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सत्यमेव जयते

Friday

21 July, 2017

30 Ashadha, 1939 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

**RAJYA SABHA**

OFFICIAL REPORT

CONTENTS

Papers laid on the Table (pages 1-6)

Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment – *Laid on the Table* (page 7)

Statement by Minister—

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twentieth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers – *Laid on the Table* (page 7)

Statement regarding Government Business (pages 7-9)

Regarding Question of Privilege (pages 9-27 and 28-29)

Motion for Election to the National Jute Board – *Adopted* (page 27)

Oral Answers to Questions (pages 29-60)

Written Answers to Starred Questions (pages 61-78)

[P.T.O.]

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Written Answers to Unstarred Questions (pages 78-348)

Government Bill —

The North-Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill, 2013 – *Withdrawn* (page 349)

Regarding Taking up Government Business (pages 349-350 and 391-394)

Private Members' Bills —

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 – *Introduced* (page 350)

The Privately Financed Infrastructure Projects (Regulation of Swiss Challenge Method of Procurement) Bill, 2017 – *Introduced* (pages 350-351)

The Prevention of Crimes in the Name of Honour and Tradition and Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances Bill, 2017 – *Introduced* (page 351)

The Tribal Children and Lactating Women in Maharashtra and Other States (Removal of Hunger, Malnutrition and Prevention of Starvation Deaths) Bill, 2017– *Introduced* (page 351)

The Water Scarce Regions of Marathwada, Vidarbha, Bundelkhand and in Eastern and Southern Parts (Prohibition of Growing Water Intensive Crops and setting up of Thermal Power Plants and other Large Scale Water Intensive Industries) Bill, 2017 – *Introduced* (pages 351-352)

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Insertion of new article 24A) – *Introduced* (page 352)

The Gymnasiums and Fitness Centres (Regulation) Bill, 2017 – *Introduced* (page 352)

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Amendment of the Eighth Schedule) – *Withdrawn* (pages 353-391)

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# RAJYA SABHA

*Friday, the 21st July, 2017/30th Ashadha, 1939 (Saka)*

*The House met at eleven of the clock,*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*:

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, मेरा एक प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर है।  
...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, I have a point of order.  
...(Interruptions)...

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

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, मेरा एक प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर है।  
...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will come to you. ...(Interruptions)... Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Let me finish this first. ...(Interruptions)... Papers to be laid on the Table.

## **Report (2015-16) of the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi and related papers**

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुदर्शन भगत): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

- (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 30 of the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural, University Act, 2014:—
  - (a) Annual Report of the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, for the year 2015-16.
  - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7157/16/17]

**Notifications of the Ministry of Communications**

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री तथा रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मनोज सिन्हा): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications), under Section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:—

- (1) No. 305-27/2010-QoS, dated the 22nd November, 2016, publishing the Mobile Banking (Quality of Service) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2016 (in English only), along with delay statement.
- (2) No. 305-27/2010-QoS, dated the 23rd November, 2016, publishing the Mobile Banking (Quality of Service) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2016 (in Hindi only), along with delay statement.
- (3) No. 127, dated the 30th March, 2017, publishing corrigenda to Notification No. 305-27/2010-QoS, dated the 22nd November, 2016 (in English only) and No. 305-27/2010-QoS, dated the 23rd November, 2016 (in Hindi only).

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (3) See No. L.T. 7580/16/17]

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

- (1) G.S.R. 297 (E), dated the 28th March, 2017, publishing the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2017.
- (2) G.S.R. 314 (E), dated the 31st March, 2017, publishing the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2017.
- (3) G.S.R. 406 (E), dated the 25th April, 2017, publishing the Indian Telegraph (Third Amendment) Rules, 2017.
- (4) G.S.R. 439 (E), dated the 04th May, 2017, publishing the Indian Telegraph (fourth Amendment) Rules, 2017.
- (5) G.S.R. 482 (E), dated the 18th May, 2017, publishing the Indian Telegraph (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2017.

- (6) G.S.R. 507 (E), dated the 24th May, 2017, publishing the Indian Telegraph (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2017.
- (7) G.S.R. 540 (E), dated the 1st June, 2017, publishing the Indian Telegraph (7th Amendment) Rules, 2017.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (7) See No. L.T. 7070/16/17]

**Accounts (2014-15) of Central Agricultural University, Imphal and related papers**

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

- (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 30 of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992:—
  - (a) Annual Accounts of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, for the year 2014-15, and the Audit Report thereon.
  - (b) Review by Government of the Annual Accounts of the above University.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7581/16/17]

**MoU between GoI and NTC Limited**

**वस्त्र मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजय टम्टा):** महोदय, मैं 2017-18 के वर्ष के लिए भारत सरकार (वस्त्र मंत्रालय) और एनटीसी लिमिटेड के बीच सम्पन्न सहमति ज्ञापन की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ। [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7079/16/17]

**I. Notification of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**

**II. MoU between GoI and CWC**

**उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री रामविलास पासवान):** महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) Notification No. G.S.R. 726 (E), dated the 29th June, 2017, publishing the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (Electronic Negotiable

Warehouse Receipts) Regulations, 2017, under Section 52 of the Warehousing (Development & Regulation) Act, 2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7065/16/17]

- II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), for the year 2017-18.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7177/16/17]

#### **Notifications of the Ministry of Law and Justice**

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

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

(1) G.S.R. 75 (E), dated the 5th February, 2015, publishing the National Legal Services Authorities (Amendment) Rules, 2015.

(2) S.O. 2164 (E), dated the 10th August, 2015, publishing the National Legal Services Authorities (Second Amendment) Rules, 2015.

(3) G.S.R. 263 (E), dated the 20th March, 2017, publishing the National Legal Services Authorities (Amendment) Rules, 2017.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (3) *See* No. L.T. 7072/16/17]

- II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) draft Notification No. F.No.10(1)/2017-Leg-III dated the 14th July, 2017, publishing amendment to the Fourth Schedule to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, under sub-section (2) of Section 84 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, along with an Explanatory Memorandum thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7073/16/17]

**Reports of the CAG of India**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Sir, I lay on the Table, under clause (1) of article 151 of the Constitution, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports:—

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Performance Audit of Agriculture Crop Insurance Schemes -Union Government (Civil), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Report No. 7 of 2017 (Performance Audit);  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7117/16/17]
- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Scheme for Flood Control and Flood Forecasting for the year ended March 2016 - Union Government, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Report No. 10 of 2017 (Performance Audit);  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7127/16/17]
- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Sharing of Revenue by Private Telecom Service Providers upto 2014-2015 - Union Government (Communications and IT Sector) Report No. 11 of 2017;  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7115/16/17]
- (iv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 2016 - Union Government (Civil), Compliance Audit Observations Report No. 12 of 2017; [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7118/16/17]
- (v) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Catering Services in Indian Railways for the year ended March 2016 - Union Government (Railways), Report No. 13 of 2017.  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7128/16/17]
- (vi) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 2016 - Union Government (Railways), Report No. 14 of 2017;  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7122/16/17]
- (vii) Report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 2016 - Union Government (Defence Service), Army and Ordnance Factories, Report No. 15 of 2017; [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7119/16/17]



- (viii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Credit Risk Management in IFCI Limited for the year ended March 2016 - Union Government, Ministry of Finance, Report No. 16 of 2017 (Performance Audit);  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7121/16/17]
- (ix) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 2016 - Union Government - Scientific and Environmental Ministries/ Departments, Report No. 17 of 2017 (Compliance Audit);  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7125/16/17]
- (x) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 2016 - Union Government (Defence Public Sector Undertakings - Ministry of Defence), Report No. 19 of 2017;  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7123/16/17]
- (xi) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 2016 - Union Government (Defence Services), Navy and Coast Guard, Report No. 20 of 2017;  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7120/16/17]
- (xii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 2016 - Union Government (Ministry of Communications and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology), Report No. 21 of 2017;  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7124/16/17]
- (xiii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Electrification Projects in Indian Railways for the year ended March 2016 - Union Government (Railways), Report No. 22 of 2017;  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7129/16/17]
- (xiv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Implementation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 for the year ended March 2016 - Union Government (Civil), Ministry of Human Resource Development Report No. 23 of 2017;  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7126/16/17]
- (xv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Performance Audit of Reproductive and Child Health under National Rural Health Mission for the year ended March 2016 - Union Government (Civil), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Report No. 25 of 2017 (Performance Audit).  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7116/16/17]
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**REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING  
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

DR. NARENDRA JADHAV (Nominated): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Forty-third Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2016-17) on the subject "The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016" relating to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

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**STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

**Status of Implementation of Recommendations contained in the Twentieth 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 Twentieth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers on the subject 'Functioning of Autonomous Institutions - Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET)'.

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**STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी):** महोदय, आपकी अनुमति से मैं यह सूचित करता हूँ कि 24 जुलाई, 2017 से आरंभ होने वाले सप्ताह के दौरान निम्नलिखित सरकारी कार्य लिया जाएगा:-

1. आज की कार्यसूची में शामिल निम्नलिखित में से बकाया सरकारी कार्य की किसी मद पर विचार:-
  - (क) लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए गए रूप में मोटर यान (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2017 पर विचार और पारित करना।
  - (ख) लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए गए रूप में नावधिकरण (समुद्री दावा की अधिकारिता और निपटारा) विधेयक, 2016 पर विचार और पारित करना।

(ग) लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए गए रूप में सांख्यिकी संग्रहण (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2017 पर विचार और पारित करना।

2. निम्नलिखित विधेयकों पर विचार और पारित करना:-

(क) लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए गए रूप में फुटवियर डिज़ाइन और विकास संस्थान विधेयक, 2017।

(ख) लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए गए रूप में राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी, विज्ञान शिक्षा और अनुसंधान संस्थान (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2017।

(ग) लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए गए रूप में कारखाना (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2016।

(घ) लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए गए रूप में भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी) 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 जाने के पश्चात् बैंकारी 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) पंजाब नगर निगम विधि (चंडीगढ़ पर विस्तारण) संशोधन विधेयक, 2017 - अध्यादेश को प्रतिस्थापित करने के लिए।

(ख) केन्द्रीय माल और सेवा कर (जम्मू और कश्मीर पर विस्तारण) संशोधन विधेयक, 2017 - अध्यादेश को प्रतिस्थापित करने के लिए।

(ग) एकीकृत माल और सेवा कर (जम्मू और कश्मीर पर विस्तारण) संशोधन विधेयक, 2017 - अध्यादेश को प्रतिस्थापित करने के लिए।

(घ) कंपनी (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2016

(ङ) भारतीय प्रबंधन संस्थान विधेयक, 2017

(च) स्टेट बैंक (निरसन और संशोधन) विधेयक, 2017

(छ) निःशुल्क और अनिवार्य बाल शिक्षा का अधिकार (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2017

(ज) भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2017.

5. लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए जाने के पश्चात्, वर्ष 2017-18 के लिए अनुपूरक अनुदान मांगों (रेल सहित) से संबंधित विनियोग विधेयक पर विचार और लौटाना।

6. लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किए जाने के पश्चात् वर्ष 2014-15 के लिए अतिरिक्त अनुदान मांगों से संबंधित विनियोग विधेयक पर विचार और लौटाना।

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### REGARDING QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shrimati Smriti Zubin Irani to move the Motion for Election to the National Jute Board. She is not there. Okay, it will be taken up later.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, I have a point of order.

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I have a point of order.

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nareshji, I would call you after Mr. Jairam Ramesh.

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI I: Sir, you promised me first.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will call you also.

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: After Mr. Jairam Ramesh?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will decide that.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He rarely raises a point of order.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, the point of order I raised relates to the existence of Parliament and the dignity of both the Houses.

Sir, on the 29th of March 2017, this House passed the Finance Bill. In the Finance Bill, we had pointed out that a number of amendments were being sought to be carried out to other Acts passed by the Parliament through the guise of a Money Bill. Sir, we were assured that the substance of the Acts was not going to be changed.

On the 1st of June 2017, the Finance Ministry issued Rules for the Appointment of Members, Terms of Office, Removal of Members, Service Conditions of a number of Tribunals, including the National Green Tribunal. Sir, through the Rules, the main Acts have been amended. Sir, this goes against all parliamentary traditions. This goes against all the procedures and all the rules. Rules cannot supersede Acts. If the Government wants

to amend an Act, they must have the courage to come to the House and seek amendments to the Act. This backhanded way of amending important Acts is unacceptable. This is complete emasculation of all the procedures of Parliament. Specifically, the National Green Tribunal, which is increasing citizens' participation in environment protection, has been completely emasculated through this backdoor way of amending Acts.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): What my colleague, Mr. Jairam Ramesh, has raised is very fundamental to the very functioning of Parliament. It includes how the laws are made, Acts are made and Rules are framed thereunder and the role of Parliament in that. Sir, through the Finance Bill, so many Acts have been amended. There is also strong objection in writing by the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commission of India saying that, through the Finance Bill, the Representation of the People Act has been amended. The Representation of the People Act and the Finance Bill have no connection. This is how the Government is functioning. They bring everything as the Finance Bill to evade and avoid legislative scrutiny and amend any Act and make Rules. Now the Parliament has to deliberate as to what will be the role of this House and as to what will be the role of the Indian Parliament.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, we must have a discussion on this.  
...(Interruptions)...

श्री शरद पवार (बिहार): माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, जो विषय श्री जयराम रमेश जी ने उठाया है, यह बहुत गम्भीर विषय है। ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल जैसी चीजें, जो अच्छा काम कर रही थीं, जिस तरह से उन्हें बदलने का काम किया गया है और अन्य चीजों को बदलने का काम हो रहा है, यह ठीक नहीं है। इसलिए मैं पूरी तरह से इनकी बात का समर्थन करता हूँ और निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इस सवाल को गम्भीरता से लेना चाहिए और जल्दी से जल्दी उसका हल निकालना चाहिए और इस पर सदन में बहस होनी चाहिए।

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, it should be taken up in the Business immediately.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, you cannot dilute the fundamentals of the Act through the Rules. An Act is an Act. The Rules flow from the Act. The Act does not flow from the Rules. We must have a full-fledged discussion here on this.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, what is your ruling? We must have a discussion on this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: A discussion can be considered only when there is a notice.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Now we are giving the notice.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is up to you.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Gujarat): Sir, is the Chair helpless in this matter?

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल:** माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, कल इसी सदन में लिविंग के ऊपर बहस हो रही थी। उस बहस के दौरान वर्ष 1991 में तथाकथित राम भक्तों द्वारा कुछ लाइनें लिखी गई थीं, उन्हें मैंने क्वोट किया था। आपने इस पीठ से उन लाइनों को निकाल दिया और कहा कि यह सदन की कार्यवाही का हिस्सा नहीं रहा। मैंने उसको विद्‌ड्रॉ कर लिया। मैंने कहा कि चलिए, अगर किसी की भावना आहत हुई हो, तो हम खेद व्यक्त करते हैं। लेकिन उसके बावजूद भी प्रिंट मीडिया ने, बहुतों ने छापा, सोशल मीडिया पर किस तरीके से चल रहा है, सिर्फ उतने हिस्से को गलत तरीके से चलाया गया और मैंने जो क्वोट किया था, वह नहीं चल रहा है। कल बीजेपी के युवा मोर्चे के लोग मेरे घर पर गये। उन्होंने तोड़-फोड़ की। आज बीजेपी के एक नेता ने मेरठ से threat किया है। मेरे नाम पर उन्होंने लाखों रुपये की घोषणा की है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्रीमन्, कल लीडर ऑफ दि हाउस जब जवाब दे रहे थे, तो उन्होंने लिविंग के बारे में कहा कि सरकार गम्भीर है और सरकार कठोर से कठोर कार्रवाई करेगी, लेकिन वह कहाँ से गम्भीर है? क्यों उनके यूनिट वाले गये? आज मेरठ के भाजपा के कार्यकर्ता ने कैसे मेरे लिए घोषणा कर दी? उसकी क्या हैसियत है? वह मेरे सामने आकर हैसियत बता कर देखे, मैं कोई घबराने वाला नहीं हूँ। लेकिन जिस तरीके से भारतीय जनता पार्टी इस तरीके से माहौल को खराब कर रही है, अगर यही बात है, तो स्मृति ईरानी जी ने भी जो कहा था, दुर्गा देवी के लिए जो पढ़ा था - दुर्गा देवी को जो गाली पढ़ी थी, वह क्यों नहीं आप लोगों ने लिविंग में लिया? मैंने अगर क्वोट पढ़ दिया, तो उस क्वोट को उन्होंने ले लिया कि जैसे मैंने देवी-देवताओं का अपमान कर दिया है, मुझे threat दिया जाएगा, मेरे घर पर threat, मेरे लखनऊ और हरदोई के घर पर threat होगा?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; actually. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल:** सर, यह एक गम्भीर मामला है। अगर सदन में बोलने पर किसी सदस्य के जीवन पर खतरा हो, उसको threat हो, तो श्रीमन्, यह इस सदन की अवमानना होगी, इस सदन की गरिमा गिरने की बात होगी, सदस्य की गरिमा और हमारी बोलने की स्वतंत्रता पर रोक होगी। इस कारण मैं चाहता हूँ कि ...**(व्यवधान)**...

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

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, on this, I have to intervene. ...**(Interruptions)**...  
Sir, yesterday only. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Sir, ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: After him. ...(Interruptions)... After him. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Please. ...(Interruptions)... On this issue. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will allow you. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: On this issue. ...(Interruptions)...

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

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: On this issue, please call me. ...(Interruptions)...

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

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Kindly read Article 105 of the Constitution. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One second. Article 105; yes. बोलिए।

**श्री प्रमोद तिवारी:** मान्यवर, बहुत से privileges इस पार्लियामेंट को मिले हुए हैं। उसमें सबसे बड़ा अगर Article 105(2) देखें, तो यहाँ जो डिस्कशन होगा, यहाँ जो बात कही जाएगी, वह बाहर challenge नहीं हो सकती। आज के तमाम समाचारपत्रों में यह छपा है कि जो कुछ भी परसों नरेश अग्रवाल जी ने कहा था, आपने भी उसको expunge कर दिया था, उसके बाद उन्होंने खेद भी व्यक्त कर दिया था, उसके बावजूद सिर्फ यही नहीं हुआ जो ये कह रहे हैं, बल्कि भारतीय जनता पार्टी के एक पदाधिकारी ने मेरठ में FIR लिखाई है। तो अगर यहाँ कोई सदस्य अपनी बात कहेगा, जबकि वह बात खत्म भी हो गई थी, लेकिन सवाल उसका नहीं है, उस बहस का नहीं है, सवाल यह है कि राज्य सभा के अन्दर जो power of expression है, जो privileges हैं, उनको अगर कोई breach करता है, तो उसके खिलाफ यह राज्य सभा क्या कार्रवाई करने जा रही है, मेरा यह कहना है। ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री शरद यादव:** सर ...(व्यवधान)...

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

**श्री प्रमोद तिवारी:** एक मिनट, शरद जी। ...(व्यवधान)...

सर, मेरा यह सवाल नहीं है, उन्होंने कहा और ये खड़े होकर रोक दें। मेरा यह कहना है कि जिस वक्त उसने FIR lodge कर दी, उसने नरेश अग्रवाल जी की नहीं, बल्कि पूरे पार्लियामेंट की अवमानना की है। इस Article 105 का breach किया है। मेरा आपसे आग्रह है कि एकाध मामले में आप सख्त हो जाएँ। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have got your point. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री प्रमोद तिवारी:** एकाध मामले में आप सख्त हो जाएँ। उनके खिलाफ कार्रवाई करें, समन जारी करें और ऐसे आदमी को सदन में बुलाकर यह सदन अपने आपको ...*(व्यवधान)*... में तब्दील करें। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have got your point. ...*(Interruptions)*... I understood. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री प्रमोद तिवारी:** और उसको यहीं सजा सुनाएं, जिससे उसके बाद पार्लियामेंट की dignity को कम करने की कोई जुर्रत नहीं कर सके।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I understood.

**श्री शरद यादव:** सर, दो दिन से बहस चल रही थी। आज वह बात vindicate हो गई। सब तरह की चीजों का समाधान होने के बाद एक मेम्बर को धमकाने का काम हो रहा है और तिवारी जी जो बोल रहे हैं, इस सदन में बोली हुई बात पर बाहर केस दर्ज किया जा रहा है।

**श्री उपसभापति:** ऐसा कैसे हो सकता है?

**श्री शरद यादव:** यानी लिविंग जो है, वह vindicate होता है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... एक मेम्बर को धमकाने का, उसके घर जाने का, उसके घर को काला करने का, हरदोई वाले का, यह क्या मामला है?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay; yes.

**श्री शरद यादव:** मंत्री जी, आपको जरूर जवाब देना चाहिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह क्या हो रहा है?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is it, Mr. Tapan Kumar Sen? ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री शरद यादव:** लिविंग पर बहस हुई थी, उसके मायने क्या थे? ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप मेम्बर को धमका रहे हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... जो माफी माँग चुका, जो सारी चीजें कर चुका। ...*(व्यवधान)*... इसलिए आपको कोई जवाब देना चाहिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आपको जरूर इस पर बोलना चाहिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is it, Mr. Tapan Kumar Sen? ...*(Interruptions)*... Is it the same thing? ...*(Interruptions)*... What is your problem? ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Tapan Kumar Sen, please speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, it is the most unfortunate experience, the last three to four days. For two days, we discussed it threadbare. कल अच्छी-अच्छी बातें बोली गईं। हम मॉबोक्रेसी को एंडोर्स नहीं करते हैं। हमारी complaint थी। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आपने इस कल्चर



को जन्म दिया through your governance practice. उसको काटा गया, हमने मान लिया और उस assurance के साथ-साथ, you have let loose your goons against the people who are opposing you. ...(Interruptions)... यह क्या है? ...(व्यवधान)... What culture is this? ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, all right. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: यह 'let him loose' अगर चलता रहेगा, it will have serious repercussions. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री उपसभापति: कृपया आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... Okay, now, all right. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: The Government must take action and the Government must explain. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is okay. ...(Interruptions)... That is okay. ...(Interruptions)... Now, sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Sit down, I understood. ...(Interruptions)... Now, let me take a decision. ...(Interruptions)... I understood. ...(Interruptions)... हो गया। ...(व्यवधान)... It is clear. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री जावेद अली खान (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, माननीय नरेश अग्रवाल जी और हम सब ...(व्यवधान)...

† جناب جاوید علی خان: آپ سبھاپتی جی، مانینے نریش اگروال جی اور ہم سب  
---(مداخلت)---

श्री उपसभापति: ठीक है, आप इसको सपोर्ट करते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री जावेद अली खान: सर, मुझे एक मिनट सुन लिया जाए। ...(व्यवधान)... हम सब लोग भारत के संविधान के ...(व्यवधान)...

† جناب جاوید علی خان: سر، مجھے ایک منٹ سن لیا جائے۔---(مداخلت)--- ہم سب لوگ  
بھارت کے سمودھان کے---(مداخلت)---

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I understood the subject. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Please, Sir, without listening to me, how can anyone understand? ...(Interruptions)... हम सब लोग भारत के संविधान के तहत प्रोटेक्टेड हैं, इसलिए हमें अपनी चिंता नहीं है, क्योंकि आप हमारे संरक्षक हैं, लेकिन मेरी चिंता का विषय यह है कि इस

†Transliteration in Urdu script.

प्रकरण के अंदर आपकी रूलिंग और आपके डायरेक्शन की भी घोर अवहेलना हो रही है, जो नरेश अग्रवाल जी के संबंध में आपने दिया था। आपने कहा था कि यह वाक्य कहीं भी किसी भी कीमत पर मीडिया के अंदर रिपोर्ट नहीं किया जाना चाहिए। आपने अखबार वालों से भी कहा था, प्रिंट मीडिया और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया से भी कहा था। उसके बावजूद सब मीडिया के अंदर, प्रिंट मीडिया रात को एक बजे छपता है और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया पर भी यह लगातार प्रचारित किया गया कि नरेश अग्रवाल जी ने क्या किया। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

† **جناب جاوید علی خان:** ہم سب لوگ بھارت کے سمودھان کے تحت پروٹیکٹڈ ہیں، اس لیے ہمیں اپنی چنٹا نہیں ہے، کیوں کہ آپ ہمارے سنرکشک ہیں، لیکن میری چنٹا کا وشے یہ ہے کہ اس پرکرن کے اندر آپ کی رولنگ اور آپ کے ڈائریکشن کی بھی گھور اوپیلنا ہو رہی ہے، جو نریش اگروال جی کے سمینڈھ میں آپ نے دیا تھا۔ آپ نے کہا تھا کہ یہ واکہ کہیں بھی کسی بھی قیمت پر میڈیا کے اندر رپورٹ نہیں کیا جانا چاہیئے۔ آپ نے اخبار والوں سے بھی کہا تھا، پرنٹ میڈیا اور الیکٹرانک میڈیا سے بھی کہا تھا۔ اس کے باوجود سب میڈیا کے اندر، پرنٹ میڈیا رات کو ایک بجے چھپتا ہے اور الیکٹرانک میڈیا پر بھی یہ لگاتار پرچارت کیا گیا کہ نریش اگروال جی نے کیا کیا۔۔۔**(مداخلت)**۔۔۔

**श्री उपसभापति:** मैं समझ गया। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री जावेद अली खान:** सर, मैं एक मिनट में अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। एक एडिटर ने अपनी official website पर लिखा है कि अगर मैं संसद के अंदर होता, तो नरेश अग्रवाल का कॉलर पकड़ कर घसीट करके बाहर लाता और उन्हें देश के लोगों के सामने पेश कर देता। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

† **جناب جاوید علی خان:** سر، میں ایک منٹ میں اپنی بات ختم کرتا ہوں۔ ایک ایڈیٹر نے اپنی آفیشیل ویب سائٹ پر لکھا ہے کہ اگر میں سنسد کے اندر ہوتا، تو نریش اگروال کا کالر پکڑ کر، گھسیٹ کر باہر لاتا اور انہیں دیش کے لوگوں کے سامنے پیش کردیتا۔۔۔**(مداخلت)**۔۔۔

**श्री उपसभापति:** हो गया, कृपया आप बैठिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री जावेद अली खान:** सर, यह चैनल ने रात 10 बजकर 26 मिनट पर नरेश अग्रवाल का यह क्लिप यह कहते हुए दिखाया है कि इस व्यक्ति को संसद के अंदर बोलने का कोई हक नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

† **جناب جاوید علی خان:** سر، ایک چینل نے رات دس بجکر چھبیس منٹ پر نریش اگروال کا کلپ یہ کہہ کر دکھایا ہے کہ اس شخص کو سنسد کے اندر بولنے کا کوئی حق نہیں ہے۔۔۔**(مداخلت)**۔۔۔

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, now, you take your seat. ...**(Interruptions)**...  
Now, you take your seat. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री जावेद अली खान: यह किस तरीके से किया गया है? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

†جناب جاوید علی خان: یہ کس طریقے سے کیا گیا ہے؟ ...*(مداخلت)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, you sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, you sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री जावेद अली खान: उपसभापति महोदय, इसका मतलब यह है कि आपके निर्देशों की, आपके डायरेक्शन की अवहेलना की गई है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

†جناب جاوید علی خان: آپ سبھاپتی مہودے، اس کا مطلب یہ ہے کہ آپ کے نردیشوں کی آپ کے ڈائریکشن کی خلاف ورزی کی گئی ہے ...*(مداخلت)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... अभी आप बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री जावेद अली खान: जब कि मंत्री जी ने आश्वासन दिया था कि आपके डायरेक्शन को माना जाएगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

†جناب جاوید علی خان: جب کہ منتری جی نے یقین دلایا تھا کہ آپ کے ڈائریکشن کو مانا جائے گا ...*(مداخلت)*...

