/17]
29. Statement No. VI Two Hundred and Thirty-eighth Session, 2016
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7619/16/17]
30. Statement No. V Two Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session, 2016
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7620/16/17]
31. Statement No. IV Two Hundred and Fortieth Session, 2016
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7621/16/17]
32. Statement No. III Two Hundred and Forty-first Session, 2016
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7622/16/17]
33. Statement No. I Two Hundred and Forty-second Session, 2017
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7623/16/17]

...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, is there a Cabinet Minister?
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me finish this. ...(Interruptions)... No, no.
...(Interruptions)... Please. Why are you worried? ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, there is no Cabinet Minister. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: सर, आप इधर ही देखते रहते हैं, कभी उधर भी देख लिया कीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... आप पूरा समय इधर ही देखते रहते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR (Uttar Pradesh): This is wrong, Sir. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: It is against the Parliamentary rules. ...(Interruptions)...

I. Notification of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and related papers.

II. Report and Accounts (2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12) of the Bihar State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Patna and related papers.

III. Report and Accounts (2015-16) of Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh and related papers.

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

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare) Notification No. S.O. 1211 (E), dated the 19th April, 2017, constituting the Central Fertiliser Committee, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7308/16/17]

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

- (i) (a) Forty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Bihar State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Patna, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

- (ii) (a) Forty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the Bihar State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Patna, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7307/16/17]
- (iii) (a) Forty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Bihar State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Patna, for the year 2009-10, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7624/16/17]
- (iv) (a) Forty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Bihar State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Patna, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7625/16/17]
- (v) (a) Forty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Bihar State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Patna, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7626/16/17]
- III. (1) (a) Fiftieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7419/16/17]
- (2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7627/16/17]

Market Borrowings by Central Government during 2016-17

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Sir, I lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) of the Market Borrowings by Central Government during the year 2016-17.

Notification of the Ministry of 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 lay on the Table, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers) Notification No. S.O. 1345 (E), dated the 28th April, 2017, notifying the supplies of urea to be made by domestic manufactures of urea to States and Union Territories mentioned in the Schedule therein during Kharif season, 2017.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7448/16/17]

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, under sub-section (2) of Section 37 of the National Food Security Act, 2013, 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. 1003 (E), dated the 30th March, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 3577 (E), dated the 29th November, 2016, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7628/16/17]
- (2) S.O. 2041 (E), dated the 29th June, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 3577 (E), dated the 29th November, 2016, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7314/16/17]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Ministry of Law and Justice.**II. Reports (2017) of Law Commission of India and related papers.****III. Reports and Accounts (2015-16) of various companies and related papers.**

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. (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Notification No. S.O. 3509 (E), dated the 23rd November, 2016, amending Notification No. S.O. 2357 (E), dated the 3rd October, 2012, to include certain items in the original Notification, under Section 39 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7487/16/17]

- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department), Notification No. S.O. 1133 (E), dated the 7th April, 2017, publishing the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2017, under sub-section (3) of Section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7327/16/17]

- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Law Commission of India:—

- (i) Two Hundred Sixty-fourth Report on the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Provisions dealing with Food Adulteration), (January, 2017).

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7186/16/17]

- (ii) Two Hundred Sixty-fifth Report on the Prospects of Exempting Income arising out of Maintenance Money of 'Minor', (March, 2017).

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7187/16/17]

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

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Media Lab Asia, Mumbai, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

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

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7486/16/17]

- (ii) (a) Fifty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Law Institute (ILI), New Delhi, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7185/16/17]

Reports (2017) of CAG on Payment of Tax by certain companies and Levy and collection of Service Tax on Entertainment Sector

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Sir, I lay on the Table, under clause (1) of

article 151 of the Constitution, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports:—

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Payment of Tax by certain companies under special provisions of section 115JB for the year ended March, 2017 Union Government-Department of Revenue-Direct taxes, Report No. 30 of 2017 (Performance Audit).

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7364/16/17]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Levy and collection of Service Tax on Entertainment Sector for the year ended March, 2017- Union Government-Department of Revenue, Indirect Taxes-Service Tax, Report No. 31 of 2017. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7365/16/17]

Audit Report on Food Corporation of India for the year ended March, 2016

SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY: Sir, I lay on the Table, under clause (2) of Section 19A of the Comptroller and Auditor General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Audit Report on Food Corporation of India for the year ended March, 2016 Union Government, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Report No. 18 of 2017 (Compliance Audit).

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7377/16/17]

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Forty-sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Forty-sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2017-18) pertaining to the Ministry of Finance.

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): Sir, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations

contained in the Thirteenth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways on Demands for Grants (2017-18) pertaining to the Ministry of Railways.

**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the
Twenty-fourth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary
Standing Committee on Agriculture**

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुदर्शन भगत): महोदय, मैं पशुपालन, डेयरी और मत्स्यपालन विभाग, कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय की अनुदान मांगों (2016-17) के संबंध में विभाग संबंधित कृषि संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के चौबीसवें प्रतिवेदन में अंतर्विष्ट सिफारिशों के कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति के संबंध में वक्तव्य सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the
Seventeenth Report of the 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 Seventeenth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers on 'Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Regions (PCPIRs)' pertaining to the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the
Fifteenth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary
Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs
and Public Distribution**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): Sir, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fifteenth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution on Demands for Grants (2017-18) pertaining to the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपकी अनुमति से यह सूचित करता हूँ कि सत्र के शेष भाग के दौरान निम्नलिखित सरकारी कार्य लिया जाएगा:—

1. आज की कार्यसूची, जिसमें लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए गए रूप में कंपनी (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2016 पर आगे विचार और पारित करना शामिल है, से बकाया सरकारी कार्य की मद पर विचार।
2. लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए गए रूप में निम्नलिखित विधेयकों पर विचार और पारित करना:—
 - (क) कारखाना (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2016
 - (ख) मोटर यान (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2017
 - (ग) केंद्रीय माल और सेवा कर (जम्मू और कश्मीर पर विस्तारण) विधेयक, 2017 — अध्यादेश को प्रतिस्थापित करने के लिए
 - (घ) एकीकृत माल और सेवा कर (जम्मू और कश्मीर पर विस्तारण) विधेयक, 2017 — अध्यादेश को प्रतिस्थापित करने के लिए
 - (ङ) भारतीय प्रबंधन संस्थान विधेयक, 2017
 - (च) पंजाब नगर निगम विधि (चंडीगढ़ पर विस्तार) संशोधन विधेयक, 2017 — अध्यादेश को प्रतिस्थापित करने के लिए
 - (छ) राष्ट्रीय कृषि और ग्रामीण विकास बैंक (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2017
3. बैंककारी विनियमन (संशोधन) अध्यादेश, 2017 (2017 का संख्या 1) का निरनुमोदन चाहने वाले सांविधिक संकल्प पर चर्चा और लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए गए रूप में बैंककारी विनियमन (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2017 पर विचार और पारित करना — अध्यादेश को प्रतिस्थापित करने के लिए।
4. लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए जाने के पश्चात् निम्नलिखित विधेयकों पर विचार और पारित करना:—
 - (क) भारतीय पेट्रोलियम और ऊर्जा संस्थान (आईआईपीई) विधेयक, 2017
 - (ख) स्टेट बैंक (निरसन और संशोधन) विधेयक, 2017
 - (ग) स्थावर संपत्ति अधिग्रहण और अर्जन संशोधन विधेयक, 2017
 - (घ) केंद्रीय सड़क निधि (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2017
 - (ङ) प्राचीन संस्मारक तथा पुरातत्वीय स्थल और अवशेष (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2017
 - (च) सरकारी स्थान (अप्राधिकृत अधिभोगियों की बेदखली) संशोधन विधेयक, 2017

5. लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए गए रूप में विनियोग (संख्या 3) विधेयक, 2017 पर विचार और लौटाना।
6. लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए गए रूप में विनियोग (संख्या 4) विधेयक, 2017 पर विचार और लौटाना।

REGARDING PASSING OF VARIOUS BILLS AND OTHER ISSUES

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, हमारी आपत्ति है। माननीय संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री जी ने कार्यमंत्रणा की जो रिपोर्ट पेश की है, उसमें मेरी आपत्ति यह है कि सदन मात्र तीन दिन चलेगा।

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी): यह संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय की रिपोर्ट नहीं है। यह बिजनेस एडवाइजरी कमेटी की है, सरकार जो विधेयक लाने वाली है, यह उसका विवरण है।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: चलिए, इस पर भी मेरी आपत्ति है। 7 अगस्त, 2017 को छुट्टी है, 8 अगस्त को मिलना है, 9 अगस्त को जो "भारत छोड़ो" का नारा दिया था, उसको मना रहे हैं, 10 अगस्त को चेयरमैन साहब की फेयरवेल है, 11 अगस्त को नये चेयरमैन साहब आयेंगे। अगर हम यह सारा काम करेंगे, तो हम इन बिल्स को कब पास करेंगे, इसलिए आपको सेशन एक हफ्ते के लिए बढ़ाना चाहिए, अगर आपको ये बिल्स पास कराने हैं।

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: आप देर तक बैठकर करिए, इसमें कोई दिक्कत नहीं है।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: देर तक बैठकर कैसे कर सकते हैं? आपने तीनों दिन हमारे जीरो ऑवर्स खत्म कर दिए हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: नरेश जी, आप सुनिए।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: 8 तारीख को जीरो ऑवर नहीं है...(व्यवधान)... 10 तारीख को जीरो ऑवर नहीं है, 11 तारीख को जीरो ऑवर नहीं है। हमारे जीरो ऑवर्स खत्म कर दिए हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nareshji, please hear me also. It is only the intention of the Government. Secondly, by knowing that these Bills are coming up, Members also can come prepared. They are saying it in advance. Nothing is being thrust upon you. Don't worry.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: अगर गवर्नमेंट अपनी इच्छा थोपना चाहती है, तो हमको विरोध करने का अधिकार है। यह कहाँ पर लिखा हुआ है कि गवर्नमेंट ने बता दिया कि हम 20 बिल पास करना चाहते हैं। ये रात को 10-10 बजे तक जबर्दस्ती सेशन चलायेंगे, जबकि 6 बजे के बाद सेशन नहीं चल सकता और ये रात के 10 बजे तक सेशन चलायेंगे। ये हम लोगों को बंधुआ मजदूर बनाकर कहेंगे कि हमारे बिल पास करो। हम कैसे बिल पास करेंगे?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nareshji, nothing will be thrust upon the Members. We will take a common decision and then we will go forward. Don't worry.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल (महाराष्ट्र): सर, मुझे भी इसी संबंध में कुछ कहना है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is a point of order. Then, there will be some other order. Mr. Agrawal what do you want to say?

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: उपसभापति महोदय, मैं हमेशा नियमों के अनुसार बात करता हूँ। मैं नियम से अलग कभी बात नहीं करता हूँ। आप नियम 187, 188 और 189 को देख लीजिए।

श्री उपसभापति: यह क्या है?

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: मैंने दैनिक जागरण पत्र में — जो राज्य सभा के खिलाफ एक लेख छपा था कल वह उल्लिखित किया था, उसके संबंध में नोटिस दिया है।

श्री उपसभापति: आपने दिया है।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: लेकिन उसमें नियम है कि सदस्य कोई नोटिस देगा, Rule 190 (1) says, "The Chairman, if he gives consent under rule 187 and holds that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order, shall, after the questions and before the list of business is entered upon, call the member concerned, who shall rise in his place and while asking for leave to raise the question of privilege make a short statement relevant thereto." आप हमें बुलाएंगे, हम अपनी बात रखेंगे। आप सदन की राय ..**(व्यवधान)**..

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

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, यह नियमों में लिखा है। मैं नियमों के अनुसार चल रहा हूँ। मैं नियम कभी नहीं तोड़ता। जिदगी में अनुशासित रहा नहीं हूँ, लेकिन अब पूर्णतः अनुशासित हूँ।

श्री उपसभापति: आप सुनिए।

SHRI P. L. PUNIA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir,.....**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. ...**(Interruptions)**... I will come to you. ...**(Interruptions)**... Can I reply to you now? ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Yes. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yesterday, you raised.....**(Interruptions)**...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: कोई रूलिंग मत दीजिएगा।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. ...**(Interruptions)**... I am only explaining. Yesterday, you raised it. As soon as you raised it, there was no controversy or dispute.

...(Interruptions)... I immediately said that you give notice, it will be considered. Your notice has been received. It is being dealt with as per rules. So, that means, you have nothing to worry. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, रूल में यह नहीं लिखा है। रूल में यह दिया है कि मेंबर नोटिस देगा, मेंबर सदन के सामने उस नोटिस को रखेगा और चेयरमैन ..(व्यवधान)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chairman has no dispute over it. Mr. Chairman is allowing it, then why this doubt? ...(Interruptions)... The Chairman has no dispute. I told you yesterday, it is being allowed. Then, why do you worry? ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, तीसरा रूल 267 का नोटिस भी है ..(व्यवधान)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, you may sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Sir, ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Aasam): Sir, please.....(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, you may sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, मुगलसराय स्टेशन का नाम बदलकर ..(व्यवधान).. पंडित दीनदयाल जी के नाम पर कर दिया है। ..(व्यवधान)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, now that is all. ...(Interruptions)... नरेश जी बैठिए। ..(व्यवधान)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, रूल 267 का नोटिस है ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will call you. ...(Interruptions)... Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: सर, मेरा point of order है। ..(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order? ...(Interruptions)... I will call you. ...(Interruptions)... What is your point of order? ...(Interruptions)... Are you going to imitate Shri Naresh Agrawal? ...(Interruptions)...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: सर, मैं रोज-रोज कहां खड़ा होता हूं। सर, कल विदेश नीति पर बहस थी। सब लोग उस पर बोले और उसके बाद माननीया विदेश मंत्री जी ने जवाब दिया। मेरे भाषण को लेकर उन्होंने कई तरह की बातें अपने उत्तर में कहीं और बड़ी आलोचना की कि मैंने China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) के बारे में कहा कि भारत को उसमें भाग लेना चाहिए। ..(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is the problem? ...(Interruptions)...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: नहीं, यह रिकॉर्डिंग का सवाल है। इसके minutes record होते हैं। मैंने अपने भाषण में CPEC का कोई जिक्र ही नहीं किया। अब चूंकि वह नोट्स नहीं लेतीं, इसलिए उन्होंने खड़े होकर criticize कर दिया और वह सब अखबारों में छपा है ...(व्यवधान)... और उससे मेरी छवि खराब हुई। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; if it is so....(Interruptions)...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: मैं कहता हूं कि अगर उसमें CPEC का जिक्र है, तो आप उसे ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes. ...(Interruptions)... If it is so, I will go through the records and do the necessary correction. ...(Interruptions)... Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Or if it is not that, I will bring it to the....(Interruptions)... No, no. ...(Interruptions)... That is over. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: सर, मंत्री जी को जवाब देते समय यह सोचना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, that is all. ...(Interruptions)... If he has not referred. ...(Interruptions)... Yes, Sharadji. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Bihar): Sir, my notice is under Rule 267. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will call you. ...(Interruptions)... Now, Mr. Punia. ...(Interruptions)... You had given the same notice yesterday. ...(Interruptions)... Yesterday also I told you that it is not a matter under Rule 267. ...(Interruptions)... You can give Zero Hour notice. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI P. L. PUNIA: No, Sir. ...(Interruptions)... I have not raised Chhattisgarh. ...(Interruptions)... This is a revised notice. ...(Interruptions)... This is about encroachment of the forest land. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; that is what I am saying. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI P. L. PUNIA: It is about the encroachment of forest land. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is ...(Interruptions)... If you ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI P. L. PUNIA: I can give you a copy of the notice. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, please listen to me. I have today's notice also with me. It is 'Alleged violation of rules pertaining to conservation of forests and environment in the country particularly in Chhattisgarh.' You can raise it in some other form. I am not allowing it under Rule 267. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Sir, I am not mentioning Chhattisgarh. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I said that I am not allowing. *...(Interruptions)...*
It is over. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir,
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. *...(Interruptions)...* Shrimati Chhaya Verma
...(Interruptions)...

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा (छत्तीसगढ़): आप बैठिए ना *...(व्यवधान)...* शांत हो जाइए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now Shrimati Chhaya Verma. *...(Interruptions)...* That is what I am saying. *...(Interruptions)...* I will say. *...(Interruptions)...* Shrimati Chhaya Verma's notice is on 'Agricultural forest land scam in Chhattisgarh.' *...(Interruptions)...* It is not a matter under Rule 267. *...(Interruptions)...* It is not a matter under Rule 267. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा: सर, बहुत गंभीर मामला है। *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now Shri Sharad Yadav. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री शरद यादव: सर *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sharad Yadavji's is a tribal matter. *...(Interruptions)...* You can raise it. *...(Interruptions)...* Take only two minutes. It is a tribal matter. *...(Interruptions)...* That is Zero Hour matter. *...(Interruptions)...* So, you give Zero Hour notice. *...(Interruptions)...* Let her give Zero Hour notice. *...(Interruptions)...* You give Zero Hour notice. *...(Interruptions)...* It is purely Zero Hour matter. *...(Interruptions)...* No, I can't do that as it is purely Zero Hour matter. *...(Interruptions)...* I have already said she can give Zero Hour notice and it will be allowed. *...(Interruptions)...* It will be admitted. *...(Interruptions)...* But this is Zero Hour matter. *...(Interruptions)...* That is the point. *...(Interruptions)...* Sharad Yadavji's is a tribal matter. So, he can raise it. *...(Interruptions)...* Only two minutes. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी (मध्य प्रदेश): सर, इनको दो मिनट दे दीजिए। *...(व्यवधान)....* सर, इनको allow कर दीजिए। *...(व्यवधान).....*

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर *...(व्यवधान).....*

श्री उपसभापति: श्री शरद यादव जी। *...(व्यवधान)....*

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव: ये जो शोर मचा रहे हैं *...(व्यवधान).....*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It doesn't fall in that category. *...(Interruptions)...* No. *...(Interruptions)...* Now, Shri Sharad Yadav. *...(Interruptions)...* No, my dear sister, you co-operate with me. *...(Interruptions)...* You co-operate with me. *...(Interruptions)...* I will

[Mr. Deputy Chairman]

allow you in the Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)... The subject is not a Rule 267 matter. That is what I am saying. ...(Interruptions)... But, what do I do? ...(Interruptions)... There are some norms. ...(Interruptions)... I have sympathy for her more than you and I am telling you. ...(Interruptions)... The only thing is.... ...(Interruptions)... You understand. ...(Interruptions)... No, sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Because she has written, 'Agricultural forest land scam in Chhattisgarh', it is not a matter to be raised here under Rule 267. ...(Interruptions)... Notice under Rule 267 means that you are asking for suspending the House to discuss this matter ...(Interruptions)... Do you think that this is such a matter? ...(Interruptions)... Therefore, I am advising her to give Zero Hour notice and that will be admitted. ...(Interruptions)... You do that. ...(Interruptions)... We can do it on Tuesday. ...(Interruptions)... No, no; don't pressurize me. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री शरद यादव: सर...(व्यवधान).....

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir,... ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI (Punjab): Sir,... ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't pressurize me. ...(Interruptions)... Now, Shri Sharad Yadav. ...(Interruptions)... I am allowing Shri Sharad Yadav because it is a tribal matter. ...(Interruptions)... But take only two minutes. ...(Interruptions)... Don't pressurize me. ...(Interruptions)... Don't pressurize me. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री शरद यादव: सर, मैं एक गंभीर सवाल उठा रहा हूँ।...(व्यवधान)....

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir, just give her two minutes. ...(Interruptions)... That is all. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; anyhow I have called Shri Sharad Yadav. ...(Interruptions)... No; don't pressurize me. ...(Interruptions)... I have called Shri Sharad Yadav. ...(Interruptions)... No, no, you can't do like this. ...(Interruptions)... You are not to decide as to how to run the House. ...(Interruptions)... It cannot be... ...(Interruptions)... How can it be? ...(Interruptions)... If the party Members are going to decide what is to be decided by the Chairman, then, how can the House function? ...(Interruptions)...

KUMARI SELJA (Haryana): Sir, she has just requested you... ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. ...(Interruptions)... Now, Shri Sharad Yadav. ...(Interruptions)... I told you to give Zero Hour Notice and it will be allowed. ...(Interruptions)... I said that. ...(Interruptions)... Now, Shri Sharad Yadav. ...(Interruptions)...

**REGARDING FULLY EXTENDING THE RIGHTS GIVEN UNDER
5th AND 6th SCHEDULE OF THE CONSTITUTION
TO THE TRIBALS**

श्री शरद यादव (बिहार): सर, मैं एक गंभीर सवाल उठा रहा हूँ, जो देश के आदिवासियों से संबंधित है। 5th शैड्यूल और 6th शैड्यूल बने हुए 70 वर्ष हो गए हैं, लेकिन इनके पूरे अधिकार आज तक लागू नहीं हुए हैं। यह जो पहाड़ी राज्य हैं, वे 6th शैड्यूल में आते हैं। यह शैड्यूल असम, मेघालय, त्रिपुरा और मिज़ोरम में लागू हुआ है, लेकिन मणिपुर और साथ में कई ऐसे इलाके हैं, जिनको छोड़ दिया गया है। हम पूरे नार्थ-ईस्ट को गंभीरता से नहीं लेते हैं। वहाँ के tribal जो मणिपुर में हैं, वे काफी वर्षों से मांग करते आ रहे हैं। आपने असम में लागू कर दिया और बाकी जगहों पर भी कर दिया, लेकिन आप किसी जगह तो कर देते हैं और किसी जगह छोड़ देते हैं। जो 5th शैड्यूल है, वह लागू ही नहीं हुआ है। सब कुछ गवर्नर और राष्ट्रपति के हाथ में है। हिन्दुस्तान में यदि कोई तकलीफ और दुख में हैं, तो वे हिन्दुस्तान के आदिवासी हैं। उनकी कोई आबादी नहीं है, इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से निवेदन करूंगा कि यह जो 6th शैड्यूल है, मणिपुर से लेकर बाकी जगहों पर, सरकार इसको लागू करने का काम करे। वहाँ आपकी सरकार ने बहुत से प्रोग्राम्स बनाकर रखे हैं, लेकिन सबसे ज्यादा अधिकार अथवा सारे अधिकार पंचायत के होते हैं, जो इनको मिलते हैं, इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से निवेदन करूंगा कि यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण मामला है और मणिपुर के लोगों ने इसकी बहुत बार मांग की है। उन्होंने सारी सरकारों से मांग की है और अब आपसे भी मांग कर रहे हैं। उपसभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से फिर से सरकार से कहूंगा कि इस मामले को जल्दी से निपटाएं।

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

श्री हुसैन दलवाई (महाराष्ट्र): उपसभापति जी, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

REGARDING RENAMING OF A RAILWAY STATION

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, मुगल सराय नाम सैकड़ों साल पुराना नाम है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay; thank you. So, notice under Rule 267 is not allowed. ...**(Interruptions)**... Naresh Agrawalji, your subject is only about renaming of a railway station. ...**(Interruptions)**... That is not a matter under Rule 267. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: उपसभापति जी, यह सरकार जबर्दस्ती उत्तर प्रदेश की भौगोलिक स्थिति को बदलना चाहती है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मुगल सराय नाम पूरे वर्ल्ड में जाना जाता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... पूरे विश्व में जाना जाता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But, it is not a matter under Rule 267. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: ये नाम क्यों बदलना चाहते हैं? ...(व्यवधान)... इसका नाम क्यों बदलना है? ये नई दिल्ली का भी नाम बदलने जा रहे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार का ...(व्यवधान)... रही तो ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You raise it as Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)... You can give Zero Hour notice. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: यह आज का नाम नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can give Zero Hour notice. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: नहीं, नहीं ...(व्यवधान)... यह जीरो ऑवर ...(व्यवधान)... नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार): रेलवे स्टेशन का नाम बदल रहे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can give Zero Hour notice. ...(Interruptions)... You can give Zero Hour notice. ...(Interruptions)... I am not saying that the subject is irrelevant. ...(Interruptions)... ...(Interruptions)... I am only saying that this is not a matter under Rule 267. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: वह मुगल सराय स्टेशन के नाम से जाना जाता है। ...(व्यवधान)... सैकड़ों साल पुराना नाम है। ...(व्यवधान)...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, यह जो ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Renaming a railway station is not a matter under Rule 267. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश यादव: ये कलकत्ता ...(व्यवधान)...

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी): देश के निर्माण का कार्य ...(व्यवधान)... ये मुगलों के नाम का ...(व्यवधान)... रेलवे स्टेशन चाहते हैं ...(व्यवधान)... पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय के नाम से नहीं चाहते हैं ...(व्यवधान)... मुझे लगता है कि इनकी यह सोच गलत है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नीरज शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, यह बताइए कि कहीं भी रेलवे स्टेशन ...(व्यवधान)... किसी के नाम पर होता है? ...(व्यवधान)... ऐसा कहीं पर भी नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. ...(Interruptions)... If all of you will speak like this, what do I do? ...(Interruptions)... All of you are speaking, what do I do? ...(Interruptions)... One of you can speak. ...(Interruptions)... Ram Gopalji, what is your point? ...(Interruptions)... Ram Gopalji, I have only said that this subject can be raised in some other form. ...(Interruptions)... It cannot be raised under Rule 267 because it is about renaming of a railway station. ...(Interruptions)...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव: उनको नया नाम याद करने में बीस साल लगेंगे कि यह स्टेशन कहाँ है? ...(व्यवधान)... सर, इसको नक्शे में ढूँढ़ने में टाइम लगेगा। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I agree. ...(Interruptions)... No, no. Please. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): No, Sir. It is a bigger issue. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You may or may not agree. ...(Interruptions)... But how can I allow Rule 267 on this? ...(Interruptions)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: विक्टोरिया टर्मिनल को छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज के नाम से चेंज किया गया। ...(व्यवधान)... उसको बोम्बे वी.टी. कहा जाता था। ...(व्यवधान)... अब वह छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज टर्मिनल हो गया है। ...(व्यवधान)... दूसरों के नाम पर ऐसा हो सकता है। ...(व्यवधान)... पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय ...(व्यवधान)... जो अंत्योदय के प्रणेता ...(व्यवधान)... उनके नाम पर नहीं होगा? ...(व्यवधान)... क्या केवल गांधी और नेहरू के नाम पर ही सारी चीजें होंगी? ...(व्यवधान)... हजारों लोगों ने कुर्बानियाँ दी हैं, हजारों लोग देश की प्रेरणा के स्रोत हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... अम्बेडकर नगर ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, this is not a question of renaming ...(Interruptions)... Sir, this is not a question of renaming of a railway station alone. ...(Interruptions)... Some of the...(Interruptions)... Photographs of party leaders are shown ...(Interruptions)... ..in the official stationery below the Ashoka symbol, our national symbol. ...(Interruptions)... This is not an isolated...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please go back. ...(Interruptions)... Please go back. ...(Interruptions)... I have a number of Zero Hour notices. ...(Interruptions)... Please allow. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: ये कोलकाता का नाम बदलना चाहते हैं ...(व्यवधान)... ये सब नाम बदलना चाहते हैं ...(व्यवधान)... देश का भूगोल बदलना चाहते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: आप जरा देश का इतिहास ...(व्यवधान)... भूगोल समझ लीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... जो मुगलों के नाम से स्टेशन है ...(व्यवधान)... उसको रहने देना चाहते हैं और जिसने राष्ट्रवाद ...(व्यवधान)... मानवतावाद की बात की है ...(व्यवधान)... अंत्योदय का संदेश दिया है ...(व्यवधान)... उनके नाम पर इसका नाम नहीं हो? ...(व्यवधान)... मुगलों के नाम पर नाम रखो ...(व्यवधान)... राष्ट्रवादियों के नाम पर मत रखो। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please allow me to take up Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)... I have called Mr. Sukhendu Sekhar Roy. ...(Interruptions)... Please go back. ...(Interruptions)... Please go back. ...(Interruptions)... Please, please. ...(Interruptions)... What can I do? ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Zero Hour is affected. ...(Interruptions)... Nothing can be heard. ...(Interruptions)... Please go back. ...(Interruptions)... Please go back. ...(Interruptions)... Mrs. Chhaya Verma, what do you want to say?

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, छत्तीसगढ़ के महासमुंद जिले में वहां के कृषि मंत्री ने ...(व्यवधान)... फॉरेस्ट की जमीन को अपने नाम कर लिया है। ...(व्यवधान)... वह जमीन जलकी गांव के विष्णु साहू नामक व्यक्ति ने दान में दी थी। ...(व्यवधान)... उस गांव की जमीन को वहां के मंत्री ने अपने नाम कर लिया है और आसपास की कुछ फॉरेस्ट की जमीन अपने कब्जे में कर ली है। ...(व्यवधान)... उस जमीन पर पानी, बिजली भी सरकार की लगती है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you go back to your seats, I can allow you ...(Interruptions)... If you shout slogans, what can I do? You are showing indiscipline. ...(Interruptions)... It is nothing but indiscipline. ...(Interruptions)... Every Member is speaking, what can I do? ...(Interruptions)... Go back.

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा: इसकी सीबीआई जांच होनी चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)... पुरातत्व विभाग को ग्यारहवीं, बारहवीं सदी के अवशेष मिले हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... पूरे भारत के मानचित्र में उस स्थान का नाम आने वाला है। ...(व्यवधान)... बहुत बड़े विज्ञानवेत्ता बताते हैं कि वहां पर किसी जमाने में एलियन्स आया करते थे। ...(व्यवधान)...

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

The House then adjourned at twenty-eight minutes past eleven of the clock.

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Zero Hour Submissions, Shri Sanjiv Kumar.

Loss of lives due to illegal mining in Jharkhand

श्री संजीव कुमार (झारखंड): महोदय, 27 मई, 2017 को सेंट्रल कोल फील्ड्स लिमिटेड के गिरिडीह बिनयाडीह प्रोजेक्ट के बकरीवाद ओपन कास्ट कोयला खदान में अवैध खनन के दौरान हादसे में 5 लोगों ने दम तोड़ दिया। डिप्टी कमिश्नर, गिरिडीह, झारखंड ने मामले की जांच करवाई तो पता चला कि इस अवैध खनन के पीछे सीसीएल के अधिकारी एवं अपराधिक लोगों का हाथ है। जो लोग मारे गए हैं वे गरीब लोग हैं, जिनका उपयोग इन लोगों ने किया है। महोदय, 27 मई, 2017 की घटना कोई नई घटना नहीं है। इस तरह की घटना कोयलांचल में आम बात है और जांच के बाद प्रायः पता चलता है कि मारे गए लोग गरीब मजदूर होते हैं, जिनका मैनेजमेंट एवं माफिया दुरुपयोग करते हैं। उदाहरण के लिए 2004 में सीसीएल के

गिरिडीह में खदान गरीब मजदूर गैरकानूनी खनन में मारे गए थे, तब उस समय के प्रोजेक्ट ऑफिसर, खान सुरक्षा पदाधिकारी एवं खन्ता संचालक जेल गए थे। इस बार भी डिप्टी कमिशनर, गिरिडीह ने जांच के बाद 27 मई, 2017 की घटना के लिए सीसीएल प्रबंधन के कुछ अधिकारियों के खिलाफ एफआईआर दर्ज किया है। महोदय, बीसीसीएल, सीसीएल एवं ईसीएल के अधिकारियों का भ्रष्टाचार, अवैध खनन, मशीन की खरीद में गड़बड़ी एवं माफिया से सांठ-गांठ का आरोप कोई नया नहीं है, लेकिन अफसोस इस बात का है कि मैं यह मामला सदन में कई वर्षों से रखता आया हूँ, फिर भी जमीन पर कोई असर दिखाई नहीं पड़ रहा है। सभी कोयले की उस काली कमाई में मस्त हैं। महोदय, इन भ्रष्ट अधिकारियों का मनोबल कितना बढ़ गया है, इसका अंदाज इस बात से लगाया जा सकता है कि दैनिक जागरण के एक रिपोर्टर पर इस बात के लिए कोयला चोरी का FIR दर्ज कर दिया गया, क्योंकि वह इस तरह के अवैध खनन के विषय में ईमानदारी से रिपोर्टिंग कर रहा था। महोदय, कोयलांचल में लूट बंद होनी चाहिए। इसके लिए आवश्यक है कि इस तरह की घटनाओं की निष्पक्ष जांच हो।

महोदय, मैं मांग करता हूँ कि 27 मई, 2017 के गिरिडीह-बनियाडीह प्रोजेक्ट के हादसे की निष्पक्ष जांच हो। संयोग से माननीय मंत्री, पीयूष गोयल जी आज यहां बैठे हुए हैं। मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि मेरी बात ...(व्यवधान)... मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि मैंने जो कहा है, कोयला मंत्री उस बात का नोटिस लेंगे और एक निष्पक्ष जांच करवाएँगे, ताकि जो लोग इस हादसे के लिए दोषी हैं, उनको सजा मिल सके।

श्री हरिवंश (बिहार): महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member. Since last January this year till today, more than forty people have died, and the entire Jharia belt has become a fire underground. The collieries are being shifted; the local habitations are being shifted without any compensation to them. It has become a fire underground and it is creating a serious social unrest. The Government must holistically intervene in the situation in the interest of keeping the coal mines on, and, at the same time, the peoples' unrest is appropriately addressed.

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is a serious matter. The Minister is here. I hope he will take note of it.

Need to set up or Institute an Tourism and Travel Management in Maharashtra

SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI (Nominated): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. To make India the most favoured tourist destination of the world, we have to make all-out efforts, to give the industry a true professional touch, which is possible

[Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati]

when the country is able to produce highly skilled professionals to manage every aspect, which matters in the tourism industry. Sir, I would like to flag that tourism is a sector which can help a great deal in reducing the problem of unemployment in the country. More so, the employment could be created at the door-steps alone, because our country is so rich in cultural heritage, and have exclusive geographical features.

As of now, only Gwalior, Delhi, Noida, and Bhubaneshwar have the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, which are called IITTMs. This number is quite insignificant and inadequate for a country of this size, population and rich cultural wealth. The country needs more such professional institutions, to exploit the inherent resources, which varies from State to State.

Since I hail from Maharashtra, I can say with authority that the State is rich from tourism point of view. There are breathtaking forts like Raigad, Sindhudurg, and many more caves like Ajanta, Ellora, Elephanta, temples, hill stations, 720 kms. of coastline, ecologically-rich western ghats, besides a large number of unexplored exquisite natural sites, may bring boom in the tourism sector provided we have handled them in a professional manner. So far, the Ministry of Tourism has not thought of establishing an IITTM in Maharashtra. I hope, the hon. Minister of Tourism takes a view on establishing a full-fledged IITTM, either at Pune or Kolhapur, to cater to the needs of the whole of Maharashtra and nearby States.

More IITTMs are necessary to promote the real history, culture and tradition of our country. For example, in the Red Fort of Agra, a wrong interpretation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is showcased by the local guides. I can't tell you how wrongly it is interpreted. But, if you listen to it, we can't take it; we cannot tolerate it. हमसे सहन नहीं हो सकता है।

This can only be done by showcasing proper local guides. We need to get proper local guides through the IITTM in India. One of the objectives of the IITTM is to create genuine guides to promote rich tradition of India. How do we promote India, as the international tourist hub, with only three Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management?

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

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

DR. VIKAS MAHATME (MAHARASHTRA): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

Need to run Train Nos. 68019/20 and 58031/32 in Jharkhand on daily basis

डा. प्रदीप कुमार बालमुचू (झारखंड): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन का ध्यान झारखंड के मजदूर, बिजनेसमेन और विद्यार्थियों की तकलीफों की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। झारखंड में तीन महत्वपूर्ण industrial towns हैं — जमशेदपुर, बोकारो और धनबाद। Industrial town में काम करने के लिए मजदूर, पढ़ने के लिए विद्यार्थी और बिजनेस करने के लिए जो बिजनेसमेन हैं, वे लगातार आना-जाना करते हैं। महोदय, वहां सरकार द्वारा झारग्राम से धनबाद के लिए एक लोकल ट्रेन नं. 68019 और 68202 चलती थी। जैसा मैंने पहले कहा, इस ट्रेन में सब लोग रोजाना सफर करते थे, जिसमें मजदूर, विद्यार्थी और व्यापारी हैं, लेकिन अचानक उसे यह कहते हुए बन्द कर दिया गया कि चंद्रपुरा, जो बोकारो के बगल में है, चंद्रपुरा और धनबाद के बीच की लाइन के नीचे कोयले में आग लगी हुई है, जिसके चलते इस लाइन पर ट्रेन नहीं चल सकती है।

उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि यह ट्रेन बोकारो तक तो जा सकती है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का भी ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ, क्योंकि वे यहां उपस्थित हैं। यदि यह ट्रेन बोकारो तक जा सकती है, तो वहां तक ही चलाई जाए। यह ठीक है कि चंद्रपुरा और धनबाद के बीच की लाइन के नीचे आग है, तो वहां नहीं जाए, लेकिन यह बोकारो तक तो जा ही सकती है या धनबाद तक तो जा सकती है। यदि धनबाद तक भी नहीं गई, तो कम से कम आगरा तक तो जा सकती है, जिससे कम से कम जमशेदपुर और बोकारो के लोगों को वहां तक जाने की सुविधा मिल सके।

महोदय, मैं एक दूसरी ट्रेन के बारे में भी माननीय सदन के माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ, जो टाटानगर से चकुलिया तक चलती है। यह भी passenger train है। इसका नंबर 58031 और 58032 है। यह भी डेली चकुलिया से जमशेदपुर आती-जाती है। इसमें भी मजदूर, विद्यार्थी और व्यापारी सफर करते हैं। यह ट्रेन पहले डेली चलती थी, लेकिन अब बिना कारण बताए अचानक इसे सप्ताह में सिर्फ दो दिन चलाया जा रहा है। अब, आप सोचिए मजदूर डेली काम करता है, इसलिए उसे काम पर डेली जाना होता है। यदि ट्रेन सप्ताह में दो दिन चलेगी, तो वह अपने काम पर कैसे जाएगा? अतः चूंकि मंत्री महोदय यहां उपस्थित हैं, उनसे मैं आपके माध्यम से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि दोनों ट्रेनों में से एक को तो कम से कम बोकारो तक ले जाइए, यदि बोकारो तक संभव नहीं है, तो आगरा तक ले जाइए और दूसरी ट्रेन, जो चकुलिया और टाटानगर के बीच है, उसे डेली चलाइए— जैसे पहले चलती थी ताकि वहां के मजदूरों, विद्यार्थियों, व्यापारियों और आम लोगों को सुविधा मिल सके।

श्रीमती जया बच्चन (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य द्वारा सदन में उठाए गए विषय से अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री जावेद अली खान (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

†جناب جاوید علی خان (اُتر پردیش): مہودے، میں بھی مائے سدسے کے ذریعے اٹھائے گئے وشے سے اپنے آپ کو سمبڈھہ کرتا ہوں۔

श्री सुरेंद्र सिंह नागर (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री नीरज शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री आलोक तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

डा. अनिल कुमार साहनी (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री रेवती रमन सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री किरनमय नन्दा (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

कुछ माननीय सदस्य: महोदय, हम भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करते हैं।

Concern over the increasing incidents of suicide and mental tension in the armed forces personnel

श्री संजय सेठ (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं संसद का ध्यान सशस्त्र सेनाओं में व्याप्त मानसिक तनाव की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। अभी कुछ दिन पहले CRPF के जवानों ने अपने एक Commandant की पिटाई कर दी, क्योंकि उसने एक बीमार सिपाही को अस्पताल ले जाने की अनुमति नहीं दी और एक अखबार की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार उस सिपाही की मृत्यु हो गई। यह घटना चिन्ता का विषय है।

महोदय, एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार हमारे सेना के जवानों में हर साल मानसिक तनाव के चलते लगभग 100 लोग आत्महत्या करते हैं। पिछले साल वर्ष 2016 में 125 सिपाहियों ने आत्महत्या की, जिनमें से 101 सेना के, 19 वायुसेना के और 5 सिपाही नौवी के थे। इसके अलावा कई मामले ऐसे भी आए हैं, जिनमें सशस्त्र सेनाओं के सिपाहियों ने मानसिक तनाव के चलते एक-दूसरे की भी हत्याएं की हैं।

महोदय, ऐसा नहीं है कि हमारे आला अधिकारियों और सरकार को तनाव की वजह का पता नहीं है। कई मामले ऐसे आए हैं, जिनमें सिपाहियों की लगातार कठिन परिस्थितियों में posting, समय पर आवास की सुविधा न मिलना, अवकाश न मिलना, उपचार की सुविधा न मिलना, खराब खाना तथा कठिन रहन-सहन की स्थितियां हैं। सिपाहियों और अधिकारियों के बीच संवाद का अभाव रहता है तथा पारिवारिक गतिविधियां भी सिपाहियों की मानसिक स्थिति पर असर डालती हैं।

महोदय, इसके साथ ही CRPF, BSF, ITBP, Army, असम राइफल्स एवं राष्ट्रीय राइफल्स तरह-तरह के आतंकवाद, सीमापार से गोलाबारी या नक्सली समस्याओं से जूझ रहे हैं। इन संगठनों के सिपाहियों को राशन से लेकर अन्य सुविधाएं भी सेना के सिपाहियों को मिल रही सुविधाओं के स्तर की नहीं मिलती हैं। यहां तक कि जब ट्रेन से विशेष पोस्टिंग पर इन्हें ट्रांसफर किया जाता है, तो रेलवे में परोसे जाने वाला खाना बहुत ही खराब स्तर का होता है।

महोदय, मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि सभी सशस्त्र सेनाओं की सुविधाओं में शीघ्र समानता लाई जाए तथा मानसिक अवसाद से निपटने के लिए कदम उठाए जाएं।

**Need for installation of a statue of Rabindranath Tagore at
Jalianwala Bagh Memorial premises**

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. After five days, I have got this opportunity. The Jalianwala Bagh Massacre in Punjab of 13th April, 1919, which took a toll of thousand innocent non-violent people, is a gruesome history of cold-blooded annihilation. The multifaceted maverick Rabindranath Tagore took no time in renouncing his Knighthood that had been conferred on him in 1915 to protest the extreme barbarism. In a very famous letter and in a very heart rending letter, Tagore wrote; — I cannot read the entire letter, but I am quoting a section of the letter — he categorically mentioned, “The time has come when badges of honour make our shame glaring in the incongruous context of humiliation, and I, for my part, wish to stand, shorn of all special distinctions, by the side of those of my countrymen, who, for their so-called insignificance, are liable to suffer degradation not fit for human beings.” Sir, it is most unfortunate that in the entire Jallianwala Bagh Memorial, this very man does not find a proper place of honour. Installation of a statue of Gurudeb, along with the proper and prominent display of the letter of renouncement of Knighthood, will be a mark of respect to the man who throughout his life has celebrated and championed the very idea of India, the only continuing civilization in the world. I am raising this demand at a time when some non-sensical demands are pitching for a ban on the eternal thoughts of Tagore. Sir, I feel deeply pained in telling this august House that this year the Assam Government has cancelled the holiday in schools and colleges on the birthday of Tagore which had been continuing in the State of Assam for long. Sir, both as a patriot and as a global citizen, Tagore has portrayed the idea of India in his innumerable writings in the 19,000 printed pages, which he had written throughout his life. I just quote, Sir, after the massacre, Tagore, when he was protesting the massacre, he said in a public meeting: which says “Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high; Where knowledge is free, where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls, where words come out from the depth of truth, where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection,

[Shri Ritabrata Banerjee]

where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit, where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action, into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.” I urge upon the Government to immediately install the statue of Tagore in the Jallianwala Bagh Memorial complex.

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

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

SHRI T. K. S. ELANGO VAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

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

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

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

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

SHRI NEERAJ SEKHAR (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

DR. CHANDRAPAL SINGH YADAV (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

श्री आलोक तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाये गये विषय से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री हरिवंश (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाये गये विषय से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

डा. अनिल कुमार साहनी (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाये गये विषय से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA (Tripura): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we all associate ourselves with the issue raised by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

Concern over distress sale by the cultivators in Jute Sector

श्री सुखेन्दु शेखर राय (पश्चिमी बंगाल): सर, इंडिया का जो जूट सेक्टर है ...(व्यवधान)... महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान का जो जूट सेक्टर है, वह अभी बहुत ही खराब हो गया है। पिछले साल 13 लाख टन रॉ जूट का प्रोडक्शन हुआ था। यह प्रोडक्शन 5 लाख हेक्टेयर जमीन में हुआ था। लेकिन पटसन निगम, जोकि भारत सरकार की एक संस्था है, वह पिछले साल केवल 56,000 बेल ही खरीद कर पायी, जबकि बाजार में 90 लाख बेल मौजूद थे। इसके चलते हमारे जो किसान हैं, जो लोग जूट प्रोडक्शन में जुड़े हुए हैं, ये लोग ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री तपन कुमार सेन (पश्चिमी बंगाल): 4 लाख।

श्री सुखेन्दु शेखर राय: इससे भी ज्यादा हैं। इन लोगों को distress sale करनी पड़ी। उनको MSP के नीचे, 400 से 500 रुपये per quintal घटा कर बेचना पड़ा। जूट कॉरपोरेशन उन लोगों तक नहीं पहुँच पाया। इस साल भारतीय पटसन निगम ने मार्केट में अभी तक intervention नहीं किया है। इसके चलते जो MSP खाता में लिखा हुआ है, सरकारी नोटिस में लिखा हुआ है, वह MSP किसानों को नहीं मिल रहा है। इस साल भी उनको 700 से 800 रुपये per quintal घटा कर बेचना पड़ रहा है। हमारे किसानों का यह हाल है, जबकि 30 लाख फैमिलीज जूट प्रोडक्शन से जुड़ी हुई है। इसके अलावा, केंद्रीय सरकार ने जो जनविरोधी नीति अपनायी है, इस जनविरोधी नीति के चलते पिछले साल 62 जूट मिल्स में से 17 जूट मिल्स बन्द हो चुकी हैं, जिनमें से 7 जूट मिल्स हमेशा के लिए बन्द हो गयी हैं। उनमें से 3 सरकारी जूट मिल्स हैं — National,

Alexandra और Union. ये 3 जूट मिल्स हमेशा के लिए बन्द हो गयी हैं। अभी इस साल सरकार ने जो पॉलिसी announce की है, उससे वह प्लास्टिक लॉबी को मदद दे रही है और जो जूट पैकेजिंग मैटेरियल कंपल्सरी एक्ट है, उसको violate करके जूट बैग के यूज का dilution हो रहा है। सरकार ने निर्देश जारी किया है कि 2024 तक जूट बैग के यूज को समाप्त किया जाए। अभी तक सरकार ने चीनी में जूट बैग के यूज को 80 परसेंट तक घटा दिया और दूसरे foodgrains में जूट बैग के यूज को 50 परसेंट तक घटा दिया है। ...**(समय की घंटी)**...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, I associate myself with the Zero Hour submission of Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission of Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission of Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission of Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission of Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission of Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes. All the names of hon. Members will be added. Now, Shri Ahamed Hassan.

Use of outdated ATR-42 for North-East by Alliance Air

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, Alliance Air, a subsidiary of Air India, was one of the important links from Kolkata to the towns of North-Eastern States and also to Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand. As everyone acknowledges that connectivity to these areas is very important, Alliance Air was playing a vital role in these areas. And, at the same time, Kolkata Airport was the major engineering base for ATR aircraft in India and all the maintenance and necessary repair works were being done from here. But, this situation has drastically changed since the last few years.

ATR-42 aircraft, which were in operation, have become old as these aircraft have been in operation for over 22 years. And, these aircraft need to be phased out for safety and security reasons. The Government and the Alliance Air have taken note

of this point and already ten new modern ATR 72-600 aircraft have been inducted in the fleet and the old aircraft discarded. But, to the surprise of everyone, no new ATR 72-600 has been allotted for operations in the North-East and the Eastern region of India. One old ATR42 aircraft is still operating from Kolkata to North-Eastern towns of Shillong, Lilabari, Tezpur, Guwahati and Ranchi. Though it is security and safety threat for passengers, Alliance Air is taking the risk in complete disregard to international aviation rules.

Sir, it is clearly evident that the engineering base of ATR aircraft is gradually being shifted from Kolkata to New Delhi and also to Hyderabad. But, Kolkata base is fully capable of inspection, maintenance and repair works of ATR 72-600 aircraft also as it is having skilled and experienced technicians... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, by associating myself with the Zero Hour submission, I wish to say that ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Tapan, you cannot do this. Now, Smt. Chhaya Verma. ...*(Interruptions)*... You repeat your notice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा (छत्तीसगढ़): उपसभापति महोदय, छत्तीसगढ़ के महासमुन्द जिले के जलकी गांव का एक किसान ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, he has not yet completed his submission...*(Interruptions)*...There is still time left, but you have called other hon. Member! ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Oh! Is it not over? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: There were still 36 more seconds...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He should have continued with his submission. ...*(Interruptions)*...What do I do if he stops? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Sir, what did you say? ...*(Interruptions)*... I did not stop; I was continuing with my submissions. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Chhaya Verma, one second. Now, Mr. Hassan to complete. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him complete ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, you have stopped him 36 seconds before. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have seen the clock...*(Interruptions)*... I have seen the Display Board ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time is over. Look there ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Sir, this is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, one second. ...*(Interruptions)*... How can you stop him when his time is still left? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. One second. What is the problem? ...*(Interruptions)*... Time is over ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, there was still some time left. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But, he stopped. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: But, when the Chair intervened, 36 seconds were still available. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You mean to say that he lost 36 seconds?

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Yes. I have seen the Display Board.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He lost 36 seconds! Then, why did he stop? ...*(Interruptions)*... He paused or stopped? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: He did not stop; he paused. That might be the reason you thought that he might have completed ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All the other Members stood up to associate themselves. So, I thought his submission was over. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: That might be the reason you thought that he had completed his submission. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. I understood. ...*(Interruptions)*... Okay. Now, Smt. Chhaya Verma. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: It is jeopardising the future of Kolkata base and the career and survival of the workforce engaged here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why do you disturb? ...*(Interruptions)*... I have called her. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: He has not completed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: So, I request the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation and

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the Government of India to give due importance to Kolkata, the Gateway of Eastern India, and also plan aviation destinations for Buddhist religious tourism centres which are situated at nearby towns. Thank you.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, I associate myself with the Zero Hour submission of Shri Ahamed Hassan. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission of Shri Ahamed Hassan. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM (Meghalaya): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission of Shri Ahamed Hassan. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission of Shri Ahamed Hassan. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why do you disturb? ...(Interruptions)... What should I do? ...(Interruptions)... Should I go and change it? ...(Interruptions)... Smt. Chhaya Verma. ...(Interruptions)...

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा: उपसभापति महोदय, छत्तीसगढ़ के महासमुन्द जिले के जलकी गांव के विष्णु साहू नाम के एक किसान ने अपनी चार एकड़ फॉरेस्ट जमीन नहर बनाने के लिए शासन को दी थी। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Time is over. Mrs. Verma, you repeat your notice; and others also, who have not got the opportunity, may repeat their notices for the next day.

(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question hour. Question No. 211.

Sanctioned work charged posts in Railways

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

(a) whether work charged posts of officers in Railways are being utilized as revenue posts in zonal railways, especially in the newly created zones;

(b) whether all these work charged posts are currently sanctioned or officers are working on these posts beyond the sanctioned period, if so, the details of number of

posts for which sanction has lapsed and the officers are still working thereon; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Ministry to convert the work charged posts, which are in existence for more than three years, to revenue posts?

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

Statement

(a) Revenue posts and Work charged posts co-exist on the Railways and Gazetted officers are posted against these in old as well as newly created Zonal Railways. Revenue posts are posts carrying a definite rate of pay sanctioned without limit of time. Work charged posts are created on 'worth of charge' basis against sanctioned works/ detailed estimates and outlay, for a 'basket of projects' depending on total allotment of funds and yardsticks stipulated by the Efficiency and Research Directorate for the corresponding financial year. The Work charged posts facilitate planning, execution and supervision of various Projects. The existing operation/ maintenance of Railways and project planning, execution and supervision, both in old and newly created zones are managed by officers working against Revenue and Work charged posts respectively.

(b) Work charged Posts are normally created initially for a period of one year and are extended on a year to year basis depending on requirement and allotment of funds. Extension of Work charged posts is done by Competent Authority after due process and scrutiny at various levels. Presently, total number of Work charged gazetted posts in various grades on Indian Railways is 6434. Out of 6434 Work charged posts, currency of 6275 posts have been duly extended. There are only 159 posts for which the process for extension of currency is underway. For payment of salary to the incumbents of these 159 posts, General Managers are authorised to issue Provisional Payment Authority (PPA) to Junior Administrative Grade (JAG) and below posts. For Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) and Higher Administrative Grade (HAG) posts, Provisional Payment Authority is being issued by Railway Board.

(c) There is no provision for conversion of Work charged posts into Revenue posts.

डा. अनिल कुमार साहनी: सभापति जी, वर्ष 2016 के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, भारतीय रेल में 6,833 work charged अधिकारियों के पद थे, जो कुल अधिकारियों का 35 प्रतिशत है। इससे सिद्ध होता है कि work charged पदों का इस्तेमाल regular nature के कार्य में किया जा रहा है, जिसके कारण अन्य अधिकारियों की पदोन्नति बाधित हो रही है।

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

डा. अनिल कुमार साहनी: मैं वहीं आ रहा हूँ, सर। Work charged पदों में ग्रुप-ए का 5,400 रुपए के ग्रेड में, कोई भी पद नहीं है, जिसके कारण ग्रुप-बी के अधिकारियों की पदोन्नति में दिक्कत आ रही है। इन अधिकारियों को 15 से 20 साल तक पदोन्नति नहीं मिल पाती। मैं माननीय रेल मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि ग्रुप-बी के जिन अधिकारियों की पदोन्नति रुकी हुई है, उन्हें next grade में पदोन्नति देने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: महोदय, माननीय सदस्य रेलवे के कार्यकरण के बारे में अच्छी जानकारी रखते हैं, क्योंकि यदि मैं गलत नहीं हूँ, तो शायद कुछ समय उन्होंने रेलवे में काम भी किया था, इसलिए उन्हें अच्छी जानकारी है कि रेलवे में कारोबार कैसे चलता है। रेलवे में दो तरह की posts हैं — एक revenue posts और दूसरी work charged posts. Work charged posts कुछ समय के लिए create की जाती हैं, ज्यादातर एक साल के लिए, जिन्हें कभी-कभी बढ़ाया भी जा सकता है। उसका कारण यह है कि जहाँ projects चल रहे हैं, उन projects को ठीक तरह से चलाने के लिए और लोगों पर निगरानी रखने के लिए ये posts create की जाती हैं, ताकि projects समय पर पूरे हों। मैंने इस प्रश्न के उत्तर में भी बताया है कि हमारे यहाँ जितनी भी posts हैं, वे सभी posts सिर्फ इसी कारण create की गई हैं कि जो रेलवे में जो काम चल रहे हैं, उन पर निगरानी रखी जा सके। आपको शायद यह जानकर खुशी भी होगी कि पहले रेलवे में 35-40 हजार करोड़ रुपए से ज्यादा, विभिन्न projects की implementation के लिए, capital expenditure नहीं दिया जाता था, लेकिन हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी के कार्यकाल में, पिछले तीन सालों में हम लोगों ने capital expenditure को बढ़ाकर लगभग 3,75,000 करोड़ रुपए किया है। इस कारण बड़ी मात्रा में projects भी चल रहे हैं। जब projects चलेंगे तो उन पर निगरानी रखने की भी ज्यादा ज़रूरत होती है। रेलवे की Efficiency and Projects Organization जो निर्णय लेती है, उसके अनुसार projects लिए जाते हैं। आपको संदेह है कि क्या इस वजह से promotions नहीं हो रहे हैं, ऐसा मुझे नहीं लगता। फिर भी, जब आपने कहा है, तो मैं फिर से इसे देख लेता हूँ।

डा. अनिल कुमार साहनी: सभापति जी, मंत्री जी ने मेरे प्रश्न का जो उत्तर दिया, मैं उससे संतुष्ट हूँ। साथ ही SAG के ऊपर के पदों पर, स्वीकृत पदों से अधिक संख्या में अधिकारी तैनात हैं, जिन्हें प्रशिक्षण हेतु अवकाश पर भेजकर समायोजित किया जा रहा है, जिससे रेलवे के राजस्व को क्षति हो रही है। आप किसी भी ज़ोन से इसकी figures मंगाकर देख सकते हैं कि किस ज़ोन में कितनी क्षति हुई है। मुझे यह जानकारी भी प्राप्त हुई है कि जो नए ज़ोन बनाए गए हैं, उनमें ब्रांच अधिकारियों के पद भी work charged पर हैं, जो उचित नहीं है। मेरा प्रश्न है कि इस स्थिति पर ध्यान देकर, क्या ऐसी व्यवस्था की जाएगी जिससे नए सृजित पदों को नियमित पदों में शामिल कर लिया जाए ताकि नए खुले ज़ोन्स में सुचारु रूप से कार्य हो सके?

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: महोदय, पिछले तीन सालों में इस तरह के किसी पद का निर्माण नहीं हुआ है। यह बिल्कुल सही है। मैंने शुरू में कहा कि work charged posts किस कारण create की जाती हैं, लेकिन मैं इतना जरूर कहना चाहता हूँ कि work charged posts को revenue posts में convert नहीं किया जा सकता। It is like an ad hoc arrangement. इससे किसी की job को खतरा होगा, ऐसी स्थिति नहीं है। उनके pay scales भी वैसे ही होते हैं, जो revenue scales में होते हैं। मुझे लगता है कि आपको इसकी चिन्ता करने की जरूरत नहीं है। फिर भी, जैसा आपने कहा है, उस पर हम जरूर ध्यान देंगे।

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of new zones the Government is planning to open under the Railway Ministry. I am asking this because the problem which is being faced cannot be sorted out by opening new zones. What is the Government's plan about that?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, it is completely a different kind of question. I would like to tell the hon. Member that we have noted his suggestion. This is pertaining to the work charged posts and what you are asking is a little different. But, of course, I have noted your concern. We will look into it.

श्री संजय राउत: सर, ये जो वर्क चार्ज पोस्ट्स हैं, ये कोई प्रॉपर पोस्ट्स नहीं हैं। उनमें जिन कर्मचारियों की नियुक्ति होती है, उनकी काफी परेशानियां हैं। उनको छुट्टी नहीं मिलती है, सैंक्शन नहीं होती है और सुविधाएँ नहीं मिलती हैं। यह एक ऐडजस्टमेंट है। कमचारी के जो अधिकार होते हैं, वे भी उनको नहीं मिलते हैं। मंत्री जी ने जो जवाब दिया है, यह कोई परमानेंट सॉल्यूशन नहीं है। मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब आप वहां इंजीनियरिंग, इलेक्ट्रीकल और कंस्ट्रक्शन जैसे डिपार्टमेंट्स से हजारों लोगों की ट्रांसफर करते हैं, तो वहां के जो मूल लोग हैं, उनकी क्षमता का भी नुकसान होता है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इन लोगों का सही इस्तेमाल कैसे हो सकता है और वर्क चार्ज पोस्ट्स की जो समस्याएँ हैं, उनका परमानेंट सॉल्यूशन आप क्या निकाल सकते हैं?

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: सर, सबसे पहले मैं उसके बारे में कुछ चीजें स्पष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। वर्क चार्ज पोस्ट्स ऐसी पोस्ट्स नहीं हैं कि उनमें बाहर से आदमी को लाकर अप्वाइंट किया जाए। हाल ही में काम करने वाले जो अधिकारी हैं, वे अधिकारी उन वर्क चार्ज पोस्ट्स पर ट्रांसफर किए जाते हैं और वहां टेम्परेरली पोस्ट किए जाते हैं, इसलिए ऐसी स्थिति नहीं है। उनकी जो वर्क कंडिशन हैं, उनकी जो सैलरी है, उनको मिलने वाले जो और बेनिफिट्स हैं, उनमें कोई भी कटौती नहीं होती और उसके लिए इस तरह की कोई संभावना नहीं है। जैसा मैंने कहा कि यह व्यवस्था काफी सालों से चल रही है और यह व्यवस्था शायद यह सोचकर बनाई गई थी कि यदि कोई प्रोजेक्ट चल रहा है, तो उस प्रोजेक्ट को चलाने के लिए हर ज़ोन में basket of projects को साथ में लेते हुए, उसके ऊपर अच्छी तरह से निगरानी रखने के लिए यदि इस तरह की एक व्यवस्था बनाई जाए, तो उसका लाभ हो सकता है। लेकिन, इस तरह की स्थिति नहीं है कि उनके वेतनमान या सर्विस कंडिशन में किसी भी तरह की क्षति हो रही हो।

SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Sir, the issue of 'work charged' staff in Railways is an issue which is very old. It has been continuing for many years. You would have noticed that in other Departments of the Government also the 'work charged' staff is a serious issue. Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Railways is deploying any other policy to control this malaise. I would also like to know whether something like benchmarking of manpower productivity ratio is being continuously done. This is a useful tool because it controls the dynamism and the dynamics of the work charge staff. Thank you.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, as I said, these are posts created to meet a particular contingency. Typically, the tenure of this post is one year. Sometimes, it gets extended depending upon the work. But, typically, it is something which is an arrangement made to meet a particular situation. Therefore, this is the contingency which is created. Sir, the hon. Member has asked a very valid point. Let me clarify that these are not temporary workers who are hired; this is not a work charged post. Work charged posts are the same officers posted from one position to another position. They are all gazetted officers. Currently, there are about 12,250 gazetted officers posted like this. They are all gazetted officers; they are not junior officers.

Number two, you asked me what could be a durable arrangement that can be worked out. Sir, if you recall, I had announced in my Railway Budget speech that we will create a project development and project implementation organization. The kind of projects that we are going to implement in Railways are under implementation considering the magnitude, considering the complexities, considering the speed at which they are getting implemented and also considering the requirement of future. If you take all that into consideration, then, we will need, probably, a different kind of organisation. Sir, I would like to inform the House that pursuant to that announcement that was made in my Budget Speech, we are already working out a project development organization. The work is already entrusted to a consultancy which is working on it, and I will inform the House as soon as it is completed. But the point is well taken that we need to think about a completely different organization.

Sir, another point – just to answer the question of the hon. Member -- is, only a few days ago, we had called all our chief construction officers from different zones and I asked them, if possible, we can create a project team, which will complete the project and till that time they will be there so that the responsibility of completion of project will lie particularly on some specific officers because we are seeing that the team gets dismantled, new officers come and they keep blaming each other. So, I asked them, can we take note of that? So, this is another arrangement that we are trying to think about immediately.

Also, Sir, – and last point – what we are thinking about is a reward, that is, an incentive scheme. If you complete the project before time, at less cost, something like an incentive can be worked out. If you delay the project and there is actually a cost or time over-run, then there can be some disincentive which can be worked out. So, this is also something which we are thinking about.

Festive season rebate on handloom products

*212. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scheme of offering 10 per cent rebate on handloom products during festive season was discontinued by the Ministry without any specific reason;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this move by the Ministry has affected the marketability of handloom products; and

(c) if so, whether the Ministry will consider re-introducing the festive season rebate on handloom products?

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

Statement

(a) With a view to reduce inventories/accumulated stocks, a 10% Rebate Scheme was introduced on January 15, 2004 with a provision of ₹ 100 crores to augment marketing of handloom products, particularly in the wake of stiff competition from textiles products of power looms and mill sub sectors. The scheme helped the handlooms sector to market handlooms products of ₹ 957.00 crores and was discontinued on March 31, 2005. Further, the State Governments and handloom organizations had requested for its re-introduction. Accordingly, scheme for reimbursement of one time rebate @ 10% given on sale of handloom products by the handloom agencies was reintroduced on April 01, 2006, for a period of three years, *i.e.* 2006-2009.

(b) and (c) There are several central schemes whereby marketing support is given to weavers. Handloom Marketing Assistance (HMA), one of the components of National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) provides platform to the handloom weavers/agencies to sell their products directly to the consumers. For that financial assistance is provided to weavers for participating in various craft melas held in different parts of the country and to national and state level Handloom organizations to organize the marketing events like National Handloom Expos (NHE) and Special Handloom Expos (SHE) and District Level Events (DLE). In addition, Buyer Seller Meets and workshops etc. are also organized. During the last three years a total no. of 932 marketing events including Buyer Seller Meets and workshops has been organized.

Under Marketing Incentive (MI) scheme, infrastructural facilities are created to facilitate marketing of handloom products. Under the scheme, financial assistance

of 10% of the average sales turnover of the last 3 years is given to the handloom agency for marketing support.

In addition, “India Handloom” Brand (IHB) has been launched for branding of high quality handloom products. As on 30.06.2017, a total sale of ₹ 159 crores has been reported on account of IHB products. “India Handloom” Brand has partnered with various retails stores, to showcase and sell the exclusive IHB items from their stores. So far, a sale of ₹ 3.65 crores has been reported from IHB retails stores as on 30.06.2017. 20 e-commerce entities have also been engaged for on-line marketing of handloom products. As on 30.06.2017, total sales of ₹ 10.62 crores has been generated from online portal on account of online marketing of handloom products.

श्री दिलीप कुमार तिरकी: सभापति महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर आया ही नहीं है। हैंडलूम पर रिबेट खत्म होने से मार्केट पर क्या असर होगा? लेकिन क्या गवर्नमेंट अवेयर है कि 10 साल से हैंडलूम सैक्टर में एम्प्लॉइज की संख्या 65 लाख से घटकर 43 लाख हो गई है? सबसे बड़ी बात यह है कि एग्रीकल्चर के बाद हैंडलूम सैक्टर में सबसे ज्यादा एम्प्लॉइज हैं। लेकिन हैंडलूम सैक्टर पर आज की तारीख में 3,000 करोड़ रुपए का कर्ज है, लोन लिया गया है, जिस कारण आज भी हमारे हैंडलूम वीवर्स सुइसाइड कर रहे हैं। अब इस पर जीएसटी लगाने से इसकी हालत और खराब हो गई है। मंत्री महोदय से मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि हैंडलूम को जीएसटी से बाहर रखने के बारे में आपका क्या विचार है?

श्री अजय टम्टा: सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य महोदय ने हैंडलूम पर काम करने वाले लोगों की संख्या पर चिंता व्यक्त की है। हथकरघा क्षेत्र में काम को बढ़ावा देने के लिए विभिन्न प्रकार की योजनाओं का संचालन केंद्र सरकार के माध्यम से लगातार नियमित किया जा रहा है और यह सैक्टर और आगे बढ़े इस निमित्त समूह के गठन के माध्यम से और जो हमारे वीवर्स हैं, उनको अधिकतम सुविधा हम सरकार के माध्यम से देते हैं, चाहे वह एजुकेशनल सुविधा है, चाहे उनके हैंडलूम को अपग्रेड करने की सुविधा है, चाहे उनके इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर से संबंधित मुद्रा बैंक के माध्यम से है — हम उनको हर संभव सहयोग देते हैं। आपने जिस प्रकार से जीएसटी का जिक्र अपने प्रश्न में किया है, समूची टेक्सटाइल्स इण्डस्ट्री में जीएसटी का — खास तौर से हैंडलूम के सैक्टर में कोई असर नहीं पड़ा है, चूंकि अधिकांश बुनकर समुदाय जीएसटी की लिमिट से बाहर हैं, क्योंकि इसका जो टर्न ओवर है वह 20 लाख रुपए से अधिक है, और 20 लाख के अंतर्गत कोई भी वीवर्स नहीं आते हैं। दूसरे, चूंकि अधिकतर बुनकर बन्धु जॉब वर्क के माध्यम से खरीद करते हैं और बड़े व्यापारी उनको कच्चा माल प्रदान करते हैं या सर्विस सेंटर के माध्यम से मिलता है, उनका अधिकतम दैनिक मेहनताना या उनकी मजदूरी भी जीएसटी के अंतर्गत नहीं आती। अगर बड़े बुनकर और व्यापारी, जो निर्धारित मात्रा में अधिक टर्न ओवर करते हैं, वे जीएसटी के दायरे में आ सकते हैं। उन्हें जीएसटी में जोड़ कर बिल बनाने में कोई परेशानी का सामना नहीं करना पड़ेगा। अतः मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं कि बुनकरों के बारे में जो आपने शंका व्यक्त की है, वह सही नहीं है।

श्री दिलीप कुमार तिरकी: पहले तो हैंडलूम टैक्स के अंतर्गत बिल्कुल नहीं आता था, लेकिन अब यह जीएसटी के अंदर आ रहा है, जिससे वे लोग काफी परेशान हैं, इसीलिए मैं कह रहा

था। मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि जीएसटी के बाद मार्केट में दाम काफी बढ़ गया है। पहले जो रिबेट स्कीम थी, उसको क्या दोबारा फेस्टिवल के दौरान इम्प्लीमेंट करेंगे?

श्री अजय टम्टा: सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने अपने प्रश्न में भी यह बोला था कि पहले 10 परसेंट की रिबेट — पहले से संचित स्टॉक को देखते हुए 15 जनवरी, 2004 से लेकर 31 मार्च, 2005 तक शुरू की गई थी। इसके लिए 100 करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान भी किया गया था और 957 करोड़ रुपया इसमें दिया भी था। चूंकि राज्यों ने और हमारे हथकरघा संगठनों ने इसको पुनः आरम्भ करने की मांग की थी, 1 अप्रैल, 2006 से लेकर 2009 तक इसको पुनः आरम्भ किया गया। आपने इसको पुनः शुरू करने के बारे में कहा है, वह बिल्कुल ठीक कहा है। चूंकि आज की स्थिति को देखते हुए, बुनकरों के लिए जो हमारे राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम चलते हैं, वे विकास के कार्यक्रम एनएसडीपी के माध्यम से, हथकरघा विपणन समूह के माध्यम से, मेलों के माध्यम से चलते हैं। इसके अलावा हमने ई-कामर्स के माध्यम से भी 20 ई-पोर्टल्स को काम दिया है। मैं आपके सामने इनके आंकड़ों को भी प्रस्तुत करना चाहूंगा।

माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के माध्यम से 7 अगस्त, 2015 को "इंडिया हैंडलूम ब्रॉड" को लांच किया है। "इंडिया हैंडलूम ब्रॉड" के माध्यम से भी मार्केटिंग का शुभारम्भ हमारे देश में हुआ है। हम हैंडलूम वीवर्स को भी ई-पोर्टल के माध्यम से सीधे जनता से जोड़ने का काम कर रहे हैं। आज की युवा पीढ़ी अपनी इच्छानुसार खरीद-फरोख्त पर जोर दे रही है। युवा पीढ़ी अपनी इच्छानुसार कहीं से भी बैठकर हैंडलूम वीवर्स से उनके उत्पादन को खरीद सकती है। पिछली बार हमने ई-पोर्टल को लांच किया था और आज इसके माध्यम से 10.62 करोड़ रुपये की बिक्री की जा चुकी है। वीवर्स और अधिक आगे बढ़ें, इसके लिए हम कई प्रकार से उनको सहयोग कर रहे हैं। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के विज्ञान के अनुसार हमने "इंडिया हैंडलूम ब्रॉड" को "जीआई ब्रॉड" के रूप में अलग से निकाला है। हमने बहुत प्रकार की योजनाएं वीवर्स के अनुरूप बनाई हैं, जिससे देश में अंतिम पंक्ति में खड़े व्यक्ति को और अधिक रोजगार सुलभ हो सकें और अपने देश का ब्रॉड पूरे विश्व में आगे जाये, इस दिशा में सरकार लगातार काम कर रही है।

श्री हुसैन दलवाई: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि गवर्नमेंट ने 6,000 करोड़ रुपये का पैकेज टेक्साइल सेक्टर को दिया है, क्या वह फंड रिलीज हो गया है? अगर फंड रिलीज हो गया है, तो कहां-कहां पर हो गया है?

श्री अजय टम्टा: चूंकि यह प्रश्न हैंडलूम के विपणन से संबंधित था, मगर जो आपने प्रश्न पूछा है, उसकी जानकारी मुझे है। चूंकि 6,000 करोड़ रुपये का पैकेज पूरी टेक्साइल इंडस्ट्री के लिए था, खासतौर पर apparel garments, ATUFS के उत्थान के लिए है। उस पर जो भी अपग्रेडेशन है, अत्याधुनिक टेक्नोलॉजी है, उसकी मार्केटिंग है, इस दिशा में हमने कार्य का शुभारम्भ किया है। इस दिशा में हमारे कार्य विभिन्न प्रांतों में संचालित हो रहे हैं।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: माननीय सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा कि हैंडलूम उद्योग को छोटे लोग चला रहे हैं। जब से चीन का मार्केट बढ़ा है, तब से उनके लिए बहुत बुरी पर स्थिति पैदा हो गई है। अब उनके ऊपर जीएसटी भी लगा दिया गया है। कल वे लोग मुझसे मिले भी थे। वे लोग मांग कर रहे थे कि उनके ऊपर से जीएसटी हटाया जाए। मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूं कि जब आप स्वदेशी अभियान पर इतना जोर दे

रहे हैं, प्रधान मंत्री जी का भी नारा है और बीजेपी का भी नारा है, तो क्या उस स्वदेशी अभियान के तहत जैसे आप खादी पर छूट देते हैं — एक महीने, दो महीने वैसे ही आप हैंडलूम पर छूट देंगे? जैसा कि आपने बताया कि 2005 से हैंडलूम पर छूट बंद है, तो उनके लिए बिजली मुफ्त कर दीजिए या बिजली पर 50 परसेंट की छूट दे दीजिए या खादी की तरह हैंडलूम पर भी 20 प्रतिशत की सालभर की छूट दे दीजिए, ऐसा करने से शायद हैंडलूम उद्योग जिंदा हो जाएगा। क्या हैंडलूम वीवर्स के ऊपर से आप जीएसटी हटाने की घोषणा करेंगे? क्या आप उनको कुछ छूट देने की घोषणा करेंगे?

श्री अजय टम्टा: सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने हैंडलूम वीवर्स के बारे में काफी चिंता व्यक्त की है, हमारी सरकार भी चिंतित है और उस दिशा में निरन्तर काम भी कर रही है। माननीय सदस्य ने बिजली मुफ्त देने या उस पर 50 परसेंट की छूट देने के बारे में पूछा है। चूंकि यह हैंडलूम से संबंधित प्रश्न है, पॉवरलूम में बिजली की आवश्यकता होती है, मगर हैंडलूम पर भी वीवर्स पार्ट टाइम काम कर सकें, उनका काम प्रभावित न हो, उसके लिए सोलर ऊर्जा की सुविधा हम प्रदान करते हैं। ऐसा हम पॉवरलूम में भी करते हैं। मगर प्रश्न हैंडलूम का है। हम पॉवरलूम सेक्टर में भी 90 परसेंट सब्सिडी शैड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स के क्षेत्र में सोलर के माध्यम से जोड़कर देते हैं और 75 परसेंट की सब्सिडी शैड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स के क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत सोलर के माध्यम से जोड़कर पॉवरलूम को देते हैं।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सब से ज्यादा minorities पॉवरलूम से जुड़ी हैं।

श्री अजय टम्टा: और सामान्य वर्ग के लोगों के लिए भी 50 प्रतिशत की छूट सोलर के माध्यम से है। वे लगभग साढ़े 5 लाख रुपए तक का सोलर का पैनल पॉवरलूम में लगा सकते हैं। महोदय, चूंकि यह प्रश्न भी हैंडलूम के विपणन से संबंधित है, फिर भी मैंने आपको यह जानकारी अतिरिक्त दी है। मगर राष्ट्रीय हैंडलूम ब्रांड को पहली बार इस सरकार ने प्रारंभ किया है, ताकि वीवर्स को काम मिले और कमजोर वर्ग के लिए ही माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने 7 अगस्त, 2015 को चेन्नई में इस की शुरुआत की है। दूसरा कार्यक्रम हमने वाराणसी में पिछली 7 तारीख को किया है और इस बार 7 अगस्त को गोवाहाटी में, पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र के अंदर करने जा रहे हैं, ताकि वीवर्स को हर प्रकार से सुविधा हो और अंतिम पंक्ति में खड़े व्यक्ति का विकास हो और उसे काम मिले। इस दिशा में सरकार प्रयासरत है। इसके लिए हम उसे यार्न की सब्सिडी भी लगातार दे रहे हैं। महोदय, मैं आपके ध्यान में पुनः लाना चाहता हूं कि जीएसटी के अंतर्गत हैंडलूम वीवर्स नहीं हैं।

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Sir, everyone knows that handloom industry is a cottage industry which gives livelihood to the rural people. So, the rural population is dependent on handloom as their source of livelihood. As one person cannot carry out the entire process of production of these textile goods, we are looking at you for a complete waiver of GST in the textile sector which does manufacturing under the job work basis, that is, different stages are done at different levels. At every stage, 5 per cent tax is being imposed as GST. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the handloom industry which is mainly doing the job work can be totally waived from the GST.

श्री अजय टम्टा: महोदय, माननीय सदस्या ने हैंडलूम वीवर्स के बारे में चिंता प्रकट की है और कहा कि एक कपड़े को तैयार करने के लिए कई वर्ष लग जाते हैं। इसी चिंता को ध्यान में रखकर हमारे Common Facility Centre के माध्यम से जो समूह काम करता है, मिल से यार्न को उसके घर तक पहुंचाने में जो भी खर्चा लगता है, वह सरकार उसे मुफ्त में देती है, उसका उससे कोई चार्ज नहीं लेती। साथ-ही-साथ उसे जो यार्न मिलता है, उस पर उसे 10 परसेंट की subsidy भी दी जाती है। ऐसे ही जो डिपो संचालन करता है, भारत सरकार के माध्यम से उसे भी 2 परसेंट खर्च दिया जाता है। उसका उत्पादन बढ़े, वह आगे जाए, इसके लिए उसे मार्केट में भेजने के लिए भी खर्च दिया जाता है। अगर आप अनुमति दें, तो मैं उन मार्केट्स के नाम यहां बता सकता हूं। महोदय, चाहे वह सूरजकुंड का मेला है, राजस्थान सरकार का शिल्पग्राम मेला है, आंध्र प्रदेश में शिल्पारामम, नामित एजेंसी है, तेलंगाना में नामित एजेंसी शिल्पारामम है, ताज महोत्सव, आगरा उत्तर प्रदेश में है और शिल्पग्राम, नामित एजेंसी, मध्यप्रदेश है, तोशाली, नामित एजेंसी ओडिशा में है। इन मेलों पर ले जाने में सहयोग के लिए भी केंद्र सरकार 12 लाख रुपए की सहयोग राशि देती है और भागीदारों को निशुल्क स्टॉल दिए जाते हैं, ताकि वे अपने माल को वहां बेच सकें, वह भी हम कर रहे हैं। महोदय, हम अभी 2017 में भागीदार टीए/डीए और मालभाड़ा प्रभार की क्षतिपूर्ति भी शुरू करने जा रहे हैं ताकि वीवर खुद को और अपने माल को इन मेलों तक पहुंचा सके। महोदय, मैं पुनः दोहराना चाहूंगा कि यह प्रश्न हैंडलूम से संबंधित है और हैंडलूम पर जीएसटी नहीं है क्योंकि वे 20 लाख से ऊपर के वर्ग में नहीं आते।

छत्तीसगढ़ में बीज बैंकों की स्थापना

*213. **श्री राम विचार नेताम:** क्या कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) छत्तीसगढ़ में चल रहे सरकारी बीज बैंकों का क्षेत्र-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या सरकार का जिला/ब्लॉक/मंडल स्तर पर बीज बैंकों की स्थापना करने तथा इन्हें बढ़ावा देने का कोई प्रस्ताव है, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने बीज बैंकों तक किसानों की सुगम पहुंच की स्थिति का पता लगाने के लिए कोई अध्ययन कराया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और इसका क्या परिणाम निकला है तथा इस संबंध में कार्यक्रमों की सफलता/असफलता संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

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

विवरण

(क) छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य में एक बीज बैंक अर्थात् छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य बीज एवं कृषि विकास निगम लि० रायपुर का संचालन किया जा रहा है। यह बीज बैंक दो स्थानों अर्थात् बसना, जिला महसमंद एवं रोबंदा, जिला दुर्ग में बीजों का रखरखाव करता है। यह बीज बैंक बाढ़, सूखे आदि जैसी आपातकालीन स्थिति के दौरान किसानों को बीज की आपूर्ति करता है। राष्ट्रीय बीज रिजर्व के तहत छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य बीज एवं कृषि विकास निगम के द्वारा रखरखाव किए गए एवं आबंटित

बीजों की मात्रा का वर्ष-वार विवरण इस प्रकार है—

क्र.सं	वर्ष	आबंटित मात्रा (क्विं. में)	अनुरक्षित मात्रा (क्विं. में)
1.	2012-13	5000	5000
2.	2013-14	7000	7000
3.	2014-15	6000	6000
4.	2015-16	6000	5000
5.	2016-17	6000	6000
6.	2017-18	6000	6000

(ख) वर्तमान में सरकार का जिला स्तर, ब्लाक स्तर, मंडल स्तर पर नए बीज बैंक खोलने का कोई विचार नहीं है।

(ग) और (घ) बीज बैंकों की स्थापना एवं रखरखाव सहित गुणवत्तायुक्ति बीजों के उत्पादन और वितरण के लिए आधारभूत सुविधाओं के विकास और सुदृढ़ीकरण संबंधी केंद्रीय क्षेत्र की स्कीम का मूल्यांकन करने के लिए नवंबर, 2007 में भारतीय प्रबंधन संस्थान, कलकत्ता द्वारा एक अध्ययन किया गया है। इस रिपोर्ट में यह सिफारिश की गई है कि कृषि, सहकारिता एवं किसान कल्याण विभाग जोखिम प्रवण क्षेत्रों का पता लगाएगा तथा कमियों को पूरा करने के लिए बीजों की कुल अपेक्षित मात्रा की गणना करने के साथ-साथ बीज बैंकों की स्थापना करने के लिए सुगम संपर्क कारकों को ध्यान में रखते हुए तुलनात्मक दृष्टि से जोखिम रहित क्षेत्रों में स्थानों का चयन करेगा। इस रिपोर्ट में यह भी सुझाव दिया गया है कि बीज बैंकों के नेटवर्क का नियंत्रण राष्ट्रीय बीज निगम या राज्य कृषि विभाग जैसे — एकल अभिकरणों के माध्यम से कृषि, सहकारिता एवं किसान कल्याण विभाग करेगा तथा देश में बीज बैंकों के प्रबंधन में राज्य बीज निगम प्रमुख भूमिका निभाएगा। राज्य सरकारों के बीज बैंक राष्ट्रीय आपदा की स्थिति में अपनी आवश्यकताओं के अनुरूप प्रत्येक वर्ष बीजों की मात्रा को आरक्षित कर रहे हैं।

Establishment of seed banks in Chhattisgarh

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

(a) the details of the operational Government seed banks in Chhattisgarh, zone-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to establish and encourage the seed banks at district level, block-level and zonal level, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted any study to ascertain the position with regard to easy access of farmers to seed banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the result thereof and details of the success/failure of the programmes related thereto?