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

श्री उपसभापति: अभी आप बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप सब लोग बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... सब लोग बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Now, hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)*... बैठिए, बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल (महाराष्ट्र): सर ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will call you later. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will call you later. Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no; I will allow you later. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, hon. Members, whatever is said in this House, especially, once it is expunged, no newspaper can publish, no print media can publish it and if it is done, it is a matter of privilege. That is number one. Especially about whatever is said in the House, nobody has authority to file F.I.R. or give any punishment against whatever is said in this House. So, if any newspaper or anybody has threatened or taken any action, it is very serious. I want the Government to inquire into it and come back. What is the Government's view? ...*(Interruptions)*...

†Transliteration in Urdu script.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, before the Minister, just one minute.  
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; let me listen to the Government's side.  
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I have one submission to make, Sir, and the hon. Deputy Chairman may take the sense of the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; let us listen to the Government.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Please, Sir. It is not before the Government, it is a privilege of the House. Secondly, Sir, it has become a favourite pastime for the evening programmers in many T.V. studios just to berate, defame, insult and castigate the Parliamentarians and the Institution. It has become a regular practice. Now, what has been said in one T.V. channel is, 'We will drag him out', the Member. It is not a question of which Member. A Member speaks in the House. Now, the channel has been named by the hon. Member. That channel must be given the notice. They must be summoned.  
...(Interruptions)... It must immediately become a matter of privilege. ...  
As Shri Pramod Tiwari has said, ... convert this House into a Court.  
...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: मीडिया चैनल को यहां बुलाना चाहिए। ...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Let them understand. ... There is a Constitution and there is a law. ... Convert this House into a Court.  
... We have to set an example. ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sit down. ... बैठिए, बैठिए।  
...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: यह नहीं होगा। ... अभी बुलाइए, फैसला होगा। ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will take action. ... No, no.  
...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: This issue has to be decided. ... Sir, I am quoting the rule. Sir, please read Rule 190. It says that if 25 Members get up, then, automatically, the Chair has to take cognizance. You invoke it; we demand under Rule 190. ... Please invoke the rule. ... Count the number.  
... Invoke the rule. ...

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, ...(Interruptions)... One minute, Sir. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, this is the rule. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, you called me. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: This is the rule of this House, Rule 190. ...(Interruptions)... Sir, please. ...(Interruptions)... This rule has to be invoked. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: आनन्द जी, आपकी बात सबने सुन ली। ...(व्यवधान)... एक मिनट मुझे भी सुन लीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: No; we will not. ...(Interruptions)... This rule must be invoked. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री उपसभापति: बैठिए, बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... I assure you. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Please invoke the rule, Sir. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I assure you that proper action will be taken on that. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: What is this Rules Book meant for? ...(Interruptions)... Give me the Rules Book, please. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I can assure you. ...(Interruptions)... Please don't. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, please see Article 105 of the Constitution and Rule 190 of the Rajya Sabha Rules Book. ...(Interruptions)... If 25 Members get up and demand this, then automatically, it becomes a privilege matter. ...(Interruptions)... We are insisting. ...(Interruptions)... We will insist that Rule 190 must be invoked. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I can assure you that proper action will be taken. बैठिए, बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, Rule 190 has to be invoked. ...(Interruptions)... No, Sir. ...(Interruptions)... We will not leave it to the Government. ...(Interruptions)... We will not leave it to the Government. ...(Interruptions)...

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

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: It is the privilege of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Rule 190 must be invoked. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are demanding. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please invoke it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, you cannot say 'No'. ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot say 'No'. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति: नरेश जी, I know it. आप लोग बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Please go back. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is a procedure for everything. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am assuring the House that proper action will be taken. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is a procedure. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: No, Sir. Rule 190. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please invoke it. We demand. ...*(Interruptions)*... All of us demand. ...*(Interruptions)*... Twenty-five Members can demand. ...*(Interruptions)*... We cannot be denied today. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, this should be respected. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay; you give notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please give notice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the Rules Book must be respected; the Constitution must be respected. ...*(Interruptions)*... We demand. ...*(Interruptions)*... They must accept this demand. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति: आप नोटिस दे दीजिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I have a point. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is that? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: One second. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, what is the rule you are referring to? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, kindly see sub-Rule 2 of Rule 190. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, kindly read it out and you will find what the procedure is. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, should I read it out? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: It says, "If objection to leave being granted is taken, the Chairman shall request those Members, who are in favour of leave being granted to rise in their places and if not less than twenty-five Members rise accordingly, the Chairman shall intimate that leave is granted." ...*(Interruptions)*... So, this is the rule. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is the rule. ...*(Interruptions)*... So they are saying that the Rule should be observed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me get a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me get a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: No, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... Notice is not required. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, Sir; kindly appreciate. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I must get a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... Only on a notice, I will do it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me get a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Kindly follow the rules. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me get a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: You have to take cognizance of the situation in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Kindly appreciate. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There should be a notice. That is what I am saying. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप लोग सुनिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप लोग सुनिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप लोग सुनिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please listen, Mr. Anand Sharma. ...*(Interruptions)*... I need a notice. That is all that I am saying. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: The House is supreme. We don't need a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Under this rule, no notice is required. The earlier provision needs a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Listen. Let me read it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, all of you please listen. Since Mr. Sukhendu Sekhar Roy has invoked Rule 187....*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot have anarchy. ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot have anarchy. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, listen to me. I am trying to sort it out. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Mr. Sukhendu Sekhar Roy has quoted Rule 187. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am coming to that. This is under the chapter on 'Questions of Privileges'. Rule 187 is about 'question of privilege'. After that, there is Rule 188. The whole chapter is on 'Questions of Privileges'. You cannot take out a particular clause and interpret it independently. In Rule 188, it is said, "A Member wishing to raise a question of privilege shall give notice in writing...". ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is after that notice that your question of putting the privilege motion to the House comes up, and then comes the point about 25 Members raising it. Now, it is for the Chair to decide. I am not arguing with you. My understanding of the rule is this. Anand Sharmaji, it is your point that I am answering. I agree that it is enough if 25 hon. Members stand up and support a Privilege Motion, it should be granted then and there. That is what you said. I accept that. But that is, provided there is a notice before the Chair.

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Sir, I will give you the notice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (Karnataka): Can you just give me a minute?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will allow you. You are an experienced Member. I would allow you to speak. Please listen. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, my understanding is that a notice should be there. Then, I would put it to the House and, if 25 Members are standing for it, I would immediately allow it. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no. That is not enough. I have to. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Sir, I am giving it just now. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. It is not like instant coffee. ...*(Interruptions)*... Notice cannot be instant coffee. If you give a notice, I have to consider it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Notices are not like instant coffee. If you give me a notice, I would examine it and come back to the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Naqviji, you should help me. You are not helping me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Kindly see the proviso. ...*(Interruptions)*... Kindly see the proviso to Rule 190. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सुखेन्दु दा, वन मिनट। ...*(व्यवधान)*...



SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, kindly allow me. ...*(Interruptions)*... Kindly see the proviso. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी:** सर, अभी नरेश अग्रवाल जी ने एक इश्यू उठाया है। सबसे पहले मैं स्पष्ट करना चाहता हूँ कि यह देश कानून के तहत चलता है और संसद में जो संसदीय व्यवस्था है, संसद उसके तहत चलती है। उस दिन नरेश जी ने कुछ आपत्तिजनक बातें कही थीं और उसके बाद सदन के तमाम सदस्यों ने उस पर आपत्ति व्यक्त की थी। उस पर आपत्ति व्यक्त होने के बाद और आपके निर्देश पर उन्होंने उस पर regret किया था और वह इश्यू वहाँ पर क्लोज हो गया था। आज सवाल मीडिया का पैदा हुआ है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... देखिए, मीडिया में जो कुछ आया, उसके बारे में भी आपने निर्देश दिया था और निर्देश होने के बाद ...*(व्यवधान)*... अब जहाँ तक प्रिविलेज का सवाल है, 25 मेम्बर्स अगर उसको लिखकर देंगे, तो प्रिविलेज कमिटी उसका अध्ययन करेगी। हम किसी भी तरह की हिंसा, किसी भी तरह की अराजकता के खिलाफ हैं और हम किसी भी तरह की censorship के भी खिलाफ हैं क्योंकि हमारी सरकार के खिलाफ मीडिया में ऐसी बहुत सी चीज़ें आती रहती हैं, जो हमने किया ही नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Electronic media भी उससे भरा हुआ है और प्रिंट मीडिया भी भरा हुआ है। हमने तो कभी privilege की बात नहीं कही। फिर भी जो सदन का नियम है, जो संसद का नियम है, उस नियम के तहत चेयर आवश्यक कार्यवाही कर सकती है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, kindly see the proviso to rule. Kindly allow me to read it out. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री उपसभापति:** आप लोग बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप लोग बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL (Maharashtra): Let him speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Kindly see the proviso to Rule 190. Sir, the Rule cannot be interpreted in a piecemeal manner. Here is a proviso to Rule 190. Kindly come to that. What is that? I quote: "Provided further". ...*(Interruptions)*... Notice is required, no doubt. But, if there is no notice, what can the Chairman do under this Rule? The proviso says: "Provided further that the Chairman may, if he is satisfied about the urgency of the matter, allow a question of privilege to be raised at any time during the course of a sitting after the disposal of the questions." Kindly appreciate that proviso and come to sub-rule (2) of Rule 190.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay; fine. I will do that. All of you kindly take your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: The Rule quoted by the hon. Member is very clear. Now, I request the hon. Deputy Chairman to go by that Rule and give the final decision.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, please cooperate with me. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seats. I have only one point to say. Hon. Members, I fully agree with you. The Members' rights are to be protected and Members' privileges are to be protected. I am one with you on this point. The only question is this. A matter has been raised here. *Suo motu*, it was raised here to take cognizance of this matter, especially, when it is a matter of privilege, this is not enough. The Chair needs some substantive material. So, give a notice and also a copy of the report. Then, the Chairman will examine it after this. If this way we do, then tomorrow, one Member can raise the matter that 'X' said like this, take privilege; 'Y' said like this, take privilege. You see, it is not an instant coffee. Listen, it is not like instant coffee. I am telling you that I am one with you with regard to your privileges and rights. But, I cannot take it just like an instant coffee. That is what I am saying. Now, listen. Notice has to be examined. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, give notice and I will come back to you. A notice is to be given to the Secretariat in the proper form. I will come back to you today itself. I can assure you. सुब्बारामी जी, बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Notice has to be given to the Secretary-General, not to the Chairman. I am requesting you to give notice. I will examine the notice and come back to you. Give me some time. ...*(Interruptions)*... I don't agree with bringing in a Privilege Motion instantaneously and taking a decision then and there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, Rule 190 deals with the mode of raising a question of privilege. When the rules were made, Rule 190, in its wisdom, makes it absolutely clear that even if the Chairman has refused consent, the proviso says, "Provided further that the Chairman may, if he is satisfied ..."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is the condition. So, it is conditional.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, then it does not say that a notice has to be given. Sir, are you satisfied or not?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is the condition. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, are you satisfied or not?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can't ask that question.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: We can, Sir. The Rules Book says. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is the condition.

**डा. संजय सिंह** (असम): सर, आपने पहले ही चेयर से खड़े होकर कहा था कि ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think, Shri Rahman Khan wants to help me.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Sir, it is the right of the Chair when a question of privilege is raised. Firstly, the Chair has to be satisfied whether there is a case or not. There are instances, precedents when such assurances or such warnings were given by the Chair. Though expunged from the records, if somebody had violated, the Chair has taken *suo motu* action. So, we are requesting you. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me have the supporting material. You bring the material before me.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: it is a serious matter. It is violation of the directive of the Chair. More than the Members, it is the Chair who has to take action. Otherwise, there will be none believing in Parliament and its directives.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Rahman Khanji, I value your advice very much. But...

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Sir, one more fact. In my own case, one newspaper in Uttar Pradesh wrote about my ruling and said that I was afraid of the Government. The then Chairman, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, not at my instance, after seeing the newspaper, took *suo motu* action to refer it to the Privileges Committee. That is a precedent.

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल**: सर, इतने मेम्बर्स ने ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I fully accept that. My only point is that let the material be brought before me. Let the newspapers be brought to me so that I am convinced. I have to be convinced. That is the point. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I have a point of order. Rule 190 and the proviso have been quoted here. On the Chair's satisfaction, the hon. Deputy Chairman has said...

**श्री प्रमोद तिवारी**: सर, जब इस हाउस का कोई मेम्बर बोलेगा, तो ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I need the material.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I am going beyond that. The day before yesterday, there was a ruling of the Chair on this matter to the media— to the electronic media, the print

media. If the Chair's ruling has been violated, what more satisfaction is required, Sir? It is your ruling.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, I agree.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, हम show कर रहे हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What Shri Anand Sharma said is absolutely correct. I have given the ruling that it should not be published. If that has been violated, the Chair has to be satisfied. For that, give me the supporting newspapers. Give me some evidence. That is what I am asking. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Give me notice and evidence. ...*(Interruptions)*... Naresh Agrawalji, give notice and evidence, and I will take action. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; that can't be. I will not accept that. Give notice and a copy of the newspaper. I will certainly take action.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Are you exempting the electronic media?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not exempting the electronic media. But, you can't show me a WhatsApp message. Anybody can send anything in WhatsApp. That is what I am saying.

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Sir, a point of order, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, that is over. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sorry. Let us go to the next item. ...*(Interruptions)*... Give notice. Ghulam Nabiji, hon. LoP, I am requesting that please give me notice with some material evidence, I will take action. ...*(Interruptions)*... I don't go by WhatsApp. ...*(Interruptions)*... You can get it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Along with the notice, you give it. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no, don't press me for that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, can I seek your indulgence? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is over. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let us go to the Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I seek your indulgence, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... The hon. Member seeks your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am with him. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Let the Chair give a direction. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Give notice with evidence. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will act. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the Government keeps the evidence for thirty days of what is discussed in the electronic media. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Give notice with evidence, I will ask.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: The Chair can ask and direct. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am repeating that you give notice with evidence, I will take action. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: You can direct. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, it cannot be. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: It is in the Indian Express. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Give notice with evidence, I will take action. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल:** माननीय उपसभापति जी, मैंने दो issues उठाए थे। एक issue यह था कि इस पीठ ने जो आदेश दिया था, जो ruling दी थी, उस ruling को मीडिया ने नहीं माना। दूसरा issue हमने यह उठाया था कि मेरे घर पर attack हुआ, मुझे धमकी दी गयी। कल मेरे घर पर भा.ज.पा. युवा मोर्चा, दिल्ली के कार्यकर्ता गए, यह सब अखबारों में छपा है। उन्होंने घर में तोड़-फोड़ की। अगर इसी तरह से मेरठ के भा.ज.पा. के कार्यकर्ताओं ने कोई घोषणा की, तो क्या यह e-lynching नहीं हुई? इस पर गवर्नमेंट क्या action लेगी?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: To that you have to react, I agree, Mr. Naqvi, ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी:** मीडिया ने अगर यह छाप दिया है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Naqviji, the matter is simple. ...*(Interruptions)*... If an MP's house is vandalized for what he has said in the House, the Government should take action. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी:** मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं है, आप बंद करिए। हम तो कह रहे हैं कि आप Live Telecast भी बंद कर दीजिए। "न रहेगा बांस, न बजेगी बांसुरी।"

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Government has to inquire. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will allow you. ...*(Interruptions)*... If an MP's house has been vandalized or attacked for what he said in the House, then the Government should conduct inquiry and come back to the House and also take appropriate action against the culprit. ...*(Interruptions)*... You have to do that. That direction is given to the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: The law will take its own course. If an FIR is filed, then I will convey it to the concerned authorities. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, ये बहुत lightly ले रहे हैं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Government will inquire and take action. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shrimati Smriti Irani.

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#### MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE NATIONAL JUTE BOARD

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): Sir, I move the following Motion:—

"That is pursuance of clause (b) of sub-section (4) of Section 3 of the National Jute Board Act, 2008 (Act No. 12 of 2009) read with Rule 5 of the National Jute Board Rules, 2010, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from amongst the Members of the House, to be a member of the National Jute Board."

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned up to 1200 hours.

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

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*The House reassembled at twelve of the clock,*

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*

**REGARDING QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE — Contd.**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 61.

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल:** माननीय चेयरमैन साहब, ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute. This is Question Hour.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, Question No. 51 is my question. I want to put my question. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order? क्या कहना है आपको ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the Parliament functions under the Constitution and the Rules Book. Sir, there was a ruling given the day before yesterday on the proceeding in this House where the Chair had expunged some remarks or they were withdrawn. The matter was settled. A ruling was given that neither the print media nor the electronic media shall reproduce or telecast, but it happened. But there has been a brazen breach. Not only that, threats were given. The question is of the privilege of this House, and the ruling of the Chair, because if we allow repeated violations, it is not only a question of privilege...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the Members had given notice. Rule 190(2) makes it very clear that if the Chair is satisfied of the urgency of the matter, then, it has to be immediately referred to the Privileges Committee. Summons must be issued. Sir, there is one more important point. It was said that Members should produce evidence. The Chair has to direct. An FIR has to be registered. The Government has to produce the evidence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me now tell you. One minute, please sit down. Let me say something. I have heard this morning's proceedings. I have received notice from some Members raising a question of privilege against a TV channel and some newspapers for making defamatory remarks against a Member of this House. The Secretariat has been asked to issue a show cause notice and further inquire into the matter. Now, let us get on with Question Hour.

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल:** सर, दो चीजें और रह गईं। ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री सभापति:** अब क्या है?

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल:** एक तो यह हो गया, दो पार्ट और रह गए। एक तो यहां की कार्यवाही की एफ.आई.आर. दर्ज हुई मेरठ में, जबकि एफ.आई.आर. दर्ज नहीं हो सकती ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us take that separately.

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल:** सर, दूसरा, मेरे घर पर कल जिस तरह भाजपा युवा मोर्चा के लोग गए, ऐलान करके गए और उन्होंने तोड़फोड़ की। जिस तरह मुझको थ्रेट किया जा रहा है, इसका मतलब तो लिटिंग खुलेआम कर रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no; we will. ...(Interruptions)... One minute, please. ...(Interruptions)... नहीं-नहीं, रवि शंकर जी, we will ask for a factual report from the concerned authorities about what the hon. Member is saying.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Nominated): If you have not taken any decision, what he has said about BJP workers should also be expunged.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us settle this. We will ask for a report from the concerned authorities. बैठ जाइए। This matter is over now.

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल:** बी.जे.पी. युवा मोर्चा कह कर आया ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will ask for a report. Nareshji, please sit down. Now let us get on with Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)... बैठ जाइए, आप भी बैठ जाइए। Dr. Swamy, let me get on with Question Hour, please. We will ask for the report on this subject. Question No. 61.

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## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Performance of Agricultural Schemes

\*61. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite various ongoing schemes for promotion of agriculture in the country, more than 50 per cent farmers are living below the poverty line;

(b) if so, whether Government has made any study to assess the performance of each of these schemes during the last three years;

(c) if so, the outcome of such study; and



(d) whether Government proposes to reform such schemes, if so, the details thereof?

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) As per the erstwhile Planning Commission's estimates based on Nation Sample Survey Office (NSSO) Survey, in 2011-12 the rural population living below poverty line (BPL) was 25.7 percent, including both farm and non-farm rural population. Separate estimate on the number of farmers living Below Poverty Line is not available.

(b) to (d) The major schemes have been evaluated during the last three years. Moreover, the schemes are also regularly monitored and evaluated, and have been revamped on the basis of the feedback.

The outcomes of performance evaluation of the major schemes are as follows:

- (i) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH): Gross value of Output (GVO) has increased by about 70% during the period of implementation of the programme.
- (ii) National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA): The Scheme was found highly relevant for the development of Rainfed areas in a sustainable manner; and helped the farmers in maximizing the farm returns; mitigating the impacts of drought, flood, and minimizing risks of crop failure; impacted increase of income by 39%.
- (iii) Interest Subvention Scheme: The scheme had positive impacts on the rate of growth of ground level credit to agriculture and increase in use of crucial inputs; and helped increase yield and production of major crops.
- (iv) Soil Health Card (SHC): The card provides information on fertility status of soil and a soil test based advisory on use of fertilizers. Application of fertilizer and micronutrients based on Soil health Card Recommendations resulted in 8-10 % of fertilizer savings. Besides, overall increase in the yield of crops to the tune of 5-6 %.
- (v) National Food Security Mission (NFSM Crops and Pulses): The mission has helped in widening the food basket in the country with sizeable contribution

coming from the NFSM Districts. The focused and target oriented implementation of mission initiatives has resulted in bumper production of rice, wheat and pulses.

- (vi) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY): Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has resulted into higher agricultural GDP; increase in Gross Capital Formation; better implementation due to performance-linked eligibility for funds; fund use flexibility across time and states. The suggestions for improvement were related to ensuring inter-state allocation by using up-dated data; replacing certain fund eligibility parameters by state level performance related indicators, focus on end-to-end projects while planning; and initiating innovative projects without duplication.
- (vii) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY): Per Drop More Crop mainly focuses on water use efficiency at farm level through precision/micro irrigation (Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation). An impact evaluation study for Micro Irrigation, a component of PMKSY, carried out in the year 2014, indicated overall income enhancement of the beneficiaries in the range of 20% to 68% with average of 48.5%.
- (viii) Venture Capital Assistance and Equity Grant & Credit Guarantee Fund: Evaluation of the sub scheme of Integrated Scheme of Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) shows that it has incentivized the agri-entrepreneurs to bring in more equity and set up agri-business units. It also strengthened the backward linkages and achieved efficiency in the agriculture value chain.
- (ix) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY): The scheme is an outcome of elaborate restructuring and subsuming National Agricultural Insurance Scheme and other components of National Agricultural Insurance Programmes on the basis of implementational experience. Larger coverage of beneficiaries and crops with minimum premium are the important features of the restructured scheme.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: A new study has revealed that every third farmer, about 36.26 per cent, in the State is living below the poverty line. Sir, my first question to the hon. Minister is, what is the Government's action to improve the conditions of the poor people who are living below the poverty line, how to increase the financial

condition of the people in the rural areas, particularly, the farmers? What is the action the Government proposes to do?

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** महोदय, माननीय सदस्य का सवाल जो 50 प्रतिशत किसान गरीबी रेखा से नीचे हैं, इससे संबंधित है। इसका अध्ययन 2011-12 में हुआ था और उसकी रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 25.7 प्रतिशत कृषि और गैर-कृषि ग्रामीण जनसंख्या गरीबी रेखा से नीचे है। इसके बाद हमने 2014 से लेकर 2017 तक आठ योजनाओं का बाहरी संस्थानों से अध्ययन कराया और जो उनकी रिपोर्ट आई, हमने उसको लागू किया। हमने राज्यों से inputs लेकर, मंत्रालय के अंदर पहले से जितनी भी योजनाएं चल रही थी, उनका अध्ययन किया और फिर नई योजनाओं का निर्माण किया। इसके साथ ही हमने पुरानी योजनाओं में भी सुधार किया और अध्ययन के बाद जितनी भी रिपोर्ट्स आई, उन सबको भी लागू किया।

**SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:** Sir, he is not replying properly to my question.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** No, no. Please, listen to this. You will get another opportunity. Listen to this. Don't interrupt the reply.

**SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:** Sir, what hon. Minister says is wrong.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** No, no. Please. You put your second supplementary. Second supplementary, please.

**SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:** Sir, before I ask my second supplementary, the most important thing is that the reply given by the hon. Minister, either intentionally or misled by the officials, is not correct. This is number one.

Secondly, in our country, rich-poor divide widens as Indian economy grows. Is it correct? If it is so, what action the Government proposes to take?

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** महोदय, हमने जो अध्ययन कराया, इसको प्रश्न के उत्तर में ले लिया है कि जैसे "एकीकृत बागवानी विकास मिशन" है, इसका 2012-13 से 2016-17 तक क्रियान्वयन हुआ था, तो उसका अध्ययन करने के बाद योजना का निर्माण किया। इसी तरह से "राष्ट्रीय सतत कृषि मिशन" का भी अध्ययन 2017-18 में कराया और जो गरीब किसान हैं - इन सभी योजनाओं की जो अलग-अलग रिपोर्ट्स आई हैं, वे सभी हमारे पास हैं और उसके बाद हमने कुछ नई योजनाओं का निर्माण किया। जो हमारी कृषि उद्यमी हैं, उनके लिए SFAC का गठन हमारी सरकार के आने से पहले ही हुआ था, लेकिन अध्ययन में यह बताया गया कि इसका बहुत बड़ा लाभ है, तो उसका आबंटन बढ़ाया। छोटे-छोटे गांवों में जो उद्यमी हैं, सात वर्ष तक उनसे कोई इन्टरेस्ट नहीं लिया जाएगा और सात वर्ष के बाद वे उस कैपिटल को जमा करेंगे।

इसी प्रकार से "सतत कृषि विकास मिशन" में सुझाव आए कि किसानों के खेत में भी पेड़ लगने चाहिए। हमने इसके लिए "राष्ट्रीय कृषि वानिकी योजना" शुरू की। पहले सरकारी जमीन में पेड़

लगाने के लिए राज्यों को वन विभाग के माध्यम से पैसे जाते थे। यह नई योजना पिछले वर्ष शुरू हुई और राज्यों से कहा गया कि आप कानून बदलिए, 20 प्रजातियों की लकड़ियों को काटने की किसानों को अनुमति दो और पूर्व गवर्नमेंट में भी जो नियम थे, जिनके तहत पुलिस पकड़ती थी, वर्ष 2016-17 के दौरान 8 राज्यों ने कानून में परिवर्तन किया और पिछले वर्ष से ही 8 राज्यों में मेड़ पर पेड़, खेत में पेड़ लगाने की योजना शुरू हुई। इस वर्ष भी 5 राज्यों ने इस योजना को शुरू किया है।

इसी तरह से हमने कृषि बाजार का अध्ययन कराया था। स्वामीनाथन जी का यह कहना था कि कम से कम 80 वर्ग किलोमीटर के अंदर एक मार्केट होनी चाहिए, लेकिन देश में यह स्थिति है कि अभी औसत 580 वर्ग किलोमीटर के अंदर एक मार्केट है। एक तो 585 बड़ी मंडियों को ही मार्केट से जोड़ने का काम किया और दूसरी ओर इसी वर्ष दो महीने पहले राज्यों के साथ दो-तीन महीने तक चर्चा करने के बाद नए कृषि मंडी अधिनियम को जारी किया। मुझे खुशी है कि दो-तीन महीने के अंदर ही राज्यों ने अपने नियमों में परिवर्तन शुरू किया है। इसी प्रकार से सॉयल हेल्थ कार्ड और अन्य कई ऐसी योजनाएँ, जिनमें छोटे किसानों की लागत कम हो, वे भी हैं। इसी प्रकार से बहुत पहले एक अध्ययन हुआ था, 2003-2005 के बीच में कृषि वैज्ञानिकों ने neem coated urea - जहाँ छोटे किसान यूरिया के लिए परेशान रहते थे, मैं भी जब 1989 में लोक सभा में आया था, तो मैंने पहली डिमांड यह की थी कि मेरे क्षेत्र में यूरिया भेजिए, राइट भेजिए - हमारे पास 2003 से 2005 के बीच की रिपोर्ट पड़ी हुई थी, उस रिपोर्ट को भी सरकार बनने के बाद, डेढ़ वर्ष के अंदर लागू किया गया। आज गाँव में जो छोटे किसान हैं, उनको बहुत आसानी से यूरिया उपलब्ध होता है, यूरिया का दुरुपयोग भी समाप्त हो गया है। हमने तमाम ऐसी योजनाओं का अध्ययन कराया है, नई योजनाओं का निर्माण किया है और कई पुरानी योजनाएँ, जो बहुत अच्छी योजनाएँ थीं, उनकी गति को भी तेज किया है।

**श्री रेवती रमन सिंह:** सभापति जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपने यह बताया है कि आपकी ये-ये योजनाएँ हैं, क्या आप गाँव के किसानों का सर्वे कराएंगे कि कितने सीमांत किसान गरीबी रेखा से नीचे हैं?