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) There is one seed bank functioning in the State of Chhattisgarh viz., Chhattisgarh Rajya Beej Evam Krishi Vikas Nigam Limited, Raipur which maintains seeds at two locations namely Basna, District Mahasamund and Ruabandha, District Durg. This seed bank supplies seeds to the farmers during contingency situations like flood, drought etc. The year-wise details of the quantity of seeds allotted and maintained by Chhattisgarh Rajya Beej Evam Krishi Vikas Nigam under National Seed Reserve is as under:—

Sl. No.	Year	Quantity allotted (in quintals)	Quantity maintained (in quintals)
1.	2012-13	5000	5000
2.	2013-14	7000	7000
3.	2014-15	6000	6000
4.	2015-16	6000	5000
5.	2016-17	6000	6000
6.	2017-18	6000	6000

(b) At present, there is no proposal with the Government to open new seed banks at district, block and zonal levels.

(c) and (d) A study has been conducted by the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta in November, 2007 for evaluation of the Central Sector Scheme on Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds which included establishment and maintenance of Seed Banks. The report recommended that the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare identify risk prone areas and calculate total seed requirement to cater to exigencies and earmark places in relatively risk free zones, taking into account connectivity factors for setting up of seed banks. The report further suggested that the network of Seed Banks should be under the control of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare through a single agency like National Seed Corporation or State Department of Agriculture, and that the State Seed Corporations act as nodes in the management of the seed banks in the country. The

seeds banks of State Governments have been reserving quantities of seed every year as per their assessment of requirements in the event of natural calamities.

श्री राम विचार नेताम: सभापति महोदय, मैं आभारी हूँ कि आज मुझे कृषि से संबंधित प्रश्न करने का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ है। सभापति महोदय, यह किसानों से संबंधित प्रश्न है। किसानों को समय पर बीज कैसे उपलब्ध हो, खासकर जब प्राकृतिक आपदा आती है, ऐसी स्थिति में संबंधित राज्य के पास जो उपलब्ध संसाधन हैं जो कृषि बैंक केंद्र हैं, उन केंद्रों के माध्यम से संबंधित क्षेत्रों में किसानों के लिए बीज उपलब्ध कराया जाता है। माननीय मंत्री द्वारा जो उत्तर दिया गया है, मैं उससे संतुष्ट हूँ, लेकिन फिर भी मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि फसल उत्पादन में वृद्धि के विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों में उन्नत बीज एवं महत्वपूर्ण कृषि निवेश है। यदि बीज खराब है, तो शेष अन्य साधनों, उर्वरक व सिंचाई आदि पर किसानों का किया गया व्यय बेकार चला जाता है।

श्री सभापति: आपका प्रश्न क्या है?

श्री राम विचार नेताम: महोदय, मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के निकटवर्ती क्षेत्रों में उच्च गुणवत्ता युक्त बीजों की उपलब्धता न होने के कारण भी औसत उपज में कमी आती है? मैं दूसरा प्रश्न भी पूछ लेता हूँ।

श्री सभापति: आप एक बार में एक ही प्रश्न पूछ सकते हैं।

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा पंचायती राज्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री परशोत्तम रुपाला): महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने चिंता जताई है और बीज बैंकों के बारे में जानना चाहा है, इसलिए मैं बताना चाहूंगा कि भारत में आपात स्थिति से निपटने के लिए देश की जो भी आवश्यकता है, उसका एक प्रतिशत रिजर्व बीज पूरे देश के लिए रखा जाता है। केंद्रीय योजना के तहत ऐसे कुल 21 केंद्र हैं, जिनमें बीज सुरक्षित रखे जाते हैं। राज्य में जो रूटिन में बीज उपलब्ध होते हैं और देश में बाढ़ व सूखा पड़ने व आपदा की स्थिति में यदि यह चैनल टूट जाता है, तो बीज बैंकों के माध्यम से उस राज्य के किसानों को बीज उपलब्ध कराए जाते हैं। इस वर्ष सभी राज्यों के साथ जब बीजों की आवश्यकता के बारे में बैठक की गई थी, तो उस समय सभी प्रांतों की ओर से 140 लाख क्विंटल बीजों की आवश्यकता बताई गई थी। उसके उपलक्ष्य में हमारे पास 153 लाख क्विंटल बीज उपलब्ध है और किसी भी प्रांत से बीजों की कमी की कोई सूचना नहीं है।

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: एक विषय यह भी है कि ट्रेनिंग की क्या व्यवस्था है, तो हम राष्ट्रीय कृषि विस्तार एवं टेक्नोलॉजी मिशन के तहत राज्यों को पैसा देते हैं तथा अच्छी पैदावार की व्यवस्था भी करते हैं और ट्रेनिंग भी देते हैं। इस कार्य के लिए हर राज्य को प्रतिवर्ष धनराशि दी जाती है।

श्री राम विचार नेताम: सभापति महोदय, मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि प्रायः देखने को मिलता है कि किसानों को जो बीज दिए होते हैं, उन बीजों के बारे में बहुत सारी शिकायतें आती हैं जैसे, गुणवत्ताविहीन बीज हैं। किसान की जितनी उपज होनी चाहिए, गुणवत्ता खराब होने की वजह से उतनी उपज नहीं होती है। अंत में किसान कर्ज में डूब जाता है और विवश होकर उसको आत्महत्या तक करने का दुस्साहसिक निर्णय लेना पड़ता है।

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार द्वारा बीजों की गुणवत्ता के

संबंध में कोई नियंत्रण प्रणाली तैयार की गई है, ताकि खराब बीजों के वितरण को रोका जाए और जो बीज विक्रेता इस प्रकार के घटिया बीजों का वितरण कर रहा है, उसके खिलाफ उचित कार्यवाही की जा सके। इसी के साथ...

श्री सभापति: एक समय में एक सवाल ही पूछें। मंत्री जी, जवाब दीजिए।

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: महोदय, बीजों की क्वालिटी को नियंत्रित करने के लिए कानून हैं और बीज कानूनों को लागू करना राज्य सरकारों की जिम्मेदारी है तथा इसका एक विशाल नेटवर्क भी है। बीज की क्वालिटी का निर्धारण करने के लिए, बीज परीक्षण मुख्य पहलू है। उसके मुताबिक राज्य सरकार को राज्य में एक या एक से अधिक राज्य बीज परीक्षण प्रयोगशाला स्थापित करने की शक्तियाँ प्रदान करता है। वह कानून है। इसके तहत आज देश में राज्यों के पास 124 प्रयोगशालाएँ हैं और 2 केंद्रीय प्रयोगशालाएँ, जिनमें से एक बनारस में और दूसरी नागपुर में है। इनके माध्यम से, हम राज्यों के सहयोग से उसको नियंत्रित करते हैं। कानून के अंतर्गत इसके जो प्रावधान हैं, उन प्रावधानों में उनके लिए सजा भी रखी गई है।

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा: सभापति जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहती हूँ कि छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य में केवल दो ही बीज बैंक हैं। सोसायटी के माध्यम से किसान बीज खरीदकर ले जाता है, लेकिन उस बीज का सोसायटी में ठीक से रखरखाव नहीं होने के कारण उसकी गुणवत्ता में कमी आती है और वह किसानों को लेट भी मिलता है। जिस समय किसानों को इसकी जरूरत होती है, उस समय बीज सोसायटी में नहीं मिलता है। इस कारण से किसान को खुली मार्केट में इसको बहुत महंगे दाम पर लेना पड़ता है। जब यह सोसायटी में आता है, तब गुणवत्ताविहीन होता है। मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या मंत्री जी हर सोसायटी में बहुत अच्छे बीज देंगे और आपने इसके रखरखाव को ठीक करने के लिए आपने क्या मानक तैयार किए हैं?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: सभापति जी, राष्ट्रीय बीज बैंक एक अलग विषय है। बीज राज्य सरकारों के माध्यम से किसानों के बीच पहुंचता है। वे यह बीज राज्य सरकार या भारतीय बीज निगम के माध्यम से लें या प्राइवेट संस्था से लें, यह उन पर निर्भर करता है। मैंने इसके लिए पहले भी कहा है कि यदि वह बीज खराब क्वालिटी का है तो पूरे राज्य के पास उसकी जांच करने की शक्ति है और उसके रखरखाव की व्यवस्था भी राज्य सरकार को ही करनी है। जो बीज बैंक है, उसमें पूरे देश में, प्रति वर्ष, जो कुल अनुमानित बीज की लागत है, उसका कम से कम 1 प्रतिशत रिज़र्व रखना पड़ता है। अभी 2017-18 में बीज की अनुमानित लागत 353 लाख क्विंटल थी। यह बीज बैंक इसलिए होता है, ताकि उसमें कम से कम 1 प्रतिशत रिज़र्व रहे और यदि कोई आपदा आ गई, तो राज्य उसमें से उस बीज का उपयोग करे। मैं यह जानकारी देना चाहूंगा कि इस वर्ष के लिए, बीज बैंक के अंदर 4 लाख, 85 हजार क्विंटल तक रिज़र्व है। यह खरीफ में 15 अगस्त तक और रबी में 21 दिसंबर तक रिज़र्व रहेगा। यदि कोई आपदा आ जाती है और पूरा बीज समाप्त हो जाता है तब इसका उपयोग करते हैं। एक तरह से बीज बैंक को contingency की तरह लेना है और आपदा आने पर बीज देना है। मैं तीन वर्षों का आंकड़ा देख रहा था, जिसमें मैंने देखा कि इसका उपयोग सिर्फ केरल राज्य में हुआ है। 15 अगस्त के बाद अभी तक किसी राज्य को इसकी जरूरत नहीं पड़ी है, लेकिन हर राज्य, अर्थात् 21 राज्यों के पास, राज्य स्तर पर बीज बैंक हैं और पांच क्षेत्रों में पांच राष्ट्रीय बीज बैंक भी हैं। इसके माध्यम से केरल सरकार आपदा की स्थिति में, contingency के रूप में पिछले तीन सालों से इसका

उपयोग कर रही है। हम रखरखाव के लिए भी राज्यों को पैसा देते हैं। 15 अगस्त के बाद, यदि बीज बचे होंगे, तो वे कम कीमत पर बिकेंगे और हम इसमें राज्य के बीज बैंक को 10 फीसदी की सहायता भी देंगे।

श्री अमर सिंह: सभापति जी, धन्यवाद। ज्यादातर सदस्यों ने जो बैंक बीजों के लिए बना है, उसके लिए अमूमन एक ही बात कही है कि उसकी गुणवत्ता ठीक नहीं है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से केवल एक ही प्रश्न पूछना चाहूंगा कि पूरे सदन में, लगभग सभी प्रश्नों द्वारा यह प्रतिध्वनित है कि इसकी गुणवत्ता ठीक नहीं है। सर, अगर गुणवत्ता ही ठीक नहीं है, तो बीज बैंक का औचित्य ही क्या है? मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि बीज बैंक सीमित जगहों पर क्यों है? क्या पूरे देश में डिस्ट्रिक्ट, ब्लॉक और मंडल लेवल पर इसको विस्तारित करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो कहा है, मैं उसके लिए बताना चाहता हूँ कि प्रति वर्ष, जो अनुमानित बीज लगने की संभावना है, उसका 1 प्रतिशत बीज बैंक में रिज़र्व रहता है। मैं आपको आंकड़े भी बताऊंगा कि इसको सभी राज्यों के पास प्रति वर्ष रिज़र्व किया जाता है। तीन वर्षों के अंदर अभी सिर्फ केरल में इसका उपयोग हुआ है। क्वालिटी जांच के लिए, क्वालिटी कंट्रोल के लिए राज्यों के पास 124 प्रयोगशालाएँ हैं और पांच क्षेत्रों में भारत सरकार की पांच प्रयोगशालाएँ भी हैं, जिनके माध्यम से यह कंट्रोल होता है। मुख्यतः यह राज्य सरकार का विषय है, राज्य इसको अपनी प्रयोगशाला में test करते हैं, लेकिन जरूरत पड़ने पर इसको हमारी जो दो प्रयोगशालाएँ हैं, उनमें भेजते हैं।

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Sir, with the modernisation of agriculture, agricultural practices and cropping patterns changed, and genetic diversity started getting lost. This has affected the genetic ways of traditional seed varieties. Usage of traditional seed varieties is slowly getting reduced considerably and several traditional seed varieties are now facing extinction. I would like to know from the hon. Minister: What steps is the Government taking to encourage the farmers to save and use traditional seed varieties since they are more compatible with the local farming conditions?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य को यह बताना चाहूंगा कि जो पादप किस्म और किसान अधिकार प्राधिकरण है, उसके अंदर एक सामुदायिक बीज बैंक भी है। इससे किसान और किसान समुदाय बेहद लाभान्वित होते हैं, क्योंकि उनके द्वारा ट्रेडिशनल किस्मों के संरक्षण एवं उन्हें सुरक्षित रखने के साथ ही सामुदायिक बीज बैंक के माध्यम से किसानों को बीज एवं प्रारंभिक किस्मों की प्रजाति उपलब्ध कराई जाती है। इसका एक बैंक यहीं दिल्ली में है। इस सामुदायिक बीज बैंक के अंदर जो ट्रेडिशनल बीज हैं, जो लुप्त हो रहे हैं, उनको न सिर्फ जमा किया जाता है बल्कि उनका उत्पादन कैसे बढ़े, इसकी भी योजना होती है। इसके साथ ही ऐसे किसान पुरस्कृत भी किए जाते हैं, इस वर्ष भी पुरस्कृत किए गए हैं। इसके लिए हम किसान को वार्षिक आधार पर पादप जीनोम संरक्षण किसान पुरस्कार देते हैं, जो अधिकतम दस होते हैं। ये वार्षिक आधार पर दिए जाए हैं, जिसमें प्रत्येक पुरस्कार की राशि डेढ़ लाख रुपए होती है। इसके साथ ही हम प्रशस्ति पत्र और मेमेंटो भी देते हैं। इसके अलावा बीस पादप जीनोम संरक्षक कृषक मान्यता पुरस्कार में एक-एक लाख रुपए की नगद राशि भी दी जाती है। कहने का मतलब,

कुल मिलाकर हमारे जो ट्रेडिशनल बीज लुप्त हो रहे हैं, उनके संरक्षण के लिए यहां पर व्यवस्था है, ऐसे किसानों को प्रोत्साहित करने की भी व्यवस्था है और ईनाम देने के कारण किसानों का आकर्षण इन्हें सुरक्षित रखने और उनका उत्पादन बढ़ाने की ओर बढ़ रहा है।

Re-operationalising the Sindri fertilizer plant

*214. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the fertilizer plant at Sindri is likely to be re-operationalised;

(b) the details of further developments since November, 2016 with regard to removal of encroachments, based on FIR lodged and orders passed under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971; and

(c) whether any policy/plan has been proposed to take care of the descendants of land losers while commencing operations of said fertilizer plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) The fertilizer plant at Sindri is likely to be commissioned by September, 2020.

(b) 167 eviction orders have been passed against unauthorized occupiers after November, 2016. Cases of unauthorized encroachment of land by building temporary 'gumti'/shops and other unauthorized construction have been initiated in 20 cases by filing FIRs in the Police Station after November, 2016. The matter is being followed up with the District Administration for removal of encroachment eviction.

(c) No plan has been envisaged with regard to descendants of land losers, as the land was acquired in the year 1952 and such cases have already been addressed. There is no new land loser.

श्री संजीव कुमार: सभापति महोदय, सिंदरी फर्टिलाइजर प्लांट को आनन-फानन में बंद कर दिया गया था और जब इसे बंद किया गया था तो सरकार ने कोई ठोस कारण नहीं दिया था कि इसे क्यों बंद किया गया था? महोदय, अभी यूरिया की जितनी कमी है, इसको देखते हुए मैंने बार-बार इस सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित किया था कि सिंदरी फर्टिलाइजर प्लांट जो झारखंड की लाइफलाइन है, उसको खोलना चाहिए। सरकार ने बात मानी और सिंदरी फर्टिलाइजर प्लांट को खोलने के लिए तैयार हो गई और इसके लिए सरकार ने समय-सीमा दी है कि 2020 तक सिंदरी फर्टिलाइजर प्लांट को खोलकर चालू किया जाएगा। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना

चाहता हूँ कि सिन्दरी फर्टिलाइजर प्लांट खोलने के बाद जो वहां के लोग हैं, जिन्होंने सिंदरी फर्टिलाइजर प्लांट चालू करने के लिए हजारों एकड़ जमीन दी थी, उन लोगों के जो वंशज हैं, क्या उनको नौकरी में प्राथमिकता देने की सरकार की कोई मंशा है?

श्री मनसुख एल. मांडविया: माननीय सभापति महोदय, सरकार की कटिबद्धता किसानों के प्रति है और उसको फुलफिल करने के लिए सरकार ने निर्णय लिया है कि रामागुंडम, तालचेर, गोरखपुर, सिंदरी और बरौनी, इन पांच फर्टिलाइजर प्लांट्स को रिवाइव करना है। उसमें सिंदरी एक पुराना फर्टिलाइजर प्लांट है, जो श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी जी ने 1952 में देश में फर्टिलाइजर उपलब्ध कराने के लिए दिया था। जब 1952 में यह प्लांट लगाया गया था, तो उस वक्त जिन किसानों की जमीन ली गई थी, आज उनकी तीसरी पीढ़ी चल रही है, लेकिन जब उनकी जमीन ली गई थी तब समय-समय पर उनको कंपनसेशन भी दिया गया था, उनके परिवार के लोगों को उस वक्त जॉब भी दी गई थी और 2002 में जब प्लांट बंद हुआ था तब भी सभी को वीआरएस दिया गया था। अब जब यह प्लांट रिवाइवल हो रहा है, आज उनके परिवार से या कई लोगों को, जब इतना बड़ा प्लांट लगता है, तो शायद दस-पंद्रह हजार नए लोगों को रोजगार मिलने जा रहा है, तब न केवल उनके परिवार, लेकिन सारे सिन्दरी विस्तार के लोगों को अच्छी तरह से रोजगार भी मिलेगा और यह प्लांट शुरू होने से देश के फर्टिलाइजर सेक्टर में 13 लाख मीट्रिक टन का उत्पादन भी बढ़ेगा।

श्री संजीव कुमार: महोदय, जिस समय वहां पर सिंदरी फर्टिलाइजर प्लांट चल रहा था और जब उसको अचानक बंद कर दिया गया, तो सिंदरी, जो उस समय कोयलांचल की lifeline थी और वहां लाखों लोग फर्टिलाइजर से सम्बन्धित रोजगार पा रहे थे, वे लाखों लोग फर्टिलाइजर प्लांट के बंद होने के कारण बेरोजगार हो गए थे। जब वहां पर सिंदरी फर्टिलाइजर प्लांट बंद हुआ था, तो कोयलांचल की स्थिति बहुत बिगड़ी थी, क्योंकि सिंदरी फर्टिलाइजर प्लांट वहां पर एक prime industry था। मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब 2020 में सिंदरी फर्टिलाइजर प्लांट खोला जाएगा, तो वहां पर जो कोयलांचल के लोग हैं, वे सिंदरी फर्टिलाइजर प्लांट के कारण परेशान होंगे, क्योंकि उससे वहां पर pollution होगा, वहां पर वे तरह-तरह की problems और माफिया को झेलेंगे और वहां तरह-तरह की समस्या आएगी। क्या मैं मंत्री जी से यह जान सकता हूँ कि जब सिंदरी फर्टिलाइजर प्लांट खुलेगा और उसमें लोगों को नौकरी दी जाएगी, तो झारखंड के लोगों को उसमें कोई प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी, खास कर नीचे तबके की नौकरियों में?

श्री मनसुख एल. मांडविया: सर, जब सिंदरी फर्टिलाइजर प्लांट का revival होने जा रहा है, वैसी स्थिति में जब कोई भी industry लगती है, तो उस industry में automatically employment generate होती है, न केवल वहां के लोगों के लिए, बल्कि सारे लोगों के लिए employment generate होती है। जब इतना बड़ा कारखाना खुलेगा, तो उस कारखाने में काम करने के लिए उतने लोगों को तो रोजगार मिलेगा ही, क्योंकि उसमें कुछ technical staff भी चाहिए और highly educated staff भी चाहिए। Highly educated staff और technical staff जहां से उपलब्ध होंगे, उन्हें हम वहां से लेंगे, लेकिन जब कोई प्लांट लगता है, तो उसकी आवश्यकता के अनुसार कई रोजगार generate होते हैं। जैसे वहां होटल्स की आवश्यकता होती है, restaurants खुलते हैं, वहां transport की जरूरत होती है। इन सब कामों से वहां के लोकल लोगों को भी रोजगार मिलता है। मेरा मानना है कि जब यह प्लांट लगेगा, तो वहां के 500 से ज्यादा लोकल लोगों को ऐसे

रोजगार उपलब्ध होने की संभावना है। इसलिए मैं माननीय सदस्य को अवगत कराना चाहूँगा कि जब 2020 में यह प्लांट commissioned होगा और हमने यह तय किया है कि सभी प्लांट्स का revival समय से commissioned हो जाए, तो इसके समय पर start होने से कई लोगों को वहां रोजगार मिलेगा। जिन रोजगारों के बारे में मैंने mention किया है, ये रोजगार वहां के लोकल लोगों को ज्यादातर मिलेंगे, यह स्वाभाविक है। इससे वहां के लोकल लोगों को बहुत फायदा होगा।

SHRI ANIL DESAI: Sir, in all, five PSU fertiliser plants are being revived which will certainly boost our capacity to produce more output. I would like to ask the hon. Minister through you, Sir, whether we will be self-sufficient in this fertiliser sector and as has been claimed by the Fertiliser Minister in the past – Ananthkumarji is very much here – that in urea we will be the net exporter in the times to come. Is it in the offing? Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Sir, because of the 'Make in India' policy of our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Bhai Modi, we have started revival of all these fertiliser plants, especially Sindri, Barauni and Gorakhpur. They are on the anvil. Talcher and Ramagundam are also happening. Therefore, five fertiliser plants mean 65 lakh Metric Tonnes of additional urea. What we require is 310 lakh Metric Tonnes. We are only short of 55 lakh Metric Tonnes, which we are importing. Therefore, in a couple of years, instead of being an importing country, I want to inform this august House that India will be an exporting country in urea and fertilisers.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I would like to remind the hon. Minister that revival of these fertiliser plants precedes 2014. It has been going on for a long time. So please do not give the impression that the revival started after the new Government came into power.

But this question is on Sindri and my question relates to Sindri. Sindri is a historic location because it was the first public sector plant to be inaugurated in this country. It went sick for a variety of reasons. Successive Governments have tried to revive it. You are also trying to revive it. What I would like to know is what precisely the revival plan is and based on your revival plan, what percentage of the revival you have accomplished till now. That is all I want to know.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Sir, I want to inform the hon. Member, through you, that though the revival package was agreed and approved by the then Cabinet in 2008, nothing had moved because earlier it was decided that it should happen through a nomination basis; it was given to the Steel Authority of India Limited. The Steel Authority of India Limited itself went into problems. Therefore, it didn't happen.

And, the other cases also were in the same shape. But after 2014, when hon. Prime Minister, Narendra Bhai Modi took it up with great commitment and also pursued it with bringing about a consortium of public sector undertakings like NTPC, Coal India Limited, all of them came together and they are providing the equity for this revival, and there is a joint-venture company already formed, that is, HURL. It stands for Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited, which is going to revive all these three companies. Regarding Talcher and Ramagundam ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I am asking about Sindri.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Sir, I am coming. Regarding Talcher and Ramagundam also, our joint-ventures were formed in the mid-2015. And, already, the bidding process is on in many of the cases. The preparation of the ground activities are on. When the final bidding is done, means it is on the anvil, it is in the process, I think within next three years, we will be seeing all the plants commissioned and functioning. I have got a good piece of information to share with the House. Sir, Ramagundam is going with such a speed that I think by the end of the year, we may be commissioning it. Sir, after twenty years, that will be the first fertilizer plant in India which is going to be commissioned and producing 13 lakh metric tonnes.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, my question is on Sindri and he has replied on Ramagundam. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Sindri; would you like to clarify that? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Sir, regarding Sindri also, I am saying that all the three companies at Sindri, Barauni and Gorakhpur are under one joint-venture. The name of that joint-venture is Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited. The NTPC and the Coal India Ltd. are the public sector undertakings which have provided the equity to it. With that, we are also there; the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: My question was what percentage of the revival in Sindri has been completed till now. It is a simple question.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Sir, he is a very learned Member of this House. He also knows that the percentage cannot be gauged only by physical infrastructure creation. There has to be financial closure; there has to be the bidding process; then the whole area has to be made ready. Therefore, I will give ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Has the work started or not?

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Sir, I will give this House as well as him the exact amount of percentages of financial and physical development in this regard. But I can only say that within a couple of years we are going to complete it. We required 36

months, and out of those 36 months, we have only traversed first twelve months, the remaining 24 months are there. We are time-bound and we are going to complete it.

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन: माननीय सभापति महोदय, आपने मुझे सवाल पूछने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपकी शुक्र-गुजार हूँ। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री के ध्यान में लाना चाहती हूँ कि अभी उन्होंने प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए जो आंकड़े बताए, मैं चाहूंगी कि उसकी एक कॉपी मुझे उपलब्ध कराई जाए।

महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में कहा है कि सिन्दरी में उर्वरक कारखाने की वर्ष 2020 में चलने की संभावना है और उन्होंने यह भी बताया है कि अतिक्रमण हटाने एवं बेदखली करने के लिए एक कमेटी बनाई गई है, जो जिला प्रशासन से मिलकर इसकी monitoring करती है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि जो अतिक्रमण जमीन है, क्या उसका कोई सर्वेक्षण कराया गया है कि कितनी जमीन ऐसी है जिस पर अतिक्रमण किया हुआ है और क्या अतिक्रमण जमीन को अतिक्रमण से मुक्त कराने के लिए कोई समय-सीमा तय की गई है कि इतने समय में उसे अतिक्रमण से मुक्त करा लिया जाएगा?

श्री मनसुख एल. मांडविया: महोदय, माननीय सदस्या ने जो प्रश्न पूछा है, यह सबसे महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है। जब कोई गवर्नमेंट PSU या गवर्नमेंट सेक्टर बन्द होता है, तब वहाँ encroachment होती है और जब encroachment होती है, तो उसको खाली कराना एक जिम्मेदारी हो जाती है। इसलिए जब हम उसका revival करने जा रहे हैं, तो वैसी स्थिति में कुल मिलाकर जो 3,174 quarters थे, उनमें illegal लोग रह रहे हैं। उसके बारे में हमने कार्रवाई शुरू की है। उनमें से 3,122 quarters के लिए हम कोर्ट में गये और कोर्ट जाकर इनको खाली करवाने के लिए ऑर्डर लेकर आये। स्थानीय प्रशासन के साथ बातचीत चल रही है और प्रशासन के साथ बातचीत करके, जिन quarters में illegal लोग रह रहे हैं, उनको हम खाली भी कराएंगे। जब 2002 में हमने वह प्लांट बंद किया था, तब वहाँ के quarters में जो पुराने employees रहते थे, उनको हमने 1,407 quarters allot किये थे, उनको हमने lease पर दिया हुआ है। वे अपनी permanent fees देते रहते हैं और वे लोग वहाँ रह रहे हैं। जब हम plant का revival करेंगे, तब जो खाली होंगे, उनका उपयोग करेंगे, सभी लोगों के रहने की व्यवस्था भी करेंगे। वहाँ जो भी encroachment है, उसके लिए हमने FIR भी दर्ज करवाया है। ऐसे 8 केसेज हैं, जिनमें हमने FIR दर्ज करवाया है और उनके लिए हम कार्रवाई कर रहे हैं।

रेल यात्रियों पर सुरक्षा उपकरण लगाया जाना

*215. **श्री नरेश अग्रवाल:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार रेल यात्रियों पर सुरक्षा उपकरण नामक एक और कर का बोझ डालने पर विचार कर रही है, यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो रेल यात्रा को सुगम और सुरक्षित बनाये जाने के लिए सरकार ने गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान कितनी बार किराया बढ़ाया है और उसके क्या परिणाम निकले हैं?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सुरेश प्रभु): (क) और (ख) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) आम बजट 2017-18 में घोषणा की गई थी कि: 'यात्री संरक्षा के लिए, 5 वर्ष की अवधि में 1 लाख करोड़ रुपए की निधि से एक राष्ट्रीय रेल संरक्षा कोष का सृजन किया जाएगा। मुख्यतः सरकार से पूंजी निवेश के अलावा, रेलवे शेष संसाधनों की व्यवस्था अपने राजस्व और अन्य स्रोतों से करेगी।'

भारतीय रेल 'संरक्षा अधिभार' के नाम से कोई उपकर नहीं लगा रही है। साथ ही, यात्री किराए में संरक्षा उपकर लगाने के लिए, फिलहाल, कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया गया है।

(ख) विगत में अव्यपगत विशेष रेलवे संरक्षा निधि जुटाने के लिए 01.10.2001 से संरक्षा अधिभार लगाया गया था ताकि रेलवे के प्रतिस्थापन बकाया को तय समय-सीमा में पूरा किया जा सके। संरक्षा अधिभार को 01.04.2007 से डेडीकेटेड फ्रेट कॉरीडोर के वित्तपोषण के लिए, विकास अधिभार के रूप में यात्री किराए में सम्मिलित कर दिया गया था। अंततः, 22.01.2013 से विकास अधिभार का मूल किराए में विलय कर दिया गया था।

Levy of safety cess on train passengers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to put additional burden on train passengers in the form of safety cess, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) if not, the number of times Government has increased the fare to make train journey easy and safe during the last three years, along with results thereof?

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

Statement

(a) The following announcement was made in the Union Budget 2017-18: "For passenger safety, a Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh will be created with a corpus of ₹ 1 lakh crores over a period of 5 years. Besides seed capital from the Government, the Railways will arrange the balance resources from their own revenues and other sources."

Indian Railways is not levying any cess by the name of 'safety surcharge'. Also, no decision has been taken at present for levy of safety cess on passenger fare.

(b) Safety Surcharge was earlier levied from 01.10.2001 to generate non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund to wipe out the arrears of replacement on the Railways in a fixed time schedule. With effect from 01.04.2007 the Safety Surcharge was

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

subsumed in the passenger fare in the form of Development Surcharge to fund Dedicated Freight Corridors. Finally, with effect from 22.01.2013, Development Surcharge was merged with the basic fares.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: महोदय, रेल मंत्री जी हमारे बड़े मित्र हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

एक माननीय सदस्य: वे सबके मित्र हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

विधि और न्याय मंत्री; तथा इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री (श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद): आपका मित्र कौन नहीं है? हम सभी आपके मित्र हैं।

श्री सभापति: आप लीडिंग सवाल पूछ रहे हैं।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: महोदय, यह दुर्भाग्य है कि अब रेल का बजट अलग से आना बन्द हो गया और combined Budget पेश होने लगा। इस कारण रेल मंत्री जी अब कोई ज्यादा घोषणा कर ही नहीं सकते हैं।

श्रीमन्, मैंने जो प्रश्न पूछा था, उसके जवाब में ये कहते हैं कि "5 वर्ष की अवधि में 1 लाख करोड़ रुपये की निधि से एक 'राष्ट्रीय रेल संरक्षा कोष' का सृजन किया जाएगा।" आप कहते हैं कि इस कोष के लिए सरकार से मिलने वाली पूंजी के अलावा रेल अन्य स्रोतों से व्यवस्था करेगी। माननीय मंत्री जी, आप हमें बता दें कि रेल के modernization के लिए आपको कितने रुपये की जरूरत है? अभी तक कितना घाटा चल रहा है और आप जो आधुनिकीकरण करना चाहते हैं, जिनमें सिग्नल भी है, कोहरा वाला सिस्टम भी है, पटरी भी ठीक करनी है, रेल की स्पीड भी बढ़ानी है, आदि सारी चीजें हैं, इन सबका modernization करने के लिए आपको कुल कितने रुपये चाहिए? आपका घाटा कितना है और इस घाटे को आप कैसे पूरा करेंगे? आप modernization का पैसा कहां से लायेंगे और जो आप कह रहे हैं कि हम अन्य स्रोतों से व्यवस्था करेंगे, तो वे अन्य स्रोत क्या-क्या हैं?

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: सर, यह बहुत अहम सवाल है। मैं आपका थोड़ा सा समय चाहूंगा, क्योंकि इन्होंने तीन अलग-अलग प्रश्न पूछे हैं, जिनका उत्तर बहुत विस्तृत है। लेकिन मैं बहुत कम समय में बताने की कोशिश करूंगा, फिर भी मैं सब चीजों को address करूंगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: बस घड़ी पर नज़र रखियेगा।

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: सर, इन्होंने कई अहम सवाल पूछे हैं। इन्होंने पहला सवाल यह पूछा है कि आधुनिकीकरण करने के लिए कितने पैसों की जरूरत है, तो मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि आधुनिकीकरण एक लगातार चलने वाली प्रक्रिया है। जैसे-जैसे आगे जायेंगे, यह आगे बढ़ती जायेगी, जैसे हमें पता है कि जब 3G आया, उसके बाद 4G आया। अभी 4G आया है, तो इसके बाद 5G आयेगा। इस तरह से technology तो आगे बढ़ती जायेगी। जब technology आगे बढ़ती जायेगी, तो उसके साथ रफ्तार बनाये रखने के लिए हमें भी निरन्तर प्रयास करते रहना होगा। यह तो निरन्तर चलने वाली एक प्रक्रिया है। हमने पहले फेज़ में जो तय किया था, उसके बारे में मैंने सदन को अवगत कराया था। मैंने सदन के सामने सारे आंकड़े भी रखे थे। हम लोगों ने रेल के आधुनिकीकरण के पहले स्टेज पर जाने के लिए 5 साल के लिए 8,52,000 करोड़ रुपये तय किये थे। आज मुझे

यह कहते हुए खुशी है कि हमने करीब 3,75,000 करोड़ रुपये, तीन साल पूरा होने के पहले ही, उसके लिए allocate किये हैं। पूरे रेल के आधुनिकीकरण के अलग-अलग पहलू हैं। इसके लिए मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि जैसे diesel and electric locomotive है, पूरे विश्व में सबसे अच्छे diesel and electric locomotive बनाने वाली कम्पनी GE, Alstom को एक global tender दिया था। उनको 40,000 करोड़ रुपये का contract दिया गया। GE, Alstom देश में state-of-the-art, environment friendly, सबसे अच्छी स्पीड से चलने वाले और सबसे कम कीमत में diesel and electric locomotives बनायेगी। यह भी आधुनिकीकरण की एक प्रक्रिया है।

8,52,000 करोड़ रुपये में, आधुनिकीकरण की एक और प्रक्रिया है, जिसमें स्टेशंस का redevelopment करना है, जो आपको सीधे दिखेगा। स्टेशंस के redevelopment के लिए हम लोगों ने जो कार्रवाई शुरू की है, उसके बारे में आज मुझे सदन को बताते हुए खुशी हो रही है कि उस पर काफी बड़े पैमाने पर काम हो रहा है। हमने करीब 10 स्टेशंस NBCC को दिये हैं तथा 40 और स्टेशंस देने जा रहे हैं। 23 स्टेशंस में PPP model पर काम चल रहा है। रेलवे का पहला स्टेशन, हबीबगंज प्राइवेट सेक्टर को दिया गया है। साथ ही, हम लोगों ने दूसरा स्टेशन गांधी नगर— जिसमें 300 स्टेशंस पर five star hotel ...(व्यवधान)... स्टेशंस के ऊपर आने वाले हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री जयराम रमेश: सर, सवाल कुछ है और जवाब दूसरा है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: सर, जो सवाल पूछा गया है, उसका मैं जवाब दे रहा हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)... आप बताइए, क्या मैं सवाल का जवाब नहीं दे रहा हूँ? ...(व्यवधान)... यही तो आपने पूछा है। ...(व्यवधान)... आपने सवाल नहीं सुना, आप सिर्फ मेरा जवाब सुन रहे हैं। सवाल भी सुन लेना चाहिए था। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: कृपया आप सुन लीजिए। We are running out of the time.

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: सर, मेरा कहने का मतलब यह है कि आधुनिकीकरण के लिए हमने बड़ी मात्रा में काम करने की शुरुआत की है। इसके लिए पहले यूपीए के अंत काल में ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, हमने यह पूछा है कि आपने जो अन्य sources से पैसा जुटाने की बात की है, वे अन्य sources क्या हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: सर, इसके पहले यूपीए के अंत काल तक, जो पांच साल पूरे हुए, उसमें हर साल 35 हजार करोड़ रुपए से ज्यादा capital expenditure नहीं हुआ करता था, लेकिन हमने सिर्फ तीन साल में उसमें बढ़ोतरी करके इसको 3 लाख 75 हजार करोड़ रुपए modernization के लिए allocate किया है। इस पर काम हो रहा है और आगे आने वाले दिनों में हम उसको बढ़ा कर 8 लाख करोड़ रुपए करेंगे।

आपने जो सेस के बारे में पूछा, उसके बारे में मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि हम लोग 1 लाख करोड़ रुपए का सेप्टी फंड क्रिएट करने जा रहे हैं और वह सेप्टी फंड भी modernization का एक हिस्सा होगा। ऐसा नहीं है कि सेप्टी के लिए अलग से होगा, it is not a standalone issue. The safety itself will modernize the Railways. So, we are working on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Second supplementary, very quickly, Nareshji. आप घड़ी पर नजर रखिए।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: माननीय सभापति जी, मैं नया सदस्य हूँ, अभी प्रश्न पूछने के लिए मुझे थोड़ा-सा अनुभव चाहिए। अच्छा हुआ कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने हमारी तकलीफ को और ठीक कर दिया, हम तो एक लाख करोड़ ही समझ रहे थे, जब कि वे बता रहे हैं कि हमें 8 लाख करोड़ रुपए की जरूरत है। इन्होंने कहा कि हमने 3 लाख 75 हजार करोड़ रुपए का इंतजाम कर लिया है और हमने modernization करने के लिए ऑर्डर भी दे दिया है। इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि अब आपको 4 लाख करोड़ रुपए और चाहिए।

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, मैं सवाल ही पूछ रहा हूँ। यह सवाल से जुड़ा हुआ है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया है, मैं उसी के संदर्भ में सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ, आप रेल का किराया बढ़ाइए, हम कभी आपत्ति नहीं करते हैं। यह आप लोग गलत सोचते हैं कि विपक्ष रेल किराया बढ़ाने का विरोधी है। आप किराया बढ़ाइए, लेकिन सुविधा भी तो दीजिए। सीएजी ने इतना खराब रिपोर्ट दी है। आप क्या सुविधा दे रहे हैं? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nareshji, focus on the question.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, मैं प्रश्न पर फोकस कर रहा हूँ। श्रीमन्, हम और आप, दोनों ट्रेन पर नहीं चलते हैं, इसलिए हमें और आपको वे तकलीफें नहीं मालूम हैं, लेकिन नन्दा जी बहुत चलते हैं, इनको मालूम है।

माननीय मंत्री जी, अभी अखबारों में छपा कि रेल भी प्लेन की तरह किराए तय करने का तरीका अपनाने जा रही है यानी 7 दिन पहले बुकिंग पर इतना किराया, 10 दिन बुकिंग कराने पर इतना किराया, दो महीने पहले बुकिंग कराने पर इतना किराया लगेगा। दूसरा, आपने तत्काल बुकिंग पर कितना चार्ज बढ़ा दिया? टिकट कैंसिलेशन पर कितना चार्ज बढ़ा दिया? जो लोअर बर्थ है, क्या उस पर भी आप किराया बढ़ाने की सोच रहे हैं? क्या ये चारों चीजें — रेल का किराया प्लेन की तरह करने जा रहे हैं, तत्काल बुकिंग और टिकट कैंसिलेशन पर चार्ज बढ़ाया है तथा लोअर बर्थ का किराया बढ़ाने जा रहे हैं — सही हैं या गलत हैं?

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: सर, नरेश जी ने पहले ही कहा है कि हम अच्छे मित्र हैं, तो एक अच्छे मित्र के नाते मैं उनको एक अच्छी जानकारी भी देना चाहता हूँ कि आज हम करेंट बुकिंग के ऊपर 10 परसेंट का डिस्काउंट दे रहे हैं। आप किराया बढ़ाने की बात कह रहे हैं, लेकिन क्या-क्या घटा है, उसके बारे में मैं बता रहा हूँ। Reduced fares have been identified in Shatabdi Express, Ajmer-Jaipur Shatabdi Express Train and Bangalore-Mysore Shatabdi Express Train.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: मैंने जो पूछा है, उस पर आप 'हां' कह रहे हैं या 'न' कह रहे हैं?

श्री सभापति: प्लीज़, बैठ जाइए।

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: मैं वही आपको बता रहा हूँ। आज आप किसी भी प्रकार का टिकट ATVM से लेंगे, उसके ऊपर हम 5 परसेंट का डिस्काउंट दे रहे हैं। तत्काल के ऊपर हम लोगों ने

बड़ी मात्रा में परिवर्तन किया है। आप जो पूछ रहे हैं, उसके बारे में मैं बताना चाहूँगा कि हवाई जहाज जैसे किराए की कोई स्थिति रेलवे में नहीं है। हम लोगों ने यही किया है कि जब आप पहले टिकट बुक कराएँगे, तब आपको कम पैसे में टिकट मिलेगा और फिर धीरे-धीरे थोड़े-से बढ़ते जाएंगे लेकिन वह भी उन थोड़े-से लोगों, 1.5 per cent of the population, जो रेलवे में प्रीमियर ट्रेनों के एसी क्लास में सफर करते हैं, उनके लिए ही है। सर, उसमें भी हमने अभी एक नई व्यवस्था शुरू की है। जब आप टिकट की बुकिंग कराने जाते हैं, तो उस समय आपको जो दलाल लोग आकर परेशान करते हैं, उनको रोकने के लिए चार्ट बनने के बाद भी टिकट बुक करने पर 10 परसेंट का डिस्काउंट देने की नई सुविधा हमने शुरू की है - अब 10 परसेंट का डिस्काउंट दिया जा रहा है। साथ ही, मुझे यह कहते हुए खुशी हो रही है कि पहले यह होता था कि टीटी लोग जो काम करते थे, उसके लिए लोगों की शिकायतें आती थीं। उसको रोकने के लिए हमने यह व्यवस्था की है कि यदि किसी ट्रेन का चार्ट बन गया और उसमें एक स्टेशन का जो कोटा है, अगर वह किसी को नहीं मिला है, तो वह दूसरे स्टेशन को मिलेगा। हम इस प्रकार से अलग-अलग तरह से कर रहे हैं।

आपने रेल का घाटा के संबंध में पूछा है, मैं इस संबंध में बताना चाहूँगा कि about ₹ 35,000 core is the Railway subsidy which is given to the passengers हम लोगों को इस सब्सिडी से अवगत कराने के लिए इसको टिकट के ऊपर छपवा रहे हैं, दिखा रहे हैं कि कितनी सब्सिडी मिलती है। जयराम रमेश जी जब चीफ इकनॉमिक एडवाइजर थे, मनमोहन सिंह जी जब हमारे वित्त मंत्री जी थे, उस समय से बात चल रही है कि यूजर चार्ज पूरी मात्रा में रिकवर होने चाहिए, इसीलिए लोगों की मानसिकता बनाने के लिए भी हम काम कर रहे हैं।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Deaths as a result of derailments

*216. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 2013-14, despite 53 derailments, only 6 people had died, but in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, more than 250 trains got derailed and 330 deaths took place, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps being taken by Railways to prevent such derailments in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Indian Railways gives highest priority to the safety of its passengers and in order to reduce accidents and also to minimise the unfortunate loss of lives in train accidents, modern technologies are being adopted and continuous efforts are being made because of which, number of consequential train accidents have continuously declined from 135 in the year 2014-15, to 107 in the year 2015-16 and further down to 104 in the year 2016-17. In the current financial year upto 2nd August, 2017 the number of consequential train accidents have further reduced by 51.2% (21 in 2017-18 versus 43 in 2016-17).

Accidents Per Million Train Kilometres, which is an internationally accepted yard stick of safety, has declined from 0.23 in 2006-07 to 0.11 in 2014-15, 0.10 (approximately) in 2015-16 and further declined to 0.09 (approximately) in 2016-17.

It is a fact that in 2013-14, 53 consequential train derailments occurred in which 06 persons lost their lives. In the last 3 years *i.e.* 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, there were 206 consequential train derailments in which 333 persons lost their lives. The number of casualties in train accidents is essentially fortuitous and not strictly susceptible to comparison. The reason for the loss of lives is primarily on account of 06 major passenger train derailments in the past three financial years in 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17.

Two of these major derailments including Train No. 19321 Indore–Rajendra Nagar Terminal (Patna Express) on 20.11.2016 between Pokhrayan and Malasa stations of North Central Railway and derailment of Train No. 18448 (Jagdalpur–Bhubaneswar) Hirakhand Express on 21.01.2017 at Kunderu Station of East Coast Railway are being investigated by National Investigation Agency (NIA). Statutory inquiry in these two cases has also been ordered to be conducted by Commissioners of Railway Safety (CRS).

(b) Measures being taken by the Indian Railways to prevent derailments of trains are given below:–

- **Proliferation of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches for improving Safety:** Indian Railways is embarking on a mission to provide upgraded safety features on its coaching stock. As a part of this, it has been decided that only LHB coaches would be manufactured from 2018-19. LHB coaches are of a superior design that reduce the chances of derailment and mitigate the possibility of grievous injury or death in case of accidents. LHB coaches have superior body-bogie and wheel-bogie connections, anti-climbing features, tight lock coupling, provision of bump stop, superior braking, provision of yaw dampers to ensure better riding and comfort with lesser chances of dislocation of body from shell, destabilization and tilting of the coach, possibility of overriding of one coach over the other, uncoupling of coaches and consequent movement in an uncontrolled manner, etc. in case of accidents.
- **Refurbishment of ICF coaches:** A policy decision has been taken to carry out the work of refurbishment and providing improved safety features in its existing Integral Coach Factory (ICF) design coaches which have a residual life of more than 10 years. A total of about 40,000 coaches will be provided with these features in the next 5 years.

- **Progressive use of Air springs:** To maintain constant height at variable load, air spring are being used in secondary suspension of EMU/DMU coaches. These springs shall also be introduced in mainline and LHB coaches to enhance safety and reliability.
- **Centre Buffer Coupler:** Progressive fitment of tight lock Centre Buffer Coupler (CBC) *in lieu* of screw coupling in new ICF design coaches has been carried out with a view to preventing the coaches from climbing over each other in unfortunate event of an accident.
- **Track Renewal:** Track renewal is an ongoing process which is undertaken as and when a stretch of track becomes due for renewal on age-cum-condition basis. Track Renewal works are planned in advance every year and their execution is prioritized according to the condition of track and overall availability of funds ensuring all the time that track is in a sound condition for safe running of trains. The allocation for track renewal has been almost doubled from the last 5 years average of ₹ 5548. 6 crore to ₹ 9961 crore in the Budget Estimate of 2017-18.
- **Modern track structure** consisting of Prestressed Concrete Sleeper (PSC), 60kg, 90 or higher Ultimate Tensile Strength (UTS) 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 or in Flash Butt Welding plants to minimize number of Alumino Thermit (AT) joints in the track.
- **Provision of Thick Web Switches (TWS)** is planned for all important routes of Indian Railways.
- Indian Railways have developed design and drawings for **Weldable CMS crossings** on existing PSC sleepers for 60 kg 1 in 12 and 60 kg 1 in 8.5 Turnouts. This will eliminate four fish plated joints in crossing area of turnout which will improve reliability and maintainability.
- **Significant improvements have been made in AT welding techniques** to reduce dependence on human judgment at par with international practises. Also, besides using more and more long rail panels (130m/260m), it has been planned to increase the use of mobile flash butt welding which uses parent material to weld the rails obviating the need of external metal.
- **Ultrasonic Broken Rail Detection System (UBRDS)** used by South African Railway for detection of Rail/weld fractures is under trial on Northern and North Central Railways on 25 km track length each. This system works on

principle of guided Ultrasonic waves and interrogates continuously welded rail in sections up to one kilometer long using ultrasound waves, and reports breaks at time intervals down to a few minutes. This system will be proliferated initially to group 'A' routes followed by other important/high density routes of Indian Railways (IR) based on outcome of trial.

- Ultrasonic testing of rails is being done manually by **Digital Single Rail Tester (D-SRT) and digital Double Rail Tester (D-DRT)**. These machines are based on 'A' scan technology with no digital recording capability.
- **Vehicle bound Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD)** testing has been planned on Indian Railways, which will ensure faster as well as more reliable testing as it would cover larger cross-sectional area of rail. One work for USFD testing of 30400 Tkm on Rajdhani routes between New Delhi–Mugalsarai and New Delhi– Ratlam sections of Indian Railways has been awarded. Besides this, it is planned to procure 6 nos. SPURT (Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing) Cars which will be used for USFD testing of rails on Indian Railways.
- **Composite Sleepers which are eco friendly made from recycled plastic/PU**, having high resilience and requiring lesser maintenance input have been adopted for regular use over Indian Railway to be used mainly over steel girder bridges.
- A new design **wider and heavier pre-stressed concrete sleeper for 25 T axle load** has been developed after successful laboratory and fatigue testing. Field trials of the wider sleepers have been planned on about 15 Km long track stretch each on five Zonal Railways.
- **Installation of WILD:** Wheel Impact Load Detector (WILD) are being proliferated to identify Rolling Stock giving impact load beyond stipulated threshold limit so that track and its component are not subjected to higher impact load, leading to premature/sudden failures of rails.
- To keep strict check on overloading which generates excess rail stress and can create flaw in rail electronic in motion weigh bridges are being extensively utilized.
- **Modern Bridge Inspection and Management System:** Modern bridge inspection and management system has been adopted, which includes non-destructive testing techniques, under water inspections, intelligent water level monitoring system, mapping unknown foundations and integrity testing, etc.
- **Patrolling of Railway Tracks:** During adverse weather conditions patrolling of railway tracks including night patrolling is carried out at vulnerable locations regularly.

- Policing of Railways and law and order is a State subject. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of Government Railway Police (GRP) in providing the better protection and security of passengers and passenger area.
- In 2017-18, a Fund namely '**Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh**' (RRSK) has been created for financing critical safety related works. The Fund has been created with a corpus of ₹ 1 lakh crore over a period of five years. In Budget Estimates of 2017-18, a provision of ₹ 20,000 crore has been made under RRSK, which includes ₹ 5000 crore from Budgetary Support, ₹ 10,000 crore from Central Road Fund and ₹ 5000 crore out of Railways' internal resources.

Availability of raw materials for antibiotic medicines

*217. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the raw materials for the formulation of antibiotic medicines in the country are being imported, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has taken/ proposes to take any measures to ensure that raw materials for the formulation of antibiotic medicines are made available in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR):

(a) Yes, Sir. Part of the raw materials for antibiotic medicines are also imported. As per the information received from the office of the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), India's total imports of bulk drugs/Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) of antibiotics during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Total Quantity of Raw materials for the formulation of Antibiotic Medicines Imported (MT)	Total value of Raw materials for the formulation of Antibiotic Medicines Imported (INR Cr.)
2015	7526.324	2598.195
2016	5656.783	2404.058
2017 (till date)	1976.8	959.441

These imports are taking place because of economic considerations.

(b) and (c) The Government has withdrawn exemption of customs duty on certain categories of Bulk Drugs/APIs which are also used in the manufacture of some of the Antibiotics, to provide a level playing field to the domestic manufacturers. Further, the Government is clearing bottlenecks like environment clearances etc., in order to give boost to domestic manufacturers of bulk drugs.

**Problems faced by persons with disabilities during
boarding/de-boarding of trains**

*218. SHRI A. V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have received a number of requests/complaints from the persons with disabilities about the problems they face during boarding/de-boarding of trains and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the East Coast Railway has signed an MoU with any agency/organisation in this regard under the corporate social responsibility, if so, the details thereof along with the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) whether Government plans to augment various facilities at the railway stations for the convenience of disabled and elderly and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Requests/complaints from Persons with Disabilities regarding boarding/de-boarding are received which are addressed by taking remedial action like provision of wheelchair, Battery Operated Car. Further, a new policy of Yatri Mitra Sewa has been introduced for taking service of a porter along with wheelchair.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Provision/augmentation of amenities at stations, including those for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) and elderly passengers is a continuous process. In order to provide better accessibility to Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) and elderly passengers, short term facilities as detailed below have been planned at all stations:—

- Standard ramp for barrier free entry.
- Earmarking at least two parking lots.
- Non-slippery walk-way from parking lot to building.
- Signages of appropriate visibility.
- At least one toilet (on the ground floor).
- At least one drinking water tap suitable for use by Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan).
- ‘May I help you’ Booth.

In addition, long term facilities as detailed below have been planned at 'A-1', 'A' and 'B' category stations:—

- Provision of facility for inter-platform transfer.
- Engraving on edges of platform.

There are 709 'A-1', 'A' and 'B' category stations catering to the bulk of passenger traffic on Indian Railways, out of which 645 stations have been provided with all short-term facilities. Details of railway stations provided with facilities for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) are as under:—

Sl. No.	Facilities for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)	Approx. Number of stations
1	2	3
1.	Standard ramp for barrier free entry	2075
2.	Earmarking at least two parking lots	1195
3.	Non-slippery walk-way from parking lot to building	1295
4.	Signages of appropriate visibility.	1335
5.	At least one toilet (on the ground floor).	1655
6.	At least one drinking water tap suitable for use by differently-abled persons	1690
7.	'May I help you' Booth	1015
8.	Provision of facility for inter-platform transfer	1175
9.	Engraving on edges of platform	1725

Zonal Railways have also been authorised to introduce 'Battery Operated Vehicles' at major Railway Stations for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Old Aged and sick Passengers on first come first served basis through sponsorship from individuals, NGOs, trusts, Charitable institutions, Corporates and PSUs/Corporate Houses under their Corporate Social Responsibility with no charge to passenger or to the Railway. Further, instructions have also been issued to Zonal Railways to invite Expression of Interest for providing the facility of Battery Operated Car service on payment basis initially at all A1 category stations keeping in view the financial sustainability of the service.

In order to facilitate passengers, especially senior citizens and Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), 394 numbers of escalators at 167 stations and 219 numbers of lifts at 100 stations have also been provided across Indian Railways.

Suicides by farmers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of loan waivers by various State Governments, unfortunate incidents of suicides by farmers are taking place;

(b) if so, whether Government has any plan to study the various reasons compelling farmers to commit suicides; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to prevent suicides by farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (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 on its website. Cause-wise distribution of farmers/cultivators suicide during 2015 is given in Statement (*See below*). Government believes, that the answer to unfortunate instances of farmers suicides lies in improving their welfare. With this aim, Government has adopted a strategy for enhancing farmers' income. Such a strategy will make farming more viable and generate profits for the farmers on a sustainable basis.

(b) A study titled 'Farmer Suicides: An all India Study' was commissioned during 2016-17 by the Government in the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare to ascertain various reasons for farmers' suicides in the country. This Pan-India study was carried out in 13 major suicide prone states namely: Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka. The study was assigned to Agriculture Research Unit, ISEC (Institute for Socio-Economic Research), Bangalore and was completed with association of the Agro-Economic Research Centres. The reference year of the study was decided as the agriculture year 2015-16 (June, 2015–May, 2016). The recommendations are being adopted appropriately.

(c) In line with the strategy of achieving farmers' welfare, Government has adopted various programs to enhance farming viability and 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 Government is accordingly realigning its interventions to move from purely production-centric to farmers' income-centric platform. In order to realise net positive returns for the farmer, schemes as follows, are being promoted and implemented in a major way, *viz*:—

- (i) One of the most important support given to the farmers is institutional loan at concessional rate of interest. Crop loan are available at basic interest subvention of 2% and an additional interest subvention of 3%. Thus crop loan is available at effective interest rate of 4%. The volume of credit is being increased from year to year and for the current year, it is ₹ 10 lakh crore. Accessibility to institutional credit will wean away farmers from private money lenders, who charge high rate of interest.
- (ii) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and thus save money of farmers. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.
- (iii) Neem Coated Urea (NCU) is being promoted to regulate use of urea, enhance availability of nitrogen to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer application. NCU slows down the release of fertilizer and makes it available to the crop in an effective manner. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured and imported urea is now neem coated. The reports from field are positive.
- (iv) 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.
- (v) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched on 1st July, 2015 with the motto of 'Har Khet Ko Paani' for providing end-to-end solutions in irrigation supply chain, comprising water sources, distribution network and farm level applications. PMKSY not only focuses on creating sources for assured irrigation, but also creating protective irrigation by harnessing rain water at micro level through 'Jal Sanchay' and 'Jal Sinchan'. Micro irrigation is also incentivized through subsidy to ensure 'Per drop-More crop'. PMKSY adopts State level planning and projectised execution that allows States to draw up their own irrigation development plans based on District Irrigation Plans and State Irrigation Plans.
- (vi) The National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM) 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. This innovative market process is revolutionizing agri markets by ensuring better price discovery, bringing in transparency and competition to enable farmers to get remunerative prices for their produce. Apart from e-NAM, Government is persuading the states to adopt market reforms with a view to providing the farmers alternate markets. The farmers will be enabled to sell their produce at any place, to anyone and at any time. To achieve this, a Model Act called Agriculture Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017 has been shared with all the states and UTs.

- (vii) Government has introduced Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2016 to address the risks associated with agriculture. PMFBY addresses all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and is available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. The farmers will get full insurance cover as there is no capping of sum insured and consequently the claim amount is not cut or reduced. This scheme provides insurance cover at all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances. It is targeted to increase the area coverage to 40% by 2017-18 and 50% by the end of following year.

Statement

Details of cause-wise distribution of farmers/cultivators suicide during 2015

Sl. No.	Cause	Total
1.	Poverty	92
2.	Property Dispute	86
3.	Marriage Related Issues	157
4.	Family Problems	933
5.	Farming Related Issues	1562
6.	Illness	842
7.	Fall in Social Reputation	11
8.	Bankruptcy or Indebtedness	3097
9.	Causes not known	334
10.	Other Causes	893
	TOTAL	8007

Implementation of PMFBY

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

(a) the total number of farmers benefited from the Government flagship programme of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in the last one year, State-wise;

(b) the data related to compensation paid along with the premium collected by the insurance companies under this scheme in the last one year, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken, so far, by Government to cover maximum number of farmers under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) State-wise details of farmers covered, area covered, premium collected, claims paid and number of farmers benefitted during last one year under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) To enhance the awareness among farmers to increase their coverage under PMFBY, Government is undertaking a comprehensive publicity and awareness programme to educate the farmers about the benefits of crop insurance schemes. The salient activities under awareness campaign involve publicity of features and benefits of the scheme through advertisements in leading National/local News Papers, telecast through audio-visual media, distribution of pamphlets in local languages, participation in agriculture fairs/mela/goshti and organization of workshops/trainings and SMS through Kisan Portal etc. State Governments/UTs are also being regularly persuaded to increase the coverage including notifying more crops under crop Insurance schemes. One day seminar/kisan fair especially on the PMFBY was organized at various Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). In addition, several communications have also been sent to the public representatives including Members of Parliament, representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions etc.

The Government has raised the target for coverage under PMFBY from 30% of Gross Cropped Area (GCA) during 2016-17 to 40% of GCA during 2017-18.

Statement

State-wise details of farmers covered, area covered, premium collected, claims paid and number of farmers benefited during last one year under PMFBY

(As on 28.07.2017)

State	Season	Scheme	Area Covered (in lakh ha.)	Gross Premium (₹ in lakh)	(₹ in lakh)		Farmers	
					Claims finalised	Claims Paid	Covered	Benefited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andaman and Nicobar	Rabi 16-17	PMFBY	0.03	1.62	-	-	324	0
	Total							
Andhra Pradesh	Kharif 16	PMFBY,	14.37	69818.43	64,254.12	55,976.78	1623119	1154980
	Total	RWBCIS						
	Rabi 16-17	PMFBY,	2.44	16511.16	647.27	-	150970	0
	Total	RWBCIS						
Assam	TOTAL		16.81	86329.59	64,901.39	55,976.78	1774089	1154980
	Kharif 16	RWBCIS	0.37	691.42	501.69	501.69	51749	23370
	Total							
	Rabi 16-17	PMFBY	0.04	173.22	-	-	8516	0
Bihar	Total							
	TOTAL		0.41	864.64	501.69	501.69	60265	23370
	Kharif 16	PMFBY	13.12	112228.92	28,591.46	-	1484378	182545

Chhattisgarh	Rabi 16-17 Total	PMFBY	11.90	30085.11	-	-	1234482	0
	TOTAL		25.02	142314.03	28,591.46	-	2718860	182459
	Kharif 16 Total	PMFBY	22.88	27182.56	12,651.96	12,651.96	1399212	94636
	Rabi 16-17 Total	PMFBY, RWBCIS	2.41	5865.01	2,330.35	1,199.30	153151	26847
	TOTAL		25.29	33047.57	14,982.31	13,851.26	1552363	121483
Goa	Kharif 16 Total	PMFBY	0.01	7.33	2.68	2.68	742	111
	Rabi 16-17 Total	PMFBY	0.00	0.07	-	-	13	0
	TOTAL		0.01	7.40	2.68	2.68	755	111
Gujarat	Kharif 16	PMFBY	25.67	230508.11	32,459.68	14,271.90	1842337	125753
	Rabi 16-17 Total	PMFBY	2.75	5542.69	-	-	128299	0
	TOTAL		28.42	236050.80	32,459.68	14,271.90	1970636	125753
Haryana	Kharif 16 Total	PMFBY	11.87	25579.66	23,273.75	21,825.85	738095	148310
	Rabi 16-17 Total	PMFBY	9.08	10668.95	690.01	232.17	585418	1871
	TOTAL		20.95	36248.61	23,963.76	22,058.02	1323513	150181

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Himachal Pradesh	Kharif 16 Total	PMFBY, RWBCIS	0.40	640.03	597.62	232.82	134613	29468
	Rabi 16-17	PMFBY, RWBCIS	0.89	6367.49	207.00	-	203002	0
	TOTAL		1.29	7007.52	804.62	232.82	337615	29468
	Kharif 16 Total	PMFBY	3.53	26527.56	3,065.86	7.54	828346	56513
Jharkhand	Rabi 16-17 Total	PMFBY	0.21	607.69	-	-	42323	0
	TOTAL		3.74	27135.25	3,065.86	7.54	870669	56513
	Kharif 16 Total	PMFBY, RWBCIS	14.05	96477.40	75,924.52	62,464.84	1738729	490077
	Rabi 16-17 Total	PMFBY, RWBCIS	16.83	57324.81	-	-	1179497	0
Karnataka	Kharif 16 Total	PMFBY, RWBCIS	30.88	153802.21	75,924.52	62,464.84	2918226	490077
	Rabi 16-17 Total	PMFBY, RWBCIS	0.21	858.95	1,690.41	1,588.66	31532	20329
	TOTAL		0.32	2397.10	-	-	20972	0
	Kharif 16 Total	PMFBY, RWBCIS	0.53	3256.05	1,690.41	1,588.66	52504	20329
Kerala	Rabi 16-17 Total	PMFBY, RWBCIS						
	TOTAL							
	Kharif 16 Total	PMFBY, RWBCIS						
	TOTAL							

Madhya Pradesh	Kharif 16 Total	PMFBY, RWBCIS	71.93	299293.68	68,515.53	9,470.84	4046868	510747
	Rabi 16-17 Total	PMFBY, RWBCIS	58.21	106182.60	-	-	3051561	0
	TOTAL		130.14	405476.28	68,515.53	9,470.84	7098429	510747
	Kharif 16 Total	PMFBY, RWBCIS	67.26	409104.12	205,786.16	205,781.99	10988632	2802414
	Rabi 16-17 Total	PMFBY, RWBCIS	6.61	61718.08	-	1,934.38	828210	14148
Manipur	TOTAL		73.87	470822.20	205,786.16	207,716.37	11816842	2816562
	Kharif 16 Total	PMFBY	0.09	359.26	195.91	127.25	8366	8358
	Kharif 16 Total	PMFBY	Neg.	3.05	-	-	63	0
Meghalaya	Rabi 16-17 Total	PMFBY	Neg.	1.00	-	-	26	0
	TOTAL			4.05	-	-	89	0
	Kharif 16 Total	PMFBY	12.58	53270.95	42,301.39	40,043.23	1766427	157939
Odisha	Rabi 16-17 Total	PMFBY	0.69	582.36	-	-	55231	0
	TOTAL		13.27	53853.31	42,301.39	40,043.23	1821658	157939

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Puducherry	Rabi 16-17 Total	PMFBY	0.07	277.82	-	-	8829	0
Rajasthan	Kharif 16 Total	PMFBY, RWBCIS	73.97	200853.27	33,561.80	33,383.64	6130420	560023
	Rabi 16-17	PMFBY, RWBCIS	28.85	48171.26	32.83	32.83	3077018	504
Sikkim Total	TOTAL		102.82	249024.53	33,594.62	33,416.47	9207438	560527
	Rabi 16-17 Total	PMFBY	Neg.	1.19	-	-	512	0
Tamil Nadu	Kharif 16	PMFBY	0.31	1016.07	0.16	0.16	16056	1
	Rabi 16-17	PMFBY	12.57	97592.86	147,647.67	121,326.09	1519107	444700
	TOTAL		12.88	98608.93	146,456.76	121,326.25	1535163	444701
Telangana	Kharif 16 Total	PMFBY, RWBCIS	5.93	23392.54	12,621.80	-	703075	136728
	Rabi 16-17 Total	PMFBY, RWBCIS	3.23	7690.48	250.19	-	255020	0
	TOTAL		9.16	31083.02	12,710.05	-	958095	136728
Tripura	Kharif 16 Total	PMFBY	0.01	5.04	8.34	8.34	1881	502
	Rabi 16-17 Total	PMFBY	0.06	39.36	-	-	14526	0

Uttar Pradesh	TOTAL	0.07	44.40	8.34	8.34	16407	502
	Kharif 16	PMFBY,					
	Total	RWBCIS	60101.56	43,850.43	42,805.83	3395779	877058
	Rabi 16-17	PMFBY,					
	Total	RWBCIS	61442.12	910.93	518.05	3626243	18799
Uttarakhand	TOTAL	63.31	121543.68	43,936.32	42,844.82	7022022	895857
	Kharif 16	PMFBY,					
	Total	RWBCIS	2555.97	1,668.57	1,277.02	175245	50630
	Rabi 16-17	PMFBY,					
	Total	RWBCIS	1631.00	51.90	4.94	87357	4126
West Bengal	TOTAL	1.34	4186.97	1,720.47	1,281.96	262602	54756
	Kharif 16	PMFBY,					
	Total	RWBCIS	27027.58	10,064.03	0.93	3061023	234483
	Rabi 16-17	PMFBY					
	Total		46116.05	-	-	1068643	0
Kharif	TOTAL	20.88	73143.63	10,064.03	0.93	4129666	234483
	Kharif						
	Total		1667503.46	661,587.87	502,423.97	40166687	7664975
	Rabi						
	Total		566989.91	152,768.15	125,247.75	17298926	510995
GRAND TOTAL		581.24	2234493.37	814,356.03	627,671.72	57465613	8175970

Note: Claims are not finalized in respect of few districts/crops for Kharif season 2016 and most of the areas/crops for Rabi 2016-17.

Disqualification of elected representatives by Election Commission

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

(a) whether the Constitution grants rights to the Election Commission to disqualify an elected representative;

(b) whether, as per the Constitution, the Court and Election Commission have equal rights to disqualify an elected representative;

(c) whether any re-elected representative can be disqualified due to any matter relating to his earlier election and can be barred by Election Commission from casting vote in election; and

(d) whether the Election Commission's decision to disqualify and bar an elected representative from participating in election process can be a final decision?

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

(a) to (c) Section 10 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 empowers the Election Commission to declare a person disqualified for failure to lodge account of election expenses within the time and in the manner required under the said Act. Disqualification under Section 10A takes effect from the date on which the Commission passes order in this regard. The Election Commission is discharging quasi-judicial function under the statutory provisions.

Disqualification under Section 10A does not disqualify a person from voting in election to Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly. The provisions for disqualification for voting at an election have been laid down in the Section 11A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

(d) Does not arise.

Remunerative price for chilli growing farmers of Telangana

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

(a) whether the problems being faced by chilli growing farmers in Telangana have come to the notice of the Ministry;

(b) whether the Central Government is extending any monetary help to Andhra Pradesh to buy chillies, if so, the reasons for not extending the same to chilli growing farmers of Telangana;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it has also come to the notice of the Ministry that farmers are getting arrested in Telangana for asking remunerative price; and

(d) the measures being taken by Central Government to rescue the farmers and also help them get remunerative price for chillies in Telangana?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Due to lower price of Chilli prevailing in the market in Telangana, the State Government had sent a proposal under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of Chilli in their state during 2017 season. Accordingly, Central Government approved the proposal of Government of Telangana for procurement of Chilli as per MIS guidelines. Similarly, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had also sent a proposal for procurement of chilli under MIS during 2017 season and Central Government approved the proposal as was done in the case of Telangana. Under the MIS, Central Government shares 50 percent of loss (75 per cent in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation.

(c) No such reports have been received.

(d) Central Government has approved the proposal of Government of Telangana for procurement of chilli under MIS to provide remunerative price to chilli farmers in the state.

Steep hike in train fare

*223. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for steep hike in train fare;

(b) the reasons for Railways incurring losses along with the existing loss per month and how much loss will be recovered by hiking train fare;

(c) whether Railways will recover all losses by increasing the fare only; and

(d) whether Government is planning to change or provide new type of amenities/facilities after raising train fare steeply, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) There has been no steep hike in train fare in recent times. The last fare hike was effected in 2014-15 with effect from 25.06.2014 wherein passenger fares were increased by 14.2%. However, there was no increase in Second Class (ordinary) Suburban fare upto a distance of 80 km.

Thereafter, in 2016-17, Flexi-fare system has been introduced in Rajdhani/Duronto

and Shatabdi trains from 09.09.2016. Under this system, the base fare increases by 10% with every 10% of berths sold subject to maximum prescribed limit of 1.5 times in classes Second Air Conditioned, Sleeper, Second Sitting (Reserved), Air Conditioned Chair Car and 1.4 times in Air Conditioned 3-Tier.

However, various rebates have been introduced after an interim review of the flexi fare system and the following changes have been effected from 20.12.2016:

- (i) 30% Tatkal charges are not levied in these trains.
- (ii) 10% rebate in basic fare on vacant berths/seats after preparation of first chart in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains.
- (iii) Provision of Tatkal quota has been reduced in flexi fare train from maximum 30% to 10 % of the total available berths.
- (iv) Flexi fares are not applicable to First Air Conditioned and Executive Chair Car.
- (v) Discounted fare has been offered on some of these trains including Jaipur-Ajmer and Ajmer-Jaipur on Train No. 12015/12016 New Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi and for the passengers of Bengaluru City-Mysuru and Mysuru-Bengaluru City on 12007/12008 Chennai Central- Mysuru Shatabdi Express.

New Brand of trains like Humsafar Express, Tejas Express, Antyodaya Express, Mahamana Express have been introduced on differential fare structure with additional facilities and special features on cost recovery basis. This is applicable only to these trains and affects limited passengers.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal for hike in passenger fares, at present. Indian Railways continue to incur losses every year by performing a variety of unremunerative services. These losses are mostly due to (a) Low ordinary second class fare, (b) Low Suburban and non-suburban season ticket fare, (c) Loss on essential commodities carried below cost, and (d) A variety of concessions granted on passenger ticket. Working of uneconomic branch lines, too, imposes a heavy burden on IR's finances. A gap is thus created between the revenue income generated through these services and their running costs. The losses have burgeoned from a level of ₹ 7933 crore in 2004-05 to ₹ 35918.39 crore in 2015-16.

Evaluation of various alternatives/proposals for rationalization of the fare and freight structure is an on-going process.

Indian Railway continuously strives to improve passenger earnings through various measures including the following:—

- Augmentation of ticket selling capacity through operation of Automated Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs), ticket booking through mobile phones,

utilizing the services of ticketing agents like Jan Sadharan Ticket Booking Sewaks (JTBS), Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBA), Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendra (YTSK) etc.

- Organizing intensive ticket checking drives including fortress checks etc.
- Augmentation of on-board capacity by attachment of additional coaches.
- Running of special trains (including on special fares) during festivals and holidays, running of Suvidha trains, etc.
- Introduction of special measures to increase passenger earnings through schemes like booking of tickets under Tatkal Quota, Premium Tatkal Quota, Flexi-fare system, Suvidha trains on variable fare structure, etc.

In addition various freight segment initiatives have been taken to improve freight earnings; like Policy on Long Term Tariff Contract with key freight customers (LTTC), Automatic Freight Rebate Scheme in Traditional Empty Flow Direction (TEFD), Station to Station Rates (STS), etc.

Besides, initiatives for revenue generation from non-fare areas like station re-development, monetizing land along tracks, monetizing soft assets, advertising etc. have been taken by IR.

(d) Improvement to Passenger amenities on Indian Railways (IR) is a continuous process. Present day passengers expect visible and qualitative improvement in public utilities and amenities provided at the Stations. With a view to meeting the expectation of the passengers, Indian Railways is making all out effort to provide improved facilities at the stations including those located in small cities/towns. Indian Railways has more than 8000 Stations. It has always been the endeavour of the Railways to provide adequate amenities to the passengers at the stations. Certain amenities are provided at the time of construction of new stations based on anticipated volume of traffic. Amenities are further augmented from time to time with growth in passenger traffic handled at stations, based on the felt need, expectations of the travelling public and availability of funds.

Modernisation of textile and knitwear sector

*224. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to provide logistic and financial support to modernise Textile and Knitwear sector in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the list of textile and knitwear units selected for modernisation and upgradation, State-wise;

(c) the effective steps taken by Government to guard the interests of workers engaged in the sick textile units in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) whether Government has any special plans to involve corporate companies in rejuvenating the traditional textile industries through their commercial ventures and CSR funds, if so, the details thereof and the list of such corporate companies involved?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. In order to achieve sustainable growth, modernization and overall development of Textile and Knitwear sector in the country, Government is implementing several policy initiatives and schemes, such as the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (A-TUFS), Scheme for Development of Technical Textiles, Schemes for the Development of the Powerloom Sector, Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS), Schemes for Development of Silk and Sericulture sectors, National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS), Yarn Supply Scheme, National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP), North East Region Textiles Promotion Scheme (NERTPS), etc. Government has launched In-Situ Upgradation Scheme for plain powerlooms, a component of PowerTex India Scheme for upgrading the existing powerlooms with Rapier Kits to produce value added fabrics. The schemes mentioned above are implemented on pan-India basis. The details of the schemes are available on the website of Ministry of Textiles: www.texmin.nic.in. The scheme-wise expenditure during the last three years is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

The State-wise list of textile units assisted under A-TUFS in the last 3 years for technology upgradation is given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) Under the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) Ministry was providing relief to workers rendered jobless due to permanent closure of Non-SSI Textile Mills in the private sector. TWRFS has now been merged with Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana RGSKY which provides an unemployment allowance for the employees covered under ESI Scheme, who are rendered unemployed involuntarily due to retrenchment/closure of factory, etc. The benefits under these schemes can be availed by eligible workers all over the country including Tamil Nadu.

(d) “Indian Handloom Brand” (IHB) has been launched for branding of high quality handloom products to promote production of niche handloom products with high quality, authentic traditional designs with zero defect and zero effect on environment. An initiative has been undertaken by the Ministry for linking various leading brands with the weavers/producers of IHB. Under this initiative, brands like BIBA, Peter England, ONAYA, have already launched separate ranges of garments for promoting traditional textiles.

Further, the Government is ensuring a conducive policy environment and creating enabling conditions for promotion of the industry. The textile sector schemes mentioned above support the promotion of commercial ventures, setting up of new units as well as expansion of the existing units in the country.

Statement-I

Details of scheme-wise expenditure by various sectors of Textile Industry during 2014-15 upto 2016-17

	(₹ in crores)		
Sector/Scheme	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Handloom	410.03	549.99	619.18
Handicraft	105.18	165.28	126.81
Wool and Woollens	21.00	27.51	18.85
Sericulture/Silk	297.58	178.10	154.01
Powerloom	51.52	100.99	110.67
Megacluster	61.79	138.75	106.06
Sub Total (Village and Small Enterprises)	947.10	1160.62	1135.58
Industry Schemes (including Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS), and North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS)	2373.41	1951.25	3330.39
GRAND TOTAL	3320.51	3111.87	4465.97

Statement-II

State-wise release of subsidy under TUFS

	(₹ in crore)					
State	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
	No of Cases	Subsidy Released	No of Cases	Subsidy Released	No of Cases	Subsidy Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	238	76.14	200	45.61	180	72.08
Assam	4	2.03	4	0.79	3	0.85
Bihar	2	0.08	2	0.04	3	2.18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chandigarh (UT)	41	19.98	24	9.82	22	4.99
Chhattisgarh	2	0.82	2	0.84	2	1.49
Dadra and Nagar Haveli (UT)	48	35.53	43	24.59	53	40.77
Daman and Diu (UT)	14	3.83	15	8.8	15	6.06
Delhi (UT)	105	33.3	98	28.18	106	34.88
Goa	2	0.66	3	6.27	3	1.01
Gujarat	1502	319.15	1948	337.79	1702	654.62
Haryana	166	39.4	169	24.94	228	71.8
Himachal Pradesh	39	14.65	38	12.72	40	19.49
Jammu and Kashmir	11	3.09	9	2.16	11	2.74
Jharkhand	2	0.84	2	0.13	3	0.48
Karnataka	99	34.07	77	28.38	68	32.52
Kerala	41	9.35	32	2.8	30	13.59
Madhya Pradesh	105	104.57	92	69.02	105	106.11
Maharashtra	842	361.81	791	217.86	740	476.42
Odisha	1	0.12	2	0.24	2	0.13
Puducherry	3	0.48	2	0.03	2	0.2
Punjab	679	280.19	729	151.32	893	367.44
Rajasthan	344	99.05	293	76.88	325	184.24
Tamil Nadu	1441	223.73	1168	111.33	1258	323.58
Telangana	92	22.83	80	18.85	82	21.73
Uttar Pradesh	125	25.4	106	15.99	119	39.79
Uttarakhand	13	4.21	12	3.13	6	2.99
West Bengal	101	20.78	101	25.72	122	35.98
MMS Cases	1392	130	1044	165.98	534	99.94
TOTAL	7454	1866.09	7086	1390.21	6657	2618.1

Organic farming in North-East Region

*225. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of policies, programmes and projects for promotion of organic farming in the North-East region of the country;

(b) the details of funding under the scheme till date; and

(c) the details of achievements made thereunder and the changes it has brought in the agricultural economy of the region and to the farmers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Mission Organic Value Chain Development (MOVCDNER), a Sub-scheme of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) is being implemented since 2015-16 to encourage organic farming in north eastern region by providing support to the farmers to develop end to end value chain for their produce. The scheme aims to cover 50,000 ha. of area under organic farming in North Eastern Region during the period 2015-16 to 2017-18. It is targeted at forming 100 Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) with 2500 Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) and 50000 farmers.

Assistance is provided under the scheme for mobilisation and capacity building of farmers, cluster development, on/off farm input production, supply of seeds/planting materials, creation of post harvest infrastructure like grading, packing, processing units; refrigerated transportation, third party branding/labeling of organic certification and developing market linkages. A designated lead agency implements the programme in the States.

(b) The scheme was approved in the central sector with an outlay of ₹ 400 crores for three years and as such the allocations are made to the North Eastern states on a 100% grant basis by the Central Government. The state-wise details on budget allocation, release and utilization during the year 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) 2376 Crop specific FIGs have been formed covering an area of 48146 ha. and 46842 farmers in eight North-Eastern States so far. 23 Farmer Producer Companies have been registered till date. The State-wise details of FIG registration, area/farmers covered are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I*State-wise details of Budget allocation, Releases and Utilization for 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18*

Sl. No.	State	No. of FPCs	(₹ in lakhs)						
			Amount released (A)	Amount released (B)	Total Fund released (A+B)	Utilized Fund	Utilization %	Budget allocation	Amount released
1.	Assam	10	2207.32	231.98	2439.30	1448.10	59.37	1423.47	-
2.	Manipur	10	803.73	736.79	1540.52	1088.56	44.71	1788.42	894.21
3.	Meghalaya	12	1293.22	463.05	1756.27	1167.72	66.48	940.71	-
4.	Nagaland	12	627.86	1244.85	1872.71	1426.74	50.30	1927.75	963.87
5.	Mizoram	14	913.34	969.09	1882.43	1174.05	62.37	583.44	-
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	779.31	522.65	1301.96	779.31	59.85	1181.45	-
7.	Sikkim	28	4216.08	0	4216.08	1789.00	42.43	687.88	-
8.	Tripura	4	370.13	594.24	964.37	835.06	86.59	491.88	-
TOTAL			11210.99	4762.65	15973.64	9708.54		9025.00	1858.08
Project Management Unit			-	105.77	-	-	-	975.00	4.00
GRAND TOTAL			11210.99	4868.42	15973.64	9708.54		10000.00	1862.08

Statement-II*State-wise Number of FIGs formed, area covered and farmers mobilized*

Sl. No.	States	Number of FIGs		Area (in Ha.)		Farmers mobilized	
		Target	Achieve	Target area	Area covered	Target farmers	Farmers mobilized
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	250	250	5000	5000	5000	3960
2.	Assam	250	285	5000	5000	5000	5136
3.	Manipur	250	230	5000	5000	5000	5000
4.	Mizoram	350	179	7000	3966	7000	5726
5.	Meghalaya	300	359	6000	7180	6000	5350
6.	Nagaland	300	300	6000	6000	6000	6340
7.	Sikkim	700	641	14000	14000	14000	12820
8.	Tripura	100	132	2000	2000	2000	2510
TOTAL		2500	2376	50000	48146	50000	46842

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Cold storages for potatoes**

2241. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 90 per cent cold storages are for potatoes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the categories of cold storages, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) As per base line survey conducted by M/s Hansa Research Group commissioned by National Horticulture Board (NHB), 95% of cold storages in the country were owned by private sector, 3% by cooperatives and remaining 2% were under PSU. 75% of the total cold storage capacity in the country was used for the purpose of storage of horticulture crops including potato. Out of total production of potatoes in the country 75% was stored in cold storages for long term storage at farm gate.

As per available records, 7543 cold storages with capacity of 34.67 million MT have been established in the country. The State-wise details of cold storage sanctioned under various programmes are given in the Statement.

Statement*Details of state-wise and Agency wise distribution of cold storages*

Sl. No.	State	upto 2009*		2009-10 to 2016-17								Total	
				NHB		NHM		MoFPI					
		No.	Capacity (MT)	No.	Capacity (MT)	No.	Capacity (MT)	No.	Capacity (MT)	No.	Capacity (MT)	No.	Capacity (MT)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands (UT)	2	210	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	210		
2.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	290	900606	36	220158	101	619021	5	18000	432	1757785		
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	5000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5000		
4.	Assam	24	88068	10	61738	0	0	2	8100	36	157906		
5.	Bihar	246	1147041	28	111821	29	153233	2	4000	305	1416095		
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	6	12216	1	246	0	0			7	12462		
7.	Chhattisgarh	69	341885	14	68323	13	65349	2	9000	98	484557		
8.	Delhi	95	126158	2	3699	0	0			97	129857		
9.	Goa	29	7705	0	0	0	0	0		29	7705		

10. Gujarat	398	1267304	50	169199	295	1419209	10	20000	753	2875713
11. Haryana	244	393121	39	147816	45	152509	8	48000	336	741446
12. Himachal Pradesh	18	19858	7	20504	29	54805.18	9	24000	63	119167
13. Jammu and Kashmir	19	42869	6	24630	7	37707	4	7000	36	112206
14. Jharkhand	45	170148	8	36757	5	29775	0		58	236680
15. Karnataka	170	407165	8	78844	12	49392	4	18000	194	553401
16. Kerala	193	58105	1	5000	0	0	2	15000	196	78105
17. Lakshadweep (UT)	1	15	0	0	0	0			1	15
18. Madhya Pradesh	197	808052	22	114580	71	320083	4	11000	294	1253715
19. Maharashtra	466	546748	30	106860	58	151122	27	92000	581	896730
20. Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3000	1	3000
21. Meghalaya	3	3200	1	5000	0	0	0		4	8200
22. Mizoram	0	0	1	3471	0	0	2	1000	3	4471
23. Nagaland	2	6150	0	0	0	0	0		2	6150
24. Odisha	101	291039	0	0	68	247100	1		170	538139
25. Puducherry (UT)	3	85	0	0	0	0			3	85
26. Punjab	422	1345193	55	176908	166	584902	12	45000	655	2152003

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
27.	Rajasthan	110	324226	26	98907	21	88760	4	16000	161	527893
28.	Sikkim	1	2000	0	0	1	100	0		2	2100
29.	Tamil Nadu	148	238536	16	65047	1	6000	3	7000	168	316583
30.	Tripura	11	29450	3	16027	0	0	0		14	45477
31.	Uttar Pradesh	1589	10118000	503	2975267	184	1016530	9	29300	2285	14139098
32.	Uttarakhand	15	68499	5	9272	10	21650	15	52000	45	151421
33.	West Bengal	463	5682000	14	47812	26	153699	8	57000	511	5940511
TOTAL		5381	24450652	886	4567888	1142	5170946	134	484400	7543	34673886

Source: Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI) upto 2009, National Horticulture Board (NHB), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).

Average income of farmers

2242. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new technologies which are being developed for agricultural advancement and doubling the income of farmers in the next five years;

(b) the targets set/achieved so far;

(c) whether the average farm household in the country earns less than ₹ 6,500 a month from all sources of income, if so, the details thereof, and whether this amount is sufficient for a family to survive, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has any plans/schemes to support the farming community, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Research and Development is a continuous process, in this endeavor, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has achieved to develop following technologies during the last three years. The list of the technologies developed is appended as Statement-I (*See below*).

- (i) 142 technologies related to farm mechanization, post harvest processing and value added of agro produce developed for maintaining timeliness of operations, and reducing farm inputs, drudgery and post harvest losses.
- (ii) 596 high yielding, climate resilient crop varieties/hybrids of field crops released for cultivation in different agro-ecologies of the country.
- (iii) 140 improved varieties and hybrids of different Horticultural crops were developed.
- (iv) 52 new technologies under Natural Resources management were developed.
- (v) 17 new breeds were registered in animal sciences,.
- (vi) 24 new improved breeding technologies for fish production were developed.

(c) and (d) 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 for the reference period of the agricultural year July 2012-June 2013. The survey collected the details of income generated by the agricultural households during the agricultural year July 2012-June 2013 from different economic activities. As per the results obtained from the said survey, the average monthly income per agricultural household during July 2012-June 2013 was estimated at ₹ 6426. State-wise details are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

The average monthly income per agricultural household is low hence during the last two years, 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 Government is realigning its interventions to move from production-centric to farmers' income centric platform. In order to realise net positive returns for the farmer, reducing cost of cultivation/production assumes importance, schemes and initiatives as follows, are being promoted and implemented in a major way towards this. The details of schemes are given in Statement-III (*See below*).

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea (NCU)
- (iii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
- (iv) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)
- (v) National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM)
- (vi) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
- (vii) Interest subvention on short-term crop loans
- (viii) Minimum Support Price (MSP)
- (ix) Other centrally sponsored schemes *viz.* National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
- (x) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
- (xi) Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP).

Statement-I

Details of the technologies developed by DARE/ICAR during the last 3 years:

(a) Technologies developed for farm mechanization, processing and value addition of agro-produce farm implements, machines and technologies

- Nitrogen dose estimation for top dressing in wheat and rice crop
- Animal drawn 3-row garlic planter
- Animal drawn garlic digger
- Single bud sett cutting machine for sugarcane
- Mechanized system for sugarcane budsett / bud chip treatment

- Manually guided power weeder
- Harvesting knife for oil palm
- Yield monitoring system for soyabean-wheat cropping system
- Hearing impairment of tractor drivers
- Establishment of farm machinery bank at Gaildubba village of Chindwara district
- GPS based variable rate granular fertilizer applicator for basal dose application
- Spectral reflectance based prototype of variable rate urea application system for top dressing in rice and wheat crops
- Pre-emergence herbicide strip applicator
- Mechanization status of selected cropping pattern in Madhya Pradesh
- Economic evaluation and impact assessment of selected farm equipment
- Seed-cum-fertilizer drill with two stage fertilizer placement
- Multi-millet planter
- Three-row harvester for grain sorghum
- Three row automatic vegetable transplanter for potted seedlings
- Mechanical intra and inter row weeder for wide spaced deep rooted field crops
- Package of animal operated implements for different cropping systems in Madhya Pradesh
- Online database for anthropometric and strength data bank
- Hand held vegetable transplanter
- PTO driven automatic total mix ration (TMR) delivery system for cattle
- Promotion of climate smart farm machinery in village Kacchi Barkheda
- Image based herbicide application system
- Lifting device for sick animals
- Zero-till planter-cum-residue mulcher for maize-wheat cropping system
- Horizontal bio-reactor for generation of bio-char from crop residues
- SPV based refrigeration system for storage of horticultural crops (6-7 tonne)
- Hot water treatment chamber and ripening chamber for fruits
- Bioreactor for accelerated composting of biomass
- Pilot plant for production of biochar from crop residue (500 kg. capacity)
- Cook stoves on biomass briquettes

- Briquetting of jute sticks
- Solar powered knapsack sprayer (3 nozzle)
- Energetic of soyabean-wheat cropping system of Hoshangabad district, MP
- Briquette based cookstove for thermal application
- Moringa leaf stripper
- Prototype for preparation of pro-biotic soya cheese
- Technology for products like composite flour eggless cake, multi-grain laddu, multi-grain tortillas chips
- Machine vision protocols/software for distinguishing among crop varieties
- Blending of millet flour with hydrocolloid for quality breads
- Complete mechanization package for banana central core
- Package of equipment for making rope from banana outer sheet
- Ultrasonic sensor based spraying system for orchards
- Microcontroller based automatic variable rate fertilizer applicator
- Microcontroller based sugarcane bud cutting and planting technology
- Tractor operated check basin former
- Tractor operated mulch cum drip laying cum seedling planter
- Tractor operated system for controlled level puddling
- Tractor drawn turmeric rhizome planter
- Paddy transplanter as an attachment to four wheel drive tractor
- 3 Row tractor operated sorghum harvester
- Tractor operated fertilizer dibbler for ratoon sugarcane and tractor operated small seed planter
- Bullock drawn Stubble collector
- Bullock drawn Farm Yard manure spreader
- Bullock drawn Two row, three row and four row Seed drill
- Bullock drawn Seed-cum-fertiliser drill
- Bullock drawn Zero-till drill
- Bullock drawn Inclined plate planter
- Bullock drawn 4-row Seed drill for intercrop
- Bullock drawn Garlic planter
- Bullock drawn Turmeric planter

- Bullock drawn 3 and 5 tyne biasi plough
- Bullock drawn Drum seeder
- Bullock drawn weeder
- Bullock drawn Potato digger
- Bullock drawn Groundnut digger
- Bullock drawn engine operated sprayer
- Bullock drawn solar sprayer
- Cono weeder
- Ragi pearler
- Arecanut sacrifier
- Cashewnut sheller
- Large cardamom harvesting knife
- Improved bamboo ladder for harvesting of apple
- A low cost ropeway for agricultural material handling in hill areas

Post harvest processing and value addition technologies

- Chilli destalking machine
- Shrink packaging line for cauliflower
- Litchi destoning machine, improved pulse dehulling machine
- Pilot plant for production of fruit bar, onion grader
- Mechanical peeler for citrus
- Specialized bag for wheat storage
- Active packaging film/material for ethylene absorption
- Animal squeeze for restraining large animal
- Fumigation chamber for grapes
- Sensor based quality sensing system for mushroom and pomegranate arils
- Pilot plant for mustard based taste enhancer
- Mechanized system for production of functional meat products
- Package of equipment for processing of garcinia combogia
- Health response of soya products on animals
- Technology for lab scale production of soy protein hydrolysates
- Pneumatic Conveyor-cum dryer, Flaking machine and belt conveyor assembly

- Ready to cook products from millets
- Millet processing mill
- Cauliflower floret cutters
- Pilot scale modified atmosphere storage system for selected fruit and vegetable
- Starch/PLA based biodegradable film for packaging of fresh produce
- Small scale lac processing unit (capacity–100 kg./day) for primary processing of lac at village level

Process Protocol and Value Added Products:

- Pseudo-cereal based composite flour
- Anthocyanin enriched functional food products
- Low methoxyl pectin based food products
- Fat replacers for low-fat meat product
- Functional health promoting meat product
- Mineral fortified wheat dalia and flour
- Mustard based tastemaker
- Soft textured fruit candy
- Value added ber products
- Protocol for fumigation of grapes
- Low glycemic food products
- Antioxidant rich fruit beverages
- Process for packaging and storage of dried destalked chillies
- Technology for flax seed based extruded snack and Diabetic Flaxi Bar
- Protein rich flour formulations based on nutritional requirements of children
- Ready-to-use Comfo (complementary food) spread
- Complementary health Beverages

Jute related technology

- Power Ribboner machine for jute and mesta
- Jute grading instruments like Electronic Fibre Bundle Strength Tester, Digital Moisture
- Measurement meter, Digital Fibre Fineness tester, Colour and amp; lusture meter

- Dyeing of jute fabric with natural dyes extracted from manjista, annatto, babool and amp; ratanjot with
- Improved fastness characteristic
- Dry retting of jute plant for extraction of fibre using pectinolytic fungal culture
- Lignocellulosic fibre based agrotexiles for higher yield of horticultural crops.
- Natural fibre-based geo-textiles and placement system for protection of riverbank and
- Improvement of soil stabilization
- Ornamental jute fabric using handloom
- Jute Stick Particle Board
- Jute based handmade paper
- Jute based reinforced concrete products

Cotton related technologies

- Chemo mechanical method for preparation of nano cellulose
- Nano Cellulose Pilot plant
- Degossipolisation of cotton seed meal for use as feed for non-ruminants (poultry and fish)
- Cotton Bamboo blended fabric for active wear
- On Board pre-cleaner for mechanically picked Cotton
- Multi-axial electro spinning technology to produce nano fibres
- Protocol for ginning long staple Indian cotton on Rotary Knife Gin
- Pelleting Plant (based on Cotton Residues) established
- Nano-lignocellulose was produced from coconut fibre for composites
- Low Salt Dyeing Process for cotton developed
- Machinery for extraction of fibre from pineapple and flax
- Grading equipment for Ramie fibre

(b) Crop and Horticulture Sciences:

- During the last three years, 596 high yielding, climate resilient crop varieties/ hybrids of field crops released for cultivation in different agro-ecologies of the country. National Agricultural Research System (NARS) has also developed and released a number of varieties with higher nutritional quality like, DRR Dhan 45 (18.18 ppm Zinc) and CRR Dhan 310 (10.3% protein)

of rice; WB-2 (42 PPM Zinc and 40 ppm Fe) and HPBW-01 (40.6 ppm Zinc and 40.6 Fe) of wheat, Pusa Mustard 30 (zero erucic acid) and Pusa Mustard 31 (Double zero) of Indian mustard and two trypsin inhibitor free soybean genotypes namely NRC 101 and NRC 102. These varieties will help in attaining nutritional security in the country. Two barley varieties for industrial usage namely DWRB 101 (low Beta-Glucan suitable for malt) and DWRB 30 (high Beta-Glucan suitable for baby food) developed.

- Climate Resilient Crops to withstand adverse climate: IR-64 Drrt-1 (DRR Dhan 42) resistant to drought and Samba Sub-1 tolerant to submergence developed are the two top indented rice varieties for breeder seed production during 2017-18. These are expected to have major impact in the upland rain fed (deficit rainfall conditions) and flood (submergence) rice growing ecologies. Forty three (43) wheat accessions were identified tolerant to heat stress, which will pave the way for development of heat tolerant varieties. IPM 205-7 (Virat), an extra-early (52-55 days) maturing summer mungbean variety, first-of-its-kind globally, developed. Being short duration variety, it will help in increasing the cropping intensity and diversify the rice-wheat cropping system.
- Biotic Stress Resilient Crops to ensure crop biosecurity: Using cutting edge technology like Marker Assisted Selection (MAS), Pusa Basmati 1609, Pusa Basmati 1509, Pusa Basmati 1637 and Pusa Basmati 1728 varieties of rice developed. Development of blast resistant Basmati variety Pusa Basmati 1637 is of special significance in view of the immense pressure of importing countries for very stringent residue limit of Tricyclazole in Basmati grains, a fungicide primarily used for control of blast disease in rice.
- Three Bt. cotton cultivars viz; PAU-1, RS- 2013 and F-1861 have been identified and recommended for commercial release by ICAR. The average yield of these genotypes is nearly 500 kg./ha., more than the conventional cotton varieties. Moreover, these genotypes are moderately resistant to cotton leaf curl disease and the quality of cotton is at par with the other conventional varieties.
- In Horticulture Sciences division, 140 improved varieties and hybrids of different Horticultural crops were developed during 2014-17. Varieties developed include; Beta carotene (8.0 – 10.0ppm) rich Cauliflower variety (Pusa Kesarivit A1), extra early Cucumber variety (Pusa Seedless Cucumber-6) for protected cultivation, high yielding Downy Mildew resistant Ridge gourd variety (VRRG-27), New high yielding Potato Variety Kufri Mohan for medium duration (50 days) ,open pollinated canary yellow

musk melon (First in India under this category), Arka Samrat of tomato (Yield 80-85 t/ha in 140 days), Pea variety Arka Tapas (6.7 t/ha in 90 days) and NRCC Nagpur mandarin seedless and NRCC Acid lime. In production technology, multiple species cropping system involving coconut, pepper, banana, nutmeg, pine apple, ginger, turmeric and elephant foot yam has potential to increase income by over 150 percent. The Food Safety Referral Laboratory has been established at ICAR- Indian Institute of Horticultural Research and technical advisory on pesticide residue monitoring provided by the National Referral Laboratory ICAR-NRCG has strengthened grape exports to European Union.

(c) Management of Natural Resources:

- Under Natural Resources management, ICAR developed 52 new technologies during past 3 years (April 2014-March 2017). In addition, 623 district contingency plans were developed and updated by ICAR in collaboration with the partner Institutions all over the country. ICAR has developed technologies for conservation, management and sustainable utilization of the natural resources ensuring food, nutritional and environmental security in the country. The outcome of the research has been promoted through various developmental plan schemes of the Government and is contributing towards increase in agricultural productivity and ensuring well-being of the farming community in the country and doubling farmers' income. Some of the key technologies developed during the last 3 years include; Reclamation technology and salt tolerant varieties of rice, wheat and mustard; Mridaparikshaka minilab for soil analysis, capable of measuring 12 soil parameters of SHC (pH, EC, OC, available N, P, K, S and Fe, Zn, Cu, Mn & B) to bring soil testing service at farmers' doorstep; "Rapo-compost technology" for rapid decomposition of biomass using consortium of Ligno-cellulolytic thermophilic organisms; Establishment of 38 on-station IFS models and refined 63 existing IFS in 14 agro-climatic regions; Location specific 43 IFS models with productivity gains 3-5 times compared to monoculture; 35 Agroforestry systems with multipurpose trees for different agro-ecological regions of the country, Organic farming package for 42 cropping systems; CSR-BIO: a potential bio-growth enhancer for higher and sustainable crop productivity of salt affected soils; A multipurpose rubber dam; Vulnerability Atlas of India at district-level for all the 572 rural districts; Quantification of carbon sequestration potential through agroforestry systems across the country; Soil Resource Mapping for Sound Land Use, Development of 75 model watersheds for different agro-ecological regions of the country; Solar PV pumping system for micro-irrigation system,

Groundwater Recharge Technology; Water harvesting and recycling through farm ponds; Technology for amelioration of Acid Soils, Use of Poor Quality Sodic Groundwater-Gypsum Bed Technology and, Agroforestry based integrated watershed model for drought mitigation at Parasai-Sindh in Jhansi district of Bundelkhand region.

(d) Animal and Fisheries Sciences:

- In animal sciences, 17 new breeds were registered during last years (April 2014- March 2017) and with this, the total number of breeds registered in the country has moved up to 160. Likewise, the number of new technologies, vaccines for livestock and poultry and new diagnostic kits developed during last 3 years were 145, 9 and 32 respectively. New poultry varieties developed and released include, Srinidhi: ‘Srinidhi’ is a new promising dual purpose variety developed for rural poultry by DPR, Hyderabad (annual egg production was 228 eggs and survivability was more than 95%); Kamrupa”: A multi-coloured bird for rural poultry production developed at AAU, Assam (Annual egg production is 118-130 eggs with an egg weight of 52 grams and Survivability of more than 95%); Pratapdhan: a dual purpose coloured bird developed for rural poultry farming in Rajasthan (Annual production of 161 eggs annually, which is 274% higher than local native); ‘Narmadanidhi’: A new and improved location specific variety of chicken developed and released (under backyard system, annual egg production is 181 which is 4 times higher than the local native chicken) and Jharsim a location specific dual purpose chicken variety, suitable for rearing in the agro-climatic conditions of the state of Jharkhand and adjoining NE states.(Annual egg production of 165-170). The new crossbred pig varieties included; Rani and Asha ; HD K75 and Jahrsuk; (These varieties can gain almost 74 - 80 kg pork at slaughter age of 8 months with 1.75 - 2.58 cm of back fat thickness). “Lumsniang”- A new pig variety developed and released by ICAR can attain body weight of 90-100 kg at 12 months of age, besides higher litter size at weaning as compared to local non-descriptive pigs (8.56 ± 0.77 Vs 5.23 ± 0.54) in the low input tribal production system. Avishaan a new and prolificsheep breed developed by ICAR has the potential to increase multiple births by 50 percent. By rearing this breed, the sheep farmers with 100 breeding ewes, can get 40 extra lambs in a year compared to native Malpura sheep with 85% lambing rate and 95% lamb survivability. They earn extra income of Rs. one lakh per annum by selling 3-4 months Avishaan lambs. These technologies have a great potential for doubling the farmers income. Major breakthroughs were also achieved in buffalo cloning with the production of cloned calves Lalima

and Rajat by Hand Guided Cloning Technique. Three classical swine fever vaccine strains; peste des petits ruminants' virus (PPRV) and Sungri/96 strain of Newcastle disease virus (NDV) were also developed by ICAR.

- During past 3 years, 24 new improved breeding technologies for fish production were developed by ICAR research Institutes. Also 11 diagnostic kits for fish diseases, 22 fish products, 22 fishing gears and 11 fishing crafts were also developed/designed by ICAR research Institutes. In addition, 6 new nutraceutical products from fish were also developed by ICAR research institutes during last 3 years. Among the pioneering achievements of ICAR in fisheries sciences during last 3 years include; Broodstock and seed production technologies for commercially important marine finfish species for mariculture - Cobia, silver pompano, Indian Pompano and orange spotted grouper; Breakthrough in breeding and seed production of milkfish (*Chanoschanos*) in captivity – an important brackishwater fish for aquaculture diversification. The fish species is highly suited for culture in different salinity in brackish water and inland saline ponds; Viability of open sea cage farming of commercially important marine finfish species namely, cobia and silver pompano, has been demonstrated. Over 1000 cages have been installed all along the coastline for demonstration of cage farming through participatory approach with involvement of self-help groups. The technology has been widely accepted by fishers/fisher groups that has helped improving the livelihood status of coastal fisher community involved; Breakthrough in induced breeding and seed production of Hilsa; Prolonged and multiple breeding of Indian major carps and other species of commercial importance for round the year seed availability; Mass scale seed production of major, medium and minor carps, cat fishes and fresh water prawn enabling system and species diversification in culture practices; Induced breeding, seed production and farming technologies for commercially important coldwater fish species including chocolate mahseer and snow trout have been standardized; Management protocols and package of practices for culture-based capture fishery for reservoirs and wetlands; Development of Organic manure and Bio-fertilizers from fish waste produced through aerobic microbial degradation of marine fish waste, enhances flowering and fruit setting in plants and soil productivity leading to increased production; Novel approaches as promotion of Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) of seaweed with Cobia in open-sea cage farming have been demonstrated and these models were able to provide additional income, rural empowerment and livelihood support along the coastal belt of India and National Surveillance Programme on Aquatic Animal Diseases launched in 17 states and one Union Territory covering 115 districts with involvement of 26 organizations.

Statement-II

Estimated average monthly income (₹) per agricultural household for different States/group of UTs during July 2012-June 2013 as per the results of the Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households, NSS 70th round (January 2013-December 2013)

State/Group of UTs#	Income from wages	Net receipt from cultivation	Net receipt from farming of animals	Net receipt from non-farm business	Total Income
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	2482	2022	1075	400	5979
Arunachal Pradesh	2076	6647	1310	836	10869
Assam	1430	4211	799	255	6695
Bihar	1323	1715	279	240	3558
Chhattisgarh	1848	3347	-19	1	5177
Gujarat	2683	2933	1930	380	7926
Haryana	3491	7867	2645	431	14434
Himachal Pradesh	4030	2876	1047	824	8777
Jammu and Kashmir	7336	3063	801	1483	12683
Jharkhand	1839	1451	1193	238	4721
Karnataka	2677	4930	600	625	8832
Kerala	5254	3531	575	2529	11888
Madhya Pradesh	1332	4016	732	129	6210
Maharashtra	2156	3856	539	834	7386
Manipur	3815	2924	1563	540	8842
Meghalaya	3776	6472	657	887	11792
Mizoram	3655	4561	864	19	9099
Nagaland	5393	3212	1384	59	10048
Odisha	1716	1407	1314	539	4976
Punjab	4779	10862	1658	760	18059
Rajasthan	2534	3138	967	710	7350
Sikkim	3113	1696	980	1009	6798
Tamil Nadu	2902	1917	1100	1061	6980
Telangana	1450	4227	374	260	6311

1	2	3	4	5	6
Tripura	2185	2772	311	162	5429
Uttarakhand	1069	2531	848	253	4701
Uttar Pradesh	1150	2855	543	376	4923
West Bengal	2126	979	225	650	3980
Group of UTs	5179	1864	213	1312	8568
ALL INDIA	2071	3081	763	512	6426

#Figures for remaining States are not published due to inadequate sample size (i.e. number of sample households less than 300). Figures for UTs have been clubbed and given against 'Group of UTs' due to the same reason.

Source: Table 1 of Appendix A, NSS Report No. 576: Income, Expenditure, Productive Assets and Indebtedness of Agricultural Households in India.

Statement-III

Details of schemes in order to realise net positive returns for the farmer and reducing cost of cultivation/production being promoted and implemented in a major way towards this

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and thus save money of farmers. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers. The second cycle which began from 1st May 2017 is building on the learning of the first cycle so as to improve efficiency and make its use more acceptable by the farmers. As on 27.6.2017, 253.54 lakh soil samples have been collected, 243.91 lakh samples have been tested and a total of 870.17 lakh Soil Health Cards have been distributed to farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea (NCU) is being promoted to regulate use of urea, enhance availability of nitrogen to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer application. NCU slows down the release of fertilizer and makes it available to the crop in an effective manner. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured and imported urea is now neem coated. The reports from field are positive. The expected saving is 10% of urea consumption, thereby resulting in reduced cost of cultivation and improved soil health management.
- (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 though 10,000 clusters of 50 acre each, from the year 2015-16 to 2017-18. So far 7208 clusters have been formed and remaining clusters would be formed during 2017-18.

- (iv) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched on 1st July, 2015 with the motto of 'Har Khet Ko Paani' for providing end-to-end solutions in irrigation supply chain, comprising water sources, distribution network and farm level applications. PMKSY not only focuses on creating sources for assured irrigation, but also creating protective irrigation by harnessing rain water at micro level through 'Jal Sanchay' and 'Jal Sinchan'. Micro irrigation is also incentivized through subsidy to ensure 'Per drop-More crop'. PMKSY adopts State level planning and projectised execution that allows States to draw up their own irrigation development plans based on District Irrigation Plans and State Irrigation Plans. The target for the year 2016-17 was 8 lakh ha. under micro irrigation against which 8.39 lakh ha. have been covered.
- (v) The National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM) 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. This innovative market process is revolutionizing agri-markets by ensuring better price discovery, bringing in transparency and competition to enable farmers to get improved remuneration for their produce moving towards 'One Nation One Market'. 455 markets in 13 States have been on boarded as on 30.6.2017.
- (vi) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was introduced from Kharif 2016 to address the risks associated with agriculture. PMFBY addresses all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and is available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. The farmers will get full insurance cover as there is no capping of sum insured and consequently the claim amount is not cut or reduced. This scheme provides insurance cover at all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances. It has been targeted to increase the area coverage to 30% by 2016-17, 40% by 2017-18 and 50% by the end of following year. The first year target has been achieved. The coverage was 390.02 lakh farmers and 386.75 lakh hectares area insured with a sum of ₹ 1,41,883.30 crore during Kharif 2016; and 172.94 lakh farmers and 196.29 lakh hectares area insured with a total sum of ₹ 69,851.37 crore during Rabi 2016-17. The year also brought focus on covering non-loanee farmers under PMFBY along with

loanee farmers, for whom the insurance cover is compulsory. The number of non-loanee farmers covered in the year 2016-17 increased to 135 lakh, showing the popularity of the scheme.

- (vii) The Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2016-17, 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. In order to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against negotiable receipts, the benefit of interest subvention will be available 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.
- (viii) In addition, the Government is implementing other 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).
- (ix) 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. To incentivise cultivation of pulses and oilseeds in the country, Government has announced bonus for Kharif 2017-18, over and above the approved MSP. Even during last year, Government had offered bonus over and above the MSP, in the case of pulses and oilseeds. Further the Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production.
- (x) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in rural areas of the country to provide 100 days of wage employment in a financial year

since February 2, 2006. The Sub-Para (2) of Paragraph 4 of Schedule 1, MGNREGA, lays down that, "District Programme Coordinator shall ensure that at least 60% of the works to be taken up in a district in terms of cost, shall be for creation of productive assets directly linked to agriculture and allied activities through development of land, water and trees".

- (xi) Further, the Ministry of Rural Development is also implementing Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) which aims to meet the specific needs of women farmers and achieve socio-economic and technical empowerment of rural women farmers, predominantly small and marginal farmers. The primary objective of the MKSP is to empower women in agriculture by making systematic investments to enhance their participation and productivity, as also create and sustainable agriculture based livelihoods for rural women.

Growth rate of the Animal Husbandry sector

2243. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Animal Husbandry sector is facing challenges such as delivery of services, shortage of feed and fodder and frequent occurrence of deadly diseases in animals; and

(b) if so, the present growth rate of the sector and the schemes prepared and implemented by Government to achieve the growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) As reported by the Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi, under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, there is an estimated deficit of 35.6% green fodder and 11.0% of dry forage in the country. The incidence of occurrence of animal diseases is regularly reported by State/UTs.

(b) According to estimates of the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the value of output from livestock sector at constant prices was about ₹ 4,15,949 crore during 2015-16 which is about 25.7% of the value of output from agriculture and allied sector at basic year 2011-12 and growth rate was 6.53%. Considering the immense contribution of the livestock sector in our economy, the Government of India is implementing National Livestock Mission (NLM) since 2014-15 with broad objectives to cover all the activities required to ensure improvement in livestock sector especially small ruminants in the country. This mission is formulated with the objective of sustainable development of

livestock sector focusing on improving availability of quality feed and fodder, risk coverage, effective extension, etc. in all the State/UTs of the country.

In order to prevent, control and contain animal diseases in the country, the department is implementing Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH and DC) Scheme under which financial assistance is provided to States/UTs for preventive immunization against economically important animal diseases, strengthening of veterinary infrastructure and surveillance and monitoring of animal diseases.

In addition to above, financial assistance is also provided under the normal programme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare for other fodder development and disease control activities planned by States/UTs which is supported by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.

Issues pertaining to temple situated on IVRI land

2244. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) owns the land on which an ancient Mukteshwar Temple is located within its campus, if so, the details of complete land records;

(b) whether the Mukteshwar Mandir Samiti has fraudulently taken over the temple premises in connivance with IVRI employees;

(c) the steps taken to restore the possession of temple to the head Swamiji who is the disciple of Mukteshwar Maharaj; and

(d) whether action would be taken to evict the Mukteshwar Mandir Samiti office bearers from the temple premises, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) Not applicable.

Role of middlemen in manipulating price of agricultural produces

2245. 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 the involvement of middlemen between the producer-farmer and end user-consumers is the main cause for steep increase or fatal fall in prices of agricultural commodities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether it is also a fact that the farming community and the consumers are ultimate losers and the middlemen, the only beneficiaries; and

(c) if so, whether Government has any specific strategy to curtail the involvement of these middlemen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Prices of agricultural commodities are driven by the supply and demand. However, long supply chain with multiple handlings by traders and commission agents may cause price gap between the farm gate/wholesale and retail.

(c) The Government has been advocating reforms in the agricultural market for enabling greater share of the farmer in the consumer's rupee. The new model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing Promotion and Facilitation Act, 2017 released on 24.04.2017 provides for progressive reforms including private markets direct marketing, farmer consumer markets, special commodity markets and markets of national importance. The National Agriculture Market (e-Nam) launched on 14.04.2016 is an online trading platform to ensure transparency and competition to enable better price discovery by the farmers.

Implementation of crop insurance schemes

2246. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) the details of the various crop insurance schemes introduced in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the crop insurance has covered all the States and all the farmers in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the crops covered under different crop insurance schemes, State-wise; and

(d) the number of farmers benefited from these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) have been launched from Kharif 2016 season after thorough review of the then extant

schemes of National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP), which had three component schemes namely, Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS) which was implemented from 2013-14. In addition, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which was to be withdrawn after implementation of NCIP, also remained under implementation till 2015-16. CPIS also continued to be implemented and Unified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) was launched on pilot basis in 45 districts from Kharif 2016.

(b) All the aforesaid crop insurance schemes are optional for States/Union Territories and available for all the farmers both loanee and non-loanee.

(c) PMFBY envisages coverage of all food crops (cereals, millets and pulses), oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops. Besides above perennial commercial/horticultural crops can be covered under RWBCIS and CPIS is being implemented for coconut growers. However, as per provisions of the schemes State/UT Governments notify the crops in their respective areas. State-wise details of crops notified under PMFBY and RWBCIS during 2016-17 are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

Government of India has been persuading the States/UTs from time to time in various meetings and through letters at various levels to notify all eligible crops and areas under the crop insurance schemes for the benefit of the farmers of the State.

(d) State-wise and crop season-wise details of farmers benefited under different crop insurance schemes during last three years are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise/season-wise details of crops under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)/Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS)

Sl.No.	State	Crops under PMFBY	Crops under RWBCIS
Kharif 2016			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Castor, Sunflower, Black Gram, Green Gram, Pigeon Pea, Turmeric, Paddy, Maize, Pearl Millet, Sorghum, Sugarcane, Groundnut, Cotton, Chilly, Korra	Oil Palm, Groundnut, Tomato, Cotton, Acid Lime, Red Chillies
2.	Assam	-	Black Gram, Green Gram, Paddy
3.	Bihar	Paddy, Maize	-
4.	Chhattisgarh	Soyabean, Groundnut, Black Gram, Green Gram, Pigeon Pea, Maize, Paddy	-

Sl.No.	State	Crops under PMFBY	Crops under RWBCIS
5.	Daman and Diu	No Coverage	-
6.	Goa	Groundnut, Paddy, Sugarcane, Pulses	-
7.	Gujarat	Groundnut, Finger Millet, Castor, Sesame, Black Gram, Green Gram, Pigeon Pea, Banana, Moth Bean, Maize, Pearl Millet, Sorghum, Cotton, Paddy	-
8.	Haryana	Cotton, Paddy, Maize, Pearl Millet	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Paddy, Maize	Tomato, Pea, Potato, Ginger
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Not finalized	-
11.	Jharkhand	Paddy, Maize	-
12.	Karnataka	Tomato, Castor, Green Gram, Turmeric, Mochai, Horse Gram, Brinjal, Groundnut, Paddy, Sunflower, Pigeon Pea, Maize, Bajra, Sorghum, Soyabean	Guava, Ginger, Acid Lime, Sapota, Coconut, Pepper, Arecanut, Pineapple, Sugarcane, Paddy
13.	Kerala	-	Ginger, Turmeric, Banana, Cardamom, Nutmeg, Pepper, Arecanut, Pineapple; Sugarcane, Paddy
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Soybean, Groundnut, Sesame, Sesarnum, Black Gram, Green Gram, Pigeon Pea, Cotton, Little Millet, Maize, Pearl Millet, Sorghum, Paddy	Tomato, Onion, Potato, Banana, Orange, Chillies, Brinjal, Papaya
15.	Maharashtra	Soyabean, Groundnut, Onion, Finger Millet, Niger, Sesame, Sesamum, Sunflower, Black Gram, Green Gram, Pigeon Pea, Cotton, Paddy, Maize, Pearl Millet, sorghum	Guava, Orange, Sapota, Pomegranate, Mosambi
16.	Manipur	Paddy Hyld	-
17.	Meghalaya	Potato, Ginger, Turmeric, Maize, Paddy	-
18.	Odisha	Groundnut, Cotton, Ginger, Turmeric, Paddy	-

Sl.No.	State	Crops under PMFBY	Crops under RWBCIS
19.	Puducherry	Paddy	-
20.	Rajasthan	Soyabean, Guar, Groundnut, Sesame, Black Gram, Green Gram, Cotton, Moth Bean, Paddy, Maize, Pearl Millet, Sorghum, Cowpea	Onion, Guava, Castor, Orange, Pomegranate, Kinnow
21.	Tamil Nadu	Groundnut, Onion, Finger Millet, Sesame, Sunflower, Black Gram, Green Gram, Pigeon Pea, Cotton, Potato, Turmeric, Banana, Maize, Pearl Millet, Sorghum, Tapioca, Paddy, Cowpea	-
22.	Telangana	Soyabean, Black Gram, Green Gram, Pigeon Pea, Turmeric, Paddy, Maize, Sorghum, Groundnut, Chilly	Oil Palm, Cotton, Mosambi, Red Chillies
23.	Tripura	Paddy	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Soyabean, Groundnut, Sesame, Sesamum, Black Gram, Green Gram, Pigeon Pea, Paddy, Maize, Pearl Millet, Sorghum, Sugarcane	Banana, Chillies
25.	Uttarakhand	Finger Millet, Paddy	Tomato, Potato, Ginger, Chillies, French Bean, Malta
26.	West Bengal	Jute, Maize, Paddy	Watermelon, Summer Squash, Sponge Gourd, Ash Gourd, Tomato, Onion, Guava, Marigold, Betel Vine, Chillies, Chapan Kaddu, Bitter Gourd, Pointed Gourd, Snake Gourd, Kundru, Spine Gourd, Tuberose Bush, Squash, Indian Squash, Ivy Gourd, Long Melon, Ribbed Gourd, Smooth Gourd, Snap Melon, Ridge Gourd, Pineapple, Brinjal, Cauliflower, Pumpkin, Bottle Gourd, Cucumber, Bhindi, Papaya, Banana

Sl. No.	State	Crops under PMFBY	Crops under RWBCIS
Rabi 2016-17			
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Tomato, Black Gram, Green Gram, Bhindi, Cowpea	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Groundnut, Sunflower, Green Gram, Chillies, Paddy, Maize, Sorghum, Bengal Gram, Red Chillies	Tomato, Banana, Acid Lime, Cashew, Mango
3.	Assam	Wheat, Indian Rapeseed and Mustard, Potato, Sugarcane, Paddy	-
4.	Bihar	Wheat, Mustard, Potato, Maize, Bengal Gram, Sugarcane	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	Linseed, Indian Rapeseed and Mustard, Potato, Bengal Gram, Khesari, Wheat	Tomato, Onion, Cabbage, Brinjal, Cauliflower
6.	Goa	Groundnut, Paddy, Pulses	-
7.	Daman and Diu	No coverage	-
8.	Gujarat	Fennel, Onion, Indian Rapeseed and Mustard, Potato, Cumin, Pearl Millet, Bengal Gram, Isabgol, Wheat, Groundnut	-
9.	Haryana	Wheat, Mustard, Barley, Bengal Gram	-
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Wheat, Barley	Garlic, Tomato, Potato, Capsicum, Apple, Mango, Plum, Peach, Citrus
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Not finalized	-
12.	Jharkhand	Wheat, Indian Rapeseed and Mustard, Potato, Bengal Gram	-
13.	Karnataka	Horse Gram, Sunflower, Wheat, Bengal Gram, Linseed, Safflower, Maize, Sorghum	-
14.	Kerala	Banana, Tapioca, Paddy	Garlic, Cabbage, Carrot, Potato, Banana, Cashew, French Bean, Mango, Sugarcane, Paddy

Sl. No.	State	Crops under PMFBY	Crops under RWBCIS
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Linseed, Indian Rapeseed and Mustard, Bengal Gram, Lentil, Wheat	Coriander, Garlic, Tomato, Onion, Pea, Cabbage, Grape, Potato, Brinjal, Cauliflower, Pomegranate, Mango
16.	Maharashtra	Onion, Safflower, Sunflower, Bengal Gram, Paddy, Wheat, Groundnut, Sorghum	Lemon, Grape, Guava, Banana, Orange, Cashew, Pomegranate, Mango, Mosambi
17.	Meghalaya	Indian Rapeseed and Mustard, Potato, Paddy	-
18.	Odisha	Groundnut, Mustard, Black Gram, Green Gram, Potato, Paddy	-
19.	Puducherry	Black Gram, Green Gram, Cotton, Paddy, Sugarcane	-
20.	Rajasthan	Wheat, Coriander, Mustard, Indian Rapeseed and Mustard, Cumin, Barley, Bengal Gram, Rocket Salad, Fenugreek, Lentil, Isabgol	-
21.	Sikkim	Wheat, Indian Rapeseed and Mustard, Potato, Buck Wheat, Barley	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	Groundnut, Onion, Finger Millet, Sesame, Sesamum, Sunflower, Black Gram, Green Gram, Pigeon Pea, Cotton, Potato, Banana, Chillies, Maize, Pearl Millet, Sorghum, Tapioca, Sugarcane, Paddy, Cowpea	-
23.	Telangana	Groundnut, Onion, Sunflower, Green Gram, Chillies, Paddy, Maize, Sorghum, Bengal Gram, Red Chillies	Mango
24.	Tripura	Watermelon, Tomato, Potato, Brinjal, Cauliflower, Paddy	-
25.	Uttar Pradesh	Wheat Pea, Indian Rapeseed and Mustard, Potato, Bengal Gram, Lentil	-

Sl. No.	State	Crops under PMFBY	Crops under RWBCIS
26.	Uttarakhand	Wheat, Lentil	Tomato, Pea, Peach, Litchi, Potato, Apple, Mango, Malta
27.	West Bengal	Wheat, Groundnut, Mustard, Sesame, Sesamum, Green Gram, Potato, Maize, Bengal Gram, Lentil, Sugarcane, Paddy	-

Statement-II

State-wise and crop season-wise details of farmers benefited under different crop insurance schemes during the last three years (all companies combined)

(A) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

(As on 28.07.2017)

Sl. No.	State	Kharif 2016*		Rabi 2016-17*	
		No. of Farmers Insured	No. of Farmers Benefited	No. of Farmers Insured	No. of Farmers Benefited
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands			324	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1623119	787671	150970	
3.	Assam	51749	23370	8516	
4.	Bihar	1484378	182545	1234482	
5.	Chhattisgarh	1399212	94636	153151	26847
6.	Goa	742	111	13	
7.	Gujarat	1842337	125753	128299	
8.	Haryana	738095	148310	585418	1871
9.	Himachal Pradesh	134613	27410	203002	0
10.	Jharkhand	828346	56513	42323	0
11.	Karnataka	1738729	490077	1179497	0
12.	Kerala	31532	20329	20972	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4046868	510747	3051561	

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Maharashtra	10988632	2762131	828210	14148
15.	Manipur	8366	8358		
16.	Meghalaya	63		26	
17.	Odisha	1766427	157939	55231	
18.	Puducherry		0	8829	
19.	Rajasthan	6130420	560023	3077018	504
20.	Sikkim		0	512	
21.	Tamil Nadu	16056	1	1519107	444700
22.	Telangana	703075	136728	255020	
23.	Tripura	1881	502	14526	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3395779	877058	3626243	18799
25.	Uttarakhand	175245	50630	87357	4125
26.	West Bengal	3061023	234483	1068643	
GRAND TOTAL		40166687	7255325	17298926	510994

*Provisional. Part claims of Kharif 2016 and most of the claims for Rabi 2016 season are not reported.

(B) Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

(As on 28.07.2017)

Sl. No.	State	Kharif 2014		Rabi 2014-15		Kharif 2015		Rabi 2015-16	
		No. of Farmers Insured	No. of Farmers Benefited	No. of Farmers Insured	No. of Farmers Benefited	No. of Farmers Insured	No. of Farmers Benefited	No. of Farmers Insured	No. of Farmers Benefited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	686	175	97	9				
2.	Andhra Pradesh	167578	16402	98809	5937	355827	50766		
3.	Assam							0	0
4.	Bihar	447997	30010	0	0				
5.	Chhattisgarh								
6.	Goa	155	0	5	0	136	82	0	0
7.	Gujarat								
8.	Haryana								
9.	Jharkhand	35336	2285	0	0				
10.	Karnataka	906775	313065	31953	6125			401	43
11.	Kerala	6544	1544	13340	56	10881	988	16651	1696
12.	Madhya Pradesh								

13.	Maharashtra	2565676	951670	1468794	603945	3043869	1808096	1797437	622150
14.	Mizoram								
15.	Odisha								
16.	Rajasthan	2565676	951670	1468794	603945	3043869	1808096	1797437	622150
17.	Tamil Nadu	44817	12250	0	0				
18.	Telangana			708444	67933			214932	74401
19.	Uttar Pradesh	611648	178735	863213	718045	1352390	559019	1720644	911550
20.	Uttarakhand	23725	4105	14262	10094	48939	3679	53492	12706
21.	West Bengal	1079087	134583	0	0				
GRAND TOTAL		5890024	1644824	3198917	1412144	4812042	2422630	3803557	1622546

(C) Weather based Crop Insurance scheme

(As on 28.07.2017)

Sl. No.	State	Kharif 2014		Rabi 2014-15		Kharif 2015		Rabi 2015-16		Kharif 2016		Rabi 2016-17	
		No. of Farmers Insured	No. of Farmers Benefited	No. of Farmers Insured	No. of Farmers Benefited	No. of Farmers Insured	No. of Farmers Benefited	No. of Farmers Insured	No. of Farmers Benefited	No. of Farmers Insured	No. of Farmers Benefited	No. of Farmers Insured	No. of Farmers Benefited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	93390	78218	3220	2342	727162	281006	3421	0	759020	753690	7530	
2.	Assam	21758	20689	1593	1049	29241	21876	14183	2515	51749	23370		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3.	Bihar	1846856	1582422					0	0				
4.	Chhattisgarh	974199	590731					0	0			6664	
5.	Gujarat												
6.	Haryana			22	7			0	0				
7.	Himachal Pradesh	856	856	98159	88190	12424	9950	123909	75,994	23735	21395	92001	
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1364	1364					0	0				
9.	Jharkhand	158589	158589					0	0				
10.	Karnataka	169342	119580	5746	5309			0	0	183177	6211	6168	0
11.	Kerala	17897	12908	11605	9807	15588	14689	19215	18392	31532	20329	27510	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	68122	68122	100649	97413	79157	70376	170163	95928	238411	179140	275184	
13.	Maharashtra	1291490	1173057	133671	111600	688798	664111	151024	121187	80279	45641	132252	14148
14.	Odisha												
15.	Punjab												
16.	Rajasthan	3300321	2695240	2551937	2417623	3366167	3329891	2749444	19895.57	43689	28571		
17.	Tamil Nadu												
18.	Telangana	70792	69583	1032	519	93258	86882	1574	750	88361	31550	412	
19.	Uttar Pradesh	120392	120392	164188	158116	336899	335301	385426	362499	6250	6250		
20.	Uttarakhand	34179	30990	7067	6944	36960	16569	10720	8662	45859	36620	7540	
21.	West Bengal	2707	2707	701	0	13895	8888	942	0	1713			
GRAND TOTAL		8172254	6725448	3079590	2898919	5399549	4839539	3630021	2675984	1553775	1152767	555261	14148

(D) Details of farmers covered and farmers benefited under various Crop Insurance schemes during last three years National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

(As on 28.07.2017)											
Sl. No.	State	Kharif 2014		Rabi 2014-15		Kharif 2015		Rabi 2015-16			
		No. of Farmers Covered	No. of Farmers Benefited	No. of Farmers Covered	No. of Farmers Benefited	No. of Farmers Covered	No. of Farmers Benefited	No. of Farmers Covered	No. of Farmers Benefited		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	42748	12491	436302	62593	193649	21223		
2.	Assam	2895	57	23643	408	2312	34	0	0		
3.	Bihar	0	0	1579229	887582	1655219	716736	1436393	406704		
4.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	94188	5846	1203919	658508	79257	18874		
5.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
6.	Gujarat	658908	191137	1948	585	502160	361972	2010	1055		
7.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
8.	Himachal Pradesh	165/3	272	16182	130	16398	2611	9727	3541		
9.	Jharkhand	0	0	64644	5163	536093	390563	53700	4030		
10.	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	884713	631807	325316	244436		
11.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2454334	434413	2536 88	198902	3040158	21111124	2447739	113515		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13.	Maharashtra	4479068	3486753	1115600	694596	8249596	7150355	3426117	2687618
14.	Manipur	3472	3472	0	0	7514	7514	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	1172	0	838	838	466	0	663	0
16.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Odisha	1800908	175680	117582	10575	2152590	1161138	106281	14000
18.	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Sikkim	0	0	19	0	0	0	1 9	0
20.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	662899	33573	137738	20243	952360	310311
21.	Telangana	311075	76271	0	0	855258	0	169067	0
22.	Tripura	0	0	324	0	889	17	569	1
23.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	West Bengal	0	0	751827	162628	1010884	227341	982068	209469
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	564	158	491	0
27.	Puducherry	273	72	1268	0	406	0	1274	0
28.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL		9728678	4368127	7009527	2013317	20693179	13563414	10186830	4034777

Implementation of Soil Health Card scheme

†2247. DR. CHANDRAPAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched the Soil Health Card scheme in order to increase the productivity and strengthen the quality of agriculture for the farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the farmers of the districts—Jhansi, Lalitpur, Banda, Hamirpur, Jalau etc. of Bundelkhand region deriving benefits from the scheme, district-wise and amount allocated for the implementation thereof; and

(c) the details of the policy adopted to extend the benefits of the scheme to the poor farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has launched Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme across the country to issue Soil Health Card every 2 years to all the farmers based on soil testing results. These SHCs provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

(b) The details of farmers of Bundelkhand region deriving benefits from the scheme district-wise and amount allocated by Government of Uttar Pradesh is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The policy for issue of Soil Health Cards is to all farmers irrespective of their status *i.e.* poor or rich.

Statement

Details of farmers deriving benefits and amount allocated by Uttar Pradesh Government under Soil Health Card scheme for Bundelkhand Region of Uttar Pradesh

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	District	No. of Farmers	Allocated Amount
1.	Jhansi	197355	22.25
2.	Lalitpur	121723	22.46

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl. No.	District	No. of Farmers	Allocated Amount
3.	Jalaun	195913	22.17
	TOTAL (Jhansi Division)	514991	66.88
1.	Hamirpur	101627	13.74
2.	Mahoba	140035	13.86
3.	Banda	176931	13.80
4.	Chitrakoot	85730	13.43
	TOTAL (Banda Division)	504323	54.83
	GRAND TOTAL	1019314	121.71

Non-coverage of vegetables under MSP mechanism

2248. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 14 of the 51 major crops are covered under the MSP price mechanism of the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-coverage of vegetables under the MSP mechanism; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) Government announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for those agricultural commodities which are widely grown, have large area under cultivation, are items of mass consumption with fairly long shelf life and are necessary for maintaining food security. Government announces MSP for 22 major crops namely Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Arhar, Moong, Urad, Groundnut-in-shell, Soyabean, Sunflower, Sesamum, Nigerseed, Cotton, Wheat, Barley, Gram, Masur (Lentil), Rapeseed/Mustard Seed, Safflower, Jute and Copra and Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for Sugarcane. Vegetables are not covered under MSP Scheme as they do not meet the above mentioned criteria.

Government 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. The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production. It is implemented on the specific request of the concerned

State/UT Government, which has to bear 50% of the loss (25% in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation.

Demand for waiving-off farm loans in Tamil Nadu

2249. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any representation from the farmers and Government of Tamil Nadu for waiving off the farm loans; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken/to be taken by Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Representations were received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu. There is no scheme for waiver of loans of farmers under consideration of the Union Government.

However, to reduce the debt burden of the farmers, the following major initiatives have been taken:—

- With a view to ensuring availability of agriculture credit at a reduced interest rate of 7% p.a. to farmers, the Government of India implements an interest subvention scheme for short term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Under the said scheme, additional subvention of 3% is given to those farmers who repay their short term crop loan in time, thereby reducing the effective rate of interest to 4% p.a. for such farmers.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued directions for Relief Measures to be provided by respective lending institutions in areas affected by natural calamities which, *inter alia*, include, restructuring/rescheduling of existing crop loans and term loans, extending fresh loans, relaxed security and margin norms, moratorium, etc. These directions have been so designed that the moment calamity is declared by the concerned District Authorities they are automatically set in motion without any intervention, thus saving precious time. The benchmark for initiating relief measures by banks has also been reduced to 33% crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management Framework.
- Post demonetisation the Government has taken the following relief measures for the farmers in the cooperative sector:—
 - (i) An additional grace period of 60 days for prompt repayment incentive @ 3% was provided to such farmers whose crop loans dues fell due

between 01.11.2016 to 31.12.2016 and if such farmers repaid the same within 60 days from their due date in this period.

- (ii) Interest waiver for two months (November and December, 2016) for all short term crop loans availed from Cooperative Banks between 01.04.2016 to 30.09.2016 and upfront deposit of the same in the accounts of the concerned farmers.
- (iii) National Bank For Agriculture And Rural Development (NABARD) raised short term borrowings from the market at prevailing market rate of interest for ₹ 17,880.78 crore and disbursed the same under refinance for on-lending to Cooperative Banks at 4.5% rate of interest during 2016-17.

Strengthening marketing system for farmers' produces

2250. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons why farmers did not get remunerative prices for their produces in 2016-17;

(b) how does Government propose to strengthen the marketing systems and reduce post-harvest losses;

(c) the Government's strategy to divert farmers to high-yielding variety crops; and

(d) the funds earmarked for this purpose in 2017-18?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Lack of adequate farmer-market linkages, market information and seasonality in production are factored into price realization by the farmers. In addition, lack of awareness among the farmers about the pledge financing to avoid distress sale along with the long supply chain are also contributing factors.

(b) In order to strengthen the agricultural marketing system and reduce the post-harvest losses, Government is promoting development of multiple alternate marketing channels with better forward and backward infrastructural linkages through advocacy of marketing reforms as provided for in the new model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017 released to the States for adoption on 24.04.2017. Funds are also provided under various schemes to strengthen the marketing infrastructure. The National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) was launched on 14.04.2016 with the objective to promote transparency and competition for better price discovery to the farmers.

The Government is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for reduction of post-harvest losses in the country which includes assistance for development of Post-Harvest Management (PHM) and Marketing infrastructure including rural primary markets, wholesale markets, retail markets/outlets (environmentally controlled), static/mobile vending cart/platform with cool chamber and terminal market complexes.

Funds are also provided under Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI), a sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) to develop agricultural marketing infrastructure including storage infrastructure for effectively managing marketable surplus of agriculture produce.

(c) Assistance is provided under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for distribution of certified seeds of high yielding varieties/ hybrids distribution of minikits of newer varieties of pulses to the farmers. Training to trainers/farmers is imparted by crop/subject matter specialist of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutions/State Agriculture University (SAUs)/Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). It involves various crop management practices (agronomic and plant protection practices) including primary processing of produce, storage etc and also to create awareness about the new high yielding varieties/hybrids and new practices/production technologies.

(d) During 2017-18 about 20% of total fund of action plan is earmarked to all implementing States of NFSM for the intervention of distribution of certified seeds of High Yielding Varieties/Hybrids. The total allocation of 2017-18 under NFSM is ₹ 1720.00 crore (BE).

Steps to improve the condition of farmers

2251. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are fighting not only the drought but also falling prices, while support prices have been stagnant; and

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking to improve the condition of farmers, especially the marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Market price of agricultural produce is determined by market forces of supply and demand. However, Government has increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of 2016-17 season and 2017-18 Kharif crops on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural

Costs and Prices (CACP), views of State Governments, Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors.

The Government offers to procure the crops 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.

In addition, Government has taken several initiatives to increase agricultural production and productivity and to enhance income of farmers 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 Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Health Card, initiatives of Government of doubling farmers' income etc.

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

Infrastructure for fishing and cold storage in West Bengal

2252. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to set up fishing harbours and cold storage facilities in coastal areas of West Bengal to create infrastructure for the Fisheries sector in the State, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of steps taken by Government in this regard along with the present status thereof; and

(c) the details of funds allocated and released for these projects over the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare from the Government of West Bengal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare during the financial year 2015-16 had released final instalment of Central share of ₹ 465 lakh to the Government of West Bengal for construction of a major fishing harbour at Petuaghat in Contai-II, Purba

Midnipur District. During the financial years 2014-15 and 2016-17, no proposal was received from the Government of West Bengal to provide funds for setting up of fishing harbours and cold storage facilities in the State.

Inter-State online trading in e-NAM

2253. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the model APMC Act has failed to address monopolistic, cartelistic and uncompetitive practices in the Inter-State trading of agricultural products;

(b) if so, the mechanisms to be adopted to counter such practices; and

(c) the number of States that have been integrated under e-NAM to facilitate Inter-State online trading?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Agriculture Marketing is a state subject and is regulated under the provisions of Agricultural Produce Marketing Act of respective States. The Government has released a new model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017 on 24.04.2017 for adoption by States. The progressive reforms suggested in this Model Act aim to address constraints in the present market system to make the agricultural markets competitive by providing *inter alia* more market options to the farmers for getting enhanced remuneration for their produce. It also has an enabling provision for inter-state trading. The National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) launched on 14.04.2016 is an online marketing platform to promote inter mandi and inter-state trade for transparent bidding and better price discovery support.

(c) So far 455 markets of 13 States have been integrated with e-NAM to facilitate online trading of agricultural produce.

Implementation of e-NAM

2254. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the electronic National Agricultural Market (e-NAM), launched amid great fanfare a year back, has failed to take off; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the problems being faced in implementing the system along with the corrective measures being taken for the success thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. 455 mandis have been integrated to e-NAM across 13 States. States like Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh have moved in terms of trading volume and real time trade.

Other States are also progressing as per a time bound road map.

- (i) The States have been advised *inter alia* to:
- (a) Ensure reliable connectivity through leased line with adequate bandwidth.
 - (b) Strengthen assaying labs for quality testing of commodities.
- (ii) Training and awareness programmes are conducted for farmers, traders, market functionaries, etc.
- (iii) A mobile app has been launched for ease of bidding by traders.

Close monitoring of the progress through meetings at various levels and visits of the officers is done.

Internet connectivity of e-NAM portal

2255. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the e-NAM is not functioning upto the mark due to slow internet connectivity in the rural areas, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that out of 13 States, where the e-NAM is functioning, 7 States did not make any single transactions through e-NAM portal; and
- (c) if so, the steps Government is taking to improve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Reliable connectivity is a key issue for optimal operation on e-NAM. The States have also been advised to have dedicated lease line with adequate bandwidth and to monitor all integrated mandis closely for immediate corrective measures.

(b) and (c) No. Daily reporting enables assessment of the volume and value of trade taking place. Steps being taken to further increase transactions on e-NAM portal include:-

- (i) Training for mandi functionaries.
- (ii) Awareness campaigns for farmers, traders, commission agents and other stakeholders.
- (iii) Augmenting the infrastructure and trained manpower for smooth functioning of online activity.

Digital database of high-end seed varieties of crops

2256. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for creating digital database of high-end seed varieties of crops present in the country;

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

(c) the details of steps taken and plan outlay for completion of the aforesaid project, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has planned development of Information Technology (IT) platform for the registration of plant varieties under the proposed Seeds Bill, 2004 as compulsory registration of plant varieties is one of the salient features of the Seeds Bill. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and States Agricultural Universities (SAUs) will also be tied in the development of the above portal. Besides, the Department has created Seednet India Portal and Farmers' Portal for the stakeholders including farmers to get Information of Quality Seeds of high yielding varieties.

Funds for Rajasthan under CMP and NPDD

2257. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has released amount, as per approved outlay, for Clean Milk Production (SIQ-CMP) and National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) for the year 2015-16 to Pali, Alwar, Bhilwara and Udaipur districts of Rajasthan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Funds for Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production (SIQ-CMP) and ongoing projects under National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) are released based on receipt of quarterly progress report, audited expenditure statement, complete fund utilisation certificate for previous releases and achievement made in terms of physical and financial targets under approved projects.

The details of project-wise approved outlay and released amount under SIQ-CMP and NPDD in Pali, Alwar, Bhilwara and Udaipur districts of Rajasthan are as follows:-

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	District	Scheme/Project period	Total Outlay	Central Share	Funds released (2015-16)	Total release (upto 31.03.2017)
1.	Pali	NPDD (2016-17 to 2018-19)	836.38	637.87	0.00	367.62
		SIQ-CMP (2013-14 to 2015-16)	539.58	539.58	189.00	539.58
2.	Alwar	NPDD (2014-15 to 2016-17)	445.53	322.83	0.00	188.71
3.	Bhilwara	NPDD (2014-15 to 2016-17)	294.06	170.75	41.15	108.22
4.	Udaipur	NPDD (2015-16 to 2017-18)	1073.17	751.82	0.00	220.62
			3188.72	2422.85	230.15	1424.75

Illegal fishing by foreign deep sea trawlers

2258. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any information about foreign deep sea trawlers looting the sea wealth by operating in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and then transferring the catch through illegal mid-sea trans-shipments;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken against such mid-sea illegal trans-shipments; 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 SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) No such information/report has been received in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and farmers Welfare or reported to the Indian Coast Guard regarding illegal mid-sea trans-shipment by foreign deep sea trawlers within the area of Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Indian Coast Guard Ships and Air Crafts are maintaining regular surveillance to prevent illegal fishing in the Indian EEZ.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Damage to onion due to rain and bad weather

2259. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large quantity of onion is getting damaged during the current year due to rain and bad weather, leading to heavy losses to farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps Government is taking to prevent such situation;

(c) the total quantum of onion that has been damaged during rain in this year, State-wise; and

(d) whether prices of onion will be affected in future due to such loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) No such report has been received by this Ministry. However, Karnataka have reported that the area sown under onion has declined due to failure of kharif monsoon rains.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Production of horticulture crops

2260. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of horticulture crops like vegetables and flowers have increased in recent years in the country;

(b) if so, the details of production of potatoes, tomatoes and onions during the last three years;

(c) whether the farmers are getting remunerative prices for their produces at the time of bumper production; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Yes, Sir. The production of horticulture crops has increased in recent years in the country.

(b) The details of production of potatoes, tomatoes and onions during the last three years and current year is as under:—

Horticulture Crops	(Production in Lakh Tonnes)			
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (Provisional)
Potato	415.55	480.09	434.17	480.96
Tomato	187.35	163.85	187.32	196.97
Onion	194.01	189.27	209.31	215.64

(c) and (d) Horticulture crops are usually highly remunerative and so more farmers are taking them up for production. However, in few cases, where the production has been bumper and the prices are non-remunerative, Government is implementing a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of these commodities.

The objective of this intervention scheme is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production.

Income of farmers of Jammu and Kashmir

2261. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to increase the income of the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir specially in Dairy, Fisheries and Horticulture sectors in view of the agenda of the Government to increase their income to almost double ; and

(b) the total percentage of villages and districts covered under the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes in agriculture subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) The Government of India is implementing the following schemes for the development of animal husbandry, dairying, fisheries and horticulture with an aim to supplement the income of farmers in the country, including in the State of Jammu and Kashmir:—

- (I) Rasthriya Gokul Mission
- (II) National Programme for Dairy Development
- (III) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme
- (IV) National Livestock Mission
- (V) Livestock Health and Disease Control
- (VI) Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries

(VII) Livestock Census

(VIII) Integrated Sample Survey and

(IX) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)

(b) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing DBT in respect of its eleven Schemes (both Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes). These schemes are implemented for the benefit of farmers through various interventions all over the country including districts and blocks of the States/UTs.

Awareness campaign to educate farmers

2262. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers committed suicide in the country during the years 2014 to 2017, as on date;

(b) the measures taken by Government to reduce agrarian distress in the country along with the details in this regard; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for an awareness campaign to educate farmers on latest and low cost agriculture methods, if so, the details 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 on its website. The Reports for the year 2016 onwards has not been published yet. As per the ADSI Reports for the years 2014 and 2015, the total number of suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers in the country is as under:

	2014	2015
Farmers	5650	8007
Agricultural Labourers	6710	4595
TOTAL	12360	12602

(b) 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, 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).

- (c) (i) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) has taken up several initiatives in the field of agricultural extension which includes 'Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms', which is popularly known as ATMA Scheme, Mass Media Support to Agricultural Extension and Kisan Call Centres. In order to enhance physical outreach of extension personnel for their direct interface with the farmers, financial support for specialists and functionaries, down to the Block level has been provided. The key objectives of ATMA scheme include setting up of autonomous institutions at the State/District/Block level, encouraging multi-agency and broad-based extension strategies adopting group approach to extension and facilitating convergence of programmes in planning, executing and implementation. Under Mass Media scheme, the Government is educating farmers through display of exhibits for know-how on new tools and technology, creating awareness about schemes, programmes/activities being implemented for benefiting and helping farmers. Farmers' education/awareness programmes are being implemented through agriculture fair, exhibitions and use of print, electronic media like Radio, TV and Social Media platforms, etc. Under Kisan Call Centres (KCCs) scheme, farmers' queries are answered on a telephone call in their own dialect between 6.00 AM to 10.00 PM on all seven days. Presently these call centres are working in 14 different locations covering all the States and UTs. A Toll Free No.1800-180-1551 has been allotted for this purpose.

- (ii) Kisan Suvidha Mobile App has been launched by the Government which provides information to the farmers on Weather, Plant Protection, Input Dealers, Agro-Advisory and Marketing. Besides, Pusa Krishi Mobile App, Agri-Market App and Crop Insurance Mobile App have also been launched for the benefit of farmers.
- (iii) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a network of 680 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country with mandate of Technology Assessment and Demonstration for its Application and Capacity Development. A number of activities *viz.* on-farm trials, front-line demonstrations, creation of awareness on improved agricultural technologies, etc. are conducted by KVKs for the benefit of farmers.
- (iv) Under NFSM and BGREI, there is a provision of 'Cropping System Based Training' of farmers which includes four sessions *i.e.* one before Kharif and Rabi Seasons, one each during Kharif and Rabi Seasons. Under this programme, training of trainers/farmers is imparted by Crop/Subject-Matter Specialist of ICAR Institute/SAUs/KVKs on creating awareness about the new high yielding varieties.
- (v) Under National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) programme, Transfer of Technology (ToT) component, assistance is provided to States for conducting Farmers Training and Trainers Training Programme, in which training is provided to the farmers and extension workers educating the farmers to avail the benefits of the programme.

Production of rice in Andhra Pradesh

2263. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of rice and area under cultivation of the paddy has come down in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of area under cultivation of paddy in Andhra Pradesh during last 6 seasons along with production thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Season-wise details of area and production of rice in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years *i.e.* from 2014-15 to 2016-17 are given as under:

Year	Season	Area ('000 hectares)	Production ('000 tonnes)
2014-15	Kharif	1635.0	4241.2
	Rabi	759.0	2992.7
	TOTAL	2394.0	7233.9
2015-16	Kharif	1399.0	4105.3
	Rabi	762.0	3383.3
	TOTAL	2161.0	7488.7
2016-17*	Kharif	1520.0	4855.0
	Rabi	586.0	2602.0
	TOTAL	2106.0	7457.0

*As per Third Advance Estimates.

Share of agriculture in GDP

†2264. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total population dependent on agriculture and agricultural works, the details thereof including the farmers dependent on upto two hectares of agricultural land;

(b) the details of the income earned by said farmers from the agriculture and animal husbandry; and

(c) the share of agriculture in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country and the percentage share of total budget given to agriculture since the last three years along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) As per the "Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households" conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) during its 70th round (January 2013–December 2013), rural India is estimated to have 90.2 million agricultural households during the agricultural year July 2012–June 2013. Out of these, about 78 million agricultural households were estimated to possess land of upto two hectares.

Based on the survey results, the average monthly income per agricultural household from different sources is estimated at ₹ 6426, including ₹ 3081 from cultivation and ₹ 763 from farming of animals.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) As per the provisional estimates of National Income for 2016-17 released by Central Statistics Office (CSO), the share of agriculture and allied sector in total Gross Value Added (GVA) is 15.2 per cent at 2011-12 prices.

As per the Union Budget 2017-18, the share of budget allocation to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in total budget was 1.4 per cent in 2015-16, 2.2 per cent in 2016-17 and 2.4 per cent in 2017-18.

Fall in prices of vegetables

2265. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether crops under the Horticulture sector are not covered by the Minimum Support Price (MSP);

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

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to protect the interests of the vegetable growing farmers from steep fall in the prices of almost all the vegetables, particularly onion and potato?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) Government announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for those agricultural commodities which are widely grown, have large area under cultivation, are items of mass consumption with fairly long shelf life and are necessary for maintaining food security.

Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for agricultural and horticultural commodities which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the Price Support Scheme. The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production. It is implemented on the specific request of the concerned State/UT Government which has to bear 50% of the loss (25% in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation.

Government has approved following MIS proposals of State Governments for the procurement of vegetables in the year 2016-17 and 2017-18:

- (i) MIS proposals of State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Telangana for procurement of onion.
- (ii) MIS proposals of State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Nagaland for procurement of Potato.

- (iii) MIS proposals of State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for procurement of Red Chilli.
- (iv) MIS proposal of State Government of Andhra Pradesh for procurement of Turmeric.
- (v) MIS proposal of State Government of Rajasthan for procurement of Garlic.
- (vi) MIS proposal of State Government of Arunachal Pradesh for procurement of Ginger.

Irregularities in Government funded NGOs, involved in agriculture sector

†2266. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) receiving financial assistance under various agricultural schemes being run by Government in the country, including Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of the financial assistance provided to the NGOs during the last three years and in current year, State-wise and NGOs-wise;

(c) the NGOs found involved in the irregularities; and

(d) the action taken by Government against such NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Normally, assistance to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) associated with agriculture sector is not provided directly by the Government of India. The States are free to provide such assistance under some schemes and programmes. However, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has sanctioned 102 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under the administrative control of NGOs in the country including 11 KVKs in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Funds are provided to these NGOs for implementing the activities of the KVKs and not for the activities of NGOs *per se*. Besides two NGOs cooperating centres under AICRP on “Energy in Agri. and Agro-based Industries” namely SPRERI (Sardar Patel Renewable Energy Research Institute), Vallabh Vidyanagar (Gujarat) and SPCW (Sri Parashakti College for Women, Courtallam (Tamil Nadu); and one centre at SPRERI, Vallabh Vidyanagar under CRP on “Energy from Agriculture” have also been provided fund. The State-wise and NGO-wise details of financial assistance provided for the last 3 years and current year are given in the Statement (*See below*).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Irregularities were found in the utilization of funds by the Bhakthavatsalam Memorial Trust which is the host organization for the Thanjavur KVK of Tamil Nadu State and the RVS Education Trust which is the host organization for the Tirunelveli KVK. An enquiry was conducted and based on the enquiry report a Show Cause notice has been issued to the Bhakthavatsalam Trust for Thanjavur KVK. For the Tirunelveli KVK, as recommended by the fact finding committee, instructions have been issued to rectify the discrepancies. However, both the host organizations, *i.e.*, of Thanjavur KVK and of Tirunelveli KVK have moved the Court and the matter is *sub-judice*.