सभापति जी, मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न है। आपने कहा कि हमने ये-ये स्कीम्स दी हैं, यूरिया उपलब्ध करा दिया है, तमाम मिशन के तहत जो किया है, वह भी आपको बताया है, लेकिन मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो किसान हैं, जो अन्नदाता हैं, जिसने ग्रीन रिवॉल्यूशन भी किया है, वह आज आत्महत्या क्यों कर रहा है? आप आपने अरहर की दाल को इतने सस्ते दाम पर विदेश से मंगवा लिया है। सरसों के दाम इतने गिर गए हैं कि अब दलहन, तिलहन क्यों बोया जाए? आलू खेतों में सड़ गया है। आपने आलू के लिए क्या किया है? किसान आज 2 रुपए किलो टमाटर बेचता है, जबकि दिल्ली में टमाटर 80 रुपए किलो है।

सभापति जी, इनकी नीतियाँ किसान विरोधी हैं। आप सिर्फ कागज पर किसानों के लिए काम कर रहे हैं। अगर आप धरातल पर देखें, तो पाएंगे कि आपका एक भी काम किसानों के ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री सभापति:** आप सवाल पूछिए।

**श्री रेवती रमन सिंह:** सभापति जी, ये कह रहे हैं कि ये 2022 तक इनकम डबल कर देंगे। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि ये इनकम डबल कैसे करेंगे?

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने अच्छा विषय उठाया है। इससे कोई इन्कार नहीं कर सकता है कि किसान वास्तव में समस्याओं से ग्रस्त है। उत्पादन बढ़े - आपने आलू के उत्पादन की चर्चा की, आलू का उत्पादन ज्यादा हुआ, तो उत्पादन बढ़ा, जैसे 2015-16 का जो उत्पादन है, उसमें 8 फीसदी की वृद्धि हुई है, सरकार की जो योजना पहले से चल रही थी, वह योजना मैंने नहीं शुरू की, वह योजना पहले से थी कि बाजार में हस्तक्षेप करें। जिन ज़िंसाँ का समर्थन मूल्य नहीं है, उनके लिए यदि उत्पादन 10 प्रतिशत ज्यादा और कीमत 10 प्रतिशत कम हो, तो राज्य सरकार प्रस्ताव बनाएगी, भारत सरकार को देगी और बाजार हस्तक्षेप होगा। उसमें जो डिफरेंस होगा, उसका आधा राज्य सरकार देगी और आधा भारत सरकार देगी। हमने इसमें परिवर्तन किया है। जो दस प्रतिशत खरीदने की बात थी, हमने उसको बीस प्रतिशत किया है। हमने कहा कि नहीं, इसको बीस प्रतिशत खरीदा जाएगा। हम आपको बताना चाहेंगे कि पहले इस योजना का लाभ कम राज्य उठाते थे, लेकिन अब वे तेज हुए हैं। जब किसान जगा है, तो राज्य सरकारें भी तेज हुई हैं। यह जो "बाजार हस्तक्षेप योजना" है, इसके तहत हम आपको बताना चाहेंगे कि सबसे पहले, पहली बार उत्तर प्रदेश ने आलू खरीदने का प्रस्ताव भेजा और हमने चौबीस घंटे के अंदर उसको मंजूरी दी। आंध्र प्रदेश और तेलंगाना ने ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल:** कहाँ खरीदा गया? खरीदा नहीं गया। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री सभापति:** बैठ जाइए, बैठ जाइए ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप सुन लीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Please you have had your question, Mr. Bhattacharya. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** सभापति जी, मैं माननीय सदस्य को बताऊंगा कि उत्तर प्रदेश में इस वर्ष, 2016-2017 के अंदर जो आलू की खरीद हुई है, उसके जो आंकड़े आए हैं, मैं वे आंकड़े आपको उपलब्ध करा दूंगा। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि "बाजार हस्तक्षेप योजना" के तहत आलू की खरीद हुई है। मैं बता रहा था कि यह जो "बाजार हस्तक्षेप योजना" है, इसके तहत कई राज्यों ने लाभ उठाया है। यह बात सही है कि वे पहले इसका बहुत लाभ नहीं उठा पाते थे, क्योंकि पहले किसानों के बीच जागरूकता नहीं थी, दबाव भी नहीं पड़ता था, लेकिन दबाव के कारण बहुत सारी राज्य सरकारों ने इस योजना का लाभ उठाया है। जिनका समर्थन मूल्य है, धान और गेहूँ की खरीददारी, हमारा जो खाद्य मंत्रालय है, वह करता है। लेकिन सन् 2014-15 में पहली बार दाल की खरीददारी के लिए मूल्य स्थिरीकरण फंड बना। माननीय सभापति जी, इस देश में मोदी सरकार आने के बाद पहली बार मूल्य स्थिरीकरण फंड बना और फूड एंड सिविल सप्लाईज के माध्यम से पहली बार बड़ी मात्रा में यह खरीद की गई है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** प्लीज माननीय सदस्य सुनें। इसके अलावा भी जिनका समर्थन मूल्य है और फूड एंड सप्लाईज मिनिस्ट्री नहीं खरीदती है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Let me go to the next question. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** सर, हमें उस प्रश्न का उत्तर देने दीजिए, जो प्रश्न उन्होंने उठाया है। एक

तो जिनका समर्थन मूल्य नहीं है, उसके लिए "बाजार हस्तक्षेप योजना" है, दूसरा जिनका समर्थन मूल्य है और फूड एंड सिविल सप्लाईज मिनिस्ट्री ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: What about tomato?

श्री सभापति: प्लीज़ बैठ जाइए। ...(व्यवधान)... Please don't interrupt.

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: उसके लिए "मूल्य समर्थन योजना" है और मूल्य समर्थन योजना के तहत, हम माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहेंगे कि इसके तहत भी बड़े पैमाने पर उन राज्यों में खरीद हुई है जिन राज्यों से प्रस्ताव आए हैं। यह योजना पुरानी है, लेकिन इस योजना की रफ़्तार बढ़ी है। उसकी भी गाइडलाइन्स थीं कि हम उत्पादन का 20 प्रतिशत करें, उसको बढ़ा कर हमने 40 प्रतिशत किया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

श्री अनुभव मोहंती: सर, सवाल का जवाब नहीं दिया है, जो पूछा गया था। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. ...(Interruptions)... One minute, please. ...(Interruptions)... I have something to say. Nareshji, please sit down. I think the Question Hour will be the most productive if both the questions and the answers are short and crisp. Now, let me go to the next question. ...(Interruptions)... It is not your question. ...(Interruptions)... Please sit down.

श्री तपन कुमार सेन: चेयरमैन सर, मंत्री जी ने नौ प्वाइंट्स योजना को गिनाया और 2011-12 की फिगर्स दीं। ये 2011-12 की above the poverty level की फिगर्स दीं और उसके बाद नौ प्वाइंट्स योजना गिनीं। What is the fate of this Yojana? क्या यह मंत्री जी को मालूम है?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put your question, please.

श्री तपन कुमार सेन: सर, वही क्वेश्चन है। Interest subvention के बाद बोल रहे हैं, about two-thirds of the farmers are out of the institutional credit. आपका interest subvention कौन सा काम आएगा? Fasal Bima Yojana has become a squeezing machine. Your own Ministry's Report says, " Rs.21,500 crore premium collected last year and only Rs.714 crores disbursed against insurance claims, which is only 3.3 per cent." Your Fasal Bima Yojana has become a squeezing instrument.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tapanji, please put your question.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Therefore, are you going to restructure your schemes in such a way that they, in real terms, benefit farmers? Stop the stream of suicides. About 21,500 peasants have committed suicides, all that in your own ruled States.

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने संस्थागत ऋण की बात की है। मैं इनको बताना चाहूंगा कि वर्ष 2013-14 में जो ऋण प्रवाह था, वह छह लाख करोड़ रुपए का था, उसको 2017-18 में बढ़ा कर दस लाख करोड़ रुपए किया गया है। जो ब्याज सहायता सात हजार करोड़ रुपए की थी, उसको बढ़ा कर बीस हजार करोड़ रुपए किया गया है।

**श्री तपन कुमार सेन:** मंत्री जी, आप हमारी बात बोलिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... How many farmers are covered? ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tapan Sen, please listen to the reply.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Even as per Dr. Swaminathan's report, it is all urban-oriented and not reaching the farmers.

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** सर, तीसरी जानकारी, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय सदस्य को देना चाहूंगा कि देश में 2007 में एक जॉइंट लाइअबिलिटी ग्रुप बना, यानी जिनके पास बहुत कम जमीन है या भूमिहीन हैं, ऐसे किसानों का जॉइंट लाइअबिलिटी ग्रुप बना कर, जिसमें चार से दस किसानों के ग्रुप को ऋण देने की व्यवस्था थी, तो 2007 से 2014 तक ऐसे छह लाख समूह बनाए गए थे। मैं आपको बताऊँ कि इन तीन वर्षों के अंदर इस प्रकार के सोलह लाख समूह बनाए गए हैं, उनको ऋण मुहैया कराया गया है। अगर आपको संख्या चाहिए, तो वह भी मैं आपको उपलब्ध करा दूंगा।

**श्री तपन कुमार सेन:** संख्या बताइए।

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** मैं उपलब्ध करा दूंगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will make the information available.

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** दूसरा, माननीय सदस्य ने अच्छा किया कि उन्होंने फसल बीमा योजना की चर्चा की। जब हम सरकार में आए थे, तो उस समय यह फसल बीमा योजना एक ऐसी योजना थी कि सभी मुख्यमंत्रियों ने, चाहे किसी भी दल का शासन हो, सबने कहा कि हम यह योजना नहीं चला पाएंगे और किसानों की ओर से भी उसका विरोध था, क्योंकि उसमें capping थी कि यदि हम किसान की एक हेक्टेयर में 50 हजार रुपए की लागत है, तो उसको 18 हजार-20 हजार रुपए मिलेंगे, क्योंकि इससे राज्य के खजाने पर ज्यादा बोझ पड़ेगा और उसमें premium भी ज्यादा था। नई 'प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा योजना' के लिए 6 महीने तक सभी राज्यों के अधिकारियों और मुख्यमंत्रियों के साथ दिल्ली में और उनके राज्य में जाकर बैठक हुई। जब नई 'प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा योजना' आई, तो पहले जो किसानों को premium ज्यादा देना पड़ता था, उसको इसमें कम किया गया। पहले अलग-अलग जिले में अलग-अलग premium rate था, उसको पूरे देश में हर जिले के लिए एक प्रकार का किया गया और इसमें risk बढ़ाया गया कि कोई capping नहीं होगी। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, Rs. 21,500 crores was the premium and settlement was only Rs. 714 crores. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** उनका जो सवाल है, मैं उस पर आ रहा हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. We have taken fifteen minutes on one question. ...**(Interruptions)**... Please sit down. ...**(Interruptions)**... Please. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** उनका जो सवाल है कि कुछ लोग मालामाल हो रहे हैं, मैं उनके सवाल पर आ रहा हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me call the next questioner.

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** महोदय, यह बीमा है। उनके ध्यान में आना चाहिए कि 2011-2012 और 2012-13 में जब कृषि अनुकूल वर्ष था, तो जितना premium जमा हुआ, उसका 63 प्रतिशत भुगतान हुआ और 2014-15 और 2015-16 में जब मौसम विपरीत था, तो 100 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा भुगतान हुआ। अभी जो बीमा शुरू हुआ है, इसमें risk बढ़ा है। इसमें premium बढ़ा है, लेकिन किसान पर बोझ कम है और राज्य के खज़ाने पर बोझ पड़ रहा है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** एक मिनट, सर। इससे राज्य के खज़ाने पर बोझ पड़ रहा है और इसलिए ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: What have the farmers gained? ...**(Interruptions)**...

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

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** उनको यह उत्तर तो सुनना ही चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Now, let me go to the next questioner. We are taking too much time. ...**(Interruptions)**... Please don't do it. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** महोदय, कई राज्य सरकारें बीमा कंपनी बनाने जा रही हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... हरियाणा और गुजरात ने इस दिशा में काम शुरू कर दिया है। इसमें किसानों को बहुत relief है। यह सुरक्षा कवच है। चूँकि इससे राज्य के खज़ाने पर बोझ पड़ रहा है, इसलिए गुजरात और हरियाणा ने अपनी कंपनी बनाने के लिए तय किया है। हमने सभी मुख्यमंत्रियों को लिखा है कि आप भी अपनी कंपनी बनाइए, क्योंकि यह किसानों का सुरक्षा कवच है, इसे सब लोग स्वीकार करते हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Narendra Jadav. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: But what are the farmers gaining? ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, please.

DR. NARENDRA JADHAV: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir.



The Government has accepted before the Supreme Court that only 40 per cent of the farmers have benefitted from agricultural schemes. In this regard, what action, if any, has been taken to expedite the coverage of agricultural schemes, especially, the *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana*, where, as the Supreme Court has noted, the coverage is not more than 20 per cent?

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** महोदय, फसल बीमा योजना का जो coverage था, वह 20 प्रतिशत था, लेकिन पिछले वर्ष जो नई योजना शुरू की गई, उसमें वह 30 प्रतिशत पर गया है। पहले गैर-ऋणी किसान बीमा नहीं कराते थे। चूँकि इसमें सुरक्षा और risk coverage बहुत ज्यादा नहीं था, तो जो ऋण लेते थे, बैंक उन्हीं का premium काट लेता था। गैर-ऋणी किसानों का इसमें आकर्षण नहीं था। लेकिन जब नई 'प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा योजना' शुरू हुई, तो पिछली खरीफ की फसल में 75 लाख गैर-ऋणी किसानों ने फसल बीमा कराया, जबकि उसके पहले पुरानी योजना में मात्र 15 लाख गैर-ऋणी किसानों ने फसल बीमा कराया था। इस प्रकार इसका coverage 20 से 30 प्रतिशत हुआ है। सभी मुख्यमंत्रियों से मेरी बात हुई है कि इस वर्ष इसको बढ़ाकर 40 प्रतिशत किया जाए।

#### **Appointment of women judicial officers**

\*62. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has promised to increase reservation for women in the judiciary; and

(b) if so, how far has this promise been accomplished and how many women judicial officers have been appointed in the last three years ending 31st May, 2017 along with the list thereof?

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

(a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### ***Statement***

(a) and (b) Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Court is made under Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively. These Articles do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, no caste or class wise data of Judges is maintained. The Government has, however, requested the Chief Justices of the High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and from amongst women.

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of district and subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court. Further, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government, in consultation with the High Court, frames the Rules and Regulations regarding the issues of appointment, promotion, reservations etc. of judicial officers in the State Judicial Service. Central Government has no role in this regard.

Therefore, Government of India does not maintain statistics relating to appointment of women judicial officers in the States.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Sir, the whole world is going towards gender justice, whereas, gender discrimination runs deep in Judiciary. There are not enough women lawyers, Judges, in the courts today. There is one female Judge in Supreme Court out of 31 Judges; two female Chief Justices in the High Courts, and there are only 8.5 per cent women Judges in the High Courts. There are only 12 female senior advocates in the Supreme Court. This issue has been discussed on the floor of this House even earlier. Now, with this reply, the Government says that everything lies with the Supreme Court and the Government has no responsibility in this regard. Even earlier, in the case of appointment of Judges, this Parliament took the initiative to amend the Constitution. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government would, notwithstanding constitutional provisions, come forward to ensure gender justice, as it had promised in earlier cases.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, hon. Rahmanji is a very seasoned and experienced parliamentarian. He must be very much aware that under Articles 213 and 217 of the Constitution, there is no provision for reservation, but the commitment of the Narendra Modi Government towards gender justice is complete and total. Therefore, I would like to gently remind the hon. Member that when this Government came to power, and the Prime Minister was kind enough to give me the Ministry of Law and Justice, way back in July, 2014, I wrote letters to all the Chief Justices. Sir, allow me to read out just one paragraph of that. "The need for giving representation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, minorities and women may also be please kept in view while making recommendations for appointment." So, I have been sensitizing the Chief Justices about it.

Sir, he asked about that law. He knows it very well that that law was unanimously passed by both Houses of Parliament and 50 per cent of the State *Vidhan Sabhas*. But the Supreme Court, in its wisdom, chose to set it aside. In spite of our reservations with the reasoning, we had accepted it. But I would like to place this particular data before this House and, through this House to the whole country. The working strength of subordinate judicial officers in the country in the various subordinate judiciaries is 16,443. The total number of women judicial officers is 4,704, out of which 1,473 have been appointed in the last three years of Modiji's Government. About the High Courts, his point is well taken. There are 66 women Judges in all the High Courts of the country and only one woman Judge in the Supreme Court.

Therefore, Sir, in my own way, I keep sensitizing people. His point is very well taken. We need to make it more gender representative. But I differ with him on one point; a very good number of women lawyers are there in all the High Courts of India and the Supreme Court but, as you know, there is a collegium system where we have a limited role to play. But, as the Law Minister, I continue to sensitize them about their entire appointment process.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Minister that the Constitution is very clear, but I would like to put this question to him: Is the Parliament so helpless? Instead of writing letters, could the Government convey the will of the Parliament to the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice of India and impress this matter upon them? We would also like to know why the Supreme Court is against providing gender justice. Do they feel that they would not get the right people by ensuring gender justice?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, with due respect to the hon. Member, perhaps it would not be fair to say that the Supreme Court Judges are against gender justice. I wish to inform this hon. House that this is my third term as the Law Minister of India, the first term with Vajpayeeji's Government and the next with the Modiji's Government, and I interact with them. They are quite open to this idea and we continue to impress this idea upon them, but I take Shri Rahman Khan's point very well. He has expressed some concern in this House and I would convey that concern to them. We are not helpless. I wish to make that very clear. As a Member of this House and of the Parliament, I am quite aware of the supremacy and sovereignty of my Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*... And, whenever the need arises, I convey that in this House and also in the other House

Therefore, I am aware of the might and sovereignty of this House. I am also aware, Sir, that it is only this House that is the forum for ensuring accountability for governance. I know that for sure.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Sir, to dispose of the pending cases this requires about 70,000 judges. Even the Law Commission has recommended for appointment of 40,000 judges, whereas right now in the country, we have 12,000 judges to dispose of 3 crore cases.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please focus on the question.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Yes, Sir. Sir, since 1950 to 2017, there have been 44 Chief Justices in the Supreme Court of India and whereas during the relevant period there have been only six women judges. I would like to know from the hon. Law Minister whether the Government and the Supreme Court of India are taking up any reform so as to improve the women representation in the higher judiciary.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, any kind of reservation is not contemplated in the higher judiciary, but the Government and I, on behalf of the Government, as a Law Minister, keep on sensitizing that we must give representation to minorities, to Scheduled Castes, to Scheduled Tribes including women. It should be a common endeavour. Sir, I would like to clarify one thing in this House today. He said, "Seventy thousand judges are needed." With great respect, Sir, the Supreme Court in Imran Khan case itself is re-evaluating that number. That is not right. I would like this House to know that today there are 4,846 vacancies in the Subordinate Judiciary in the country and you all know that in the appointments of Subordinate Judiciary neither the Government of India has to play any role nor has the State Government to play any role. High Courts themselves appoint or on their recommendation the Public Service Commissions appoint. Therefore, it is very important that the judiciary should take up this filling of 4,846 vacancies on a priority basis.

**श्री महेश पोद्दार:** माननीय सभापति जी, मंत्री जी ने सूचना दी है कि judiciary में महिलाओं या अन्य किसी वर्ग को reservation देने में केन्द्र सरकार का कोई रोल नहीं है और इसमें रिजर्वेशन का कोई प्रावधान भी नहीं है। इसलिए इस बारे में कोई आंकड़े भी maintain नहीं किए जाते हैं, लेकिन तथ्य यह है कि देश में जजों की कमी है और यह तथ्य भी सामान्य जानकारी में है कि न्यायपालिका में एससीएसटी, महिलाएं और पिछड़े वर्गों के लोगों का participation बहुत कम है।

महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने जैसा अभी बताया कि उन्होंने वर्ष 2014 में इस बारे में सभी न्यायाधीशों को लिखा था, तो मैं उनसे पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वे इस बारे में स्मरण पत्र तब तक बराबर देते रहेंगे जब तक कि सरकार satisfy न हो और स्थिति सुधर न जाए?

**श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:** माननीय उपसभापति जी, मैं माननीय सदस्य को बहुत विनम्रता से बताना चाहूंगा कि कई राज्यों में महिलाओं का आरक्षण sub-ordinate judiciary में है और भारत के संविधान की धारा 234, 235 और 309 के अन्तर्गत कई राज्यों में हाई अलर्ट के परामर्श से नियम बनाए गए हैं, जिनमें आरक्षण का प्रावधान है। इसलिए मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि sub-ordinate judiciary में इस बात का प्रावधान है, लेकिन जहां तक हाई कोर्ट और सुप्रीम कोर्ट का सवाल है, जैसा कि मैंने पहले बताया, धारा 213 और 217 के अवलोकन से स्पष्ट होगा कि उसमें आरक्षण की व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है। जहां तक संसद का सवाल है, संसद को पूरा अधिकार है कि वह मुझसे सवाल पूछे, जैसा माननीय रहमान जी ने पूछा और उन्होंने अपनी चिन्ता व्यक्त की। मेरा इस देश के कानून मंत्री के रूप में फर्ज बनता है कि मैं माननीय न्यायाधीशों को बताऊँ कि संसद की यह चिन्ता है। इसके साथ ही नारी समानता का जो हमारा आग्रह रहा है, वह हम करते रहते हैं और आगे भी करते रहेंगे, इतना मैं अवश्य कहना चाहता हूँ।

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Respecting our well-learned Law Minister's enlightenment to us that there is no reservation for women in appointment in the judiciary, I would like to bring to his kind notice that when hon. Amma was in office she introduced all-Mahila Courts in Tamil Nadu. In all-Mahila Courts, there are exclusively women lawyers, women public prosecutors ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put the question, please.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: We need only true spirit and true cognizance. When it happens, real concern will be there for the real victims and for those who are really in need. When those who really need justice, look at the judiciary for kind hearted justice, we need women judges there. So, I would like to say to the hon. Minister that we will pronounce, we will all together make a move towards making exclusive women Judges in all - *Mahila* Courts all over the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a proposal. The hon. Minister will surely take note of this.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will it be done? Will our Judiciary move towards making women Judges everywhere in all the District Courts, High Courts and also in the highest Court?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sure the hon. Minister will take note of this.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I do take note of her very profound suggestion with one caveat, namely, if there is a demand for a women's issue and we say that we only need women Judges, then the entire judicial system also comes into scrutiny. We are very proud that the Judges of India, whether they are men or women, have given very profound judgments. Non-minority Judges have upheld the rights of minorities. Non-minority Judges have upheld the rights of the Scheduled Castes. Many of the sterling judgments of the Supreme Court on women's rights have been delivered by male Judges. Therefore, we have to take into account the fact that the fairness of the justice system should also remain intact.

**\*63. [The questioner was absent]**

**Approval for the project to increase the speed of trains**

**\*63. SHRI SANJAY SETH:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether NITI Aayog has given its approval for ₹18,000 crore project to increase the speed of trains, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the project will cover Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah rail corridors, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to make the trains run at an increased speed of 160 kilometres per hour, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which these high speed trains will start functioning?

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

***Statement***

(a) Yes, Sir. NITI Aayog has supported two projects at estimated cost of ₹ 18,163 crore for raising of speed to 160/200 kilometre per hour on existing corridors of Delhi-Mumbai (including Vadodara-Ahmedabad) and Delhi-Howrah (including Kanpur-Lucknow) in June 2017.

(b) Yes, Sir. The projects cover Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi- Howrah routes. The details are as under:

- New Delhi-Mumbai Route (including Vadodara-Ahmedabad), 1483 Route

km has an estimated cost of ₹ 11,189 crore. This route passes through seven states viz. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

- New Delhi-Howrah route (including Kanpur-Lucknow), 1525 Route kms. has an estimated cost of ₹ 6974 crore. This route passes through five states viz. Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- These projects have been structured on a new approach viz. Route wise, Single composite work, single agency execution and complete funding through Extra Budgetary Resources - Institutional Finance (EBR-IF). These projects mark the beginning of a new era of network development through a directed investment strategy on Golden Quadrilateral and Diagonal routes of Indian Railways.
- The main outcome of the implementation of these projects is increase in the maximum speed of the trains on these routes to 160kmph. This will reduce the travel time of premium Rajdhani type trains to 12 hours as against the present travel time of 15 hrs 30 minutes and 17 hours respectively for Mumbai and Howrah Rajdhani. Besides this, the average speed of all trains will improve by 25-30%.
- The modular package of inputs viz. through fencing, removal of level crossings, train protection warning system (TPWS), mobile train radio communication (MTRC), automated and mechanized diagnostic systems etc. will considerably enhance safety and reliability.

(c) Yes, Sir. The following steps have been initiated to make the trains run at 160 kmph:-

- Gatiman express at 160 Kmph (Kilometres per hour) has been introduced on 05.04.2016 from Hazrat Nizamuddin to Agra Cantt.
- Two projects for raising of speed to 160/200 kmph on existing corridors of New Delhi-Mumbai (including Vadodara-Ahmedabad) and New Delhi-Howrah (including Kanpur-Lucknow) have been processed for sanction.

(d) Projects have been approved by NITI Aayog. Time frame for operation of the high speed trains will be finalized after all approvals are available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No.63 - questioner not present. Are there any supplementaries?