Statement

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

Sl. No.	State	Name of NGO	Name of the KVK/District	Budget Allocated for the last three years and current year				(₹ in lakh)
				2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1.	Haryana	Secretary, Bhagwat Bhakti Ashram, Rampura, Rewari-123401	Rewari	97.80	111.89	93.57	125.26	
2.		President, Society for Creation of Heaven on Earth, R. K. Khanna Tennis Stadium, 2nd Floor, Room No. 1&2 Africa Avenue, New Delhi-110029	Ambala	90.58	108.57	117.11	121.26	
3.	Bihar	Director, Sharam Bharati, Khadi Gram-811313, Distt. Jamui	Jamui	85.15	86.50	89.90	0.00	
4.		President, Vanvasi seva Kendra, Ward No.11 Kothi Compound (Opposite Rice Mill) Bhabua-821101	Kaimur	93.95	118.81	190.66	0.00	
5.		President-cum- Managing Trustee S.K. Choudhary educationala Trust 141 Sukhdev Vihar, Mathura Road, New Delhi-110025.	Madhubani	82.95	106.73	99.00	0.00	
6.		General secretary, Gram Nirman Mandal Ashram Sukhodera-805106, Nawahad	Nawada	91.30	119.50	106.90	0.00	

7.	Secretary, Samata Seva Kendra Vill: and PO Chainpura via Janakpur Road, Distt. Sitamarhi-843320	Sitamarhi	62.04	75.50	95.34	0.00
8.	Jharkhand General Secretary, Santhal Paharia Seva Mandal Deoghar-814152	Deoghar	103.30	126.00	131.50	0.00
9.	Gramin Vikas Trust, 280 Kanke Road Panijahaj Kothi, Ranchi-8	Godda	82.70	98.12	123.20	0.00
10.	Secretary, Research and Study Centre, Gram Ayatan-19, Arogya Bhawan-1, Bariatu, Ranchi-834009, Jharkhand	Gumla	95.83	125.42	163.79	0.00
11.	Directress, Holycross V.T.I., Hazaribagh-825301	Hazaribagh	105.45	135.56	138.50	0.00
12.	Secretary, Rama Krishna Mission Ashram Divayayan Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Swami Vishuddananda Road Morabadi, Ranchi-834008	Ranchi	97.20	123.50	175.44	0.00
13.	West Bengal President, Kalyan. Vill-Bongobari Vivekanand Nagar Purulia-723147	Purulia	105.40	131.49	158.24	21.60
14.	Chairman, Sri Ramkrishna Ashram, PO. Nimpith Ashram South 24 Parganas-743338	South 24 Parganas	123.56	151.04	194.81	21.60
15.	President, Sewa Bharti, Kapgari, West Midnapur-721505	West Midnapore	71.77	86.50	101.90	21.60
16.	Manipur President, Foundation for Environment and Eco. Dev. Services, (FEEDS), Imphal	KVK Senapati	119.25	137.80	153.56	31.95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17.	Tripura	Uttou Joint Farming Cum Pisciculture Coop. Society Ltd., Bishnupur	KVK Bishnupur	121.00	136.90	168.30	30.20
18.		The General Secretary, Sri Ramkrishna Seva Kendra, 23, R.N. Mukherjee Road, Kolkata	KVK West Tripura	112.80	126.90	155.39	29.76
19.	Uttar Pradesh	Secretary, Kamla Nehru Memorial Trust, PO. KNI, Lal Diggi Civil Lines Sultanpur-228118	KVK, Sultanpur	92.00	120.60	116.28	102.60
20.		Guru Gorakshnath Seva Sansthan, Gorakhpur	KVK, Gorakhpur- II	0.00	0.00	68.25	264.30
21.		Chairman, Deen Dayal Research Institute 7-E, Swamy Ramtirth Nagar, Near Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi-110055	KVK, Gonda	90.50	109.55		
22.		Chairman, Deen Dayal Research Institute 7-E, Swamy Ramtirth Nagar, Near Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi-110055	KVK, Chitrakoot	88.90	111.70	250.56	242.70
23.		Chairman Raja Avdesh Singh Memorial Society, Ainthn (Kalaknar), Pratapgarh	KVK, Pratapgarh	101.00	112.60	134.58	121.60
24.		Chairman Kunwar Ram Bux Singh Edn. Society, C-11 A, Vigyan puri, Mahanagar, Lucknow-226006	KVK, Unnao	77.00	85.10	103.73	91.10
25.		Chairman, P.G. College, Gazipur-233002	KVK, Ghazipur	87.00	101.25	131.88	123.50

26.		Manav Vikas Evam Sewa Sansthan, 261, Hind Nagar Kanpur Road, Lucknow	KVK, Sitapur-I	80.00	92.00	140.28	103.60
27.		Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Welfare Society, 8 A/1 Elgin Road, Civil Lines, Allahabad-211012.	KVK, Kaushambi	85.00	114.00	141.58	126.60
28.		The President, Sarpanch Samaj, L-21, Mahabir Nagar New Delhi-110018	KVK, Auraiya	68.50	74.50	93.78	81.60
29.		The Secretary Ranvir Rananjay Degree College Association, Amethi-Sultanpur-227405 (Uttar Pradesh)	KVK, Sitapur-II	80.86	79.60	152.58	180.45
30.	Andhra Pradesh	Chairman, Rayalseema Seva Samiti, 9, Old Hazur Office Building, Tirupathi, Chittoor-517520	Chittoor	76.72	96.22	134.10	123.55
31.		Chairman, Vinayashram Cherukupalli Mandal, Guntur-522309	Guntur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.		Secretary, Shri Hanumantharaya Educational and Charitable Society, Pendekanti Public School, Kothapeta, Kurnool-518286	Kurnool	117.62	118.45	146.38	136.75
33.		The Secretary, Bhagavatula Charitable Trust, Haripuram, Rambilli Mandal Vishakhapatnam-531061	Vishakhapatnam	120.90	132.65	147.14	134.56

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
34.	Telangana	Chairman Gram Nava Nirmal Samiti, Jamaikunta, Jayaprakashnagar, Hyderabad	Karimnagar	90.52	137.21	154.08	135.25
35.		The Executive Director, Youth for Action, Plot # 162, H.No. 1-2-593/50, Sri Nilayam, Sri Sri Marg, Street No.-4, Lane No. 5 Near Bala Saibaba Temple Ganganmahal, Domalyuda Hyderabad-500 029 (AP)	Mahaboobnagar	52.40	72.23	100.03	92.79
36.		Chairman, Deccan Development Society, Flat No-101, Kishan Residency, H. No1-11-242/1 Street No-5, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016	Medak	26.85	64.33	79.79	78.87
37.		Ekalavya Foundation #1-8-522/7, Chikkadapally, Hyderabad	Medak-2	0.00	0.00	0.00	113.25
38.		Secretary, Aurobindo Institute of Rural Development, Gaddipalli, Nalgonda-508201	Nalgonda	130.93	157.91	182.63	185.79
39.	Maharashtra	President (NGO) Marutrao Ghule Patil Shikshan Sansthan, Gyneshwarnagar, Post-Bhende, S.K. Distt. Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar	107.86	152.93	136.19	137.28
40.		President, Sharam Sadhana Trust, 57 Congress Nagar, Amravati-447602	Amaravati(D)	119.19	141.54	162.80	161.25
41.		President, Sharam Safayalya Foundation, Chirantan Madhuban Colony Camp, Amravati-444602	Amaravati(G)	114.19	155.02	161.43	163.36

42.	Chairman, Deen Dayal Research Institute, Rani Jhansi Marg, Jhandewalan Ext. New Delhi	Beed	106.29	148.91	147.38	142.78
43.	President Satpuda Edn. Society Jalgaon, Jamod, Buldana-443402	Buldhana	93.97	106.84	141.10	127.28
44.	President, Saint Namdeo Sevabhavi Sanstha, Saraswati Nagar, Akola Road, Hingoli-431701	Hingoli	92.35	124.91	143.40	133.28
45.	Secretary, Satpuda Vikas Mandal PO-Pal, Raver, Jalgaon-425508	Jalgaon	82.99	142.39	121.06	123.28
46.	Chairman, Marathwada Shethi Sahayya Mandal, P.B.No. 45, Jalna-431203	Jalna	92.08	127.08	127.35	157.28
47.	Chairman, D.Y. Patil Education Society, PO. Talashande, Tal-Hathkangle Kolhapur-416112	Kolhapur	49.15	68.67	105.00	100.28
48.	Secretary, Manjara Charitable Trust, Deshmukh Complex, Barshi Road, Latur-413512	Latur	87.50	108.53	120.56	126.53
49.	Chairman, J.N. Instt. of Edn. Sci. and Tech. Research Pokharni (phata) Purna Road, PO.Limbgaon Nanded-431602	Nanded	63.68	83.68	90.17	94.18
50.	Chairman Dr. Hedgewar Seva Samiti, Jayant Chowk, Via Dhule, Nandurbar-425412	Nandurbar	107.67	118.51	116.96	120.68

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
51.	Chairman Jeevan Jyoti Charitable Trust Bhagyalaxmi Nagar, Basmath Road Parbhani-431401	Parbhani	60.72	98.18	98.48	93.28	
52.	Chairman, Agril. Development Trust Sharda Nagar, Baramati-413115, Pune	Pune	103.34	122.75	139.90	146.28	
53.	Chairman Vasant Prakash Vikas Pratisthan, Sri Sai Madhavanagar, Sangli-416416	Sangli	74.40	93.53	113.89	110.50	
54.	Trustee Kalayani Gorakshan Trust, Shangrila Gardens, B&C Wings, First Floor, Bund Garden Road, Pune-411001	Satara	34.75	40.83	98.25	87.13	
55.	Chairman, Sindhudurg Zilla Krishi Pratisthan PO-Kirlos, Tal-Malvan, Sindhudurg-416616	Sindhudurg	95.45	148.48	157.74	160.08	
56.	Chairman Shabari Krishi pratshtan 414, North Kasba, M.G. Road Solapur-413001	Solapur	96.74	134.08	151.10	147.03	
57.	President, Gokhle Edn. Society, Bidyanagar, Nashik-422005	Thane	108.85	141.43	167.71	175.31	
58.	President, SUVIDE Foundation, Risod, Washim-444506	Washim	89.02	120.81	130.78	129.28	
59.	President Pravara Instt. of Res. and Edn. in Natural and Soc. Sci., Loni, Rahata PO Bahaleshwar, Ahmednagar-413737	Ahmednagar (D)	47.52	131.41	238.65	207.00	

60.	The Chairman, Rural Development and Research Foundation, C/o Pristine Infocast Pvt. Ltd., Ramlata Business Center, Amravati Road, Akola, Maharashtra-444001	Akola (U)	77.52	96.75	142.40	106.25
61.	The Secretary' Mahatma Gandhi Mission' N-6 CIDCO, Aurangabad-431003 (Maharashtra)	Aurangabad (G)	66.27	77.11	120.11	71.75
62.	Chairman Sanskriti Samvardhan Mandal Shardanagar, Sagroli, Nanded- 431731 (Maharashtra)	Nanded (S)	97.36	137.23	160.76	118.00
63.	The President, RichField Agro-e-Research and Development Centre, B-27, M.I.D.C. Ambad, Nashik-422010	Nashik (M)	89.50	77.31	160.94	102.85
64.	Chairman, Grammonnati Mandal Village Narayangaon. Tal, Junnar Distt. Pune (MS)	Pune (N)	91.52	117.02	147.92	131.25
65.	The President, Navsanjivan Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Tq. : Darwaha, Darwaha, Yavatmal-445202	Yavatmal (D)	0.00	0.00	64.82	168.47
66.	Rajasthan The Secretary, Society for Upliftment of Rural Economy, Barmer-334001	Barmer-I	93.00	103.66	115.23	121.76
67.	The President, Vidya Bhawan Society, Badgaon, Udaipur-313001	Udaipur	150.50	165.50	176.28	179.76

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
68.		The Secretary, Pragati Trust, Chomu, Jaipur-303702	Jaipur-I	111.50	123.30	137.66	172.86
69.		President, Gramothan Vidya Peeth, Sangaria, Hanumangarh-335065	Hanumangarh-I	111.50	131.44	132.04	151.76
70.	Gujarat	Director, Sarswati Gram Vidyapeeth Samoda	Patan	81.50	91.05	113.69	0.00
71.		Chairman, Rural Agro. Research Development Agency, Juhu, Bombay	Kutch-RARDS-I	95.00	119.00	117.98	0.00
72.		Chairman, Mangal Bharti, Bahadurpur, Baroda-391125	Vadodara	93.00	100.00	110.76	0.00
73.		Chairman, Bhartiya Agro Industries Foundation, Baroda	Bharuch	57.50	70.65	103.39	0.00
74.		Mehsana District Education Foundation, Khera, Mehsana	Mehsana	92.50	119.00	118.02	0.00
75.		Director, Ambuja Cement Foundation, 248, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase-III, New Delhi-110020	Junagadh	98.00	116.00	122.77	0.00
76.		Director, Lokbharati Gramvidyapith, PO. Sansora, Taluka Sihor, Distt. Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar	88.00	92.77	98.12	0.00
77.	Madhya Pradesh	President, Lokmatas Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Social National Mission, Maszid Complex, Shanwara, Burhanpur-450331, M.P.	Burhanpur	96.10	93.50	110.20	111.24

78.	Chairman, Kasturba Gandhi Natinoal Memorial Trust, Kasturva Gram, Indore	Indore	82.80	114.70	149.08	141.04
79.	Secretary, PDKVAAS, Sahara Homes Shivaji Nagar, Bhopal	Raisen	75.75	105.25	127.59	103.94
80.	President, Kalukheda Shiksha Samiti, Ratlam	Ratlam	93.26	108.30	110.53	101.44
81.	Chairman, Deen Dayal Research Institute, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi	Satna	88.40	118.25	126.08	109.74
82.	The Chairman, Centre for Rural Dev. and Environment, Bhopal	Sehore	83.44	103.75	120.16	92.74
83.	President, Malwa Mahila Vikas Samiti, 32, Niyamatpura, Shajanabad, Bhopal	Vidisha (*)	0.00	0.00	0.00	79.54
84.	Chairman, Belgaum Integrated Rural Development Society, Naganur Belgaum-591319	Belgaum (NGO)	78.12	88.22	114.90	37.88
85.	President, Karnataka Lingayat Education Society, College road, Belgaum-590001 (Karnataka)	Belgaum-A (NGO)	83.10	95.46	107.46	34.67
86.	Chairman, Taralabalu Rural Development Foundation (TRDF), Sirigere, Chitradurga-577541	Davangere (NGO)	104.82	112.24	140.55	47.75
87.	Chairman, K. H. Patil Agril. Sciences Foundation, Hulkoti, Distt. Gadag-582205	Gadag(NGO)	128.55	145.39	160.07	56.57

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
88.	Tamil Nadu	President, JSS, Mahavidyapeeth, Ramanuj Rd, Mysore-570 004	Mysore (NGO)	100.53	112.55	142.23	0.00
89.		The Secretary, CREED, 23, Aranganatha Nagar Chidambaram, Distt. Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu-608001	Ariyalur (NGO)	35.00	46.53	79.95	0.00
90.		Executive Secretary, MYRADA, No.2 Service, Domlur Layout, Bangalore-560071	Erode (NGO)	101.40	119.79	137.99	0.00
91.		Managing Trustee Saraswati Foundation for Rural Development and Training, 12/5. Sandilya Apartments, Jagadambal Colony, Iind Street Royapettah, Chennai-600014	Karur (NGO)	83.74	96.10	123.87	0.00
92.		President, Tamil Nadu Board of Rural Deve., No.13/3,II Floor Crescent Park Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-500017	Krishnagiri(NGO)	95.57	97.12	96.93	0.00
93.		Secretary,-General UPASI, Glenview, P.B.-11 Coonoor-643101 Nilgiri Distt.	Nilgiris (NGO)	50.22	78.25	86.72	0.00
94.		St John Educational Trust Perambalur	Perambalur (NGO)	86.67	90.81	109.31	0.00
95.		President, Bhatavasalam Memorial Trust, 596, A-1 and As, TNHB Periyar Nagar, Koratur, Chennai-600080	Thanjavur (NGO)	32.76	0.00	0.00	0.00

96.	Chairman, Centre for Deve. and Communication Trust, 89-1/B-3 West Street Kamatchipuram S.O. Theni, Madurai-625520	Theni (NGO)	17.81	39.71	73.41	0.00
97.	Chairman, RV'S Education Trust, Karur Road RV'S Nagar, Dindigul-624004	Tirunelveli (NGO)	28.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
98.	President, Tamil Nadu Board of Rural Deve., No.13/3, II Floor Crescent Park Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-500017	Tiruvannamalai (NGO)	97.67	98.81	96.47	0.00
99.	Chairman SCAD, 2 Salai Street, Vannarpettai Tirunelveli	Tuticorin (NGO)	96.17	85.97	91.12	0.00
100.	President, Bapooji Sewak Samaj, Chakkupallom, PO-Kumily-685509	Idukki (NGO)	88.40	95.81	108.34	0.00
101.	Chairman, Christian Agency for Rural Development, Tiruvalla-689101 Pethennamthitta	Pathanamthitta (NGO)	110.02	121.40	149.39	51.64
102.	Director, Mitraniketan, Velland-695543, Tiruvananthapuram	Trivandrum (NGO)	86.51	100.76	116.94	38.23
Other than KVK						
103.	Gujarat SPRERI, VV Nagar	Junagarh	113.03	142.25	147.57	25.00
104.	Tamil Nadu SPCW Courtallam	Tirunelveli	36.25	28.72	32.82	7.50

Compensation to farmers of Jammu and Kashmir for crop loss

2267. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir are not receiving compensation under Fasal Bima Yojana for the loss/damage to their crops due to unseasonal rain and drought, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps Government is taking to compensate the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has implemented the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from current Kharif 2017 season and cut-off date for enrolment under the scheme is 31st July, 2017. Claims due to yield losses, if any, will only be known after harvesting of crops. Losses if any, for mid-season adversities of localized risks, which are calculated on individual farm basis are not reported.

(b) Does not arise.

Promoting poultry sector in Maharashtra

2268. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the achievement of Maharashtra in Poultry sector, particularly in production of eggs and chicken;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the action Government has taken or proposes to take to promote Poultry sector in the State in a big way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India compiles the data related to production in Animal Husbandry sector as received from different States and Union Territories including Maharashtra from time to time to assess the achievement. The figures for last three years for egg production and poultry meat production as made available by Government of Maharashtra are as below:

Sl. No.	Year	Egg production (in crores)	Poultry Meat production (Thousand tonnes)
1.	2013-14	483	414
2.	2014-15	508	434
3.	2015-16	529	450

(c) The Government of India is implementing a National Livestock Mission since 2014-15 till date in all States and Union Territories including Maharashtra. Under the interventions towards productivity enhancement component of Livestock Development Sub-Mission, assistance is given for Rural Backyard Poultry Development and Innovative Poultry Productivity Project.

The State Government is also implementing various schemes namely, poultry farming by rearing of 1000 Broiler Poultry birds under Navinyapurn Yojana, establishment of 28 intensive Poultry Development Block in 14 districts, Rural Backyard Poultry Development in Scheduled areas to provide eggs to students of Aanganwadi from tribal areas and to promote self-employment in 16 tribal districts through 'SWAYAM' project. Besides, there are district plan schemes namely, Integrated Poultry Development Scheme, distribution of 100 Day old Chicks, distribution of a unit of 25 pullets and 3 male poultry birds. Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Maharashtra regularly supplies hatching eggs and day old chicks through 16 Intensive Poultry Development Blocks and 4 Central Hatcheries and also conducts poultry training programme through Intensive Poultry Development Blocks and Central Hatcheries. State Government has planned to establish Intensive Poultry Development Blocks in 302 blocks/Talukas for uniform and overall poultry development in Maharashtra State.

Ph.D pass out SC/ST/OBC students from Agriculture Universities

2269. MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data regarding the Ph.D pass out SC/ST/OBC students from the Agriculture Universities in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of Agriculture Universities in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Data for the Ph.D pass out SC/ST/OBC students in Agriculture Universities in India is given in following table:-

Ph.D Students pass out	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
SC	185	232	192
ST	73	87	70
OBC	457	453	453

(b) Details of Agricultural Universities in Gujarat:-

- (i) Anand Agricultural University, Anand
- (ii) Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh
- (iii) Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari
- (iv) Sardarkrushinagar-Dantiwada Agricultural University, Dantiwada
- (v) Kamdhenu University, Gandhinagar

Production of sugarcane

2270. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether area under sugarcane cultivation has declined in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof, State/ Union Territory-wise along with the reasons therefor;

(b) whether sugarcane growing farmers are diverting towards the farming of other crops like pulses, floriculture, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to enhance sugarcane production in order to meet the shortage of sugar in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) State/UT-wise details of area under sugarcane during 2014-15 to 2016-17 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

The normal area under sugarcane cultivation in the country is 50.05 lakh hectares (average of 2011-12 to 2015-16). During 2014-15 and 2015-16, area under sugarcane has been around the normal area coverage. However, area under sugarcane declined during 2016-17 to 45.03 lakh hectares primarily on account of lesser area coverage under sugarcane in Maharashtra. During the current year *i.e.* 2017-18, sowing of sugarcane is still in progress. However, as per the trend on the progress of sowing received from State Governments so far, total area coverage under sugarcane in 2017-18, as on 28.07.2017, is 49.15 lakh hectares. The area under sugarcane cultivation depends on farmers' preference, shift of area to other competing crops, agro-climatic

conditions, inter-crop profitability, irrigation facilities, resource availability with farmers and timely payment of cane dues to farmers by the mills etc.

(c) Total availability of sugar is estimated to be sufficient to meet the estimated consumption requirement in the country. However, to enhance production and productivity of Sugarcane in the country, from 2014-15 the Government has been implementing Sugarcane Development Programme under National Food Security Mission-Commercial Crops (NFSM-CC) in 13 major sugarcane growing States of the country *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Under the scheme, thrust has been given on transfer of technology through frontline demonstration and training to farmers. The assistance is also provided for demonstration on inter-cropping and single bud chip technology with sugarcane, production of tissue culture raised plantlets/seedlings, strengthening/establishment of tissue culture and bio-agent laboratories, etc.

The States can also support Sugarcane Development Programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLCC).

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed improved varieties of sugarcane seeds for different climatic zones of the country. Besides, improved agronomic practices such as drip irrigation, wide row spacing, integrated nutrient management, use of bio-fertilizers and organic manures, mechanization of farm operations, integrated pest and disease management, etc. are recommended to improve sugarcane productivity.

Statement

State/UT-wise estimates of area of sugarcane during 2014-15 to 2016-17

States/UT	Area (' 000 Hectares)		
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17*
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	139.0	122.0	103.0
Arunachal Pradesh	1.5	2.0	#
Assam	29.9	29.5	31.0
Bihar	254.3	244.0	242.2
Chhattisgarh	18.5	35.5	23.7
Gujarat	208.0	157.0	175.0

1	2	3	4
Goa	0.8	0.0	#
Haryana	97.0	93.0	111.0
Himachal Pradesh	1.6	1.9	1.7
Jammu and Kashmir	1.3	0.2	1.0
Jharkhand	6.8	10.2	6.7
Karnataka	480.0	450.0	440.0
Kerala	1.5	1.4	2.2
Madhya Pradesh	111.0	103.0	92.0
Maharashtra	1030.0	987.0	633.0
Manipur	5.9	6.0	#
Meghalaya	0.1	0.1	#
Mizoram	1.5	1.5	#
Nagaland	4.4	4.4	#
Odisha	10.1	9.0	12.5
Punjab	94.0	90.0	88.0
Rajasthan	5.6	6.1	6.9
Tamil Nadu	263.1	252.3	215.3
Telangana	38.0	35.0	31.0
Tripura	0.0	0.8	#
Uttar Pradesh	2140.8	2169.0	2160.0
Uttarakhand	101.7	96.9	93.0
West Bengal	17.7	17.4	18.0
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.2	0.0	#
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.7	0.2	#
Puducherry	1.9	1.8	#
Others	NA	NA	15.3
ALL INDIA	5066.8	4927.1	4502.6

*As per 3rd Advance Estimates.

NA: Not Available.

#Included in others.

Use of APIs in manufacture of medicines

†2271. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that owing to growing use of generic medicines and a fall in profits, majority of pharmaceutical companies are using 62 per cent Chinese APIs for manufacturing drugs in the country while using Indian APIs in drugs manufactured for export to other countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 3.16 per cent of drugs were found to be sub-standard in the Drug Survey Report; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps being taken by Government to ensure the quality of medicines being sold in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) The country is partly dependent on imports of bulk drugs/Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for producing certain essential medicines.

(b) Yes Sir. In the National Drug Survey conducted in the year 2014-16, 3.16 % of drugs were found Not of Standard Quality (NSQ). The test Reports of the drug samples declared as Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) were forwarded to the concerned State Licensing Authorities with a request to take appropriate action and also to take legal samples of same batch of drugs for testing.

(c) The Government of India has taken the following stringent steps to check the quality of drugs available in the country:

- (i) The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 was amended under Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act 2008 to provide stringent penalties for manufacture of spurious and adulterated drugs. Certain offences have also been made cognizable and non-bailable.
- (ii) The States/UTs were requested to set up special Courts for trial of offences under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act for speedy disposal. So far, 22 States have already set up designated special Courts.
- (iii) A Whistle Blower Scheme was announced by the Government of India to encourage vigilant public participation in the detection of movement of spurious drugs in the country. The scheme provides for suitably rewarding the informers for providing concrete information to the regulatory authorities in respect of movement of spurious

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

drugs. The details of policy are available at the website of CDSCO (www.cdsc.nic.in).

- (iv) Guidelines for taking action on samples of drugs declared spurious or not of standard quality in the light of enhanced penalties under the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008 were forwarded to the State Drugs Controllers for uniform implementation.
- (v) The inspectorate staffs have been instructed to keep a vigil and draw samples of drugs for test and analysis to monitor the quality of drugs moving in the country.
- (vi) The number of sanctioned posts in Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has been increased from 111 in 2008 to 510 in 2017.
- (vii) The testing capacities of Central Drugs Testing Laboratories under CDSCO are being constantly strengthened to expedite testing of drug samples in the country.
- (viii) The Government has decided to strengthen both the Central and States drug regulatory system during the Twelfth Five Year Plan enabling them to keep more effective watch on unscrupulous elements indulging in unlawful activities relating to quality of drugs. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the proposal for strengthening the drug regulatory system in the country, both under the Central and State Governments at a total expenditure of ₹ 1750 crores. Out of this, ₹ 850 crore is the Central Government's share. The share of the Centre and the States in case of State component will be in the ratio of 60:40 for all States except Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North-Eastern States, for which the ratio will be 90:10.

Ban on pesticides

2272. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted an Expert Committee headed by an ex-Professor of the IARI to look into the use of 66 pesticides being used in India which are banned in most of the countries;

(b) if so, whether the Expert Committee has submitted its report and recommended immediate ban on 18 of those 66 pesticides that it was asked to look into; and

(c) whether despite the Committee recommending immediate ban, orders have been issued banning them from a prospective date, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) No, Sir, an expert committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Anupam Verma, Former National Professor, IARI, to review 66 pesticides. The Expert Committee, *inter alia*, recommended 13 pesticides to be completely banned and 6 pesticides to be phased out by 2020. The details are given in the Statement-I (*See* below). The Expert Committee did not recommend any timeline for banning of the 13 pesticides. The Registration Committee (RC) constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, deliberated on the report of the Expert Committee and recommended the following:

- (i) Complete ban of 12 pesticides with effect from 1st January, 2018. (The DDT pesticide is already banned for use in agriculture)
- (ii) Phasing out of 6 pesticides by 2020, following the manner as specified hereunder:—
 1. No new certificate of registration to manufacture shall be issued after December, 2017.
 2. No person shall import, manufacture or formulate with effect from 01.01.2019.

The use shall be completely banned with effect from 31st December, 2020.

Considering the recommendation of Expert Committee as accorded by the Registration Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, *vide* its Notification S.O. 4212(E) dated 15th December, 2016, had invited objections and suggestions from the public/stakeholders on banning/phasing out of certain pesticides. The details are given in Statement-II (*See* below). In response to the Notification S.O. 4212(E) dated 15th December, 2016, the Ministry has received various objections and suggestions. Keeping in view of which, a committee has been constituted to review the received objections and suggestions.

Statement-I

Recommendation of the expert committee with respect to 66 pesticides

Sl. No.	Category	No. of Pesticides	Name of the Pesticides
1	2	3	4
1.	I-to be continued	18	Aluminium phosphide, Bifenthrin, Carbosulfan, Chlorfenapyr, Chlorothalonil, Dazomet, Diflubenzuron, Ethofenprox,

1	2	3	4
			Fenpropathrin, Iprodione, Kasugamycin, Mepiquat chloride, Metaldehyde, Paraquat dichloride, Pretilachlor, Propargite, Propineb and Zinc phosphide
2.	II-to be reviewed again in 2018, after completion of the recommended studies	27	Acephate, Atrazine, Benfuracarb, Butachlor, Captan, Carbendazim, Carbofuran, Chlorpyrifos, Deltamethrin, Dicofol, Dimethoate, Dinocap, Diuron, 2,4-D, Malathion, Mancozeb, Methomyl, Monocrotophos, Oxyfluorfen, Pendimethalin, Quinalphos, Sulfosulfuron, Thiodicarb, Thiophanate methyl, Thiram, Zineb, Ziram
3.	III-to be phased out by 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new certificate of registration to manufacture shall be issued after December, 2017 • No person shall import, manufacture or formulate <i>w.e.f.</i> 1st January, 2019 • The use shall be completely banned <i>w.e.f.</i> 31st December, 2020 	6	Alachlor, Dichlorvos, Phorate, Phosphamidon, Triazophos, Trichlorfon
4.	IV-ban to be continued	1	Fenitrothion
5.	V-it's use to be completely banned from 1st January, 2018	13	Benomyl, Carbaryl, DDT Diazinon, Fenarimol, Fenthion, Linuron, MEMC, Methyl Parathion, Sodium Cyanide, Thiometon, Tridemorph, Trifluralin
6.	VI-not reviewed as it is <i>sub-judice</i>	1	Endosulfan

Statement-II*Names of the pesticides in the Notification S.O. 4212 (E)*

Sl. No.	Name	Sl. No.	Name
1.	Benomyl	10.	Thiometon
2.	Carbaryl	11.	Tridemorph
3.	Diazinon	12.	Trifluralin
4.	Fenarimol	13.	Alachlor
5.	Fenthion	14.	Dichlorvos
6.	Linuron	15.	Phorate,
7.	MEMC	16.	Phosphamidon
8.	Methyl Parathion	17.	Triazophos
9.	Sodium Cyanide	18.	Trichlorfon

Making farmers aware about MSP

2273. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to make farmers aware about the MSP in place for various foodgrains, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps being taken to make sure that farmers are able to sell their agriculture produces to the Government without any middleman or other barriers along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Government has taken several initiatives to make farmers aware about the Minimum Support Price (MSP), *inter alia*, include use of print, audio and visual media, dedicated television channels, Kisan Call Centres, SMS to farmers etc.

(b) The Government offers to procure the agricultural produce through procurement agencies at MSP. Food Corporation of India (FCI) is Central nodal agencies for undertaking price support operations for foodgrains. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED), FCI, National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) undertake price support operations for pulses and oilseeds.

In addition, Government has taken several steps to ensure MSP for all agricultural produce which *inter alia* includes setting up of procurement centre 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 through A/c payee cheque/electronic mode as per prevailing situation in the States; encouraging decentralized procurement; adopting e-procurement system; engaging private players in certain States to participate in procurement operations etc.

Government has also launched a scheme developing a pan India electronic trading platform under 'National Agriculture Market' (NAM) aiming to integrate 585 regulated markets with the common e-market platform to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers. 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.

Insurance of crops

2274. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details about the volume of insured crops since 2014 till date, State-wise and UT-wise;

(b) the details of loans provided to the farmers along with the repayment of these loans and defaulter, State-wise and UT-wise; and

(c) the details of companies involved in insuring the crops with criteria of waiving off the loan paid for crops insurance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) All food crops, oilseeds and pulses and annual commercial/horticultural crops are eligible for coverage under yield based crop insurance schemes and weather based scheme. In addition, perennial horticultural crops are also covered under weather based scheme. It is for the States/ Union Territories to notify/select the scheme and crops/areas for purposes of crop insurance. State and Union Territory-wise coverage in terms of area/sum insured is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) State-wise details of agricultural credit/loans provided to the farmers by commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks during last three years and agriculture loans outstanding as on 31.03.2017 are given in the Statement-II and Statement-III respectively (*See below*).

(c) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) are being implemented in the current year by empanelled 18 general insurance companies, details of which are at Statement-IV (See below). Waiver off of loan taken by insured farmers for payment of crop insurance premium is not under the purview of the PMFBY/RWBCIS.

Statement-I

State-wise details of cropped area insured and sum insured under different crop insurance schemes since Kharif 2014 season

Sl. No.	State/UT	ALL COMPANIES											
		Kharif-14			Rabi 14-15			Kharif-15			Rabi 15-16		
		₹ in lakhs			₹ in lakhs			₹ in lakhs			₹ in lakhs		
		(Ha.)	Area Insured	Sum Insured	(Ha.)	Area Insured	Sum Insured	(Ha.)	Area Insured	Sum Insured	(Ha.)	Area Insured	Sum Insured
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1090.04	414.50	140.43	45.82	810.18	510.47	568.68	123.63	0.00	253.20	46.84	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	353766.12	124140.84	187384.39	81279.45	1986424.01	686018.69	324210.55	121632.07	1852612.49	964167.61	129211.16	78138.76
3.	Assam	14037.76	8081.04	16177.43	9196.30	19964.86	11768.97	8607.68	5223.14	36692.06	20547.43	4312.95	3011.99
4.	Bihar	2206980.67	431494.08	1526216.57	536589.98	1504062.51	583451.10	1302291.87	519435.84	1311508.68	652719.04	1155403.90	593426.86
5.	Chhattisgarh	1688771.52	335129.88	205875.20	26293.02	2160639.47	305220.70	181864.91	22343.03	2200724.90	668031.95	229957.80	56958.68
6.	Goa	179.36	25.74	0.95	0.43	110.34	51.58	0.00	0.00	543.00	576.82	4.38	2.53
7.	Gujarat	13.84	429013.59	4414.53	1531.33	1027368.67	352941.36	4054.05	1540.58	2566775.01	1124958.95	274837.89	107400.38
8.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	50.62	28.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1188099.21	702099.61	856614.81	454174.56
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12998.54	6813.22	40551.72	40213.74	13612.28	9582.55	40488.52	46582.64	39500.76	29666.00	87606.53	62492.06
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	809.23	461.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	187178.76	47955.96	62689.71	18991.78	373566.79	85405.51	43305.10	15135.39	352764.21	189140.47	21051.87	13113.49
12.	Karnataka	1355667.44	290285.68	51561.79	13961.61	1216776.29	302677.81	501193.79	69747.84	1405312.10	694844.02	1461630.04	379690.32

13.	Kerala	20852.92	7318.78	27604.71	9107.27	24561.76	10072.95	40088.56	12973.11	21434.58	10982.81	29842.40	20988.02
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5504463.40	940219.44	5298163.44	918676.11	6842819.06	1167375.19	5265337.66	967450.53	7295680.47	2038406.27	5039914.80	1649596.98
15.	Maharashtra	3954907.03	652555.68	908186.00	159863.91	5692688.75	994290.59	2607679.14	412533.06	6723296.15	2153201.64	689782.30	301281.12
16.	Manipur	6499.65	1720.97	0.00	0.00	16799.33	4505.95	0.00	0.00	9120.89	3693.96	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	729.34	481.16	670.12	317.39	326.21	162.83	664.75	293.57	21.67	29.20	16.04	17.93
18.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Odisha	1566756.55	522895.39	118446.74	48038.44	1944615.94	711709.56	102582.80	48417.19	1257916.56	689057.86	63508.66	36857.84
20.	Puducherry	313.18	115.49	1420.75	516.50	290.18	170.86	1651.19	619.78	0.00	0.00	7226.84	3052.79
21.	Rajasthan	7744024.01	272270.19	4233890.73	432357.08	7282550.39	439121.16	4172268.06	536534.84	7396749.16	994224.79	2765814.89	727627.71
22.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	17.42	12.60	0.00	0.00	104.04	85.32	0.00	0.00	150.44	493.33
23.	Tamil Nadu	48685.31	21103.87	819979.44	267114.42	143019.88	79598.97	1102012.11	392284.51	31187.07	16521.98	1182114.33	616289.19
24.	Telangana	407241.25	136134.67	998562.54	407049.23	1108609.79	486668.83	498116.15	238983.59	594814.08	366649.14	345919.20	176398.47
25.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	416.09	74.82	664.67	189.22	363.01	130.07	845.69	358.85	5810.00	3542.85
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1025467.35	212404.89	1017697.78	279293.97	1979884.45	507992.13	1818186.41	833002.30	3158911.50	1328576.58	2303387.34	1026011.17
27.	Uttarakhand	34622.38	19372.68	16655.68	9180.63	59265.97	31409.45	51800.21	22700.84	101079.38	69938.86	31280.30	22198.53
28.	West Bengal	667230.45	259113.38	329459.63	224944.08	445867.88	166597.22	427534.86	303181.77	1504305.65	782620.56	541616.50	446484.42
TOTAL		26803286.10	4719522.36	15866234.39	3484678.34	33845299.66	6937493.65	18494974.07	4570954.64	39049895.25	13501014.40	17227268.57	6779296.81
GRAND TOTAL				Year 2014-15	42669520.49	8204200.70	Year 2015-16	52340273.73	11508448.28	Year 2016-17	56277163.82	20280311.21	

Note: National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), Modified NAIS (MNAIS), Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS) were under implementation during 2014-15 and 2015-16. Only Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured WBCIS (RWBCIS) were under implementation during 2016-17.

Statement-II*Details of Agriculture Credit/loan Disbursement Data from 2014-15 to 2016-17*

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2014-15*	2015-16 (Provisional)#	2016-17 (Provisional)\$
		Total Loan	Total Loan	Total Loan
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Delhi*	15,26,401.00	5,54,974.47	19,94,164.97
2.	Haryana	40,43,848.00	49,79,049.00	49,48,107.13
3.	Himachal Pradesh	4,96,412.00	5,12,193.53	6,11,614.56
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	76,600.00	2,76,146.16	7,29,674.06
5.	Punjab	72,96,298.00	84,65,288.56	74,30,146.82
6.	Rajasthan	65,74,336.00	67,62,726.22	74,30,385.60
7.	Chandigarh UT	2,33,992.00	1,41,536.00	1,40,594.60
NORTHERN REGION TOTAL		2,02,47,887.00	2,16,91,913.94	2,32,84,687.75
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	4,991.00	4,282.18	13,258.66
9.	Assam	2,75,103.00	3,90,547.53	6,10,207.41
10.	Manipur	15,255.00	15,867.18	25,112.17
11.	Meghalaya	19,594.00	15,627.14	36,831.05
12.	Mizoram	7,020.00	9,912.84	11,435.63
13.	Nagaland	13,491.00	11,816.65	12,939.21
14.	Sikkim	7,548.00	7,161.36	16,169.65
15.	Tripura	1,02,271.00	1,28,054.76	1,51,312.53
NORTH EASTERN REGION TOTAL		4,45,273.00	5,83,269.64	8,77,266.32
16.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6,647.00	11,184.38	13,498.20
17.	Bihar	22,86,388.00	40,54,231.00	26,18,458.38
18.	Jharkhand	2,51,836.00	3,66,183.81	4,37,999.18
19.	Odisha	17,27,058.00	20,28,270.04	21,26,496.46
20.	West Bengal	37,29,373.00	39,07,458.44	34,89,572.32
EASTERN REGION TOTAL		80,01,302.00	1,03,67,327.67	86,86,024.55
21.	Chhattisgarh	7,87,201.00	7,67,426.11	12,23,742.13
22.	Madhya Pradesh	47,04,858.00	52,10,400.35	56,14,906.41

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Uttarakhand	5,58,647.00	5,86,937.77	6,50,543.42
24.	Uttar Pradesh	72,61,136.00	87,64,167.01	81,58,401.41
CENTRAL REGION TOTAL		1,33,11,842.00	1,53,28,931.24	1,56,47,593.37
25.	Goa	77,731.00	56,711.46	1,01,127.66
26.	Gujarat	39,32,672.00	44,56,320.39	54,27,669.75
27.	Maharashtra	66,82,129.00	62,77,679.78	81,38,383.63
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli UT*	2,984.00	2,026.85	8,017.10
29.	Daman and Diu UT*	2,605.00	644.67	3,458.32
WESTERN REGION TOTAL		1,06,98,121.00	1,07,93,383.15	1,36,78,656.47
30.	Andhra Pradesh	53,93,621.00	74,13,594.20	92,86,862.14
31.	Telangana	30,51,666.00	33,32,568.03	67,88,535.43
32.	Karnataka	60,23,300.00	84,83,248.35	78,08,272.12
33.	Kerala	57,20,901.00	43,39,237.06	67,73,876.45
34.	Puducherry	15,93,012.00	1,08,155.84	5,29,008.42
35.	Tamil Nadu	1,00,22,577.00	91,09,362.38	1,32,14,456.68
36.	Lakshadweep UT	23,321.00	-	327.30
SOUTHERN REGION TOTAL		3,18,28,398.00	3,27,86,165.86	4,44,01,338.54
Grand Total		8,45,32,823.00	9,15,50,991.50	10,65,75,567.01

***Data source:** As reported by concerned banks in respect of Cooperative and Regional Rural Banks and data received from IBA in respect of Commercial Banks.

#Data Source: Provisional data based on SLBC in respect of Commercial Banks and reporting banks in respect of RRBs and Cooperative Banks.

\$Data Source: Data submitted by Banks in ENSURE portal in respect of Cooperative and Regional Rural Banks and data furnished by Banks through mail in respect of Commercial Banks.

Statement-III

Details of No. of Accounts (in lakh) and Loan amount outstanding (₹ in crore) in respect of all agencies as on 31.03.2017 (provisional)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total Loan	
		No. of Accounts	Amount
1	2	3	4
1.	Delhi	0.36	13137.61
2.	Haryana	28.88	56473.57
3.	Himachal Pradesh	4.92	7336.61

1	2	3	4
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	4.89	6622.86
5.	Punjab	28.57	83769.91
6.	Rajasthan	58.94	91431.84
7.	Chandigarh	0.10	2493.66
NORTHERN REGION TOTAL		126.64	261266.07
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.22	265.60
9.	Assam	20.29	10860.65
10.	Manipur	0.52	432.04
11.	Meghalaya	1.25	830.92
12.	Mizoram	0.40	325.71
13.	Nagaland	0.57	387.36
14.	Sikkim	0.21	193.00
15.	Tripura	6.28	2356.64
NORTH EASTERN REGION TOTAL		29.74	15651.92
16.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.19	147.98
17.	Bihar	64.36	34894.03
18.	Jharkhand	14.98	7306.58
19.	Odisha	58.46	26853.23
20.	West Bengal	69.64	38462.61
EASTERN REGION TOTAL		207.64	107664.43
21.	Chhattisgarh	14.94	12528.87
22.	Madhya Pradesh	88.85	73713.63
23.	Uttarakhand	6.75	9220.91
24.	Uttar Pradesh	140.05	205301.00
CENTRAL REGION TOTAL		250.59	300764.40
25.	Goa	0.58	1535.99
26.	Gujarat	36.86	70575.42
27.	Maharashtra	100.91	169149.31
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.03	58.35
29.	Daman and Diu	0.01	20.08
WESTERN REGION TOTAL		138.39	241339.14

1	2	3	4
30.	Andhra Pradesh	99.11	111322.61
31.	Telangana	57.49	62257.52
32.	Karnataka	82.08	122141.01
33.	Kerala	63.82	69212.43
34.	Puducherry	2.50	2242.21
35.	Tamil Nadu	151.61	142931.42
36.	Lakshadweep	0.01	6.33
SOUTHERN REGION TOTAL		456.62	510113.53
GRAND TOTAL		1209.62	1436799.48

Source: Data submitted by concerned banks in the ENSURE portal of NABARD.

Statement-IV

List of Names of insurance companies empanelled for implementation of Crop Insurance Schemes in the country

Public Sector Insurance Companies

1. Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd.
2. New India Assurance Company Ltd.
3. National Insurance Company Ltd.
4. Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.
5. United India Insurance Company Ltd.

Private Sector Insurance Companies

1. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd.
2. Bharti Axa General Insurance Company Ltd.
3. Chalamandalam Ms General Insurance Company Ltd.
4. Future Generali Insurance Company Ltd.
5. Hdfc Ergo General Insurance Company Ltd.
6. Icici Lombard General Insurance Co. Ltd.
7. Iffco-Tokio General Insurance Company Ltd.
8. Reliance General Insurance Company Limited
9. Sbi General Insurance Company Ltd.
10. Shriram General Insurance Company Ltd.
11. Tata Aig General Insurance Company Ltd.
12. Universal Sompo General Insurance Company Ltd.
13. Royal Sundaram General Insurance Company Ltd.

Increasing number of castrated bulls in the country

2275. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANCHIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that number of castrated bulls/oxens have increased in the country and it has become a problem for State Governments to manage them;
- (b) if so, the detailed plans for keeping such animals; and
- (c) whether Government has any scheme for immunization/vaccination of such animals, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) As per reports of Livestock Census 2007 and 2012, the total male cattle population has declined from 83.62 million in 2007 to 67.92 million in 2012, which includes castrated bulls/oxen. The data on number of castrated bulls/oxens were not collected separately in Livestock Census.

(c) The department is supplementing the efforts of State Governments for prevention, control and containment of animal diseases by way of providing financial assistance under Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH&DC) scheme. Under this scheme preventative vaccination of animals is undertaken under component 'Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD)' against economically important animal diseases like Hemorrhagic Septicemia (HS), Black quarter (BQ), Anthrax etc. Further, FMD vaccination is being done under Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP), one of the components of LH and DC Scheme.

Remunerative prices for crops grown by farmers

2276. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated hectares of land to be brought under kharif crop cultivation in respect of paddy, soyabean, pulses, cotton, bajra this year;
- (b) whether there is a marked increase in cultivation of pulses this year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government is working towards providing good seeds to farmers to ensure high yield per hectare, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken by Government to ensure remunerative prices for the crops grown by farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The first official estimates of area and production of Kharif crops are normally released in the month of September. However, as per the preliminary reports received from State Governments, details of area coverage under paddy (rice), soyabean, pulses, cotton and bajra during the current year (as on 28.07.2017) are given as under:

(In lakh ha.)

Crop	Area Coverage
Paddy (Rice)	216.23
Soyabean	95.66
Pulses	114.88
Cotton	111.55
Bajra	61.37

(b) and (c) The area coverage under Kharif pulses during the current year (as on 28.07.2017) has been 114.88 lakh hectare which is higher by 7.44 lakh hectare as compared to its coverage during the corresponding period of last year. The increase in area coverage under pulses is due to timely onset of monsoon, preference of farmers, adoption of short duration crops to avail opportunity for second crop in Rabi season, increase in Minimum Support Price and consistent efforts by the Government to increase pulse production in the country.

(d) The Government of India is assisting State Governments and other seed producing agencies for seed related activities through various ongoing schemes/programmes, which *inter alia* include National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP) under National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) etc. for supply of quality seeds to the farmers at subsidized rate for getting higher yields of crops etc.

(e) To ensure remunerative prices to farmers, the Government of India has increased Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of kharif and rabi crops for 2016-17 and of kharif crops for 2017-18. In addition, Government has also announced bonus to incentivize farmers for production of pulses and oilseeds. Under the mechanism, the farmers can sell their produce through Central/State agencies when the prices of these commodities fall below Minimum Support Price. However, the farmers are free to

sell their produce to the Government procurement agencies at MSP or in the open market whatever is advantageous to them.

The initiation of e-marketing platform through National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM) has so far brought 455 markets of 13 States out of 585 regulated markets across the country. Through price discovery, transparency and competition, it enables farmers to get improved remuneration for their produce.

Subsidy to agriculture sector

2277. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the subsidy schemes going on in the Agricultural sector;
- (b) the amount of subsidy given under RKVY, National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and agricultural marketing infrastructure during the last three years, State-wise, and
- (c) the total subsidy given to Kerala under RKVY during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Agriculture is a State subject. However, the Government of India supports the State Government through various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, for which financial assistance is provided. Under the schemes, funds are released to the State Governments who in turn provide subsidy to the beneficiaries as per approved norms. The details of major schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The details indicating funds allocated and released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Food Security Mission (NFSM), during the last three years, State-wise including State of Kerala, is given in Statement-II (*See below*). The details of total subsidy given under Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) during last three years, State wise, is given in Statement-III.

Statement-I

*List of major schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture,
Cooperation and Farmers Welfare*

1. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture(MIDH)
2. National Food Security Mission (NFSM)

3. National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)
4. National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET)
5. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)
6. Crop Insurance Programme (CIP)
7. Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Cooperation (ISAC)
8. Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Marketing (ISAM)
9. Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Census, Economics and Statistics (ISACE&S)
10. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
11. National Agriculture Market (NAM)
12. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)
13. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
14. Soil Health Management (SHM)
15. Soil Health Card (SHC)
16. Mission Organic-Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)

Statement-II

Details of funds allocated and released to the State Governments under schemes being implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare during 2014-15 to 2016-17

Sl. No.	Name of the state	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)						National Food Security Mission (NFSM)						(₹ in crore)
		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		
		Allo.	Rel.	Allo.	Rel.	Allo.	Rel.	Allo.	Rel.	Allo.	Rel.	Allo.	Rel.	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	267.07	263.54	197.79	192.66	228.35	222.59	132.24	75.64	50.55	50.12	87.04	47.62	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	27.83	13.92	31.55	31.55	23.82	11.92	17.51	7.50	13.93	13.93	13.05	5.15	
3.	Assam	483.53	267.71	128.07	94.10	279.75	210.45	112.06	95.82	89.25	67.84	108.32	39.28	
4.	Bihar	564.55	545.73	164.86	111.20	258.22	90.61	96.78	74.68	88.80	55.79	111.46	35.62	
5.	Chhattisgarh	385.44	341.75	150.11	145.07	200.30	193.04	95.89	47.94	66.73	37.50	75.89	53.39	
6.	Goa *	25.63	0.00	43.40	21.70	20.69	10.35					0.38	0.29	
7.	Gujarat	593.55	290.03	182.09	174.55	315.27	155.31	49.94	13.92	19.35	9.22	50.01	21.36	
8.	Haryana	372.03	254.68	143.10	141.54	152.40	126.85	55.72	36.49	20.80	11.39	23.24	10.40	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	86.11	86.11	28.30	28.30	52.76	52.76	19.37	17.98	9.12	8.55	16.00	15.83	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	150.50	78.25	74.72	37.36	88.90	38.49	26.05	10.20	12.46	6.48	14.26	7.13	
11.	Jharkhand	306.94	153.15	87.68	78.32	155.27	72.72	39.78	23.35	29.77	29.46	39.72	9.41	
12.	Karnataka	884.17	632.22	359.94	346.93	247.04	242.31	169.03	134.19	86.37	52.11	151.60	99.29	

13. Kerala	321.40	300.70	91.86	90.48	157.71	92.76	3.15	3.13	1.52	0.77	1.55	0.00
14. Madhya Pradesh	547.55	511.78	264.57	264.09	454.89	293.49	340.91	214.71	209.61	134.11	337.58	185.08
15. Maharashtra	1013.49	942.09	438.11	438.00	396.29	250.91	370.99	194.71	125.02	111.64	198.01	139.96
16. Manipur	43.00	43.00	20.46	20.46	29.77	12.83	15.42	14.82	13.02	13.02	14.79	7.40
17. Meghalaya	68.77	60.64	16.52	8.26	20.19	10.63	10.09	9.63	6.78	6.23	6.31	3.15
18. Mizoram	113.92	113.92	16.61	19.39	25.95	20.58	7.08	7.08	3.55	2.03	2.26	1.13
19. Nagaland	52.75	52.75	25.25	25.25	36.94	34.94	20.17	19.41	21.59	11.75	21.80	10.90
20. Odisha	504.13	482.07	299.67	292.36	342.59	334.91	86.46	53.98	79.45	67.70	73.32	34.67
21. Punjab	508.71	413.71	215.94	107.97	260.50	95.81	51.30	40.83	27.32	14.05	19.69	9.85
22. Rajasthan	740.55	695.28	342.47	325.97	262.28	261.98	269.29	213.88	185.89	106.54	219.14	103.44
23. Sikkim	18.98	9.49	24.35	4.07	14.71	14.40	2.83	2.42	5.97	3.24	10.41	3.84
24. Tamil Nadu	298.95	298.95	259.94	259.74	147.39	204.87	76.39	73.49	36.30	35.87	54.42	44.52
25. Telangana	195.27	179.64	142.30	135.91	427.85	256.99	85.43	66.03	50.39	38.79	41.89	8.29
26. Tripura	80.27	80.27	21.54	21.54	34.41	34.41	30.88	29.66	20.14	18.94	10.48	6.08
27. Uttar Pradesh	704.93	589.47	358.16	177.41	321.98	201.89	335.40	254.85	167.59	120.16	197.53	92.93
28. Uttarakhand	95.39	80.70	40.03	36.20	46.87	46.57	17.39	8.98	10.59	6.67	21.54	9.74
29. West Bengal	598.61	582.34	285.26	284.56	352.47	280.78	68.98	54.32	38.05	33.13	57.78	56.02

*NFSM Scheme introduced in Goa from 2016-17.

Statement-III

State-wise details of Subsidy given under Agricultural Marketing Infrastructural (AMI) during 2014-15 to 2016-17

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the state	Godowns projects under Storage component of AMI		Marketing Infrastructure Project other than storage infrastructure under AMI	
		No. of Project Sanctioned	Total Subsidy Released	No. of Project Sanctioned	Total Subsidy Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	153	112.61	55	23.01
2.	Assam	0	5.51	4	1.76
3.	Bihar	14	4.39	0	0.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	123	5.90	112	11.40
5.	Gujarat	2033	104.04	618	31.18
6.	Haryana	(41)*	136.86	0	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	7	0.10	1	0.25
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	7	4.87	0	0.00
9.	Jharkhand	8	3.12	0	0.00
10.	Karnataka	202	56.40	190	53.10
11.	Kerala	-6*	0.69	64	19.49
12.	Madhya Pradesh	631	259.50	89	110.09
13.	Maharashtra	432	56.35	326	153.87
14.	Nagaland	(1)*	0.02	37	4.47
15.	Odisha	3	5.60	1	2.02
16.	Punjab	71	47.37	452	126.34
17.	Rajasthan	182	47.94	30	11.85
18.	Tamil Nadu	68	14.99	30	1.37
19.	Telangana	107	62.33	49	21.64
20.	Tripura	2	2.36	0	0.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh	44	85.09	0	0.00
22.	Uttarakhand	13	3.99	4	0.08
23.	West Bengal	81	7.68	0	0.00

*Projects desanctioned during the period.

Bio-metric cards to farmers and fishermen

2278. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government is implementing a scheme to provide bio-metric cards to the farmers and fishermen if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the details of the agencies involved in issuance and distribution of these cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in association with the Coastal State Governments and Union Territories(UTs) is implementing a scheme on issuance on Bio-metric Identity cards to marine fishermen. A total of 18,20,859 marine fishers have been issued the bio-metric cards so far. Besides the Coastal State Governments/UTs, a consortium of Central Pubic Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) led by the Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bangalore with other two member namely (i) Indian Telephone Industries Limited (ITI), Palakkad and (ii) Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), Hyderabad have been involved in issuance of the bio-metric ID cards to marine fishers.

Affiliation of private agricultural colleges with ICAR

2279. MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that private agriculture colleges offering B.Sc. degree must be affiliated with the ICAR; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

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

- (b) Question does not arise in view of 'a' above.

Setting up of plants for making bio-fertilizers

†2280. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total accumulated area under bio-farming in the country, including in Maharashtra during 2011-14 and in 2014-17, the percentage increase in areas along with the details thereof, State-wise;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the details of total budget allocation in the year 2017-18 to promote bio-farming; and

(c) whether Government is planning to set up plants to manufacture bio-fertilizers at Panchayat level and in mandis, if so, the number of plants installed so far, State-wise, and the number of plants proposed to be installed in the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) the area of certified organic farming has increased from 1.0 million hectare in 2012-13 to 1.44 million hectare in 2016-17. An area 1.5 lakh hectare is covered under Participatory Guarantee System (PGS). The state-wise organic farming area including Maharashtra under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) and PGS are given in Statement-I and II (*See below*). Under Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), organic farming is covered in 48146 hectare.

Two National programmes-Parmaparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development Programme for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) have been initiated under National Mission of sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) for promoting organic bio-farming. Total budget allocated for promoting organic farming for the year 2017-18 under the PKVY and MOVCDNER is ₹ 350 crores and ₹ 100 crores respectively. Government is providing financial assistance for setting up of bio-fertiliser units by State Governments, interested farmers/individuals/private agencies under Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme that is operated through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Statement-I*Details of State wise Farm area (including in conversion) under Organic Certification during last Five years*

Sl. No.	State Name	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	321.28	321.28	321.28	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	41222.45075	5909.13	12325.03	20524.67	18251.586	17683.893
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	520.43	231.49	71.49	3688.61	4185.26	4011.270
4.	Assam	2048.273	2299.212	2828.26	16258.02	28433.244	23870.399
5.	Bihar	188.6	9351.955	180.60	247.10	91.7	1.200
6.	Chhattisgarh	743.928	1887.64	4113.25	5163.53	10584.939	12712.137
7.	Goa	10632.9755	8290.6	12853.94	15621.24	16957.593	15762.433
8.	Gujarat	41978.94214	45275.627	46863.89	49353.55	76813.064	64241.064
9.	Haryana	17442.363	7532.62	3835.78	6753.66	4869.048	5011.599
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3208.097329	3965.386	4686.05	10053.92	12759.125	12376.722
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1834.26	5121.141	10035.38	21111.22	25515.01	22608.315
12.	Jharkhand	194.416	254.946	762.30	24698.80	30363.733	26813.947
13.	Karnataka	43815.43379	27191.273	30716.21	52473.16	93963.34	81089.096
14.	Kerala	15790.49465	10568.409	15020.23	22980.90	25899.395	24812.778
15.	Lakshadweep	891.9317	350.688	895.91	895.52	895.521	895.523
16.	Madhya Pradesh	382129.4883	144239.756	232887.36	397546.62	461774.726	464859.434

Sl. No.	State Name	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
17.	Maharashtra	192434.3342	66504.92	85536.66	134524.27	198352.289	224007.521
18.	Manipur	1296.912	11.25	0	168.20	251.4	241.400
19.	Meghalaya	288.23	1780.49	373.13	1989.29	4609.422	9629.598
20.	Mizoram	7023.97	1182	0	764.24	213.8	210.000
21.	Nagaland	907.6	2916.96	5168.16	8362.43	6186.934	4699.934
22.	New Delhi	98364.34836	58.4	0.83	69.13	23.03	9.230
23.	Odisha	43787.23983	18186.405	49813.51	81533.83	95896.981	92190.100
24.	Pondicherry	0	0	2.84	2.84	2.835	2.835
25.	Punjab	927.2838	1601.474	1534.39	2677.58	961.203	1032.530
26.	Rajasthan	63901.13252	38289.048	66020.35	107523.24	155020.273	151609.913
27.	Sikkim	25408.55325	43107.744	60843.51	76392.38	75851.211	75218.279
28.	Tamil Nadu	6450.8285	3066.977	3640.07	11964.08	14456.5	5712.796
29.	Telangana	0	0	0	2902.83	10355.587	9687.841
30.	Tripura	4.046	209.726	203.56	203.56	203.56	203.560
31.	Uttar Pradesh	9798.764	32889.853	44670.10	53954.84	61081.828	56249.385
32.	Uttarakhand	40547.9529	20563.754	24739.46	36880.23	37221.387	30907.417
33.	West Bengal	19095.5456	1279.412	2095.51	16266.61	17890.412	5176.026
TOTAL		1072878.825	504439.566	723039.04	1183871.38	1489935.93	1443538.17

Source: Data provided by the accredited Certification Bodies under NPOP on tracenet

Statement-II*Details of state-wise area under PGS certification*

Sl. No.	State Name	Total Area(ha)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1197.93
2.	Assam	140.81
3.	Chhattisgarh	5633.47
4.	Gujarat	3815.36
5.	Haryana	105.84
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4885.18
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	691.63
8.	Jharkhand	3553.85
9.	Karnataka	14005.1
10.	Kerala	3194.45
11.	Madhya Pradesh	45300.47
12.	Maharashtra	18538
13.	Manipur	229.63
14.	Nagaland	1264.91
15.	Odisha	759.58
16.	Punjab	2643
17.	Rajasthan	7596.44
18.	Tamil Nadu	2637.09
19.	Telangana	597.58
20.	Tripura	1000
21.	Uttar Pradesh	14922.76
22.	Uttarakhand	17950.93
23.	West Bengal	1421.95
TOTAL		152085.97

Cold chain infrastructure near Mandis and Rural Haats

†2281. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to set up cold chain infrastructure near the Mandis and Rural Haats to ensure remunerative prices of crops to farmers and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to stop the wastage of food in transit, if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(b) whether Government is contemplating making the farm-level infrastructure mandatory; and

(c) if so, whether Government is also contemplating on providing at least one facility from integrated pack house cold storage or pre-cooling units in the villages selected under the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Government is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) which provides assistance for establishment of post-harvest infrastructure including setting up of cold chain infrastructure near mandis and rural areas. Under MIDH, credit-linked back ended subsidy @ 35% of the project cost in general areas (and 50% in case of hilly and schedule areas) is available for various components of post-harvest infrastructure, including cold chain. Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Ministry of Commerce are also implementing programmes for creation of post-harvest infrastructure. The component is demand/ entrepreneur-driven from among entrepreneurs, private companies, cooperatives, farmers groups etc through commercial ventures.

Further, for the benefit of farmers, MIDH also provides assistance for creation of storage facilities at farm level through establishment of pack houses, pre-cooling units, staging cold room, evaporation/low energy cool chamber, preservation unit, onion storage unit and Pusa zero-energy cool chambers.

(c) Under MIDH, all State Horticulture Missions have been advised to allocate funds to each Members of Parliament under Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana to be used in selected areas (Adarsh Gram) for promotion of horticulture development activities including post-harvest management, pack houses and creating awareness amongst farmers about benefits available under the scheme.

Setting up of agriculture research and development institutes in Gujarat

2282. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has established Agriculture Research and Development Institutes in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government is going to start more Agriculture Research and Development Institutes in Gujarat, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Department of Agricultural Research and Education/Indian Council of Agricultural Research (DARE/ICAR) has established 68 Institutes including 04 Deemed Universities (IARI, NDRI, IVRI and CIFE). Apart from these there are 15 National Research Centres, 14 Directorates, 06 National Bureaux, 56 All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs), 25 Network Projects, 69 State and Central Agricultural Universities including 01 Deemed University (Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences) and 680 Krishi Vigyan Kendras for Agriculture Research and Development in the Country.

(b) At present, the DARE/ICAR has no proposal to start more Agriculture Research and Development Institutes in Gujarat.

Farmers' suicides in Maharashtra

2283. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the increase in farmers' suicides in Maharashtra from 852 in January to April of 2017 compared to 375 till April, 2016;

(b) whether Government is considering any special budget under agrarian crisis in Maharashtra; and

(c) whether Government has any programme in place to identify psychologically depressed farmers and counsel them, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The State Government of Maharashtra has reported 855 cases of suicides from January–April, 2017 in comparison to 1023 cases of farmers suicide during January–April 2016.

(b) and (c) The Government of Maharashtra has also reported that for preventive measures of Farmer Suicide, pilot project in Yavatmal and Osmanabad districts in Amravati and Aurangabad Division are being implemented. An amount of ₹ 34.19 crore in year 2015-16 and ₹ 12.50 crore in year 2016-17 has been distributed in these two districts for implementation of Baliraja Chetana Abhiyan. Further, Public Health Department has a programme to counsel farmers.

Recently the State Government has announced loan waiver scheme for the farmers in the State.

The Government of India is also supporting implementation of District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) under the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP)

in 444 districts of the country. The DMHP has been restructured to include additional components like suicide prevention services, work place stress management, life skills training and counseling in schools and colleges. Support is also provided for Central/ State Mental Health Authorities, Research and Training and for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities. States concerned are requested to submit Project Implementation Plans (PIPs) for various health initiatives including mental health for implementation in their States. Already all States have been requested by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to prepare a detailed action plan for addressing issue of suicides by farmers duly analyzing districts wherein such cases are coming and submit the same also to the Ministry.

Development of fish landing jetties/wharf at Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu

2284. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to develop fish landing jetties/wharf at Cuddalore wharf in Cuddalore District of Tamil Nadu; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare had in March, 2012 accorded approval to a proposal of Government of Tamil Nadu for maintenance dredging, construction of kerb wall and rough stone revetment at Cuddalore Fishing Harbour in Cuddalore District at a total cost of ₹194 lakh under the erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations. The central share to the tune of 50% of the project cost amounting to ₹ 97 lakh was released to the Government of Tamil Nadu in two instalments for implementation of the said project. In addition, the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad during the fiscal year 2012-13 had also provided an amount of ₹ 1033.06 lakh to the Government of Tamil Nadu for upgradation/renovation of the existing fishing harbour at Cuddalore.

Implementation of the National Gokul Mission

2285. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is implementing the National Gokul Mission (NGM) in the country and setting up Gokul Grams under the mission, if so, the details thereof;

- (b) the number of Gokul Grams established so far in Maharashtra;
- (c) whether Government proposes to increase their number in the State; 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 SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir. The “Rashtriya Gokul Mission”, has been launched in December, 2014 with the aim to conserve and develop indigenous bovine breeds in a focused and scientific manner. The scheme is being implemented with the following components: (a) strengthening of bull mother farms to conserve high genetic merit Indigenous Breeds; (b) establishment of Field Performance Recording (FPR) in the breeding tract; c) assistance to Institutions/Institutes which are repositories of best germplasm; (d) implementation of Pedigree Selection Programme for the Indigenous Breeds with large population; (e) establishment of Integrated Indigenous Cattle Centres *viz.* “Gokul Gram”; (f) Establishment of Breeder’s Societies: Gopalan Sangh; (g) distribution of disease free high genetic merit bulls for natural service and (h) incentive to farmers maintaining elite animals of indigenous breeds.

(b) to (d) Funds have been sanctioned under the scheme for established of 14 Gokul Grams in the country out of this three Gokul Grams have been sanctioned in the State of Maharashtra. No limit has been set by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries for establishment of number of Gokul Grams in the different States of the country.

Compensation to farmers for damaged crops

2286. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to announce Minimum Support Price (MSP) for various crops in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is aware that a large quantity of various crops has been damaged due to various reasons; and
- (d) if so, the corrective steps being taken to compensate the farmers for their damaged crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Government announces every year the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for twenty two (22) major agricultural crops and Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for Sugarcane on the

recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of State Governments, Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors.

In addition, MSP for Toria and De-Husked coconut is fixed by the Department on the basis of MSPs of Rapeseed/Mustard and Copra respectively.

The MSPs fixed by Government for 2016-17 and 2017-18 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Government provides financial assistance from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) in the wake of notified natural calamities. As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs which is applicable for 2015-16 to 2019-20, assistance is provided from SDRF/NDRF towards input subsidy for the crop loss of 33% and above. The scale of assistance towards input subsidy for crop loss has been enhanced by 50%, which is ₹ 6800/- per hectare for rainfed areas, ₹ 13500/- per hectare for assured irrigated areas and ₹ 18000/- per hectare for all type of perennial crops.

In addition, Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to protect the farmers from crop loss on account of natural calamities. The premium rates to be paid by farmers are very low *i.e.* 2% of sum insured for all Kharif crops, 1.5% for all Rabi crops and 5% for commercial and horticulture crops under the scheme.

Statement

Details of MSP fixed by Government for 2016-17 and 2017-18

			(₹ per quintal)	
Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2016-17	2017-18
Kharif Crops				
1.	Paddy	Common	1470	1550
		Grade 'A'	1510	1590
2.	Jowar	Hybrid	1625	1700
		Maldandi	1650	1725
3.	Bajra		1330	1425
4.	Maize		1365	1425
5.	Ragi		1725	1900
6.	Arhar (Tur)		5050^^	5450^
7.	Moong		5225^^	5575^
8.	Urad		5000^^	5400^

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2016-17	2017-18
9.	Cotton	Medium Staple	3860	4020
		Long Staple	4160	4320
10.	Groundnut in Shell		4220*	4450^
11.	Sunflower Seed		3950*	4100*
12.	Soyabean		2775*	3050^
13.	Sesamum		5000^	5300*
14.	Nigerseed		3825*	4050*

Rabi Crops

15.	Wheat		1625	-
16.	Barley		1325	-
17.	Gram		4000^	-
18.	Masur (Lentil)		3950@	-
19.	Rapeseed/Mustard		3700*	-
20.	Safflower		3700*	-
21.	Toria		3560	-

Other Crops

22.	Copra	Milling	5950	6500
	(Calender Year)	Ball	6240	6785
23.	De-Husked Coconut		1600	1760
	(Calender Year)			
24.	Jute		3200	3500
25.	Sugarcane\$		230.00	255.00

\$ Fair and remunerative price.

*Including bonus of ₹ 100 per quintal.

^Including Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal.

^^Including Bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal.

@Including Bonus of ₹ 150 per quintal.

Area under irrigation in the country

2287. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state the data regarding area under irrigation in the previous three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): As per Land Use Statistics (LUS),

the State-wise details of area under irrigation (net irrigated area) in the country for the year 2012-13 to 2014-15 (latest available) is given in the Statement (*See below*).

Statement

*State-wise details of Area under irrigation (Net Irrigated Area) from
2012-13 to 2014-15 (latest available)*

	(Thousand Hectares)		
State/UTs	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Andhra Pradesh	4575	3014	2927
Arunachal Pradesh	57	57	56
Assam	321	303	296
Bihar	3053	2933	2987
Chhattisgarh	1449	1462	1466
Goa	36	38	39
Gujarat	4233	4233	4233
Haryana	3102	2931	2974
Himachal Pradesh	113	113	113
Jammu and Kashmir	325	323	331
Jharkhand	210	217	207
Karnataka	3421	3556	3589
Kerala	396	397	414
Madhya Pradesh	8550	9455	9584
Maharashtra	3244	3248	3244
Manipur	49	69	69
Meghalaya	65	68	81
Mizoram	14	16	16
Nagaland	85	91	97
Odisha	1248	1245	1259
Punjab	4115	4143	4118
Rajasthan	7499	7650	7882
Sikkim	13	13	12
Tamil Nadu	2643	2679	2726

State/UTs	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Telangana	State was constituted in June 2014	2289	1726
Tripura	81	78	79
Uttarakhand	338	328	330
Uttar Pradesh	13929	14027	14389
West Bengal	3082	3099	3102
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0
Chandigarh	0	0	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4	4	4
Daman and Diu	0	0	0
Delhi	22	22	22
Lakshadweep	0	0	0
Puducherry	14	13	13
ALL INDIA	66285	68116	68383

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

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

Corruption and irregularities in IFFCO

2288. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER:

SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is investigating cases of corruption, irregularities and misconduct of officials of India Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) including Managing Director and his family members, if so, the details in this regard; and

(b) whether Government has any plans or is mulling over reclaiming of IFFCO, and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Department of Fertilizers has received various complaints pertaining to corruption and irregularities in IFFCO alleging involvement of Sh. U.S. Awasthi, MD, IFFCO. The complaints have been referred to investigating agencies for enquiry.

(b) The repatriation of GoI equity by IFFCO is disputed as it was done in violation of the then IFFCO by-laws.

Setting up of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras

2289. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) located in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to set up some more number of PMBJKs at the railway stations, bus terminals, petrol pumps in various cities/towns in the country;

(c) if so, the details of locations identified for the same, State-wise, including Maharashtra; and

(d) by when these Kendras are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) A State-wise list of 2091 functional 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Kendras' as on 31.07.2017 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) Possibility of opening of PMBJP Kendras at various Government premises are being explored. The scheme guidelines provide for opening of PMBJP Kendras at various Government premises and the concerned Departments and State Governments have been requested for their active partnership in the implementation of the PMBJP.

Statement

State-wise list of 2091 functional PMBJP Kendras

Sl. No.	State	Functional PMBJP Kendras
1.	Maharashtra	147
2.	Haryana	45
3.	Himachal Pradesh	23
4.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5
5.	Daman and Diu	1

Sl. No.	State	Functional PMBJP Kendras
6.	Punjab	57
7.	Chandigarh	5
8.	Karnataka	122
9.	Delhi	27
10.	Madhya Pradesh	61
11.	Tamil Nadu	135
12.	Bihar	39
13.	Rajasthan	74
14.	Gujarat	184
15.	Puducherry	2
16.	Assam	42
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	21
18.	Nagaland	11
19.	Tripura	19
20.	Mizoram	6
21.	Manipur	30
22.	Kerala	257
23.	Chhattisgarh	171
24.	Odisha	44
25.	West Bengal	9
26.	Jharkhand	40
27.	Uttarakhand	60
28.	Jammu and Kashmir	23
29.	Telangana	44
30.	Andhra Pradesh	101
31.	Uttar Pradesh	286
TOTAL		2091

Benefits of price reduction in fertilizers to farmers

2290. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether since 2011-12, global price of diammonium phosphate (DAP) has fallen 43 per cent from 651 dollar to 370 dollar per tonne during 2016-17 but Government

has not extended the benefits of price reductions of fertilizers in international markets to suicide committing farmers of the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the same; and

(b) the steps Government proposes to take to reduce prices of fertilizers in view of the unprecedented suicides by the farmers during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) The Government has implemented Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy w.e.f. 1.4.2010 for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) Fertilizers. Under the policy, a fixed amount of subsidy, decided on annual basis, is provided on subsidised P&K fertilizers depending on their nutrient content. Under this policy, MRP is fixed by fertilizer companies as per market dynamics at reasonable level. However, in line with fall in international prices in 2016-17, it was decided by the Government to pass on the benefits of fall in international prices to the farmers by virtue of reduced MRP of the P&K fertilizers. The Government has not reduced the subsidy rates further. This decision of the Government encouraged the P&K fertilizer companies to reduce the MRP of P&K fertilizers. Accordingly, the prices of P&K fertilizers came down by ₹ 125/-, ₹ 250/- and ₹ 50/- per 50 kg. bag of DAP, MOP and Complex Fertilizers respectively in the month of June, 2016 and again price of DAP came down by ₹ 65/- per 50 kg. bag in the month of December, 2016.

Implementation of operational instructions on city compost

†2291. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status and progress of the implementation of the operational instructions issued for city compost jointly by his Ministry and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under which permission has been granted to the civic bodies to sell city compost directly to the farmers;

(b) whether there is any provision of having differences in the urban and rural rates; and

(c) the details of the civic bodies which are permitted to sell city compost directly to farmers as per the operational instructions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India approved a policy on promotion of city compost which has been duly notified by the Department of Fertilizers on 10.2.2016 wherein Market Development

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Assistance (MDA) of ₹ 1500/MT has been provided for scaling up production and consumption of city compost.

To boost the sale of city compost, compost manufacturers have been allowed for direct sale of city compost to farmers in bulk. Operational guidelines for release of MDA on direct sale of city compost by compost manufacturers to farmers under the policy on promotion of city compost have been issued by the Department of Fertilizers on 09.01.2017. As per the guidelines, the Market Development Assistance (MDA) for sale of city compost will be paid only through concerned Municipality to the Compost manufacturer and to concerned Municipality where Municipality is the Compost Manufacturer and Marketer. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has released a notification allowing 43 compost manufacturers to carry out bulk sale of city compost. As per the policy on promotion of city compost, the Market Development Assistance of ₹ 1500/- MT provided on the sale of city compost is applicable to all areas viz. urban and rural areas.

(c) As per the operational guidelines issued by the Department of Fertilizers all Municipalities which are compost manufacturer and marketer are permitted to sell city compost.

Commissioning of Matrix Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. at Panagarh

2292 SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Matrix Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. is ready for commissioning at Panagarh, West Bengal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that commissioning of the aforesaid concern is being delayed for want of requisite quantity of Coal Bed Methane (CBM); and

(c) if so, the reasons for non-availability of CBM for such a long period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As informed by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, M/s Essar Oil Ltd. (EOL) and Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd. (GEECL) were producing around 0.3 MMSSCMD and 0.4 MMSCMD of CBM respectively from their CBM Blocks, which cumulated only to 0.7 MMSCMD of gas which was not sufficient to commission the Matix plant. Later on it was understood that Matix Fertilizers curtailed their requirement of gas to 1.50 MMSCMD. In the meantime, during September 2016, EOL's production ramped up to 1.00 MMSCMD however, CBM production

of GEECL was still stagnant around 0.4 MMSCMD, which was again not enough to commence commissioning of plant.

Government has now notified the Policy on 11.04.2017 for Early Monetization of CBM contracts which provides pricing and marketing freedom to CBM contractors to sell CBM gas at Arm's Length Price in the domestic market.

Implementation of GST by chemists and stockists

2293. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a majority of chemists and stockists across the country are not clear about GST aspects and are yet to initiate implementation process, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this is likely to create drug shortages in certain therapies; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure smooth supplies of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) As the consumers and pharmaceutical industry were concerned about the possible changes in pricing of medicines, an Office Memorandum was issued indicating the likely change in ceiling prices on rollout of Goods and Services Tax (GST) based on the recommendation of GST Council. The helpline number of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) started working round the clock to resolve the issues faced by Pharmaceutical Companies, distributors, stockists, wholesalers and retailers of medicines for the aspects related to pricing of medicines since 24.06.2017. NPPA has uploaded the list of revised ceiling price of 814 formulations on its website for deriving the maximum retail price after adding the applicable GST. References received regarding changes in prices related to GST implementation are resolved as and when received.

(b) and (c) General public have been requested to report regarding shortage of medicines to NPPA through helpline number, Pharma Jan Samadhan, mobile number and twitter handle (https://twitter.com/nppa_india). NPPA is also monitoring the situation on the basis of report received from State Drug Controllers.

NPPA is monitoring about 97000 SKUs based on Pharmatrac data. Certain individual complaints on non-availability of medicines have been received in respect of a few brands. These complaints do not appear to be due to introduction of GST. However, in these cases concerned companies have been instructed to coordinate

with the complainants and ensure supply of medicine to the complainants. Further, Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), which regulates quality, safety and efficacy of drugs in the country, has informed all State/U.Ts Drugs Controllers on 13.07.2017 to ensure the availability of essential medicines after the implementation of GST in the country who have informed that, in general, there is “No issue regarding shortage/unavailability of drugs in their States/UTs due to implementation of GST.

**Integrated Petroleum, Plastic, Chemical and
Petrochemical unit in Tamil Nadu**

2294. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government proposes to set up any Integrated Petroleum, Plastic, Chemical and Petrochemical unit in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has accorded its approval and conveyed to the State Government; and

(c) if not, by when the approval is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Government of India approved setting up of a Petroleum Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) in Tamil Nadu at Cuddalore and Nagapattinam Districts in July, 2012.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government of Tamil Nadu has informed that the preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment on the suitability of the site from environmental perspective was provided in the PCPIR proposal. Government of Tamil Nadu has also informed that taking up of Environmental Impact Assessment Study is scheduled after finalization of Anchor Tenant project and formation of Management Board.

Import of APIs from China

2295. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian pharmaceutical industry imports around 85 per cent of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for manufacture of medicines from China;

- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to produce APIs in the country itself;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to set up Mega Parks for API manufacturing in the country as per the recommendations of the Katoch Committee;
- (d) the reasons for the failure of Government in setting up Mega Parks for API manufacturing in the country; and
- (e) whether any such Park is also planned for north-east India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) The country is dependent on imports of bulk drugs/Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for producing certain essential medicines.

These imports are taking place because of economic considerations.

(b) The Government has withdrawn exemption of customs duty on certain categories of Bulk Drugs/APIs which are also used in the manufacture of some of the Antibiotics, to provide a level playing field to the domestic manufacturers. Further, the Government is clearing bottlenecks like environment clearances etc. which the manufacturers are facing, in order to give boost to domestic manufacturers of bulk drugs.

(c) The Government is providing all the available help to the State Governments for setting up such API Parks in the country.

(d) The Government is encouraging State Governments for developing parks.

(e) There is no such plan, at present.

Wi-Fi hotspots in rural areas

†2296. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on establishing Wi-Fi hotspots in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether Government is contemplating on taking any step in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) BharatNet Project is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approximately 2,50,000) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, aerial fibre, radio and satellite media, for providing broadband connectivity by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis. The project is planned to be implemented in phases. Under Phase I of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be connected by laying underground OFC by November, 2017. Under Phase II, connectivity will be provided to balance GPs in the country and the internet access to the public through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, is proposed to cover all the GPs by March, 2019.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is setting up Public Wi-Fi hotspots at 25,000 Telephone Exchanges of BSNL in rural areas. Further, Common Service Centre-Special Purpose Vehicle(CSC-SPV), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is also setting up Wi-Fi Choupals in 5,000 GPs under BharatNet in the country.

Migration of satellite phone users to BSNL

2297. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has asked all satellite phone users in the country to migrate to its network by 31st July, 2017;

(b) whether it is also a fact that satellite phone services are expected to be phased out soon; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the BSNL is now ready to provide Global Satellite Phone Services, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has asked all satellite phone users/customers having valid operating license to migrate to BSNL network by 31st July, 2017.

(b) Only for the Mini-M and Global Area Network (GAN) services Tata Communications Limited (TCL) has asked its prepaid tariff plan customers to use the available balance by 31.08.2017.

(c) Yes, after inauguration of satellite gateway of BSNL on 24.05.2017, BSNL is ready to provide Global Satellite Phone Services.

Modernisation and mechanisation of postal services

2298. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the process of modernisation and mechanisation of the postal services and what it entails;

(b) whether the budgetary allocation for mechanisation and modernisation of postal services has increased in the past three years, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for the disparity between budget estimate 2014-15 and revised estimate 2014-15 for mechanization and modernisation of the postal services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The IT Modernization Project of Department of Posts was approved by the Government in November, 2012 with a total outlay of ₹ 4909 crore. The Project involves computerization, modernisation and networking of approximately 1,55,000 Post Offices in the country, including approximately 1,30,000 Branch Post Offices in rural areas run by the Gramin Dak Sevaks.

The scope of the project is as under:—

1. Modernization and computerization of all Post Offices in the country;
2. Deployment of Rural Information and Communication Technology (Rural ICT) solution in all the 1,30,000 rural Branch Post Offices in the country by supplying computer hardware, solar charging devices and providing network connectivity to them;
3. Establishment of IT Infrastructure, *viz.*, Data Centre, Disaster Recovery Centre and Wide Area Network (WAN) based networking of all the departmental post offices, mail offices, accounts offices and administrative offices;
4. Development of software applications covering all operations of the Department *viz.*, counter operations, mail processing, online tracking and tracing of the mail article, Banking, Insurance, Finance and Accounts and Human Resources management functions;
5. Provision of multiple channels of user interaction apart from the conventional post office counters. These include web portals, ATMs, call centers, employee help desks, SMS gateway etc.; and
6. Preparing Postal employees and Grameen Dak Sewaks for the changes at their workplace on account of induction of technology and training them for this.

(b) The details of the budget allocations under Mechanisation and Modernisation and of postal services under the plan head during the past 3 years are as follows:—

Financial Year	Budget Estimate (B.E) (₹ in crores)	Revised Estimate (R.E) (₹ in crores)
2014-15	616.31	172.00
2015-16	357.20	412.70
2016-17	300.00	303.61

(c) Due to curtailment of overall funds by Ministry of Finance for the Department of Posts under Plan segment from ₹ 800 crore (B.E) to ₹ 300 crore at (R.E) stage, there was reduction of funds under 'Mechanisation and Modernisation' from ₹ 616.31 crore to ₹ 172 crore. This led to disparity between B.E and R.E for the year 2014-15 under 'Mechanisation and Modernisation' of postal services.

Participation of women in electronic start-ups

2299. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that women have little participation in electronic start-ups;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the road map for increasing their participation in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The gender disaggregated data with respect to startups recognized by the Government is available with the Government with effect from June 15, 2017 after the revised recognition process in line with the amended definition of startup was implemented. As per the data available with the Government, out of the 91 start-ups recognized from the Electronics Sector, 50 startups have at-least one woman Director/Partner.

- (c) Does not arise in view of above.

Disconnection of landline connections by customers of BSNL and MTNL

2300. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that most of the customers of BSNL and MTNL are disconnecting their landline connections due to increase in monthly rental charges and service problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of landline telephones that have been disconnected by BSNL and MTNL customers during the last three years; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by BSNL and MTNL to provide landline connections at affordable rate and quality service to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Customers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have surrendered landline connections due to:—

- (i) Tendency of shifting to mobile service because of their convenience, utility and availability even while on move.
- (ii) Frequent interruption in landline service due to cable damages by digging work by various agencies for road widening, water and drainage activities, laying of electrical cable etc.
- (iii) Delay in restoration of damaged cables, obtaining permission from local authorities etc. which affect timely restoration of landline services.
- (iv) Migration of landline subscribers to mobile segment and shifting to other operators, there has been some surrender of landline telephones of BSNL and MTNL.

(b) Details of landline telephones that have been surrendered by customers of BSNL and MTNL during last three years are as under:

Year	Number of landline telephone surrendered by customers	
	BSNL	MTNL
2014-15	30,97,437	1,29,910
2015-16	28,52,231	1,18,895
2016-17	24,01,893	1,25,023

(c) Following steps are being taken by BSNL and MTNL to provide landline connections at affordable rate and quality service to the customer:

BSNL

- (i) BSNL has launched a promotional offer in which new customers can avail BSNL Landline service @₹ 49/- per month only. Under this scheme, Fixed Monthly Charges of ₹ 49/- shall be charged for first six months and one free BSNL prepaid SIM card will be provided to customer.
- (ii) Under the Sunday Free Calling Scheme, on all Sundays BSNL landline users are allowed to make unlimited free call to any network's mobile and landline within India.

- (iii) Under Free Night Calling scheme, BSNL landline users are allowed to make unlimited free calls to any network's mobile and landline within India between 9 PM to 7 AM.
- (iv) Retention of non-payment disconnected numbers by giving instalment payment options and pursuing the case on individual basis.
- (v) To bring back disconnected landline connection due to non-payment, BSNL has introduced waive off installation charges and first month Fixed Monthly Charges (FMC) to realise outstanding dues.
- (vi) To provide Quality of Service (QoS) to the consumer, BSNL has launched integrated services *i.e.*, voice, video and data by using the Next Generation Network (NGN) technology in the country. With migration to NGN technology, the customers will get better communication facilities on wireline by providing enhanced Value Added Services (VAS) like personalized Ring Back tone, Broadband VAS, Multimedia video conferencing and IP Centrex etc.
- (vii) To achieve further improvement in wireline, customer satisfaction etc. instructions have been issued to field units to monitor the performance personally and not to default on the benchmarks prescribed by TRAI.
- (viii) Circle/field units regularly take both corrective and preventive actions like replacing faulty drop wires, attending termination point, rehabilitation of outdoor network etc. to meet the prescribed benchmark on QoS parameters.

MTNL

- (i) Calls to any landline and mobile network both Mumbai as well as Delhi are free between 10 PM and 7 AM.
- (ii) All STD Calls are charged as local calls between 10 PM and 7 AM.
- (iii) Upgradation/Rehabilitation of external plant is being done periodically.
- (iv) Regular change of drop wires to make it joint free.
- (v) Regular check of subscribers wiring.
- (vi) New exchanges are being installed/provided to bring the cable loop length within three kilometer range in order to improve the connectivity network.
- (vii) Close coordination with other agencies during digging work to avoid damage to underground cables.
- (viii) The theft prone routes are being patrolled in the night to check theft of cables and cable theft alarms are being installed on primary cable.
- (ix) Monitoring at different stages so that faults can be attended at the earliest.

- (x) Customers are contacted on mobile to fix convenient time to attend the fault. In case of locked premises SMS being sent to expedite fault rectification.
- (xi) Faults handling is improved through provisioning of SMS to line staff/officers, as well as customers.