**श्री आलोक तिवारी:** सभापति महोदय, नीति आयोग ने लगभग 18,000 करोड़ रुपए के दो corridors, दिल्ली-हावड़ा और दिल्ली-मुम्बई, बनाने के लिए अपनी सहमति प्रदान की है और उसकी गति लगभग 160 से 200 किलोमीटर प्रति घंटा रखने की बात है। मैं माननीय रेल मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि रेलवे का एक बहुत बड़ा नेटवर्क है और उसमें तकरीबन 2.5 करोड़ यात्री देश भर में यात्रा करते हैं। इनमें बहुत सारे रूट्स ऐसे हैं, जिनमें दुर्घटनाएँ बहुत होती हैं, लोग घायल होते हैं, मर जाते हैं, इस प्रकार की खबरें हमेशा आती रहती हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आप जो स्पीड बढ़ाने जा रहे हैं, तो स्पीड बढ़ाने से पहले, क्या इसके पहले सुरक्षा और संरक्षा के बारे में कोई कदम उठाने के बारे में आपने उस पर अध्ययन किया है और पिछले तीन सालों में इसमें क्या प्रगति हुई है? यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

**श्री सुरेश प्रभु:** मुझे कहने में खुशी है कि जैसा सम्माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा, रेल की सभी चिन्ताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए गति, सुरक्षा, customer satisfaction, modernisation, upgradation of technologies, getting augmentation of capacity, इन सभी बातों के ऊपर हम लोगों ने काम करने की शुरुआत की है। इसलिए ऐसा नहीं है कि ये काम करेंगे और बाकी के कामों को किसी तरह से नजरअंदाज किया जाएगा। ऐसी स्थिति नहीं है। सभी के ऊपर काम किया जा रहा है। यह जो प्रोजेक्ट है, इसके बारे में सदन को अवगत कराया गया था, क्योंकि जब बजट प्रेजेंट किया गया था, तो जो pink book होती है, उसमें इसको include किया गया था। सर, उसकी वजह यह है, मुझे कहने में खुशी है कि ये दो corridors जिन राज्यों से होकर जाएंगे, उनकी कुल आबादी देश की पूरी आबादी की दो-तिहाई आबादी है। इनमें आपका राज्य उत्तर प्रदेश भी है, महाराष्ट्र, गुजरात, मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान, हरियाणा, बिहार, झारखंड और वैस्ट बंगाल भी हैं। ये सभी राज्य ऐसे हैं, जहाँ पर सबसे ज्यादा आबादी है। तो हम यह चाहते हैं कि यदि ऐसे राज्यों को सुविधा देंगे, तो हमारे करीब एक-तिहाई से ज्यादा लोगों को उसका लाभ होगा।

आपने जो सुरक्षा की बात कही, तो इसमें स्पीड बढ़ाने के साथ-साथ हम लोग सुरक्षा के लिए उसको इंटीग्रेट कर रहे हैं। पूरे 3,000 route kilometres के ऊपर level-crossing eliminate किये जाएंगे। Train Protection System लगाया जाएगा, ताकि किसी हादसे की सम्भावना न हो। Mobile Train Radio Communication System लगाया जाएगा। पहली बार उसका भी एक लाभ होगा। पूरे रूट की fencing की जाएगी, ताकि कोई cattle वगैरह बीच में नहीं आये। साथ ही, Automatic Mechanised Diagnostic System लगेगा, यानी जो track failure हो सकता है, asset failure हो सकता है, उसके बारे में आपको तुरन्त जानकारी मिल जाए। इसका भी प्रावधान हम लोगों ने इसमें किया है। इसके साथ ही मुझे यह कहने में खुशी है कि हम इस तरह से कम कर रहे हैं कि पूरे के पूरे प्रोजेक्ट को route-wise single composite work एक ही एजेंसी को देकर हम लोग complete funding extra-budgetary resources से कर रहे हैं। आपको मुझे यह बताने में खुशी होगी और सबको सुन कर भी आनन्द होगा कि इसमें जो internal rate of return है, दो अलग रूट्स के लिए, it is 16.27 per cent and 18.83 per cent और economic rate of return is as high as 27.45 per



cent for one, and 31.29 per cent for the other. इसलिए यह प्रोजेक्ट देश में स्पीड बढ़ाने के लिए बड़ी मात्रा में काम में आयेगा। हम लोगों ने बजट में कहा था, जो आखिरी रेल बजट था, उसके बाद आपने रेल बजट पेश करने का मौका नहीं दिया, उस रेल बजट में हमने कहा था कि हम 'मिशन रफ्तार लगाएंगे'। हम लोगों ने 'मिशन रफ्तार' लगा कर काम करने की शुरुआत की है। इस तरह से हम सभी के लिए रफ्तार से काम कर रहे हैं। हम 'मिशन रफ्तार' के ऊपर भी रफ्तार से काम कर रहे हैं।

**डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया:** सर, मैं माननीय रेल मंत्री जी को इसलिए बधाई देना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि नीति आयोग ने इस परियोजना के लिए 18,163 करोड़ रुपए देने का समर्थन किया है और इस योजना को पारित कर दिया है। अब समय की मांग है कि इस योजना को चरणबद्ध रूप से पूरा किया जाए, इसके लिए आपकी कार्य योजना क्या है? जैसा कि आपने बताया है कि इस परियोजना के लिए सारी व्यवस्थाएं आपको करनी हैं, इन सारी व्यवस्थाओं को करते हुए आप इस परियोजना को पूरा करने में कितना समय लेने वाले हैं, क्योंकि जब तक आप समयबद्ध कार्यक्रम नहीं बनाएंगे, तब तक परियोजना का समय पूरा होना सुनिश्चित नहीं होगा?

**श्री सुरेश प्रभु:** सर, इसके लिए केबिनेट, सीसीए से जो इंटरनल अप्रूवल्स चाहिए, वे अप्रूवल्स आने के बाद जब से हम काम शुरू करेंगे, उसको ज़ीरो डेट कहते हैं। जब ज़ीरो डेट आ जाएगी, उसके बाद हम इसको तीन साल में पूरा करने की कोशिश करेंगे। जैसे मैंने कहा कि delay होने की वजह यह थी कि multiple agencies, multiple काम करती थी, तो उनको ढूंढने में, उनको साथ लाने में समय जाता था, अब एक composite agency काम करेगी, उसके ऊपर जिम्मेदारी तय की जाएगी। So, we will know exactly where the buck stops. उसके ऊपर जिम्मेदारी तय करके हम इसको तीन साल में पूरा करने की कोशिश करेंगे।

सर, इसके साथ ही मुझे Dedicated Freight Corridor के बारे में यह बताते हुए खुशी हो रही है कि हम लोग इसको पूरा करने के लिए पूरी कोशिश कर रहे हैं, प्रधान मंत्री जी इसकी प्रगति को मॉनिटर कर रहे हैं। हम इसको 2019 के अंत तक पूरा करने की कोशिश करेंगे। इस प्रकार से वह भी पूरा होगा, इससे हमारा पूरा freight traffic, Dedicated Freight Corridor में चला जाएगा और passenger traffic के लिए ये लाइन्स फ्री हो जाएंगी। इससे हमें बड़ी मात्रा में राहत मिलेगी और आपको उत्तर प्रदेश से जल्दी आने में भी सुविधा होगी।

**श्री नीरज शेखर:** सर, इन्होंने टाइम नहीं बताया।...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री सभापति:** उन्होंने अपने सवाल में इसके लिए time schedule पूछा था, आपने उसके बारे में नहीं बताया।

**श्री सुरेश प्रभु:** सर, मैंने इसके लिए तीन साल का समय बताया।

**डा. संजय सिंह:** सर, इस सरकार में रेल मंत्रालय की योजनाएं बड़ी ऊंची-ऊंची हैं, बजेट ट्रेन चलने वाली है, सारी ट्रेनों की स्पीड बढ़ने वाली है, इस तरह की बहुत सारी चीजें हम लोग सुन रहे हैं।

**श्री सभापति:** कृपया आप अपना सवाल पूछिए।

**डा. संजय सिंह:** सर, माननीय मंत्री जी हमारे पुराने मित्र भी हैं, बड़े योग्य मंत्री हैं, उत्तर प्रदेश से माननीय मनोज सिन्हा जी बहुत अनुभवी नेता हैं, मंत्री हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश में ट्रेनों का बहुत बुरा हाल है। हमारे यहां एक दुरंतो ट्रेन चलती थी, जो अब राजधानी एक्सप्रेस हो गई है। काशी विश्वनाथ एक्सप्रेस बहुत पुरानी ट्रेन है, माननीय मनोज सिन्हा जी जानते हैं। मैं इतना ही निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री जी यह ensure करें कि देश या प्रदेश में जो reputed ट्रेनें चल रही हैं, वे भी सही सलामत चलें, वे भी punctual चलें, वे भी साफ-सुथरी हों। ऐसी ट्रेन्स के फर्स्ट क्लास में लॉक नहीं बंद होता है, बाथरूम में या तो पानी नहीं होता है, या पानी बहता रहता है।

**श्री नीरज शेखर:** खाना ...(व्यवधान)...

**डा. संजय सिंह:** खाना तो secondary है, पहले हम और आप सही सलामत तो इनमें चलें। ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री नीरज शेखर:** सर, सीएजी ने बोला है कि रेलवे का खाना ठीक नहीं होता है। ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री सभापति:** प्लीज़, प्लीज़।

**डा. संजय सिंह:** सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह निवेदन करता हूँ कि कृपया यह भी देखें। पहले जनता को भरोसा भी हो कि अभी जो ट्रेनें चल रही हैं, वे भी सही चलेंगी, वे भी punctual चलेंगी, साफ-सुथरी होंगी, तभी बुलेट ट्रेन और तेज रफ्तार वाली ट्रेनों पर हम लोगों का भरोसा जम पाएगा। आपसे इसके लिए विशेष आग्रह है।

**श्री सुरेश प्रभु:** सर, इन्होंने किसी एक ट्रेन के बारे में कहा, हम उसको देख लेते हैं, लेकिन जहां तक punctuality की बात है, उसको हम लगातार इम्प्रूव करने में लगे हुए हैं। आज मुझे यह कहते हुए खुशी हो रही है कि हम 80 प्रतिशत punctuality लाने में सफल हुए हैं, लेकिन कुछ ट्रेनों में जो देरी होती है, उसके अलग-अलग कारण हैं। उनमें से एक प्रमुख व अहम कारण यह है कि खास करके उत्तर प्रदेश में चलने वाली ट्रेन्स के लिए बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में doubling, tripling का काम शुरू है। आज मुझे यह कहते हुए खुशी हो रही है कि हम लोगों ने 16,500 किलोमीटर doubling, tripling करने की मान्यता दी है, स्वीकृति दी है, जब कि पिछले 70 साल में कुल 20 या 21 हजार किलोमीटर की दी गई थी। आप इससे अनुमान लगा सकते हैं कि कितनी बड़ी मात्रा में काम हो रहा है।

सर, इसके साथ ही मैं यह भी बताना चाहता हूँ कि अब तक सिर्फ 42 प्रतिशत रेल का विद्युतीकरण हुआ है, हम लोग अगले 5 सालों में इसको डबल करेंगे। डबलिंग या ट्रिपलिंग का काम करने के लिए कुछ ट्रेनों में रुकावट लानी पड़ती है, ब्लॉक करने पड़ते हैं। इसका यह भी एक कारण है, क्योंकि ब्लॉक न करने से यानी ट्रेन भी चलाएं और काम भी किया जाए, यह बहुत ही कठिन काम है, लेकिन हम ऐसा भी करने की कोशिश में लगे हुए हैं ताकि punctuality इम्प्रूव हो।

सर, मैं लास्ट प्वाइंट कहना चाहता हूँ, वह यह है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में यह जो ट्रेन चलेगी, यह आम आदमी के लिए चलेगी। इस ट्रेन में आज भी उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, झारखंड, वैस्ट बंगाल, महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात के आम आदमी सफर करते हैं। उस track को हम अच्छा बनाकर और बड़ा कर रहे हैं। ये काम आम आदमी के हित में ही किए जा रहे हैं। आपकी चिन्ता से मैं बिल्कुल सहमत हूँ और हम उस ओर ध्यान दे रहे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. Q.No. 64.

**Lack of internet connectivity *vis-a-vis* digital literacy**

\*64. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to a joint study done by Assocham and Deloitte, nearly a billion Indians do not have internet connections;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Government has started emphasizing on digital economy after it embarked on a demonetisation drive on 8th November, 2016; and
- (c) the efforts being made by Government to spread digital literacy among the people at large?

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

***Statement***

(a) According to ASSOCHAM-Deloitte joint study published in the month of November 2016, internet is out of the reach of nearly 950 million Indians. However, as per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI's) "The Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators January - March, 2017" report dated 5th July 2017, there were 422.19 million internet subscribers in the country as on 31st March 2017.

(b) The Government has been emphasizing on the digital economy even prior to 8th November 2016. However, more emphasis has been given on digital economy after 8th November 2016.

(c) The efforts made/ being made by Government to spread digital literacy among the people at large are enclosed as Annexure.

***Annexure***

***Efforts made/ being made by Government to Spread Digital Literacy***

- (i) The Government of India approved a scheme entitled "IT Mass Literacy" in March 2014 which was renamed as "National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM)". Under NDLM, the objective was to train 10 lakh persons with an aim to cover one person from every eligible household to be made digitally literate across the country including rural India. Under Digital India, a new scheme entitled "Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA)" was approved in December 2014 with a target to train an additional 42.50 lakh candidates in digital literacy over a period of four years across the country including rural

India. The cumulative target of making 52.50 lakh persons digitally literate under both these schemes has been achieved in December 2016.

- (ii) 'Digital Finance for Rural India: Creating Awareness and Access through Common Service Centres (CSCs)' under the Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA) has been initiated in November 2016 for conducting awareness sessions on digital finance options available for rural citizens as well as enabling various mechanisms of digital financial services such as Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), Unified Payment Interface (UPI), Cards/ Point of Sales (PoS), Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS) and eWallet etc. Under this initiative, more than 2 crore rural citizens and more than 27 lakh merchants have been trained/enabled. Further, sensitization drives were carried out at 650 Districts and 5,735 Blocks throughout the country.
- (iii) A project titled "On-boarding of self-organised small and medium business/traders on digital payment initiatives" has been approved for implementation by National Institute of Electronics and IT (NIELIT) covering small and medium size unorganized/self-organized business/traders. Under this, so far more than 55 workshops / camps have been conducted and more than 6500 traders have been trained and sensitized.
- (iv) In February, 2017, the Government has approved another scheme entitled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" which is aimed at ushering in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household) by 31.03.2019. To ensure equitable geographical reach, each of the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats are expected to register an average of 200-300 candidates. Digitally literate persons would be able to operate computers/digital access devices (like tablets, smart phones, etc.), send and receive emails, browse internet, access Government Services, search for information, undertake cashless transactions, etc. and hence use IT to actively participate in the process of nation building. So far, under the Scheme, more than 16 lakh candidates have been trained. The trained candidates were assessed / certified through National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Haryana Knowledge Corporation Limited (HKCL), National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and ICT Academy (ICTACT).
- (v) National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), an autonomous society of MeitY, has trained / assessed more than 46 lakh candidates in various digital literacy courses.

SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Sir, I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that when we talk of digital literacy, we will have to first examine general literacy and see to what extent the country in 2017 has covered the goal of 100 per cent literacy, not digital literacy. The present situation is that more than 950 million Indians are still facing digital illiteracy. It is a substantial chunk of the Indian population. How do you move further with regard to conveying this message of digital literacy to the remotest and the farthest areas in this country where the villagers do not know how to operate a small computer or something of that kind?

**श्री मनोज सिन्हा:** सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो जानकारी मांगी है, यह सच है कि एसोचेम की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि देश में 950 मिलियन लोगों के पास इंटरनेट की सुविधा उपलब्ध नहीं है। हमने इस संबंध में दूसरा आंकड़ा भी दिया है, जिसे TRAI हर साल देश को उपलब्ध कराता है और उस आंकड़े को हम सब मानते हैं। जहां तक digital literacy बढ़ाने का सवाल है, पिछले तीन वर्षों में और उससे पूर्व भी सरकार ने अनेक कार्यक्रम इसके लिए प्रारम्भ किए हैं। वैसे यह काम हमारे वरिष्ठ सहयोगी, रवि शंकर प्रसाद जी का मंत्रालय देखता है, परन्तु मैं माननीय सदस्य और इस सदन को अवगत कराना चाहूंगा कि "IT Mass Literacy" नाम का एक कार्यक्रम 2014 में शुरू हुआ, जिसे बाद में 'National Digital Literacy Mission' का नाम दिया गया और लक्ष्य रखा गया कि 10 लाख लोगों को इसके अंतर्गत डिजिटल साक्षरता प्रदान की जाएगी। दूसरा कार्यक्रम केन्द्र सरकार ने शुरू किया - "डिजिटल साक्षरता अभियान (दिशा)" के नाम से - जिसके अंतर्गत 42.50 लाख लोगों को 2019 तक digital literacy से अवगत कराने का लक्ष्य रखा गया। आज मुझे यह बताते हुए खुशी है कि दिसम्बर, 2016 तक इस लक्ष्य को प्राप्त कर लिया गया। 'Digital Finance for Rural India: Creating Awareness and Access through Common Service Centres' under the Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA) had been initiated in November 2016. देश में 650 जिलों और 5,735 विकास खंडों में इस कार्यक्रम को organize करके सरकार ने काफी लोगों को digitally साक्षर करने का काम किया है। Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan सरकार ने पिछले फरवरी माह में शुरू किया है और मैं समझता हूं कि जिस गति से हम बढ़ रहे हैं, जो प्रगति इसमें हुई है, वह संतोषजनक है और भविष्य में इस प्रगति को हम और आगे बढ़ाएंगे।

जहां तक internet की उपलब्धता का सवाल है, पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में इस वर्ष लगभग 23 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा वृद्धि हुई है। इसके अलावा एक महत्वाकांक्षी योजना "भारत नेट" के नाम से हमने प्रारम्भ की है, जिसमें 2,50,000 ग्राम पंचायतों को मार्च, 2019 तक 100Mbps के high-speed internet से हम जोड़ने का काम करने जा रहे हैं। इस संबंध में मुझे यह बताते हुए प्रसन्नता है कि एक लाख से ज्यादा ग्राम पंचायतों तक हमारा optical fibre पहुंच गया है। करीब 30,000 से अधिक ग्राम पंचायतों को हमने Wi-Fi hotspot लगाकर सक्षम बना दिया है, जिन्हें हम यह सुविधा देने जा रहे हैं। मैं उम्मीद करता हूं कि इस परियोजना के पूरा होने के बाद लगभग 60 करोड़ ग्रामीणों को हमारी सरकार यह सुविधा उपलब्ध करा पाएगी।

SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Another key factor that hinders the growth of Digital India is the shortage of skilled workforce. Only an estimated 2.3 per cent of India's

workforce has undergone formal skill training. It is significantly lower than the world average of 50 per cent of developed nations. What is the Government doing with regard to preparing the skill training?

**श्री मनोज सिन्हा:** सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने सही बात कही है। सरकार ने "पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय कौशल विकास योजना" खास तौर से इसी काम को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए आरम्भ की है। रवि शंकर जी का मंत्रालय भी इस दिशा में काम कर रहा है। टेलीकॉम मंत्रालय ने भी अभी तक ऐसे 10 केन्द्र खोलने का निर्णय लिया है और आने वाले दो वर्षों में ऐसे 400 केन्द्र खोलकर हम ग्रामीण युवाओं को ट्रेनिंग देने का काम करेंगे।

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Thank you so much, Sir.

सर, मेरा सवाल बहुत सिम्पल है। मेरा एक ही सवाल है और इस सवाल को पूछने के पीछे दो reasons हैं। It is really good कि आज के समय में "डिजिटल इंडिया" के बारे में सोचा जा रहा है and it should really happen. हम भी आगे बढ़ रहे हैं, हमारा देश भी आगे बढ़ रहा है, पर आज भी ऐसे बहुत-से रिमोट विलेज और illiterate एरियाज हैं, जहाँ पर आज तक इलेक्ट्रिसिटी प्रॉपरली नहीं पहुँची है। अगर आप उस जगह पर इंटरनेट पहुँचाने की बात करते हैं, तो आप वह किस तरह से कर रहे हैं?

सर, दूसरी बात यह है कि मैंने अभी रिमोट एरियाज की बात कही, लेकिन अगर मैं अपनी बात भी करूँ, तो दिल्ली में भी इंटरनेट access करना आसान नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... I am so sorry to say that मैं एमटीएनएल ऑफिस में पिछले तीन-चार महीनों से लगातार कम्प्लेंट कर रहा हूँ कि मुझे अपने फोन से इंटरनेट access करना मुश्किल हो रहा है, मैं प्रॉपरली इंटरनेट access नहीं कर पा रहा हूँ, Wi-Fi का connection भी जब कभी आता है, तो वह बहुत ही बुरे तरीके से आता है, but very sorry to say, Sir, till now, my complaints have not been answered properly. क्या मंत्री जी मुझे बताएँगे? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री अनुभव मोहंती:** सर, बार-बार कॉल ड्रॉप्स होते हैं। अगर कहीं दूर जरूरी बात करनी हो, तो बात करनी मुश्किल हो जाती है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

**श्री अनुभव मोहंती:** इंटरनेट तो छोड़ दीजिए, internet does not come into question. मंत्री जी मुझे कृपा करके बताएँ कि जब फोन कनेक्शन ही गलत आ रहा है, तो इंटरनेट की बात आप कैसे करते हैं और "डिजिटल इंडिया" की बात आप कैसे करते हैं, जबकि दिल्ली भी पूरी तरह से डिजिटल नहीं हो पा रही है?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

**श्री मनोज सिन्हा:** सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने एक प्रश्न में कई प्रश्न पूछे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... कृपा करके मुझे बोलने दीजिए। उन्होंने पहला सवाल यह पूछा कि जिस गाँव या

रिमोट एरिया में बिजली नहीं पहुँचती है, वहाँ इंटरनेट कैसे पहुँचेगा? उसके लिए सरकार ने अलग से एक कार्यक्रम तय किया है और प्रधान मंत्री जी ने 15 अगस्त को लाल किले की प्राचीर से ही कहा था और एक निश्चित तारीख बताई थी कि यह सरकार देश के हर गाँव तक बिजली पहुँचा देगी।  
...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री अनुभव मोहंती:** वे बहुत कुछ बोलते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. ...(Interruptions)... Please do not interrupt. ...(Interruptions)...

**श्री मनोज सिन्हा:** आपको यही लगेगा कि वे बोलते हैं, लेकिन वह जमीन पर होता है।  
...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. ...(Interruptions)... Please.

**श्री मनोज सिन्हा:** दूसरी बात, जहाँ तक ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों तक इंटरनेट पहुँचाने की बात है, वह सरकार की केवल योजना नहीं है। आप देखते रहिए, यह सरकार इसे धरातल पर पहुँचाकर दिखाएगी। इन्होंने दिल्ली में इंटरनेट की सुविधा के बारे में जो कम्प्लेंट की है, उसको मैं निजी तौर पर देखूँगा। अगर इनकी कम्प्लेंट पर ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है, तो उस पर कार्रवाई भी सुनिश्चित करूँगा।

तीसरी बात, इन्होंने कॉल ड्रॉप्स की बात भी उठाई है। मैं एक बात सदन को बताना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले 10 महीने में इस देश में ढाई लाख से ज्यादा BTS लगे हैं। पिछले दिनों हमने "तरंग संचार" के नाम से एक पोर्टल भी जारी किया। खास तौर से, पॉश इलाके में या जहाँ बुद्धिजीवी लोग हैं, जैसे लोधी गार्डन, जहाँ लोग सुबह टहलते हैं, वहाँ BTS लग रहा था, लेकिन सुबह टहलने वालों का जो एक फोरम है, उन्होंने वहाँ धरना दे दिया और कहा कि यहाँ यह नहीं लगेगा। दिल्ली के अनेक इलाकों में BTS नहीं लगने दिए जा रहे हैं, जबकि इसको लगाने का कारण केवल यह है कि लोगों में इस बात की जागरूकता बढ़े कि यह जो EMF radiation है, इस विकिरण से किसी के स्वास्थ्य पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव नहीं होता है। हमने जो संचार पोर्टल जारी किया है, उससे आप जिस BTS के बारे में जानकारी लेना चाहें, उसे आप प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। अगर आप अपने घर में होने वाले विकिरण के बारे में भी जानना चाहते हैं, तो हमारे मंत्रालय में 4,000 रुपए जमा कीजिए, आपके घर TERM field unit के ऑफिसस जाएँगे और वे आपके सामने जाँच करे आपको authenticate certificate देंगे कि आपके ड्राइंग रूम में कितनी radiation है और आपके बेडरूम में कितनी radiation है। सरकार प्रयास कर रही है, यह सच है। TRAI की जो रिपोर्ट आई है, उसमें भी यह बात साफ तौर पर कही गई है कि call drop में काफी सुधार हुआ है। ...(व्यवधान).... लेकिन, मैं यह दावा नहीं करता कि call drop खत्म हो गया है, बल्कि इसमें regular monitoring की जरूरत है और निश्चित रूप से इस चीज़ को monitor किया जाएगा और बेहतर बनाया जाएगा। माननीय सदस्य की चिंता पर मैं गंभीतापूर्वक ध्यान दूँगा और मैं कोशिश करूँगा कि कल तक इनकी समस्या का समाधान हो जाए।

SHRI RIPUN BORA: As he has just mentioned about digitalization in the Gram Panchayat areas also, now, I am citing some examples of Assam. What happened was, while these cables were laid, all the Gram Panchayat roads, that is, these pucca roads have

been destroyed. These have been destroyed but have not been repaired after laying the cables. It is lying unrepaired and creating untold inconvenience to the public. This is one thing. The second thing is though the cables have been connected to Gram Panchayats but there is no staff, no computer, and no electricity. It is just lying; it is all just a farce. So, now, I want to know whether the Minister has any plan to rectify these things.

**श्री मनोज सिन्हा:** सभापति महोदय, जब हम सड़क के किनारे केबल बिछाने का काम करते हैं तो राज्य सरकार के उस विभाग से अनुमति लेते हैं। अब सड़क बनाना हमारा काम नहीं है। माननीय सदस्य ने जो चिंता जताई है, मैं असम के माननीय मुख्य मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करूंगा कि इनके क्षेत्र की सड़क टूट गई है, वे कृपया ध्यान दें। बिजली पहुंचाने का काम भी हमारा नहीं है। जहां तक केबल डालने और उससे वाईफाई, इंटरनेट उपलब्ध कराने का सवाल है, वह काम हमारा है और उस काम को हम पूरा करेंगे।

**SHRI RIPUN BORA:** That is my complaint. What is the use if all arrangements are not made? Otherwise, it is lying useless.

**DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH:** Sir, the question was on internet connectivity. I think internet connectivity का तो पता नहीं, यहां हाउस में probably telepathy is very good because it was my very question on the quality of service, which my hon. friend picked it up. But, however, I rephrase my question. सर, आप जो कह रहे हैं मेरे क्वेश्चन को प्लीज कंप्लेंट समझ कर डिफेंड करेंगे तो इसकी तह तक नहीं जाएंगे। The question is about quantity, 950 मिलियन लोगों के पास इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी नहीं है। We all know it and you are trying to achieve that. But it is also one about quality. लेकिन जहां पर है, वहां पर quality is so pathetic. मेरे पीछे बैठे मेम्बर जो कह रहे हैं वह तकरीबन सब के साथ सच है। अगर आप किसी को भी पूछेंगे तो किसी का भी नहीं चलता, किसी कि घर नहीं चलता। मेरे हिसाब से शायद आपका भी नहीं चलना चाहिए और अगर आपका कुछ स्पेशल अरेंजमेंट है तो वह सब के लिए करवाकर दीजिए। So, therefore, my request is कि अपने कन्ट्री की जो सोच है, मैं एक छोटा-सा उदाहरण देना चाहूंगा कि जो इस क्वेश्चन से रिलेवेंट होगा। अब अपने यहां literacy की definition क्या है? Any person who can write his name or her name is not considered illiterate. That is our definition. Similarly, on internet connectivity, हमने पहुंचा दिया उसको हम connected मानते हैं, लेकिन अगर वह काम ही नहीं करेगा उस connectivity से कहाँ चलेंगे? So, my question to you is: Will you seriously consider the quality of the service as it is the problem with everyone?

**श्री मनोज सिन्हा:** सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो बात कही, उसे मैं गंभीरता से लेता हूँ। पिछले दिनों जो ऑक्शन हुआ 965 मेगाहर्ट्ज स्पेक्ट्रम अभी लोगों ने लिया है और मैं समझता हूँ कि रूल आउट होने के बाद जो लाइसेंस कंडिशन है, 6 महीने बाद वह रूल आउट का काम शुरू करते हैं और उसके ढाई वर्ष के अंदर पूरा करते हैं। तो मुझे लगता है कि यह काम पूरा होने के बाद जरूर कुछ सुधार आपको दिखेगा और निश्चित तौर पर मैं इसे मॉनिटर करूंगा कि अच्छी क्वालिटी की सुविधा आप सब को उपलब्ध हो।



**डिजिटल भुगतान में धोखाधड़ी के मामले**

\*65. **श्री नरेश अग्रवाल** : क्या इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि डिजिटल भुगतान में धोखाधड़ी के मामले बढ़ रहे हैं, यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ख) सरकार द्वारा डिजिटल सुरक्षा के संबंध में क्या-क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं; और

(ग) डिजिटल सुरक्षा के संबंध में चन्द्रबाबू नायडू समिति द्वारा क्या-क्या सुझाव दिए गए थे?

**इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री (श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद)**: (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

**विवरण**

(क) वर्ष 2015-16 और 2016-17 के दौरान क्रेडिट कार्ड, एटीएम/डेबिट कार्ड, इंटरनेट बैंकिंग को शामिल करते हुए धोखाधड़ी के मामलों की संख्या निम्नानुसार है:

2015-16	2016-17
16468	13653

ई-वॉलेट सहित प्रीपेड पेमेंट इंस्ट्रूमेंट (पीपीआई) के लिए भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (आरबीआई) ने धोखाधड़ी वाले लेनदेनों का अनंतिम डाटा एकत्र करना शुरू कर दिया है। डाटा के अनुसार मार्च, अप्रैल और मई, 2017 के लिए धोखाधड़ी वाले लेनदेनों की संख्या कुल लेनदेनों की कुल संख्या के 0.005% से 0.007% के बीच है।

भारतीय कम्प्यूटर आपात प्रक्रिया दल (सर्ट-इन) को रिपोर्ट की गई घटनाओं के अनुसार नवम्बर, 2016 से जून, 2017 के दौरान 19 वित्तीय संगठनों को प्रभावित करनेवाली फिशिंग की 40 घटनाएं और एटीएम, बिक्री बिंदु (पीओएस) प्रणालियों और एकीकृत भुगतान अंतरापृष्ठ (यूपीआई) को प्रभावित करने वाली 10 घटनाएं रिपोर्ट की गई हैं।

डिजिटल भुगतान को बढ़ावा देने के भाग के रूप में सरकार यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कई कदम उठा रही है कि धोखाधड़ी को न्यूनतम किया जा सके और यहां तक जब इस प्रकार की कोई घटना घटित होती है, तो तत्काल निवारक कार्रवाई की जाती है।

(ख) डिजिटल भुगतान प्रणाली को सुरक्षित करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदम अनुबंध में नीचे दिए गए हैं (नीचे देखिए)।

(ग) आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री माननीय श्री चन्द्रबाबू नायडू की अध्यक्षता में डिजिटल भुगतान पर मुख्यमंत्रियों की समिति ने अपनी अंतरिम रिपोर्ट में डिजिटल भुगतान सुरक्षा पर निम्नलिखित सुझाव दिए हैं:

- (i) सचिव, एमईआईटीवाई और डीओटी की अध्यक्षता में गठित स्थायी समिति को निजी क्षेत्र के सेवा प्रदाताओं, बैंकों और आरबीआई के साथ परामर्श से एनपीसीआई की सुरक्षा प्रणाली को सुदृढ़ करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना चाहिए।
- (ii) सरकार को धोखाधड़ी आदि के फलस्वरूप डिजिटल भुगतानों में होने वाली हानि की प्रतिपूर्ति के लिए कोई बीमा योजना तैयार करनी चाहिए जिससे कि डिजिटल भुगतान अपनाने में आम जनता की दुविधा को दूर किया जा सके। योजना के अंतर्गत छोटे दुकानदारों, किसानों आदि जैसे सुभेद्य वर्गों को बीमित करने के लिए कम राशि वाली लेनदेनों को लक्ष्य बनाया जाना चाहिए।
- (iii) डिजिटल भुगतान के लिए एक अलग प्राधिकरण की स्थापना की जाए। यह प्राधिकरण इस क्षेत्र में हो रहे विकास, नियामक मुद्दों, सुरक्षा संबंधी पहलुओं आदि का पर्यवेक्षण करने के लिए उत्तरदायी होगा। इस निकाय के गठन के लिए आवश्यक विधायी और नीतिगत परिवर्तन किए जाएं।

### अनुबंध

#### डिजिटल भुगतान प्रणाली की सुरक्षा के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदम

1. भारतीय कम्प्यूटर आपातकालीन प्रतिक्रिया दल (सर्ट-इन) डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकियों का सुरक्षित इस्तेमाल सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उपयुक्त उपाय करने हेतु पणधारकों के बीच जागरूकता पैदा करने के लिए नवीनतम साइबर खतरों के संबंध में नियमित आधार पर चेतावनी और परामर्शी निदेश (एडवाइजरी) और प्रति उपाय जारी करता है। डिजिटल भुगतान सुरक्षित करने के लिए प्रयोक्ताओं और संस्थानों हेतु सुरक्षा उपायों के संबंध में अब तक ऐसे 25 परामर्शी निदेश (एडवाइजरी) जारी किए हैं।
2. देश में प्रीपेड पेमेंट इंस्ट्रूमेंट (पीपीआई) जारी करने वाले सभी प्राधिकृत निकायों/बैंकों को भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के माध्यम से भारतीय कम्प्यूटर आपात प्रतिक्रिया दल द्वारा यह सलाह दी गई है कि वे भारतीय कम्प्यूटर आपात प्रतिक्रिया दल (सर्ट-इन) के सूचीबद्ध लेखापरीक्षकों द्वारा प्राथमिकता आधार पर लेखापरीक्षा कराएं और उसके पश्चात् लेखापरीक्षा रिपोर्ट के निष्कर्षों का अनुपालन करें तथा सुरक्षा श्रेष्ठ पद्धतियों का कार्यान्वयन सुनिश्चित करें।
3. डिजिटल भुगतान सेवाएं उपलब्ध कराने वाले सभी संगठनों को साइबर सुरक्षा की घटनाओं के बारे में भारतीय कम्प्यूटर आपात प्रतिक्रिया दल को शीघ्रता से रिपोर्ट करना अनिवार्य किया गया है।
4. सरकारी और महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों के संगठनों की साइबर सुरक्षा की स्थिति और तैयारी का मूल्यांकन करने में उन्हें सक्षम बनाने के लिए नियमित रूप से साइबर सुरक्षा मॉकड्रिल संचालित की जा रही हैं। अब तक भारतीय कम्प्यूटर आपातकालीन प्रतिक्रिया दल (सर्ट-इन) द्वारा इस प्रकार की 15 मॉकड्रिल संचालित की गई हैं जिनमें विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के 148 संगठनों ने भाग लिया।

5. इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय (एमईआईटीवाई) द्वारा डिजिशाला जागरूकता अभियान के अंतर्गत साइबर सुरक्षा जागरूकता सत्रों का आयोजन किया जाता है।
6. सरकार ने देश में संक्रमित प्रणालियों का पता लगाने और उन्हें ठीक करने के लिए साइबर स्वच्छता केंद्र (बोटनेट क्लीनिंग एण्ड मालवेयर एनालिसिस सेंटर) स्थापित किया है। यह परियोजना इंटरनेट सेवा प्रदाताओं और उद्योग जगत के साथ समन्वय से शुरू की गई है।
7. इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय (एमईआईटीवाई) ने डिजिटल भुगतान प्रणालियों की सुरक्षा के संबंध में बैंकों, इंटरनेट सेवा प्रदाताओं (आईएसपी) और प्रीपेड पेमेंट इंस्ट्रूमेंट (पीपीआई) के लिए 2 कार्यशालाएं आयोजित की हैं।
8. सरकार ने अनुप्रयोगों और अवसंरचना की सुरक्षा के लिए मुख्य सूचना सुरक्षा अधिकारियों (सीआईएसओ) के लिए सामान्य दिशानिर्देश और अनुपालन के लिए उनकी प्रमुख भूमिकाओं तथा जिम्मेदारियों से संबंधित निर्देश जारी किए हैं।
9. सर्ट-इन वर्तमान खतरा परिदृश्य और प्रतिउपायों के बारे में जागरूक बनाने के लिए सरकार तथा महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्र के संगठनों के सीआईएसओ सहित आईटी/साइबर सुरक्षा पेशेवरों के लिए नियमित रूप से साइबर सुरक्षा प्रशिक्षण संचालित करता है। इसके अलावा, सर्ट-इन ने पणधारक संगठनों के लिए डिजिटल भुगतान प्रणालियों की सुरक्षा पर एक कार्यशाला भी आयोजित की है, जिसमें 110 प्रतिभागियों ने भाग लिया।
10. भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने रिपोर्ट की गई किसी भी मुख्य घटना का समाधान करने के लिए साइबर आपदा प्रबंधन ग्रुप की स्थापना की है जिसमें घटनाओं का सामना करने और उनसे भरपाई के तरीके भी सुझाए गए हैं।
11. भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के अधीन बैंकिंग पर्यवेक्षण विभाग सर्ट-इन के सहयोग से आभासी परिदृश्यों के आधार पर बैंकों की तैयारी का जायजा लेने के लिए साइबर सुरक्षा तैयारी परीक्षण करता है।
12. भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने देश में प्रीपेड इंस्ट्रूमेंट (पीपीआई) जारी करने वाले सभी प्राधिकृत संगठनों/बैंकों के लिए सुरक्षा और जोखिम उन्मूलन संबंधी उपायों पर 9 दिसम्बर, 2016 को एक परिपत्र जारी किया है।
13. भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक फिशिंग हमलों पर तथा फिशिंग हमलों का सामना करने के लिए निवारक/संसूचक उपायों पर सभी व्यावसायिक बैंकों को परिपत्र/सलाह जारी करता है। बैंक भी अपने प्रयोक्ताओं के साथ इसका अनुपालन कर रहे हैं।
14. भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने वर्ष 2015 में एक साइबर सुरक्षा और आईटी परीक्षण (सीएसआईटीई) सैल की स्थापना की है।
15. भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने साइबर सुरक्षा के विभिन्न पक्षों संबंधी श्रेष्ठ पद्धतियों को शामिल करते हुए 2 जून, 2016 को बैंकों में साइबर सुरक्षा ढांचे पर एक व्यापक परिपत्र जारी किया है।

16. भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक ने भारत में प्रीपेड इंस्ट्रुमेंट (पीपीआई) जारी करने और उनके प्रचालन पर मसौदा मास्टर दिशानिर्देश तैयार किए हैं और 20 मार्च, 2017 को इस पर जनता की टिप्पणियां आमंत्रित की गई हैं।

### **Cases of fraud in digital payments**

†\*65.SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of cases of fraud in digital payments have increased, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the steps taken by Government in respect of digital security; and
- (c) the suggestions made by Chandra Babu Naidu Committee on digital security?

THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### **Statement**

- (a) The number of cases of frauds involving credit cards, ATM/Debit cards and Internet banking during the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 are as follows:

2015-16	2016-17
16468	13653

For prepaid payments instruments including e-wallets, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has started maintaining provisional data of fraudulent transactions. According to the data for March, April and May 2017, the number of fraudulent transactions is between 0.005% to 0.007% of the total number of transactions.

As per incidents reported to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), 40 phishing incidents affecting 19 financial organisations and 10 incidents affecting ATMs, Point of Sales (POS) systems and Unified Payment Interface (UPI) have been reported during November 2016 to June 2017.

As part of promotion of digital payments, Government is taking several steps to ensure that frauds are minimised and even when an incident of this nature takes place, corrective action is immediately taken.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The steps taken by Government to secure digital payment system are given in the Annexure (*See below*).

(c) The Committee of Chief Ministers on Digital Payment, chaired by Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri Chandrababu Naidu, has in its Interim Report suggested the following on Digital Payment security:

- (i) The Standing Committee formed under Chairmanship of Secretary, MeitY and DoT should focus on strengthening NPCI security system, consultations with private service providers, banks and RBI.
- (ii) Government should come out with an insurance scheme to cover losses incurred in digital transactions on account of fraud, etc. In order to address the apprehension of general public in adopting digital payments. The scheme should target low ticket transactions to cover the vulnerable sections like small merchants, farmers etc.
- (iii) A separate Authority may be set up for Digital Payments. The Authority will be responsible for overseeing sector development, regulatory issues, security aspects, etc. Necessary legislative and policy changes may be effected to create this body.

#### ***Annexure***

##### *Steps taken by Government to secure digital payment system*

1. CERT-In issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities alongwith countermeasures to create awareness among stakeholders to take appropriate measures to ensure safe usage of digital technologies. Regarding securing digital payments, 25 advisories have been issued for users and institutions.
2. In addition, all authorised entities/banks issuing PPIs in the country have been advised by CERT-In through the Reserve Bank of India to carry out security audit by the empanelled auditors of CERT-In on a priority basis and to take immediate steps thereafter to comply with the findings of the audit report and ensure implementation of security best practices.
3. All organizations providing digital payment services have been mandated to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In expeditiously.
4. Cyber security mock drills are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government

and critical sectors. Till date, 15 such drills have been conducted by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) involving 148 organizations from different sectors including Finance sector.

5. Cyber security awareness sessions are conducted by Ministry of Electronics and Information technology (MeitY) under the Digishala Awareness Campaign.
6. Government has established Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre to detect and clean infected systems in the country. The project is initiated in coordination with the Internet Service Providers and Industry.
7. MeitY has organised 2 workshops for banks, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) issuing entities regarding security of digital payments systems.
8. Government has issued general guidelines for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) for securing applications and infrastructure and their key roles and responsibilities for compliance.
9. CERT-In is regularly conducting cyber security trainings for IT / cyber security professionals including CISOs of Government and critical sector organisations to give an exposure on current threat landscape and countermeasures. In addition, CERT-In has also conducted a workshop on security of digital payments systems for stakeholder organisations covering 110 participants.
10. RBI has set up a Cyber Crisis Management Group to address any major incidents reported including suggesting ways to respond and recover to/ from the incidents.
11. Department of Banking Supervision under RBI, with the help of CERT-In, conducts cyber security preparedness testing among banks on the basis of hypothetical scenarios.
12. RBI has issued a circular on 9th December 2016 for security and risk mitigation measure for all authorised entities / banks issuing Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) in the country.
13. RBI issues Circulars/advisories to all Commercial Banks on phishing attacks and preventive / detective measures to tackle phishing attacks. Banks have also been following the same with their users.
14. RBI has set up a Cyber Security and IT Examination (CSITE) cell in 2015.

15. RBI has issued a comprehensive circular on Cyber Security Framework in Banks on June 2, 2016 covering best practices pertaining to various aspects of cyber security.
16. RBI has prepared draft Master Directions on issuance and operations of Prepaid Payments Instruments in India and on 20 March 2017 has invited public comments on the same.

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल:** महोदय, हम मंत्री जी के साथ बैठकर डिस्कस कर लेंगे और समय रह नहीं गया है। केवल एक मिनट रह गया है। क्या क्वेश्चन कर पाएंगे?

**श्री सभापति:** अभी दो मिनट हैं।

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल:** छोड़िए सर, हम अलग से मंत्री जी के साथ बैठकर डिस्कस कर लेंगे, हमारा और इनका बड़ा गहन रिश्ता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no; but there are supplementaries. अगर आपको सवाल का जवाब नहीं सुनना है तो सप्लीमेंटरी सुन लीजिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any other supplementary?

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल:** श्रीमन्, आपके आदेश पर बहुत मिठास से मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से सिर्फ यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि आपने अपने उत्तर में स्वीकार किया है कि इतने-इतने क्राइम हुए। तो वे कितने परसेंट हैं? आप यह भी मानते हैं कि digital payment अभी टोटल आबादी का 20 परसेंट के ऊपर शायद नहीं हुआ होगा। Digital केन्द्र भी हमारे यहां इतने कम हैं, अगर आप विश्व को आंके तो चाइना में डिजिटल केन्द्र हमने 6 गुना ज्यादा हैं। अभी डिजिटल केन्द्र भी नहीं हैं। मंत्री जी, सिर्फ इतना बतला दीजिए कि चन्द्रबाबू नायडू जी आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री रहे हैं, जो इन्होंने अपनी कमेटी की पूरी रिपोर्ट दी है, उस पर उन्होंने यह भी कहा है कि डिजिटल पेमेंट के फ्रॉड जो हों, उसका जो इंश्योरेंस है, वह होना चाहिए और उसकी जिम्मेदारी सरकार की होनी चाहिए, जिससे जिसके साथ फ्रॉड हो, उसको वह रुपया मिलने की गारंटी हो। क्या सरकार उस पर विचार कर रही है?

**श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:** सर, insurance की बात सही कही गयी है। भारत में digital payment बहुत बढ़ रहा है और चन्द्रबाबू कमेटी की अनुशंसाओं पर सरकार बहुत गंभीरतापूर्वक विचार कर रही है। बहुत सारी credit card companies इंश्योरेंस देती हैं। हम लोगों की पूरी कोशिश है और मैं नीतिगत रूप से आपके विचारों के साथ हूं। मैं अंतिम एक लाइन कहना चाहता हूं। जितने फ्रॉड हो रहे हैं, हर साल 1,200 करोड़ रुपए के transactions होते हैं, जिसमें एटीएम का फ्रॉड .001 परसेंट है और दूसरा फ्रॉड .007 परसेंट है - यह बहुत ही कम संख्या है, इतना मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं।

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

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**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS****Installation of video cameras in train engines**

\*66. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to install video cameras with face recognition software linked to an alarm system in train engines;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this system will alert the control centre in case drivers fall asleep; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that besides Loco Cab Video and Voice Recording System (LCVR), Diesel Locomotive Works has also developed a system to monitor locomotives across the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) Ministry of Railways has decided for fitment of "LOCO CAB VOICE RECORDER" (LCVR) on about 520 locomotives with the purpose of ensuring loco cab and track view for post-event analysis. The system will allow us to confirm the nature of crew communications and the dynamics of crew actions and interactions. Such information would facilitate accident investigations and allow accident investigators to eliminate extraneous factors which can cause an accident.

The equipment will comprise of a camera and microphone mounted inside loco cab for audio-video recording of all communication by loco pilot and assistant loco pilot during run and an external camera mounted to record external front view from the loco cab as seen by loco pilot while running of the train. The day/night cameras and microphone will be integrated with a digital audio/video recorder and digital memory to preserve about 1 TB data storage that can be retrieved for analysis on a post-event basis as necessary in case of unusual incidents or an accident. However, the system will not have any face recognition software or any alarm.

Provision for LCVRs on 45 locomotive cabs on Indian Railways has been initiated for which Purchase Orders have been placed. No supply has been made so far. Furthermore, as a trial, Indian Railways has authorized M/s GE to provide one such system in a diesel locomotive. This is under trial since 04th May 2017.

(c) Remote Monitoring and Management of Locomotives and Trains (REMMLOT) for diesel locomotives and Microprocessor Based Control System (MPCS)/



Remote Diagnostic System for electric locomotives have been developed by Indian Railways and already provided in 3361 diesel locomotives and 134 electric locomotives respectively. The information on parameters of important equipments on locomotive is being collected and transmitted online to home shed of the locomotive where expert technical personnel observe and monitor performance and health of the locomotive. The expert personnel with the available information plan in advance locomotive maintenance before the locomotive arrives in shed and also guide the loco pilot with necessary details in case any problems are being faced so as to enable effective troubleshooting on the locomotive as and when required.

#### **Cold storage and infrastructure facilities**

\*67. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether post-harvest management, preservation, transportation and value addition are not adequate in farm sector, resulting in huge wastage at each stage of supply chain due to lack of cold storage and infrastructure facilities;
- (b) whether surplus production of perishable items like potato, tomato, onions, etc., get wasted, resulting in huge losses to farmers;
- (c) if so, the measures proposed by Government to minimize harvest and post harvest losses to farmers; and
- (d) whether there is any proposal to develop low-cost storage and preservation facility to increase shelf-life of perishable items so as to benefit small farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH) (a) to (d) A study commissioned by Ministry of Food Processing Industries and carried out by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), in 2015, estimated that quantum of harvest and post-harvest losses of fruits and vegetables were in the range of 6.70% to 15.88% (fruits) and 4.58% to 12.44% (vegetables) at various stages such as harvesting, cleaning, sorting/grading, packing, transportation, storage channels, weight loss in storage, etc. A recent study (2015) conducted by NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS) assessed the shortfall in number of cold storages to be within 10% of the nationwide requirement.

The production of fruits and vegetables including potato, tomato and onions etc. has been increasing due to various intervention of Government of India. The production of potato, tomato and onion has increased from 454 lakh MT, 182 lakh MT and 168 lakh MT in 2012-13 to 466 lakh MT, 197 lakh MT and 215 lakh MT in 2016-17 respectively. The quantitative harvest and post-harvest losses as estimated by CIPHET were 8.20% for onion, 12.44% for tomato and 7.32% for potato.

In order to minimize harvest and post-harvest losses, Government is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) which includes assistance for establishment of post-harvest infrastructure. Under MIDH, credit-linked back ended subsidy @ 35% of the project cost in general areas (and 50% in the case of hilly and schedule areas) is available for various components of post-harvest infrastructure, including cold chain. The component is demand/entrepreneur-driven from among entrepreneurs, private companies, cooperatives, farmers groups etc through commercial ventures. 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.

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.

#### **Potential job losses in IT services business**

\*68. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are concerns over potential job losses in the IT services business;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that though the pace of growth in IT services business has come down, the employment opportunities have not been affected; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that hiring is still a reality and it is only the nature of business that is changing, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Indian IT-ITeS industry has been progressively contributing to the growth of economy through increasing exports and creation of employment opportunities. According to National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), the IT-ITeS industry is estimated to directly employ nearly 40 lakh people, an addition of around 175,000 people over the year 2016. In addition, indirect employment is 1-1.2 crore (~2.5-3 times of direct employments). According to NASSCOM survey, around 6 lakh employments have been made in the IT sector in the last three years. It is estimated that the industry will remain a net hirer in FY 2017-18. The trend over last 3 years is as follows:

Year	Number of Total employees	Net addition during the year
FY2014-15	3,485,000	217,000
FY2015-16	3,688,000	203,000
FY2016-17	3,863,000	175,000

Source: NASSCOM

The IT-ITeS industry has continued to perform its role as the consistent growth driver for the economy. The total IT-ITeS Industry revenue (excluding e-Commerce) over the last 4 years is as under:

	(US\$ in Billion)			
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17(E)
Exports	88.0	97.8	108	117
Domestic (incl hardware)	31.6	34.0	35	38
Total Revenue	119.6	131.8	143	155

(E) = Estimate

Source: NASSCOM

Every sector requires re-skilling and the fast changing digital technology area requires it even more. Workforce re-alignment is routine exercise of yearly performance appraisal processes which impacts only 0.5-3% of the overall IT talent pool. Re-skilling

of existing staff and removal of those who do not meet the standards is routine in any industry and more so in IT. According to NASSCOM, the skills profile is set to undergo a rapid change as demand for skills around digital technologies grows exponentially. Many firms have established dedicated programs to re-skill their existing employees through over 300,000 available experts in the country.

Technology changes with time and it is seen that if new technology displaces few jobs, it creates more jobs in future. Technologies such as advanced robotics and automation are changing job roles significantly across industries. It is believed that technology adoption will only lead to more job creation across sectors in the long run. More jobs will be created 'because of IT' than in 'core IT'.

Overall economic growth of India is ~7%, and with the emphasis on "digital", there are going to be greater job opportunities. Government programmes like Digital India, Make in India, Start-up India, Digital Payments, e-Commerce and Cyber Security are going to create robust employment scenario in Ac IT area in the country. The Government took a meeting of all stakeholders from IT-ITeS industry for developing the roadmap for one trillion dollar digital economy of India. The meeting was highly successful. This will also create number of job opportunities in coming few years. According to NASSCOM survey, 25 lakh employments will be generated by 2025.

#### **Gauge conversion projects in Tamil Nadu**

\*69. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gauge conversion projects being implemented in Tamil Nadu at present; and

(b) the details of those projects such as the year of commissioning, the amount spent on the project so far and the expected year of completion?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) Details of ongoing gauge conversion projects in the State of Tamil Nadu are as under:

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Year of inclusion in the Budget	Latest Estimated cost	Expenditure upto March, 2017	Outlay for 2017-18	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat & Pollachi-Coimbatore gauge conversion (225 Km)	2006-07	1065	1026	35	<p>Podanur-Coimbatore (6 Km) commissioned in 2010, Dindigul-Palani (58 Km) commissioned in 2012 and Pollachi-Palani-Palghat (121 Km) commissioned in 2015. Remaining portion <i>i.e.</i> Pollachi-Podanur (40 Km) has been completed and passenger services have been introduced from 14.7.2017.</p> <p>Therefore, entire gauge conversion project has been commissioned.</p>
2.	Mayiladuturai-Thiruvavur-Karaikudi & Tiruturai-Pundi-Agastiyampalli gauge conversion (224 Km)	2007-08	2072	757	240	<p>Mayiladuturai-Thiruvavur (38 Km) commissioned in 2012. Karaikudi-Pattukottai (73 Km) is in advance stage of completion. Work on balance gauge conversion has also been taken up.</p>

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Madurai-Bodinayak-kanur gauge conversion (90 Km)	2008-09	302	28	71	Work on this project was not taken up earlier due to limited availability of funds, low operational priority of the line (not having connection at Bodinayakkanur) and huge throwforward of projects. With increased budgetary support, major bridges works have been taken up. Detailed estimate of ₹ 302 crore for this project has been sanctioned in December, 2016 and further works are being taken up on priority.

*Summary:* Total length of project- = 539 Km  
 Sections commissioned- = 263 Km  
 Balance to be completed- = 276 Km

Target date for commissioning of projects/part projects are fixed on annual basis based on funds provided during the year by the Ministry of Finance. Therefore, timeline for completion of the projects is not feasible to be fixed.