Internet facility in remote villages of Chhattisgarh

†2301. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no internet facility in many remote villages of Chhattisgarh despite Digital India Campaign and the speed of internet is very slow in those villages in which it is available, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of villages devoid of internet connections in the country, especially Chhattisgarh, district-wise;

(c) by when the high speed internet connectivity in each and every village of Chhattisgarh could be expected; and

(d) the measures taken to improve internet speed in the villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) BharatNet Project, which is one of the pillars of Digital India Programme, is planned to establish a network infrastructure by connecting all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, aerial fibre, radio and satellite media, for providing broadband connectivity by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis.

The project is planned to be implemented in phases. Under Phase I of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be connected by laying underground OFC by November, 2017. Under Phase II, connectivity will be provided to balance GPs in the country by March, 2019. The State-wise status of BharatNet, Phase I as on 23.07.2017, is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

State-wise and District-wise details of villages in the country without internet connectivity are not available. Telecom Service Area-wise rural subscriber base of Internet as on March, 2017 as submitted by service providers to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is, however, given in Statement-II (*See below*).

With the implementation of BharatNet, it is expected that internet speed will improve.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I*State-wise status of NOFN (BharatNet) Phase-I as on 23.07.2017*

Sl. No.	State/UTs	No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)- Phase II	Pipe laid (kms)	Cable laid (in kms.)	No. of GPs where Pipe laid	No. of GPs where Cable laid	GPs Lit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Assam	1533	3810	4162	1424	1348	382
2.	Bihar	5754	12255	12944	4982	4742	896
3.	Chhattisgarh	4104	10287	7903	3310	3164	1326
4.	Haryana	6020	9795	11005	5907	5803	1162
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	388	436	393	214	200	0
6.	Karnataka	6092	12015	12537	6030	6022	4873
7.	Kerala	977	720	830	1129	1129	1129
8.	Madhya Pradesh	12655	35983	31124	12073	11644	3791
9.	Maharashtra	15301	26754	25206	12711	11853	2209
10.	Punjab	8049	9893	9164	6989	6747	955
11.	Rajasthan	8194	21244	20569	7114	7065	1908
12.	Uttar Pradesh	27974	48864	45356	25377	23424	3118
13.	Uttarakhand	1863	2804	2652	1503	1463	509

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14.	West Bengal	2637	5208	4893	1830	1792	285
15.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	69	1	0	1	0	0
16.	Chandigarh	12	18	19	12	12	12
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	863	1558	672	609	228	0
18.	Nagaland	994	2634	1506	832	467	0
19.	Manipur	904	334	240	154	123	26
20.	Mizoram	763	745	454	125	75	0
21.	Tripura	1021	1691	1587	836	810	86
22.	Meghalaya	1208	1213	532	434	194	0
23.	Gujarat	6905	10694	9737	5118	4539	1200
24.	Puducherry	98	82	92	98	98	101
25.	Andhra Pradesh	1673	2646	766	555	283	0
26.	Telangana	2017	4539	4462	2038	2038	240
27.	Odisha	3860	8171	7970	3109	3108	532
28.	Jharkhand	2713	5085	4669	1919	1775	601
29.	Himachal Pradesh	252	522	481	155	153	85
30.	Daman and Diu	15	0	0	0	0	0

31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Sikkim	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Lakshadweep	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Goa*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		12490	240001	221925	106588	100299	25426		

*All the GPs of Goa are already connected with Optical Fibre.

Statement-II

Telecom Service Area-wise Rural Internet Subscriber Base as on 31st March, 2017
(Subscribers in Millions)

Telecom Service Area	Rural Subscriber Base
Andhra Pradesh	12.10
Assam	4.25
Bihar	11.91
Delhi	0.69
Gujarat	8.26
Haryana	3.65
Himachal Pradesh	2.10
Jammu and Kashmir	1.87
Karnataka	6.37
Kerala	6.72
Kolkata	0.76
Madhya Pradesh including Chhattisgarh	7.70
Maharashtra	11.75
Mumbai	0.50
North East	2.22
Odisha	4.93
Punjab	4.67
Rajasthan	8.71
Tamil Nadu	8.08
Uttar Pradesh (East)	13.41
Uttar Pradesh (West)	7.10
West Bengal	8.80
TOTAL	136.55

Repaying of loan amount by MTNL

2302. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the MTNL has decided to pay back all its loan amount to the financial institutions, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that MTNL has already paid a sum of ₹ 125 crore recently to Punjab and Sind Bank, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is making the payment to the banks as per the schedule of payment in the loan agreement.

(b) MTNL has made payment of ₹ 125 crores to the Indian Overseas Bank on 29.06.2017 as per schedule of payment in the loan agreement.

Optical fibres laid under NOFN

2303. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has completed laying of optical fibre network in all Gram Panchayats in the country under National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) programme;

(b) if so, details thereof including length of fibre network laid in each State;

(c) whether optical fibre cable already laid in underground or overground;

(d) whether Andhra Pradesh has been included in NOFN;

(e) whether Government is aware that Andhra Pradesh is also laying optical fibre in all villages and has established a separate company known as 'Andhra Pradesh State Fibrenet Limited' for the purpose; and

(f) if so, details thereof and funding of the programme in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The Government has completed the laying of underground Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) in 1,00,299 GPs in the country with a total length of 2,21,925 km. under the Phase I of BharatNet. The State-wise details are given in the Statement [Refer to Statement-I appended to answer to USQ No. 2301. Part (a) to (d)].

(d) Andhra Pradesh is included in BharatNet project for providing connectivity to Gram Panchayats.

(e) and (f) Andhra Pradesh State FibreNet Limited has laid overhead OFC to provide connectivity to GPs with Mandals from its own resources.

Andhra Pradesh State FibreNet Limited has formulated and submitted a proposal to Department of Telecom to connect GPs. No decision regarding funding has been taken.

Internet speed

†2304. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that internet speed in the country is even slower than that in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) if not, country's position in the world in terms of internet speed; and
- (c) by when internet speed will be improved in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) As per Akamai's (an international agency) Quarter 1, 2017 report on "The State of Internet", India has a global rank of 89 with an average internet connection speed of 6.5 Mbps. Sri Lanka has a global rank of 68 with average internet connection speed of 8.5 Mbps. As per Akamai report, only 15 countries were surveyed from Asia Pacific Countries for average connection speed and Pakistan does not figure in the list of countries surveyed.

The global rank of India was 114 with average internet speed of 3.5 Mbps, as per Akamai's Quarter 1, 2016 report. Sri Lanka was having a global rank of 83 with an average internet speed of 5.4 Mbps as per that report.

Thus, there has been an improvement in India's global rank in terms of average internet connection speed during last one year. Continuous efforts are being made to further improve internet speed in the Country. Internet speed depends on various parameters such as technology deployed, network coverage, number of simultaneous users accessing the internet, connectivity to the website being accessed etc.

(c) For improvement of internet speed in the country, telecom networks are being upgraded continuously.

In order to improve internet/ broadband facilities in rural areas, BharatNet project has been planned to provide 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country. Under first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be connected by laying underground Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) which is under implementation. Under Phase-II, targeted to be completed by March 2019, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media. Provision of last mile access to the network and broadband service provisioning shall be through Wi-Fi or any other broadband access technologies in all 2,50,000 GPs in the country.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Also, Government has allocated 965 Megahertz spectrum through auction in October, 2016 to various telecom service providers for access services. In order to provide high-speed internet services in the country, 3G/4G networks are being rolled out progressively by the telecom service providers.

Cases in consumer courts

2305. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of pending cases in consumer courts have been constantly increasing year on year;
- (b) if so, the details of all cases filed and cleared over the past three year, sector-wise;
- (c) the funds spend on infrastructure of consumer courts and details of vacancies of judicial staff over the past three years; and
- (d) the details of steps taken to fast-track cases in consumer courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. From the data available in the CONFONET software, meant for monitoring complaints filed in the Consumer Fora, the cumulating pendency of complaints in the Consumer Fora is increasing over the years. The details of cases filed and disposed of over the past three years from 2014 to 2016, sector-wise, are given in Statement-I (See below).

(c) Under the provisions of the consumer Protection Act, 1986, the State Governments are supposed to establish State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions and District fora, and consequently to provide physical infrastructure and manpower for their smooth functioning. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments the Central Government has been providing grants-in-aid for strengthening the infrastructure of the Consumer Fora in the states.

The details of the funds released for these purposes are given in Statement-II (See below). The details of vacancies of President and Members in the Consumer Fora is given in Statement-III (See below).

- (d) The following are the steps taken to fast track cases in consumer fora:—
 - (i) The National Commission holds Circuit Bench sittings in State headquarters for rendering speedy justice to benefit the consumers of that particular State.

- (ii) The National Commission has also constituted Single Member Benches for speedy disposal of cases.
- (iii) In some of the States/UTs, additional Benches of the State Commissions have been set up and the State Commissions are also holding Circuit Benches.
- (iv) Some of the State Commissions and District Fora are holding Lok Adalats for speedy disposal of the cases. A Statement showing the number of cases disposed of in Consumer Fora by Lok Adalat is given in Statement-IV (*See below*).
- (v) Matters of the same/similar nature, are being bunched together and disposed of.
- (vi) The Central Government has been asking the State Governments to take timely action to fill up the vacancies of President and members of the Consumer Fora so that no Consumer Fora remain non-functional.

Statement-I

Details of cases filed and disposed of over the past three years, sector-wise

List of pending cases (category-wise)

From date: 01.01.2014 to date: 31.12.2016

Sl. No.	Category	Previous Pending	Filed	Disposed	Pending on 31.12.16
1.	Insurance	36046	115989	60743	91292
2.	Housing	17043	61159	30286	47916
3.	Banking	19126	50518	25284	44360
4.	Electricity	15405	41795	24063	33137
5.	Medical	6281	12921	4742	14460
6.	Consumer goods and services	4210	18921	9394	13737
7.	Finance	5540	16162	8620	13082
8.	Electrical Electronic Goods	1563	17088	9178	9473
9.	Automobiles	2527	12126	5396	9257
10.	Others	88176	212805	125932	175049
TOTAL		195917	559484	303638	451763

Statement-II*List of total grants released for Strengthening Consumer Fora (SCF)**Scheme 12th plan*

(₹ in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Total Amount
1.	2014-15	507.65
2.	2015-16	2331.08
3.	2016-17	965.75

Statement-III*Details of vacancy position of president and member in Consumer Fora as on 2.08.2017*

National Commission					
Sanctioned Strength			Vacancy Status		
President		Member	President		Member
1		11	0		3

Sl. No.	State	State Commission			
		Sanctioned Strength		Vacancy Status	
		President	Member	President	Member
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam	1	2	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1	2	0	1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	2	0	0
4.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	2	0	0
5.	Bihar	1	2	0	0
6.	Chandigarh	1	2	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	1	3	0	1
8.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
9.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	2	0	0
10.	Delhi	1	4	0	0
11.	Goa	1	2	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Gujarat	1	8	0	0
13.	Haryana	1	4	0	0
14.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2	0	0
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	2	0	0
16.	Jharkhand	1	2	0	0
17.	Karnataka	1	2	0	0
18.	Kerala	1	4	0	0
19.	Lakshadweep	1	2	0	1
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1	3	0	1
21.	Maharashtra	1	11	0	0
22.	Manipur	1	2	0	0
23.	Meghalaya	1	2	0	0
24.	Mizoram	1	2	0	1
25.	Nagaland	1	2	0	0
26.	Odisha	1	2	0	0
27.	Puducherry	1	2	0	0
28.	Punjab	1	7	0	3
29.	Rajasthan	1	10	0	7
30.	Sikkim	1	2	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	1	4	0	2
32.	Telangana	1	2	0	1
33.	Tripura	1	2	0	0
34.	Uttar Pradesh	1	10	0	0
35.	Uttarakhand	1	2	0	0
36.	West Bengal	1	6	0	2
TOTAL		35	120	0	20

Sl. No.	State	District Fora			
		Sanctioned Strength		Vacancy Status	
		President	Member	President	Member
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam	23	46	3	8
2.	Andhra Pradesh	17	34	4	27

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	18	36	0	8
4.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	2	0	1
5.	Bihar	38	76	0	21
6.	Chandigarh	2	4	0	1
7.	Chhattisgarh	12	54	2	27
8.	Daman and Diu	2	4	0	2
9.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	2	0	2
10.	Delhi	10	20	2	5
11.	Goa	2	4	0	0
12.	Gujarat	26	52	4	6
13.	Haryana	21	42	1	2
14.	Himachal Pradesh	4	24	0	13
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	4	0	0
16.	Jharkhand	22	44	1	8
17.	Karnataka	31	62	5	16
18.	Kerala	14	26	1	1
19.	Lakshadweep	1	2	0	1
20.	Madhya Pradesh	27	108	0	48
21.	Maharashtra	40	80	8	8
22.	Manipur	3	6	0	0
23.	Meghalaya	7	14	0	2
24.	Mizoram	8	16	0	3
25.	Nagaland	11	22	0	8
26.	Odisha	31	62	0	0
27.	Puducherry	1	2	0	0
28.	Punjab	20	40	10	12
29.	Rajasthan	37	74	11	25
30.	Sikkim	4	8	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	27	64	12	13
32.	Telangana	12	24	1	20

1	2	3	4	5	6
33.	Tripura	4	8	0	0
34.	Uttar Pradesh	79	158	6	13
35.	Uttarakhand	13	26	0	3
36.	West Bengal	21	42	2	6
TOTAL		592	1292	73	310

Statement-IV*Details of cases disposed of by Lok Adalat methods*

National Commission		2	30.06.2017	
Sl. No.	States	State Commission	District Forums	Last Reported
1.	Bihar	30	390	31.03.2017
2.	Chandigarh	127	3462	31.05.2017
3.	Delhi	78	1953	31.01.2010
4.	Goa	3	89	30.06.2017
5.	Haryana	705	5641	31.05.2017
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	1167	31.05.2017
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	70	N.A.	31.03.2009
8.	Jharkhand	N.A.	6	31.12.2007
9.	Kerala	347	1065	30.09.2015
10.	Madhya Pradesh	11	4996	31.05.2017
11.	Maharashtra	143	1278	31.01.2016
12.	Mizoram	1	N.A.	31.03.2008
13.	Odisha	106	440	30.09.2013
14.	Punjab	595	6666	31.05.2017
15.	Rajasthan	197	18620	31.05.2017
16.	Tamil Nadu	594	6238	31.12.2016
17.	Uttar Pradesh	445	5465	30.04.2017
18.	Uttarakhand	-	11	31.12.2016
19.	West Bengal	Nil	10	31.10.2010
TOTAL		3452	57497	

Registration under AAY

2306. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of APL and BPL ration card holders benefited under the PDS;
- (b) the monthly entitlement of quantity of foodgrains to a ration card under AAY;
- (c) the total number of persons registered or eligible under AAY all over the country; and
- (d) the number of persons registered under AAY in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), which has been adopted by all States/UTs, subsidized foodgrains are issued to States/UTs for distribution under two categories beneficiaries/families *i.e.* Priority House Hold (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). APL and BPL categories have been delinked from the NFSA provisions.

- (b) AAY families are entitled to receive 35 kg. of subsidized foodgrains per month.
- (c) 2.50 crore families maybe covered under AAY category across the country.
- (d) Approximately 5.96 lakh AAY families are registered in Kerala.

Payment of arrears to sugarcane growing farmers

2307. 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 the payment of sugarcane price arrears of farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with amount disbursed and number of farmers who received the arrears; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) In sugar season 2014-15, cane price arrears of sugarcane farmers had peaked at ₹ 21,837 Crores in April, 2015. To mitigate the situation and to improve the liquidity position

of sugar industry for facilitating liquidation of cane price arrears, the Government has taken the following measures:—

- (i) Provided financial assistance of ₹ 425.27 crores through ‘raw sugar export incentive’ scheme for sugar season 2013-14 and 2014-15.
- (ii) Extended financial assistance of ₹ 4213 crores to mills through banks under soft loan scheme, which were directly credited to farmer’s account on behalf of sugar mills.
- (iii) Facilitated supply of ethanol under Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme by fixing remunerative price.
- (iv) A comprehensive performance based production subsidy has been extended @ ₹ 4.50 per quintal on cane crushed payable to farmers against their cane dues contingent on mills’ undertaking export of sugar and supply of ethanol to oil marketing companies. A total of about ₹ 525 crores have been disbursed under this scheme.

These measures have benefitted about 32.50 Lakhs of cane farmers associated with the concerned beneficiary sugar mills. As a result of these measures, 99.30% of cane dues payments of farmers for 2014-15 sugar season and 98.61% for 2015-16 sugar season have been cleared. Even in the current 2016-17 sugar season, about 91.71% of cane dues payment of farmers have also been cleared which is the highest in the last 5 years.

Sale of GM food products without proper labelling

2308. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether GM food products are being sold in the country without proper labelling despite the enactment of amendment in Legal Metrology Act which makes labelling mandatory on all packaged products; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken thereon, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY) (a) and (b) Government has made it mandatory to mention on every package, containing the Genetically Modified Food, at the top of its principal display panel, the words “GM” by an amendment in the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 *vide* GSR 427 (E) dated 5th June, 2012. The said Notification is in force w.e.f. 1st January, 2013. So far no complaint has been received by the Legal Metrology Division regarding sale of GM food products without proper labelling.

Alleged humiliation of BPL card holders in Rajasthan

†2309. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a slogan 'I am a poor person and I receive ration under the National Food Security Act' has been written on the walls of the houses of BPL card holders who are living below the poverty line in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, in view of this agonising fact, the steps taken in this direction to do away with this trend and in which other States this kind of slogans are being written, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Such cases were detected in Dausa District of the Rajasthan and the District Collector has been directed by the State Government of Rajasthan to look into the matter and to get the issue resolved.

There are no reports of such cases from any other State.

Sale of products after introduction of GST

2310. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been made by the Ministry to ensure that traders do not take consumers for a ride after introduction of GST, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, how the Ministry is dealing with complaints that traders are not selling the products at decreased prices where the rates have decreased;

(c) whether instruction have been issued for displaying new price stickers on all consumer products following introduction of GST, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Ministry proposes to launch awareness drive on the MRP aspects and the final price to protect consumers' interests?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) On account of implementation of GST there may be instances where the retail sale price printed on pre-packaged commodity is required to be changed. The Department has therefore issued an order according to which, manufacturers/packers/importers of pre- packaged commodities are to declare the revised retail sale price (MRP), by way of stamping or putting sticker or online printing, as the case may be, on the unsold stock manufactured/packed/imported prior to 1st July, 2017, if any, in addition to the existing retail sale price (MRP), for three months *i.e.* upto 30th September, 2017. Use of un-exhausted packaging material/wrapper has also been allowed upto 30th September, 2017 after making the necessary corrections.

The said information has already been disseminated to all the stakeholders and Controllers of Legal Metrology of all States/UTs for immediate necessary action. The Department's website contains FAQs for explaining the manner in which MRP can be undertaken. A copy of the said advisory given in the Statement (*See below*).

The matter is being monitored on a continuous basis, and the complaints received so far for not selling the pre-packaged commodities at decreased prices where the rate has been decreased on National Consumer Helpline have been forwarded to the Controllers of Legal Metrology of all States/UTs for immediate necessary action.

Further as per the information of CBEC, section 171 of the Central Goods and Services Act, 2017 provides for Anti-Profiteering measure according to which any reduction in rate of tax on any supply of goods or services or the benefit of input tax credit shall be passed on to the recipient by way of commensurate reduction in prices and the Central Government may constitute an Authority to examine the same. Many business entities have reduced the prices of their goods and services in view of lower GST rates under the GST regime. They have been publishing these revised rates in leading new dailies from time to time for consumer benefit.

The Department has already issued an advertisement in the Newspaper regarding MRP aspects and the final price to protect consumer interests. The Department is also doing the outdoor publicity through creatives on MRP after implementation of GST.

Statement

Advisory issued to explain the manner of undertaking MRP

WM-10(31)/2017

Government of India

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

Department of Consumer Affairs

Legal Metrology Division

Krishni Bhawan, New Delhi,

Dated 04.07.2017

To,

The Controllers of Legal Metrology,

All States/UTs

Subject: Impact of GST on unsold stock of pre-packaged commodities—reg.

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to the above mentioned subject and to state that in exercise of the power conferred by rule 33(1) of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, the Central Government hereby permits the manufacturers or packers or importers of pre-packaged commodities to declare the changed retail sale price (MRP) on the unsold stock manufactured/packed/imported prior to 1st July, 2017 after inclusion of the increased amount of tax due to GST if any, in addition to the existing retail sale price (MRP), for three months w.e.f. 1st July, 2017 to 30th September, 2017. Declaration of the changed retail sale price (MRP) shall be made by way of stamping or putting sticker or online printing, as the case may be, after complying with the following conditions:—

- I. The difference between the retail sale price originally printed on the package and the revised price shall not, in any case, be higher than the extent of increase in the tax if any, or in the case of imposition of fresh tax, such fresh tax, on account of implementation of GST Act and Rules.
- II. The original MRP shall continue to be displayed and the revised price shall not overwrite on it.
- III. Manufacturers or packers or importers shall make atleast two advertisements in one or more newspapers in this regard and also by circulation of notices to the dealers and to the Director of Legal Metrology in the Central Government and Controllers of Legal Metrology in the States and Union Territories, indicating the change in the price of such packages.

2. Further, it is clarified that under sub-rule (3) of rule 6 of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 “for reducing the Maximum Retail Price (MRP), a sticker with the revised lower MRP (inclusive of all taxes) may be affixed and the same shall not cover the MRP declaration made by the manufacturer or the packer or importer, as the case may be, on the label of the package”.

It is also clarified that any packaging material or wrapper which could not be exhausted by the manufacturer or packer or importer prior to 1st July, 2017, may be used for packing of material upto 30th September, 2017 or till such date the packing material or wrapper is exhausted, whichever is earlier, after making corrections required in retail sale price (MRP) on account of implementation of GST by way of stamping or putting sticker or online printing.

Yours faithfully

Sd/

(B.N.Dixit)

Director of Legal Metrology

Tel: 011-23389489/Fax.011-23385322

Email:dirwm-ca@nic.in

Copy to: All Industries/Industry Associations/Stakeholders.

Release of funds to States under NFSA

2311. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has released funds under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) to States for the year 2016-17;

(b) if so, the allocation of funds and amount released to States under various schemes of NFSA, State-wise including Rajasthan; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides for Central assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for meeting expenditure incurred towards intra-State movement and handling of foodgrains and fair price shop dealers' margin. The amount of ₹ 2,500 crore allocated for this purpose in the year 2016-17 was fully released to States/Union Territories (UTs). Central Government also provides assistance to State Governments for providing non-building assets to State Food Commission, if set up on exclusive basis. The State-wise details of funds released to States/UTs are given in the Statement-I (See below).

Further, States are allocated foodgrains at subsidized rates under NFSA. Difference between economic cost and central issue prices at which foodgrains are issued to States are reimbursed to Food Corporation of India (FCI) as subsidy. However, in case of States which have adopted Decentralized Procurement Scheme (DCP), food subsidy is directly released to States for quantity of foodgrains procured and distributed by them. Besides, funds have been released under cash transfer of food subsidy scheme to three UTs implementing the scheme, for transfer of due amount of subsidy into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries under NFSA. The details of food subsidy released to FCI and States/UTs are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise details of funds released to States/UTs

- (i) Central assistance released to States/UTs for meeting expenditure towards intra-State movement and handling of foodgrains and Fair Price Shop Dealers' margin during 2016-17.

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Fund released
1.	Bihar	501.39
2.	Assam	174.20
3.	Tripura	28.62
4.	Karnataka	328.41
5.	Maharashtra	593.00
6.	Rajasthan	333.33
7.	Madhya Pradesh	380.97
8.	Haryana	122.81
9.	Gujarat	34.98
10.	Sikkim	2.30
TOTAL		2500.00

- (ii) Fund released during 2016-17 to States under the Scheme of Financial Assistance to States for providing non-building assets to State Food Commission:—

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Fund released
1.	Bihar	0.34
2.	Odisha	0.21
TOTAL		0.55

Statement-II*Details of food subsidy released to FCI and States/UTs during 2016-17*

(i) Food subsidy released to Food Corporation of India (FCI):—

(₹ in crores)

Year	Subsidy Released
2016-17	78334.61*

* After adjusting release of ₹ 25000 crore as NSSF loan.

(ii) State/UT-wise details of food subsidy released (For DCP States):—

(₹ in crores)

Sl. No.	State	2016-17
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3212.82
2.	Bihar	1495.24
3.	Chhattisgarh	3141.28
4.	Gujarat	46.21
5.	Kerala	419.25
6.	Madhya Pradesh	5354.97
7.	Odisha	3847.72
8.	Punjab	2877.68
9.	Tamil Nadu	2303.76
10.	Telangana	1716.71
11.	Uttarakhand	346.80
12.	West Bengal	2441.93
13.	Cash transfer of food subsidy	133.97
TOTAL		27338.35

(iii) Details of fund released under cash transfer of food subsidy scheme during 2016-17:—

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the UTs	Fund released
1.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5.34
2.	Chandigarh	28.79
3.	Puducherry	99.84
TOTAL		133.97

Misleading advertisements by celebrities

2312. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Consumer Protection Bill, 2015, after the report submitted by the Parliamentary panel recommended major changes;

(b) by when Government proposes to initiate the process of introducing the Bill in view of a large number of complaints regarding misleading advertisements by celebrities; and

(c) whether Government contemplates creation of a Consumer Protection Authority to fast-track grievance redressal of consumers on the lines of US and European countries, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution on the Consumer Protection Bill, 2015 has been considered by the Department of Consumer Affairs and a revised Bill incorporating changes based on the accepted recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee is under finalisation. The same will be introduced in Parliament after the approval of the Union Cabinet.

(c) The Consumer Protection Bill, 2015, already introduced in Parliament, seeks to establish an agency to be called “Central Consumer Protection Authority” which will, *inter alia*, look into violations of consumer rights, unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements.

Leakages and diversion of foodgrains meant for PDS

2313. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a large number of complaints of large scale leakages and diversion of foodgrains meant for PDS use, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that poor quality foodgrains are being supplied under PDS;

(c) if so, the details of complaints received and the steps taken to redress this; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by the Government to ensure a foolproof system of PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) There have been reports about irregularities including leakages and diversion of foodgrains, quality of foodgrains etc. in implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in certain regions/States in the country.

TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/ Union Territory (UT) Governments wherein operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. Hence, the complaints received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, are referred to State/UT Governments concerned, if required, for inquiry and appropriate action. A Statement of complaints received is given in the Statement (*See below*).

An offence committed in violation of the provisions of TPDS [Control] Order 2015 is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(d) The Government has initiated a plan scheme on End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS operations on cost sharing basis with States/UTs. The scheme comprises of activities namely, digitization of ration cards/beneficiaries and other databases, computerisation of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms and installation of e-PoS devices at Fair Price Shops and issuance of foodgrains through biometric authentication. 100% ration cards have been digitized and approximately 2.59 lakh e-PoS devices are currently installed at Fair Price Shops. Aadhaar Seeding at national level is 78.7%. Online allocation is implemented in 30 States/UTs, supply-chain management implemented in 20 States/UTs, Transparency Portal set up in all States/UTs, and online Grievance Redressal Mechanism/toll free helpline number has been set up in all States/UTs.

Statement

Details of complaints on TPDS received in the Department from individuals, organisations and through media reports etc. from 2014 to 2016

Sl. No.	State/UT	2014	2015	2016
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	8	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	-

Sl. No.	State/UT	2014	2015	2016
3.	Assam	5	34	32
4.	Bihar	55	106	81
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	6	9
6.	Delhi	78	113	91
7.	Goa	-	-	1
8.	Gujarat	16	8	12
9.	Haryana	26	35	34
10.	Himachal Pradesh	-	4	5
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	5	3
12.	Jharkhand	16	32	29
13.	Karnataka	6	16	22
14.	Kerala	1	16	22
15.	Madhya Pradesh	7	17	24
16.	Maharashtra	25	48	62
17.	Manipur	1	6	4
18.	Meghalaya	2	7	9
19.	Mizoram	-	-	-
20.	Nagaland	3	-	2
21.	Odisha	8	22	43
22.	Punjab	5	10	7
23.	Rajasthan	31	33	59
24.	Sikkim	-	-	-
25.	Tamil Nadu	7	22	33
26.	Telangana	-	10	1
27.	Tripura	-	-	1
28.	Uttarakhand	8	24	21
29.	Uttar Pradesh	137	197	461
30.	West Bengal	11	32	29
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	-	1
32.	Chandigarh	3	6	2

Sl. No.	State/UT	2014	2015	2016
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	-	1
34.	Puducherry	-	-	-
TOTAL		460	818	1106

Strengthening of public distribution outlets

2314. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public distribution outlets for ration are far less than required because long queues are seen everywhere;

(b) whether there is any guideline to open ration outlets based upon the number of ration card holders or it is just an arbitrary decision; and

(c) if so, whether Government will issue advisory to States to open more ration shops depending upon reasonable number of ration card holders in a locality to minimize long queues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI. C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. The operational responsibilities within the States/UTs including issuance of licences to the Fair Price Shops (FPSs), supervision over and monitoring of FPS functioning, etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

TPDS [Control] Order, 2015 requires State/UT Governments to issue an order under Section 3 of the Essential Commodity Act for regulating the sale and distribution of the essential commodities. Licenses to FPS shops are issued by State/UT Governments under the said order.

The TPDS (Control) Order, 2015, also requires the State/UT Governments to ensure that the number of ration card holders attached to an FPS are reasonable, the FPS is so located that the consumer or ration card holder does not have to face difficulty to reach the FPS and that proper coverage is ensured in hilly, desert, tribal and such other areas difficult to access.

Opening of more FPSs is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments and they do so based on the local requirements.

Production of white sugar and its export

2315. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many European countries do not accept white sugar processed in the country because of its inferior quality and prefer to import raw sugar from India for processing at their end for consumption;

(b) if so, the measures Government proposes, to be followed by the sugar industries in the country, for production of white sugar to even meet the standards of European countries; and

(c) the total quantity of sugar produced in the country during 2015-16 and 2016-17 and the quantity exported thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) There are Sugar mills/refineries in the country equipped to produce and export raw sugar as well as plantation white/refined sugar of any standard. The quality of the both refined and plantation white sugar produced in the country conforms to stringent quality parameters formulated by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)/Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) which are harmonized with international standards. Production of either raw, plantation white or refined sugar is governed by common consumer preferences, market demand and industrial usage. European countries prefer refined sugar, whereas in India, in general, plantation white sugar is produced although refined sugar is also produced in integrated or standalone refineries. Both plantation white and refined sugar are regularly exported from India and in the past, whenever refined sugar has been exported to European Union, it has been well received by them.

(c) The details of sugar produced during sugar seasons 2015-16 and 2016-17 (till 31st July, 2017) and exported under Open General License (OGL) during the same period are as under:—

Sugar Season	Quantity of sugar produced (in Lakh MT)	Quantity of sugar exported under OGL (in Lakh MT)
2015-16	251.21	16.93
2016-17(P)	201.01	0.46

(P) Provisional

Source: On-line information furnished by sugar mills.

Food security to socially and economically weaker sections

2316. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the objective of the National Food Security Act is to ensure food security to all socially and economically weaker sections;

(b) whether there are complaints that many people belonging to such sections are denied food material according to this Act, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the limit of 50 per cent of population for urban areas and two third for rural areas prescribed by the Act has become hindrance to ensure food security to all deserving people; and

(d) if so, whether Government intends to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) The objective of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is to provide food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of rural population and upto 50% of urban population for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the total population. Coverage under the Act has been delinked from the poverty estimates and is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit.

Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries/families, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), etc rest with the concerned State/UT Government.

There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) including leakage/diversion of foodgrains, foodgrains not reaching the intended beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to ineligible persons, etc in some States/regions in the country. As stated above, TPDS is operated under joint responsibility of the Central and State/UT Governments, therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well

as through press reports, these are referred to the State/UT Governments concerned, if required, for inquiry and appropriate action. A State/UT-wise Statement indicating number of such complaints received during the last year and current year is given in the Statement (*See below*).

Statement

Complaints on TPDS received in the Department from individuals, organizations and through media reports etc. in 2016 and 2017 (upto 30.06.2017)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2016	2017
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
3.	Assam	32	8
4.	Bihar	81	52
5.	Chhattisgarh	9	2
6.	Delhi	91	51
7.	Goa	1	-
8.	Gujarat	12	1
9.	Haryana	34	27
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5	3
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	2
12.	Jharkhand	29	10
13.	Karnataka	22	17
14.	Kerala	22	10
15.	Madhya Pradesh	24	12
16.	Maharashtra	62	20
17.	Manipur	4	1
18.	Meghalaya	9	-
19.	Mizoram	-	1
20.	Nagaland	2	2
21.	Odisha	43	9
22.	Punjab	7	1
23.	Rajasthan	59	35
24.	Sikkim	-	-

Sl. No.	State/UT	2016	2017
25.	Tamil Nadu	33	10
26.	Telangana	1	2
27.	Tripura	1	-
28.	Uttarakhand	21	14
29.	Uttar Pradesh	461	223
30.	West Bengal	29	31
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	-
32.	Chandigarh	2	-
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	-
34.	Puducherry	-	-
TOTAL		1106	547

Misleading advertisements in electronic media

2317. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that false/misleading advertisements in electronic media are rapidly growing all over the country, if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(b) if so, whether Government has taken/proposes to take any action against those companies which are issuing misleading advertisements in electronic media?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Department of Consumer Affairs has launched an online portal called Grievance Against Misleading Advertisements (GAMA) since March, 2015 for the consumers to file complaint online against misleading advertisements appearing in newspapers, hoardings, handbills, wall writing as well as advertisements in the electronic media such as TV channels, radio channels, internet sites etc. The number of complaints relating to misleading advertisements, as registered in the online portal, is as shown below:—

Period	Number of complaints received
15 March, 2015 to 31.12.2015	641
1.1.2016 to 31.12.2016	2032
1.1.2017 to 2.8.2017	1846
TOTAL	4519

The complaints received through the online portal GAMA are processed by the Advertisement Standards Council of India (ASCI) based on an MoU signed with the Department of Consumer Affairs. Complaints which remain unresolved are forwarded by ASCI to the Departments/Regulators concerned for further necessary action. Of the 4519 complaints, 2106 complaints have been resolved, 947 complaints have been rejected and the rest have been referred to the Ministries/Departments/regulators concerned for necessary action.

Further, in so far as advertisements appearing in private satellite TV channels are concerned, all advertisements telecast on such channels are regulated in accordance with the Advertising Code available on the website of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting "mib.nic.in". The Ministry has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) under the chairmanship of the Additional Secretary (I&B), and comprising officers drawn from various Ministries such as Consumer Affairs, Home Affairs, Law and Justice, Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, External Affairs, Defence and including a representative from the Advertising Standards Council of India, to take cognizance *sou motu* or look into specific complaints regarding violation of the Programme Code and Advertising Code.

Setting-up of storage capacity by FCI

2318. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Food Corporation of India (FCI) is setting-up 100 lakh MT storage capacity storages in the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the special efforts of FCI for procurement in the Eastern States, including Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India has approved action plan for construction of steel silos in the country for a capacity of 100 LMT in 3 phases. No funds will be given by the Government for construction. Private parties selected through tendering process will construct the silos to be taken on guaranteed hiring by Food Corporation of India (FCI)/State Agencies. Total 31.50 LMT is planned to be constructed by Government of India through FCI and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC). Balance capacity of 68.50 LMT is to be constructed by the State Governments/Agencies. Against the target of 36.25 LMT for selection of silo operators in Phase-I, tenders have been awarded for 37.50 LMT. Further, 6.25 LMT silos have been added under the above

action plan, in addition to 5.5 LMT silos already available with FCI. The State-wise details of silos planned for construction are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) As per the recommendation of High Level Committee (HLC), constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Shanta Kumar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, the Government has given special focus to increase procurement and give the benefit of Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers in Eastern States of the country, including Jharkhand. Besides Government agencies, FCI has engaged private parties to enhance procurement including in the remote and interior areas.

Private players have been engaged by FCI in Jharkhand, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. In Assam, there has been no response from private parties despite floating four rounds of tenders. Hence, procurement is being undertaken by FCI and State Government only. In Bihar the State Government has not shown any inclination for allowing participation of either FCI or private players in procurement in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2015-16 and 2016-17.

The aim is to increase procurement of paddy/rice in these States to a level of around 155 LMT by KMS 2019-20, compared to 53.65 lakh MT in KMS 2014-15 and reach out to all farmers in various paddy growing districts of these States.

Accordingly, FCI opened 635 procurement centres (including 401 with private support) in KMS 2015-16 and 726 (including 460 with private support) in KMS 2016-17 (as on 10.07.2017) in comparison to only 141 in previous season. Total 61841 and 25640 (as on 10.07.2017) procurement centres have been opened in KMS 2015-16 and KMS 2016-17 respectively.

As a result, the details of increase in procurement in Eastern States is as detailed below:

(Fig. in LMT)

Sl. No.	State	Procurement in 2014-15	Procurement in 2015-16	Procurement in 2016-17#
1.	Assam	0.15	0.42	0.42
2.	Bihar	16.14	12.25	12.34
3.	Jharkhand	0.06	2.06	1.39
4.	Uttar Pradesh	16.98	29.10	23.54
5.	West Bengal	20.32	26.87*	28.17**
TOTAL		53.65	70.70	65.86

#KMS 2016-17 is under progress. Data reported as on 27.07.2017.

*includes 11.19 LMT procured for State Pool.

**includes 8.94 LMT under State Pool.

Statement*Details of plan for construction of steel silos*

(Fig. in LMT)

State	By FCI	By CWC	By State Governments	Total
Punjab	4.25	2.50	24.25	31.00
Haryana	3.00		6.50	9.50
Uttar Pradesh	7.00		5.00	12.00
Delhi	0.50		0.00	0.50
Maharashtra	1.00		0.50	1.50
Bihar	4.50		5.00	9.50
Madhya Pradesh	0.00		10.00	10.00
Gujarat	1.00		2.00	3.00
West Bengal	4.00		3.50	7.50
Assam	0.50		0.00	0.50
Karnataka	0.25		0.00	0.25
Rajasthan	1.50		4.75	6.25
Delhi	0.50		0.00	0.50
Andhra Pradesh	0.00		3.50	3.50
Telangana	0.00		1.50	1.50
Odisha	0.00		2.00	2.00
Chhattisgarh	1.00		0.00	1.00
TOTAL	29.00	2.50	68.50	100.00

Protection to foodgrains from getting rotten

2319. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount of total stock of foodgrains like rice, wheat and pulses stored in the FCI godowns in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the storage is more than the storage capacity of such godowns;

(c) if so, the details thereof, including the capacity of such godowns and the quantity being stored in each of such godowns separately; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to protect them from getting rotten?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The total stock of foodgrains (rice and wheat) held by Food Corporation of India (FCI) or State Agencies for central pool as on 16.07.2017 is as given below:

(figures in Lakh MT)

Item	Stock
Rice	204.40
Wheat	313.65
TOTAL	518.05

The total stock of pulses stored in FCI godowns is as given below:—

(figures in MT)

Item	Stock
Tur	1,80,430
Chana	01
Masur	33
Urad	18,234
Moong	60,550
TOTAL	2,59,248

(b) No, Sir. On the basis of peak stock requirement during procurement season, the overall storage capacity required in the country is about 600 Lakh MT. Against this, the total capacity available with FCI and State Agencies for storage of foodgrains as on 30.06.2017 was 794.48 Lakh MT. Thus on the overall, there is sufficient capacity for storage of foodgrains in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) have prescribed standard specifications for construction of foodgrain storage godowns. While taking up construction, the central agencies namely FCI & CWC and State Agencies follow the prescribed construction design for godowns in order to ensure that the foodgrains are protected from natural calamities like rains and floods. Similarly, only scientifically constructed godowns are hired from private parties. In addition, FCI takes the following steps to avoid damage to foodgrains:—

- (i) Foodgrains are stored in scientifically constructed godowns. Some foodgrains are stored for short periods in CAP (cover and plinth) in peak procurement season.
- (ii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check migration of moisture from the floor to the foodgrains.
- (iii) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are carried out regularly and fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets etc. are provided for control of insects and pests in all the godowns.
- (iv) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are undertaken by qualified and trained staff and officers.
- (v) The principle of “First In First Out” (FIFO) is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (vi) Only covered rail wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.
- (vii) Damage Monitoring Cells have been set up at district, regional and zonal levels to regularly monitor quality of stocks and reduce damages.

Protection of Aadhaar data

2320. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government protects or intend to protect privacy of citizens when they intend to exchange information with each other or share it on internet, etc.;

(b) whether Government has allowed private entities, Indian and foreign, access to personal data of individuals stored in Aadhaar and other Government sponsored schemes; and

(c) if not, whether Government will make arrangement to protect/secure such vast data of the public more effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has recently been mandated to develop a framework for Data Protection Law for protection of online personal data. A high level committee has been setup to work out the modalities.

(b) and (c) Access to the data repository of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), called the Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR), is provided only to authorized agencies (various banks, telecom companies, financial institutions,

Government Ministries/departments etc.) through authorized secure applications after following well established security procedures and protocols based on the consent of Aadhaar holder. Security of data is monitored at all times including storage. UIDAI has a well-designed, multi-layer robust security system in place and the same is being constantly upgraded to maintain highest level of data security and integrity. The architecture of Aadhaar ecosystem has been designed to ensure data security which is an integral part of the system from the initial design to the final stage.

Legal status to UIDAI has further strengthened the security assurance of Aadhaar ecosystem with the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 having stringent penalties/punishments for offenders. In the Act, Chapter VI on Protection of Information (Section 28–Section 33) and Chapter VII on Offences and Penalties (Section 34–Section 47), specifically relate to protection of information and related offences and penalties to offenders. In pursuance of sub-section (1) of Section 70 of the Information Technology (IT) Act 2000, UIDAI-CIDR has also been declared as Protected System by National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC). UIDAI has also been certified as per international standard, namely ISO 27001:2013 by STQC in respect of Information Security Management System which has added another layer of IT security assurance.

Loss of jobs in IT sector

2321. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of techies are under serious depression in fear of losing jobs in the IT industry;

(b) whether there are job losses in the IT industry in the last two years, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government is planning to enhance the jobs in the IT sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir. According to National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), there is no information on number of techies under serious depression in fear of losing jobs in the IT industry.

(b) and (c) According to NASSCOM, the IT-ITeS industry is estimated to directly employ nearly 39 lakh people, an addition of around 175,000 people over the year FY 2016-17. In addition, indirect employment is around 1-1.2 crore. The IT industry will remain a major net hirer in FY 2017-18. According to NASSCOM

survey, around 6 lakh employments have been made in the IT sector in the last three years. IT Industry is expected to add 130,000 to 150,000 jobs in FY 2017-18. The trend over the last 3 years is as follows:—

Year	Total employees	Net addition over the previous year
FY 2014-15	34,85,000	2,17,000
FY 2015-16	36,88,000	2,03,000
FY 2016-17	38,63,000	1,75,000

Source: NASSCOM.

Technological changes with time and workforce re-alignment is routine exercise in any industry which impacts only 0.5-3% of the overall IT talent pool. Technologies such as advanced robotics and automation are changing job roles and profiles significantly across industries. According to NASSCOM, the skills profile is set to undergo a rapid change as demand for skills around digital technologies grows exponentially. It is believed that technology adoption will lead to more job creation across sectors in the long run.

Villages under Digital Village Project

2322. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages targeted to be included in the Digital Village Project in 2017-18;

(b) the amount provided for implementation of Digital Villages in health, education and skill development for the year 2017-18;

(c) the details of facilities to be made available in such Digital Villages; and

(d) the time by which the work on setting up of Digital Villages is likely to take off?

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 approved a Pilot Project of Digital Village (DigiGaon) to be implemented in 1050 Gram Panchayats (GPs) spread across 30 States/UTs. The approved outlay for implementation of the

project for telemedicine, tele-education and skill development for financial year 2017-18 is as follows:—

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Components	Approved outlay
1.	Telemedicine	12.95
2.	Tele-education	38.99
3.	Skill development	30.47

(c) and (d) The Pilot Project of Digital Village has been approved with a total outlay of ₹ 423.26 crore for a period of 3 years involving 6 months for implementation and remaining period for operation and maintenance/service delivery phase post implementation. 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.

Hate messages through social media sites

2323. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any initiative to talk to the CEO's of the social media sites operating in the country in order to check the propagation of hate messages through these sites; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) A large number of internet based social media platforms many of which are hosted by Foreign Service providers have proliferated over the past decades. These social media sites are being misused by anti-national elements for propagating hate message. Government is working closely with these service providers for setting up a mechanism for sharing of data for law enforcement purposes within the ambit of domestic law. A committee has also been formed to discuss the mechanism with social media companies to filter hate and other undesirable content on their platforms.

Refund mechanism for BHIM App

2324. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had asked the National Payments Corporation of India to smoothen the refund mechanism for BHIM App, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the process of getting refund in BHIM App is more cumbersome compared to other applications; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to resolve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) M/s. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is the developer as well as implementing agency for BHIM App. M/s. NPCI based on the learning and feedback feature available in the BHIM App, does necessary enhancements in BHIM App to improve the overall process and customer convenience.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The process of getting refund in case of failed transactions is instant and automated. The bank credits the customer account immediately in case of failed transaction.

Status of implementation of Digital India programme

2325. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of Digital India programme in the country;

(b) whether all villages and remote towns of the country have been covered by basic communication/internet services; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and how long will it take to cover the entire country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Ministry of Electronics and Information technology (MeitY), Government of India has initiated the 'Digital India' programme with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Digital India is an umbrella programme that covers multiple projects of various Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs and is being coordinated by MeitY. Each project has its own budgetary requirement and accordingly project-plan has been charted out by the implementing departments.

Digital India aims to provide the much needed thrust to nine pillars of growth areas: (i) Broadband Highways, (ii) Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity, (iii) Public Internet Access Programme, (iv) e-Governance—Reforming Government through Technology, (v) e-Kranti—Electronic delivery of services, (vi) Information for All, (vii) Electronics Manufacturing—Target NET ZERO Imports, (viii) IT for Jobs,

and (ix) Early Harvest Programmes. The present status of some of the key initiatives undertaken by MeitY under Digital India programme is as follows:—

Pillar 1 : Broadband Highways

- Under National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)/BharatNet project, 2.22 lakhs kms. of optical fibre pulled for 1,00,322 GPs and 26,548 GPs have been connected till 30th July, 2017.

Pillar 2 : Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity

- Rural Tele-density is 56.98% (as on 30th April, 2017).

Pillar 3 : Public Internet Access Programme (as on 30th June, 2017)

- 3,00,774 Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been registered across the country, out of which, 1,96,922 are at Gram Panchayats (GPs) level. Out of the total registered Common Services Centres, 2,61,071 CSCs are active and transacting for delivery of eServices; out of which, 1,63,226 are at GP level.

Pillar 4 : e-Governance : Reforming Government through Technology
(as on 31st July, 2017)

- **Aadhaar** : Aadhaar provides 12 digit biometric and demographic based identity that is unique, lifelong, online and authenticable. Further to give statutory backing to Aadhaar ‘The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016’ was notified. Over 116 crore residents have been enrolled.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer(DBT)** : As on 31st March, 2017, 140 schemes of 51 Ministries/Departments are there on DBT platform. Till date, an amount of more than ₹ 2.14 lakh crore has been transferred through DBT and the Ministries/Departments have reported savings of Rs. 57,029 crores in last three years due to implementation of schemes in DBT mode.
- Number of user Departments for e-Office is 263.

Pillar 5 : e-Kranti-Electronic delivery of services

- 3438 e-services are being provided through 44 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) under e-Kranti. More than 1221.68 crore e-transactions with an average of 101.80 crore transaction per month were done during Financial Year 2016-17.

Pillar 6 : Information for All (as on 31st July, 2017)

- **MyGov Platform** : 45 Ministries are engaged actively on MyGov platform, reaching out to the citizens through the fundamental concepts of Do, Discuss

and Disseminate. Presently, 45.28 lakh users are registered with MyGov, participating in various activities hosted on MyGov platform. MyGov activities are structured under 61 groups consisting of 660 tasks, 728 discussions, 238 Polls/Surveys and 148 talks.

- **Open Government Data platform :** The portal is intended to be used by Government of India Ministries/Departments their organizations to publish datasets, documents, services, tools and applications collected by them for public use. Over 1,06,372 resources under 4189 catalogs have been published by 105 Ministries/Departments (81 Central and 24 States).

Pillar 7 : Electronics Manufacturing-Target NET ZERO Imports
(as on 30th June, 2017)

- 233 Investment proposals under Modified Specific Incentive Programmes (MSIPs) having a proposed investment of ₹ 1.44 lakh crores have been received so far. 97 proposals with proposed investments of ₹ 20,809 crores have been approved.
- 15 Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) have been granted final approval and are under implementation.
- Electronic Development Fund has been launched and 22 daughter funds have been approved with a commitment of ₹ 1,227 crore involving a total targeted corpus of ₹ 10,900 core.

Pillar 8 : IT for Jobs (as on 31st July, 2017)

- 48,300 seats have been approved under India BPO Scheme and over 18,160 seats have been allocated.
- 5000 seats have been approved for BPOs in North East and 1,610 seats have been allocated.
- Under Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA) Scheme, around 53.46 lakh candidates have been certified.

Pillar 9 : Early Harvest Programme (as on 31st July, 2017)

- Over 77 lakh Digital Lockers have been opened. About 95.87 lakh documents have been self-uploaded and more than 187 crore documents have been issued. 31 Issuers and 9 Requester Organizations have been on-boarded. Digital Locker Authority has been constituted and Digital Locker rules have been notified.
- e-Hospital/Online Registration System (ORS) has been made operational in 121 hospitals and more than 65 lakh appointments have been taken online.

- More than 3.54 lakh contributors are now registered on the Digitize India platform. More than 9.99 lakh documents are digitized through Digitize India platform.
- **Public Wi-Fi hotspots** : Wi-Fi services have been provided at 86 tourist sites across the country.
- **The National Scholarships Portal (NSP)**, a one stop solution for end to end scholarship process, have been implemented. Over 1.21 crore applications have been submitted through NSP. There are 20 registered schemes from 8 Ministries/Departments.
- **National Centre for Geo-Informatics (NCoG)** provides Geographical Information System (GIS) based services to Government Ministries/Departments for sharing, collaboration, location based analytics and Decision Support System (DSS) for various organizations. So far, 20 applications across various domains are operational.
- Rapid Assessment System has been integrated with 893 e-Services of 202 departments in 25 States/UTs.
- **Jeevan Pramaan** is an Aadhaar enabled biometric Digital Life Certificate for pensioners. More than 84 lakh pensioners have registered themselves to avail of this facility for their life certificates.
- **eSign - Online Electronic Signature Service** : eSign is an initiative for easy, efficient, and secure signing of electronic documents by an Aadhaar holder. Four agencies namely (i) eMudhra Ltd., (ii) C-DAC, (iii) (n)Code Solutions, and (iv) NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Ltd. have been empanelled to offer e-Sign Services. More than 1.79 crore eSign have been issued.

(b) and (c) The steps taken by the Government to connect villages and remote towns of the country with basic communication/internet services are as follows:—

- (i) **BharatNet** : Provisioning of internet connectivity at rural areas is under the purview of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under Ministry of Communications. DoT is implementing National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project, renamed as BharatNet. It has been envisaged to provide 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.50 lakhs) in the country. The project is planned to be implemented in three phases: Under the first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be connected by laying underground Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) which is under implementation and expected to be completed by November, 2017. Under the second Phase, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over

power lines, radio and satellite media, and provision of last mile access to the network and broadband service provisioning through Wi-Fi or any other broadband access technologies in all 2,50,000 GPs in the country, which is targeted to be completed by March, 2019. Under the third phase, a state-of-the-art network with ring architecture, is planned to be completed by 2023. Under the BharatNet project, 2.40 lakh kms. of pipeline has been laid in 1,07,066 GPs, 2.22 lakhs kms. of optical fibre pulled for 1,00,322 GPs and 26,548 GPs have been connected till 30th July, 2017.

- (ii) **National Information Infrastructure (NII) :** A pilot project on National Information Infrastructure (NII) for a period of one year of operation was initiated by MeitY in July, 2015 for one district each in the States of Nagaland, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and UT of Chandigarh and Puducherry to integrate various ICT infrastructure namely State Data Centres (SDCs), State Wide Area Network (SWAN), National Knowledge Network (NKN), National Informatics Centre Network (NICNET), State Service Delivery Gateway (SSDG) including National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)/ BharatNet created in these States. The objective is to provide connectivity to Government offices upto Gram Panchayat (GP) level.
- (iii) **Common Services Centre (CSC) :** Common Services Centres (CSCs now known as Digital Seva Kendras) are Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enabled kiosks with broadband connectivity to provide various Governments, private and social services at the doorstep of the citizen. So far 3,00,774 Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been registered across the country till 30th June, 2017, out of which, 1,96,922 are at Gram Panchayat (GP) level covering around 1,66,537 GPs out of the target of 2.5 lakhs of GPs. Out of the total registered CSCs, 2,61,071 CSCs are functioning and transacting for delivery of eServices, out of which, 1,63,226 CSCs are functioning at GP level.

Unauthorised access of Aadhaar information

2326. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a person, assigned an Aadhaar number, can know when and where an agency has accessed information associated with Aadhaar number, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether an Aadhaar holder can restrict use and access of information associated with Aadhaar, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether an Aadhaar holder can relinquish or cancel their Aadhaar, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) number of complaints of unauthorized access of information/fraudulent authentication that have been received by Ministry so far, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Every time an Aadhaar number is authenticated using biometric/One Time Password (OTP) with Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), a notification is sent to the registered email id of the Aadhaar number holder.

(b) There is a provision for Aadhaar number holder to lock/unlock his biometric authentication.

(c) There is no provision for cancelling/relinquishing Aadhaar number, by the Aadhaar number holder.

(d) No such case has been reported so far.

Issuance of Aadhaar card on fake documents

2327. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past, three Pakistani nationals were issued with Aadhaar card, based on fake documents, at Bengaluru;

(b) whether any action has been initiated against the officer who was responsible for verifying the original documents before logging in the details of those individuals; and

(c) in view of the above, the measures UIDAI is taking to ensure that such mishaps do not happen in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) For enrolment of Aadhaar, one has to submit Proof of Identity and Proof of Address. Certificate of Identity/Address having photo on it, is one of the valid proofs of Identity/Address. There has been instance where three alleged Pakistani nationals have submitted the said certificate during enrolment and subsequently got Aadhaar.

(b) FIR has been lodged against the Officer who had issued the certificate without verifying details of the individuals.

(c) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) conducts workshops from time to time for the enrolment agencies/operators sensitizing them on various issues relating to enrolment processes.

Common Service Centres in Telangana

2328. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 9,000 Common Service Centres (CSCs) were aimed to be set up in Gram Panchayats in Telangana under Phase-II;

(b) whether target to set up CSCs in GPs in Phase-I has been achieved;

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

(d) the services that are likely to be provided through these CSCs in GPs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Government of India has approved CSC 2.0 Project under Phase-II in August, 2015 with an aim to set up at least one Common Services Centre (CSC) at 2.5 lakhs of Gram Panchayats (GPs) across the country. This includes the 8,787 Gram Panchayats in the State of Telangana. The project is to be completed within 4 years by August, 2019.

As on 30th June, 2017, 3,00,774 Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been registered across the country, out of which, 1,96,922 CSCs are at Gram Panchayat (GP) level covering around 1,66,537 GPs against the target of 2.5 lakhs of GPs. Out of the total registered CSCs, 2,61,071 CSCs are functioning and transacting for delivery of e-Services, out of which, 1,63,226 CSCs are functioning at GP level.

As on 30th June, 2017, 5,564 Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been registered across the State of Telangana, out of which, 3,180 CSCs are at Gram Panchayat (GP) level covering around 3,180 GPs against the target of 8,787 GPs. Out of the total registered CSCs, 5,043 CSCs are functioning and transacting for delivery of e-Services, out of which, 2,855 CSCs are functioning at GP level.

(b) The Phase-I of CSC Scheme launched in September 2006, targeted to cover all 6 lakhs census villages by one lakh CSCs, as per 1:6 ratio equitably spread across rural India. Accordingly, the total number of CSCs which were made operational across the country in Phase-I till November, 2015 (prior to start of implementation of CSC 2.0 Project under Digital India) was 144,875, out of which 92,106 CSCs were at GP level.

In the State of Telangana, total operational CSCs till November, 2015 were 3,581, against the target of 1,704 CSCs as per 1:6 basis.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The list of services being provided through CSC-Digital Seva Centres given in the Statement.

Statement

List of key services through CSC network (Digital Seva Platform)

G2C Services—

- Central Government Services (Passport, PAN card, PMAY, Crop insurance, Soil Health Card etc.)
- E-District/SSDG Services (land record, certificates)
- Aadhaar Services (enrolment, updation)
- Election Commission Services

B2C Services—e-Recharge, bill collection, e-Commerce

Financial Services—

- Banking Services (deposit, withdrawal, remittance)
- Insurance Services (premium collection, policy)
- AEPS (Aadhaar pay)

Educational Services—

National Digital Literacy Mission, (NDLM)—Digital Saksharata Abhiyan (DISHA)/ Pradhan Mantri Gramin (PMG) DISHA, Cyber Gram project, National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NEILIT) Courses, animation course, accounting.

Skill Development—data entry operator, electric, auto

Utility Services—electric, water bill

Health Services—Tele consultation, Jan Aushudhi

Others—Tele-legal, Financial Literacy, Investor Awareness, Wi-Fi Choupal etc.

National Encryption Policy

2329. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of the National Encryption Policy;

(b) the details of consultations with expert and other stakeholders that have taken place on the policy;

(c) whether the Government will undertake public consultation on the same, if so details thereof;

(d) whether encryption policy is likely to figure in the outcome and policy document for the Global Conference on Cyberspace, 2017;

(e) the details of the proposed outcome and policy document for the conference and how is the conference likely to benefit cyber security space in India; and

(f) whether different stakeholders would be allowed to participate in this conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Government respects the need for protection of information, privacy, critical information infrastructure and online digital transactions. It also acknowledges the importance of addressing national security threats including the concerns of law enforcement agencies during investigation. Taking into account national security concerns and technology trends, Government has initiated steps to revise the encryption policy in consultation with all stakeholders, including industry and public, to arrive at a balanced and holistic encryption policy. In this regard, the Government has set up a Committee of Experts with the objective to explore possible approaches to protect the integrity of encryption technology, promote strong encryption, while also enabling lawful access to the plain text information corresponding to encrypted information in order to ensure public safety and national security.

The Committee has devised steps to consult major industry associations and reputed vendors on the requirement of required encryption level by industry as well as requirement of law enforcement agencies.

(d) and (e) Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) is a prestigious global event where international leaders, policymakers, industry experts, think tanks, cyber wizards etc. gather to deliberate on the issues and challenges for optimally using cyber space. The overall goals of GCCS 2017 are to promote the importance of inclusiveness and human rights in Global Cyber Policy, to defend the *status quo* of an open, interoperable and unregimented cyberspace, to create political commitment for capacity building initiatives to address the digital divide and assist countries, and to develop security solutions in a balanced fashion that duly acknowledge the importance of the private sector and technical community. The schedule of program is yet to be finalized.

(f) Yes, Sir. Different Stakeholders will participate by invitation.

Creating awareness on environmental hazards of electronic waste

2330. SHRI M.D. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken to create awareness on environmental hazards of electronic waste;

(b) the details of the number of organisations and educational institutes given funds for organising workshops and seminars to create awareness, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) in what manner the impact assessment of such workshops and seminars is done, alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), being the nodal ministry for Electronics and Information Technology, is involved in developing technology to recycle electronic waste (e-waste) in an environment friendly manner. MeitY also promotes Research and Development to develop technological solutions for e-waste management in environment friendly manner.

The major concern of e-waste management in India is lack of awareness amongst various stakeholders about the hazards associated with the end-of-life products. In this direction, MeitY is implementing an “Awareness Programme on Environmental Hazards of Electronic Waste” under Digital India initiative since March 2015, through Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), New Delhi. During the entire project duration of 5 years, a city each in the 10 identified States, namely, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Goa, Bihar, Puducherry, West Bengal, Assam and Manipur is covered as a pilot. The stakeholders involved are schools/colleges/Residents’ Welfare Associations/bulk consumers/refurbishers, manufacturers, informal sector and Government officials.

Short modules and films, specific to various stakeholders, have been created for spreading general awareness about the hazards of the recycling methods generally used in unorganized sector *vis-à-vis* best practices available for environment friendly recycling. The general public is encouraged to participate in “Swachh Digital Bharat” by giving their e-waste to the authorized recyclers only.

So far, nearly 71,000 participants from schools, colleges, Resident Welfare Associations, manufacturers, informal operators etc. and 2100 Government officials

have participated in various cities. In addition to awareness, the programme has undertaken inventory study for estimation of the quantum of e-waste in four states, viz., Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha.

(b) MeitY is not giving any financial grant to States for conducting the awareness program. The grant is given to Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous society under MeitY which in association with industry bodies such as National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology (MAIT), Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA), National Institute for Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), and PHD (Punjab, Haryana and Delhi) Chamber of Commerce are implementing the pilot awareness program at various States. The grant given to the above industry bodies by STPI is given in the table below:—

Organization	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17
CEAMA	₹ 30.00 lakhs	₹ 18.73 lakhs
MAIT	₹ 138.00 lakhs	₹ 18.73 lakhs
NASSCOM	₹ 304.03 lakhs	-
NIELIT	₹ 143.64 lakhs	-
PHD Chamber	-	₹ 81.60 lakhs

(c) The methodology for Impact Assessment includes the following, namely:—

- Detailed standard operating procedure has been developed;
- Monitoring and evaluation format has been developed to capture the weekly progress;
- A city level taskforce was created in each city to guide and monitor the implementation of the workshops/ activities;
- Feedback from the participants is obtained; and
- As a result of training programme conducted for government officials, some departments, namely, Goa Pollution Control Board, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Imphal, State Pollution Control Board, Imphal, Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, Department of Health and Family Welfare Services, Puducherry etc. have updated/modified their present trend of handling e-waste in terms of classification, identification and processing.

Mandatory cyber audit of departments

2331. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on making cyber audit of every department mandatory;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any step in this regard so far; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has issued letter to all Central Government Ministries/Departments and State Government/UTs to carry out cyber audit annually.

The following actions have been taken by the Government in this regard:—

- (i) Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India has created a panel of IT Security Auditing Organisations for auditing, including vulnerability assessment and penetration testing of computer systems, networks and applications of various organizations of the Government, critical infrastructure organizations and those in other sectors of Indian economy. At present, there are 54 Cyber Security Auditing Organizations empanelled by CERT-In for the purpose of carrying out cyber security audit related activities.
- (ii) MeitY has formulated Cyber Crisis Management Plan (CCMP) for countering cyber-attacks and cyber terrorism for implementation by all key Ministries/Departments of Central Government, State Governments and Union Territories. The CCMP includes incident prevention and precautionary measures and points of action for preparation of sectoral and organizational CCMP; it refers to audit of information infrastructure for organizations on an annual basis as well as whenever there is a major upgradation/change in IT infrastructure, by an independent IT security auditor empanelled by CERT-In.
- (iii) 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 (CCMP). So far, 48 CCMP workshops have been conducted for Ministries/Departments, States and UTs and critical organizations.

**Appointment of security professionals at
National Informatics Centre**

2332. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has initiated a process to accelerate the appointment of more than 350 security professionals at the National Informatics Centre (NIC), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the requirement of 355 posts was examined by a committee way back in 2009 and the same was approved in 2013; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in appointing these security professionals at the NIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal for creation of 355 posts was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CSS) during the year 2013 as part of the approval for Framework for Enhancing Cyber Security. Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has approved the proposal for creation of 355 posts in NIC during the month of June, 2017.

(c) Necessary action for appointment of 355 security professionals has already been initiated.

Hacking of Government websites

2333. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 700 Government websites have been hacked over the last four years;

(b) if so, whether Government is planning on upgrading its digital interface and making it more secure; and

(c) in what manner Government plans to make websites less hack prone and also save data leakages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Currently about 8000

websites are hosted on NICNET. The total number of websites hosted on NICNET that have been defaced since 2014 is 221. The details are as under:—

Year	websites
2014	57
2015	41
2016	81
2017 till date	42
TOTAL	221

(b) National Informatics Centre (NIC), which provides IT/E-Governance related services to Government departments, protects the cyber resources from possible compromises through a layered security approach using secure and foolproof practices, procedures and technologies. Also, relevant advisories are circulated among the NICNET users for taking precautionary measures from time-to-time.

(c) 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.

Cyber Security is a continuous process and the protection elements are updated on a regular basis. A 24x7 security monitoring centre is in place at NIC, for detecting and responding to security incidents, including NIC-CERT.

NIC follows the instructions given by MeitY/other security agencies from time-to-time.

Ghost beneficiaries under Aadhaar's Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme

2334. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has identified ghost beneficiaries under Aadhaar's Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme in the previous year, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the details of losses reported, if any, due to ghost beneficiaries of social welfare schemes such as pensions, LPG, scholarships, etc., State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry to eradicate/prevent ghost beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Direct

Benefit Transfer (DBT) is a major reform initiative where benefits, in cash or in kind, are delivered directly to accurately identified beneficiaries using Aadhaar as an identifier, thereby eliminating ghost beneficiaries. It envisages simpler flow of funds and information using Information and Communication Technology (ICT), achieving efficiency and inclusion in the delivery processes, leading to greater accountability and transparency in the system. As on 31st March, 2017, 140 schemes of 51 Ministries/Departments are on DBT platform. Ministries/Departments have estimated and reported savings of ₹ 57,029 crore upto FY 2016-17 due to DBT implementation of schemes in view of elimination of ghost beneficiaries etc. in these schemes. Details of estimated savings accrued are attached as Statement-I (*See below*). State-wise list of blocked customers in PAHAL scheme is given in the Statement-II (*See below*). A statement showing the details of deleted Ration Cards (State-wise) in respect of Public Distribution System (PDS) is given in the Statement-III (*See below*).

(c) For the schemes being implemented in DBT mode, the beneficiary databases are seeded with validated Aadhaar number of the beneficiary, thus eliminating ghost beneficiaries and transfer of benefits directly to the bank account of the beneficiary by electronics means.

Statement-I

Details of estimated savings accrued Saving Reported due to DBT

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Ministry/Department	Scheme	Reported Saving Upto 2016-17
1.	Petroleum and Natural Gas	PAHAL	29,769
2.	Food and Public Distribution	PDS	14,000
3.	Rural Development	MGNREGS	11,741
4.	Others	NSAP	399
		Others	1,120
TOTAL			57,029

Statement-II

Details of State-wise Blocked Consumers during FY 2016-17 under PAHAL Scheme

State /UT	Blocked Customer
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	24,268
Andhra Pradesh	28,78,817
Arunachal Pradesh	79,688

State /UT	Blocked Customer
Assam	10,02,220
Bihar	10,38,408
Chandigarh	1,56,274
Chhattisgarh	4,61,124
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	7,357
Daman and Diu	11,091
Delhi	17,07,700
Goa	1,35,762
Gujarat	18,85,671
Haryana	10,68,110
Himachal Pradesh	6,74,748
Jammu and Kashmir	7,57,807
Jharkhand	4,65,749
Karnataka	15,20,208
Kerala	10,98,049
Lakshadweep	864
Madhya Pradesh	17,38,193
Maharashtra	33,57,773
Manipur	1,12,140
Meghalaya	65,658
Mizoram	70,168
Nagaland	76,386
Odisha	6,89,750
Puducherry	54,866
Punjab	19,25,664
Rajasthan	11,24,419
Sikkim	60,162
Tamil Nadu	21,67,180
Telangana	20,23,845
Tripura	1,10,419

State /UT	Blocked Customer
Uttar Pradesh	48,13,109
Uttarakhand	7,47,342
West Bengal	12,35,618
TOTAL	3,53,46,607

Statement-III

Updated Statement of Deleted Ration Cards due to detection of Ghost/fraudulent/ineligible/migration/deaths, etc. during the process of digitization, de-duplication, Aadhaar seeding in run-up/implementation of NFSA (2013-2017)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Number of deleted ration cards
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	37
2.	Andhra Pradesh	11,50,212
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	14,911
4.	Assam	1,11,182
5.	Bihar	41,369
6.	Chhattisgarh	11,66,000
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	549
8.	Daman and Diu	363
9.	Delhi	30,096
10.	Goa	1,57,461
11.	Gujarat	1,49,092
12.	Haryana	1,63,013
13.	Himachal Pradesh	3,260
14.	Jharkhand	4,53,958
15.	Karnataka	31,48,117
16.	Lakshadweep	1,390
17.	Madhya Pradesh	4,18,509
18.	Maharashtra	21,62,391
19.	Mizoram	1,503
20.	Odisha	6,61,372

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Number of deleted ration cards
21.	Puducherry	95,393
22.	Punjab	1,01,249
23.	Rajasthan	13,23,406
24.	Sikkim	12,569
25.	Tamil Nadu	4,22,746
26.	Telangana	20,97,564
27.	Tripura	1,76,986
28.	Uttar Pradesh	41,70,894
29.	West Bengal	66,13,961
TOTAL		2,48,49,553

Cartelisation by Telcos

2335. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telcos have resorted to cartelisation to take on Reliance Jio, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Reliance Jio has complained to TRAI in this regard, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to penalise Telcos against cartelisation, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) While raising the issue of delay/denial in provisioning/ augmentation of Point of Interconnections (PoIs), allegations have been made by the new entrant (M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited) against the existing incumbent operators (M/s Bharti Airtel Limited, M/s Idea Cellular Limited and M/s Vodafone India Limited) in respect of anti-competitive practices including cartelization.

As per the provisions of section 11 (1) (b) (ii), (iii), (vi) and (vii) of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997, the matter of interconnection between two telecom networks is under the purview of TRAI.

TRAI has examined the issue raised by the new entrant and submitted its recommendation dated 21.10.2016 to the Government. The said recommendations were examined by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and referred back

to TRAI for reconsideration vide letter dated 05.04.2017. The reconsidered opinion of TRAI has been received. The DoT is seized of the matter.

Employment in food processing industry

2336. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Food Processing Industry is growing very fast and has a large potential of generating rural employment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to promote the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) and (b) A comparison of growth rates of gross value added (GVA) in overall manufacturing sector with the growth rates of GVA in food processing shows that the growth rates of GVA in food processing has kept pace with/higher than the overall manufacturing growth rates of GVA in recent years. As per the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) statistics, at 2011-12 prices, the growth rates of GVA in food processing in 2014-15 and 2015-16 were estimated to be 12.82 per cent and 6.87 per cent respectively as against overall manufacturing GVA growth rates of 7.48 per cent and 10.56 per cent during the corresponding years.

According to the Annual Survey of Industries (2014-15) conducted by Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, food processing is one of the major employment intensive industries constituting 12.77 per cent of employment generated in all manufacturing factories registered under Factories Act 1948. The total number of persons engaged in such food processing industries was 17.73 lakh in 2014-15. As per the NSSO 67th Round, 2010-11, total number of persons engaged in unincorporated enterprises of food processing industries was 47.9 lakh.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been implementing various Central Sector Schemes for promotion and development of food processing sector in the country. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has re-structured its schemes under the new Central Sector Scheme of KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA to give further impetus to this sector. The scheme has seven components *viz.* (i) Mega Food Park, (ii) Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, (iii) Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters, (iv) Creation of Forward and Backward Linkages, (v) Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities, (vi) Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure and (vii) Human Resources and Institutions. The scheme has been approved with an allocation of ₹ 6,000 crore for period 2016-

20 *co-terminus* with the fourteenth Finance Commission cycle. The farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations, entrepreneurs, cooperatives, societies, Self Help Groups, Private Companies and State PSUs etc. are eligible to avail financial assistance under these schemes for setting up food processing projects in the country.

Food parks in Manipur

2337. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Food Parks operational or being considered for being set up in Manipur;

(b) whether any Mega Food Park is being conceived to be set up in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) had approved two Food Parks in Manipur during 9th and 10th Five Year Plan. Thereafter, the scheme of Food Parks was discontinued. At present, there is no scheme implemented by this Ministry for setting up of Food Parks in the country including Manipur.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) do not set up Mega Food Parks on its own. The applications under Mega Food Park Scheme for setting up Mega Food Park projects are invited against the Expression of Interest (EoI) which is uploaded on the website of the Ministry and widely published in the newspapers etc. The suitable proposals for setting up Mega Food Park projects are selected based on the merit through a stringent and elaborate process involving three stages of appraisals based on prefixed criteria as provided in the Scheme Guidelines. Presently, no suitable proposal for setting up of Mega Food Park in Manipur is pending with the Ministry for consideration.

Abolition of system of constitution of Tribunals/Ccommissions

2338. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to abolish the constitution of Tribunals/Commissions system as they have become outdated and do not suit to the present needs of the Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has envisaged any other system for introduction in their place, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Regulation of non-popular unrecognized political parties

2339. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended for regulation of sprouting of non-popular unrecognized political parties in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the response of Government to the said recommendation, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No such recommendation for regulation of sprouting of non-popular unrecognized political parties has been received from the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

Complaints relating to online applications for Voter I Cards

†2340. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new voters or voters applying for transfer who have filled Form 6 online through the website of the Election Commission during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to difficulty in getting approval of link to upload photo, address and age certificate while filling the Form 6 online, lesser number of online applications are received; and

(c) the details of complaints related to such online applications along with details of the steps to be taken to address them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Campaign to register new adult voters

2341. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a campaign has been launched to register new young adult voters in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof with particular reference to Bihar and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Election Commission has informed that in tune with theme of 'No voter to be left behind', the Commission has launched a special drive in all States/Union Territories including Bihar and Jharkhand for enrolment of left out electors giving focus on first time electors (age group 18-21 years). The period of special drive was from 1st July, 2017 to 31st July, 2017.

Pending cases and their disposal

†2342. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government is working through Fast Track Courts to dispose of old cases, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of cases disposed of during the last three years; and
- (c) the number of cases still pending, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) lies within the domain of State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources in consultation with the concerned High Courts.

The Fourteenth Finance Commission has endorsed the proposal of the Union Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which includes, *inter alia*, establishing 1800 FTCs for a period of five years for all cases of heinous crimes like cases involving senior citizens, women, children, disabled and litigants afflicted with HIV AIDS and other terminal ailments as well as for cases pertaining to civil disputes involving land acquisition and property/rent disputes pending for more than 5 years, at a cost of ₹ 4144 crores. Further, the Fourteenth Finance Commission has urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the tax devolution to meet such requirements.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Union Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, which, *inter alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerisation, increase in strength of judicial officers/judges, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development.

The details regarding the number of cases disposed of by Fast Track Courts during the last three years and number of cases still pending in these Courts is not maintained Centrally.

Strengthening of the Anti-Defection Law

2343. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Government has received any representation regarding strengthening of Anti-Defection Law, if so, the details thereof and the status of the said representation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India deals with Anti-Defection matters. Few representations for amending the provisions of the aforesaid Schedule, were received in the past. However, the Government's view is that the provisions of the said Schedule are adequate for dealing with cases of defection by the elected Members.

Shortage of officers in Legislative Department

2344. Dr. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of officers in Legislative Department, specially those for drafting/vetting of Bills, rules, regulations etc.;

(b) if so, the actual and required strength; and

(c) the details of the position regarding vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The strength of officers in the Legislative Department has been augmented in the year 2016. Ten posts in various grades of Indian Legal Service and twenty eight posts in Official Languages Wing have been created in the Legislative Department.

(b) Against a sanctioned strength of 171 officers, 96 officers are in position.

(c) Vacancies are filled up on the basis of recommendation of the recruiting agency

viz. Union Public Service Commission in case of direct recruitment. In so far as vacancies for promotion quota are concerned, action is taken as and when the vacancy arises except Central Secretariat Service and Central Secretariat Stenographer Service officers for which cadre controlling authority is Department of Personnel and Training.

Debarring convicted persons from contesting elections

2345. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent Supreme Court's observation to ban convicted persons from contesting election for life, made by it while hearing a Public Interest Litigation, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to debar convicted persons from contesting elections for life, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) A Writ Petition (WP (C) No. 699/2016) in the form of a Public Interest Litigation has been filed in the Apex Court, *inter alia*, praying for a direction or order for debarring the convicted persons uniformly from legislature, executive and judiciary for life in spirit of Article 14 read with Article 15 and 16 of the Constitution. The matter is still *sub-judice*.

Fast Track Courts in Odisha

2346. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) established in Odisha;

(b) whether adequate funds have been allotted for them to remain operative;

(c) how many of them have stopped functioning and the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government proposes to make FTCs operational once again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Fast Track Courts (FTCs) are set up by the State Governments as per their need and resources in consultation with the respective High Courts. As per information received from the Odisha High Court, 72 FTCs were established during the Eleventh Finance Commission period out of which 35 were made functional till 2009 by utilization of the Eleventh Finance Commission Award and thereafter by utilization of funds provided by the State Government till 31.03.2013. In view of the judgment passed by the Hon'ble Apex Court in TC 22/2001

(Brij Mohanlal Vs. Union of India and others), all the FTCs (35 nos.) have stopped functioning and 34 new ADJ Courts have been established and made functional during 2013 *in lieu* of FTCs. At present, no FTC is functioning in Odisha.

The Fourteenth Finance Commission has endorsed the proposal of the Union Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which includes, *inter alia*, establishing 63 FTCs in Odisha for a period of five years at a cost of Rs.145.04 crore to deal all cases of heinous crimes like cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. Further, the Fourteenth Finance Commission has urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the tax devolution to meet such requirements.

Double tracking of North East Frontier Railway

2347. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any initiative to start the double track in the North East Frontier Railway zone as the railway is in poor state in North Eastern States; and

(b) by when the work of electrification of the North East Frontier Railway will start and the current status of the schemes with regard to it in view of the fact that North East Frontier Railway is not running on the electric tracks, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Doubling is taken up when the routes are saturated. They are taken up in phases depending upon traffic density. As on date, 5 doubling projects have been taken up in North Eastern Region covering 472 km. of route length. Details of these projects are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of project	Latest Anticipated Cost (₹ in crore)	Outlay 2017-18 (₹ in crore)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Lumding-Hojai (45 km.)	364	100	Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up.
2.	New Bongaigaon-Kamakhya via Rangiya (142 km.)	1888	10	Work included in Budget 2013-14 subject to requisite Government approvals.

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bongaigaon-Golpara-Guwahati (176 km.)	2232	250	Contracts for earthwork, major and minor bridges awarded.
4.	Digarua-Hojai (102 km.)	871	150	Earthwork, major and minor bridges have been taken up.
5.	Saraighat Bridge doubling (7 km.)	888	1	The work has been included in Budget 2017-18 subject to requisite approvals. FLS has been sanctioned.

(b) With a view to providing faster and seamless rail connectivity on electric traction of North East States falling in North East Frontier Railway, electrification of Barauni-Katihar-Guwahati including Katihar-Barsoi (836 route kilometers) and Kumedpur-Malda Town-Singhabad and Pakur-Malda (153 route kilometers) has been sanctioned. The work has been entrusted to Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE) and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for execution.

In addition to above, 04 Railway Electrification projects which falls in North East Frontier Railway have also been included in Budget 2017-18 subject to mandatory approvals and sanctions.

Sl. No.	Project	Route Kilometers	Anticipated cost (₹ in crores)
1.	Guwahati-Dibrugarh <i>via</i> Tinsukia and Simaluguri-Dibrugarh	656	890.36
2.	New Bongaigaon-Agthori <i>via</i> Rangiya	143	137.90
3.	Raninagar-Jalpaiguri-Samuktala Road (2nd line)	129	123.19
4.	New Bongaiaon-Golpara-Kamakhiya	175	282.23

Electric traction has started in Katihar Yard on North East Frontier Railway after commissioning of Barauni-Katihar section on electric traction on 31.03.2017. Further, Katihar-Kumedpur Malda Court (117 Route Kilometers) is planned for commissioning on Electric traction during 2017-18.

Inclusion of food price in ticket fares

†2348. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of the food served in trains like Shatabdi and Rajdhani is added in their fare, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Railways plan to remove the price of food from the train fare of the above trains so that the passengers travelling in those trains are not compelled to have that food, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Catering charges are part of the fare structure of each Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains based on the actual services rendered to the passengers in these trains as per requirement of journey on up and down directions.

(b) Yes, Sir. Instructions have been issued to provide optional catering service, as a pilot project, to passengers booking tickets w.e.f. 01.08.2017 onwards for the journeys to commence on 01.08.2017 and onwards. This scheme has been introduced on 31 Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto trains under the management of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) w.e.f. 01.08.2017 for an initial period of 180 days, subject to mid-term review after 3 months.