**Indian Railways have taken following initiatives for gauge conversion:**

1. All unsanctioned Meter Gauge lines of Indian Railways (Excluding Heritage Lines) of 828.86 Km have been included in the Budget 2017-18 for conversion to Broad Gauge line.
2. All unsanctioned Narrow Gauge lines of Indian Railways (Excluding Heritage Lines and lines with dead end having no connectivity on one end) of 235.14 Km have been included in the Budget 2017-18 for conversion to Broad Gauge line.

3. All Meter Gauge sections have been converted to Broad Gauge in North Eastern Region.
4. There are 17 Zonal Railways including Metro Railway and in 05 Zonal Railways i.e. East Central Railway, North Western Railway, North Eastern Railway, Southern Railway and Western Railway, there is meter gauge operation. Further, only in 03 Zonal Railways i.e. North Central Railway, South East Central Railway and Western Railway, there is narrow gauge operation ((Excluding Heritage Lines).

Indian Railways have also taken following initiatives to increase pace of execution of projects:-

- **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 lakh crore for assured funding of viable projects has increased Railways' capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.
- **Coordination with State/Central Ministries:** To expedite the project execution and better coordination with State/Central Ministries, regular coordination meetings are being held with Ministries/ Departments / State Government Authorities. A senior Railway officer has been nominated as a Nodal Officer to deal with each State Government.

These initiatives have resulted into a remarkable increase in commissioning of New Lines, Gauge Conversions and Doublings. A progress of 7.75 km per day of network expansion was achieved in 2015-16 compared to an average of 4.1 km per day

being achieved in previous 10 years from 2004 to 2014. During 2016-17, 2855 km track has been commissioned by introducing passenger services.

**Train from Vasco-da-Gama to Patna**

\*70. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any train running between Vasco-Da-Gama and Patna;
- (b) the time taken by the train to complete the journey;
- (c) whether the train is having any pantry car; and
- (d) if not, whether Railways propose to provide a pantry car in view of the long distance the train has to commute?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir. At present, Train No. 12741/12742 Vasco-Da-Gama-Patna in Express (Weekly) is running between Vasco-Da-Gama and Patna Jn.

(b) The time taken by the train to complete the journey is 41 hours 05 minutes in UP direction - Vasco-Da-Gama to Patna and 42 hours 55 minutes in DOWN direction- Patna to Vasco-Da-Gama.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Attachment of pantry car to any train depends upon order of priority with respect to the category of train viz. Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto/ Mail/Express trains etc., availability of pantry cars and journey duration of train etc. Presently, there are around 360 pairs of trains running with pantry car. This train has primary examination at Vasco-Da-Gama where the pit line can accommodate only 21 coaches and therefore the train is accordingly running with the maximum load of 21 coaches. The train is fully patronized and given the technical constraints, it is not operationally feasible to attach an extra coach, including pantry car.

However, there are enough options available for the passengers of this train to avail catering services through static units or order food of their choice through e-catering at en route stations. e-catering has participation from prestigious brands such as Dominos. The list of stations where e-catering facility is provided in the Train No.12741/12742 is given below:



Sl. No.	Train No. 12741	Train No. 12742
	Station	Station
1.	Vasco-da-Gama	Patna
2.	Madgaon	Ara
3.	Sawantwadi Road	Mughal Sarai
4.	Nasik Road	Itarsi
5.	Manmad	Khandwa
6.	Bhusaval	Bhusaval
7.	Khandwa	Madmad
8.	Itarsi	Nasik Road
9.	Mughal Sarai	Kalyan
10.	Patna	Panvel

In providing e-catering Self Help Groups are also participating. For instance in Sawantwadi Road, Maher Lok Sanchalit Sadhan Kendra is providing local cuisine through E-catering.

In addition, en-route stations also have catering facilities in the form of Fast Food units, Food Plaza, Refreshment Rooms, Janahars, Food stalls, Milk parlours etc. to fulfill the catering requirements of the passengers.

Further, the following innovations, *inter alia*, are being introduced in catering to improve the travel experience of passengers on Indian Railways.

- In Tejas Express trains high-end exquisite cuisine, including local food products, such as Kokum drink, has been introduced.
- Tejas Express trains also have an optional catering service for the first time on Railways in a pre-paid train, wherein the passengers can choose not to pay for food.
- In Humsafar trains, automatic Tea, Coffee and Soup vending machines have been installed. The coach design itself has facility for hot cases and inbuilt water bottle coolers.

- To provide more options to passengers Ready to Eat (RTE) meals such as Biryani, Rajma-chawal etc. are also proposed to be introduced in trains in a phased manner.
- Indian Railways through IRCTC is also contemplating introducing Dehydrated Meal Technology similar to Airlines, wherein Upma, Poha. etc., can be eaten by adding hot water to the cup.

#### **Agitations by farmers**

\*71. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for sudden agitations of farmers in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, etc.;
- (b) the genuine problems of agriculturists in different States; and
- (c) in what manner Central and State Governments are going to solve the problems?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) There are multifarious reasons for the sudden agitation by farmers in these States. Their main demands include debt waiver, fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP), interest free farm loan, old age pension for farmers, regular power supply for agriculture, 100% subsidy for drip irrigation, higher price for milk and higher price for agri-commodities like onions, soyabean, etc.

Regarding waiver of loans of farmers, it is the Department of Financial Services (DFS) that is authorized to formulate Debt Waiver Scheme.

However, in case of natural calamities, Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) guidelines to banks on relief measures are pressed into service. The measures to be initiated by respective lending institutions *inter alia*, include identification of beneficiaries, extending fresh loans and restructuring of existing loans, relaxed security and margin norms, moratorium, etc. These guidelines have been designed in such a way, that the moment calamity is declared by the concerned District Authorities, they are automatically set in motion without any external intervention and this saves precious time. The benchmark for restructuring of loans has been revised by RBI from 50% to 33% crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management Framework.

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

Generally, the problems of agriculturists in different States relate to inadequate access to institutional credit, crop loss due to natural calamities, not realizing remunerative prices on their produce and lack of availability of proper irrigation systems. In order to address these issues, the Govt, is taking several measures which are briefly as follows:

- (i) **Credit through institutional sources:** In order to bring more farmers within the I institutional fold, the department is providing through institutional sources, short-term crop loans and medium/long term crop loans to the farmers. It may be mentioned that the target for agriculture credit flow was ₹ 7 lakh crore during the year 2013-14 which has been increased to a record level of ₹ 10 lakh crore during 2017-18. Short term loan of upto ₹ 3 lakh is provided to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum. Further, farmers who promptly repay their crop loans *i.e.*, within a period of one year get benefit of interest subvention of 3%. Thus, the effective interest rate for short term crop loan is 4% per annum.
- (ii) **Crop loss due to natural calamity:** The RBI has allowed rescheduling of loans by banks etc. if crop loss is 33% or more. In addition to this, Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to address the risks associated with farming. In the first year of its implementation, the coverage of Gross Cropped Area (GCA) reached about 30% and it has been targeted to reach 40% during 2017-18.
- (iii) **Schemes to transfer remunerative prices to farmers:** In order to create an efficient marketing system, Govt, launched e-NAM on 14.04.2016. It promotes online trading from across the markets, thereby enabling integration of spatially distributed markets. It is targeted to onboard 585 markets by March, 2018. As on date 455 markets spread across 13 states have been onboarded. Further, the Deptt. has rolled out a model agricultural marketing Act to resolve the constraints that exist in the current state APMC Acts. The

new Act called Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017 when adopted will introduce multiple marketing channels, alternate electronic platforms, direct marketing and level playing field for both private and public sector markets, leading to greater competition and discovery of remunerative prices.

In order to provide the much needed price support on the farmers' produce, the Deptt. notifies minimum support price (MSP) for 23 commodities based on the recommendations of the 'Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices'(CACP).

- (iv) **The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (PMKSY):** This scheme has been launched in order to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency. PMKSY adopts state level planning and projectised execution that allows States to drop their own irrigation development based on District Irrigation Plans and State Irrigation Plans.

Apart from the above measures the Department is implementing schemes to reduce input costs. These include universal soil health card scheme, neem coated urea and farm mechanization.

The strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Farm viability is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The Department has, therefore, been implementing various schemes to meet this objective. Schemes that promote efficiency of natural resources and help reduce cost of cultivation are Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, Neem Coated Urea (NCU), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY). National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM) has been launched to create an efficient integrated market. Further, besides notifying MSPs Govt. undertakes procurement operations under Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Market Intervention Scheme(MIS). The later serves horticultural and plantation crops, where no MSP is notified. Under PSS, it is pulses and oilseeds which are generally procured. The Ministry of Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy through

FCI. As regards improving productivity to realize higher production, Government has been implementing National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for various field crops, National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil palm (NMOOP) for oilseeds and oil palm and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for horticultural crops.

The Government has advised the State Governments to set up inter-ministerial/departmental committees at state and district levels with a mandate to achieve coordination and convergence among different activities relating to agriculture and also monitor welfare issues relating to farmers. The district level Committees have been asked to ensure coverage of all eligible framers under various welfare schemes like old age pension, Atal Pension Yojana, insurance schemes etc.

#### **Textile and garment exports**

\*72. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether Government has any data regarding increase in exports of textiles and garments in the last three years, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): Yes, Sir. As per the available data, the export of textiles and garments has shown a increase of 3.2% during the last three years. The details are as under:

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)
Exports (In INR Cr.)	2,47,546	2,59,712	2,63,494	3.2%

*Source:* Director General of Commerce Intelligence and Statistics.

#### **Releasing of rice and wheat to Uttar Pradesh**

†\*73. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the quantity of rice and wheat released to Uttar Pradesh under BPL, APL and AAY through the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the last three years;

(b) the details of wheat and rice released under general and *ad hoc* scheme; and

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that *ad hoc* portion from Central Government to Uttar Pradesh has not been distributed since July, 2016, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Uttar Pradesh (partially) implemented National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 w.e.f. January, 2016 in 28 districts and in the entire State w.e.f. March, 2016. Under NFSA, foodgrains are allocated to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Household categories. Before implementation of NFSA, the State Government was getting allocation under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Under TPDS foodgrains were allocated to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families; and Above Poverty Line (APL) families across the country. In addition, additional APL and BPL allocations were also made.

Consequent upon implementation of NFSA, annual average offtake of 3 years preceding the year when NFSA came into effect has been protected. Accordingly, the details regarding foodgrains allocated to Uttar Pradesh during the last three years are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Uttar Pradesh has already implemented NFSA and as per the Act, no *ad hoc* allocation is provided to NFSA implementing States/UTs.

**Statement***Allocation of Foodgrain for Uttar Pradesh from 2014-15 to 2016-17*

Year	Foodgrain	Erstwhile TPDS						NFSA			(In thousand tons)
		General Scheme			Adhoc Scheme			NFSA			
		BPL	AAY	APL	Add. BPL	Add. APL	NFSA (Normal)	NFSA (Tideover)	Total		
2014-15	Rice	1567.236	1153.752	0.000	748.864	702.088	0.000	0.000	0.000	4171.940	
	Wheat	1198.248	565.944	2087.505	81.843	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3933.540	
	TOTAL(R+W)	2765.484	1719.696	2087.505	830.707	702.088	0.000	0.000	0.000	8105.480	
2015-16	Rice	1374.915	1017.046	0.000	420.190	0.000	427.682	0.000	0.000	3239.833	
	Wheat	1049.548	492.324	1597.752	279.870	793.159	714.631	0.000	0.000	4927.284	
	TOTAL(R+W)	2424.463	1509.370	1597.752	700.060	793.159	1142.313	0.000	0.000	8167.117	
2016-17	Rice	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3671.475	0.000	0.000	3671.475	
	Wheat	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	5680.830	0.000	0.000	5680.830	
	TOTAL(R+W)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	9352.305	0.000	0.000	9352.305	

**Increasing the number of 3rd AC coaches in trains**

\*74. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have taken a decision to increase the number of 3rd AC coaches in the trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To cater to the increasing demand of AC-3 tier travellers, production programme of AC-3 tier coaches on Indian Railways has been increased from 653, 675 and 724 coaches to 1000 coaches per year for the year 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively.

Further, a new brand of trains named Humsafar Express comprising of only AC-3 tier coaches has already been launched in the financial year 2016-17. Out of 11 Humsafar Express trains planned, 9 have already commenced operations.

Moreover, Indian Railways have utilised 739 AC-3 tier coaches for permanently augmenting the existing trains to clear the rash from the period from 01.04.2014 to 30.06.2017. This accounts for almost 30% of the total coaches used for augmentation during this period.

**Abolition of posts in Railways**

†\*75. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways propose to abolish a large number of posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Zone-wise and post-wise and the reasons for such a decision along with its impact on efficiency of Railways; and

(c) the number of posts lying vacant in Railways at present and the details of steps taken to fill up them?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



(c) The number of posts lying vacant in various departments in Zonal Railways as on 01.01.2017 is 2,26,592 (Provisional) in Group 'C' category including erstwhile Group 'D' category. Filling up of vacancies is a continuous process through various modes of intake. The policy of the Railway administration is to fill up the vacancies as per laid down procedure through Railway Recruitment Boards and Railway Recruitment Cells. There is always a time lag between occurrence of vacancies and processing the same for filling up, which involves notification of vacancies, holding examinations, finalization of select panels and issue of appointment letters. However, manpower planning requires continuous review of sanctioned strength in view of ever changing technology, working systems and creation of new assets and introduction of new trains.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

### **Mushroom farming**

641. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the practice of using straw for growing mushrooms by farmers in certain districts of Punjab; and

(b) if so, whether Government endorses it as a 'best practice' to be promoted in other States, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Yes, Sir. Wheat and Paddy straw are used in Punjab for growing of mushrooms.

(b) Yes, the use of paddy/wheat straw is endorsed as a 'best practice' for mushroom growing in other States also.

### **Payment of insurance amount as compensation**

†642. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has paid insurance amount as compensation for damage of crops due to floods and drought during the current year;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the amount paid by Government as compensation, State-wise;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the same is likely to be paid; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that amount being paid as compensation is not sufficient, if so, the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) provides for comprehensive risk coverage for crop loss due to non-preventable natural risks including flood and drought and during Kharif and Rabi season in the current year claims have been settled by concerned insurance companies for various perils including flood and drought. As per available data, State-wise details of part claims paid by various implementing insurance companies during Kharif n 2016 and Rabi 2016-17 season are given in the Statement (*See* below). Timely settlement of claims is subject to submission of yield data by the concerned State Government within one month of harvest and payment by the Government, both Centre and State of their equal share in upfront premium subsidy, 50% of which must be given in advance and 50% at the end of season. As per provisions of the scheme insurance companies have to workout and settle the claims within 3 weeks from receipt of yield data from the State Government and receipt of premium subsidy.

(d) Under the new schemes of PMFBY and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) implemented since Kharif 2016, the sum insured has been rationalized and made equal to Scale of Finance fixed by the District Level Technical Committee (DLTC), thus providing maximum risk coverage to farmers. Further, cap on premium under erstwhile schemes which earlier resulted in reduced sum insured/claims has been removed. Therefore, on the one hand while under the new schemes farmers are having to pay extremely low premium of 1.5%, 2% and 5% for Rabi, Kharif season and for annual commercial/horticultural crops respectively, on the other they are getting increased compensation in the event of loss.

**Statement**

*State-wise details of claims reported, claims paid and farmers benefitted during 2016-17 (Kharif 2016 and Rabi 2016-17) under PMFBY and RWBCIS (Provisional as on 19.07.2017)*

Sl. No.	State/UT	PMFBY						RWBCIS						(₹ In lakhs)
		KHARIF 2016			RABI 2016-17			KHARIF 2016			RABI 2016-17			
		Claims Reported	Claims Paid	Farmers Benefitted	Claims Reported	Claims Paid	Farmers Benefitted	Claims Reported	Claims Paid	Farmers Benefitted	Claims Reported	Claims Paid	Farmers Benefitted	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2280.02	41.63	532				56063.76	15388.65	753690				
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands													
3.	Assam							501.69	501.69	23370				
4.	Bihar	28591.46	0.00	182459										
5.	Chhattisgarh	12614.46	12614.46	94491	1429.74		8852					150.00		
6.	Goa	2.68	2.68	111										
7.	Gujarat	32459.68	11.44	125753										
8.	Haryana	23489.27	20661.41	148117	232.91	203.06	1359							
9.	Himachal Pradesh	192.84	192.83	8073	14.00	0.00	0	390.24	39.79	21395				



**Setting up of Soil Testing Laboratories**

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

- (a) the number of Soil Testing Laboratories in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of Soil Testing Laboratories in West Bengal, district-wise;
- (c) whether Government is planning to set up at least one Soil Testing Laboratory in each district of the country; and
- (d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) There are 1460 Soil Testing Labs in the country. State-wise details are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) There are 28 Soil Testing laboratories in the West Bengal District-wise details are given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Soil Testing Laboratories are sanctioned based on requirement of State Governments. The State proposals are placed before Executive Committee which consider the proposals on its merit *i.e.* existing laboratories, receipt of utilization certificates, physical and financial progress of previous year etc.

***Statement-I******State-wise number of Soil Testing Labs***

SI. No.	State	Number of STLs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	95
2.	Karnataka	65
3.	Kerala	34
4.	Tamil Nadu	49
5.	Puducherry	2
6.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
7.	Telangana	24

Sl. No.	State	Number of STLs
8.	Gujarat	141
9.	Madhya Pradesh	63
10.	Maharashtra	181
11.	Rajasthan	114
12.	Chhattisgarh	32
13.	Goa	4
14.	Haryana	40
15.	Punjab	71
16.	Uttarakhand	16
17.	Uttar Pradesh	291
18.	Himachal Pradesh	21
19.	Jammu and Kashmir	24
20.	Delhi	1
21.	Bihar	45
22.	Jharkhand	16
23.	Odisha	33
24.	West Bengal @	36
25.	Assam	15
26.	Tripura	8
27.	Manipur	8
28.	Meghalaya	6
29.	Nagaland	4
30.	Arunachal Pradesh	8
31.	Sikkim	6
32.	Mizoram	6
TOTAL		1460

@ Including 16 labs sanctioned under Soil Health Management Scheme.

***Statement-II****District-wise Number of Soil Testing Labs in West Bengal*

Sl. No	District	Static	Mobile
1.	South 24 Parganas	3	1
2.	Burdwan	1	1
3.	Bankura	2	1
4.	Berhampore	1	1
5.	Purulia	1	1
6.	West Midnapur	1	1
7.	North Dinajpur	1	1
8.	Malda	1	1
9.	Coochbehar	1	1
10.	Darjeeling	1	1
11.	Jalpaiguri	1	1
12.	Hooghly	1	0
13.	Murshidabad	1	0
14.	Birbhum	1	0
TOTAL		17	11

Besides, these the State Government intent to set up 8 more STLs in the following districts by 2017-18 and all districts except Jhargram and Paschim Bardhaman will be covered:

- (i) Alipurdwar
- (ii) Jalpaiguri
- (iii) South Dinajpur
- (iv) Nadia
- (v) East Medinipur
- (vi) North 24 Parganas
- (vii) Uluberia
- (viii) Bunkura

**Suicide by farmers**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of farmers have committed suicide in the last three months throughout the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken by Government to stop this menace?

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). As per ADSI 2015 report 8007 number of farmers/cultivators have committed suicide in 2015. These Reports on suicides upto 2015 are available at its website. The Reports for the year 2016 and 2017 have not been published yet.

(b) The State-wise details of suicides of farmers/cultivators and agriculture labourers in 2015 is given in the Statement (*See* below). Further, as per this Report of 2015, 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' and / 'Farming Related Issues' are reported as major causes of suicides among farmers/cultivators. Other prominent causes of farmers/cultivators suicides are family problems, illness, etc.

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

In addition, the Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2015-16, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount.



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

***Statement***

*State-wise details of suicides of farmers/cultivators and agriculture labourers in 2015*

State/UT	Farmers	Labourers	Total
Andhra Pradesh	516	400	916
Arunachal Pradesh	7	3	10
Assam	84	54	138
Bihar	0	7	7
Chhattisgarh	854	100	954
Goa	0	0	0
Gujarat	57	244	301
Haryana	28	134	162
Himachal Pradesh	0	46	46
Jammu and Kashmir	0	21	21
Jharkhand	0	21	21
Karnataka	1197	372	1569
Kerala	3	207	210
Madhya Pradesh	581	709	1290
Maharashtra	3030	1261	4291
Manipur	1	0	1
Meghalaya	2	1	3
Mizoram	0	1	1
Nagaland	0	0	0
Odisha	23	27	50

State/UT	Farmers	Labourers	Total
Punjab	100	24	124
Rajasthan	3	73	76
Sikkim	15	3	18
Tamil Nadu	2	604	606
Telangana	1358	42	1400
Tripura	1	48	49
Uttar Pradesh	145	179	324
Uttarakhand	0	2	2
West Bengal	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL (STATES)</b>	<b>8007</b>	<b>4583</b>	<b>12590</b>
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0
Chandigarh	0	0	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0
Delhi (UT)	0	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0
Puducherry	0	12	12
<b>TOTAL (UTs)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>TOTAL (ALL INDIA)</b>	<b>8007</b>	<b>4595</b>	<b>12602</b>

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

### **MSP and market price of wheat, rice, cotton, pulses, etc.**

645. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat, rice, cotton, fur dal, moong dal, masoor dal, urad dal, mustard and soyabean for 2015-16, and 2016-17;
- (b) the total production of each of the above agricultural produces;

(c) how much, out of the said production, was procured by NAFED, FCI and other procuring agencies, produce-wise; and

(d) the average prevailing market price of each of the above crops in each of the above years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (d) Details of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat, rice, cotton, tur, moong, masur, urad, mustard and soyabean, their total production, procurement and average market price for 2015-16 and 2016-17 are given in the Statement.

*Statement*

*(A) Details of Minimum Support Prices*

		(₹ per quintal)	
Crop	Variety	2015-16	2016-17
Rice	Common	2115	2205
	Grade 'A'	2175	2265
Wheat		1525	1625
Cotton	Medium Staple	3800	3860
	Long Staple	4100	4160
Tur		4625^	5050^^
Moong		4850^	5225^^
Urad		4625^	5000^^
Masur		3400**	3950#
Mustard		3350	3700*
Soyabean		2600	2775*

\* Including Bonus of ₹ 100 per quintal.

\*\* Including Bonus of ₹ 75 per quintal.

^ Including Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal.

^^ Including Bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal.

# Including Bonus of ₹ 150 per quintal.

*(B) Details of Production of crops**(Million tonnes)*

Crop	2015-16	2016-17*
Rice	104.41	109.15
Wheat	92.29	97.44
Cotton#	30.01	32.58
Tur	2.56	4.60
Moong	1.59	2.07
Urad	1.95	2.93
Masur	-	-
Mustard	6.80	7.98
Soyabean	8.57	14.01

\*As per 3rd Advance Estimates

# Million bales of 170 kgs each

*(C) Details of Procurement of maior crops**(Thousand tonnes)*

Crop	2015-16			2016-17		
	FCI	NAFED	SFAC	FCI	NAFED	SFAC
Rice	3421.70	-	-	3866.70	-	-
Wheat	2808.80	-	-	2296.10	-	-
Cotton*	844.53*	-	-	-	-	-
Tur	-	-	5.26	162.52	780.13	69.03
Moong	-	-	-	64.74	128.95	26.22
Urad	-	-	3.12	17.93	59.39	11.04
Masur	-	-	-	-	14.06	-
Mustard	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soyabean	-	-	-	-	0.16	-

# Procurement by Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)

\* In thousand bales

FCI: Food Corporation of India

NAFED: National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India

SFAC: Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium

*(D) Details of all India Average Wholesale Prices*

(₹ per quintal)

Crop	2015-16	2016-17
Rice	2977	3192
Wheat	1790	1977
Cotton	4193	5085
Tur	7598	6819
Moong	7740	6336
Urad	8780	9293
Masur	6719	6261
Mustard	4216	4306
Soyabean	3418	3234

**Outstanding amount of insurance claims**

646. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any figure of claims filed by farmers under the Crop Insurance Scheme during the last three years is available with Government; and

(b) if so, the outstanding amount of such claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Crop Insurance Schemes operate on area approach basis and individual insured farmers do not have to file claims except for localized calamities and post harvest losses under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) being implemented from Kharif 2016 and Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS). Details of total claims reported, paid and outstanding due to various reasons including pendency of State Government share in premium subsidy/claims, non-furnishing of yield by the State Government etc. during last three years under various Crop Insurance Schemes are given in the Statement.

**Statement**

*Details of claims paid and outstanding during last three years under various crop insurance schemes*

(₹ in lakhs)

Year	Scheme	Claims Reported	Claims Paid	Claims Outstanding	Farmers Benefitted
2014-15	National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)	426779	397843	28937	6381444
	Modified NAIS (MNAIS)	151951	142422	9529	3056968
	Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS)	68139	67911	228	2325988
	Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS)	3654080	3075330	578750	664
2015-16	NAIS	1703664	1554812	148852	17605410
	MNAIS	203945	177588	26356	4045176
	WBCIS	76878	76690	189	1488279
	CPIS	167450	167450	0	11
2016-17*	Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)	644619	473320	171299	6270612
	Restructured WBCIS (RWBCIS)	98546	47706	50840	1166915

\*Provisional data as available on 19.07.2017.

**Calculation of MSP for various crops**

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

(a) whether there are any plans to change the pattern of calculating MSP for various crops in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that NITI Aayog has proposed a new methodology and submitted the same to Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof and how it is different from the existing one and how the proposed methodology is more helpful to farmers; and

- (d) by when the above recommendations are going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to change the formula for determining Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) at present. However, a Committee was constituted in 2013 by the Government under the Chairmanship of Prof. Ramesh Chand, the then Director, National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy (NIAP) and present Member of NITI Aayog with a view to examine the methodological issues in fixing MSP had submitted its Report. One of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Committee was to examine the cost concepts for the purpose of fixing MSPs and suggest various factors for improvement so as to make it more realistic.

The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the Government.

#### **Commercial use of Dhara Mustard Hybrid**

648. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that National Academy of Agricultural Science has urged Government to allow commercial use of Dhara Mustard Hybrid from this year, if so, the details thereof; and

- (b) the action Government has taken on the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) The National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) has urged the Government to allow genetically modified (GM) Dhara Mustard Hybrid 11 (DMH-11) for commercial cultivation. It has also appreciated recommendation of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) for environmental release of transgenic parental events and DMH-11. The new technology will open ways for development of many more mustard hybrids in India with high productivity, canola quality, etc. in the near future using these transgenic events. Based on scientific studies on transgenic material in India and on analogous materials elsewhere in the world, entire NAAS fellowship (625 national agricultural think-tank) states that GM mustard is as safe as the non-GM mustard.

- (b) The Government has not given permission for environmental release of genetically engineered (GE) mustard.

**Suicide by farmers**

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

- (a) the number of farmers who committed suicide since 1st April, 2017 till 30th June, 2017 in UP, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, district-wise;
- (b) the reasons for unprecedented rise in the number of suicides by farmers in recent months;
- (c) whether anti-farmer policies of Government and concerted efforts of industry and Government are the main reasons for rise in suicide by farmers and their pitiable conditions and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the fresh steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides upto 2015 are available at its website. The Reports for the year 2016 and 2017 have not been published yet. Further, as per this Report of 2015, 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' and 'Farming Related Issues' are reported as major causes of suicides among farmers/cultivators. Other prominent causes of farmers/cultivators suicides are family problems, illness, etc.