Jaleswar-Digha broad-gauge line

2349. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target date for commissioning of Jaleswar-Digha new broad-gauge rail line, as the project was sanctioned in the year 2010-11 and land acquisition process and filling have not started by South Eastern Railway citing non-cooperation from Government of West Bengal; and

(b) the present status of this important project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Jaleswar-Digha (41 Km.) new Broad Gauge line project was sanctioned in 2010-11 at a cost of ₹ 352.65 crore with an ROR of (-)5.04%. The progress of the project has been held up due to non-availability of land as Government of West Bengal has not acquired and handed over the land required for the project.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Emission regulations and standards

2350. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways will soon come under emission regulations and standards to achieve the targets submitted by India under the Paris Climate Change Agreement, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the necessary measures taken by the Ministry to ensure compliance to the emission standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEF&CC) is the nodal and notification agency for fixing Emission Standards for Diesel Locomotives and as per MOEF&CC report:

“In order to reduce emission from Diesel locomotives in the country, the interim emission standards for Diesel locomotives are proposed to be drafted in consultation with Ministry of Railways, Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES), Engine Development Directorate Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The process of development of standards is likely to be completed by March 2019, subject to adequate data being made available”.

In this regard, Railways have already submitted its interim report to Central Pollution Control Board (MOEF&CC). Moreover, Indian Railways has committed to reduce its emission intensity to the extent of 32% by 2030 by taking series of energy efficiency initiatives.

In addition, Indian Railways has also entrusted M/s RITES for “Consultancy contract for Study on Emissions from Diesel Locomotives and setting up of Emission Standards”.

(b) The details of the necessary measure taken by the Ministry of Railways to ensure compliance to the standards are enumerated below:

- (i) Use of Biodiesel blends- Already 5% bio diesel blending has been started by Indian Railways.

Further steps taken/being taken by the Railways to implement sustained energy efficiency measures are as under:—

- (i) Development of Common Rail electronic Direct Injection (CReDI) system
- (ii) Conversion of Diesel Power Car (DPC) in dual fuel (Diesel+LNG/CNG) mode has been started.

- (iii) Development of Miller cycle based turbochargers for ALCO Locomotives.
- (iv) Development of Variable Turbine Geometry (VTG) Turbochargers for ALCO Locomotives.
- (v) Development of High Effectiveness large after cooler for ALCO Locomotives.

Earnings from cancellation of reserved tickets

2351. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways collected ₹ 1400 crore in 2016-17 through cancellation of reserved tickets of passengers;
- (b) the cancellation fee which Railways obtained in 2016-17 from South Central Railway (SCR);
- (c) whether it is a fact that there has been a rise of 26 per cent in ticket cancellation earnings in 2016-17 over the previous year;
- (d) in what manner Railways justify this oppressive ticket cancellation system leading to a penal rate on passengers; and
- (e) the steps proposed to refund such cancellation charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) South Central Railway has realised ₹ 103.27 crore as cancellation and clerkage charges on the reserved tickets during the year 2016-17.

(c) There has been an increase of approximately 25% in the amount realised from cancellation of reserved tickets in 2016-17 over the previous year.

(d) and (e) The cancellation charges are levied for cancellation of tickets as per the Railway Passengers (Cancellation of Ticket and Refund of fare) Rules, 2015 which also provide for refund of fare subject to the relevant provisions of these Rules. However, there is no provision to refund the cancellation charges so recoverable under the Rules.

MoU with Australia in textile, clothing and fashion sectors

2352. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Australia have signed MoU to intensify cooperation in textile, clothing, handloom and fashion, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the benefit that Indian weavers will get out of this MoU;

(c) the estimated Indian textiles to be exported to Australia through this MoU and the estimated quantum of foreign exchange earned; and

(d) the other steps taken by Government to connect the Australian and Indian textile and fashion sectors and to promote collaboration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Government of Australia) has signed MoU with Ministry of Textiles, Government of India to promote Textiles and Fashion Sector in India, Australia and other international market.

Ministry of Textiles, Government of India is responsible for holistic development of this sector by implementing various innovations in handloom sector. It has been an endeavour of the Ministry to popularize the handloom products among younger generation. The Australian fashion designers, producing garments using Indian woven and other textiles of Indian for India and Australian market will work with stakeholders including weavers in India which includes cooperation with textiles, handloom sector with a view to provide state of art, designing of textiles and handloom products and market them in India as well as international market.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to facilitate cooperation in relation to matters within the textiles and fashion sectors that may be of mutual interest and benefit to the participants. The Participants will endeavour to work collaboratively in identifying appropriate measures to connect the Australian and Indian textile and fashion sectors; promote collaboration and international engagement between those sectors; nurture the skills and talents within those sectors; promote economic opportunities for Australia and India; and encourage professional engagement, training, skill development and public exhibition of products derived from those sectors within both Australia and India.

Commissioning of new lines and electrification of tracks

2353. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are aiming at commissioning of 3500 kilometre new railway lines in the financial year 2017-18, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have almost doubled the target for electrification of tracks by keeping it at 4000 kilometre in the current fiscal; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the infrastructure targets were scaled up after Railways managed commissioning of 2855 kilometre new lines and also exceeded the electrification target by electrifying more than 2000 kilometre in 2016-17?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) In the current financial year 2017-18, a total of 3500 Km. of New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling (including Dedicated Freight Corridor lines) and 4000 Route Km. of Railway Electrification have been planned/ targeted.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways have commissioned 2855 Km of New Line/Gauge Conversion/Doubling in 2016-17 and 3500 Km. of New Line/Gauge Conversion/Doubling is targeted for commissioning in 2017-18. Indian Railways have doubled the target of Railway Electrification *i.e.* 4000 Route Km for 2017-18 after achievement of 2013 Route Km. in 2016-17.

Construction of underpass at Gorakhpur Railway Station

†2354. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of any underpass is proposed at the eastern end of railway station of North Eastern Railway headquarters, Gorakhpur, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so, by when the work is likely to be started; and

(c) the reasons for not constructing the pathway for carrying goods booked from the platform no. 9 to the parcel office situated beside the platform No. 1 and the difficulties in its construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Also, construction of underpass is not feasible at the eastern end of railway station of North Eastern Railway headquarters, Gorakhpur.

(c) Pathway is available from platform No. 9 upto platform No. 3. There is no pathway between platform No. 3 to platform No. 1 or 2. The reason for not constructing the pathway between Platform No. 3 to Platform No. 2 or 1 is that Platform No. 1 and 2 are in the same alignment (longest Platform) and continue upto ends of the yard. As such, no space is available for construction of pathway from Platform No. 3 to 1 due to network of turnouts and electrical portals at both ends. Several rounds of survey have been conducted but every time it has been found non feasible.

However, goods and parcels booked from Platform No. 9 are transported to parcel office at Platform No. 1 through ramps provided on 2 FOBs.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Rajdhani train from Delhi to Patliputra via Lucknow, Gorakhpur

†2355. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is contemplating to run Rajdhani train from Delhi to Patliputra (Patna) via Lucknow, Gorakhpur;

(b) the reasons for not running important trains like Rajdhani on this railway route so far, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry is contemplating to run Bilaspur Rajdhani (12442/12441) on all seven days?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Patliputra is connected to Delhi by 6 pairs of Mail/Express trains including 1 pair of Rajdhani Express viz. 12423/12424 New Delhi-Dibrugarh Town Rajdhani Express (Daily) via Patliputra. At present, there is no proposal to introduce a new Rajdhani Express from Delhi to Patliputra via Lucknow, Gorakhpur due to operational and resource constraints.

(c) No, Sir.

Passenger facilities at railway stations

2356. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are satisfied with the level of passenger facilities available at various railway stations of the country, particularly, those stations which are located in small cities/towns, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways have prepared any action plan to improve passenger facilities available at railway stations of the country;

(c) if so, the efforts made by Government in this direction, particularly in Chhattisgarh, during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the mechanism in place for monitoring and supervising the facilities available at various railway stations of the country and for their maintenance?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Improvement to Passenger amenities on Indian Railways (IR) is a continuous process. Present day passengers expect visible and qualitative improvement in public utilities and amenities provided at the Stations. With a view to meeting the expectations of the passengers, Indian Railways is making all out effort to provide improved facilities at the stations including those located in small cities/towns. Indian Railways has more than 8000 Stations. It has always been the endeavour of the Railways to provide adequate amenities to the passengers at the stations. Certain amenities are provided at the time of construction of new stations based on anticipated volume of traffic. Amenities are further augmented from time to time with growth in passenger traffic handled at stations, based on the felt need, expectations of the travelling public and availability of funds.

In the recent past Indian Railways has taken various steps to improve the services and facilitate the passengers, some of which are given below.

At stations:

- (i) Lifts and Escalators at the stations for facilitating movement across platforms.
- (ii) Battery Operated Vehicles for carrying passengers before/after the train journey, especially senior citizens and persons with disabilities.
- (iii) Yatri Mitra Sewa for passengers requiring wheel-chair assistance.
- (iv) Well appointed Retiring Rooms, Waiting Halls and Executive Lounges to relax for passengers during transit.
- (v) Wi-fi facility at 127 important stations on IR.

In Reservations and travel:

- (i) Introduction of the Alternate Train Accommodation Scheme known as 'VIKALP' to give option to waitlisted passengers to shift to alternate train having vacant accommodation.
- (ii) Provision of facility to physically handicapped persons to book reserved tickets online.
- (iii) Introduction of paperless unreserved ticket booking through mobile phone.
- (iv) Automatic refund of confirmed/Reservation Against Cancellation (RAC)/e-tickets on cancellation of trains.
- (v) Enhancement of Senior Citizen Quota as well as quota earmarked for physically handicapped persons.
- (vi) Making provision in the system for automatic preparation of reservation charts at least four hours before the scheduled departure of train.

- (vii) Provision of facility to book available accommodation after preparation of first reservation chart through internet as well as across any computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counter upto preparation of second reservation chart.
- (viii) Acceptance of all International Credit/Debit cards for booking of e-tickets through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website.
- (ix) The passengers having confirmed/RAC/Waitlisted PRS counter tickets may cancel the same through IRCTC website (www.irctc.co.in) or through 139 within the prescribed time limit and the refund amount maybe collected across PRS counter on surrendering the original ticket.
- (x) In order to facilitate cancellation of PRS counter tickets at relatively smaller stations, one of the Unreserved Ticketing System(UTS) cum PRS counters (wherever PRS booking facility is available) has been earmarked for granting refund beyond the working hours of PRS counters/Current counters. This facility is available in respect of PRS counter tickets for those trains whose scheduled departure time is within the next 24 hours.
- (xi) Establishment of Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendras for issuing of tickets through public private partnership for establishment and operation of computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS)-cum Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) terminals.
- (xii) Facility for booking unreserved ticket including platforms tickets and Season Tickets through mobile phone in the 6 suburban sections of IR in Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Secunderabad and in Delhi–Palwal and Delhi-Ghaziabad sections of Northern Railway.
- (xiii) Commencement of concierge services with facility for online booking of wheelchairs through IRCTC website at New Delhi and 23 other stations.
- (xiv) Provision of Automatic Ticket Vending Machines to facilitate purchase of unreserved journey tickets.
- (xv) Extension of e-ticketing facility to foreign debit/credit cards for foreign tourists and NRIs.
- (xvi) Commissioning of online booking of retiring room at over 488 Railway stations.

(b) and (c) Modernisation/upgradation of passenger amenities at railway station in Indian Railways is a continuous and on-going process. At present, upgradation of station is being undertaken under Adarsh Station scheme. 201 stations including 5 stations in Chhattisgarh have been identified under this Scheme during the last three years and the current year.

(d) Regular inspections are conducted by Officers, Service Improvement Group (SIG), Passenger Amenities Committee (PAC) and Passenger Services Committee (PSC) to monitor the availability and maintenance of passenger facilities at stations and remedial measures are taken as and when deficiencies are noted.

Changes in passenger fare and reservation rules

†2357. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have changed rules pertaining to passenger fare and reservation since the financial year 2014-15, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any study had been conducted by the Ministry before bringing about such changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) There has been no increase in Passenger fare since 2014-15 except the following:

- (i) Platform ticket rate has been increased from ₹ 5 to ₹ 10 w.e.f. 01.04.2015
- (ii) The minimum chargeable passenger fare for Second Class Non-suburban services has been increased from ₹ 5 to ₹ 10 from 22.11.2015 to bring it at par with the rate of Platform tickets.

This has resulted in the passenger fares remaining much below the cost of providing these services. Historically, the tariff policy on Indian Railways has been to keep passenger fares low especially in the lower classes so that even the poorest segment of the people can travel by rail. Moreover, as the operating cost of running of passenger services is increasing year after year resulting in adverse impact on passenger segment, passenger segment is being cross subsidized by the freight segment.

Evaluation of various alternatives relating to rationalization of passenger fare is an ongoing process. To improve the passenger earnings, decrease in the recurring loss in passenger business and in order to generate additional revenues from passenger segment and reduce cross-subsidization from freight following measures have been taken:—

- (i) Introduction of Flexi Fare system in higher category of trains *i.e.* Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains w.e.f. 09.09.2016. Under this scheme, the fare increase by 10% with every 10% of berths sold subject to maximum limit of 1.5 times in classes Second AC, Sleeper, Second sitting (reserved), AC

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Chair Car and 1.4 times in Third AC. No changes have been made in the fare of First AC and Executive Class.

An interim review of the flexi fare system has been made and the following changes have been made effective from 20.12.2016:

- (a) 10% rebate in basic fare on vacant berths/seats after preparation of first chart in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Durgam trains.
- (b) Provision of Tatkal quota has been reduced in flexi fare train from maximum 30% to 10 % of the total available berths.
- (c) Discounted fare has been offered for the passengers of Jaipur-Ajmer and Ajmer-Jaipur in Train No 12015/12016 New Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi and for the passengers of Bengaluru City-Mysuru and Mysuru-Bengaluru City in 12007/12008 Chennai Central-Mysuru Shatabdi Express.
- (ii) In view of special attempts/ arrangements made for running of special train services during peak period depending on the demand pattern, Suvidha trains have been introduced on variable fare structure.
- (iii) Humsafar Express, Tejas Express, Antyodaya Express and Mahamana Express have been introduced on higher fare on cost recovery basis.
- (iv) However, such increase in fare is limited to only certain categories of trains and limited passengers.
- (v) Advance Reservation Period was increased from 60 days to 120 days with effect from 01.04.2015.

Kurla-Madurai train

2358. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand to increase the frequency of the present Kurla (LTT)-Madurai train Nos.11043/11044 from weekly to at least 4 days a week; and

(b) the steps being taken to increase frequency of these trains in view of the great demand of traffic from Mumbai to Madurai and *vice-versa* in view of the large Tamil population in Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. There is no such demand for increase in the frequency of 11043/11044 from weekly to 4 days a week.

(b) Does not arise.

Laying of new railway line in Himachal Pradesh

2359. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is giving priority to connect hilly areas by rail network and if so, the details thereof:

(b) whether Government has any plan to lay new line and spread railway network in Himachal Pradesh which would result in development and increase in employment in the backward areas of the State; and

(c) if so, whether Rohru in district Shimla, which has a great strategic importance being near to the China Border and, a hub of apple growers, would be connected to Dehradun by rail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways has taken up a large number of new line/Gauge Conversion projects in the hilly areas. The following projects have already been taken up:—

Sl. No.	Project	Length (in KM)	Latest anticipated cost (₹ in crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Chandigarh-Baddi	27.95	1540
2.	Rishikesh-Karanprayag	125	16,000
3.	Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Project	272	19565
4.	Nangal Dam - Talwara	83.74	2100
5.	Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri	63.1	5000
6.	Bhojipur-Pilibhit-Tanakpur Gauge Conversion	101.79	350
7.	Sivok-Rangpo	44.39	4085
8.	Murkongseck-Pasighat	30.62	436
9.	Bhairabi-Sairang	51.38	2384
10.	Jiribam-Imphal	110.63	6570
11.	Teteliya-Byrnihat	21.5	780
12.	Dimapur-Kohima	88	2973

1	2	3	4
13.	Agartala-Sabroom	110	2720
14.	Byrnihat-Shillong	108.40	5308
15.	Una-Hamirpur*	50	2850
16.	Taranga Hill—Abu Road <i>via</i> Ambaji*	89	1696

*Projects included in budget, subject to obtaining requisite clearances.

(b) Railways has taken up the following new lines projects falling fully/partially in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Length in KM	Latest anticipated cost (₹ in crore)
1.	Chandigarh-Baddi	27.95	1540
2.	Nangal Dam-Talwara	83.74	2100
3.	Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri	63.1	4500
4.	Una-Hamirpur*	50	2850

*Projects included in budget, subject to obtaining requisite clearances.

(c) Project of construction of new line connecting Rohru-Dehradun (132 km.) has not been sanctioned. Updating of survey of part length from Dehradun to Kalsi (47 km.) has been taken up. No survey of Kalsi-Rohru (85 km.) section has been done.

Security and protection against crimes in trains

†2360. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the effective measures taken to provide security and protection against crimes such as theft, looting, dacoity and crimes against women passengers being committed in trains along with crime-wise number of cases registered under each of the zonal railways during the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17; and

(b) the details of compensation/relief or assistance provided to the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) To provide security and protection against crimes such as theft, loot, dacoity and crimes against women passengers being committed in trains, two agencies are working together:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government Railway Police (GRP): 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) under various provisions of Criminal Procedure Code and Indian Penal Code, etc .

Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements efforts of GRP by providing protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith under various sections of Indian Railway Act.

The following measures are adopted to prevent such crimes:—

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. Security Help Line number 182 is made operational over Indian Railways for security related assistance to passengers in distress.
3. Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras, provided at about 344 stations over Indian Railways, to ensure safety and security of passengers.
4. An Integrated Security System consisting of surveillance of vulnerable stations through Close Circuit Television Camera Network, Access Control etc. has been sanctioned to improve surveillance mechanism over 202 railway stations.
5. The train escorting parties have been briefed to keep extra vigil on the ladies coaches en-route and at halting stations.
6. The ladies special trains running in Metropolitan cities are being escorted by lady RPF constables.
7. Frequent announcement are made through Public Address System to educate passengers to take precautions against theft, snatching, drugging etc.
8. Drives by Commercial and RPF are conducted from time to time against the entry of unauthorized persons in trains and railway premises.
9. Through meetings, Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms, Railways are in regular touch with women passengers to enhance security of women and to address their security concern.
10. 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.

The number of cases of theft of passengers' belongings, robbery, dacoity and crimes against women passengers in trains registered over Zonal Railways during the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) The details of compensation/relief or assistance provided to the victims is as under:—

(Amount in ₹)

Year	Theft of passengers' belongings	Robbery	Dacoity	Crime against women passengers
2014-15	4,52,722/-	0	0	0
2015-16	66,272/-	0	0	0
2016-17	2,88,662/-	10,000/-	0	0
TOTAL	8,07,656/-	10,000/-	0	0

Statement

Details of number of the cases of theft of passengers' belongings, robbery, dacoity and crimes against women passengers in trains registered over Zonal Railways during the years 2014, 2015 and 2016

Zonal Railway	No. of incidents of crimes in trains registered				
	Year	Theft of passengers' belongings	Robbery	Dacoity	Crime against women passengers
1	2	3	4	5	6
Central	2014	1747	214	10	75
	2015	2260	311	4	135
	2016	2874	71	11	147
Eastern	2014	451	6	7	33
	2015	557	11	2	31
	2016	508	6	2	32
East Central	2014	740	9	15	19
	2015	773	14	12	24
	2016	1022	6	6	24
East Coast	2014	393	6	0	5
	2015	435	9	11	5
	2016	552	5	2	3

1	2	3	4	5	6
Northern	2014	1700	41	9	75
	2015	3086	138	9	95
	2016	3356	98	3	113
North	2014	357	4	4	13
Central	2015	746	29	4	14
	2016	802	42	2	15
North	2014	189	3	3	2
Eastern	2015	403	22	1	11
	2016	431	53	5	18
Northeast	2014	158	1	2	12
Frontier	2015	143	0	1	9
	2016	220	3	0	12
North	2014	506	3	1	12
Western	2015	502	0	0	20
	2016	419	4	1	15
Southern	2014	492	25	0	84
	2015	596	36	2	66
	2016	427	27	0	57
South	2014	1382	27	2	17
Central	2015	1665	33	0	17
	2016	1728	51	0	16
South	2014	262	4	2	7
Eastern	2015	272	4	1	5
	2016	465	3	1	7
South	2014	243	5	3	5
East	2015	379	13	0	6
Central	2016	537	9	0	8
South	2014	342	51	1	2
Western	2015	312	57	1	4
	2016	444	38	1	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
Western	2014	1244	91	2	56
	2015	1886	80	7	66
	2016	1812	50	2	79
West	2014	1955	27	2	31
Central	2015	2165	48	2	45
	2016	2328	65	4	58

Single digital platform for controlling and integrating information

2361. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that having a single digital platform to control and integrate information from its various zones would save Railways as much as 50,000 crore;

(b) if so, whether Ministry is considering the same;

(c) whether the Minister announced setting up of an Enterprise Resource Planning System, which is an IT-based platform, in last year's Budget; and

(d) whether Ministry is working on the above platform and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) It had been announced in Railway Budget 2016-17 that "Our policies have led to a piece-meal approach in IT. We have initiated system wide integration, both horizontal and vertical, akin to an Enterprise Resource System through innovative partnership models for which a preliminary report has been obtained".

In this regard, a Core Working Group has been constituted to coordinate with consultants and stakeholders. The Core Working Group will prepare detailed project report for implementation of the Enterprise Wide Information and Communication Technology (ICT) programme.

Infrastructure for doubling and tripling of railway tracks

2362. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to create robust infrastructure for doubling and tripling of railway tracks, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the pattern of funding for this project, whether it is public-private partnership, soft loan from financial institutions or any other method; and

(c) whether private freight terminals are also proposed to be created, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Doubling/3rd/4th line projects are sanctioned on yearly basis. During the last three years *i.e.* 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, 12,600 Km. of doubling/3rd/4th lines have been included in Budget subject to obtaining requisite approvals.

(b) For taking up the doubling projects, Institutional financing in the form of soft loan by tying up with M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited has been arranged. In addition, in some projects, customer funding has also been assured through agencies like NTPC.

(c) To facilitate development of a network of freight terminals with private investments and to provide efficient, cost effective logistics services with warehousing solutions, a new scheme namely private freight terminal was launched on 31.05.2010. The policy was reviewed and was revised on 23.04.2012 and has been further liberalized in April, May 2015.

So far 103 proposals have been received out of which 49 terminals have been notified for commercial working and the remaining 44 proposals are under various stages of examination and approval.

Replacement of old/time-barred passenger coaches

†2363. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time-bound action plan of Railways to replace old/time-barred passenger coaches of trains with new coaches and the class-wise details thereof; and

(b) the status of manufacturing indigenous coaches in respect of part (a) above and the special steps taken to supply/manufacture coaches to bridge the gap between demand and supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Replacement of in-service passenger carrying coaches from trains on age-cum-condition basis is a continual process.

In the last 3 years, following number of coaches have been utilized on replacement account:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Mainline coaches	1357	1380	1800
Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) coaches	52	385	603

For replacement of coaches in future, planning has been done to replace the old coaches on condition basis with new manufactured coaches.

The details of Mainline passenger and EMU coaches turned out from Production Units of Indian Railways in 2016-17 and 2017-18 (upto June 2017) are as below:—

Type of Coaches	2016-17 (turned out)	2017-18 (turned out upto June 2017)
Mainline coaches	3179	652
EMU coaches	650	0

Aadhaar for booking of train tickets

2364. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make Aadhaar number compulsory for booking tickets for train journey; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when this would be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to make Aadhaar number compulsory for booking tickets for rail journey. However, w.e.f. 01.01.2017 requirement of Aadhaar verification for getting concessional Railway tickets for senior citizen has been introduced on voluntary basis.

Hike in railway fare

2365. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has given its sanction for a hike in railway fare, which has remained suppressed for years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the increase in passenger fares may be implemented some time later this year, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Evaluation of various alternatives relating to rationalization of passenger fare is an on-going process. At present, there is no such proposal.

Regulator for passenger and freight fares

2366. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has agreed to set up a regulator for Railways to recommend passenger and freight fares and regulate other things, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) to what extent this move will help Railways to bring down its losses on passenger front and increase revenue from freight?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Government has approved formation of a Rail Development Authority (RDA). RDA has been remitted to *inter alia* assist and facilitate Government by framing guiding principles/rules/models for tariff determination for both passenger and freight segments.

Provision of space for nursing mothers at railway stations

2367. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to provide space for nursing mothers at more than 100 railway stations, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have received a representation in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways have plan to extend the said facility to many more railway stations at a later stage, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Some representations were received from various corners for provision of baby feeding corner by nursing mothers at railway stations. Instructions in this regard have been issued to all Zonal Railways to provide a segregated area within the waiting hall at important stations for feeding the babies by nursing mothers. This corner is provided with a small table and a chair with appropriate partition/screen around it. At present, more than 100 waiting halls have been provided with this facility.

Inquiry reports of derailing of railway coaches

2368. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether inquiry reports of derailing of railway coaches reveal that in most cases, coaches, which have been manufactured by old design of 1950, are prone to derailing;

- (b) if so, the details of such reports and the action taken by Government;
- (c) the number of coaches of old design that are still on the track;
- (d) whether Government would replace these coaches with new design coaches, which are very safe from derailing point of view; and
- (e) if so, the time required for replacing old model coaches as safety is always prior to speed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) In the current year from 1st April to 30th June 2017, there have been 12 consequential train derailment accidents over Indian Railways, out of which there has been only one case purely on account of 'coach defect'. In the previous year 2016-17, there have been 78 consequential train derailment accidents over Indian Railways, out of which cause of only two derailments are attributable to purely on account of 'coach defect'. No such conclusion has been drawn in the inquiry reports that the coaches of old design of 1950 are prone to derailing.

(c) Passenger coaches running on Indian Railways (IR) are predominantly of two types—Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) design coaches and Integral Coach Factory(ICF) design coaches. LHB type coaches are of modern design as compared to the ICF type coaches. As on 31.03.17, more than 48,000 ICF type coaches are in the coach holding of IR.

(d) and (e) The passenger coaches plying over IR have been designed with the necessary safety features considering the operating conditions over IR. However, in an effort to improve the safety performance over IR, LHB type coaches, which are of a superior design than ICF type coaches and have better safety features like anti-climbing etc. are being proliferated in Mainline trains. It has also been decided that the manufacture of ICF type coaches shall be stopped from 2018-19 onwards. Replacement of in-service coaches from trains on age-cum-condition basis is a continuous process.

Daily train service between Thiruvananthapuram and Mysuru

2369. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering introducing a daily train service between Thiruvananthapuram and Mysuru on account of increased commutation between these two stations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In Southern Railway, there are path constraints on Jolarpettai- Salem- Erode- Coimbatore-Shoranur-Ernakulam-Kottayam/Alappuzha-Kayankulam sections where the line capacity utilisation is more than 100%. Also, the infrastructural facilities available at Thiruvananthapuram/Kochuveli are saturated and just sufficient for the existing level of traffic.

Long distance train from Mumbai to Uttar Pradesh/Bihar

2370. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand to start a new long distance train for Uttar Pradesh/Bihar from the northern suburbs and surrounding areas of Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the response of Railways to these demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A large number of representations/mails/demands regarding introduction of train services are received at various levels of railway administration, which, *inter alia*, includes, Division, Zonal Head Quarter, Railway Board etc. Action as found feasible is taken from time to time for meeting these requests. At present 10 pairs of Mail/Express, trains are already available between Mumbai and Uttar Pradesh/Bihar, which are considered adequate to cater the present level of traffic. Apart from these trains, 22921/22922 Bandra(T)-Gorakhpur Antodaya Express and 22913/22914 Bandra-Patna Humsafar Express, which are new brand of trains and are announced in Railway Budget 2016-2017 have also been planned.

Replacement of old coaches of Kolkata Metro Rail

2371. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to replace the old coaches of Kolkata Metro Rail with new generation coaches; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is planned to replace old coaches progressively on receipt of new coaches

equipped with 3 phase propulsion equipment from Integral Coach Factory, Chennai and trade during 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Railway track from Bhubaneswar to Konark

2372. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Odisha has sent a proposal to the Ministry for laying down a railway track from Bhubaneswar to Konark on equal cost sharing basis; and

(b) if so, the decision that has been taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) A proposal has been received from the Chief Minister of Odisha conveying Government of Odisha's decision to bear 50% cost of the project for laying of new line from Puri to Konark (32.6 km.) considering the tourism potential of Golden Triangle of Bhubaneswar-Puri-Konark. However, since land required for the project has not been offered by the State Government, Government of Odisha has been requested to provide land free of cost for which no reply has been received from the State Government.

Privatization of railway stations

2373. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has privatized the maintenance of railway stations, including the stations situated in the State of Tamil Nadu, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of private entities to whom maintenance of railway stations has been entrusted so far; and

(c) the details of responsibilities that have been fixed on private entities while managing the maintenance of railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Maintenance of railway station involves a number of activities like repairs, cleanliness, upkeep of station buildings, passenger amenities like water, platform shelter, foot over bridge, escalator, toilets etc. At some stations, Indian Railways have outsourced certain activities/services like cleanliness, operation of Pay and Use toilets, parking, catering etc. to private firms on contract basis from time to time. However supervision and overall responsibility regarding maintenance of railway stations remain with Indian Railways.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New Railway line in Assam and North Eastern States

2374. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress of proposed new broad-gauge railway line in Assam and other North Eastern States;
- (b) the new proposed railway line in Assam and other North Eastern States;
- (c) the estimated cost of the new railway line and how much funds Railways have released so far;
- (d) whether survey for the proposed railway line has been completed; and
- (e) if so, the estimated time-line to complete the railway line for commencement of operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Indian Railways have laid a great emphasis on improvement and development of Railway infrastructure in the State of Assam and North Eastern States. 15 major projects of New Lines have been taken up in North Eastern States including in the State of Assam. Details of these projects are as under:—

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Project (with length)	Anticipated Cost	Expenditure upto March' 2017	Outlay 2017-18
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bogibeel bridge with linking lines between Dibrugarh and North Bank line (73 km.)	4996	4102	300
2.	New Moynaguri-Jogighopa New Line with Gauge Conversion of New Mal-Moynaguri Road and New Changrabanda-Changrabanda (289 km.)	2531	2182	75
3.	Jiribam-Imphal (111 km.)	6571	5278	1400
4.	Dimapur-Kohima (88 km.)	2973	237	350
5.	Agartala-Sabroom (110 km.)	2720	1692	404
6.	Teteliya-Byrnihat (22 km.)	496	372	150

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Bhairabi-Sairang (51 km.)	2820	1127	600
8.	Sivok-Rangpo (44 km.)	4190	536	250
9.	Byrnihat-Shillong (108 km.)	5308	23	200
10	Murkongselek-Pasighat (31 km.)	436	141	172
11.	Agartala-Akhaura (13 km.)	887	210	350
12.	Dimapur-Tizit (257 km.)*	4488	-	1
13.	Salona-Khumtai (99 km.)*	5958	-	1
14.	Sibsagar Town – Jorhat Town (62 km.)*	1296	-	1
15.	Tezpur-Silghat Town (25 km.)*	2025	-	1

* proposed railway line in Assam and other North Eastern States included in Budget subject to requisite approvals.

(d) Final Location Survey for new lines included in Budget have been taken up by Northeast Frontier Railway.

(e) Railways have huge throwforward of ongoing projects with limited availability of resources. Completion of projects also depends upon land acquisition and forestry clearance, adverse law and order conditions, NOC from Road, Canal and Electrical crossings from different authorities of Central/State Governments.

Physical verification of pensioners by railways

2375. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have launched a drive to physically verify its retired employees, above a certain age group, who are still alive and withdrawing pension, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether according to Railways, the number of pensioners above the age of 80 years far exceeds the other age groups so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of Government thereon; and

(d) the funds being used on the physical verification exercise by Railways along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Railways undertake regular exercise for identification of pensioners,

irrespective of the age group, during the month of November every year, which coincides with the submission of Life Certificates by the Pensioners in Pension disbursing banks.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The number of pensioners above the age of 80 years does not exceed other age groups.

(d) Verification of Pensioners and internal check of pension accounts is part of the normal duties of staff deployed for this work. No separate funds provision is made for physical verification.

Gas leak from Tughlakabad container depot

2376. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of school students were taken ill after there was an incident of gas leak from a container parked in the Tughlakabad Container Depot in Delhi;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the number of such incidents reported from this Depot in the past; and

(c) whether Government has enquired into the cause of gas leak and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) There was no incident of gas leakage in Inland Container Depot Tughlakabad. However, there was a spillage of Chemical from Container on 06.05.2017 due to which it was reported that some children fell ill with eye irritation and inhaling problem. They were rushed to the hospital and discharged later. The incident happened after delivery of container to the Importer.

(b) No such incident has occurred in the past.

(c) The matter is *sub-judice*.

Transit-oriented development programme

2377. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways plan on spending ₹ 1.3 lakh crore this year, more than double the average investment made between 2009-2014;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have taken up station redevelopment in a big way under PPP model; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways have launched one of the largest transit-oriented development programme worth ₹ 100,000 crore, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Net Capital Outlay as per Budget Estimates 2017-2018 of Ministry of Railways is ₹ 1,31,000 crore and the average Capital Outlay during 2009-2010 to 2014-2015 was ₹ 48,103 crore.

(b) Indian Railways has advertised its plan to offer 'A-1' and 'A' category stations on 'as is where is' basis for redevelopment by inviting proposals from developers with their designs and business ideas. The entire cost of the station redevelopment is to be met by revenues/proceeds obtained from leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around stations.

(c) Ministry of Railways have planned an investment of ₹ 8.56 lakh crore over five years (2015-2019) as indicated in the Rail Budget 2015-2016 with an emphasis on capacity creation. Out of ₹ 8.56 lakh crore, ₹ 100,000 crore has been envisaged for station redevelopment and logistic parks.

Model railway stations

2378. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of model railway stations proposed to be started in the country, State-wise;

(b) the entity responsible for maintaining those railway stations;

(c) whether the scheme will be extended to all the important major railway stations in the country; and

(d) the expected expenditure for such stations and how it is proposed to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) The "Model Station" scheme was in vogue between June, 1999 and November, 2008. 594 stations were identified and developed under this scheme. At present, stations are undertaken for development under "Adarsh Station Scheme" and 1253 stations have been identified for development under this scheme. However, upgradation of station is a continuous and on-going process and works in this regard are undertaken depending upon need, volume of the passenger traffic and *inter-se* priority subject to availability of funds. State-wise list of 1253 stations identified for development under "Adarsh Station Scheme" is as under:

State	Name of Station
Andhra Pradesh (44)	Adoni, Anantapur, Bapatla, Bobbili, Chittoor, Duvvada, Dwarapudi, Gudur, Guntakal, Guntur, Hindupur, Kakinada Town, Kurnool Town, Macherla, Machilipatnam, Nandyal, Narasaraopet, Naupada, Nellore, Palasa, Parvathipuram, Piduguralla, Renigunta, Sattenapalli, Srikakulam Road (Amudalavalsa), Sri Satya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam, Vinukonda, Visakhapatnam (Vizag), Vizianagram, Chipurupalle, Ichchapuram, Simhachalam, Markapur Road, Pendurti, Mantralayam Road, Kuppam, Donakonda, New Guntur, Nallapadu, Angadipuram, Ongole, Araku, Kisamudram and Gadwal.
Assam (28)	Badarpur, Barpeta Road, Basugaon, Bijni, Fakiragram Jn., Goreswar, Gosaigaonhat, Hojai, Jakhlabandha, Jorhat Town, Karimganj Jn., Kokrajhar, New Bongaigaon, Rangpara North, Rangiya, Rowta Bagan, Salakati, Silchar, Srirampur Assam, Tangla, Tihu, Tipkai, Udalguri, Bongaigaon, Jagi Road, Furkating, Tatibahar and Narangi.
Bihar (59)	Abhaipur, Anugraha Narayan Road, Ara, Arariya, Arariya Court, Bairstania, Bajpatti, Barauni Jn., Barsoi Jn., Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Biharsharif, Chhapra Jn., Dumra, Dumraon, Forbesganj, Garhpura, Ghogha, Ghora Sahan, Hasanpur Road, Hisua, Jamalpur, Janakpur Road, Jehanabad, Jiradai, Jogbani, Kahalgaon, Kharik, Kishanganj, Madhubani, Maheshkhut, Mansi Jn., Narainpur, Naugachia, Nawadah, Patna Sahib Jn., Rafiganj, Sahpur Patori, Salauna, Sheikhpura, Shivnarayanpur, Sasaram Jn., Simraha, Simribakhtiyarpur, Sitamarhi, Sultanganj, Supaul, Tehta, Thakurganj, Thanabihpur, Warsaliganj, Chakia, Makhdumpur, Buxar, Jamui, Narkatiyaganj, Harinagar, Bagha and Dharhara.
Chhattisgarh (17)	Ambikapur, Balpur, Bhilai Power House, Champa, Chirimiri, Dongargarh, Korba, Mahasamund, Manendragarh, Raigarh, Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Durg, Jagdalpur, Tilda, Kirodimal Nagar and Usalapur.
Delhi (04)	Delhi Kishanganj, Subzi Mandi, Bijwasan and Shahabad Mohammadpur.
Goa (02)	Vasco-da-gama and Sanvordem Curchorem.

State	Name of Station
Gujarat (32)	Ambli Road, Bechraji, Bhaktinagar, Bhanvad, Bhatariya, Dahod, Gandhigram, Himatnagar, Jamnagar, Kadi, Khambliya, Kosamba, Lalpurjam, Maninagar, Navsari, New Bhuj, Okha, Palanpur, Sabarmati, Siddhpur, Udhna, Una, Unja, Vadnagar, Vijapur, Visnagar, Vyara. Gandhidham, Gandhinagar Capital, Sabarmati BG, Patan and Kim.
Haryana (16)	Ambala Cantt. Jn., Bahadurgarh, Bhiwani, Gurgaon, Kalanour, Karnal, Kosli, Kurukshetra, Palwal, Panipat, Rohtak, Sirsa, Sonipat, Rewari, Faridabad and Mahendra Garh.
Himachal Pradesh (02)	Jwalaji (Jawala Mukhi Road) and Una Himachal
Jammu and Kashmir (05)	Hiranagar, Kathua, Udhampur, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and JAT.
Jharkhand (30)	Bokaro, Chakradharpur, Chakulia, Chandrapura, Chittarajan, Daltonganj, Deoghar, Dhanbad, Dumka, Garhwa Road Jn., Gomoh Jn., Jagadishpur, Jasidih, Lohardaga, Madhupur, Pakur, Parashnath, Phusro, Ranchi, Sahibganj, Silli, Tatanagar, Tori, Latehar, Barwadih, Bokaro Thermal, Katrasgarh, Giridih, Gumia and Gola Road.
Karnataka (44)	Almatti, Badami, Bidar, Bellary, Chamarajanagar, Gadag, Gulbarga, Haveri, Londa, Wadi, Bagalkot, Chikballapur, Chintamani, Devanahalli, Doddballapur, Gauribidanur, Gokak Road, Hubli, Kabakaputtur, Kolar, Koppal, Nanjangud Town, Sambre, Sidlaghatta, Srinivaspura, Yelahanka Jn., Hole Narsipur, Belgaum, Kudachi, Ugar Khurd, Neralakatte, Bantawala, Subramanya Road, Bijapur, Mangalore Jn., Daroji, Mallapur, Gudgeri, Raichur, Davangere, Harihar, Tumkur, Kalas and Dharwad.
Kerala (77)	Alappuzha (Alleppey), Aluva, Ambalapuzha, Angamali for kaladi, Auvaneeswaram, Badagara, Chalakudi, Changanacheri, Charvathur, Chengannur, Cherthala (Shertalai), Chingavanam, Dhanuvachapuram, Etakkot, Ettumanur, Feroke, Guruvayur, Haripad, Irinjalakuda, Jaganath Temple Gate, Kanhangad, Kanjiramittam, Kannapuram, Kannur, Karunagapalli, Karuvatta, Kasargod, Kayankulam jn, Kazhakuttom, Kochuveli, Kollam (Quilon), Kotikulam, Kottarakara, Kozhikkode, Kuruppantara,

State	Name of Station
	Manjeswaram, Mavelikara, Nilambur Road, Nileswar, Ochira, Kottayam, Mararikulam, Mulanturutti, Pappinisseri, Payyanur, Parappanangadi, Paravur, Pattikkadu, Payangadi, Piravam Road, Punalur, Quilandi, Sasthankotta, Thalasseri (Tellicherry), Tirur, Tiruvalla, Tiruvizha, Trichur (Trisur), Tripunittura, Vaikam Road, Valapattanam, Vayalar, Vellarakkad, Wadakancheri, Ernakulam Town, Chirayinkil, Kannur South, Kumbala, Trikarapur, Bekal Fort, Kundara, Mulangunnathu-kavu, Vallathol Nagar, Ottappalam, Katpadi, Vellore Cantonment and Tiruvananthapuram Central.
Madhya Pradesh (44)	Anuppur, Ashok Nagar, Bina, Biora Rajgarh, Birla Nagar, Burhanpur, Chindwara, Dabra, Damoh, Gadarwara, Ghatara, Gwalior, Indore, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Junnordao (Jamai), Kareli, Katni Murwara, Khajuraho, Khandwa, Madanmahal, Maihar, Makronia, Meghnagar, Parasia, Patharia, Pipariya, Ratlam, Ruthiyai, Satna, Saugor, Shahdol, Shivpuri, Singrauli, Ujjain, Umaria. Rewa, Bandakpur, Howbagh, Bheraghat, Titamgarh, Balaghat, Madsaur and Sihora Road.
Maharashtra (110)	Ahmednagar, Ajni, Amalner, Ambernath, Andheri, Bandra, Belapur, Bhandup, Bhayander, Borivali, Charni Road, Chembur, Chinchwad, Churchgate, Currey Road, Dadar (CR), Dadar (WR), Dahanu Road, Dahisar, Devlali, Dhule, Diva, Dock Yard, Dombivli, Gangakhed, Ghatkopar, Goregaon, Hingoli, Itwari, Jalgaon, Jalna, Jayasinghpur, Kalmeshwar, Kamptee, Kandivli, Karad, Karjat, Kasara, Katol, Khadki, Khopoli, King's Circle, Kolhapur, Kopergaon, Kurla, Latur, Lower Parel, Malad, Malkapur, Marine Lines, Matunga, Mira Road, Miraj, Multai, Mulund, Mumbai Central (Local), Nagarsol, Nahur, Naigaon, Nandura, Nandurbar, Narkhed, Nasik Road, Nimbhora, Pandhurna, Panvel, Parbhani, Parli Vaijnath, Pokarni Narsimha, Puntamba, Purna, Ramtek, Sangli, Sanpada, Santacruz, Saphale, Savda, Sewri, Shirdi, Shivajinagar, Solapur, Tilaknagar, Turbhe, Udgir, Ulhasnagar, Umrer, Vangaon, Varangaon, Vashi, Virar, Vishrambaug, Wardha, Dharangaon, Manmad, Amravati, Aurangabad, Odha, Gondia, Bhandara Road, Daund, Baramati, Nira, Majri, Khapri, Satara, Rahuri, Rajahmundry, Repalle, Washim and Dharmabad.
Nagaland (01)	Dimapur.

State	Name of Station
Odisha (47)	Angul, Balangir, Balasore, Balugaon, Banspani, Bargarh Road, Baripada, Belpahar, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Doikallu, Jajpur-Keonjhar Road, Jakhopura, Jaleswar, Jharsuguda, Kantabanji, Kesinga, Khariar Road, Khurda Road, Koraput, Lanjigarh Road, Lapanga, Meramandali, Muniguda, Paradeep, Raghunathpur, Rairangpur, Rayagada, Rengali, Rourkela, Soro, Talcher, Titlagarh Jn., Raj Athgarh, Dhanmandal, Brahmapur, Chatrapur, Sambalpur, Basta, Barpali, Khallikot, Ganjam, Salegaon, Loisingha, Deogaon Road, Sompeta and Damanjodi.
Puducherry (02)	Mahe and Puducherry.
Punjab (32)	Abohar, Anandpur Sahib, Bareta, Barnala, Bathinda, Dera Baba Nanak, Dhuri Jn., Fazilka, Faridkot, Giddar Baha, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Khanna, Lehragaga, Maler Kotla, Mansa, Maur, Moga, Muktsar, Phagwara, Rajpura, Sangrur, Sunam, Tapa, Taran Taran, Dhandari Kalan, Bathinda Cantt., Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot, Mohali, Batala and Tanda Urmur.
Rajasthan (40)	Abu Road, Alwar, Anupgarh, Balotra, Barmer, Chittorgarh Jn., Choti Khatu, Churu, Dausa, Dhaulpur, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jalor, Jodhpur, Khairthal, Kolayat, Ladnun, Lalgarh, Lunkaransar, Nohar, Nokha, Rajgarh, Raisingh Nagar, Ratangarh, Ringas, Sadulpur, Sardar Sahar, Sawai Madhopur, Sri Dungar Garh, Sujan Garh, Tehsil Bhadra, Gogameri, Sri Karanpur, Durgapura, Dakaniya Talav, Sri Vijaynagar, Mavli Jn., Beawar, Marwar Jn. and Neem ka Thana.
Telangana (25)	Adilabad, Aler, Bhongir, Ghanpur, Jammikunta, Jangaon, Kamareddi, Karimnagar, Kazipet, Khammam, Lingampalli, Mahbubnagar, Malkajgiri, Nalgonda, Nizamabad, Raghunathpalli, Ramagundam, Shankarpalli, Tandur, Vikarabad, Warangal, Zahirabad (Medak), Basar, Moula Ali and Nagalapalli.
Tamil Nadu (48)	Arakkonam, Ariyalur, Avadi, Chennai Beach, Chennai Chetpet, Chennai Park, Chromepet, Coimbatore Jn., Hosur, Kanniyakumari, Korukkupet, Kudalnagar, Kumbakonam, Manavur, Mayiladuturai, Nagappattinam, Nagore, Pamban, Peelamudu, Perambur Carriage Works, Pudukottai, Rajapalayam, Royapuram, Salem, Sankarankoil, Senji Panambakkam, Srirangam, Srivilliputtur, St. Thomas Mount, Tambaram, Teni, Tenkasi Jn, Thiruverumbur, Tiruchchirappalli

State	Name of Station
	Jn., Tiruninravur, Tiruppur, Tiruvalangadu, Tiruvallur, Tiruvarur, Tuticorin, Virudunagar Jn., Vridhdhachalam Jn., Kadayanallur, Kanchipuram, Thirupparankundram, Tirumangalam, Irugur and Kaniyapuram.
Tripura (01)	Pecharthal.
Uttar Pradesh (152)	Acharya Narendra Dev Nagar, Achhnera, Aligarh, Amethi, Amroha, Atarra, Ayodhya, Azamgarh, Babhnan, Bahraich, Bala Mau, Ballia, Balrampur, Banda, Bani, Barabanki, Baragaon, Barhni, Basti, Bhadaian, Bharat Kund, Bharwari, Bhuteshwar, Bijnor, Bilaspur Road, Bilhaur, Bilhar Ghat, Burhwal, Chandauli Majhwar, Chandausi, Chandpur Siau, Chitrakut Dham Karvi, Chola, Chouri-Choura, Dapsaura, Daraganj, Daryabad, Deoria Sadar, Dildarnagar, Jaunpur, Farukhabad, Fatehpur, Fatehpur Sikri, Firozabad, Gaura, Gauri Ganj, Ghaziabad, Ghazipur City, Gonda Jn., Haider Garh, Hapur, Hardoi, Jais, Jakhania, Jaunpur City, Jhusi, Kalpi, Khalilabad, Khulpahar, Khurja Jn., Kiraoli, Kunda Harnam Ganj, Lal Ganj, Lal Gopal Ganj, Lalitpur, Maghar, Manikpur, Mau Jn., Meerut Cantt., Meerut City, Mirzapur, Moth, Mughalsarai Jn., Munderwa, Musafir Khana, Muzaffarnagar, Naimisharanya, Naini, Naugarh (Siddharth Nagar), Nautanwa, Orai, Padrauna, Partapur, Patranga, Phulpur, Pilibhit Jn., Pokhrayan, Pratapgarh, Prayag, Prayag Ghat, Rudauli, Rurah, Sadat, Sakoti Tanda, Salempur Jn., Sandila, Shahganj, Shamli, Shohrathgarh, Sikohabad, Sirathu, Sitapur, Sitapur Cantt., Sohawal, Sultanpur, Tundla, Unchahar, Vrindaban Road, Manduadih, Varanasi City, Barhaj Bazar, Nagina, Najibabad, Seohara, Hathras, Lakhimpur, Colonelganj, Faizabad, Unnao, Bhadohi, Vindhyachal, Aonla, Chanethi, Lambhua, Koiripur, Dabhaura, Goshainganj, Baraut, Bagpat Road, Khekra, Useka Bazar, Gorakhpur, Phaphund, Fatehgarh and Mahmudabad. Rasulpur Gogumau, Modinagar, Belthara Road, Bhatni Jn., Bhadohi, Maniram, Pipraich, Suraimanpur, Karimuddinpur, Chit Baragaon, Gaur, Phapha Mau, Ram Chaura Halt, Bamhrauli, Etawa, Goverdhan and Gomti Nagar.
Uttarakhand (08)	Doiwala, Kathgodam, Kotdwara, Ramnagar, Rishikesh, Roorkee, Harrawala and Raiwala.

State	Name of Station
West Bengal (383)	<p>Adisaptagram, Adra, Agrapara, Ahmedpur, Akra, Alipurduar, Alipurduar court, Alipurduar Jn., Aluabari Road, Ambalgram, Ambari falakata, Ambikakalna (Kalna), Amta, Anara, Andal, Andul, Aranghata, Asansol, Asoknagar Road, Azimganj City, Azimganj Jn., Badkulla, Bagbazar, Baghajatin, Baghdogra, Bagnan, Bagula, Bahadurpur, Baharu, Bahirgachhi, Bahirpuya, Baidyabati, Bakhrabad, Balagarh, Balarambati, Balgona, Balichak, Ballalpur, Bally, Ballyganj Jn., Ballyghat, Balurghat, Bamangachhi, Bamangram Halt, Bamanhat, Banarhat, Bandel, Baneswar, Banka pasi, Bankimnagar, Bankura, Banpur, Bansbaria, Banstala, Barabhum, Barakar, Baranagar, Barasat Jn., Barddhaman, Bargachia, Barrackpore, Baruipara, Baruipur Jn., Basirhat, Basudevpur, Basuldanga, Batasi, Bathnakrittiba, Bauria, BBD Bag, Begampur, Belakoba, Belanagar, Beldanga, Belerhat, Belgharia, Beliaghata Rd., Beliatore, Belur, Belur Math, Berhampur Court, Betberia ghola, Bethuadaheri, Bhadreswar, Bhagwangola, Bhasila, Bhatar, Bhedia (Ausgram), Bhimgarh, Bidhannagar, Bidyadharpur, Biman Bandar, Bira, Birati, Birnagar, Birshibpur, Bishnupur, Bisorepara Kodalia, Boinchi, Bolpur, Bongaon, Brace-Bridge, Brindabanpur, Budgebudge, Buniyadpur, Burnpur, Burobazar, Canning, Chakdaha, Chamagram, Champa Pukur, Champahati, Chanchai, Chandannagar, Chandanpur, Chandpara, Chandrakona Rd., Changrabandha, Chas Road, Chatra, Chatterhat, Chengail, Chhatna, Chowrigacha, Chuchura, Contai Rd. (Belda), Cooch behar, Dainhat, Dakhineswar, Dalkolha, Dankuni, Dantan, Darjeeling, Dasnagar, Debagram, Deula, Deulti, Dhakuria, Dhaniakhali, Dhapdhopi, Dhatrigram, Dhubulia, Dhulabari, Dhupguri, Diamond Harbour Rd., Dinhabata, Domjur, Dubrajpur, Dumdum Cantt, Dumdum Jn., Dumurdaha, Durgachak, Durganagar, Durgapur, Duttapukur, Eden Garden, Eklakhi, Falakata, Fuleswar, Gadadharpur, Galsi, Gangnapur, Garbeta, Garia, Gazole, Gede, Ghoksadanga, Ghoragata, Ghum, Ghutiarisharif, Gidhni, Girimaidan, Gobordanga, Gobra, Gokulpur, Gopalnagar, Gourinathdham, Guma, Guptipara, Gurap, Gushkora, Habibpur, Habra, Haldibari, Halisahar, Haripal, Harishchandrapur, Harishdadpur, Hasimara, Hasnabad, Haur, Harua Road, Hijli, Hindmotor, Hooghly, Hotar, Hridaypur, Ichhapur, Jadavpur,</p>

State	Name of Station
	Jagaddal, Jalpaiguri, Jalpaiguri Road, Jamuria, Janai road, Jangipur Road, Jessore road, Jhantipahari, Jhargram, Jiaganj, Jirat, Joychandipahar, Joynagar Mojilpur, Kaikala, Kakdwip, Kalaikunda, Kalchini, Kalikapur, Kalinagar, Kalinarayanpur Jn., Kaliyaganj, Kalyani, Kalyani Ghoshpara, Kalyani Silpanchal, Kalyanpur, Kamakhyaguri, Kamarkundu, Kanchrapara, Kankinara, Kanthi, Kashinagar, Katwa, Khagraghat Rd., Khaltipur, Khana, Khardah, Khemasuli, Khidirpur, Kirnahar, Kolaghat, Konnagar, Kotshila, Krishnanagar City Jn., Kulgachia, Kulpi, Kulti, Labpur, Lake Garden, Lakshmi Kantapur, Lalgola, Lilluah, Lohapur, Loknath, Madanpur, Madarihat, Madhusudanpur, Madhyamgram, Magrahat, Mahisadal, Majhdia, Majher Gram, Malatipur, Malda Court, Malda Town, Mallikpur, Manigram, Mankundu, Masagram, Maslandapur, Matigara, Mecheda, Memari, Midnapur, Mollarpur, Mourigram, Muragacha, Murarai, Murshidabad, Nabadwip ghat, Nabadwipdham, Nabagram, Nagrakata, Naihati Jn., Nalhati, Nalikul, Namkhana, Nandakumar, Narayangarh, Narayan Pakuria Murail, Narendrapur, Nasibpur, Nekurseni, Netra, New Alipore, New Alipurduar, New Barakpore, New Cooch Behar, New Domohani, New Farakka, New Mainaguri, Nischindpur, Old Malda, Paglachandi, Palassy, Palla road, Palpara, Palsit, Palta, Panagarh, Pandaveswar, Panduah, Panjipara, Panskura, Park Circus, Patipukur, Patuli, Phulia, Pirtala, Prantik, Princepghat, Purbasthali, Purulia, Radhamohanpur, Raiganj, Rajbandh, Rajgoda, Rampurhat, Ramrajatala, Ranaghat, Raniganj, Remount road, Rishra, Rupnarayanpur, Rusulpur, Sagardighi, Sainthia, Saktigarh, Salanpur, Salar, Salboni, Samsi (Chanchol), Samudragarh, Sangrampur, Sankrail, Santaldih, Santoshpur, Sardiha, Shalimar, Shantipur, Sheoraphuli, Shyamnagar, Siliguri Jn., Simlagarh, Simurali, Singur, Sitarampur, Siuri, Sivok, Sodpur, Sonada, Sonamukhi, Sonarpur, Sondalia, Srirampur, Subhasgram, Sukna, Surjyapur, Taki Road, Tala, Taldi, Talit, Tamluk, Tarakeswar, Tarapith Rd., Thakurnagar, Tikiapara, Tildanga, Titagarh, Tollygange, Tribeni, Uluberia, Uttara para, Naksalbari and Radhikapur.

No separate fund is allocated for development of stations identified under 'Adarsh Station Scheme'. The expenditure on works of development of railway stations is generally funded under Plan Head- 'Passenger Amenities.'

Maintenance of railway stations including those developed under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme is undertaken through departmental means and outsourcing.

Zone-wise details of funds allocated/spent under budgetary sources under Plan-head 'Passenger Amenities' during the last two years *i.e.* 2015-16 and 2016-17 and the current year are as under:—

(₹ in crores)

Zonal Railway	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
	Allotment (RE)	Expenditure	Allotment (RE)	Expenditure	Allotment (BE)	Expenditure (upto June, 2017)
Central	85.10	78.74	73.93	74.07	94.95	35.97
Eastern	67.22	62.98	51.85	48.41	62.24	13.05
East Central	82.53	63.75	52.78	65.76	50.25	23.53
East Coast	59.66	57.46	47.78	56.42	44.56	22.70
Northern	128.30	109.33	78.15	94.93	186.18	43.14
North Central	81.46	52.62	56.87	60.34	69.17	15.01
North Eastern	55.00	71.94	107.69	109.84	62.92	35.81
Northeast Frontier	53.17	54.09	50.75	45.81	48.99	5.02
North Western	60.31	66.07	53.42	55.59	49.41	31.80
Southern	107.77	95.91	61.18	70.68	73.96	31.35
South Central	101.65	94.82	64.41	68.56	67.77	17.83
South Eastern	72.12	65.60	47.46	60.08	47.10	24.50
South East Central	48.71	31.39	29.55	31.49	31.28	6.99
South Western	69.61	60.22	42.63	41.93	39.59	18.87
Western	52.21	49.61	48.73	47.96	117.13	12.59
West Central	71.31	63.50	45.29	43.78	42.44	15.05
Metro Rail	3.99	3.19	5.44	5.58	12.95	0.44
TOTAL	1200.11	1081.21	917.91	981.24	1100.90	353.65

Average life of locomotives

2379. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating replacing old railway locomotives with new ones in the foreseeable future, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details regarding average age of locomotives in operation now and the standard average life of locomotives; and

(c) the details regarding diesel locomotives in operation and Railways' roadmap to do away with them in view of the air pollution caused by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Locomotives are condemned on age-cum-condition basis. According to traffic requirement, these locomotives are replaced with new ones.

(b) Average age and average standard (Codal) age of Diesel and Electric locomotives are as under:—

Sl. No.	Average age	Average standard (Codal) age
1. Diesel Locomotive	13.1 years	36 years
2. Electric Locomotive	13.5 years	35 years

(c) There are 5411 diesel locomotives in operation on Indian Railways. Indian Railways are working with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for fixing the emission norms of diesel locomotives in order to address the issue of emissions in a progressive manner. Once these norms are fixed, they will be made applicable for diesel locomotives on Indian Railways and accordingly a roadmap will emerge.

Round the clock security of railway tracks

†2380. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to elaborate/fortify round the clock security of the railway tracks throughout the country;

(b) whether any review meeting was conducted recently on this issue, if so, the outcome thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the steps taken by Government on this very sensitive issue during the last five years and the outcomes of the decisions made thereto along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Policing on Railways being a State subject, security of railway tracks, tunnels and bridges is the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Civil Police of the States concerned. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of the Government Railway Police (GRP) in providing protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith.

Hon'ble Minister of Railways along with Hon'ble Minister of State (Home) held a video conference on 27.02.2017 with the Director Generals/ Commissioners of Police of all States/Union Territories for improving passenger safety, security of tracks and railway property. Hon'ble Minister of Railways has also requested Chief Ministers of all States/Union Territories to enhance security of railway tracks and travelling passengers.

Close coordination at all levels is being maintained by the Railways with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), State Governments, Central/State Intelligence Agencies, State Police and GRP authorities for ensuring security of Railway tracks over Indian Railways.

Railway projects in Chhattisgarh

†2381. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) details of the various railway projects underway in the State of Chhattisgarh, zone-wise and project-wise;

(b) the number of projects which are behind schedule and the reasons therefor, project- wise;

(c) the cost overrun for each of the pending projects; and

(d) the measures that have been taken/are being taken by Government to complete the projects within the stipulated time or extended time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The details of the Railway projects falling fully/partly in the State of Chhattisgarh along with the details of each such project are as under:-

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl. No.	Name of Projects	Zone	Latest Cost (₹ in crore)	Exp as on 31.3.2017 (₹ in crore)	Outlay 17-18 (₹ in crore)	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Lines						
1.	Dallirajahra-Jagdulpur	SECR	3400	422.78	EBR(P)-300	Dallirajahra-Rowghat (95 km) Ph-I Dallirajahra-Gudum (17 km): Commissioned in 2015-16. Gudum-Bhanupratap-pur (17 km): Work is in advanced stage of completion. Keoti-Taroki: Work has been taken up. Rowghat-Jagdulpur (140 km) Ph-II: Detailed Project Report (DPR) under approval by SPV.
2.	Gevra Road-Pendra Road New BG electrified Double line	SECR	1220	10	EBR(P)-590.84	Project is being executed by IRCON. Land acquisition has been taken up.
3.	Raigarh (Mand Colliery)-Bhupdeopur (63 km) modified as Kharsia-Gharghoda-Korichhapar-Dharamjaigarh incl. spur from Gharghoda to Donga Mauha (102 km)	SECR	472.23	10	EBR(P)-492.38	Project is being executed by IRCON. Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up in part length, where land is available.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Barwadih-Chirimiri (182 km)	SECR	1137	0.09	EBR(P)-5	Project included in Budget 2013-14, subject to requisite Govt. approvals. However, NITI Aayog has not approved the project.
5.	Raipur-Jharsuguda (310 km)	SECR	2161	0.15	EBR(P)-5, EBR(IF)-5.01	Project included in Budget 2013-14, subject to requisite Govt. approvals. However, NITI Aayog has not approved the project.
6.	Dongargarh-Kharigarh-Bilaspur	SECR	2500	0.00	EBR(P)-0.01, CAP-1	Work is planned to be taken up through State JV.
7.	Dharamjaigarh-Korba	SECR	1155	0.02	EBR(P)-100, CAP-0.01	Work is being executed by IRCON. FLS has been taken up.
Doubling						
1.	Raipur-Titlagarh (203 km) incl. NL Mandir Hasaud-Naya Raipur (20 km) and new MM for conversion of Raipur(Kendri)-Dhamtari and Abhanpur-Rajim branch (67.20 km)	SECR	994	477.46	CAP-200	Work is being executed by RVNL (Doubling). Titlagarh-Kantabanji (31 km)—commissioned. Balance work has been taken up.
2.	Salka Road-Khongsara Patch doubling	SECR	144	160.62	EBR(IF)-45, CAP-5	Project is being executed by RVNL. Salka road-Tenganmada (17.5 km): commissioned.

3.	Khodri-Annapur with flyover at Bilaspur (61.6 km) RVNL	SECR	385.54	223.52	EBR(IF)-40, CAP-5	Tengamada-Khongsara (9.10 km): Work is in progress.
						Work is being executed by RVNL. Annapur-Jaithari-Pendra Road (51.1 km): commissioned. Pendra Road-Khodri (11.8 km): Work is in progress. Bilaspur flyover (10.4 km): FLS in progress.
4.	Champa-Jharsuguda 3rd line	SECR	1174	905.46	CAP-25, EBR(IF)-173	Chhattisgarh-99 km, Odisha-53.38 km. Saragaon-Robertson (43 km): commissioned for goods traffic in 2016-17.
5.	Durg-Rajnandgaon 3rd line	SECR	250	237.95	CAP-5, EBR(IF)-41.36	Champa-Raigarh-Jharsuguda (152 km): Work is in progress.
6.	4th line bet. Jharsuguda-Bilaspur	SECR	1973.6	25	CAP-10, EBR(IF)-50	Work is in advance stage of progress. Odisha-53 km, Chhattisgarh-153 km. Brajrajnagar-Lajkura (4 km) commissioned. EPC contract is under process between Bilaspur and Raigarh (132.7 km).
7.	Bilaspur-Anuppur 3rd line (RITES)	SECR	393.98	128	CAP-5, EBR(IF)-40	Chhattisgarh-17.65 km, Madhya Pradesh-32.45 km. Modified scope-Pendra Road to Anuppur (50 km).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						Project is being executed by RITES. All contracts for civil works awarded.
8.	Gevra Rd-Pendra Rd Doubling	SECR	1450	352.08	EBR(P)- 200	Project is being executed by IRCON. Revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) approved by CEWRL for completion cost of ₹ 4,919 crore Land acquisition from 0-99 in progress.
9.	Flyover/Bye pass required in Jharsuguda-Bilaspur (section 206 Km)	SECR	299.65	2.68	EBR(IF)-50	Land acquisition is under process.
10.	Rajnandgaon-Nagpur 3rd line	SECR	1908.5	150	CAP-15, EBR(IF)-233	Chhattisgarh-50 km, Maharashtra-178 km. FLS is in progress.
11.	Koraput-Jagdalpur	ECoR	1547.4	61.96	EBR(IF)-200	Chhattisgarh-21 km, Odisha-89.20 km. Work is in advance stage of completion between Jagdalpur to Ambagaon (24.3 km). Balance work is being taken up.
12.	Kirandul-Jadgalpur (150 km)	ECoR	1144	400.56	EBR(P)-150	Jagdalpur-Tokopal (17Km): commissioned Tokopal-Silakjhor (22.6 km): Work is advance stage of completion. In balance section work is in progress.

BR (P): Extra Budgetary Resource (Partnership),

EBR(IF): Extra Budgetary Resource (Institutional Finance)

(b) and (c) Major cause of delay in completion of projects is insufficient Gross Budgetary Support allotted to these projects in the past leading to cost overrun. There are other contributing factors for delay caused viz. number of clearances from various Ministries and Departments of State/Central Governments. These, *inter alia*, include clearances inherent to land acquisition, forestry clearance and permission for road and canal crossings and also clearances from Archaeological Survey of India if the alignment passes in vicinity of a protected monument, local bodies for projects passing through urban areas, etc. which are part of project execution. Process of seeking the approvals/clearances causes delay in completion of the projects. Further, Budget allotments for the projects are done on yearly basis. These factors are beyond the control of Ministry of Railways.

(d) Indian Railways have taken various initiatives to increase pace of execution of projects. These include—

- Making higher fund allotment for projects. The capital expenditure for Railways has been increased from ₹ 58,718 crore in 2014-15 to around ₹ 93,795 crore in 2015-16 to ₹ 1,11,661 crore in 2016-17 and a plan size of ₹ 1,31,000 crore has been kept for 2017-18.
- Delegation of Powers to the field officers for tenders and estimates: The Zonal Railways have been delegated full powers with respect to works contracts. Full powers have been given to General Managers of Zonal Railways with respect to sanctioning of estimates. This has also resulted in cutting down time for sanction of estimate and tenders.
- Institutional financing by tying up loan with M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for ₹ 1.5 lac crore for assured funding of viable projects has increased Railways' capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

Proposals for better rail facilities from Madhya Pradesh

†2382. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received some proposals for approval from people's representatives to provide better rail facilities to the people of Gwalior region of Madhya Pradesh, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether those proposals are being considered and an early decision being contemplated or approval is to be given, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Requests/proposals for providing better rail facilities to the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

people including the people of Gwalior region of Madhya Pradesh are received from various quarters including State Government, public representatives, general public etc. at various levels of Railways administration viz. Stations, Divisional level, Zonal level and Railway Board's level and the decision is being taken from time to time keeping in view the operational feasibility, traffic justification, competing demands, resource availability etc., a compendium of which is, however, not maintained.

21801/21802 Indore-Jhansi Link Express *via* Gwalior has been introduced w.e.f. 01.09.2016 in view of providing better facilities to the people of Gwalior region of Madhya Pradesh. Further, following 05 pairs of trains services have been extended providing additional connectivity to Gwalior:-

Sl. No.	Train no. and name	Extended upto	w.e.f.
1	11111/11112 Gwalior-Gonda Sushasan Express	Balrampur	22.11.2015
2.	11449/11450 Jabalpur-Jammu Tawi Express	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	08.09.2015
3.	59827/59828 Bhind-Gwalior Passenger	Etawah	28.02.2016
4.	59821/59822 Bhind-Kota Passenger	Etawah	28.02.2016
5.	12919/12920 Indore-Jammu Tawi Express	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	01.06.2017

Gwalior station is presently adequately served by 151 train services for the present level of traffic.

Revamping of railway stations by private sector

2383. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is giving railway stations to private sector for their revamping, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of stations which have been handed over along with the time-line for the completion of the job, till date; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the private mode for revamping of railway stations is more economically viable than Government intervention, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Indian Railways has advertized its plan to offer 'A-1' and 'A'

category stations on 'as is where is' basis for redevelopment by inviting proposals from developers with their designs and business ideas. Railway has already invited Bid for 26 Railway Stations.

Zonal Railways, in the first phase of station redevelopment program which was launched on 08.02.2017, have already invited bids for 23 stations. The State-wise details of these stations are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Station	States
1.	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Maharashtra
2.	Pune	Maharashtra
3.	Thane	Maharashtra
4.	Mumbai Central	Maharashtra
5.	Bandra Terminus	Maharashtra
6.	Borivali	Maharashtra
7.	Howrah	West Bengal
8.	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
9.	Kanpur Central	Uttar Pradesh
10.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
11.	Kamakhya	Assam
12.	Udaipur City	Rajasthan
13.	Faridabad	Haryana
14.	Jammu Tawi	Jammu and Kashmir
15.	Secunderabad	Andhra Pradesh
16.	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh
17.	Ranchi	Jharkhand
18.	Chennai Central	Tamil Nadu
19.	Kozhikode	Kerala
20.	Yashwantpur	Karnataka
21.	Bangalore Cantt	Karnataka
22.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
23.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh

In the first phase of 23 stations, bids for Jammu Tawi and Kozhikode Railway Stations have been opened on 12.07.2017 and 24.07.2017 respectively.

Further, a dedicated organization viz. Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) has been set up to undertake redevelopment of stations to international standards. 12 stations viz. Amritsar (Punjab), Anand Vihar (Delhi), Bijwasan (Delhi), Baiyappanahalli (Karnataka), Chandigarh (Punjab), Gandhinagar (Gujarat), Gandhinagar (Rajasthan), Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Habibganj (Madhya Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), Surat (Gujarat) and Shivajinagar (Maharashtra) have been entrusted to IRSDC for redevelopment.

The work of Habibganj Railway Station has been started. A contract of civil engineering works for redevelopment of Gandhinagar Railway Station along with construction of a 300-room hotel on the air space of the station has also been awarded and ground-breaking done. The work is in progress. Bids for Surat Railway Station have been opened on 05.06.2017.

These projects are new to Railways and complex in nature. These require detailed techno-economic feasibility studies, hence no time frame has been presently set for completion of these projects.

(c) The cost of station redevelopment is to be met by leveraging commercial development of vacant land/air space in and around the stations. Therefore, railway funds are not required for station redevelopment projects. Such projects shall generally be cost neutral to Railway.

Non-Working of IRCTC website

2384. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the past, lakhs of people could not book potentially six lakh tickets because the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website was down for more than 17 hours, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by Railways to prevent such recurrences in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) On an average, more than 6 lakh tickets were booked per day during the last three months which is higher than the same period last year.

The website performance was affected for short intervals, on a few occasions, due to technical reasons in the recent past. However, the passengers were able to book tickets as soon as the website was restored.

(b) E-ticketing website www.irctc.co.in is monitored round the clock by software, hardware and networking teams. Steps that have recently been taken to prevent such

recurrences in future include upgradation of storage, upgradation of capacity of various layers of the e-ticketing system and replacement of controller of the storage and cache.

Doing away with rail fare subsidy

2385. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to do away with rail fare subsidies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) During the year 2015-16 (latest available), the overall losses in Passenger services (Suburban and Non-suburban) were ₹ 35038 crore, which are 43% of the expenses incurred on passenger services. Indian Railways traditionally cross-subsidizes the loss in passenger segment by freight earning. Indian Railways extend a number of concessions to various categories of passengers. On this account, total revenue forgone during the year 2015-16 was approximately ₹ 1600 crore out of which, the revenue forgone on account of concession to senior citizens comes to around ₹ 1286 crore.

Evaluation of various alternatives relating to rationalization of passenger fare is an ongoing process. There is already a provision for giving up concession in fare for senior citizens. An initiative has been introduced by Ministry of Railways from 15.07.2017 wherein senior citizens can opt to give up the element of concessional amount upto 50% or 100%.

Completion of construction of conference hall

2386. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of Conference Hall in building of Indian Railway Promotee Officers Federation, Delhi has been completed ;

(b) if so, whether representation from Member of Parliament has been received regarding investigation into irregularities in construction, if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(c) whether any investigation has been conducted by Vigilance Department of Railways for irregularities in above work, item-wise expenditure, total cost, etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken against persons responsible for misappropriation of funds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) The work of construction of conference hall of Indian Railway Promotee Officers' Federation office has been completed and is in use since January 2016. Representation was received by Engineering Department of Northern Railway. Regarding investigation into irregularities in construction, the departmental investigation was done, but no irregularities were found.

However, Vigilance Department did not receive any complaint/representation regarding irregularities in the work.

Employment to disabled persons

2387. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme prepared by Railways for providing employment to the handicapped and blind persons on priority basis in the Railways in the last three years; and

(b) the employment given to the disabled persons in the last three years, Division-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Three percent of the vacancies in case of direct recruitment from open market for filling up non-gazetted posts have been reserved for providing employment to the Person with Disabilities. Of this, one percent each have been reserved for persons suffering from (i) blindness or low vision (ii) hearing impairment and (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy in the posts identified for each disability. Whenever a short fall is seen in this direction, a special Recruitment Drive (SRD) is launched. Last SRD was conducted in the year 2016.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pending railway projects in Bihar

†2388. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is gearing up for early completion of the ongoing railway projects in the country, if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of rail lines pending in Bihar, which have not been completed in time; and

(c) by when the Sakri - Nirmali - Bhaptiyahi rail line which is still incomplete, is likely to become operational along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) To expedite completion of ongoing projects, Indian Railways have taken the following steps:

- (i) Making higher fund allotment for projects: The capital expenditure for railways has been increased from ₹ 58,718 crore in 2014-15 to around ₹ 93,795 crore in 2015-16. ₹ 1,21,000 crore has been provided in Budget 2016-17 and a plan size of ₹ 1,31,000 crore has been kept for 2017-18.
- (ii) Delegation of powers to the field officers for tenders and estimates: The Zonal Railways have now been delegated full powers with respect to works contracts. Full powers have been given to General Managers of Zonal Railways with respect to sanctioning of estimates. This has also resulted in cutting down time for estimate sanctions and tenders.
- (iii) Institutional financing by tying up loan with M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for ₹ 1.5 lakh crore for assured funding of viable projects has increased Railway's capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

(b) As on 01.04.2017, there are 34 New Lines, 5 Gauge Conversion and 13 Doubling ongoing projects falling fully/partly in the State of Bihar.

(c) The Sakri-Nirmali-Bhaptiyahi is part of Sakri-Laukaha Bazar-Nirmali and Saharsa-Forbesganj (206 km) Gauge Conversion project which is in progress. Railway traffic from Sakri to Bhaptiyahi through Kosi Bridge can be commissioned only after completion of Sakri-Nirmali and Saraigarh to Forbesganj Gauge Conversion project.

Gwalior-Indore Janshatabdi Express

†2389. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any demand/proposal to run the Janshatabdi Express between Gwalior and Indore via Guna-Shivpuri;

(b) if so, whether this demand/proposal is being considered and an early decision is likely to be taken on it;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether any demand/proposal is pending with the Ministry to increase the speed of Gwalior-Guna-Bhopal Express and to attach AC chair car coach with the train; and

(d) if so, whether this demand/proposal is being considered and an early decision is likely to be taken on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Requests/proposals for speeding up of existing trains and introduction of new trains on Indian Railways between Gwalior and Indore *via* Guna-Shivpuri are received from various quarters including State Governments, Public Representatives, VIPs, general public etc. at various levels of Railways administration *viz.* Stations, Divisional level, Zonal level and Railway Board's level etc. Action, as found feasible and justified, is taken from time to time. However, a compendium of such requests/proposals is not maintained.

12197/12198 Bhopal-Gwalior Intercity Express (*via* Guna) is presently running with 12 coaches with 4 reserved 2nd seating coaches in its composition which are considered adequate for the present level of traffic. Attachment of AC chair car coach in this train is not feasible, at present. Further, this train is presently running as superfast express train with an average speed of 55.35/55.88 kmph. Further speeding up of this train is not feasible, at present, due to operational and resource constraints.

Setting-up of rail neer water plants

2390. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up new Rail Neer water plants in the country under PPP model during the current financial year, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the amount of money Government plans to invest in these new water plants along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has been mandated to set up Rail Neer Packaged Drinking Water plants in compliance of Budget Pronouncements. At present, 7 Rail Neer Plants are operational. During the current Financial Year 2017-18, one more Rail Neer Plant at Nagpur under PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode with production capacity of 72000 litres per day, shall start commercial production by October 2017. The approximate cost likely to be incurred on this plant is about ₹ 8 crore, which comprises of the civil and electrical works and plant and machinery cost.

Loss of lives at unmanned level crossings

†2391. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of lives are lost every year in the country on account of unmanned railway crossings;

(b) if so, the number of such unmanned railway crossings in the country as on date, the State-wise list thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has formulated any plan to bring down the number of unmanned railway crossings in the country; and

(d) if so, the funds released and provisioned during the financial year 2016-17 and 2017-18 for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Zone-wise number of consequential unmanned level crossing accidents (UMLC) and deaths therein during the last year *i.e.* 2016-17 and in the current year 2017-18 (upto 15th July 2017) are as under:

Railway	2016-17		2017-18	
	No. of UMLC accidents	No. of Persons killed	No. of UMLC accidents	No. of Persons killed
1	2	3	4	5
Central				
East Coast				
East Central	4	6	1	2
Eastern	1	1		
North Central	1	1	2	6
North Eastern	2	9	1	5
Northeast Frontier	3	4		
Northern	4	9		
North Western	2	3		
South Central				
South East Central				
South Eastern	1	1		

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5
Southern				
South Western	2	6		
West Central				
Western				
Konkan				
Metro				
TOTAL	20	40	4	13

(b) State-wise number of unmanned level crossings on Broad Gauge and Narrow Gauge over Indian Railways as on 01.04.2017 is as under:

Sl. No.	State	Number of Unmanned Level Crossings on Broad Gauge (as on 01.04.2017)	Number of Unmanned Level Crossings on Meter/Narrow Gauge (as on 01.04.2017)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	272	0
2.	Assam	141	0
3.	Bihar	540	269
4.	Chandigarh	0	0
5.	Chattisgarh	15	25
6.	Delhi	1	0
7.	Goa	0	0
8.	Gujarat	791	1104
9.	Haryana	92	0
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2	4
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	0
12.	Jharkhand	113	0
13.	Karnataka	253	0
14.	Kerala	7	0
15.	Madhya Pradesh	46	336
16.	Maharashtra	76	192
17.	Manipur	0	0

1	2	3	4
18.	Mizoram	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0
20.	Odisha	223	0
21.	Puducherry	2	0
22.	Punjab	334	0
23.	Rajasthan	472	333
24.	Tamil Nadu	333	111
25.	Telangana	37	0
26.	Tripura	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	904	208
28.	Uttarakhand	26	9
29.	West Bengal	262	167
TOTAL		4943	2758

(c) As per extant policy, no new level crossings are being provided on existing lines, as level crossings are safety hazard for both rail and road users more so for road users. Moreover, Ministry of Railways has announced a specific sub-mission to eliminate all unmanned level crossings on Broad Gauge by March 2020.

(d) The budget allotment for level crossing and Road Over Bridge/Road Under bridge works, including elimination of unmanned level crossings, during 2016-17 and 2017-18 is ₹ 3745.47 crore and ₹ 5217.30 crore respectively.

Solar EMU coaches in Howrah and Sealdah divisions

2392. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to introduce solar EMU coaches in the local trains plying in the Howrah and Sealdah divisions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) At present, Electrical Multiple Units (EMU) draws power for lights and fans through Head On Generation (HOG) system which is most energy efficient and cost effective for rolling stock as compared to existing Solar panel technology available in the country.

Bi-weekly trains between Thiruvananthapuram and Bengaluru

2393. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the bi-weekly train (No.22657/58) between Thiruvananthapuram Central and Bengaluru has not begun operations despite being announced in the Railway Budget of 2013;

(b) the reasons behind not starting this service even after four years of its announcement; and

(c) by what date does Government plan to begin operations of the said route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Introduction of Premium Express trains on specific high demand sectors had been announced in Railway Budget 2014-15. They were proposed to be run on seasonal and occasion-specific instances when the demand for travel goes up. Keeping this in view, introduction of Train No.22657/22658 Thiruvananthapuram- Bengaluru Premium Express (Bi-weekly) had been announced. The train ran 34 trips (up and down) between the period of September 2014 and January 2015. As of now, the running of Premium Express trains has been stopped with the introduction of Suvidha Express trains.

Station redevelopment programme

2394. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the key benefits expected from the Station Redevelopment Programme initiated by the Ministry;

(b) the timelines set for the programme for Ranchi; and

(c) the additional revenue generation for Railways which is visualized under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) A redeveloped station is envisioned as an iconic structure with its architecture reflecting the culture and character of the city where it is located and integrates development for a comfortable and efficient passenger experience, security, safety and accessibility in a harmonious and environmentally sustainable way bringing satisfaction and value to the passenger/user. Some of the Major components of a redeveloped station are envisaged as:

- Segregation of arrival/departure of passengers-No conflict between incoming and outgoing passengers.