(c) No, Sir. Government of India over past 3 years have started many programmes for welfare of farmers.

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

In addition, the Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate



of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2015-16, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount.

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

#### **Implementation of PPV&FR Act, 2001**

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

(a) whether National Seed Association of India has requested the Ministry to implement the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001; and

(b) if so, the response of the Ministry thereto and by when the Act would be implemented, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 is already implemented through Gazette Notification S.O. 1588(E) dated 11th November, 2005 and S.O. 1797(E) dated 19th October, 2006.

#### **Linking of grants to States to agriculture reforms**

651. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NITI Aayog has urged the Government to link part of financial grants given to States under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana to agriculture reforms implemented by the States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the response of the Ministry to such proposal; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the farmers' crop safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government proposed to link a part of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) grants to the States with Agricultural Marketing Reforms and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index (AMFFRI), however, due to the implementation issues in AMFFRI, it was not pursued further.

(c) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) provides flexibility and autonomy to the States in planning and implementing State specific interventions across agriculture and allied sectors as per their need and priorities including plant protection measures.

#### **Suicides by farmers**

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

(a) whether Government has analysed that there are still large number of farmers' suicides in spite of Government's claim that it has come forward with never before farmer-friendly policies, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Central Government is planning to bring any concrete policy along with respective State Governments to stop farmers' suicides and to help the farmers in distress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides upto 2015 are available at its website. According to NCRB, as against total population of 1,25,91,10,000 (estimated) during 2015, the total number of suicides in the country were 1,33,623 (10.6 per lakh population), out of which suicides under the category of self-employed (farming/agriculture) were 8007(5.9%) farmers and 4595 (3.4%) agricultural labourers, which is 9.4% of the total suicides. Even the number of suicides by self-employed other than farming/agriculture at 12,185(9.1% of the total suicides), house wife at 22,293(16.7% of the total suicides), service at 10,571 (7.9% of the total suicides), and others at 31,312 (23.4% of the total suicides) are higher or marginally lower than suicides under the category of farming/agriculture. Though every suicide is a matter of concern, if we take into view the fact that more than 54.9% of the population is engaged in agriculture/farming, the number of suicides under this category, as compared to other categories, is much lower.

Agrarian distress as manifest from large number of farmers living below the poverty line (BPL) and unfortunate incidents of suicides can be addressed by enabling the farmers to increase their income. With this understanding, the Government is targeting to double the income of the farmers by the year 2022. To achieve this, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to examine various dimensions of farmers' income and to recommend an appropriate strategy. In the meanwhile, the Government is realigning its interventions to move from production-centric to farmers' income-centric platform. The Department has, therefore, been implementing various schemes to meet this objective viz. Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Interest Subvention scheme etc.

#### **Funds released to Karnataka from NDRF**

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

(a) the amount of funds released from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to the Government of Karnataka this year in response to the drought in the State; and

(b) whether Government of Karnataka has submitted a report on the utilization of the above funds to the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA):(a) The High Level Committee (HLC), in its meeting held on 05.01.2017 and 29.06.2017, respectively, approved ₹ 1782.44 crore and ₹ 795.544 crore from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) in the wake of droughts of Kharif 2016 and Rabi 2016-17 to the Government of Karnataka, subject to the adjustment of 50% of balance available in the SDRF account.

(b) The Government of Karnataka has reported that 23,09,379 farmers benefited during 2016-17.

#### **Doubling the income of farmers**

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

(a) whether Government has realized that with the existing mechanism, it is not

possible to double the income of farmers by 2022 and it would take 20 years to reach that goal;

(b) whether it is because of this that the Government proposed to introduce Agriculture Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill in Parliament;

(c) if so, the salient features of the proposed legislation; and

(d) in what manner Government's proposed legislation would double the farmers' income by 2022?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) In order to facilitate doubling farmers' income by the year 2022, 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, the Department has been implementing and promoting various schemes to meet this objective, *viz.* Soil Health Card (SHC); Neem Coated Urea; Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY); Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY); National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM); Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);

In addition, the Government is implementing several Centrally Sponsored schemes *viz.* National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Minimum Support Price (MSP) has also been notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP).

Government has also constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare to devise strategy for doubling of farmers' income on the following Terms of Reference :

- (i) To study the current income level of farmers/agricultural labourers.
- (ii) To measure the historical growth rate of the current income level.

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

(b) to (d) The Government has drafted a new model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017, which was released on 24.04.2017 for adoption by the States through legislation of their respective Acts. The Act provides the options of alternate markets beyond the existing APMC regulated market yards to the farmers. The provisions also includes setting up of private markets, direct marketing, farmer-consumer markets, special commodity markets, declaring warehouses/silos/cold storages or such structures as market sub yards and Market Yards of National Importance (MNI) so as to reduce the number of intermediaries between producer and buyer and increase the share of the farmer in consumer's rupee.

#### **Suicides by farmers**

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

- (a) the number of suicides by farmers so far, this year;
- (b) whether information has been received with regard to the reasons of suicides;
- (c) whether the main reason of farmers' suicides is that the farmers do not even get the cost price of their crops; and
- (d) whether Government will ensure that farmers get the cost price for their crops so as to prevent suicides by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides upto 2015 are available at its website. The Report for the year 2016 onwards have not been published yet. As per Report of 2015 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' and 'Farming Related Issues' are reported as major causes of suicides among farmers/cultivators. Other prominent causes of farmers/cultivators suicides are family problems, illness, etc.

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

In addition, the Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme, 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 scheme 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).

#### **Norms for organising Kisan Melas**

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

- (a) whether Government is sponsoring Kisan Melas in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the framework/norms for organising such Melas and the success achieved thereunder in addressing the issues of farmers;
- (c) the funds allocated and utilised for the purpose during the last three years in the country, including in Jharkhand and Gujarat;

(d) whether Government is imparting training to the farmers in these Melas and educating them about farm practices; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the number of farmers who have availed benefits thereunder during the said period, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Yes, Madam. The Government is supporting/organizing and participating in Kisan Melas in various parts of the country to disseminate relevant information and promote appropriate technologies and improved agronomic practices among the farmers and other stakeholders in agriculture and allied sectors.

(b) Financial assistance is provided for organization of Regional Agriculture Fairs (RAFs) to State Agriculture Universities and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes. Five (5) Regional Agriculture Fairs @ one in each region, namely, North, South, East, West and North East organised through State Agriculture Universities/ICAR Institutes during a year are supported with a maximum funding of ₹15 lakh each.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare also provides financial assistance to other institutions for organization of farmer-centric International/National/State level events. Besides, a few mega agricultural fairs have also been sponsored/organized by the Government in the past. The framework/norms/guidelines is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a network of 645 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country aiming at assessment and demonstration of technologies/products. The KVKs also organize a number of extension programmes including Kisan Melas for creating awareness on improved technologies among farmers.

Farmers visiting these fairs benefit substantially by gaining knowledge and skills that help them to enhance productivity and income levels.

(c) Expenditure incurred on Krishi Melas and Exhibitions during the last three years by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(d) During these Melas, farmers are educated and oriented about innovative and new farm practices through Exhibits, Displays, Live Demonstrations, Kisan Goshthies, Technical Seminars, and Cultural Programmes etc.

(e) The details of State/UT-wise number of farmers who have benefitted during the said period by these Kisan Melas are given in Statement-III.

***Statement-I***

*Guidelines/framework of participation/support in different exhibitions/  
fairs/seminars/conferences*

**I. AWARENESS GENERATION THROUGH ORGANIZATION/PARTICIPATION  
IN EXHIBITIONS/FAIRS**

1.1 The DOE participate and supports exhibitions, fairs, and related events as listed below:

- International Fairs and Exhibitions.
- National, Regional and State level Fairs and Exhibitions.
- National and International Seminars on Agriculture and allied activities.

**1.2 INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:**

DOE participate in 2-3 international exhibitions/fairs organized in a year and held either abroad or within the country. These Exhibitions/Fairs are organized by ITPO, Industry Associations, host countries which are nominated by Indian Missions, IC Division of the Department. These Exhibitions are generally held with an objective of highlighting the achievements of Indian Agriculture and to showcase its strengths/potentials and to create markets for Agro-products at the international level.

**1.3 PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION**

Two to three officers well conversant with the theme/area/subjects of Exhibition from within DOE/DAC will be deputed to set up and manage the exhibition pavilion/stall in international level events.

Preparation in terms of deciding theme of the event; design and development of publicity and display material of standard quality is to be started well in advance



2-3 months before the event. Participation of all related Government Organizations/ Boards/Exporters is to be ensured. Documentation of the event is essential with detailed report on the participation to be submitted immediately on return and follow up action initiated with regard to Trade Inquiries received in the event. Meeting at appropriate levels are to be convened, if required, to ascertain the actions taken in the matter by the concerned agencies. Space can also be hired as per requirement in the event with the approval of competent authority.

#### **1.4 NATIONAL/STATE/AD-HOC EVENTS**

The Directorate of Extension participates in the following exhibitions/fairs during a year.

- IITF at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 14-27 November through Agriculture Pavilion.
- CII organized Agro Tech at Chandigarh every alternate year subject to availability of funds/human-resource.
- Adhoc exhibitions/fairs in agricultural and allied sector organized by Government Departments, Industry, Trade and Research Associations and Private Sector related organizations (supported by respective State Governments) in the country.
- On an average 6-8 such exhibitions/fairs of 4-6 days duration are organized in a year.

#### **1.5 PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION**

At least one officer dealing with the activity of exhibitions/fairs along with supporting staff may be deputed to set up and manage the exhibition pavilion/ stall and in national, state and regional level events.

DOE may not participate in any adhoc exhibition/fair in the state where a Regional Agriculture Fair has been organized or is being organized, during the year. Further, the selection of the event is to be done in such a manner so that these may not clash with other events. The participation is to be properly documented and report on the event should be prepared immediately after the event is over. Space will be hired as per requirement for the event with the approval of competent authority.

### 1.6 REGIONAL AGRICULTURE FAIRS (RAFs)

Regional Agriculture Fairs started in 2004-05 in the country to promote exchange of ideas among various States/UTs of a particular Region in order to pave way for better transfer of technology applicable to the Region. Such fairs speed up the Public-Private-Participation and help in up-gradation of knowledge and skills of farmers. Keeping in view the successful organization of Regional Fairs since 2005, the activity is continued in the existing pattern.

These Regional Agriculture Fairs @ one in each Region namely North, South, East, West and North East through State Agriculture Universities/ICAR Institutes/ Industry Associations during a year.

#### 1.6.1 SELECTION OF ORGANIZING AGENCIES

Proposals along with an Action Plan indicating the details of date, venue, theme etc. along with financial involvement are to be invited from state Agriculture Universities and ICAR Institutes for organizing the fairs in the respective regions recommended by the concerned state Government by SAUs/ICAR Institutes.

#### 1.6.2 DURATION, VENUE AND THEME

Each fair shall be of 3-5 days, organized at a place easily accessible for the greater participation of different organizations/agencies and farmers. The theme would be identified by the organizing SAU/ICAR Institute in consultation with DAC.

#### 1.6.3 MOBILIZATION OF FUNDS

A maximum of ₹ 15 lakh can be provided for each fair as Grant-in -Aid to the organizing agency of the Regional Agriculture Fairs from 2014-15. The organizing agencies would also mobilize funds from their own sources and/or by marketing of stalls. However, the organizing agencies would provide free space to government agencies such as SAUs/ICAR Institutes and Organization under DAC, Government of India for their participations.

#### 1.6.4 ACTIVITIES/FAIR PROFILE

These events will be made more farmers centric on the lines of Krishi Vasant by ensuring direct participation of farmers from the Region. Farmer-Scientist interactions in regional languages demonstrating appropriate technologies directly

and by way of organizing crop/livestock demonstrations, Web casting and live interactions from various district headquarters will also be attempted. Suitable entertainment programs with some technical message may also form a part of the fair. Cash prizes, prizes, Certificates, Awards may be given to the farmers for their achievements.

#### **1.6.5 PUBLICITY AND MEDIA COVERAGES**

Pre-event publicity through press releases, AIR, DD, Kisan Call Centre, Kisan Vani programme through FM Radio Station is to be essentially arranged for the fairs with suitable coverage of the event in the local newspapers, TV and Radio.

#### **1.6.5 PARTICIPATION**

- Participation of various State Agriculture Department/SAUs/Agriculture Institutes/Input suppliers along with participation of the farmers of the Region to be ensured.
- Participation of local media to cover the event and special features of the fair and its wide publicity may also be ensured.

#### **1.6.7 SUPPORTIVE ROLE OF THE DOE**

- DOE/DAC would write to the Central Government Agricultural Organizations, SAUs and ICAR Institutes to support the fairs by providing services of experts and also for participating in it.
- DAC would write recommendatory letters to State Government of the region for their participation and sponsoring farmers to the fair under the prevailing schemes.
- DAC would request Organizations under it to sponsor the farmers visit to the fairs under existing schemes.
- Request Doordarshan and AIR for adequate coverage of the regional fairs.

## **2. PERMIT USE OF THE NAME "MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, GOI" BROCHURE AND OTHER PUBLICITY MATERIAL OF EVENTS**

The DAC may permit use of the name "Ministry of Agriculture, GOI" in the

agriculture related events after examination of the proposal keeping in view the following:

- The event is related to agriculture/allied sector.
- It is recommended/supported by the State Governments concerned.
- Permission to use the logo/name of the Ministry does not automatically qualify for financial support.
- The agency/organizer can be allowed to use the name "Ministry of Agriculture, GOI" in the brochure and other publicity material of the event.

### **3. SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND STATE LEVEL SEMINARS/ WORKSHOPS/ CONFERENCES**

3.1 The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has been supporting seminars/workshops/conferences in the past on a case to case basis. SAUs, ICAR Institutes, Industry Associations, Agri-business Firms and Farmers Associations have been requesting for financial assistance for organizing seminars/workshops/conferences on various agriculture related subject of topical interest and for the benefit of farmers. Financial support would be provided only for the following:

- (i) International and National events organized by the State Department/SAUs/ ICAR Institutes/Federation Houses like CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM and Institutes of repute like TERI.
  - (ii) International and National events organized by the Farmers Associations, Farmers Producer Companies, Agri-preneurs and Agri-business firms which are supported by State Departments/SAUs/ICAR Institutes.
- 3.2 Maximum funding support up to ₹ 5 lakhs for the International events; up to ₹ 3 lakh for the National event and ₹ 1.5 lakh for State level event can be provided by DAC, with the approval of Secretary (A&C). A maximum of 5 events can be supported in a year depending on the budget availability @ one in each of the 5 Regions of the country on the pattern of Regional Fairs.
- 3.3 These guidelines will not apply to such exhibition/fairs/workshops/seminars which are organized by the DAC directly or in collaboration with other Ministers, Departments, Industry and Research Associations, Academic Institutions etc.

**Statement-II**

*(A) Summary of Expenditure incurred on Kisan Melas (Agriculture Fairs) and Exhibitions supported/sponsored/organized by DAC&FW) during last 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)*

(₹ in Lakh)

Item	Level of the Melas	Funds released to the State/ agencies	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Expenditure by States/UTs under Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (ATMA)	State/District/ Block Level	State Government	1247.46	1305.54	1044.54
Expenditure by the Directorate of Extension, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India	National/ Regional/ State	Govt./SAU's/ ICAR Institutes/ Private/ Autonomous Bodies etc.	222.68	1479.14	559.43
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1470.14</b>	<b>2784.68</b>	<b>1603.97</b>

*(B) State wise and year-wise details of 'Kisan Melas (Agriculture Fairs)' organized and farmers benefited under centrally sponsored scheme "Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms (ATMA)" during last three years (2014-15 to 2016-17)*

(₹ in Lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
		Funds allocated	Expenditure incurred	Funds allocated	Expenditure incurred	Funds allocated	Expenditure incurred
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58.00	21.81	58.00	26.80	58.00	26.00
2.	Bihar	158.00	108.65	158.00	75.50	158.00	74.26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Chhattisgarh	114.00	33.39	114.00	67.58	114.00	61.13
4.	Goa	14.00	0.00	14.00		14.00	3.30
5.	Gujarat	138.00	109.09	138.00	111.45	138.00	102.48
6.	Haryana	90.00	26.63	90.00	48.46	90.00	76.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	54.00	18.60	54.00	45.65	54.00	15.07
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	94.00	23.98	94.00	1.00	94.00	30.05
9.	Jharkhand	102.00	58.36	102.00	47.54	102.00	46.96
10.	Karnataka	126.00	23.82	126.00	24.55	126.00	27.99
11.	Kerala	62.00	30.48	62.00	13.08	62.00	0.00
12.	Maharashtra	138.00	48.66	138.00	38.72	138.00	41.70
13.	Madhya Pradesh	210.00	172.88	210.00	186.23	210.00	190.84
14.	Odisha	126.00	126.00	126.00	130.00	126.00	0.00
15.	Punjab	94.00	64.93	94.00	25.90	94.00	53.41
16.	Rajasthan	138.00	25.25	138.00	35.99	138.00	36.10
17.	Tamil Nadu	130.00	20.77	130.00	19.22	130.00	5.00
18.	Telangana	42.00	27.00	42.00	20.06	42.00	10.90
19.	Uttar Pradesh	306.00	230.00	306.00	226.37	306.00	195.69
20.	Uttaranchal	58.00	7.96	58.00	18.59	58.00	15.21
21.	West Bengal	82.00	3.00	82.00	48.80	82.00	0.00
22.	Assam	110.00	0.00	110.00	6.00	110.00	7.97
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	74.00	21.00	74.00	18.00	74.00	0.00
24.	Manipur	42.00	10.00	42.00	15.00	42.00	27.00
25.	Meghalaya	50.00	0.00	50.00		50.00	0.00
26.	Mizoram	38.00	0.00	38.00	18.00	38.00	0.00
27.	Nagaland	50.00	28.00	50.00	22.50	50.00	13.20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
28.	Tripura	38.00	0.00	38.00		38.00	0.00
29.	Sikkim	22.00	6.00	22.00	2.82	22.00	6.29
30.	Delhi	10.00	0.00	10.00		10.00	0.00
31.	Puducherry	14.00	1.20	14.00	5.15	14.00	0.30
32.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	18.00	0.00	18.00	6.58	18.00	3.99
TOTAL		2800.00	1247.46	2800.00	1305.54	2800.00	1044.54

(C) *State-wise and year-wise details of Kisan Melas Organized by ICAR /KVKs and Farmers Benefited during last three years (2014-15 to 2016-17)*

(Amount in ₹)

Sl. No.	States	Funds Allocated			Funds Utilized		
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Madhya Pradesh	0	5680000	8347365	0	4880000	8347365
2.	Odisha	0	3360000	5564910	0	2720000	5564910
3.	Rajasthan	3500000	13500000	6500000	3500000	13500000	6500000
4.	Gujarat	2600000	8300000	4400000	2600000	8300000	4400000
5.	Assam	450000	2560000	1676170	450000	2560000	1676170
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	50000	1040000	800000	50000	1040000	800000
7.	Manipur	400000	1040000	560000	400000	1040000	560000
8.	Meghalaya	80000	480000	320000	80000	480000	320000
9.	Nagaland	310000	720000	513710	310000	720000	513710
10.	Mizoram	280000	1200000	240000	280000	1200000	240000
11.	Tripura	80000	560000	320000	80000	560000	320000
12.	Sikkim	60000	560000	240000	60000	560000	240000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13.	Karnataka	0	3440000	2080000	0	3011406	1840000
14.	Kerala	0	1680000	880000	0	1589440	800000
15.	Tamil Nadu	0	2880000	1520000	0	2813606	1520000
16.	Goa	0	320000	160000	0	318335	160000
17.	Puducherry	0	160000	160000	0	80000	80000
18.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Andhra Pradesh	0	1360000	1119000	0	1360000	1119000
20.	Telangana	0	800000	721000	0	800000	721000
21.	Maharashtra	0	4320000	2493000	0	4320000	2493000
22.	Uttar Pradesh	1355000	11685000	18098000	122000	9439000	12746000
23.	Uttarakhand	205000	135000	3291000	2000	975000	1918000
24.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	636491	160000	0	636491	160000
25.	Bihar	0	11048886	2560000	0	11048886	2560000
26.	Jharkhand	0	6771928	1120000	0	6771928	1120000
27.	West Bengal	0	5153449	1280000	0	5153449	1280000
28.	Punjab	0	1440000	1520000	0	1429481	1505666
29.	Haryana	0	1280000	1360000	0	1080437	1130477
30.	Delhi	0	80000	80000	0	80000	80000
31.	Himachal Pradesh	0	800000	560000	0	778512	560000
32.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	1360000	400000	0	896830	314889
TOTAL		9370000	96830754	72568598	7934000	92382801	65114630



**Statement-III**

*(A) State-wise and year-wise details of Kisan Melas organized and farmers benefited under centrally sponsored scheme "Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms (ATMA)" during last three years (2014-15 to 2016-17)*

Sl. No.	State/UT	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
		No. of Kisan Melas organized	No. of farmers benefitted	No. of Kisan Melas organized	No. of farmers benefitted	No. of Kisan Melas organized	No. of farmers benefitted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21	17,367	33	17,367	76	32,300
2.	Bihar	54	38,384	42	5,171	38	4,677
3.	Chhattisgarh	15	189,505	17	27,717	24	15,169
4.	Goa	0	0	0	0	3	23593
5.	Gujarat	98	75,069	61	98,900	38	69,321
6.	Haryana	6	7500	16	18500	19	30,500
7.	Himachal Pradesh	12	10,220	27	16,790	8	6,000
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	6020	21	8568	27	11070
9.	Jharkhand	20	17,483	18	22,575	18	15,749
10.	Karnataka	02	7900	25	52788	14	159,356
11.	Kerala	14	32,808	13	39,770	0	0
12.	Maharashtra	66	93,443	33	80,262	33	16,324
13.	Madhya Pradesh	40	142,811	51	6,961	49	205,879
14.	Odisha	31	98,124	30	15,000	0	0
15.	Punjab	45	47,223	27	22,436	38	46,634
16.	Rajasthan	6	14,822	5	14,992	14	19,276
17.	Tamil Nadu	7	17,500	28	84,000	5	5,000
18.	Telangana	27	37,800	20	26,698	12	17,500

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Uttar Pradesh	141	116,172	88	87,450	78	71,370
20.	Uttaranchal	16	5,503	14	5,935	16	15,499
21.	West Bengal	1	12,225	8	15,347	0	0
22.	Assam	0	0	2	620	2	74
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	17	53,600	5	360	0	0
24.	Manipur	3	1998	10	5,000	9	11988
25.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Mizoram	0	0	4	4,300	0	0
27.	Nagaland	11	61,500	12	45,426	11	16,468
28.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Sikkim	4	2736	5	1,195	7	1,072
30.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Puducherry	2	60000	2	212,000	1	500
32.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	4	1,500	7	5380
TOTAL		686	1,081,559	592	866,902	511	748,118

(B) State/UT-wise and year-wise list of Kisan Melas conducted by ICAR during last three years (2014-15 to 2016-17)

Sl. No.	States	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
		No. of Kisan Melas organized	Farmers Participated	No. of Kisan Melas organized	Farmers Participated	No. of Kisan Melas organized	Farmers Participated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	9	1059	17	3085
2.	Andhra Pradesh	19	13096	27	7770	36	15491
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	11	1945	16	2398

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Assam	4	5213	32	5713	30	6622
5.	Bihar	38	96976	170	87142	216	103354
6.	Chhattisgarh	12	6507	47	30402	49	24430
7.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Goa	2	364	2	225	0	0
9.	Gujarat	28	39234	53	74456	58	67608
10.	Haryana	0	0	12	8028	110	7820
11.	Himachal Pradesh	4	5345	12	9778	19	9334
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	10	11518	35	13540	29	11853
13.	Jharkhand	22	47278	105	81003	31	15079
14.	Karnataka	61	161557	54	3729436	49	521494
15.	Kerala	20	13758	3	639	20	4791
16.	Lakshadweep	0	0	2	410	0	0
17.	Madhya Pradesh	70	290149	160	257465	88	150956
18.	Maharashtra	180	56717	163	28955	190	52091
19.	Manipur	1	768	7	1060	10	1062
20.	Meghalaya	1	623	3	727	5	1095
21.	Mizoram	0	0	13	1758	9	1260
22.	Nagaland	0	0	4	283	5	782
23.	Odisha	32	19772	59	25928	55	15394
24.	Puducherry	1	16	0	0	0	0
25.	Punjab	2	24564	70	25518	55	60275
26.	Rajasthan	28	73051	29	43011	46	58309
27.	Sikkim	0	0	3	560	3	376
28.	Tamil Nadu	20	13758	196	13443	44	8544
29.	Telangana	32	3527	25	6516	16	12373
30.	Tripura	1	771	4	1105	4	929

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
31.	Uttarakhand	18	119592	183	123896	14	51480
32.	Uttar Pradesh	233	145491	27	52570	347	184126
33.	West Bengal	21	41873	95	109936	129	87334
TOTAL		860	1191518	1615	4744277	1700	1479745

### Illegal Marketing of GM Seeds

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

(a) whether Government has any reports about the illegal marketing of Genetically Modified seeds in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and whether Government is taking any comprehensive measures to address such illegal penetration of GM Seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Bt. cotton is the only transgenic crop approved by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) for commercial cultivation in India. There is no such report from any State. However, the Government of Gujarat has reported that during the last three years two court cases have been filed and in eight cases FIRs have been lodged for illegal marketing of Bt. Cotton seeds against seed retailers. In order to address such illegal penetration inter-district and special squads are formed in Gujarat. Besides, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has advised all the States to be vigilant about sale of illegal GM Seeds and have strict Seed Law Enforcement System to check illegal penetration of GM Seeds under the relevant Acts.

### Suicides by farmers

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

(a) how many farmers have committed suicide in the country in different States during the last three years;

(b) the various reasons for such suicides and whether Government has prepared any fact finding report or made any inquiry about the loss of lives; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides upto 2015 are available at its website. The Report for the year 2016 has not been published yet. The State wise details of suicides in farming/agriculture sector during the years 2014 and 2015 as per NCRB Report are given in the Statement (*See* below). Further, as per this Report of 2015, 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' and 'Farming Related Issues' are reported as major causes of suicides among farmers/cultivators. Other prominent causes of farmers/cultivators suicides are family problems, illness, etc.

Taking cognizance of the problem of Agrarian distress and consequent farmers' suicide in the country, an All India study on farmers suicides was commissioned to the Ministry's agricultural economic research arm, Agricultural Economic Research Unit-Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre (ADRTC) of the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru. The study covered 13 States of the country which included Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. According to the broad finding of this study, the causes of suicides are as follows:

- (i) Social causes of suicide
- (ii) Farming causes
- (iii) Indebtedness causes

The study concluded that frequent crop failure due to vagaries of monsoon, absence of assured water resources and attack of pest and diseases are the most important causes of farmers' distress which ultimately lead to suicide. The study has made the following suggestions to address the above problems:

- (a) Bringing individual farmers under the ambit of crop insurance;

- (b) Encouraging crop and enterprise diversification;
- (c) Government intervention through MSP covering cost of production plus reasonable profit margin;
- (d) Establishing a 'Farmers Welfare Cell' in districts with distress farmers for mentoring and counseling and necessary financial assistance for meeting pressing needs; and
- (e) Regulate informal credit market.