- Adequate concourse without overcrowding-generally above the platforms/lines. All essential facilities at concourse-catering, small retail, wash rooms, cloak rooms, drinking water, ATM, pharmacy, internet, etc.
- Integration with other modes of public/private transport systems *e.g.* Bus, Metro, etc. Also, integrating both sides of the city, *i.e.* entry/exit on both sides of the station wherever site conditions permit.
- No parcel movement across the length of platforms.
- User friendly international signage understandable by all sections of passengers.

(b) Ranchi is one of the 23 stations shortlisted for bidding in the first phase of station redevelopment programme. Accordingly, bids have been invited. Station redevelopment projects are complex in nature and require detailed techno-economic feasibility studies and statutory clearances from local bodies. Therefore, no timeline has been fixed for redevelopment of Ranchi railway station, at present.

(c) Station redevelopment is planned by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the station. The revenues realized from real estate development should be sufficient to at least cover the entire cost of station redevelopment after meeting the full expenditure on real estate development and maintenance obligations *i.e.* the station redevelopment would be cost neutral to Railways. The actual realization of revenue will be known only once the contracts are finalized.

Setting up of rail safety regulatory authority

2395. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to set up an independent Rail Safety Regulatory Authority in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when the said regulatory authority will be in force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The High Level Safety Review Committee (Kakodkar Committee) has recommended that a Railway Safety Authority should be set up as a statutory body independent of Railway Board under the Government.

The above recommendation of the Committee has not been found acceptable as the institution of Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety fulfills the purpose.

(b) Does not arise.

Government subsidy to railways

2396. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of subsidy given by Government to Railways at present;
- (b) whether Government proposes to launch any scheme for rail fares, giving passengers the option to voluntarily forego the subsidy on tickets; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) During the year 2015-16 (latest available), the overall losses in Passenger services (Suburban and Non-suburban) was ₹ 35038 crore, which is 43% of the expenses incurred on passenger services.

(b) and (c) There is already provision to give up concession in fare for senior citizens since many years. However, at present, there is no such proposal to introduce give up scheme for general public to voluntarily forego the subsidy on passenger fare.

Modernisation of railway stations

2397. SHRI A. V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways floated tenders for modernisation of stations as part of its ambitious Station Redevelopment Plan; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, especially in Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Indian Railways has advertized its plan to offer 'A-1' and 'A' category stations on 'as is where is' basis for redevelopment by inviting proposals from developers with their designs and business ideas. The entire cost of the station redevelopment is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the stations. Railway has already invited Bid for 26 Railway Stations.

Zonal Railways, in the first phase of station redevelopment program which was launched on 08.02.2017, have already invited bids for 23 stations. The State-wise details of these stations are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Station	State
1.	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Maharashtra
2.	Pune	Maharashtra
3.	Thane	Maharashtra

Sl. No.	Name of Station	State
4.	Mumbai Central	Maharashtra
5.	Bandra Terminus	Maharashtra
6.	Borivali	Maharashtra
7.	Howrah	West Bengal
8.	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
9.	Kanpur Central	Uttar Pradesh
10.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
11.	Kamakhya	Assam
12.	Udaipur City	Rajasthan
13.	Faridabad	Haryana
14.	Jammu Tawi	Jammu & Kashmir
15.	Secunderabad	Andhra Pradesh
16.	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh
17.	Ranchi	Jharkhand
18.	Chennai Central	Tamil Nadu
19.	Kozhikode	Kerala
20.	Yashwantpur	Karnataka
21.	Bangalore Cantt	Karnataka
22.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
23.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh

In the first phase of 23 stations, bids for Jammu Tawi and Kozhikode Railway Stations have been opened on 12.07.2017 and 24.07.2017 respectively.

Further, a dedicated organization viz. Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) has been set up to undertake redevelopment of stations to international standards. 12 stations viz. Amritsar (Punjab), Anand Vihar (Delhi), Bijwasan (Delhi), Baiyappanahalli (Karnataka), Chandigarh (Punjab), Gandhinagar (Gujarat), Gandhinagar (Rajasthan), Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Habibganj (Madhya Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), Surat (Gujarat) and Shivajinagar (Maharashtra) have been entrusted to IRSDC for redevelopment.

The work of Habibganj Railway Station has been started. A contract of civil engineering works for redevelopment of Gandhinagar Railway Station along with construction of a 300-room hotel on the air space of the station has also been awarded

and ground-breaking done. The work is in progress. Bids for Surat Railway Station have been opened on 05.06.2017.

For Bhubaneswar (Odisha) Railway Station, the redevelopment of station has been taken through State Government. The State Government has directed Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) to take up this project. BDA is in the process of finalization of consultant for Bhubaneswar station redevelopment work.

Textiles India-2017 exhibition

2398. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director of the Korea Federation of Textile Industries (KOFOTI) has expressed hope for better trade relations between India and South Korea;

(b) if so, the details of Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) signed between domestic and international organisations from textiles industry and Government, including Government to Government (G2G) MoUs; and

(c) the number of international and domestic exhibitors and buyers from various countries who participated in the Textiles India-2017 exhibition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A country session was held with the Republic of Korea on 30th June, 2017 as a part of the Textiles India-2017 international event. Issues relating to textile trade were deliberated upon during the session. Apart from the country sessions held with Korea, Russia and Bangladesh, 65 MoUs were signed by various textile institutions, councils, organisations of India with both domestic agencies/institutions and international agencies from countries such as China, Australia, Bangladesh, Japan on information exchange, cooperation in textile trade, etc.

(c) Over 1500 international and domestic buyers and more than 1000 exhibitors participated in the Textiles India-2017.

Special package for Knitwear industry

2399. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to announce a package for Knitwear industry, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the sops and discounts being given to knitwear workers as a part of the package, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) The feasibility of formulating a comprehensive scheme for the development and support of Knitting and Knitwear Clusters in the country is under examination.

Special package to village-based handloom and Knitwear industries

2400. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken initiatives under special package to support the village-based Handloom and Knitwear industries;

(b) whether it is a fact that the demonetisation and rupee appreciation have badly affected this employment intensive and export-oriented industry;

(c) the proposal of the Government to reback the employment generation, investment activity and to encourage entrepreneurship therein; and

(d) the decision and planning of Government to maintain a database and statistical details to monitor the functioning thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) The Government of India through the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms is already supporting the village based handloom sector through the following programmes/schemes:-

1. National Handloom Development Programme (with following components)
 - (i) Block Level Cluster
 - (ii) Handloom Marketing Assistance
 - (iii) Concessional credit/weavers Mudra Scheme
 - (iv) Handloom Census
2. Yarn Supply Scheme
3. Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme
4. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

The Ministry of Textiles is also implementing Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUF) and giving financial assistance to textile sector, including Knitting/ Knitwear Sector for modernization. Under the Scheme, subsidy is provided for upgradation of knitting and knitwear technology.

(b) No such report has been received in the recent past that demonetization and rupee appreciation have badly affected this employment intensive and export-oriented industry.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government is already monitoring the schemes and programmes through State Directorates of Handlooms & Textiles and the Weavers' Service Centres located in various States. The officials of Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms also monitor progress of projects through field visits from time to time. Management Information System (MIS) database has been developed for submitting physical and financial report by the field functionaries in respect of Block Level clusters.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid, the Question Hour is over. The House is adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty minutes past two of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

REGARDING PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): One point, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One point or one point of order!

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, one point on Private Members' Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, last Friday, * I hope, the Treasury Benches will allow the Private Members' Bills to continue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is an allegation you are making ...(Interruptions)...

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): A statement making fake allegations is not proper. It is wrong. Making such fake allegations is not good for you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: An allegation, which is a figment of imagination! Is it not?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, you are getting Mr. Venkaiah Naidu's skill now.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, he is going to be my Chairman now.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, how can you say this before election? Election has to take place.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sorry. I can say, 'I expect'. But, in any case, that is a Resolution matter. Today is a Bills day. Anyhow, okay. Now, Private Members' Legislative Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Labour (Welfare and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2017. Shri Vivek Gupta; not present. The Women (Empowerment and Welfare) Bill, 2017. Shri Vivek Gupta; not present. Now, Shri Narayan Lal Panchariya.

The Prevention of Acid Attacks and Rehabilitation of Acid Attack Victims Bill, 2017

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया (राजस्थान): महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि अम्ल की बिक्री, आपूर्ति और उपयोग के विनियमन तथा अन्य उपायों द्वारा अम्ल हमलों के निवारण और अम्ल हमले की पीड़ित महिलाओं के पुनर्वास तथा तत्संसक्त या उसके आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने के लिए एक विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया: महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

The Indian Contract (Amendment) Bill, 2017

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया (राजस्थान) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि भारतीय संविदा अधिनियम, 1872 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 नारायण लाल पंचारिया: महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment of Articles 75 and 164)

DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO (Telangana): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, have you checked whether it is Money Bill or not?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will do that, if necessary.

The Armed Forces Special Powers (Amendment) Bill, 2017

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI (Maharashtra): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 and the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1990.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2017

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI (Maharashtra): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2017

DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH (West Bengal): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA

**The Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh)
Amendment Bill, 2017**

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary General, Lok Sabha:—

“In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Amendment Bill, 2017, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd August, 2017.

2. The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India.”

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS — Contd.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up the Cental Himalayan States Development Council Bill, 2016. Shri Pradeep Tamta.

The Central Himalayan States Development Council Bill, 2016

श्री प्रदीप टम्टा (उत्तराखंड): महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ:—

"कि केंद्रीय हिमालयी क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत आने वाले पर्वतीय राज्यों के संतुलित एवं चहुंमुखी विकास हेतु विकास योजनाएँ और स्कीमें तैयार करने तथा उनके कार्यान्वयन की निगरानी करने के लिए केंद्रीय हिमालयी राज्य विकास परिषद् नामक एक परिषद् की स्थापना करने तथा तत्संसक्त और उसके आनुषांगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने वाले विधेयक पर विचार किया जाए।"

माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपका आभारी हूँ कि आपने मुझे इस बिल को रखने, पारित करने और विचार करने के लिए अनुमति दी। महोदय, लगभग 2,500 किलोमीटर का हिमालयी क्षेत्र जम्मू-कश्मीर से लेकर अरुणाचल प्रदेश तक फैला हुआ है। वहां की भौगोलिक-पर्यावरणीय परिस्थितियाँ और सामाजिक परिस्थितियाँ देश के तमाम दूसरे अंचलों से भिन्न हैं। मैं आज जो बिल लाया हूँ — क्योंकि भारत सरकार तथा अन्य सभी लोगों ने हिमालय को एक नई परिस्थिति के रूप में देखा। वहां के सामाजिक हालात, वहां के भौगोलिक हालात और वहां की तमाम तरह की स्थितियों को देखते हुए लम्बे समय से एक दृष्टिकोण बना रहा कि उत्तराखंड सहित जो हिमालयी क्षेत्र है, उसके लिए एक अलग नई नीति बननी चाहिए, उसके लिए एक अलग नया दृष्टिकोण बनना चाहिए। 2,500 किलोमीटर लम्बा जो हिमालयी क्षेत्र है, उसके सामाजिक हालात और भौगोलिक परिस्थितियों को देखते हुए यह सोचा गया कि उसके लिए एक नया दृष्टिकोण बनना चाहिए। इसी संदर्भ में हमारे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में लगभग 8 करोड़ लोग इस पूरे हिमालय क्षेत्र में आवास करते हैं। जिसको अगर दो हिस्सों में बांटा जाए, एक वेस्टर्न हिमालय, पश्चिम हिमालय-जिसमें हमारे तीन प्रमुख राज्य हैं, जहां से मैं आता हूँ, उत्तराखंड, हिमांचल प्रदेश और जम्मू कश्मीर। लगभग तीन करोड़ की आबादी इन तीन राज्यों में निवास करती है। उसके अलावा दूसरे जो 8 राज्य नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के हैं, जहां सिक्किम से लेकर असम, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, मणिपुर, नागालैंड, मिजोरम ये तमाम राज्य हैं। इन राज्यों को मिलाकर इनके लिए पहले से भारत सरकार ने एक नई काउंसिल भी बनाई है, नॉर्थ-ईस्ट काउंसिल भी है और भारत सरकार में उनके लिए एक अलग नोडल एजेंसी है, मिनिस्ट्री भी अलग है। उसी संदर्भ में हमने कहा कि 2013 की आपदा को आज भी उत्तराखंड के लोग भूले नहीं हैं। उस समय से एक बात चल रही थी कि किस तरह से इन हिमालयीन राज्यों के लिए एक नया दृष्टिकोण बनाया जाना चाहिए। लम्बे समय से इसकी मांग भी उठती रही है। तो मैंने कहा कि जब आठ पूर्व राज्यों के लिए, पूर्व हिमालय सैक्टर के लिए एक अलग तरह की नॉर्थ-ईस्ट काउंसिल बन चुकी है, जब तक हमारे पूरे हिमालय क्षेत्र के लिए कोई नई डेवलपमेंट अथॉरिटी न बने, उसी संदर्भ में इन तीन राज्यों के लिए भी केंद्रीय हिमालय राज्य विकास परिषद का गठन किया जाए।

[श्री प्रदीप टम्टा]

महोदय, आखिर मैं ऐसा क्यों कहना चाहता हूँ, आज तक समय-समय पर भारत सरकार के अलग-अलग संदर्भ में 13-14 रिपोर्ट आयोग बन चुके हैं, जिन्होंने अलग-अलग संदर्भ में हिमालयीन राज्यों के लिए अलग-अलग नीति बनाने के लिए भारत सरकार को निवेदन किया है। पहला कमीशन 1981 में बना, जो नेशनल कमीशन ऑन डेवलपमेंट ऑफ बैकवार्ड एरियाज़ था। उसके बाद दूसरी टास्क फोर्स बनाई गई, जो हिमालयीन एरिया के इको डेवलपमेंट के रीजन के लिए थी। यह 1982 में बनाई गई। तीसरा, एक वर्किंग ग्रुप बनाया गया हिल एरिया डेवलपमेंट प्रोग्राम 1983 ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Members, please go back and take your seats. This is unfair. This is happening many a times in the House. Hon. Members stand in the passage, talk and, I am sorry to say, even turn their back to the Chair which is never done and it should not be done. Don't do these things, please. Many a times I have seen it. I don't know what happened; these days, these kinds of things are repeatedly seen. The House has sanctity. Please keep that in mind. I am just saying this.

श्री प्रदीप टम्टा: सर, उसके बाद 1992 में हिमालय राज्यों के लिए एक्शन प्लान बनाने के लिए फिर एक कमेटी का गठन किया गया। 1993 में एक टास्क फोर्स का गठन किया गया, जो प्रसिद्ध वैज्ञानिक डा. कासिम के नेतृत्व में बनी थी। इसके बाद अलग रूप से 1997 में नॉर्थ-ईस्ट रीजन के लिए एक हाई लेवल कमेटी बनाई गई। फिर एक अलग टास्क फोर्स 2006 में बनाया गया, जिसके चेयरमैन उत्तराखंड के पूर्व चीफ सेक्रेटरी आर एस टुलिया थे। इस तरह से लगभग 14-15 कमेटियां बनाई गईं, जिसमें शिमला डेक्लेरेशन भी है, जिसमें सेंट्रल हिमालयीन राज्यों के मुख्य मंत्री, उत्तराखंड, हिमाचल के मुख्य मंत्री थे, हमारे तत्कालीन केंद्रीय वन एवं पर्यावरण मंत्री जयराम रमेश भी खुद उस कांफ्रेंस में थे, जो अभी यहां बैठे हैं। वहां पर हिमालयीन राज्यों के लिए शिमला डेक्लेरेशन को पारित किया गया। उसके बाद फिर भारत सरकार की टास्क फोर्स की रिपोर्ट बनाई गई, जी बी मुखर्जी उसके सेक्रेटरी थे। उन्होंने भी एक रिपोर्ट दी। उसके बाद जब यूपीए-2 में प्रधान मंत्री मनमोहन सिंह जी थे, उस समय प्लानिंग कमीशन के नेतृत्व में पूर्व केबिनेट सेक्रेटरी बी के चतुर्वेदी के नेतृत्व में एक टास्क फोर्स बनाई, उसने भी अपनी एक रिपोर्ट दी। कासिम साहब एक वैज्ञानिक थे, उनकी रिपोर्ट में भी कहा गया था कि हिमालयीन राज्यों के लिए एक अलग दृष्टिकोण की जरूरत है। वहां अलग-अलग धर्म के लोग हैं। जम्मू कश्मीर से लेकर के हम अरुणाचल तक जाएंगे तो वहां हिन्दू मतावलम्बी लोग हैं, इस्लाम को मानने वाले भी लोग हैं, बौद्ध के भी फोलोअर हैं। देश की 170 ट्राइबल जातियां उसी हिमालयन क्षेत्र में हैं। इसलिए अलग-अलग ग्रुपों के लिए, 1992 में एस. जेड. कासिम साहब ने रिपोर्ट बनाई थी, उन्होंने इस बात को कहा था कि एक हिमालयन डेवलपमेंट अथारिटी बननी चाहिए। सम्पूर्ण हिमालयन क्षेत्र के विकास को ध्यान में रखते हुए, वहां की स्थितियों को ध्यान में रखते हुए, क्योंकि हिमालयन राज्यों की इतनी capacity नहीं है, उनके पास इतने रेवेन्यू रिसोर्सेज नहीं हैं, इन सब बातों को ध्यान में रखते हुए 1993 में एस.जेड. कासिम ने हिमालयन डेवलपमेंट अथारिटी की स्थापना की बात कही थी। दूसरी बात उन्होंने यह कही थी कि इस क्षेत्र के लिए नेशनल हिमालयन एनवायरन्मेंट एंड डेवलपमेंट कोष की स्थापना की जानी चाहिए और जो भारत सरकार के द्वारा पोषित हो, जो

इस क्षेत्र के सामूहिक विकास के लिए, समुचित विकास के लिए राष्ट्रीय नीति की कल्पना करे। वर्ष 2006 में एक टास्क फोर्स का गठन किया गया। उसमें आर.एस. तुलिया साहब थे, उन्होंने और आगे बढ़ते हुए अपनी बात रखी। उन्होंने कहा कि भारत सरकार में ईस्टर्न हिमालयन, नॉर्थ हिमालयन रेंज है, नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की हिमालयन रेंज है, उनके लिए अलग काउंसिल की स्थापना की गई है, उनके लिए अलग मिनिस्ट्री बनाई गई है। उन्होंने कहा कि इसका ही विस्तार किया जा सकता है। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट काउंसिल को बढ़ाकर, सम्पूर्ण 11 हिमालयन राज्यों को शामिल करके एक हिमालयन डेवलपमेंट काउंसिल की स्थापना की जा सकती है। जो नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की मिनिस्ट्री भारत सरकार में है, उससे एक मंत्रालय हिमालयन डेवलपमेंट का बनाया जा सकता है।

उसके बाद शिमला declaration में हिमाचल और उत्तराखंड दोनों के मुख्य मंत्री थे, केंद्रीय वन और पर्यावरण मंत्री उसमें शामिल थे, उसमें जम्मू-कश्मीर के मंत्री भी थे और नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के तमाम अधिकारीगण उसमें शामिल थे। उन्होंने भी इस बात को रखा कि हिमालय के लिए एक नये नजरिये की जरूरत है। हिमालयन राज्यों के विकास को देखते हुए एक नयी डेवलपमेंट काउंसिल की जरूरत है। हिमालय आज भी हमारे देश का वाटर टावर है। जो हमारी जंगल सम्पदा है, जो हमारे वाटर रिसोर्सेज हैं, इन राज्यों ने उनको देश के उद्योग के लिए कुर्बान कर दिया। जो हमारे रेवेन्यू के सोर्स हो सकते थे, वे देश के लिए कुर्बान कर दिए गए। उसी की एवज में फॉरेस्ट कंजर्वेशन ऐक्ट लागू हुआ है। इस देश के लिए 11 हिमालयन राज्यों ने अपने हितों को कुर्बान किया। आखिर देश का भी एक दायित्व है कि वह उनकी ओर देखे। इसलिए शिमला declaration में यह बात कही गई थी कि इन राज्यों के प्राइमरी योगदान को देखते हुए, इस देश के एनवायरन्मेंट को ये लोग बचा रहे हैं, उन्होंने कहा था कि ये एनवायरनमेंट सर्विस दे रहे हैं, इसके लिए भी भारत सरकार को इनको कुछ न कुछ compensation देना चाहिए। उसके बाद भारत सरकार की यह लेटेस्ट रिपोर्ट आई, जो मेरे हाथ में है, यह माननीय मुखर्जी के द्वारा लिखी गई है। इन्होंने अपनी पहली रिपोर्ट में भी कहा था कि हमको हिमालय को शेष देश की नज़रों से नहीं देखना चाहिए। हिमालय की अलग बनावट है, इसलिए हिमालय को हिमालय की नज़रों से देखकर वहां के विकास के लिए हमको आगे बढ़ना चाहिए। उन्होंने हिमालय को तीन-चार भागों में बांटने की बात कही थी। जो अपर हिमालय है, जो ट्रांस हिमालय, उसके लिए अलग नीति बनानी चाहिए। उसके बाद जो lesser हिमालय है, जो बर्फीला है, जो नीचे का क्षेत्र है, उसके लिए अलग नीति बनानी चाहिए। जो हमारा जंगल का एरिया है, जो फॉरेस्ट रिसोर्स है, उसके लिए भारत सरकार को अलग नीति बनानी चाहिए। जो रिवर वैली क्षेत्र है, उसके लिए अलग नीति बनानी चाहिए। इस तरह से चार-पांच भागों में भारत के इस हिमालय रीजन को बांटना चाहिए। उन्होंने यह भी कहा था कि हिमालयन राज्यों के लिए भारत सरकार को ऐसा फंड बनाना चाहिए जो लैप्स न हो सके और एक नये फंड की जरूरत तो एस.जेड. कासिम ने बताई थी। उन्होंने कहा कि शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में, ट्रांसपोर्ट के क्षेत्र में डेवलपमेंट की आवश्यकता है। उन्होंने कहा कि हिमालयन क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए एक नेटवर्क की आवश्यकता है — चाहे ट्रांसपोर्ट की बात हो, चाहे सड़क निर्माण की बात हो, चाहे रेल मार्ग का निर्माण हो। और चाहे हवाई संपर्कों का निर्माण हो, इस बारे में एक distinct plan भारत सरकार को बनाना चाहिए। उन्होंने खुद सिफारिश की थी कि तो जम्मू-कश्मीर से लेकर नॉर्थ-ईस्ट एक लंबी रेलवे बननी चाहिए, जो इन राज्यों को connect करे, वेस्टर्न हिमालय के जम्मू-कश्मीर से लेकर उत्तराखंड को और आसाम से लेकर देश के तमाम नॉर्थ ईस्ट के तमाम राज्यों को connect करे। उसी तरह अपर-हिमालय

[श्री प्रदीप टम्टा]

क्षेत्र में हमेशा आपदा आती रहती है। उन तमाम परिस्थितियों में तत्काल मदद पहुंचाने के लिए छोटी हवाई पट्टियों के निर्माण की भी उन्होंने सिफारिश की। सर, 2009-10 में भारत सरकार ने श्री बी के चतुर्वेदी के समय में एक कमेटी बनायी, जिसने अपनी रिपोर्ट 2013 में प्लानिंग कमीशन को दी, वह है, *The Report of the Committee to Study Development in the Hill States arising from the Management of the Forest lands with a special focus on creation of infrastructure, livelihood and human development.*"

महोदय, मैं इन रिपोर्ट्स का हवाला इसलिए भी दे रहा हूं कि देश का ध्यान इन हिमालयीन राज्यों के बारे में हमेशा रहा है। हमारे लोगों ने सरकारी स्तर पर भी बहुत सी कमेटियां बनार्यीं, जिन्होंने उसके संदर्भ में अपनी सिफारिशें दी। महोदय, अंतिम सिफारिश श्री बी के चतुर्वेदी कमेटी की रिपोर्ट, वह पिछले साल जब हमारा बजट प्रस्तुत हो रहा था, उस समय चूंकि आचार संहिता लगने वाली थी, उस समय राज्य सरकार ने 250 करोड़ की टोकन मनी मंजूर की थी और सैद्धांतिक तौर पर वह रिपोर्ट स्वीकार हुई थी, लेकिन 3 सालों में आगे क्या कार्यवाही हुई, यह कुछ मालूम नहीं है। महोदय, मैंने अपने छात्र जीवन से इस हिमालय रीजन में जंगल आंदोलन की शुरुआत की थी। जब मेरा कुमाऊं विश्वविद्यालय में दाखिला हुआ, तब हमारे लोगों ने नारा दिया था, "हिमालय को बचाना है।" "जंगल बचाओ, हिमालय बचाओ।" मैं उस समय विद्यार्थी था और हम विद्यार्थी आंदोलन के जरिए सरकार से मांग करने लगे। उस समय हमारी बहुमूल्य जंगल सम्पदा नीलाम हो जाती थी और उसका auction हो जाता था। हर साल उत्तराखंड की जंगल सम्पदा को नीलामी में खरीदने के लिए देश के तमाम हिस्सों से ठेकेदार लोग राज्य सरकारों की नीलामी में नैनीताल में एकजुट होते थे। हमने उस समय नारा दिया था कि "हिमालय को बचाना है, तो यहां के जंगलों को बचाना है।" महोदय, यह हिमालय सदियों से इस देश का प्रहरी रहा है। सारा देश और दुनिया कहती है कि हिमालय सिर्फ भारत का ही नहीं है, वह 5-6 देशों तक फैला है, जिसमें भारत है, पाकिस्तान है, बंगलादेश है, भूटान है, चाइना और नेपाल है। दुनिया की सब से बढ़िया नदियां हिमालय से निकली हैं। तब हमने अपना नारा दिया था और उस समय हमने मांग की थी कि हमारे उत्तराखंड के जंगलों को न काटा जाए। उसके बाद आंदोलन हुआ। उन आंदोलनों के समय मैं खुद जेल में गया था और उस समय भारत सरकार का 1980 में Forest Conservation Act आया। उसी कारण देश के जंगलों की बहुमूल्य सम्पदा बची हुई है। महोदय, इस सम्पदा पर देश के ही नहीं, बड़े-बड़े देशों के कॉर्पोरेट जगत की निगाहें हैं कि किस तरह से Forest Conservation Act को कमजोर किया जाए। अगर यह समाप्त न हो, तो उसे ढीला किया जाए, लेकिन उत्तराखंड के किसानों, मजदूरों व नौजवानों ने अपना आंदोलन चलाया।

महोदय, वर्ष 2013 की आपदा को कोई भूला नहीं होगा। उस समय जून के महीने में आपदा आयी। मैं उस समय लोक सभा का सदस्य था। उस समय सब ने बद्रीनाथ व केदारनाथ को देखा होगा, लेकिन मैं अल्मोड़ा संसदीय क्षेत्र में था। जब केदारनाथ में आपदा आयी, मैं पिथौरागढ़ के सीमांचल धारचूला के क्षेत्र में था। मैंने उस समय की तबाही देखी। हर साल वहां यही हाल होता है। जब भी बरसात आती है, जून से लेकर सितंबर तक हमारे सामने यही डर रहता है कि कब, कहीं से आपदा की खबर आ जाए, कब land slide हो जाए, कब cloud burst हो जाए। हर साल ऐसे ही गांव उजड़ते रहे हैं। पांच साल तक 2010 से 2013 तक लगातार मेरे संसदीय क्षेत्र में कोई-न-कोई land slide आयी है, जिस में काफी लोग तबाह हुए हैं। यह सारा नजरिया इसलिए

है कि आज भी इन राज्यों के लिए हम मुक्कमल नीति नहीं बना सके। मोदी सरकार ने भी कहा था कि हम हिमालय के लिए नया विज्ञान-पत्र लेकर आएंगे, एक नया दृष्टिकोण लेकर आएंगे। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि अभी तक तो कुछ आया नहीं है, लेकिन जो बी. के. छत्रपति कमेटी की रिपोर्ट है, उस रिपोर्ट में सारी की सारी चीजें ढंग से दी गई हैं। बी. के. छत्रपति साहब ने कहा कि इन्हीं रिपोर्ट को लागू कर दिया जाए। इस कमेटी ने हिमालय के इन 11 क्षेत्रों का भ्रमण किया था और 25 नवम्बर, 1911 में इस कमेटी का गठन हुआ था। उन्होंने कहा था कि यहां पर हर तरह की टेक्नीक दी जाए। यहां इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के क्षेत्र में सड़कों का निर्माण हुआ और आज बड़े-बड़े डैम बन रहे हैं। जबकि आज दुनिया में नई technique आ रही है, लेकिन इन पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों के लिए हम पुरानी technique ही चुनते रहे हैं। हम सड़क बना रहे हैं, blasting कर रहे हैं, वहीं मलबा आ रहा है, वह बरसात में नदी व नालों में जाकर तबाही मचाता है। चाहे उत्तर प्रदेश हो, चाहे बिहार हो, सभी जगह हिमालय का निरंतर विकास न करने की वजह का परिणाम है।

श्री उपसभापति: टम्टा जी, इस बिल पर बोलने का दो घंटे का समय निश्चित है और इस बिल पर बोलने वाले चार-पांच और सदस्य हैं। अगर बाकी लोग नहीं बोलेंगे, तो आप दो घंटे का समय भी ले सकते हैं। यदि बाकी लोगों को बोलना है, तो...

श्री प्रदीप टम्टा: सर, मैं बस समाप्त ही कर रहा हूँ।

महोदय, यह मैं इसलिए कह रहा हूँ कि छत्रपति कमेटी की रिपोर्ट में भी यह बात आई थी और उन्होंने latest report भी दी है। उन्होंने कहा है कि हिमालय क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए transformation के लिए, technique के लिए हमें एक नया दृष्टिकोण अपनाना पड़ेगा। दुनिया के जो दूसरे हिमालयी क्षेत्र हैं और जो यूरोप के पर्वतीय क्षेत्र हैं, वहां पर perpetual landslide हो रहे हैं, तो हमें उनसे सीखना चाहिए। हमारे वहां पर जो hydropower project हैं, हमारी Ministry of Environment and Forests ने रुड़की इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज, रुड़की IIT को एक रिपोर्ट दी थी कि किस तरह हिमालयी राज्यों में technique को देखते हुए, किस तरह का अनुमान किया जाए, किस तरह की प्रगति की जाए। उनकी दो सिफारिशें थी— एक तो हिमालय के क्षेत्र में Forest Conservation Act से लेकर जिस तरह से हम दूसरे राज्यों में रियायतें देते हैं, उसी तरह की रियायतें यहां भी दी जानी चाहिए। पिछली सरकार ने सिफारिश की थी कि 5 हेक्टर की forest land को 10 हेक्टर तक करने की सिफारिश उन्हीं राज्यों में की जानी चाहिए। हर राज्य में एक Ministry of Environment and Forests का नोडल अधिकारी बनना चाहिए, ताकि राज्य के विकास में जो forest के proposals आएँ, उनमें तेजी ला सकें। इन राज्यों की जो सबसे बड़ी सेवा है, उसको उन्होंने दान दिया था, environmental services. जो public goods हैं, वे हिमालय के लोगों के अपने आय के स्रोत हो सकते थे, अगर वहां के जंगल कटते, वे revenue के resource हो सकते थे, वे उन्होंने छोड़ दिए हैं। इस संदर्भ में और hydropower के संदर्भ में आंकड़ा निकाला था कि अगर इस सबकी हिमालय क्षेत्र को आय हो रही होती, तो उनको कितना मिल रहा होता, उसका cumulative effect ये आंकड़े हैं। उन्होंने 12वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में कहा था कि इस आधार पर दस हजार करोड़ रुपया प्रतिवर्ष इन राज्यों को मिल सकता है। आज तो आपने प्लानिंग कमीशन समाप्त कर दिया है, उस समय प्लानिंग कमीशन था, उसने भारत सरकार से कहा था कि केंद्र द्वारा राज्यों को दिए जाने वाले बजट से अलग, जो केंद्रीय प्लान बजट का है, उसका दो परसेंट gross budgetary support इन राज्यों को दें।

[श्री प्रदीप टम्टा]

3.00 P.M.

महोदय, आज हिमालय राज्य में बड़े-बड़े प्रोजेक्ट बन रहे हैं, डैम के प्रोजेक्ट बन रहे हैं, hydropower बन रहे हैं, लेकिन झेल हम रहे हैं। इन राज्यों में आज विकास करने के नाम पर कुछ नहीं मिल रहा है। पंचेश्वर में बड़ा डैम बनाने जा रहे हैं और उसमें 31 हजार लोगों की जमीन प्रवाहित होने वाली है और सरकार की टॉस्क फोर्स की रिपोर्ट कहती है कि हम मात्र 1,306 परिवारों को बसाएंगे। आपने जिन 29 हजार परिवारों की जमीन डूब रही है, उनको प्रवाहित क्षेत्र मानने से मना कर दिया है। इस तरह की चीजें हो रही हैं, इसलिए महोदय, मेरा आपके माध्यम से भारत सरकार से अनुरोध है समस्त हिमालयी राज्यों के लिए करें। ये जो 11 हिमालयी राज्य हैं, ये हमारी सीमा के प्रहरी हैं, ये हमारे देश के वॉटर टॉवर हैं। अगर हमें बिहार की इस खुशहाली को जिंदा रखना है, करोड़ों-करोड़ों किसानों को जिंदा रखना है, यहां की सभ्यता को जिंदा रखना है, तो हिमालय को बचाना होगा। यदि हिमालय को बचाना है, तो हिमालय के लोगों के प्रति भारत सरकार को एक नई नीति बनानी पड़ेगी। इसके लिए आप एक नई डेवलपमेंट अथॉरिटी, जो इन 11 हिमालयी राज्यों की हो, उसको बनाइए। हिमालय के लिए, वहां का जो ग्रीन बोनस है, जिसकी मांग की गई है, जो पर्यावरणीय सेवा है, हमारी जो संस्कृति जीवित है, उसके रूप में आप ग्राँस बजटरी सपोर्ट का 2 परसेंट दें। आप इसको तब तक दें, जब तक कि आप आप पूरे हिमालयी राज्यों के लिए एक डेवलपमेंट अथॉरिटी, एक मिनिस्ट्री एवं एक नोडल एजेंसी नहीं बनाते हैं।

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता) पीठासीन हुए]

लगभग 3 करोड़ या 4 करोड़ लोगों का जो उत्तराखंड, हिमाचल प्रदेश और जम्मू-कश्मीर है, उनके लिए मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि आपने जिस तरह से नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के आठ राज्यों के लिए नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न काउंसिल बनाई है, एक अलग मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ नॉर्थ-ईस्ट बनाई है, मैं समझता हूं कि आप उसी तरह से वेस्टर्न हिमालय के लिए, इन केंद्रीय हिमालयी राज्यों के लिए, इन तीन क्षेत्रों के लिए भी अलग से एक सेंट्रल हिमालयी डेवलपमेंट काउंसिल का गठन अनिवार्य रूप से करें। इसी तरह से भारत सरकार में एक मिनिस्ट्री का गठन करना भी अनिवार्य है। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, मैं अपनी बात यहां पर समाप्त करता हूं। आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद, जय हिंद-जय भारत।

The question was proposed

श्री बसावाराज पाटिल (कर्णाटक): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आदरणीय सदस्य श्री प्रदीप टम्टा ने जो बिल पेश किया है, उस संदर्भ में मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि उन्होंने सदन में एक महत्वपूर्ण बिल चर्चा के लिए रखा है। उन्होंने सेंट्रल हिमालय स्टेट काउंसिल बिल के नाते इसे पेश किया है। अगर भारत के अतीत का कोई इतिहास है, भारत के वेदों का निर्माण है, ज्ञान का केंद्र है, तो इन सभी चीजों का उद्गम स्थान हिमालय माना जाता है। इसके साथ ही साथ भारत की जो श्रेष्ठ नदियां हैं, जिनके लिए ऐसी कल्पना की जाती है कि ये मानसरोवर से निकलती हैं, चाहे वह गंगा हो, सिंधु हो, ब्रह्मपुत्र हो या अन्य जितनी भी श्रेष्ठ नदियां हों, वे सभी उस हिमालय से ही निकलती हैं। विश्व के सबसे बड़े गौरव हिमालय की चोटी कंचनजंगा भी विश्व में हमारा सबसे ज्यादा गौरव बढ़ाती है। आदरणीय सदस्य जिन कारणों से यह बिल लाए हैं, उससे ऐसा लगता है कि वास्तव में उनकी बातों में ताकत जरूर है। उन्होंने नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लिए

एक काउंसिल बनाकर, एक विशिष्ट मंत्रालय बनाकर, उसके लिए विशेष आर्थिक सुविधा देने की बात कही है। अभी उन्होंने कहा कि लगभग 2,000 से 2,500 किलोमीटर दूर, इधर जम्मू-कश्मीर से लेकर, उधर अरुणाचल तक का जो प्रदेश है, वह हिमालय की गोद में बसने वाला प्रदेश है। कुछ भाग तो उधर के हिस्से में चले गए, लेकिन जैसे जम्मू-कश्मीर है या उत्तराखंड है और जो अन्य भाग इसमें बताए गए हैं, ये जो तीन प्रदेश हैं, जो हिमालयी प्रदेश हैं, इनके बारे में एक समग्र चिंतन होना चाहिए। यह बात बिल्कुल सत्य है कि भारत के उत्तर में यदि कहीं सबसे बड़ी भयानक आपदा होती है, तो वह कभी जम्मू-कश्मीर में होती है, कभी उत्तराखंड में होती है और कभी हिमाचल प्रदेश में भी ऐसी परिस्थितियां देखने को मिलती हैं।

महोदय, इनकी एक विशिष्ट प्रकार की जीवन शैली है, इनका अपना एक विशिष्ट स्वरूप है। वहां की परिस्थितियां भिन्न हैं, जिनकी तुलना हम देश के अन्य भागों से नहीं कर सकते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में यह जो बिल लाया गया है, इसके लिए मुझे आशा है कि भारत सरकार निश्चित तौर से इस पर गंभीरता से विचार करेगी। मैं ऐसी अपेक्षा रखता हूं कि भारत सरकार को इसका कोई रास्ता निकालना चाहिए। जहां तक उद्योग और इंडस्ट्रीज का सवाल है, अगर इस पवित्र हिमालय की गोद को बचाए रखना है, तो जितनी भी इंडस्ट्रीज की हम अपेक्षा कर रहे हैं, मैं माननीय सदस्य से विनती करूंगा कि जितने भी इंडस्ट्रीज लगाने वाले लोग आएंगे, उनमें इस स्थान की पवित्रता को बनाए रखने वाली इंडस्ट्री की खोज करनी होगी। भूल से भी इंडस्ट्री के नाम पर इस हिमालय की गोद की पवित्रता को क्षति करने का काम नहीं होना चाहिए। जहां-जहां इंडस्ट्रीज आती हैं, वहां की संस्कृति बिगड़ती है, वहां का कल्चर बिगड़ता है, लेकिन यह जो निसर्ग की पवित्र भूमि है, मेरी राय है कि भूल से भी आप यहां पर बड़ी-बड़ी इंडस्ट्रीज लाने का सपना न देखें। मेरी आपसे यह सविनय विनती है।

महोदय, यह हमारा पवित्र हिमालय क्षेत्र है। पुराने जमाने में हमारे लोग अपने ज्ञान की साधना के लिए किसी नदी के किनारे पर जाकर, वहां बैठकर अपनी तपस्या करके अपने आपको श्रेष्ठ बनाते थे। हिमालय के गोद की यह पवित्र भूमि ज्ञान सिंचन के लिए अत्यंत श्रेष्ठ भूमि है। मैं तो यह जरूर चाहूंगा कि भारत सरकार इस प्रकार की कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था बनाकर सारे देश को ज्ञान देने का एक श्रेष्ठ केंद्र इस प्रदेश में बनाए। इसका कारण यह है कि आज भारत में ढाई सौ से ज्यादा यूनिवर्सिटीज हैं, कोई 40-50 केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय हैं और अनेक प्रकार की उच्चतर शिक्षा यहां चलती है, लेकिन स्थिति यह हो गई है कि शिक्षा नौकरी के लिए है, ज्ञान के लिए नहीं है और वह भी न मिलने वाली नौकरी है। इस तरह तो अपने देश की करोड़ों की संपत्ति बरबादी की तरफ जा रही है। तो ऐसा कोई सुन्दर विश्वविद्यालय इस हिमालय की गोद में बनाया जाए, जो केवल भारत का नहीं, विश्व के कल्याण का एक रास्ता हो सकता है, इसलिए मैं इस प्रदेश के अंदर एक ऐसा विशिष्ट ज्ञान का विश्वविद्यालय बनाने की मांग करता हूँ। यह इंडस्ट्रीज से बढ़कर अत्यंत आवश्यक है, ऐसा मैं मानता हूँ। इसका कारण यह है कि यह जो ज्ञान की गंगा है, इसके आश्रय में हमारी संस्कृति पल रही है और आज भी दुनिया की बरबादी के बाद हम में अगर कुछ मानवता, इंसानियत, संस्कृति बची है, तो यह इस हिमालय के गोद का पुण्य है, जिसके कारण हम जी रहे हैं। शिक्षा यानी व्यक्ति का आत्म-विश्वास बढ़ना चाहिए, शिक्षा यानी जीवन के संकटों को फेस करने की ताकत आनी चाहिए। जो विपरीत परिस्थिति में रहते हैं, ये

[श्री बसावाराज पाटिल]

सब गुण उन्हीं में होते हैं, क्योंकि उनके जीवन के प्रत्येक क्षण संकटों से गुजरना पड़ता है। आज भारत की 130 करोड़ जनता इस प्रकार की शिक्षा से वंचित है। इस नाते से यह अध्यात्म-ज्ञान का केंद्र हिमालय में बने, यह मेरे मन की इच्छा है।

महोदय, माननीय सदस्य की इस सुंदर भावना से मैं एकदम सहमत हूँ कि सरकार इस दिशा में काम करे, परन्तु जब किसी भी प्रकार का ऐसा निर्णय हम लाते हैं, तो पहले अपने भारत के संविधान का भी थोड़ा चिंतन करना पड़ता है, केवल यहां पर बिल लाने से काम नहीं चलता है। हम संविधान में दिए कुछ नियमों को मान चुके हैं। आपने जिन तीन राज्यों के बारे में उल्लेख किया है, उनमें जम्मू-कश्मीर भी है, उत्तराखंड भी है और हिमाचल प्रदेश भी है। अगर जम्मू-कश्मीर को इस दायरे में लाना है, तो पहले वहां की असेम्बली से हमें अनुमति लेनी होती है, क्योंकि कोई छोटा सा बिल भी भारत सरकार लाती है, संविधान में कोई संशोधन लाना चाहती है, तो उसे बिना जम्मू-कश्मीर की असेम्बली की अनुमति के करने का अधिकार हमें नहीं है। ऐसी स्थिति में एक अच्छे विचार का बिल रहते हुए भी, हो सकता है जम्मू-कश्मीर की असेम्बली इसे मान ले, परन्तु फिर भी हमें इस नियम का पालन करना पड़ेगा। आज जो भारत की स्थिति है, जिस प्रकार का वातावरण हिमालय की गोद में है, जितना ठंडा है, थोड़ा ऊपर गए तो उस ठंडे में भी आग की तरह शत्रु लोग खड़े हैं। तो बिल को लेकर बहुत बुद्धिमता से सरकार को सोचना पड़ता है कि किस प्रकार की संरचना बने, यहां की जनता की संस्कृति फले-फूले, यहां के लोगों का विकास अच्छी तरह से हो, यहां पर रोड़्स बनें, रास्ते बनें और निसर्ग की जो अनमोल सम्पत्ति इस हिमालय की गोद में है इसका सदुपयोग वहां की रहने वाली जनता को ठीक से मिले। साथ ही साथ इस देश की सुरक्षा भी बनी रहे। ऐसे कई महत्वपूर्ण विषय आते हैं। जब इस प्रकार के महत्वपूर्ण विषय आते हैं, तो भारत सरकार इसके बारे में सोचने के लिए सक्षम होती है। इसलिए मैं माननीय सदस्य से यह विनती करता हूँ कि आप बहुत सुन्दर और महत्वपूर्ण बिल लाए हैं। जब एक बार नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लिए कुछ सुविधाएँ मिली हैं, तो इतने बड़े संकटों के बीच जीने वाले हिमालय की गोद में रहने वालों के लिए भी तो भारत सरकार को जरूर कुछ करना चाहिए। जिन बातों को आपने कहा है, हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी भी उस दिशा में जरूर सोचेंगे। आपने जिन विषयों को उठाया है और जो 2011 का विषय रखा है, आपने ठीक कहा और सरकार को भी उनको implement करना चाहिए, लेकिन इन विषयों को कानून के दायरे में लाना पड़ता है। इनको कानून के दायरे में लाने के लिए सरकार को कई प्रकार की रीतियों से सोचना पड़ता है। इस तरह से सोच-विचार करने के बाद ही इनको धरती पर उतारा जा सकता है। इस नाते मैं आदरणीय सदस्य से यह आग्रह करूँगा और निश्चित रूप से सरकार के माननीय मंत्री जी जब इस पर अपना जवाब देंगे, तो वे इनको ठीक से संज्ञान में लेंगे। यह जो बिल आया है, इसके पीछे उस प्रदेश के लोगों की मन की जो वेदना है, जो तड़पन है, अक्सर पहाड़ों पर आकाश से जो बादल फटते हैं और एक क्षण में हजारों लोग मर जाते हैं, देखते-देखते पहाड़ गिर जाते हैं, तो कई दिनों तक रास्ते बंद हो जाते हैं, वे भावनाएँ हैं। इस प्रकार से एक विचित्र नैसर्गिक प्रदेश में जीने वाले लोगों के लिए एक सुन्दर जीवन जीने की व्यवस्था बनाना अत्यंत जरूरी है। यह बात निश्चित है कि आदरणीय मोदी जी की सरकार के आने के बाद उत्तराखंड के लिए ही क्यों न हो, विशेषकर पुरानी कांग्रेस सरकार से लेकर मोदी जी की सरकार के आने के बाद उस जम्मू-कश्मीर के विकास के लिए भी कई नई-नई योजनाएँ वहां धरती पर उतारने की कोशिश

चल रही है। परन्तु उन लोगों की अपनी एक सोच होती है। उनकी विकास की अपनी कल्पना हो सकती है। जो उत्तराखंड वाला व्यक्ति सोच सकता है, जो जम्मू-कश्मीर वाला व्यक्ति सोच सकता है, जो हिमाचल प्रदेश वाला व्यक्ति सोच सकता है, मैं उनके बारे में कितनी ही बात करने की कोशिश करूँ, लेकिन मैं उनके मन की धड़कन को पूरी तरह नहीं समझ सकता हूँ, क्योंकि धरती के हर इंसान का अपना जीवन होता है, उसका अपना एक इतिहास होता है। जब तक आदमी उसमें रमता नहीं है, तब तक उनकी वेदना, तड़पन और सच्चाई समझना हमारे लिए कठिन होता है। परन्तु दूर से हम जितना देखते हैं, उसके आधार पर हम कह सकते हैं कि निश्चित रूप से आपकी मांग में ताकत है, बल है, शक्ति है और इसको जरूर दिशा मिलनी चाहिए। इसलिए मैं आदरणीय सदस्य से विनती करूँगा कि इस बिल को यहां लाकर आपने सरकार की आँखें खोली हैं। निश्चित रूप से सरकार उस प्रदेश के विकास के लिए इस पर गम्भीरता से विचार करेगी। उसके विकास के बिना इस देश का भी सच्चा विकास नहीं हो सकता है। इस नाते सरकार भी इसको गम्भीरता से संज्ञान में लेते हुए अपना काम करे। माननीय सदस्य यह जो बिल लाए हैं, उसके द्वारा उन्होंने अपनी भावनाएँ व्यक्त की हैं और वहां के लोगों की वेदनाओं को यहां रखा है। वहां की रोड़स, रास्ते, बादल फटने और रोज आने वाले संकट, शिक्षा का अभाव, विकास के अनेक रास्तों का बंद होना, बेरोजगारी की समस्या, इन सब समस्याओं के बारे में उन्होंने यहां बताया है। उस हिमालय की गोद में बसने वाले प्रदेश के अन्दर एक नई रोशनी लाने की दृष्टि से सरकार को इस पर सोचना चाहिए। ऐसा कोई नया प्रावधान या ऐसा कोई नया परिषद्, जिस प्रकार का परिषद् नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लिए बना है, उसी प्रकार से यहां का भी एक परिषद् बना कर इस समग्र प्रदेश के विकास के लिए सरकार स्वयं एक बिल लेकर आगे आए, इस प्रकार की प्रार्थना करते हुए मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA — *Contd.*

The Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy Bill, 2017

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:—

“In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy Bill, 2017, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th August, 2017.”

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS — *Contd.*

The Central Himalayan States Development Council Bill, 2016

श्री आनंद भास्कर रापोलू (तेलंगाना): माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, देव भूमि उत्तराखंड के धरतीपुत्र, मेरे भाई प्रदीप टम्टा आज प्राइवेट मेम्बर बिल के रूप में हिमालय संकट को सदन में

[श्री आनंद भास्कर रापोलू]

प्रस्तावित कर रहे हैं। हिमालय को हम साक्षात् भगवद् स्वरूप मानते हैं। अभी-अभी बाबा बर्फानी, महान अमरनाथ जी की यात्रा सम्पन्न हो रही है। मानसरोवर की यात्रा करने वाले लोग वापस जा रहे हैं। मुक्तिनाथ, अलकनन्दा, मंदाकिनी, केदारनाथ जैसे महान क्षेत्रों का हमेशा स्मरण होता रहता है। आज हिमालय के ऊपर जो संकट है, वह सिर्फ ऊपर-ऊपर से सोचने की बात नहीं है। हिमालय क्षेत्र को बचाने के लिए, केंद्र सरकार की सोच और ध्यान उस तरफ आकृष्ट करने की मांग करते हुए, मैं अपनी चंद बातें रखना चाहता हूँ।

The Himalayas are normally 3,500 metres above the sea level. Our Himalayas have more than 15,000 glaciers. Our Himalayas have more than 9,000 glacier lakes. The Himalayan States — Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and some parts of hilly States — have a population of more than three crore. If we think about the Himalayan ecosystem, the native people may not be fully satisfied. If we just think about the day-to-day livelihood issues of the population of the Himalayan States, it is not going to save our ecological system. Altogether the climate crisis has grown. The expert study indicates that in the coming 80 years, almost entire glacier volume across the Himalayas may disappear. This is the basic warning. We have to see as to how we look at it.

My colleague, Shri Pradeep Tamta, proposes to have a Central Himalayan Council. What are the shortcomings in the governance? I call upon the Union Government to look at it in a scientific fashion. The protection of the Himalayan ecosystem is automatically linked to the population there. The recent landslides, cloudbursts, glacier melting and expanding climatic complications are giving warning signals to us. But the Himalayan population has an altogether different complication. If the Government initiates to develop infrastructure, particularly road infrastructure or communication infrastructure, one small cloudburst or some serious glacier melting can wipe out that infrastructure. Recently, across Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, we heard about the washing away of very well built roads and other infrastructure. Keeping these examples and experiences in view, have we evolved a scientific programme to address this problem? Our public sector organizations which are involved in infrastructure building across the Himalayan States are fully up-to-date with the native ecological challenges of Himalayan region. To my understanding, still, we are not up-to-date, and, that is why, still, we could not have a safe passage on land to Mansarovar. Not only that, the Kedarnath ji complication, the flash foods and the cloudbursts have alarmed us but we could not learn anything from those dangerous complications. Such cloudbursts are going to grow. The ecological challenges are not only for the Himalayan region but also for the whole of the country. If we have safe glacier and if we try to protect the glacier eco-system, it is not only going to help the riparian system in the upper part of the country but it will also sustain

the safe weather for our livelihood. Sir, the Himalayan States are educationally backward; the Himalayan States are still unconnected; the Himalayan States are still in the nomadic or seminomadic or lowest state of the social life. These challenges have to be thoroughly kept in mind while evolving a programme for balancing the Himalayan eco-system with the improvement of the lifestyle and livelihood standard of the population. Their education is still dependent on the grace of long travails. Their livelihood is still dependent on the nature support other than the Government programmes. These are visible to you. Your programmes and the experiences of those programmes are explaining you all that. The data is before you, and, Pradeep Tamta ji has mentioned about the reports of several Committees. Keeping these facts in mind, how should we be looking at the Himalayan States? Keeping the climatic challenges in view in the growing complications, the Himalayan States have to be balanced. There are several examples that have been developed not only in India but also across the borders in Nepal and other countries. We need to learn from those examples; we have to imbibe and a national mission has to be taken up on war-footing to protect the Himalayan eco-system and the livelihood of Himalayan population.

For that, the request of Shri Pradeep Tamta looks to be very genuine. There must be a Central Council to cater to it in a multipronged way so that it can have a mandate and it can also mandate not only the Union Government but also the participant States to ensure protection and care, and, to undertake programmes with precautions, which are necessary, for the safe future of the Himalayan eco-system.

I plead for saving the Himalayas, I plead for saving the Himalayan glacier, and, I plead for upliftment of the population of the Himalayan States. Thank you very much.

डा. अनिल कुमार साहनी (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस महत्वपूर्ण विषय, केंद्रीय हिमालयी राज्य विकास परिषद् के सम्बन्ध में माननीय श्री प्रदीप टम्टा जी यहां पर जो प्रस्ताव लाये हैं, इसके माध्यम से इन्होंने एक विचारणीय विषय सदन के सामने रखा है, इसके लिए मैं इनके प्रति आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ। हिमालयी क्षेत्र में, यानी प्रकृति की गोद में रहने वाले नागरिक जिस प्रकार से सामाजिक, आर्थिक, शैक्षणिक और स्वास्थ्य संबंधी परेशानियां झेल रहे हैं, उन पर प्रदीप टम्टा जी ने विस्तारपूर्वक चर्चा की है। उन्होंने उत्तराखंड, हिमाचल प्रदेश तथा जम्मू और कश्मीर के सम्बन्ध में विशेष रूप से चर्चा की है, जो हिमालय से जुड़े हुए हैं। सिक्किम, असम, नागालैंड, मिजोरम, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, इन सारी जगहों पर भी ऐसी ही व्यवस्था है। जिस प्रकार से ऐतिहासिक पुस्तकों में कहा गया है, हमारे रामायण में भी कहा गया है, हिमालय को ज्ञान के साधन और वैदिक औषधि का केंद्र माना गया है। रामायण में लिखा है कि राम जी जब लंका पर चढ़ाई कर रहे थे, तब लक्ष्मण जी को बाण लगा था, उस समय हनुमान जी ने हिमालय से ही संजीवनी बूटी लाकर उनकी जान बचाई थी। यह एक ऐतिहासिक और धार्मिक बात है। यह तो हमारे प्राचीन काल से चला आ रहा है। इस सम्बन्ध में हमारे पाटिल साहब ने जो बात कही,

[डा. अनिल कुमार साहनी]

मैं उनका समर्थन करता हूँ कि अगर हिमालय में उद्योगों को बढ़ावा दिया जायेगा, तो हिमालय को जिस प्राकृतिक और वैदिक स्वरूप के कारण जाना जाता है, उसे प्रदूषण के कारण नष्ट होने का खतरा रहेगा। हमारे पाटिल साहब ने कहा है कि वहां उद्योगों की कमी है। वहां उद्योग न ही रहें, वही अच्छा है, क्योंकि इसके कारण हिमालय पर खतरा आ सकता है। हिमालय और हिमालयी क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए जो प्रस्ताव दिये गये हैं, मैं उनका समर्थन करता हूँ। साथ ही, हिमालय से जुड़े हुए जो क्षेत्र हैं, उनका भी विकास होना चाहिए। जैसे बिहार है, नेपाल हमारे बिहार के बगल में है। वहां से जो नदियां आती हैं, हिमालय से जो नदियां आती हैं, वे कुछ क्षेत्रों को बरबाद करने का काम करती हैं, जिसके बारे में अभी टम्टा साहब भी बोल रहे थे। उसी प्रकार से मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि गंगा, नारायणी, गंडक, बूढ़ी गंडक, कोसी, लखनदेई आदि नदियों का स्रोत हिमालय में है। नेपाल से लगा हुआ उत्तरी बिहार का जो क्षेत्र है, जैसे— बात्मिकि नगर, बगहा, पश्चिमी चम्पारण, पूर्व चम्पारण, सीतामढ़ी, शिवहर, मुजफ्फरपुर, मधुबनी, मधेपुरा, सहरसा, दरभंगा आदि जगहों पर हर वर्ष विनाशकारी बाढ़ आती है। उस पर भी सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिए। हिमालय से निकलने वाली नदियों में बाढ़ के कारण हमारे बिहार में भी बरबादी होती रही है। गंगा, नारायणी, त्रिवेणी, लखनदेई, कोसी, बूढ़ी गंडक, नून नदी, बागमती आदि नदियों के कारण हमारे उत्तर बिहार को बहुत ज्यादा प्रति होती है। इसकी ओर भी मैं सरकार का ध्यान दिलाना चाहूँगा।

मेरा यह कहना है कि पनबिजली को बढ़ावा दिया जा सकता है। हमने हिमालय क्षेत्र में कई जगहों पर देखा है, जैसे सिक्किम, असम, आदि जगहों पर पनबिजली का बढ़ावा दिया जा सकता है, जिससे हिमालय क्षेत्र में बिजली का उत्पादन हो सकता है। मैं सरकार से यह अनुरोध करना चाहूँगा कि जो हिमालय से सटे हुए क्षेत्र हैं, वहां के विकास के लिए भी आपको आगे आना चाहिए। महोदय, मैं ज्यादा नहीं कहूँगा। प्रदीप टम्टा जी इस महत्वपूर्ण विषय के संबंध में यहां पर जो विधेयक लाए हैं, हम इसके समर्थन में खड़े हैं। जय हिन्द, जय भारत!

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, on behalf of my Party, I rise to support the Central Himalayan States Development Council Bill, 2016 proposed by Shri Pradeep Tamta primarily for five reasons; the first reason being that the States Re-organisation Act, 1956 has created zonal councils for promoting regional development. Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh in terms of the Act come under the Northern Zonal Council whereas Uttarakhand is part of the Central Zonal Council. I can confidently say that these zonal development councils, which were created by virtue of 1956 Act, are not able to function properly for various reasons. Thus, the specific problems and vulnerabilities linked to the infrastructure and geography of Himalayan States do not get addressed. For this reason, this Bill has to be supported. Zonal councils do not meet frequently. There is no time-limit that has been stipulated in the States Re-organisation Act to the effect that the zonal councils have to meet at a specific period of time. Take for example, in the last sixty years, since 1956 till today, this Northern Zonal Council has met 27 times and that too infrequently. There is no regularity. It met in 2012 and the last meeting

was in 2015. Therefore, a reasonable inference can be drawn that the purpose for which these zonal councils have been created is not really being fulfilled. So, this Bill has to be supported. Apart from the four other reasons, which I will elaborately explain to you, I will not take much time, I will take another four minutes' time.

The Bill as envisaged and tabled by Shri Pradeep Tamta has got various objectives and functions to be fulfilled. This Bill, according to Tamtaji, would accelerate the industrial growth, interlink various places by rail and road — these are all laudable — provide telecommunication facilities, provide electricity, drinking water, rural housing, provide health services, and provide educational facilities and gainful employment and take preventive measures to minimise the natural calamities. These are all very good objectives if the Bill is enacted and really serves the purpose. Apart from this, this Bill, if enacted, would improve the disaster preparedness. Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh face common geographical problems and threat of natural hazards as stated by Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu. The region is prone to cloudbursts and landslides also. So, the disaster risks of these three States are interlinked with each other. A common council like National Central Himalayan Development Council probably would serve the purpose and would enhance the disaster preparedness for dealing with such hazards. Sir, the third point, which I would like to bring to your notice and the Minister concerned, is the low development indicators. There are various indicators which indicate the development of the region. According to the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) estimate, the per-capita income at current prices — there are two different methods and I am talking about the current prices — in Jammu and Kashmir in 2014-15 was only ₹ 58,593. Let us have a comparison. In Haryana, it is about ₹ 1,30,000, whereas in Delhi it is ₹ 2,00,000. So, the per capita income in Jammu and Kashmir and in the other two States is relatively lower. This is an indicator which indicates the low development of the region.

And, another indicator is the Gross Enrolment Ratio at primary school level. This is concerned with education. At school level, in all, it is about 99 per cent, but it is 86 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir. And, if you deduct the drop-out rates, then the ratio is only 72 per cent. So, the low education enrolment ratio is another indicator which indicates the low development.

Another point that I would like to make is low infrastructure or lack of infrastructure development. In fact, the NITI Aayog has collected a data on the number of telephones per 100 of population. That is another indicator. Of course, nowadays, almost everybody has got the telephone but this is a practice which is being followed for several decades. In Delhi, there are about 240 telephones per

[Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy]

hundred persons and in Uttarakhand, it is only 13 for every hundred persons. So, this also indicates that there is a lack of infrastructure and lack of development.

Sir, another indicator is primary health centres. For example, in Jammu and Kashmir, there are about 637 primary health centres whereas in Himachal Pradesh, there are about 518 primary health centres. In other parts of the country, which is not part of the Himalayan Region, the primary health centres are relatively, significantly more.

Therefore, these are all the indicators which indicate lack of infrastructure and lack of development. These are all the five points which I wanted to highlight and because of these five reasons, my party, the YSR Congress Party, would support the Bill. I request the Government of India to pass the Bill, make it as a law and ensure the development of the Central Himalayan Region. Thank you very much.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Shri Reddy, you have finished before the time allotted to you. Now, Shri B. K. Hariprasad.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Thank you, Vice-Chairman, Sir. I rise to support the Bill moved by my colleague Shri Pradeep Tamta to constitute the Central Himalayan States Development Council. Sir, the question is, what is the need for this Himalayan Development Council? The Himalayan Mountains are as old as any civilization in the world. It has given birth to three mighty rivers, which is a lifeline for millions of people in the country and almost in the Southeast Asia. The Himalayan vast mountain system extends to eleven States of this country. It includes Western Himalayan Region, Central Himalayan Region and the North Eastern Himalayan Region. It covers almost eight South Asian countries including Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. It is almost an international phenomenon. It has given birth to many civilizations. People depend on this Himalayan Region for so many things. Sir, most of the adventure sports lovers or the people loving mountain sports come to Himalayas as their life's ambition for mountaineering sports in the Himalayas. The major problems which we are facing in the Himalayas are deforestation and pollution in the region. Sir, if you take nature's abundant gift to the Himalayas into consideration, you will find that in terms of forests, though India covers about 18 per cent of the Himalayan region, but 50 per cent of the forest coverage is from the Himalayan region in the country. It accounts for about 50 per cent of the forest coverage. The two mighty rivers, Brahmaputra and Ganges are the lifeline of the entire north Indian region. When almost the entire population is dependent on these rivers, it is the duty and responsibility of any Government to protect, preserve and develop this region. I think, the Bill, which has been moved

by Tamtaji, is in the right direction and the Government should come forward to constitute this Himalayan Development Council so that it can address the basic serious issues faced by this Himalayan region.

Sir, as you know, we had a Member here, Mr. Barongpa, who was from Lahaul-Spiti, Himachal Pradesh. That is a place where the people go and live only for two months in a year. Rest of the year, they have to come down from mountains and live in plains and a huge migration takes place. But to this date, we have not taken any major step to facilitate these people who are in the mountain region to develop them. It has been rightly pointed out by my Telugu friend, Shri Vijayasai Reddy, that we have to contribute towards the basic infrastructure, that is, health, education and connectivity through roads. Rail connectivity is too far for them; so, at least, we have to contribute towards these three sectors. Sir, I have said that it has been given nature's abundant gift.

After Himachal, I now come to Arunachal Pradesh. You know it pretty well as you are from the North East that it has got the highest number of Orchids in the world. About 640 varieties of Orchids are grown in Arunachal. If it is properly marketed in the world, I think they can afford themselves and there is no need for any budgetary support from anybody. Sir, Orchids are in huge demand in the western countries, and if proper marketing takes place, I think there is no need for any help for these people. Sir, Mr. Tamta has also referred to various seminars and reports. They don't die out of starvation. If they go around the Himalayan region, from morning to evening, they get their daily food and get the needs of life in forests. But, we have to give other modern facilities also to them. My great leader Shrimati Indira Gandhi had given special category status for the Indian Himalayan region wherein, 90 per cent of the budgetary support was from the Central Government and 10 per cent of the budgetary support from the State. But unfortunately, after this u-turn Government took over, it has withdrawn all the facilities of special category status from the Himalayan region. I urge upon them not to play politics on the developmental issue, especially the people who are vulnerable to so many other things because it is a border State. Any small mistake of neglecting them, we have to pay a very high price. Already we are facing problems in the forest region where they have been neglected. We have seen what is happening in those areas.

Sir, before concluding, I would like to say that protecting the environmental issues and ecological issues are very important because it has been reported that the damage to the ozone layer due to the pollution is as big as the Himalayan mountains. If you don't take care of the ecological balance, the damage to the ozone layer due to the pollution may increase. For that, the Government should strengthen some of

[Shri B. K. Hariprasad]

our municipalities and panchayats in these regions. They should be given financial assistance so that they are self sufficient and they can build their own infrastructure, hospitals, schools and roads. They need not migrate to other States in search of employment and eke out their livelihood. I think it is a commendable Bill moved by my friend, Mr. Pradeep Tamta. I urge upon the Government to support this Bill and constitute a Development Council in this Region. Thank you very much.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Thank you. The next speaker is Mr. Mahendra Singh Mahra. Since the time is less, I request Mr. Mahra to be brief.

श्री महेंद्र सिंह माहरा (उत्तराखंड): सर, मैं माननीय टम्टा जी के पर्वतीय विकास के लिए राष्ट्रीय हिमालयी नीति पर्वतीय विकास परिषद की अवधारणा का पुरजोर समर्थन करता हूं। माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, जून, 2013 की केदारनाथ त्रासदी से सरकार ने कोई सबक नहीं लिया, क्योंकि सरकार मध्य हिमालयी क्षेत्र में पिछले तीन दशकों की भीषणतम तबाही के कारणों को नहीं जान पाई। अभी तक सरकार ने इन प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के कारणों का अध्ययन नहीं किया है, न ही कोई रोडमैप तैयार किया, ताकि लोगों को भीषण तबाहियों से बचने के उपाय बता सके। कई बार हिमालयी क्षेत्र में हो रहे भौगोलिक परिवर्तन के संबंध में प्रश्न पूछने पर माकूल जवाब नहीं मिलने से मन में शंका होती है। मैंने हिमालयी क्षेत्र में हो रहे परिवर्तन का अध्ययन करने के लिए मौसम विशेषज्ञों व भूगर्भभी वैज्ञानिकों की कमेटी के गठन करने का सुझाव दिया था, परन्तु उसकी अनदेखी हुई।

आज वैश्वीकरण और घोर बाजारवाद के बीच हमारे पर्वत समूह हाशिये पर चले गए हैं, जबकि इन इलाकों और यहां रहने वाले समुदायों को लेकर दुनिया में गंभीर व रोचक विचार-विमर्श चल रहा है। प्रकृतिविदों, मानव शास्त्रियों और भूगोलविदों ने मार्जनलाइजेशन की प्रक्रिया को स्थानीय परिस्थितियों और बदलावों से जोड़कर समझने की कोशिश की है। वैश्विक स्तर पर रियो डेक्लरेशन एजेण्डा-21 1992 में दूरगामी पर्वतीय विकास और परिस्थिति तंत्र के संरक्षण संवर्धन को स्वीकारा गया है। चैप्टर 13 में जल, जंगल व जमीन जैसे प्राकृतिक संसाधनों, भारतीय हिमालयी परिक्षेत्र, हिन्दूकुश लद्दाख से अरुणाचल तक के समग्र व संतुलित विकास के यक्ष प्रश्न पर हिमालय से सरोकार रखने वाले और हिमालय की सही-सही समझ रखने वाले पर्यावरणविदों, सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताओं, स्वयंसेवी संगठनों में हिमालय पर्वतीय विकास हेतु पृथक पर्वतीय विकास परिषद के गठन को लेकर मुद्दा गरमाया है। हिमालय मात्र हिम बर्फ का घर ही नहीं है बल्कि वह मनुष्य का आश्रयस्थल भी है। वह किसी भी अन्य पर्वतमाला की भांति अपार संसाधनों का घर है, जो आदिकाल से आखेटक, घुमक्कड़, पशुचारक, कृषक, व्यापारियों द्वारा प्रयोग किया जाता रहा है और किया जाता रहेगा। इन संसाधनों में जमीन, जल, जंगल, जानवर और वन्यता शामिल है। यह जैव विविधता, ऊर्जा, उर्वरता और पूरे भारतवर्ष की जलवायु को नियंत्रित करने वाली ही नहीं, बल्कि अतिविशिष्ट सांस्कृतिक व आध्यात्मिक उच्चता प्राप्ति का पवित्र स्थल है। इन बेशकीमती पर्यावरणीय संसाधनों की भविष्य में सतत आपूर्ति के लिए यह आवश्यक है कि इन संसाधनों को केवल माल या कमोडिटी बनाकर, इन्हें लूट का शिकार न बनाया जाए, बल्कि

साम्यक प्रयोग के लिए स्पष्ट नियोजन के साथ-साथ एक पृथक हिमालयी संसाधन संरक्षण एवं विकास नीति की आवश्यकता है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मिट्टी, जमीन, जल, जंगल, जानवर, ग्लेशियर, हिमाच्छिन्न शिखर, उच्च पर्वतीय घाटियों में पर्यावरणीय संसाधनों के अनावश्यक और अत्यधिक व्यापारिक विदोहन के कारण हिमालयी पट्टी में भूस्खलन, भूकटाव, हिमस्खलन, नदियों के प्रवाह तंत्र में व्यापक परिवर्तन आ रहे हैं। केदारनाथ त्रासदी, जम्मू-कश्मीर की बाढ़, अतिवृष्टि, खंडवृष्टि, बादल फटना, नेपाल भूकम्प जैसी घटनाएं इसका प्रमाण हैं। अतः हिमालय की प्राथमिकता वहां की पारिस्थितिकी (Ecology) होनी चाहिए और बेहद सुनियोजित ढंग से पर्यावरण-परिवेश के अनुरूप संतुलित एवं दूरगामी विकास नीति की सरकार से अपेक्षा है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हिमालयी परिवर्तन में प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के संरक्षण, संवर्धन पर स्थानीय समुदायों व निवासियों की सामूहिक सहभागिता न केवल आवश्यक है, बल्कि उनके जीवन-निर्वहन के प्रतिमान हिमालयी प्राकृतिक सम्पदा के सतत विकास से जुड़ी है। अतः मैं सदन से आग्रह करता हूं कि पूर्वोक्त राज्यों की तरह केंद्रीय हिमालयी राज्य को एक अलग से मंत्रालय तथा पर्वतीय विकास परिषद का गठन किया जाए, धन्यवाद।

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, I support the Bill that has been presented by my colleague, Shri Tamta.

He made reference to a meeting that was held in Shimla in 2010, when Shri P.K. Dhumal was the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, and the current Health Minister, Mr. J.P. Nadda, was the Environment Minister for Himachal Pradesh. I happened to be the Environment Minister here. Chief Ministers of eleven Himalayan States, from Jammu and Kashmir all the way to Arunachal Pradesh had assembled in Shimla. A Shimla Declaration was announced. The Government had initiated a number of steps for the development of the Himalayan States.

Sir, I am fortunate that both the Power Minister and the Environment Minister are present here. I would like to highlight two or three issues that are of particular significance in the context of the Bill that Mr. Tamta has put forward. I support the Bill, but I want to raise these two or three issues, which are of particular significance.

First, Sir, we must review the policy of hydel projects in the upper reaches of the Ganga, the Bhagirathi, the Alaknanda, the Mandakini and so on. There is a lot of concern that indiscriminate expansion of hydel projects, without reference to 'minimum environmental flow', would create a lot of problems for the people living in the Himalayan States.

Our Government had actually abandoned the Lohari-Nagpala Project. There were two other projects on the Mandakini, on which a moratorium had been placed.

[Shri Jairam Ramesh]

Sir, this is a very important issue. Whichever hydel project is taken up, there should be a 'minimum environmental flow' so that the river does not have just tunnels but, actually, water in the river. Bishnugarh Peepal Kothi was a Project in which the minimum environmental flow was re-worked, because we need rivers, and rivers mean water; rivers do not mean stones and tunnels all the time. So, I would request both the Environment Minister and the Power Minister to re-look at the policy of hydel projects. Sir, you yourself come from the State of Assam, and there has been a lot of concern in Assam about the road Subansiri that is being built in Arunachal Pradesh. So, there are a lot of ecological and environmental concerns that just cannot be wished away. This is one issue that I want to highlight.

The second issue which Mr. Tamta has raised, which I support one hundred per cent, and which I request the Environment Minister to pursue with his Government, is the idea of a green bonus. I think, the States like Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, certainly, Uttarakhand, they are rich in forests, and these forests provide a lot of ecological value, a lot of social value, and they must be compensated adequately for conserving the forests, because there is a lot of pressure to develop the forest areas, but, we know that if more the forests we destroy, more the global warming we cause. So, these States must get a green bonus for protecting the forests, and I had initiated steps in this direction. The Fourteenth Finance Commission has made certain recommendations, and I request the Environment Minister to take this forward. Sir, the third point I want to make is that there is an ancient saying, प्रकृति रक्षति रक्षतः। In fact, in the entrance to the Ministry of Environment, where Dr. Harsh Vardhan has his office, the motto is, प्रकृति रक्षति रक्षतः। 'Nature protects those who protect it.' Now, if we do not protect nature, nature will hit back at us, because we destroyed the mangroves along the coasts of India. We had the extraordinary devastation of the Tsunami in 2004 because we were very indiscriminate in the creation of infrastructure in the hilly areas. We had the unprecedented floods in Uttarakhand, and dead bodies are still being taken out in Uttarakhand. So, Sir, let us not forget, प्रकृति रक्षति रक्षतः Nature will protect those who protect it, and I think, we are the only civilization that worships nature. We have one of the most famous Upanisads, which is called the बृहद् अरण्यका उपनिषद्, named after a forest. Our rishis went to mountains, went to forests. We worship rivers; we worship sacred groves; but, today, we are hell bent on destroying these environmental resources, and the impact of that is being seen in Jammu and Kashmir, is being seen in Himachal Pradesh, is being seen in Uttarakhand, and, I think, the creation of the Central Himalayan Council will create a national awareness, not just for the development of these States, but, also for having sustainable development, to have

4.00 P.M.

economic development to protect livelihoods of the people, but, in a manner that is environmentally sustainable. Sir, I will end by reminding ourselves that India's first environmental movement, known as the *Chipko* Movement, started in the hills of Uttarakhand. The women of Uttarakhand hugged the trees and that is how the name *Chipko* Movement came. We are all children of *Chipko* Movement; we are all being influenced by the *Chipko* Movement. Let us not forget the message of the *Chipko* Movement, the message of women of Uttarakhand that livelihoods are important, economic development is important but environmental consciousness, environmental sustainability is equally crucial for ensuring sustainable livelihoods. So, I wish to support the proposal of the Central Himalayan Development Council and I think this will go a long way in meeting the twin objectives of economic growth and environmental protection as well. Thank you.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL) *in the Chair*]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I admire and congratulate my friend, Mr. Pradeep Tamta, for bringing this wonderful and thoughtful Bill for forming the Central Himalayan Development Council. I must say, as Mr. Jairam Ramesh said, the Mountain Himalaya is not only full of forests, it is also very close to divine Lord Shiva's power. In Upnishads and Vedas we always find that the peak of Himalayas is the Kailash where Lord Shiva is supposed to be there. In fact, when you happen to go to near Himalayas, near Nepal and you see Himalayas, you get a sort of divine feeling and you feel as if you have seen the God. The first point is that Himalaya is full of divine atmosphere. Secondly, it is full of natural beauty. It is full of forests. Calamities and good climate is linked with Himalayas. So, how you worship it, how you develop it, these are very important things. When any calamity comes, it means something has gone wrong in Himalayas. Therefore, it is very important to focus on development of Central Himalayas which is linked with Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh where all these great temples are there. You will find India's divine power in all the places in different parts of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. On the other side is the environment. Himalaya, if you look at it from environmental point of view, is going to help you not only in that area but in the entire country. There is a link from Kanyakumari to Himalaya. So, this is very important. Next thing is if you travel to any country, for example Switzerland, they have also got hill stations and big hilly areas. They all have clear environment which is free of pollution. They have developed technologies for this. People really enjoy it. In fact, when I went there, I had gone to Trans where I felt as if I had come to Kailash in Switzerland when I went to the highest peak of the area. Here we don't have any facility. It is not just environmental or spiritual; the entire world

[Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy]

should get thrilled to see the beautiful creation given to the people of India by God in the form of Himalaya. So, people all over the world should visit Himalayas and see the beauty of the hilly areas, atmosphere of the forest areas and the spiritual atmosphere of Himalayas. This spiritual atmosphere you don't find in any other part of the world. It is found only in Indian Himalayas. It is a Private Member's Bill. The normal convention is that even if you introduce a good Bill, you must withdraw it. That is of no use. रात गई, बात गई, कुछ नहीं होता है। You must say

“ओम् खम-खम गम-गम घम...”

Which is the power of Panchmukha Hanuman, पंचमुखा हनुमान कवच स्रोत महामंत्र शक्ति स्वरूप आफ हिमालायाज.

So, this power will come to every MP who is here from now onwards. Now onwards you will get this power. So, I suggest that Dr. Harsh Vardhan should not ask him to withdraw it. ...(*Interruptions*).. But you may ask him to withdraw. आज जीत जाएंगे। But that is not the point. I urge upon the Government that let us make a united effort that Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha take it as a crucial issue. The Government should consider this very valuable suggestion of forming the Central Council for Development of Himalayas. People not only in India but all over the world should feel thrilled and get inspiration from it. They must be inspired by this beautiful atmosphere of Himalayas. So, what I am telling is that while replying, the hon. Minister must explain what is the master plan in this regard, without linking it to the Private Member's Bill, and how he is going to achieve it. I want the ruling party MPs to take it up as a challenge. Yes, we must now create a new gift for the people of India in a beautiful atmosphere. It is a creation of an environment which is going to help the future climatic conditions if you beautify the Himalayas. In conclusion, while supporting this Bill as phenomenal, fabulous and spectacular, I would say that it is a challenge for the ruling party to make this Bill applicable, successful. You should throw your muscle and strength. Thank you.

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री; पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री तथा पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री (डा. हर्ष वर्धन): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, प्रदीप टम्टा जी का आभार है कि उन्होंने एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय के ऊपर सारे सदन का ध्यान दिलाया है। मैं उन्हें भी ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने यह जो बिल मूव किया है, जो सेंट्रल हिमालयी स्टेट डेवलपमेंट काउंसिल बिल है, इसकी मूल भावना में उन्होंने यह बताने का प्रयास किया है कि जिस प्रकार से देश में नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न काउंसिल है, जिसके अंतर्गत देश के आठ हिमालयी स्टेट्स हैं, उसी प्रकार से बाकी हिमालयी स्टेट्स के लिए भी एक काउंसिल का निर्माण होना चाहिए। ज्यादातर सदस्यों, जिन्होंने भी यहां पर, इस विषय पर अपने विचार रखे हैं, उनमें से किसी के भी विचार में इस पर कोई असहमति नहीं हो सकती कि हिमालयी स्टेट ही नहीं, बल्कि हर स्टेट का संपूर्ण डेवलपमेंट होना चाहिए और उस

पर भी सब प्रकार से ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए। और भी बहुत तरह की भावनात्मक बातें, जो हिमालयी रीजन के बारे में कही गई हैं, वे बातें निर्विवाद सत्य हैं। इस पर किसी के दो मत नहीं हो सकते हैं कि वह देव भूमि है, वहां से गंगा का उद्गम हो रहा है, इस पर भी कोई दो मत नहीं हो सकते हैं कि वहां पर मानसरोवर है, वहां के ग्लेशियर्स ...(व्यवधान)...

विधि और न्याय मंत्री तथा इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री (श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद):

डा. साहब, आप डा. टी. सुब्बारामी रेड्डी जी की बातों पर विशेष रूप से नोटिस लीजिए और उनका उत्तर दीजिए।

डा. हर्ष वर्धन: सुब्बारामी रेड्डी जी ने तो बहुत कुछ कहा है, उन्होंने तो हनुमान जी की शक्ति भी हम लोगों को दे दी है और जयराम जी ने भी बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट बातें कही हैं। मैं समझता हूं कि इसमें किसी के दो मत नहीं हो सकते, किसी का भी डिफरेंस ऑफ ओपिनियन नहीं हो सकता है कि environmental concern भी बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट हैं और उस प्रदेश का डेवलपमेंट भी बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट है। जब मैंने इस बिल के संदर्भ में जानने की कोशिश की कि आप यह बिल क्यों लाए हैं, तब मुझे समझ में आया कि आप चाहते हैं कि जिस प्रकार से नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न काउंसिल बनी, जिसके माध्यम से शायद आपको यह अनुमान है कि किसी विशेष नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न स्टेट ने प्रगति कर ली या उसके माध्यम से उनको कोई विशेष लाभ हुआ है, तो मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगा कि मैंने बहुत सारे डेटा स्टडी करने की कोशिश की और जो 8 नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न स्टेट्स हैं, उनके साथ-साथ जिन स्टेट्स के बारे में आप अलग से भी इस काउंसिल के निर्माण के संदर्भ में सुझाव दे रहे हैं, वे सुझाव देते समय भी मैंने आपके सभी शब्दों को सुना है। आपने कहा कि इनके प्रति नजरिया बदलना चाहिए, इनके प्रति नीति बदलनी चाहिए इनके प्रति नया दृष्टिकोण होना चाहिए आदि। आपने ये सभी बातें कहीं हैं। आपने इस प्रकार की भी बहुत सारी बातें कहीं हैं कि देश के सारे प्रहरी वहां पर हैं और उनके प्रति देश का कर्तव्य है। मैं नहीं समझता कि इस पर किसी के भी कोई दो मत हो सकते हैं कि उनके प्रति हमारी जिम्मेदारी है। आपने अपने जवानी के दिनों का भी जिक्र किया कि आपने वहां पर किस प्रकार से छात्र आंदोलन के अंतर्गत हिमालय को बचाने के संदर्भ में, जंगलों को बचाने के संदर्भ में सारे प्रयास किए। यहां पर जितनी भी बातें कही गई हैं, हमारे मेम्बर्स ने जो कहा है, मैं उनके बारे में भी संक्षेप में कहूंगा। मैं आप सभी से सिर्फ यह अनुरोध करना चाहता हूं कि बिना किसी भावना में बहे, comparison के लिए ये जो डेटा हैं, इनके अंतर्गत मैं खासकर कुछ ही पैरामीटर्स की चर्चा करूंगा। इसके बाद वहां पर डेवलपमेंट की दृष्टि से जो काम हुआ है नैचुरली उसके आधार पर जो डेटास हमारे सामने उभर कर आए हैं और जो प्रधान मंत्री मोदी जी की सरकार कर रही है, उस पर भी मैं कुछ चीजों का जिक्र करूंगा, जिससे हम इस निर्णय पर पहुंचने की कोशिश करेंगे कि इस प्रकार की काउंसिल बनाने से हमारे इन तीन प्रदेशों का क्या कोई विशेष फायदा हो सकता है या नहीं हो सकता? मुझे लगता है कि यह ज्यादा उचित होगा और ज्यादा प्रासंगिक होगा। मैंने यह ह्यूमेन डेवलपमेंट इंडेक्स से डेटा निकाला है, जो 1983 से लेकर 2011-12 का डेटा है, क्योंकि यह नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की काउंसिल 70 के दशक में बनी थी। हम सब इस बात को एप्रिशिएट कर सकते हैं कि 70 के दशक में नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न स्टेट्स की जो स्थिति थी, उनका डेवलपमेंट कराने के लिए, विशेष ध्यान दिलाने के लिए निश्चित रूप से उस समय की सरकार ने यह विशेष प्रयास किया, उस पर विशेष ध्यान दिया। निश्चित रूप से इसमें किसी भी प्रकार से कमी नहीं है और उसको एप्रिशिएट करने में किसी को कोई दिक्कत नहीं है। ये तीन स्टेट्स, जिनके डेवलपमेंट के लिए आप काउंसिल

[डा. हर्ष वर्धन]

बनाने की बात कर रहे हैं, उत्तराखंड, हिमाचल प्रदेश और जम्मू-कश्मीर, अगर इनको एक तरफ रख कर उसके साथ-साथ जो आठ स्टेट्स हैं— अरुणाचल प्रदेश, असम, मणिपुर, मेघालय, मिजोरम, नागालैंड, सिक्किम और त्रिपुरा, इन सब को दूसरी तरफ रखकर 1983 से लेकर 2012 तक के डेटा हम देखें, तो ह्यूमैन डेवलपमेंट इंडेक्स के अंदर मैंने रैंकिंग के अंदर जो परिवर्तन देखा, तो मेरे ध्यान में आया कि अरुणाचल प्रदेश, असम, मणिपुर, मेघालय, मिजोरम, नागालैंड, सिक्किम और त्रिपुरा, इन सभी स्थानों पर in spite of the North-East Council created in 1970s, हमारा जो ह्यूमैन डेवलपमेंट इंडेक्स है, उसमें रैंकिंग कम हो गई। अगर आप चाहें, तो मैं बता देता हूँ कि अरुणाचल प्रदेश 24 से 27 नंबर पर पहुंच गया, असम 17 से 26 नंबर पर पहुंच गया, मणिपुर 13 से 22 नंबर पर पहुंच गया, मेघालय 18 से 20 नंबर पर पहुंच गया, मिजोरम 6 से 13 नंबर पर पहुंच गया, नागालैंड 15 से 19 नंबर पर पहुंच गया, सिक्किम 19 से 15 नंबर पर आया और त्रिपुरा 16 से 14 नंबर पर आया, लेकिन उत्तराखंड, हिमाचल प्रदेश और जम्मू-कश्मीर में उत्तराखंड, जहां से आप आते हैं, वह 25 से 11 नंबर पर आ गया, यानी इतना गुणात्मक परिवर्तन हुआ, हिमाचल प्रदेश 4 से 3 नंबर पर आ गया और जम्मू-कश्मीर 9 पर था वह 2012 में 9 पर ही रहा। उसके बाद मैंने एक दूसरा इंडिकेटर जीडीपी रैंकिंग का देखा। उसके अंदर भी मैंने कम्पेअर किया कि 40 साल पहले काउन्सिल बनाने के बाद उन आठ स्टेट्स के अंदर क्या फर्क पड़ा और बाकी तीन स्टेट्स, जिनके बारे में हम इतने ज्यादा चिंतित हैं, उनके अंदर क्या स्थिति है? तो हमारे ध्यान में आता है कि जीडीपी रैंकिंग में अकेले असम को छोड़कर बाकी मेघालय, त्रिपुरा, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, नागालैंड, मणिपुर, सिक्किम और मिजोरम — इन सभी की जीडीपी रैंकिंग जो है, वह उत्तराखंड, हिमाचल प्रदेश और जम्मू-कश्मीर के मुकाबले कमजोर रही है, वे पीछे हैं और उत्तराखंड इसमें भी सबसे ऊपर है। जिस उत्तराखंड के संदर्भ में आपकी चिंता सबसे ज्यादा भावनात्मक है, वह जीडीपी की रैंकिंग के अंदर उन आठ स्टेट्स से बेहतर है। उसके बाद हमने यह देखने की कोशिश की कि इन सभी 11-12 स्टेट्स के अंदर जो रोड्स का, रेलवे का नेटवर्क है, उसकी क्या स्थिति है? जब इनके डेटास का अध्ययन किया, तो ध्यान में आया कि रोड्स और रेलवे के पूरे नेटवर्क के अंदर त्रिपुरा, नागालैंड, मणिपुर, मिजोरम, मेघालय, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, सिक्किम के मुकाबले जम्मू-कश्मीर, हिमाचल प्रदेश और उत्तराखंड में नेशनल हाइवे वाले रोड, सरफेस वाले रोड, रेल रूट, सारे के सारे पैरामीटर्स में थोड़े बहुत नहीं, बहुत ज्यादा बेहतर हैं। जम्मू-कश्मीर के अंदर सरफेस रोड 8,962 किलोमीटर बनी, हिमाचल प्रदेश में 17,956 किलोमीटर बनी, तो उत्तराखंड 14,783 किलोमीटर बनी है। अगर आप उसके मुकाबले compare करेंगे, तो यह सिक्किम में 1,652 किलोमीटर, अरुणाचल प्रदेश में लगभग 6 हजार किलोमीटर, मेघालय में भी लगभग 6 हजार किलोमीटर, मिजोरम में तो सिर्फ लगभग 2 हजार किलोमीटर, मणिपुर में लगभग 3 हजार किलोमीटर, नागालैंड में लगभग 6 हजार किलोमीटर और त्रिपुरा में लगभग 9 हजार किलोमीटर है। अगर आप नेशनल हाईवेज की बात करें, तो आपके उत्तराखंड में 1,991 किलोमीटर, हिमाचल प्रदेश में 1,208 किलोमीटर, जम्मू-कश्मीर में 1,245 किलोमीटर, जबकि सिक्किम में केवल 62 किलोमीटर, अरुणाचल प्रदेश में 392 किलोमीटर और मेघालय में सिर्फ 810 किलोमीटर, इसी प्रकार से मिजोरम में भी लगभग 900 किलोमीटर, मणिपुर में भी लगभग 900 किलोमीटर, नागालैंड में लगभग 400 किलोमीटर और त्रिपुरा में लगभग 400 किलोमीटर है। अगर आप रेल रूट्स की बात करें, तो रेल रूट्स के बारे में 2001 के आसपास का जो data उपलब्ध है, उसके अनुसार जम्मू-कश्मीर में 96 किलोमीटर, हिमाचल प्रदेश में 269

किलोमीटर और उत्तराखंड में 356 किलोमीटर है। इसके मुकाबले सिक्किम में जीरो, अरुणाचल प्रदेश में एक किलोमीटर, मेघालय में कुछ नहीं, मिजोरम में दो किलोमीटर, मणिपुर में एक किलोमीटर, नागालैंड में 13 किलोमीटर और त्रिपुरा में 45 किलोमीटर है। मैं यह सिर्फ objective analysis के लिए बता रहा हूँ। आपने जितनी बातें कही हैं, आपने वहां के लिए जो भावनाएँ व्यक्त की हैं, उन पर किसी को असहमति नहीं हो सकती है। जितना आप उनसे भावनात्मक ढंग से जुड़े हैं, शायद सरकार उससे ज्यादा ही जुड़ी है, कम नहीं जुड़ी है। इस पर किसी को भी किसी तरह का संदेह नहीं होना चाहिए।

इसके बाद मैंने सोचा कि सड़क और रेल के जो parameters हैं, शायद ये उतना indicate न करते हों, क्योंकि बहुत सारे लोगों ने यूनिवर्सिटीज़ इत्यादि के बारे में भी यहां पर चर्चा की है, तो हमने educational institutions और उनके अन्दर भी primary/junior basic school से लेकर middle and upper school; high school; higher secondary school; intermediate college; arts, science and commerce college; professional educational institutions; universities; deemed universities and also institutes of national importance, हमने इन सबके data को study किया। मुझे फिर से यह बात बताते हुए आपको बधाई देने की बात लग रही है, क्योंकि यह आपके स्टेट की बात है कि इन सबके अन्दर भी, यानी सारे के सारे parameters, जिनकी मैंने चर्चा की है, उन सबमें जम्मू-कश्मीर, हिमाचल प्रदेश और उत्तराखंड और इनमें भी ज्यादातर में आपका उत्तराखंड सबसे ऊपर है। बाकी सारे प्रदेशों, सिक्किम, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, मेघालय, मिजोरम, मणिपुर, नागालैंड, त्रिपुरा, असम हिल्स, वेस्ट बंगाल हिल्स से यह बहुत ज्यादा बेहतर है, यानी इसमें थोड़ा-बहुत का फर्क नहीं है। मैं बाद में यह सारा data आपको ही दे दूंगा, आप खुद ही इनका अध्ययन करिएगा, अगर यह आपके ध्यान में न आया हो, तो खुद आपके ध्यान में आएगा कि हम नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में काउंसिल बनाने के बाद 40 साल के बाद कहां खड़े हैं और बिना काउंसिल के भी यहां किस प्रकार का development हुआ है। इसलिए काउंसिल बनाना इतना important नहीं है, बल्कि सरकारों का ध्यान उसके ऊपर है कि नहीं या सरकारों ने उनके बारे में कितनी चिंता की है, यह ज्यादा important है।

मैं आपके संज्ञान में थोड़ा सा विषय यह लाना चाहता हूँ, मैं सिर्फ recent years की बात करता हूँ, कि जैसा आपने और बहुत से लोगों ने यहां कहा कि सरकार इस क्षेत्र को ignore कर रही है, इसके ऊपर इस सरकार का ध्यान ही नहीं है, यहां पर यह सब होना चाहिए, तो जो लोग ये सब कहने वाले हैं, वे यह भूल जा रहे हैं कि पिछले इतने सालों से वहां किस पार्टी की सरकारें थीं। मान लीजिए यह स्थिति है, हम तो अभी तीन साल से आए हैं, लेकिन पिछले 40 साल के अन्दर ज्यादातर सरकारें तो आपकी ही रही हैं। आपके समय में जयराम रमेश जी Environment Minister भी रहे हैं, आप उस समय भी शायद ऐसा कोई न कोई बिल लाए होंगे। शिमला के अन्दर agreement में जो declaration हुआ, उसको लागू करने के लिए सबसे अच्छी स्थिति में तो जयराम रमेश जी थे, वे स्वयं देश के Environment Minister थे। He could have taken it up himself. लेकिन मैं politics में नहीं जाना चाहता। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इसमें politics का issue नहीं है। यहां पर हम किसी politics के लिए discussion नहीं कर रहे हैं, लेकिन मैं सिर्फ आपकी जानकारी के लिए बताना चाहता हूँ।

मैं सिर्फ तीन स्टेट्स के बारे में बात करता हूँ कि जम्मू-कश्मीर, उत्तराखंड और हिमाचल

[डा. हर्ष वर्धन]

प्रदेश में 2015 के अन्दर हमारे प्रधान मंत्री, नरेंद्र मोदी जी ने जम्मू-कश्मीर के लिए 80 हजार करोड़ रुपए के पैकेज की घोषणा की, जिसके अन्दर flood relief, reconstruction और flood management के लिए 7,854 करोड़ रुपए; Roads and Highways के लिए 42,611 करोड़ रुपए; Power — new and renewable energy के लिए 11,708 करोड़ रुपए; health के लिए 4,900 करोड़ रुपए; human resource development, skill development and sports के लिए 2,600 करोड़ रुपए; agriculture and food processing के लिए 529 करोड़ रुपए ...। Tourism के लिए 2,241 करोड़ रुपये, Urban Development के लिए 2,312 करोड़ रुपये, Security and Welfare of Displaced People के लिए 5,263 करोड़ रुपये और Pashmina Promotion Project के लिए 50 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए गए। अब बिना काउंसिल बने क्या किसी सरकार का इस ओर इससे ज्यादा ध्यान हो सकता है? सिर्फ पैकेज की बात है, तो this is only one package for one out of the three States about which you are talking.

इसके बाद सबने कहा कि वहां पर इतनी बड़ी त्रासदी हुई। महोदय, इसमें कोई शक की बात नहीं है कि Disaster Management को और भी strengthen किया जाना चाहिए और सारे systems improve होने चाहिए। त्रासदी तो कहीं भी, कभी भी हो सकती है, लेकिन त्रासदी को हम इस काउंसिल के होने या न होने से न जोड़ें। ऐसा नहीं है कि काउंसिल होती, तो त्रासदी न होती। हमारा basic subject है कि we want a council like the North-East Council and basically, that is the subject of debate. बाकी किसी चीज़ पर, किसी का कोई भी difference of opinion नहीं होना चाहिए।

अभी 27 दिसम्बर, 2016 को हमारे प्रधान मंत्री मोदी जी ने 'चारधाम महामार्ग विकास परियोजना' के लिए foundation stone रखा है। This project is also a very, very prestigious project. जिस त्रासदी के संबंध में आप सब और हम सब परेशान हैं, the project aims at improving the connectivity to the Char Dham Pilgrimage Centres in the Himalayas making journey to these centres safer, faster and more convenient. अकेले इस प्रोजेक्ट के अंदर, it includes development of 900 Kms. of National Highways in Uttarakhand at a total cost of ₹ 12,000 crore. सरकार बिना किसी काउंसिल के, एक प्रोजेक्ट पर 12,000 करोड़ रुपये से ऊपर खर्च कर रही है। इसके लिए सरकार किसी काउंसिल के निर्णय का इंतज़ार नहीं कर रही है, सरकार यह नहीं सोच रही कि कोई काउंसिल होगी और वह काउंसिल हमको आदेश देगी। सरकार के लिए सारे बच्चे बराबर होते हैं। जहां के लोग ज्यादा तकलीफ में होते हैं, वहां और भी ज्यादा ध्यान दिया जाता है, इसका reflection आप इन प्रोजेक्ट्स में देख सकते हैं।

इसके बाद मैं हिमाचल प्रदेश के बारे में बात करता हूं। वहां पर rail network के expansion के लिए काम किया गया। प्रधान मंत्री जी ने war-footing पर वहां के rail network के expansion के लिए आदेश दिया। वहां पर जो strategic Bhanupali-Bilaspur-Mandi-Manali rail line है, that extends up to the border of China through Rohtang Pass Tunnel. इसके लिए approval दिया गया और उसके बाद fund provide किया। Pathankot-Joginder Nagar railway line को broad gauge में convert करने के लिए भी काम चल रहा है। This line will also extend up to Mandi where a big junction of the two lines, Bhanupali and Joginder Nagar, would

be made. यहां हम डेवलपमेंट की दृष्टि से जो बड़े प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं, सिर्फ उनकी बात कर रहे हैं। अभी-अभी रेल मंत्री जी ने मेरे ज्ञान को थोड़ा और बढ़ाया है कि ये रेलवे लाइन आगे लेह तक पहुंचने वाली है।

महोदय, हिमालयन स्टेट्स में जो ongoing 3-4 programmes चल रहे हैं, I will just name them, क्योंकि एक-एक की डिटेल् बताएंगे तो उसके लिए एक-एक घंटा भी बोला जा सकता है। To address the issues related to infrastructure development including basic education, skill development, employment generation, shelter, drinking water, agriculture, energy, road connectivity, communication, trade and industry, forest conservation, environmental degradation and how you handle the natural disasters including several schemes, programmes and plans, which have already been implemented in the Indian Himalayan Region, इसके संदर्भ में मैं आपको कुछ थोड़ा और बताना चाहूंगा। इन इलाकों में कुछ प्रमुख स्कीम्स, जो already चल रही हैं, जिन पर काम शुरू हो गया है, मैं आपको उनके बारे में बताना चाहूंगा। Rural Development में 'पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय ग्रामीण कौशल योजना' चल रही है, 'महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी अधिनियम' (MNREGA) चल रहा है, 'प्रधान मंत्री आवास योजना' चल रही है। Department of Agriculture and Cooperation or Farmers' Welfare में 'प्रधान मंत्री कृषि सिंचाई योजना' चल रही है। Ministry of Textiles की तरफ से Handicrafts, Design and Technology Upgradation Scheme चलाई जा रही है, Marketing Support and Services and Export Promotion Scheme चल रही है, Technology Mission on Technical Textile, यानी Ministry of Textiles भी कितना meticulously वहां पर काम कर रहा है, यह इसका एक superficial उदाहरण है। इसकी डिटेल् के लिए हम अपने मंत्री जी से अनुरोध कर सकते हैं, क्योंकि वे इस पर और भी ज्यादा प्रकाश डाल सकते हैं। Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship के संदर्भ में प्रधान मंत्री कौशल विकास योजना Component-2 भी शुरू हो गई है। Capacity Building Component of Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Scheme शुरू हो गई है। Ministry of New and Renewable Energy में National Biogas and Manure Management Programme शुरू हो गया है। National Biomass Cookstoves Programme शुरू हो गया है। Solar Cooker and Solar Water System Programme शुरू हो गया है। मेरी अपनी Ministry of Earth Sciences में Atmosphere and Climate Research के लिए Modelling Observation Systems and Services शुरू हो गई हैं। इसकी अगर डिटेल्स में जाए, तो बहुत सारी चीजें हैं।

महोदय, बहुत सारे माननीय सदस्यों ने यहां Himalayan glaciers और इससे जुड़े हुए विषयों के बारे में चर्चा की है। I can tell you कि उस संदर्भ में वहां पर सब तरीके से बहुत काम शुरू हो रहा है। Studies की दृष्टि से भी और वहां के observation system को strengthen करने की दृष्टि से भी बहुत काम हो रहा है। वहां हमारी जो तीनों State Governments हैं— हिमाचल प्रदेश, जम्मू-कश्मीर एवं उत्तराखंड, वे भी ढेर सारी schemes को implement कर रही हैं। उनके बहुत सारे कामों की भी हमारे पास लिस्ट्स हैं।

महोदय, अभी किसी माननीय सदस्य ने यहां नीति आयोग के बारे में उल्लेख किया था। मैं आपको सिर्फ यह जानकारी देना चाहता हूँ कि Indian Himalayan Region की जो 12 States हैं,

[डा. हर्ष वर्धन]

इनके holistic development के बारे में नीति आयोग ने केंद्र सरकार के सारे मंत्रालयों के साथ मिलकर बातचीत कर के brainstorming कर के, पूरा और गम्भीर चिन्तन करने के बाद डा. वी. के. सारस्वत, जो कि नीति आयोग के member हैं और country के बहुत distinguished scientist हैं, उनकी chairmanship में they have planned activities for sustainable development in the mountains of the Indian Himalayan Region और इसके अंदर पांच thematic areas को already identify किया गया है। इसके साथ-साथ इसमें कई leading institutions के साथ मिलकर working groups बनाए गए हैं। यदि इस बारे में देखेंगे, तो आपको पता लगेगा कि कितनी meticulously इस पर काम हो रहा है। Inventory and Revival of Springs in the Himalayas for Water Security at the Department of Science and Technology, फिर Sustainable Tourism in the Indian Himalayan Region with emphasis at Heritage Tourism by NITI Aayog, फिर Shifting Cultivation Towards Transformation Approach by National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, फिर Strengthening Skill and Entrepreneurship Landscape in Himalayas at Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. इसके बाद Data Information for Informed Decision Making by Multiple Stakeholders at G. B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development पर काम चल रहा है। हमने पूरा अध्ययन कर के जम्मू-कश्मीर, हिमाचल प्रदेश और उत्तराखंड के बारे में ये किताबें जारी की हैं। यदि इन किताबों में लिखित योजनाओं और विवरण का आप गहराई से अध्ययन करें, तो आप खुद ही Council का आइडिया ड्रॉप कर देंगे। इस बारे में मुझे आपसे कुछ नहीं कहना पड़ेगा, बल्कि आपको खुद ही लगेगा कि बिना Council के यदि इतना जबर्दस्त काम हो रहा है, तो हमें Council के नाम पर स्टेट को छोटा करने की जरूरत नहीं है।

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, ...(Interruptions)... Hon. Minister,

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: See, for one Bill, the maximum time is two hours. ...(Interruptions)...

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, just give me five minutes. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: For how much time you spoke?

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, there are important questions by the hon. Members. सर, वे उनके reply बहुत detail में दे रहे हैं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. How can it be? ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: It is a very good reply. Every Member is very satisfied. ...(Interruptions)...

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Honestly, I have just started. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But how much time would it take? It is already two hours. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, I have only just started. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, I want to do full justice with the subject. It is a very sensitive subject. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Justice ठीक है, but over justice is not needed. Only justice. ...(*Interruptions*)...

डा. हर्ष वर्धन: सर, इसमें हमने National Mission, जो Himalayan Studies के लिए बनाया है, इसकी इतनी detailed report है कि आप यदि खुद पढ़ेंगे, तो आप खुश हो जाएंगे कि आपकी State में कितना काम हो रहा है। सर, फिर यह जो National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem by the Department of Science and Technology.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Bill time is two hours. That is the problem. ...(*Interruptions*)...

डा. हर्ष वर्धन: सर, इसके दो broad goals हैं। इसमें एक है— Short and Long Term Scientifically Assessed Actions for the Sustenance of the Ecosystem, Adaptation of the Indian Himalayan Region while simultaneously addressing the developmental needs of the society. सर, यह मेरा खुद Science and Technology Department कर रहा है। इसलिए मुझे पता है कि आपकी स्टेट में कितनी गहराई से काम हो रहा है। सर, इसी के अन्तर्गत दूसरा है—networking, strengthening and capacity-building of institutions and civil society organizations. Its scope has further been broadened through six thematic task forces, with an overall budget of around ₹ 550 crores in the Twelfth Plan. The NMSHE is implemented through climate change cells in the Indian Himalayan Region States, with six thematic task forces.

सर, इसके बाद मुझे आपको यह बताना है कि हमारा जो National Mission on Himalayan Studies है, हमारी जो दूसरी मिनिस्ट्री है, जिसके ऑनरेबल जयराम रमेश जी पहले मंत्री थे, जोकि हमारे मित्र भी हैं और बहुत गम्भीरता से environment की चिन्ता भी करते हैं, 2015 में वहां पर हमने Environment Ministry में National Mission on Himalayan Studies को initiate किया, where we are studying in detail existing gaps in the data and knowledge about Himalayas. जिसके बारे में, प्रकृति वगैरह के बारे में, हमारे रेड्डी साहब बहुत चिन्तित थे, which has been hindering an informed policy-making on different issues related to sustainable development of the Himalayan Region. यह एक पार्ट है। The second part is, this Mission was launched to support innovative studies and related knowledge interventions in six thematic areas. यह हमारी Environment Ministry खुद कर रही है। Sustainable management of land and water resources, environmental assessment and management, सर, इसके लिए

[डा. हर्ष वर्धन]

जयराम जी बहुत चिन्तित हैं। आप बिल्कुल निश्चित रहिए। जब तक डा. हर्ष वर्धन Environment Minister है, तब तक आपका environment का जो कोई भी concern है, उस पर किसी भी कीमत पर compromise नहीं होगा। Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable infrastructure and energy security, supplementary livelihood options ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल (महाराष्ट्र): "जब तक हैं" से आपका क्या मतलब है? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

डा. हर्ष वर्धन: आपको क्या हुआ?

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: "जब तक हैं" से आपका क्या मतलब है? ...*(व्यवधान)*... क्या आप हटने वाले हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

डा. हर्ष वर्धन: जब तक देश में मोदी जी की सरकार है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: आप अभी तो हैं! ...*(व्यवधान)*... इतनी जल्दी क्यों घबरा रहे हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

डा. हर्ष वर्धन: जब तक देश में मोदी जी की सरकार है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: तब तक आपको रखे रहेंगे? तब तक आपके पास additional charge रहेगा? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: तब तक environment की चिन्ता की जायेगी। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: आप क्यों खड़े हो जाते हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप क्यों खड़े हो जाते हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*... एक मिनट। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप confident हैं कि जब तक सरकार है, आप Environment Minister बने रहेंगे? ...*(व्यवधान)*... तब तक आपके पास additional charge रहेगा? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: भारत के प्रधान मंत्री आपसे पूछ कर विभाग नहीं देते। वे स्वयं फैसला करते हैं। समझे आप? ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: आप कब से प्रधान मंत्री के प्रवक्ता हो गये? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: आप शान्ति से बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: आप कहां प्रधान मंत्री के प्रवक्ता हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: आपस का झगड़ा यहां मत करिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: वे कह रहे हैं कि जब तक ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, whenever Mr. Rajeev Shukla gets up to speak, Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad springs up! ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: You provoke him to get up! ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is called induction ...(Interruptions)...

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL) *in the Chair*]

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, I was talking about the Mission, which has been launched to support innovative studies and related knowledge interventions. These are in six thematic areas. The first is sustainable management of land and water resources, जिसके बारे में कई माननीय सदस्यों ने यहां पर चिन्ता जाहिर की, environment assessment and management, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable infrastructure and energy security, supplementary livelihood options and also awareness and capacity-building. So, we are taking a comprehensive look at all the issues. It is not just infrastructure and development, but also all related research, going into the depth of everything, to see to it that nothing unforeseen happens in the future. Then, we have sanctioned 42 research projects exclusively dedicated to these States. Apart from this, we have awarded 119 Himalayan Research Fellowships. This is the level of research that we are concentrating on. इसके साथ-साथ मुझसे पहले, हमारे जो दो साथी इस विभाग में मंत्री थे, उन्होंने 2015 के सितम्बर में, पार्लियामेंट के जितने साथी हैं, जो इस इलाके के हैं, उन सब के साथ मीटिंग्स कीं और मुझे डिपार्टमेंट के लोगों ने बताया कि उसके अन्दर बहुत डिटेल में आप सब के इनपुट्स लेने के बाद सारे प्रोग्राम्स को और ज्यादा आगे बढ़ाया। Right now, we are working on developing a National Policy on Mountain Hill Regions for addressing the concerns of the people living in this mountain and hill region of the country. आपने इसके अंदर कई कमेटीज़ का जिक्र किया है। मैं भी इन कमेटीज़ के बारे में बताना चाहता हूँ, लेकिन पहले मैं एक इंडेक्स के बारे में बात करना चाहता हूँ। यह Multi-dimensional Index है। 2013 में यूनिशन गवर्नमेंट ने एक रघुराम राजन कमेटी सेटअप की थी। हमारे रघुराम राजन साहब earlier Chief Economic Advisor and RBI, Governor भी थे। This Committee was formed to suggest methods for identifying backwardness of States using a variety of criteria and also to recommend how the criteria may be reflected in future planning and devolution of funds from the Central Government to the States. इसके संदर्भ में considering the multidimensional Index used by the Committee, अब इसमें देखिए कि कितनी interesting बात है। इसमें जिन 10 least developed States के उल्लेख हैं, उनमें ओडिशा, बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश, छत्तीसगढ़, झारखंड, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, असम, मेघालय, उत्तर प्रदेश और राजस्थान हैं। आपको यह जानकर बहुत खुशी होगी कि seven most developed States में गोवा, केरल, तमिलनाडु, पंजाब, महाराष्ट्र, हरियाणा और हम सबका उत्तराखंड भी है। उसके बाद इसके अंदर जो सबसे least developed States हैं, उनमें अरुणाचल प्रदेश, असम और मेघालय हैं। अब आप यह देखिए कि जितनी भी स्टडीज़ हो रही हैं, जितने पैरामीटर्स सामने आ रहे हैं, वे सारे के सारे बता रहे हैं, नॉर्थ-ईस्ट काउंसिल को बनाने के बाद 40 साल में हम कहां खड़े हैं और बिना काउंसिल के भी हमारा और आपका जो उत्तराखंड है, उसका reflection, one of the best developed States के अंतर्गत आ रहा है।

सर, हमारी हिमाचल प्रदेश और मैंने आपसे जैसे कहा कि जम्मू और कश्मीर तथा उत्तराखंड की जो सरकारें हैं, उन्होंने ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: मंत्री जी, सारे सदस्य जवाब से बहुत संतुष्ट हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... है न? ...**(व्यवधान)**... हम सब जवाब से पूरी तरह से त्रस्त हो चुके हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... जवाब से त्रस्त हो चुके हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... अब fatigue factor develop हो रहा है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बसावाराज पाटिल): ठीक है, ठीक है, बैठिए, बैठिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: जयराम जी ने बहुत important issues उठाए हैं, अभी इन्होंने जयराम जी का जवाब तो दिया ही नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... जब तक जयराम जी के प्रश्नों का जवाब पूरा नहीं होगा ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: इसलिए जवाब पूरा हो गया, और जिनका बिल है, उनको 10 मिनट बोलने दें। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: अभी तो इन्होंने शुरू किया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... जयराम जी के सवालों के जवाब के लिए 10 मिनट तो देने पड़ेंगे।...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: आपके जवाब से हम सब संतुष्ट हैं, इसलिए अब आप ज्यादा दुख मत दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बसावाराज पाटिल): शुक्ल जी, कृपया आप बैठिए। मंत्री जी, कृपया आप जरा संक्षिप्त में उत्तर दीजिए।

डा. हर्ष वर्धन: सर, यह जानकारी देश की जनता को मिलनी चाहिए न। आपने अपने भाषण में दो-तीन कमेटीज़ का उल्लेख किया। जो इसके संदर्भ में हैं, ऐसा नहीं है कि हमारी सरकार ने ही, बल्कि पहले की सरकारें भी यहां के बारे में कितनी चिंतित रहीं हैं, यह इससे पता चलता है। लेकिन आपने उन कमेटीज़ की रिपोर्ट्स के अंदर से कोई एक-दो लाइनें निकाल लीं और आपने उनको यहां प्रस्तुत कर दिया। लेकिन पिछली सरकारें भी यहां के डेवलपमेंट के बारे में लगातार चिंतित रही हैं। During the last two decades, the problems of the Himalayas have attracted the attention from time to time. Various task forces and working groups have been constituted by the Government of India and some of these are related to Himalayan issues. कुछ का आपने भी उल्लेख किया है, लेकिन मैं इन सब का उल्लेख इसलिए कर रहा हूँ, ताकि यह पता चले कि इस विषय पर ऐसा नहीं है कि लोगों की चिंता नहीं रही है। मैंने आपसे ये सब डेवलपमेंट की बातें बताई हैं, जिनसे उत्तराखंड इतना ऊपर पहुंच गया है। इतने लोगों ने हमेशा इसके लिए चिंता की है, उसके परिणामस्वरूप हम इस रिजल्ट पर पहुंचे हैं। National Commission, headed by Shri B. Sivaraman, on Development of Backward Areas, 1981 में बनाया गया, यानी बैकवर्ड एरियाज़ के लिए अलग से चिंता की गई। उसके बाद, Task Force headed by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan for the study of eco-development in the Himalayan Region बनी। आप जानते हैं कि डा. एम.एस. स्वामीनाथन कितने बड़े देश के विख्यात scientist थे और गहराई में जाकर उन्होंने study किया। यह 1982 में बनी। उसके बाद Working Group headed by Dr. Bhupender Singh on Hill Area Development Programme for the Seventh Five Year Plan 1985 बनाया गया। उसके बाद Expert Group headed by Dr. S. Z. Qasim on National Policy on Integrated Development of the Himalaya 1993 में

बनाया गया, जिसका आपने भी उल्लेख किया। फिर 2006 में एक Task Force बनाई गई, headed by Dr. R. S. Kohli, on the Mountain Eco-system for the Eleventh Five Year Plan. फिर Task Force headed by G. B. Mukherjee बनी, जिसका आपने भी उल्लेख किया, to look into the problems of the hill States and hill areas and to suggest ways to ensure that these States and areas do not suffer in any way because of their peculiarities. आपने चतुर्वेदी साहब का भी उल्लेख किया। Then, there came the Report of the Committee headed by Shri B. K. Chaturvedi, Member Planning Commission, to study development in hill States arising out of management of forest lands — जिसे लेकर बहुत से माननीय सदस्यों को चिन्ता थी, हमें भी है — with special focus on creation of infrastructure, livelihoods and human development.

अभी मैंने बताया कि latest Dr. V. K. Saraswat की अध्यक्षता में एक कमेटी बनी थी। इन सारी कमेटीज में किसी ने यह नहीं कहा कि वहां Hill Development Council बनाई जाए। उनका कहना था कि इस विषय पर ध्यान दीजिए, अच्छी बात है और सबने ध्यान भी दिया। उसी का परिणाम है कि आज उत्तराखंड इतनी अधिक प्रगति करके सबसे ज्यादा developed States में आ गया है।

अब मैं आपके सामने, जो आपकी राज्य सरकारें वहां काम कर रही हैं, अगर आप ध्यान देंगे, तो आपको ज्यादा संतोष होगा। State Governments of the three States — Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand — are also implementing a large number of schemes in their States. हिमाचल प्रदेश में Directorate of Education के through Army Border Scholarship की scheme चल रही है। 'अटल प्रोत्साहन योजना' चल रही है। वहां दूसरी पार्टी की सरकार है, लेकिन इसके बावजूद 'अटल प्रोत्साहन योजना' चल रही है। वहां Merit-cum-Means Scholarship to Minority Students योजना चल रही है। 'डा. अम्बेडकर मेधावी छात्रवृत्ति योजना' चल रही है। इनके अलावा, राज्य सरकार की अन्य कई schemes चल रही हैं। हिमाचल प्रदेश में industrial startups के लिए 'CM Startup Scheme' चल रही है, 'मुख्य मंत्री आवास योजना' चल रही है। Teachers को motivate करने के लिए 'मुख्य मंत्री शिक्षक सम्मान योजना' चल रही है। ये सब आपकी सरकार की योजनाएं हैं, इसलिए आप अच्छी तरह सुनिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... 'मुख्य मंत्री सड़क योजना' चल रही है, 'मुख्य मंत्री ज्ञानपीठ लोन योजना' चल रही है। ..**(व्यवधान)**.. 'मुख्य मंत्री वर्दी योजना' चल रही है। जम्मू-कश्मीर में वहां की सरकार के द्वारा 'All Terrain Bike, Cycle Scheme for Meritorious Boys and Girls in Jammu and Kashmir' योजना चलाई जा रही है। ..**(व्यवधान)**..

श्री अजय संचेती (महाराष्ट्र): भारत सरकार इतने महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर क्या-क्या कर रही है, इसकी हमें पूरी जानकारी मिल रही है। मेरा आपसे अनुरोध है कि इसे पूरा सुनने की इजाजत मिलनी चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बसावाराज पाटिल): ऐसा नहीं है। अगर सब कुछ सुनना है, तो रात तक बैठना पड़ेगा। मैं मंत्री जी से विनती करूंगा कि आप 5 मिनट में समाप्त करें।

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: आज 5.00 बजे तक ही हाउस है, 5.00 बजे से ज्यादा नहीं चलेगा। आप चिन्ता मत करिए, आज कोई बिल नहीं है। आप फिक्र मत करिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: महोदय, चेयर की भी जिम्मेदारी है कि माननीय सदस्यों के स्वास्थ्य का ध्यान रखा जाए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... अगर ऐसे ही चलता रहा, तो इधर के आधे माननीय सदस्य बेहोश हो जाएंगे। इसलिए मंत्री जी, आप इसे संक्षेप में जवाब देकर खत्म करिए। एक तरफ आप कह रहे हैं कि हमने कुछ नहीं किया, दूसरी तरफ आप कहते हैं कि उस समय बनाई गई चतुर्वेदी कमेटी की रिपोर्ट के आधार पर ही सारा डेवलपमेंट हुआ, यह बड़ा contradictory जवाब है। मैं समझता हूँ कि हमारे मेम्बर को अब मौका मिलना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

डा. हर्ष वर्धन: आप contradiction की बात कहते हैं, तभी मैं खोलकर बता रहा हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: आप एक-एक कमेटी को खोलकर बता रहे हैं, ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप माननीय सदस्यों के स्वास्थ्य का ख्याल भी रखिए और शीघ्र समाप्त करिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष: स्वास्थ्य मंत्री हैं, जरूर ख्याल रखेंगे। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

डा. हर्ष वर्धन: ठीक है, मैं इनके सुझाव को मानते हुए, थोड़ा संक्षेप में बात कर देता हूँ।

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, the Minister is supposed to give exhaustive replies, not exhausting replies. ...**(Interruptions)**...

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, I am sorry if I am disturbing anyone's health or ...**(Interruptions)**...

डा. हर्ष वर्धन: अब बहुत थोड़ा रिप्लाइ शेष है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रामदास अठावले): माननीय सदस्यों को पूरी जानकारी हो जाए, इसके लिए विस्तृत उत्तर मिलना जरूरी है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इतना विस्तृत जवाब आने पर, हमें पता था कि कुछ माननीय सदस्यों की तबीयत बिगड़ ही जाएगी। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, मंत्री जी प्रतिष्ठित चिकित्सक और डॉक्टर हैं और इनका कंट्रोल एलोपैथी और होम्योपैथी, दोनों पर है। इनकी एलोपैथी वाली डोज़ ज्यादा लम्बी-चौड़ी है, तो मैं इनसे रिक्वेस्ट करूँगा कि मेहरबानी करके ये होम्योपैथी देकर काम चला लें, तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बसावाराज पाटिल): वे आपका ध्यान रखेंगे।

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, I will go to Homoeopathy, and, finally, to Ayurveda.

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: जयराम जी, इसको कहते हैं, पंगा लिया तो सम्भालो। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, I promise, I will cut it short.

सर, मैंने अभी हिमाचल प्रदेश का थोड़ा उल्लेख किया था। अब मैं जम्मू-कश्मीर की थोड़ी-सी स्कीम्स symbolically address करना चाहता हूँ, ताकि यह ध्यान में रहे कि बिना काउंसिल के कितना काम हो रहा है। वे स्कीम्स हैं—All terrain bicycle scheme for meritorious

boys; Ujala LED bulb scheme; Mufti-Mohammad Sayeed Food Entitlement Scheme. इसी तरह, आपके उत्तराखंड के अंदर Deeksha for raising the standard of education in Uttarakhand; Mukhyamantri Swasthya Bima Yojana; Mukhyamantri Swasthya Bima Yojana, Phase-II स्कीम्स हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

Sir, finally, हमारे मेम्बर्स ने जो कहा, उस बारे में मैं थोड़े brief में, एक-एक लाइन में बताता हूँ। सर, हमारे पहले आदरणीय स्पीकर, प्रदीप टम्टा जी थे। हमने मेन जवाब उनको दिया है, क्योंकि वे mover of the Bill हैं और इसके अंदर सबसे ज्यादा उनकी भावना है। मैंने देखा कि इसके अंदर उनकी सबसे ज्यादा संवेदनशीलता थी। बाकी लोगों ने तो नेचर आदि के बारे में बताया, लेकिन प्रदीप टम्टा जी ने सबसे ज्यादा संवेदनशील भाषण दिया।

श्री बसावाराज पाटिल जी ने national disasters, lifestyle and culture के बारे में कहा। उन्होंने बताया कि कोई large industry नहीं है। साथ ही, उन्होंने knowledge centre university, permission from Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir और डेवलपमेंट आदि सारे इश्यूज के बारे में कहा। मैं उनको ध्यान दिलाता हूँ कि हमारे यहां पर काफी बड़ी National Disaster Management Authority है, जो देश के अंदर disasters के ऊपर ही देखभाल करती है। ऐसी करीब 23 Deemed universities और institutions of national importance for the three crore people हैं, जिनके बारे में उन्होंने बात की। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के अंदर, जहां आपके 3 करोड़ लोगों के मुकाबले 8 करोड़ लोग हैं, वहां सब मिलाकर ऐसे 11 institutions हैं। आपके यहां पर national importance की ऐसी 23 Deemed universities हैं, जबकि वहां पर ऐसे 11 institutions हैं। आपकी सारी बातें ठीक हैं, लेकिन डिबेट का जो विषय है, उसके संदर्भ में उनका इतना relevance नहीं है।

श्री आनंद भास्कर साहब ने cloudbursts, glaciers, lakes, livelihood, ecological system, climate change, protection of Himalayan eco-system और scientific programmes के बारे में कहा। मुझे बहुत खुशी है कि राज्य सभा के अंदर कई लोग climate change, glaciers, Himalayan eco-system आदि के बारे में बहुत गंभीर चिन्ता व्यक्त कर रहे हैं। मैं आपको एकदम गहराई से बताना चाहता हूँ। मैंने climate change के संदर्भ में उस दिन एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में भी बताया था कि हमारे देश में चिन्ता के साथ जो काम हो रहा है, उसमें हमारे प्रधान मंत्री मोदी आज सारी दुनिया को नेतृत्व प्रदान कर रहे हैं। आप जानते हैं, climate change और ये सब बातें अभी बहुत ज्यादा hyped हैं। उन्होंने 'Convenient Action' नामक किताब उस समय लिखी थी, जब वे गुजरात के मुख्य मंत्री थे। उन्होंने सबसे पहले climate change के ऊपर काम किया और आज वे सारे देश को नहीं, पूरी दुनिया को नेतृत्व प्रदान कर रहे हैं। हमारे भारत के अंदर इस समय ग्लेशियर्स और क्लाइमेट चेंज के बारे में जितनी साइंटिफिक रिसर्च हो रही है, उन सब में Environment Ministry भी मिलकर काम कर रही है, ISRO के लोग भी कर रहे हैं, Science and Technology Department भी कर रहा है और Ministry of Earth Sciences भी कर रही है। ये सारी जो रिसर्च हैं, इनको internationally coordinate करके भी monitor किया जा रहा है। पेरिस एग्रीमेंट में इसके संदर्भ में बातचीत की गई है। इसी तरह से मैंने आपको कहा कि हमारे दो नेशनल मिशंस हैं, जो Ministry of Environment और डी0एस0टी0 के मिशंस हैं, वे ऑलरेडी चल रहे हैं। इसलिए आप climate change के बारे में बिल्कुल चिंता न करें।

[Dr. Harsh Vardhan]

अनिल कुमार साहनी जी ने अच्छी बातें की हैं। आयुर्वेदिक मेडिसिंस के बारे में और बिहार वगैरह के बारे में उन्होंने बताया कि वहां पानी जा रहा है या नेपाल से रिवर फ्लो हो रहा है, वे सब अच्छी बातें हैं, लेकिन उनका इस डिबेट से कोई ज्यादा संबंध नहीं है। आपने जनरल बातें की हैं, I appreciate all that. इसी तरह से बी. के. हरिप्रसाद जी ने भी बहुत अच्छी-अच्छी जनरल बातें कहीं हैं। Major rivers के बारे में, mountaineering sports के बारे में, deforestation के बारे में, health, road, rail and orchids वगैरह के बारे में उन्होंने ये सारे बेसिक इश्यूज रोज किए हैं। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में जो ह्यूज मार्केट है उनके स्पेशल स्टेट्स होने और यह जो आपने 90 परसेंट, 10 परसेंट के बारे में बताया, I don't think that this Government has withdrawn anything. जो चल रहा है, उसको बेहतर ही किया है, हमने कम तो कुछ भी नहीं किया है, बल्कि उल्टा फाइनेंस कमीशन के अंदर तो हमने स्टेट्स को 10 प्रतिशत और ज्यादा देना शुरू कर दिया है, आप जानते हैं। इसी तरह से हमारे रेड्डी साहब ने कोई जोनल काउंसिल की 1956 की टाइम लिमिट के बारे में, टेलीकम्युनिकेशन, इलेक्ट्रिसिटी, employment, natural hazards, cloudburst, landslides आदि के बारे में बात की। I appreciate all of you because everyone has raised very significant and relevant issues. Whatever you have said, it means something. लेकिन हमारा जो विषय है, वह डिबेट के साथ संदर्भ में जुड़ नहीं रहा, बस इतना सा विषय है।

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: What about my point?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बसावाराज पाटिल): वह आ रहा है, It is coming in serial. ...*(Interruptions)*...

डा. हर्ष वर्धन: इस संदर्भ में मुझे यह बताना है कि जो overall literacy rate है जम्मू-कश्मीर में 56, हिमाचल में 77, उत्तराखंड में 72 — It is very much comparable with the North-Eastern States. जयराम रमेश जी का तो मैंने पहले ही धन्यवाद किया कि उन्होंने इंपोर्टेंट विषय के ऊपर हम सब का ध्यान दिलाया है, खासकर ग्रीन मूवमेंट को और स्ट्रेंगथन करने के लिए, environment concerns के लिए I think no one can have any difference of opinion with him and I would just tell him that my Ministry is also very much concerned for all these issues related to minimal flow in the rivers because of power projects and things like that. We will take care of all your concerns. There is no doubt about it. सर, आप तो वैसे भी हमेशा आशीर्वाद देते हैं, आपने तो हनुमान जी का आशीर्वाद दिया है, hence, we are so grateful to you. I am sorry. Because of the homoeopathic dose, which was mentioned, I had to cut short. I could have replied ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री महेंद्र सिंह माहरा: क्या सरकार ने पहाड़ों पर जो इतने ज्यादा भूस्खलन हो रहे हैं उनके संबंध में आज तक कोई रोड मैप बनाया है या कोई सर्वे किया है? क्या सरकार ने यह काम किया है, बतला दीजिए।

डा. हर्ष वर्धन: मैं केवल इतना कहना चाहूंगा कि आजादी के बाद से अब तक जितनी सरकारें आईं, उसमें अगर सबसे ज्यादा गंभीरता से, sincerity से, honesty से, dedication से, commitment से vision के साथ किसी ने कोई roadmap बनाया है तो हमने बनाया है।

श्री महेंद्र सिंह माहरा: अगर ऐसा कोई रोड मैप है तो बताइए।

डा. हर्ष वर्धन: सर, मेरा प्रदीप टम्टा जी से यह अनुरोध है कि अब तक वे convince हो गए होंगे कि बिना काउंसिल के भी, जो सरकार है वह अपना सम्पूर्ण ध्यान दे रही है। इसके बावजूद भी हम उनको और उनके और साथियों को अपने मंत्रालय में बुलाएंगे। अगर उनको लगता है कि कहीं और विशेष ध्यान देने की जरूरत है, हम उसके ऊपर और ज्यादा ध्यान देंगे। लेकिन इसके बारे में उनके मन में कोई शक शुबहा नहीं रहना चाहिए कि काउंसिल बनाना किसी समस्या का समाधान नहीं है। उसके ऊपर गहराई से, गंभीरता से ध्यान देना ही उसका समाधान है। इसके ऊपर सरकार ने बहुत काम किया है। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि केवल हमारी सरकार ने किया, हमसे पहले की सरकारों ने भी किया है और लगातार सरकारें कर रही हैं। जो पुराना काउंसिल का एक्सपीरिएंस है, उसके मुकाबले शायद कई गुना बेहतर काम हुआ है, कई गुना बेटर इंडीकेटर्स और पैरामीटर्स एस्टेब्लिश हो गए हैं। तो मेरी आपसे रिक्वेस्ट है कि अगर आप इसको वापस ले लेंगे तो बहुत अच्छा रहेगा।

श्री प्रदीप टम्टा: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का आभारी हूं कि उन्होंने अपनी बातें बड़े विस्तार से रखी हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि इतनी रिपोर्ट्स दी गई हैं, लेकिन किसी ने इस तरह की बात नहीं कही है। Report, Task Force on the Mountain Ecosystems for Eleventh Five Year Plan, 2006, जिसके चेयरमैन आर. एस. तुलिया साहब थे, उन्होंने कहा था।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बसावाराज पाटिल): आप संक्षेप में कहिए।

श्री प्रदीप टम्टा: सर, मैं संक्षेप में ही कहूंगा। मैं इस पर राजनीति भी नहीं करना चाह रहा हूं। उस प्रकरण में उन्होंने कहा कि किसी ने भी North Eastern Council, हिमालय के संदर्भ में कोई बात नहीं कही। उसी टास्क फोर्स का, जिसका मैंने जिक्र किया, उसमें आर. एस. तुलिया साहब की एक recommendation थी, "The Task Force also felt that the sectoral approach which has been taken so far would not be of much use to integrated mountain environment and development, therefore the scope of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region be broadened by incorporating the three States of Western Himalayas, that is, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir."

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बसावाराज पाटिल): धन्यवाद।

श्री प्रदीप टम्टा: सर, यह मैं नहीं कह रहा हूं, आप बहुत सी टास्क फोर्स के लिए कह रहे थे कि उन्होंने भी कहा कि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की जो मिनिस्ट्री है, उसी को broaden कर दिया जाए। हमारा बेसिक उद्देश्य था कि पूरे हिमालय से, जो ढाई हजार किलोमीटर की है, उसके लिए एक integrated नीति बनाई जाए, authority बनाई जाए, मिनिस्ट्री बनाई जाए। संभवतः खुद आपके टास्क फोर्स ने भी मिनिस्ट्री को रिपोर्ट दी है। जब तक आप एक टास्क फोर्स पूरे हिमालय के संदर्भ में नहीं बना रहे हैं तब तक जैसे आपने नार्थ-ईस्ट के लिए काउंसिल बनाई है, उसी तरह से सेंट्रल हिमालय की तीन स्टेट्स के लिए काउंसिल बनाई जाए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बसावाराज पाटिल): टम्टा जी।

श्री प्रदीप टम्टा: जो Shimla Declaration है, उसमें हम नहीं थे। किस सरकार ने क्या किया, क्या नहीं किया Shimla Declaration में, तो आज के जो हमारे स्वास्थ्य मंत्री हैं, वे खुद उसमें थे। उसमें दो तत्कालीन चीफ मिनिस्टर थे, जो भारतीय जनता पार्टी के थे, उन्होंने भी इस तरह की मांग की है कि entire Himalayan area के लिए इस तरह की काउंसिल बनाने की जरूरत है, इसके लिए फंड बनाने की जरूरत है।

मेरा आपसे सिर्फ इतना ही अनुरोध है कि ये जो चीजें हैं, ये सिर्फ हमारी ही नहीं हैं, बल्कि पूरे हिमालयन क्षेत्र के लिए एक नई नीति की जरूरत है, एक टास्क फोर्स बनाने की जरूरत है। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट काउंसिल की तरह सेंट्रल काउंसिल का निर्माण कर दिया जाए, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि इससे कोई नुकसान नहीं होने जा रहा है। मैं किसी सरकार पर आरोप नहीं लगा रहा हूँ। मैं सिर्फ यह कह रहा हूँ कि हिमालयी राज्यों की अलग तरह की परिस्थिति है, geography है, इसलिए उसकी तरफ मैंने भारत सरकार का ध्यान दिलाया है। अगर आप इस तरफ गंभीरता से ध्यान देंगे, तो मैं आपका आभारी रहूंगा।

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी: सर, मुझे भी पूछना है। ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL): There is one more Member.

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने विस्तार से इसके बारे में बताया है। उन्होंने एक चीज तो साबित कर दी कि उन राज्यों में ज्यादा विकास और प्रगति हुई है, जहां development council नहीं है — हिमाचल प्रदेश, कश्मीर और उत्तराखंड। मैं आपसे एक चीज जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार की नीति यह है कि अब कहीं भी देश में कोई भी development council न बनाई जाए, इससे ज्यादा अगर विकास बिना development council के बनाये हुए हो रहा है, तो क्या इस बारे में आपकी एनडीए सरकार सोच रही है?

श्री प्रदीप टम्टा: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरी जो भावना है, उस पर माननीय मंत्री जी ध्यान दें, तो मैं उनके प्रपोजल पर अपने बिल को विद्वां करूंगा।

डा. हर्ष वर्धन: सर, मेरा प्रदीप जी से एक छोटा सा submission है कि जितनी रिपोर्ट्स का मैंने उल्लेख किया या उन्होंने उल्लेख किया, उसमें से एक के संदर्भ में उन्होंने कहा कि नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न काउंसिल में इधर के तीन राज्यों को भी जोड़ लिया जाए। ये सारी रिपोर्ट्स 1982 के बाद से बननी शुरू हुई थीं और लगातार 30-35 साल तक लगभग सभी दलों की सरकारें रही हैं, यह नहीं कि आज खाली हमारी सरकार का यह विषय है। प्रदीप टम्टा जी की पार्टी की भी अधिकांश समय सरकार रही है। अगर वास्तव में इन कमेटीज की यह भावना होती कि इस काउंसिल को बनाना ही है और इस काउंसिल को बनाए बगैर प्रदेश नहीं डेवलप हो सकते, तो शायद इतनी सरकारों में से कोई सरकार तो convince होती और इस काउंसिल को बनाती। मेरा प्रदीप जी को submission है कि आपके पास कोई भी सकारात्मक सुझाव हों, तो उन्हें आप हमें दीजिएगा। हम स्पेशल मीटिंग बुलाकर आपसे और आपके साथियों से चर्चा करेंगे। हमारे प्रकाश जावड़ेकर जी ने भी पहले लोगों को बुलाया था, उसके बाद माधव दवे जी ने भी बुलाया था और अब मैं भी बुलाऊंगा। आपसे मेरा अनुरोध है कि आप इस विषय पर अगर इस बिल को विद्वां कर लेंगे, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि हम और ज्यादा सार्थक ढंग से भविष्य में काम करेंगे। मैं आपसे रिक्वेस्ट करता हूँ कि आप इसको विद्वां कर लीजिए।

5.00 P.M.

श्री प्रदीप टम्टा: मैं आपके अनुरोध को स्वीकार करता हूँ, लेकिन इतना जरूर चाहूंगा कि पूरे हिमालय के संदर्भ में हुई, आज की बहस के संदर्भ में, काउंसिल भी एक step हो सकता है। उस पर आप विचार करेंगे और दूसरे हिमालयी राज्यों को Special Category का जो status था, उस पर भी पुनर्विचार करेंगे, इसके आधार पर मैं अपना बिल withdraw करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

डा. हर्ष वर्धन: आपका बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बसावाराज पाटिल): माननीय सदस्य ने बिल को withdraw कर लिया है। The Bill is withdrawn. मैं मानता हूँ कि इस पर विधिवत हाउस की सहमति है।

The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn.

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS

Organisation of India International Science Festival (IISF). 2017 to be held at CLRI Anna University and IIT Madras in Chennai from 13th to 16th october, 2017

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL): Now, the Statement by Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan. Just lay it on the Table.

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री; पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री; तथा पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री (डा. हर्ष वर्धन): अगर आप सब इसे घर जाकर पढ़ें, तो मैं इसे lay कर देता हूँ। Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I stand before the House to present about an upcoming momentous programme of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences: The India International Science Festival, popularly known as 'IISF', which is all set to enter its third edition in October 2017. This festival of science is organised by the Ministry in association with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA). The First IISF was held at IIT Delhi and the second edition was held at CSIR - National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi. Both were successful events and my Ministry had succeeded in its objective of 'Propagation of science to the general masses'.

Sir, the India International Science Festival is a serious attempt to inculcate scientific temper in the general public, particularly through the participation of the youth and children, to fast-track India's march towards technological self-reliance and scientific advancement. This festival of science highlights the Government's flagship programmes such as "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan", "Swasth Bharat Abhiyan", "Make in India", "Digital India", "Smart Villages" and "Smart Cities" etc.

In the 1st edition, we achieved the 'Guinness world record for the largest science practical session' which is now inscribed in India's name. IISF 2015 also provided a

[डा. हर्ष वर्धन]

vibrant platform to young students, scientists and technocrats from across India for exchange of scientific knowledge and ideas.

In the second edition of the 'Festival of Science' in 2016, several events like the Young Scientists Conclave, DST - INSPIRE National Camp, Science Film Festival, NGO meet, Industry-Academia Interaction were held at National Physical Laboratory, Delhi. A footfall of over 5 lakh people were recorded at the IISF 2016 with active participation of over 10,000 delegates from R&D institutions and Science organisations. The Science and Technology expo showcased the achievements of over 300 institutions belonging to R&D, academics, industries and PSUs. Apart from this, a very unique event for our budding citizens from rural India was the 'Science Village' programme, which required our hon. Members of both the Houses to send 5 students and 1 teacher from their respective adopted village under the 'Pradhan Mantri Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna'. I had the wonderful experience of interacting with many students from the rural India who had come to the Science Village. In fact, it was highly appreciated by many of our hon. Members as it imparted very effective scientific knowledge to over 1800 students from the rural countryside. In this occasion, I would like to share with you all that Madam Speaker had also participated by sending students from her constituency. In total, 131 Members participated eagerly in the science village programme.

Sir, last year, we chose the theme as "Science for masses" and this year the theme is "Science for New India"!

IISF 2017, this year, will be held at Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Anna University and IIT Madras in Chennai from 13th to 16th October, 2017 in a much grander level with a large participation of common masses. This year's Science Festival like never before have several activities for the hon. Members of this House, scientists, policymakers, teachers, students, S&T Organizations, educational institutions, industry and the general public. Some of the activities are as below:—

1. Science and Technology Ministers of Neighbouring Countries Conclave.
2. Special Thematic Session on 'Deep Ocean Research'.
3. Sensitizing Youth to Flagship Programmes of Government (SYPOG).
4. 'Science Village': Parliament to Panchayat.
5. National Meet on 'Social Organizations and Institutions'.
6. Women Scientists and Entrepreneur's Conclave.
7. National Science Teachers' Workshop (focusing on North East States).

8. Industry Academia Interaction.
9. Mega Science, Technology & Industry Expo.
10. India International Science Film Festival.
11. Grassroots Innovators Summit.
12. National Start-up Summit.
13. Round Table Meet on 'Mass Communication'.
14. Attempt of Student in Guinness Book of World Records.
15. National Level Competitions.
16. Outreach Programme (Open Days) in R & D Labs.
17. Satellite Seminars.
18. Cultural Events

Through these events the Festival will be highlighting Government's flagship programmes and missions and would reach out to over five lakh citizens directly.

Sir, I am confident that the Science Festival would impart the 'spirit of enquiry' to the public masses which would in return benefit the nation through advanced scientific research. As I mentioned, this year also Science Village will be there and henceforth would urge all the hon. Members to send the prescribed number of students from their adopted villages. An invitation letter to all the Members have already been sent, to which I hope serious consideration will be made by all esteemed Members of the house.

Members may avail more information about the Science Festival from the website: www.scienceindiafest.org. Thank you.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has laid the statement on the Table of the House. I would like to know when the clarifications will be made.

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): According to the convenience of the Minister, we will fix up the date.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: All right.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL): Now, the Special Mentions will be taken up.

श्री वीर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, मेरा भी बिल है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बसावाराज पाटिल): अब समय समाप्त हो गया है। अगली बार नियमानुसार उस पर विचार किया जाएगा। अब Special Mentions होंगे। ..(व्यवधान).. श्रीमती विजिला सत्यानंत। आप lay करें, तो बहुत अच्छा है।

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): No, no, we have time. I will take only two minutes.

Demand to release funds under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for the State of Tamil Nadu

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): The first stage of the project saw the construction of a weir across Pachayar and another weir across Karumaniyar (river) in the third stage. A supply channel is also in the offing to connect Nambiyar River. The final (fourth) stage of the project will see the flood carrier canal splitting into two-one will go up to ML Theri in Thoothukudi district and other up to Idayankudi near Thisayanvilai in Tirunelveli District. This Scheme has gained momentum thanks to the Revised Administrative Sanction (RAS) accorded by hon. Chief Minister, Shri Edappadi K. Palaniswamy of Tamil Nadu.

The project has been proposed to utilise 2,765 Mcft of water out of the 13,758 Mcft water that flows to sea as surplus water from Thamirabarani during flood situation. The State has spent 50 per cent and achieved almost 50 per cent progress in work. The Central Water Commission has approved the cost appraisal for this project to ₹ 872.45 crores under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme.

Our Revered leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma initiated the river linking project during Sathankulam by-election victory ceremony in 2003 and she announced that she would consider the river linking project. The cash spent by the State Government so far is ₹ 23,274 lakhs.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL): It is ₹ 21,274 lakhs.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Sorry; it is ₹ 21,274 lakhs. The district administration is busy in acquiring land to expedite the work. I urge upon the Central government to release ₹ 872.45 crores under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) under drought prone area development. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL): Now, Shri A. K. Selvaraj.

Demand to take immediate steps for interlinking of peninsular rivers in Tamil Nadu

SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ (Tamil Nadu): Sir, under the Peninsular Rivers Development Component, our beloved leader, the then hon. Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had repeatedly urged upon the Union Government to implement the interlinking of the Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Palar-Cauvery-Vaigai rivers and further with the Gundar river and also to divert the surplus waters of the west flowing Pamba and Achankovil rivers to Vaippar in Tamil Nadu. Based on the Supreme Court Order dated 27.02.2012 and our continued requests, the Government of India has constituted a Special Committee for interlinking of rivers. Though the Special Committee held 11 meetings, not much headway has been made in the matter of interlinking of rivers so far. Our beloved leader, the then hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had also repeatedly urged upon the Government of India to nationalise all inter-State rivers so that water resources of the country can be optimally utilized and the drought and flood conditions can be easily tackled. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps for the interlinking of Peninsular rivers as demanded by our beloved leader, the then hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma as well as the present hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu recently.

Demand to allocate captive iron ore mines to Vizag Steel Plant (RINL) in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the Vizag Steel Plant (RINL) is the only largest industry that Andhra Pradesh was left with after bifurcation of the State. Set up on the coastline, in an extent of 22,266 acres, RINL is popular for its high quality steel. A Navaratna of PSUs, it has paid ₹ 22 crore in the form of taxes and dividends to State and Central Governments, so far. However, the irony is that except RINL, every other steel plant under the Steel Ministry has its own captive mines. And absence of captive mines is taking a toll on RINL when it has expanded its plant to produce about 8 million tons. Due to this, input costs of RINL are going up exponentially resulting in losses. For the first time in 15 years, RINL has incurred a loss of ₹ 1,421 crores in 2015-16 and ₹ 1,200 crores last year. This clearly shows where it is heading to.

Sir, while steel plants that have captive mines would spend about ₹ 500 for a ton of iron ore, RINL has to shell out ₹ 4,500 for a ton of iron ore. Nevertheless, RINL has to compete with others in selling its products at market price though it leads to a huge loss. It has been screaming for own captive mines for many decades, but nobody is hearing its plea.

[Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy]

Hence, I request the hon. Prime Minister to personally intervene in this matter and direct the Mines Ministry to immediately allocate captive iron ore mines to RINL. Otherwise, there is every possibility that this Navratna may crumble and perish, which is neither in the interest of this company nor the country.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by my colleague, Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by my colleague, Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL): Now Shri K. T. S. Tulsi. He is not present.

**Demand to give national status to Shravani Mela held in
Bihar and Jharkhand to boost tourism in the region**

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन (बिहार): महोदय, बिहार और झारखंड के इलाके में श्रावण महीने में लगने वाले श्रावणी मेले का बड़ा महत्व है। यह मेला संभवतः देश में सबसे लम्बे समय तक चलने वाला मेला है। यहां सुल्तानगंज (बिहार, भागलपुर जिले) से लोग उत्तरवाहिनी गंगा से जल भरकर कांड़ लेकर वैद्यनाथधाम (देवघर, झारखंड) में अर्पित करते हैं। यह सफर लगभग 115 किलोमीटर का है, जिसे कांड़िये पैदल तय करते हैं। इसमें डाकबम भी होते हैं, जो 24 घंटे में यह सफर तय करते हैं।

इस मार्ग में नागरिक सुविधाओं का घोर अभाव है। अभी भी पुराने समय से निर्मित कुछ सराय, धर्मशाला ही हैं, जो पुराने जमींदारों और सेठ-साहूकारों द्वारा बनाई गई हैं। राज्य सरकार द्वारा प्रत्येक वर्ष कुछ अस्थाई निर्माण जैसे चापाकल, शौचालय आदि बनाया जाता है, लेकिन यह पर्याप्त नहीं है। देश के अन्य हिस्सों जैसे हरिद्वार एवं वैष्णो देवी की ऐसी ही यात्रा में काफी नागरिक सुविधाएं प्रदान की जाती हैं, लेकिन श्रावणी मेला अब तक उपेक्षित है। जनसंख्या के दृष्टिकोण से यदि आंकड़ों की समीक्षा की जाए, तो यहां सर्वाधिक लोगों का आगमन होता है। यदि इस मेले को राष्ट्रीय दर्जा प्रदान कर दिया जाए, तो यहां पर्यटन को खूब बढ़ावा मिलेगा और यह मेला देश-विदेश के पर्यटकों को भी आकर्षित करेगा।

डा. अनिल कुमार साहनी (बिहार): महोदय, माननीय सदस्या ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं अपने आपको इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by my colleague, Shrimati Kahkashan Perween.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL): Shri Dilip Kumar Tirkey; not present. Shri Kiranmay Nanda; not present. Shri Vivek Gupta; not present. Chaudhary Munvvar Saleem; not present. Shri Ali Anwar Ansari; not present. Shri D. Bandyopadhyay; not present.

**Demand to rescind the order to close down Regional News Unit of
All India Radio at Trichy in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI T. RATHINAVEL (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, recently, the Union Government has issued order to close down the Regional News Unit of All India Radio at Trichy in Tamil Nadu. Transfer orders are being issued to the staff of the unit at Trichy. The transfer of officials' from Trichy RNU would also impact the jobs for more than 40 casual workers attached with Trichy RNU. For lakhs of listeners across the State who tune into AIR's regular news bulletins, the order has come as a paralysing surprise. Once the regional news unit winds up, the bulletins will lose its local flavour. The regional Tamil news 'Maanila Seithikal' which is broadcast daily got Akashwani national award for the best RNU in 2006. FM 'Seidhi Surukkam' (headlines) was started in Rainbow FM in August, 2006. It topped the popularity charts by Audience Research Unit. AIR is the pride of Trichy and RNU is a feather in the cap of AIR. During natural calamities like rain, flood and cyclones, AIR's special news bulletins used to alert people and provide them valuable information. Lakhs of people including students are being benefited by this Trichy AIR news unit. Closing down this news unit will adversely affect the already worst hit Cauvery delta farmers. Farmers have been getting farming specific news, particularly about Mettur Reservoir levels frequently and that have been helping them in taking decisions from sowing to reaping. I appeal to the Government to rescind the order to close down the Regional News Unit of All India Radio at Trichy in Tamil Nadu. Thanks.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): Can I respond?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL): Not now. You can do so later on. Shrimati Jharna Das Baidya; not present. Shri Ahamed Hassan; not present.

**Demand to introduce an effective system to evaluate bureaucrats
while considering for promotions**

SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY (Karnataka): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, we all know that bureaucracy is the backbone of India's administrative structure as it has the qualities of leadership, effectiveness in delivery, domain understanding, administrative skills, ability to work hard, etc. And, people always expect that bureaucracy should be free from corrupt practices, never circumvent administrative processes, always amenable to poor and show their integrity in implementation of policies and programmes of the Government.

Of late, we have been observing corrupt practices by bureaucrats and we have

[Shri K. C. Ramamurthy]

also seen nexus between bureaucracy and politicians to indulge in illegal and corrupt practices. This has to be stopped.

To address this, the PMO appointed a Committee of group of retired Secretaries to make a policy framework to assess and evaluate bureaucrats on various parameters to be taken into account, apart from Annual Confidential Reports, at the time of promotions. We all know that the present practice is to consider CVC report, apart from CRs, etc., as the basis for assessing official's integrity. But, the problem is, CVC could not ascertain bureaucrat's involvement in corruption or impropriety unless and until it is on record.

Hence, I request the Prime Minister to immediately implement the policy prepared by the Committee while considering promotions of all bureaucrats from all services in the country; and also direct States to follow the policy guidelines of the Committee to weed out inefficient and corrupt officials in bureaucracy.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by my colleague.

**Demand to clear confusion on the status of implementation of
House Building Advance (HBA) as recommended by the
7th Central Pay Commission**

SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, as per recommendations of the Seventh Central Pay Commission, it was said that House Building Advance (HBA) to an extent of Rs. 25 lakhs would be paid to the Central Government employees. But no notification to this effect has come into effect. Also, the terms and conditions for availing this increased HBA have not been finalized. The Government had finalized most of the recommendations of the Seventh Central Pay Commission, but when any Central Government employee wishes to seek HBA advance, the administrative departments refuse to give it to them either on the basis of the Seventh Central Pay Commission recommendations or the convention. Employees are in a state of confusion.

Hence, I would request the Government to inform about the status of implementation of HBA as recommended by the Seventh Central Pay Commission. I would also request the Government to finalize the modalities for granting HBA to Central Government employees as early as possible.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I associate myself with the Special mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL): Shri Derek O'Brien; not present. Shri K. Somaprasad.

Demand to amend the Constitution to give the status of Scheduled Caste all over India to people engaged in manual scavenging

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I invite the attention of this House and the Government to the injustice and human rights violation against the most downtrodden community in the world, the manual scavengers. Manual scavenging is the lowliest, most unhygienic and most degraded occupation of mankind. It is prohibited by law, but even now, it exists in different forms. No one would acknowledge it. They are doing the same work in a different form. They are now designated as sewage or manhole sanitation workers. Indian Railways is the employer of the largest number of manual scavengers.

In India, due to the prevailing caste system, certain jobs are earmarked for particular communities and castes. Traditionally, a particular community or people belonging to a particular caste have been doing this scavenging work. They are given a different status in different States. In some States, they are considered as Scheduled Castes. Even though these people are the most under-developed sections in the country, they are not getting the benefits that Scheduled Castes people all over India get. The list of Scheduled Castes is prepared States-wise and hence, a Scheduled Caste in one State may not be a Scheduled Caste in other States. Denial of caste certificate to these people and their successors has resulted in the denial of education and social welfare. Hence, children belonging to this community are not able to continue their higher studies. To solve this grave problem, special status should be given to them all over India. Necessary enactments and constitutional amendments are essential. They should be given Scheduled Caste status all over India, irrespective of their birth place or State. Action may urgently be taken in this matter.

SHRI K. K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

Demand to reduce the charges taken on Money Orders by the Post Offices in the country

श्री संजय सेठ (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन का ध्यान एक बहुत गंभीर विषय पर दिलाना चाहता हूँ। जैसा कि हम सब को याद होगा, पहले पैसा एक जगह से दूसरी जगह भेजना हो, तो मनी ऑर्डर के द्वारा भेजा जाता था तथा हम सब

[श्री संजय सेठ]

पोस्टमैन का इंतजार करते थे, जो हमें पहचानता था तथा परिवार के सदस्य की तरह होता था, लेकिन समय के साथ इसमें बदलाव आ गया है। अब पैसा ट्रांसफर करने के लिए बैंकिंग माध्यम है, जैसे एनईएफटी व आरटीजीएस के द्वारा पैसा सीधे बैंक एकाउंट में ट्रांसफर किया जाता है, परन्तु अभी भी दूर-दराज के गांवों में बैंकिंग सुविधा न होने, ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में लोगों के बैंकों में खाते आदि न होने तथा बैंकिंग प्रणाली से पूरी तरह प्रशिक्षित न होने के कारण उनके सगे-सम्बन्धी रुपए मनी ऑर्डर के द्वारा ही भेजते हैं। मैं आपके संज्ञान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि डाक विभाग द्वारा मनी ऑर्डर की सुविधा देने के लिए बहुत ज्यादा शुल्क लगा दिया गया है, एक हजार रुपए से दस हजार रुपए भेजने के लिए एक सौ रुपए का शुल्क लगाया जाता है, जबकि इतना ही रुपया बैंकिंग माध्यम से भेजने का शुल्क केवल दो रुपए पचास पैसे पड़ता है। तो मैं सरकार से दरखास्त करता हूँ कि वह इस तरफ ध्यान दे और इस शुल्क को कम करे। धन्यवाद।

***Demand to take necessary steps to set up CGHS Dispensary
at Kannur in Kerala***

SHRI K. K. RAGESH (Kerala): The long-pending demand of the Central Government employees and pensioners in Malabar region to set up CGHS dispensary at Kannur is not fulfilled till date. The Government of Kerala had recommended to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to either open a CGHS dispensary at Kannur or to shift one of the existing three dispensaries at Trivandrum to Kannur. Presently, there are three CGHS dispensaries sanctioned for the State and all the three are situated at Trivandrum. Hence the CGHS facilities stand denied to the Central Government employees and pensioners at Malabar region. While considering the strength of the present beneficiaries at these three dispensaries when compared to the strength of such eligible beneficiaries at Malabar region, the present status is totally unjustified.

Hence I request the Government to consider the recommendation of the State Government to set up a CGHS dispensary at Kannur or shift one of the dispensaries out of the three presently available at Trivandrum to Kannur to meet the requirement of Central Government employees and pensioners in the districts in Malabar region.

As per the criteria fixed for setting up a Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) dispensary in a particular area for opening of a new allopathic CGHS dispensary in an existing CGHS city, there has to be a minimum of 2,000 card holders. And for extension of CGHS to a new city, a minimum of 6,000 card holders are required. In Kannur district alone, there are more than 6,000 CGHS eligible beneficiaries and most of them are denied the facility. The number will exceed 20,000 while considering the adjacent districts. Considering all these facts, the Centre must take necessary step to set up a CGHS dispensary at Kannur.

Demand to take concrete steps for rehabilitation of manual scavengers in the country

श्री किरनमय नन्दा (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह सत्य है कि manual scavenging को रोकने के लिए संविधान में प्रावधान है। Employment of Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines Prohibition Act, 1993; Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers and Rehabilitation Act, 2013 और S.C./S.T. संशोधित एक्ट, 2015 आदि भी हैं, फिर भी भारत में 1,82,505 परिवार scavenging में लगे हुए हैं, जो 2.6 मिलियन dry latrine को हाथों से बिना सुरक्षा उपकरणों के साफ करते हैं। इसके कारण सैकड़ों लोगों की सीवर सफाई में दम घुटने से मृत्यु होती है तथा हर वर्ष हजारों लोग गम्भीर रोगों से, जैसे respiratory infection, carbon monoxide poisoning, diarrhea, tuberculosis और hepatitis आदि से मृत्यु के मुँह में जाते हैं। सरकार के पास न तो ऐसे लोगों का आँकड़ा होगा, न उनके लिए रोकड़ा होगा। संविधान और सरकार scavenging को रोकने में विफल हुए हैं, क्योंकि वह scavengers को सम्मानजनक वैकल्पिक रोजगार उपलब्ध कराने में असमर्थ रही है। Scavengers परिवार के भरण-पोषण हेतु अपमानजनक scavenging कार्य करने को मजबूर हैं, जिससे उनके सम्मान और स्वास्थ्य को असहनीय ठेस लगती है। इस समाज को अपने स्वास्थ्य और सम्मान की रक्षा के लिए संविधान के सहारे से अधिक आर्थिक सहयोग की आवश्यकता है। हम उन्हें सम्मानजनक रोजगार उपलब्ध कराएँ, तो वे स्वयं scavenging को त्याग देंगे, ऐसा मेरा विश्वास है।

अतः मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि त्वरित सहयोग के रूप में हर scavenger को अनिवार्य रूप से दस्ताने, मास्क, बूट जैसे सुरक्षा उपकरण तथा scavengers को rehabilitation के रूप में सम्मानजनक वैकल्पिक रोजगार उपलब्ध कराना ही scavengers के लिए ठोस सहयोग हो सकता है। Scavenging कार्य में आधुनिक मशीनों का लगाना भी scavengers के जीवन को बदल सकता है।

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

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

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

Need to address the structural issues of education in the Universities of the country

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the education sector in India faces structural issues. The case of West Bengal may be studied to address these issues.

[Shri Ahamed Hassan]

Between May 2011 to May 2017, 16 new universities have been set up, out of which seven are State-aided. Thirty-one new Government colleges and sixteen Government-aided colleges have also been established.

The State mandated a 17 per cent reservation for the OBC students as a result of which almost 60,000 OBC students were given admission to the State's UG and PG level courses in 2014-15, and almost 1,00,000 in 2015-16.

The State has also established 732 smart classrooms in the State-aided universities, Government colleges, and Government-aided colleges at a total cost of ₹ 22 crore. Every State-funded higher education institution has an e-learning space, with free internet facilities for students and teachers during working hours. The budget of the Swami Vivekananda Merit-cum-Means Scholarships Scheme has been enhanced to ₹ 200 crore in 2016-17 from ₹ 45 crore in 2015-16. During 2016-17, the number of student beneficiaries has been almost 74,000.

Issues concerning teachers and other staff have also been addressed. These include granting leave travel concession to university and college teachers, bringing them under the West Bengal Health Services Scheme, conferring child care leave, and paternity leave to male and female university and college teachers respectively, conferring teaching status on librarians, deputy librarians and assistant librarians of the Government-aided colleges and graduate laboratory instructors, etc.

A study of these schemes may be instructive for the Central and other State Governments, and I urge the Central Government to follow up on the lines of West Bengal in this regard. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL): The House stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. on 8th August, 2017.

*The House then adjourned at twenty-four minutes past
five of the clock till eleven of the clock on
Tuesday, the 8th August, 2017.*

The Central Himalayan States Development Council Bill, 2016 —
Withdrawn (pages 319-327 and 327-355)

Message from Lok Sabha — *Laid on the Table*

The Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh)
Amendment Bill, 2017 (pages 318-319)

The Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy Bill, 2017 (pages 327)

Statement by Minister —

Organisation of India International Science Festival (IISF). 2017 — *Laid
on the Table* (pages 355-357)

Special Mentions —

Demand to release funds under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme
for the State of Tamil Nadu (page 358)

Demand to take immediate steps for interlinking of peninsular rivers in
Tamil Nadu (page 359)

Demand to allocate captive iron ore mines to Vizag Steel Plant (RINL)
in Andhra Pradesh (pages 359-360)

Demand to give national status to *Shravani Mela* held in Bihar and
Jharkhand to boost tourism in the region (page 360)

Demand to rescind the order to close down Regional News Unit of All
India Radio at Trichy in Tamil Nadu (page 361)

Demand to introduce an effective system to evaluate bureaucrats while
considering for promotions (pages 361-362)

Demand to clear confusion on the status of implementation of House
Building Advance (HBA) as recommended by the 7th Central Pay
Commission (pages 362-363)

Demand to amend the Constitution to give the status of Scheduled Caste
all over India to people engaged in manual scavenging (page 363)

Demand to reduce the charges taken on Money Orders by the Post Offices
in the country (pages 363-364)

Demand to take necessary steps to set up CGHS Dispensary at Kannur in
Kerala — *Laid on the Table* (page 364)

Demand to take concrete steps for rehabilitation of manual scavengers in
the country (page 365)

Need to address the structural issues of education in the Universities of
the country (pages 365-366)