**Statement**

*State-wise details of suicides in farming/agriculture sector during the year 2014 and 2015*

State/UT	2014			2015		
	Farmers	Labourers	Total	Farmers	Labourers	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	160	472	632	516	400	916
Arunachal Pradesh	0	3	3	7	3	10
Assam	21	38	59	84	54	138
Bihar	0	10	10	0	7	7
Chhattisgarh	443	312	755	854	100	954
Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	45	555	600	57	244	301
Haryana	14	105	119	28	134	162
Himachal Pradesh	32	31	63	0	46	46
Jammu and Kashmir	12	25	37	0	21	21
Jharkhand	0	4	4	0	21	21
Karnataka	321	447	768	1197	372	1569
Kerala	107	700	807	3	207	210
Madhya Pradesh	826	372	1198	581	709	1290
Maharashtra	2568	1436	4004	3030	1261	4291

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Manipur	0	0	0	1	0	1
Meghalaya	0	2	2	2	1	3
Mizoram	0	5	5	0	1	1
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Odisha	5	97	102	23	27	50
Punjab	24	40	64	100	24	124
Rajasthan	0	373	373	3	73	76
Sikkim	35	0	35	15	3	18
Tamil Nadu	68	827	895	2	604	606
Telangana	898	449	1347	1358	42	1400
Tripura	0	32	32	1	48	49
Uttar Pradesh	63	129	192	145	179	324
Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	2	2
West Bengal	0	230	230	0	0	0
TOTAL (STATES)	5642	6694	12336	8007	4583	12590
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8	0	8	0	0	0
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puducherry	0	16	16	0	12	12
TOTAL (UTs)	8	16	24	0	12	12
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	5650	6710	12360	8007	4595	12602

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

**Initiatives to curb farmers' suicides**

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to curb the farmers' suicides in various States of the country, which is a matter of great concern;
- (b) if so, the details of these initiatives and their implementation status;
- (c) whether the number of farmers' suicides have decreased after Government's initiatives; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The focus of the Government is on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Farm viability is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The department has been implementing various schemes to meet this objective, viz. Soil Health Card Scheme (SHC), Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM) and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

In addition, the Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2015-16, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount.

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

(c) and (d) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These reports on suicides upto



2015 are available at its website. The report for the year 2016 onwards has not been published yet. As per ADSI Report of 2015, the number of suicides by farmers/ cultivators has gone up from 5650 in 2014 to 8,007 in 2015, registering an increase of 41.7%. Suicides by agricultural labourers have however, come down from 6,710 in 2014 to 4,595 in 2015. Thus, total number of suicides in farming sector increased by 2% in 2015 over 2014.

#### **Suicides by tenant farmers**

660. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to address the problems of tenant farmers who bear the risk of crop failure but are not entitled for compensation and insurance payments;

(b) the total number of tenant farmers who committed suicide in the last three years and the current year, up to 1st July, 2017, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the detail of specific steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to address the issue of large number of farmers committing suicide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) As the subject matter of tenant farmers is in the domain of State Governments, therefore, NITI Aayog has brought out a model on Agricultural Land Leasing Act, 2016 to facilitate the States to enact or modify new/and/or existing tenancy laws depending upon the local circumstances. The model act provides for safeguarding the rights of the landowner and incentivizes the tenant farmers to avail credit facilities from banks, relief in the event of damage of crops due to natural calamities and higher investment in agriculture. However, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) are available for all the farmers including tenant farmers and claims if any, are paid to the farmers including tenant farmers.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). As per ADSI 2015 report 8007 number of farmers/ cultivators have committed suicide in 2015. These reports on suicides upto 2015 are

available at its website. The reports for the year 2016 and 2017 are not made available on the website.

No separate data for tenant farmers is available. However, the State-wise details of suicides of farmers/cultivators including tenant farmers and agriculture labourers in 2015 is given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to answer to USQ No. 644 part (b)] Further, as per this report of 2015, 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' and 'Farming Related Issues' are reported as major causes of suicides among farmers/cultivators including tenant farmers. Other prominent causes of farmers/cultivators suicides are family problems, illness, etc.

(c) 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 Sinchayee 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% per annum to such farmers who repay their loan as per the repayment schedule fixed by the banks. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2015-16, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount.

Moreover, Central Government has revised the norms for assistance from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) in the wake of notified natural calamities which, *inter-alia*, includes assistance towards input subsidy for crop loss of 33% (reduced from earlier 50%) and above for farmers having land holding upto 2 ha. and farmers having more than 2 ha. of land holding, @ ₹ 6800/- ha. (enhanced from ₹ 4500/-) in rainfed areas and restricted to sown areas, ₹ 13,500/- per ha. (enhanced from ₹ 9000/-) in assured irrigated areas, subject to minimum assistance not less than ₹ 1,000/- (enhanced from ₹ 750/-) and restricted to

sown areas and ₹ 18,000/- per ha. (enhanced from ₹ 12,000/-) for all types of perennial crops subject to minimum assistance not less than ₹ 2,000/- (enhanced from ₹ 1,500/-) and restricted to sown areas.

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).

### **Production of pulses**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government may not be importing huge quantity of pulses considering the improved crop of pulses this year, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that 21 million tonne of pulses are expected locally this year, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) In view of the bumper production of pulses in 2016-17, Government has stopped imports of pulses towards building of the buffer stock and not entered into any contract for imports through the designated agency *i.e.* MMTC since November, 2016.

(b) As per 3rd Advance Estimates of this Ministry released on 9th May, 2017, the production of pulses is estimated to be at 22.4 million tons. The details are given below:—

Name of Pulse	Estimated production in 2016-17 (million tons.)
Tur	4.60
Gram	9.08
Urad	2.93
Moong	2.07
Other pulses	3.73
<b>TOTAL (PULSES)</b>	<b>22.41</b>

**Bumper production of wheat and pulses**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers have grown record yield of wheat and pulses in Maharashtra and other parts of the country this season, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the record production of wheat and pulses has also brought miseries for the farmers as the prices of their produces have nosedived; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures Government has taken or proposes to take to provide relief to the affected farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Due to significant increase in area coverage and yield, the production of wheat and pulses has been estimated at record level during the year 2016-17 in the country including Maharashtra as per Third Advance Estimates. The State-wise details of area, production and yield of wheat and pulses for the year 2016-17 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The prices of wheat in major wheat growing States, on an average, have remained above the Minimum Support Price (MSP) in the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2017-18. However, in the case of pulses, prices have fallen below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Tur, Moong, Urad and Lentil (Masur) in major pulses growing States, viz. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, etc.

To facilitate remunerative prices and extend MSP support to farmers, Government has procured 386.73 lakh MT of Rice during Kharif Marketing Season 2016-17 and 308.01 lakh MT of wheat during Rabi Marketing Season 2017-18. Further, Government has procured 11.63 lakh MT of Tur, 2.19 lakh MT of Moong, 0.89 lakh MT of Urad, 0.27 lakh MT of Masur (Lentil) and 0.54 lakh MT of Chana during 2016 and 2017 under the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) Scheme. In addition, procurement at MSP was also undertaken under Price Support Scheme (PSS) through which Government procured 1.21 lakh MT of Moong, 1.96 lakh MT of Tur and 0.15 lakh MT of Urad.

***Statement***

*Area, Production and Yield of Wheat and Pulses during 2016-17  
(3rd Advance Estimates)*

States	Area ('000 Hectare)			Production ('000 Tonnes)		
	Yield (Kg/hectare)					
	Wheat			Pulses		
	Area	Production	Yield	Area	Production	Yield
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	NA	NA	NA	1455.0	1054.0	724
Assam	25.0	31.0	1240	157.0	118.0	752
Bihar	2095.2	4718.5	2252	498.5	429.4	861
Chhattisgarh	114.1	152.6	1337	845.2	604.3	715
Gujarat	996.0	2938.0	2950	948.0	824.0	869
Haryana	2538.0	11142.0	4390	170.9	116.8	683
Himachal Pradesh	346.4	663.3	1915	29.9	60.9	2035
Jammu and Kashmir	285.8	463.3	1621	22.0	8.3	379
Jharkhand	211.5	446.8	2113	714.7	728.0	1019
Karnataka	155.0	110.0	710	2952.0	1488.9	504
Kerala	NA	NA	NA	1.3	1.4	1076
Madhya Pradesh	5940.0	17778.4	2993	6420.8	6069.8	945
Maharashtra	1073.0	1671.7	1558	4597.5	3668.8	798
Odisha	0.8	1.3	1671	765.0	387.0	506
Punjab	3500.0	16040.5	4583	60.4	52.7	873
Rajasthan	2834.0	8998.0	3175	5013.7	2972.7	593
Tamil Nadu	NA	NA	NA	810.1	605.6	748
Telangana	4.0	6.0	1500	695.0	474.8	683
Uttar Pradesh	9885.0	30400.8	3075	2524.0	2165.1	858

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Uttarakhand	340.0	790.0	2324	61.0	53.0	869
West Bengal	340.0	960.0	2824	395.3	335.4	848
Others	31.0	124.3	4006	140.1	182.2	1300
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	30714.8	97436.5	3172	29277.5	22401.1	765

NA:Not available.

### Availability of quality seeds at affordable prices

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

(a) whether it is a fact that seed is a critical and basic input for attaining higher crop yields and sustained growth in agricultural production;

(b) whether it is also a fact that good quality seeds are out of reach of the majority of farmers, especially the small and marginal farmers mainly because of their exorbitant prices; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to provide good quality seeds to small and marginal farmers at fair price?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government provide assistance/subsidy for seed production and seed distribution under various existing schemes/programmes implemented by the States to provide good quality seeds to farmers including small and marginal farmers and the details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare have issued Cotton Seeds Price (Control) Order, 2016 to regulate the maximum sale price of the Bt. Cotton seeds in the country since Kharif-2016 under the provisions of Essential Commodity Act, 1955. The maximum sale price of ₹ 635 (trait value 0) and ₹ 800 (trait value ₹49) for 450 gms. seed packets plus 120 gms. refugia seeds for BG I and BG II versions respectively of Bt. Cotton seeds for 2016-17. The same price has been retained for the Bt. Cotton seed for 2017-18 by the Government.

**Statement**

*Details of assistance/subsidy for seed production and distribution provided under various existing schemes/programmes implemented by States*

Sl. No.	Scheme/ Component	Crop	Scale of Assistance
1	2	3	4
1.	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	Rice	(a) ₹5000/- per quintal or 50% of seeds cost whichever is less for certified hybrid rice seed distribution.  (b) ₹10/- per kg. or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified high yielding varieties certified seed distribution for less than 10 years old varieties.
		Wheat	₹ 10/- per kg. or 50% of the cost whichever is less for certified high yielding varieties seed distribution for less than 10 years old varieties.
		Pulses	₹2500/- per quintal or 50% of cost whichever is less for certified seeds distribution for less than 10 years old varieties.
		Coarse cereals- HYVs seed	HYVs ₹1500/- per quintal or 50% of cost whichever is less for HYVs certified seeds distribution for less than 10 years old varieties.
		Hybrid seed	₹ 5000/- per quintal or 50% of cost of seeds whichever is less for Hybrid coarse cereal certified seeds distribution for less than 10 years old varieties.
		Commercial Crops-Jute based cropping system	(a) Seed production (b) Production of breeder seed @ ₹20000/ql. (c) Production of certified Seeds 50% of

1	2	3	4
			the cost limited to ₹120/- per kg. for foundation seed production.
			(d) ₹50/- per kg. for certified seed production.
		Seed Village Programme and Production of seed in Government Farms	(e) ₹5500/ql. for certified seed produced by State Department of Agriculture, State Agricultural Universities, KVKs, SSCs, NSC and SSCA.
		Commercial Crop- Sugarcane	Assistance for breeder seed production @ ₹40000/ha. (₹34000 for inputs and ₹6000 for contingency) to SAUs, ICAR and Sugarcane Research Institute (SRI)
			Production of tissue culture raised plantlets/ seedlings @ ₹3.5 per seedling.
2.	Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI)	Rice and Wheat	Distribution of seeds (a) ₹5000/- per quintal or 50% of seeds cost whichever is less for certified hybrid rice seed distribution. (b) ₹10/- per kg. or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified high yielding varieties certified seed distribution for less than 10 years old varieties.
		Rice and Wheat	Production of seeds The assistance for production of seeds @ ₹ 1,000 per ql. for HYVs of paddy and wheat and ₹ 5,000 per ql. for paddy hybrid for less than 10 years old varieties from the year 2015-16. Out of this, 75% amount of subsidy is meant for farmers and 25 % to seed producing agencies for meeting expenditure including certification cost.
3.	National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm	All oilseeds, Hybrid seeds Oil Palm Sprouts	(a) Full cost for purchase of Breeder Seed of oilseeds from ICAR/SAUs etc.



1	2	3	4
	(NMOOP)	Cultivation cost as assistance for gestation period for oil palm.	<p>(b) 50% of the cost with a ceiling of ₹ 25 per Kg. of certified seeds except sesame which are not older than 10 years for distribution and ₹ 5000/- per quintal for hybrids and variety of sesame not older than 15 years.</p> <p>(c) Full cost of Seed Minikits of high yielding varieties/hybrids which are less than 10 years. (Implementing agency NSC/NAFED/KRIBHCO etc).</p> <p>(d) 85% of cost of planting material with a ceiling of ₹ 8000/ha. for entire land holding of farmers for oil palm.</p> <p>(e) 50% cost during gestation period for 4 years with ceiling of ₹ 16000/ per ha. for oil palm.</p>
		Assistance for production of Foundation Seeds	₹ 1000 per quintal for all varieties/ hybrids released during last 10 years and additional assistance of ₹ 100/quintal on the varieties/Hybrids released in last 5 years. 75% of subsidy amount is meant for farmers and 25% for seed producing agencies for meeting expenditure towards certification and production etc. (SDAs/ NSC/NAFED/KRIBHCO/IFFCO/HIL/ IFFDC/Central Multi State Cooperatives such as NCCF).
		Assistance for production of Certified Seeds	₹ 1000 per quintal for all varieties/ hybrids released during last 10 years and additional assistance of ₹ 100/- quintal on the varieties. Hybrids released in last 5 years, 75% of subsidy amount is meant for farmers and 25% for seed producing

1	2	3	4
			agencies for meeting expenditure towards certification and production etc. (SDAs/ NSC/NAFED/KRIBHCO/IFFCO/HIL/ IFFDC/Central Multi State Cooperatives such as NCCF).
4.	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	All Crops	All activities including Seed Infrastructure.
5.	National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET)-Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP)	Seed Village Programme -All Agricultural Crops (60% GOI and 40% State Share)	<p><b>(a) Distribution of Seeds</b></p> <p>To upgrade the quality of farmer saved seed financial assistance for distribution of foundation/certified seeds @ 50% cost of the seeds for Cereals crops and 60% for oilseeds, pulses, green manure and fodder crops is provided for 1 acre of area per farmer for production of quality seeds.</p> <p><b>(b) Farmers Training-</b>Assistance to train the farmers on seed production and seed technology @ ₹ 15000/- for a group of 50-150 farmers.</p> <p><b>(c) Seed treating/dressing drums -</b> Financial assistance for treating seeds @ ₹3500 per seed treating drum of 20 kg. capacity and ₹ 5000 per drum of 40kg. capacity.</p> <p><b>(d) Storage bins-</b>To encourage farmers to develop storage capacity of appropriate quality, financial assistance is provided to farmers for purchasing seed storage bins. The rate of assistance is as under:-</p> <p>@ 33% for SC/ST farmers for 10 qtls. capacity ₹1500.</p> <p>@ 33% for SC/ST farmers for 20 qtls. capacity ₹3000.</p>

1	2	3	4
			<p>@ 25% for General farmers for 10 qtls. capacity ₹1000.</p> <p>@ 25% for General farmers for 20 qtls. capacity ₹2000.</p>
		<p>Certified Seed Production of oilseeds, pulses, green manure and fodder crops through Seed Village (60% GOI and 40% State Share)</p>	<p>A Distribution of Seeds-financial assistance for distribution of foundation seeds @ 75% cost of the seeds of oilseeds, pulses, green manure and fodder crops is provided to the farmers.</p> <p>Farmers Training-Assistance to train the farmers on seed production and seed technology @ ₹ 15000/- for a group of 50-150 farmers.</p> <p>Certification Charges-50% Seed Certification charges maximum of ₹600/ha. or actual whichever is less for certification of seeds produced under the programme.</p> <p>Seed processing and seed storage godowns-Assistance is provided to establish seed processing and prefabricated or other type of seed storage godowns 150 sqm. @ ₹ 10000 per sqm. to process and store 200 MT capacity for each seed village.</p> <p>Financial assistance of ₹7.56 lakh is available for seed processing machinery and supporting equipments etc.</p>
6.	<p>Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)</p> <p>Seed production for vegetables and Spices</p>	<p>Open pollinated crops</p> <p>Hybrid seeds</p>	<p>@ ₹ 35,000/ha.-For public sector 100%, for private sector 35% in general areas and 50 % in NE and Himalayan States, Tribal Sub Plans (TSP) areas, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, limited to 5 ha. Output target of seed for each crop will be fixed by the individual State.</p> <p>@ ₹ 1.50 lakh/ha.-For public sector 100%. For private sector 35% in general areas and 50% in NE and Himalayan States,</p>

1	2	3	4
			TSP areas, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, limited to 5 ha. Output target of seed for each crop will be fixed by the individual State for each beneficiary, before releasing funds.
			Import of planting material ₹ 100.00 lakh-100 % of cost for State Government/ PSUs, as project based activity.
		Seed infrastructure	Seed infrastructure (for handling, processing, packing, storage etc. of seeds meant for use as seed material for cultivation of horticulture crops) @ ₹ 200.00 lakh-100% of cost to public sector For private sector, credit linked back subsidy @ 50% of cost of project.

### III effects of excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides

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

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

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

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter over years may cause multinutrient

deficiencies as evident from the study conducted under All India Coordinated Research Project on 'Long-Term Fertilizer Experiments' in different soil types (fixed locations) under dominant cropping systems. There is also possibility of nitrate contamination in ground water above the permissible limit of 10 mg. N03-N/L due to excessive use of nitrogenous fertilizers including urea particularly in light textured soils that has consequence on human/animal health if used for drinking purpose.

(c) The amount of fertilizer subsidy disbursed for the last five years are given in the Statement (*See* below). Subsidies are directly paid to manufacturers/importers of fertilizers only and not State/District-wise.

(d) No survey has been commissioned to study the ill effects of excessive use of fertilizers.

#### ***Statement***

*Details of money spent on fertilizer subsidy in last 5 years.*

(₹ in crore)

Year	Imported Urea	Imported P & K	Indigenous P & K	Indigenous Urea	City Compost
2012-13	20016.00	14576.10	16000.00	20000.00	-
2013-14	15353.30	13926.86	15500.00	26500.00	-
2014-15	16200.00	8667.30	12000.00	38200.01	-
2015-16	16400.00	9968.56	11969.00	38200.00	-
2016-17	11256.59	6999.99	11842.88	40000.00	0.55

#### **Suicides by farmers**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that only in 2015 agriculture and farming sector witnessed 9.4 per cent of total suicide victims in the country;

(b) if so, the details of suicides reported from the farming sector during the last five years, State-wise and the action taken by Government thereon;

(c) the State-wise present status and implementation of support extended from Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY); and

(d) the action taken by Government to protect the marginal, small farmers and agricultural labourers who are in indebtedness and are facing crop failures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These reports on suicides upto 2015 are available at its website. The State-wise details of suicides in farming/agriculture sector during the years 2012 to 2015 as per NCRB Report is given in the Statement-I (*See below*). According to NCRB, as against total population of 1,25,91,10,000 (estimated) during 2015, the total number of suicides in the country were 1,33,623 (10.6 per lakh population), out of which suicides under the category of self-employed (farming/agriculture) were 8007 (5.9%) farmers and 4595 (3.4%) agricultural labourers, which is 9.4% of the total suicides.

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).

(c) The State-wise present status and implementation of support extended from Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(d) Government has taken several steps to popularize agriculture by increasing investment, improving farm practices, creating rural infrastructure and ensuring timely delivery of credit, technology and other inputs and providing remunerative prices for farm produce through increased MSPs, higher level of procurement and competitive markets. Measures taken by Government to minimise indebtedness from non-institutional sources of lending include fixation of annual targets for improving agricultural credit flow, provision of crop loans upto ₹3.00 lakh @ 4% per annum to such farmers who repay their loan as per the repayment schedule fixed by the banks, extension of benefit of Interest Subvention Scheme to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card

for a further period upto six months for storing their produce in warehouses against negotiable warehouse receipts, scheme for financing of Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) etc.

***Statement***

*(A) State-wise details of suicides by farmers during 2012 and 2013*

Sl. No.	State/UT	2012	2013
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2572	2014
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11	37
3.	Assam	344	305
4.	Bihar	68	127
5.	Chhattisgarh	4	0
6.	Goa	1	1
7.	Gujarat	564	582
8.	Haryana	276	374
9.	Himachal Pradesh	29	33
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	10	18
11.	Jharkhand	119	142
12.	Karnataka	1875	1403
13.	Kerala	1081	972
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1172	1090
15.	Maharashtra	3786	3146
16.	Manipur	0	1
17.	Meghalaya	10	5
18.	Mizoram	10	6
19.	Nagaland	9	2
20.	Odisha	146	150
21.	Punjab	75	83
22.	Rajasthan	270	292
23.	Sikkim	19	35

Sl. No.	State/UT	2012	2013
24.	Tamil Nadu	499	105
25.	Telangana	NA	NA
26.	Tripura	18	56
27.	Uttar Pradesh	745	750
28.	Uttarakhand	14	15
29.	West Bengal	NR	0
	TOTAL (STATES)	13727	11744
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	5
31.	Chandigarh	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6	15
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0
34.	Delhi (UT)	21	8
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0
36.	Puducherry	0	0
	TOTAL (UTs)	27	28
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	13754	11772

*B. State-wise details of suicides in farming/agriculture sector in 2014 and 2015*

State/UT	2014			2015		
	Farmers	Labourers	Total	Farmers	Labourers	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	160	472	632	516	400	916
Arunachal Pradesh	0	3	3	7	3	10
Assam	21	38	59	84	54	138
Bihar	0	10	10	0	7	7
Chhattisgarh	443	312	755	854	100	954
Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	45	555	600	57	244	301
Haryana	14	105	119	28	134	162
Himachal Pradesh	32	31	63	0	46	46
Jammu and Kashmir	12	25	37	0	21	21



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jharkhand	0	4	4	0	21	21
Karnataka	321	447	768	1197	372	1569
Kerala	107	700	807	3	207	210
Madhya Pradesh	826	372	1198	581	709	1290
Maharashtra	2568	1436	4004	3030	1261	4291
Manipur	0	0	0	1	0	1
Meghalaya	0	2	2	2	1	3
Mizoram	0	5	5	0	1	1
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Odisha	5	97	102	23	27	50
Punjab	24	40	64	100	24	124
Rajasthan	0	373	373	3	73	76
Sikkim	35	0	35	15	3	18
Tamil Nadu	68	827	895	2	604	606
Telangana	898	449	1347	1358	42	1400
Tripura	0	32	32	1	48	49
Uttar Pradesh	63	129	192	145	179	324
Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	2	2
West Bengal	0	230	230	0	0	0
TOTAL (STATES)	5642	6694	12336	8007	4583	12590
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8	0	8	0	0	0
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puducherry	0	16	16	0	12	12
TOTAL (UTs)	8	16	24	0	12	12
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	5650	6710	12360	8007	4595	12602

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

**Statement-II***Statewise present status and implementation of support from PMFBY*

Scheme Company	PMFBY+RWBCIS All Companies Combined								
	(₹ in lakh)								
(A) Kharif 2016	Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Farmers Insured	Area Insured (Ha.)	Sum Insured	Farmers' Premium	GoI Premium (share)	State Govt. Premium (share)	Gross Premium
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	1.	Andhra Pradesh	1623119	1437425.52	813861.18	19218.59	25300.15	25299.69	69818.43
	2.	Assam	51749	36692.03	20547.43	410.95	140.23	140.23	691.42
	3.	Bihar	1484378	1311508.92	652718.08	13053.77	49587.57	49587.57	112228.92
	4.	Chhattisgarh	1399212	2200724.90	668031.95	12753.33	7214.62	7214.62	27182.56
	5.	Goa	742	543.00	576.82	6.73	0.31	0.31	7.34
	6.	Gujarat	1842337	2566775.01	1124958.95	22432.67	97267.26	110817.36	230508.11
	7.	Haryana	738095	1186707.57	701380.79	12672.31	4724.29	8183.06	25579.66
	8.	Himachal Pradesh	134613	39500.76	12130.06	317.94	83.80	83.80	640.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9.	Jharkhand	828346	352711.61	189096.99	3781.94	11372.81	11372.81	26527.56
10.	Karnataka	1738729	1405312.10	694844.02	20177.25	38150.08	38150.08	96477.40
11.	Kerala	31532	21434.58	10982.81	312.44	273.26	273.26	858.95
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4046868	7279339.87	2034520.96	46090.38	126601.65	126602.82	299293.68
13.	Maharashtra	10988632	6723296.15	2153201.65	60139.27	177679.69	177679.69	409104.12
14.	Manipur	8366	9120.89	3693.96	73.88	142.69	142.69	359.26
15.	Meghalaya	63	21.67	29.20	1.04	1.01	1.04	3.05
16.	Odisha	1766427	1257916.57	689058.85	13781.54	19744.70	19744.70	53270.95
17.	Rajasthan	6130420	7396749.16	994224.79	22331.45	89260.91	89260.91	200853.27
18.	Tamil Nadu	16056	31187.18	16521.98	571.14	224.28	224.28	1016.07
19.	Telangana	703075	592921.81	365792.17	8958.91	7216.82	7216.82	23392.54
20.	Tripura	1881	845.69	358.85	4.92	0.06	0.06	5.04
21.	Uttar Pradesh	3395779	3007815.01	1250468.81	23578.86	18261.35	18261.35	60101.56
22.	Uttarakhand	175245	101079.38	69938.86	1466.54	544.71	544.71	2555.97
23.	West Bengal	3061023	1537514.11	799362.88	13621.36	6703.11	6703.11	27027.58
	TOTAL	40166687	38497143.49	13266302.05	295757.20	680495.35	697504.96	1667503.45

**B. Rabi 2016-17**

(₹ in lakh)								
Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Farmers Insured (in lakhs)	Area Insured (lakhs Ha.)	Sum Insured	Farmers' Premium	GoI Premium (share)	State Govt. Premium (share)	Gross Premium
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00324	0.00253	46.84	0.23	0.46	0.93	1.62
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1.44	2.44	125228.18	2301.89	7104.64	7104.64	16511.16
3.	Assam	0.08	0.04	3011.99	86.28	43.47	43.47	173.22
4.	Bihar	12.34	11.9	593426.86	8056.24	11055.26	11055.26	30168.85
5.	Chhattisgarh	1.531	2.402	60968.83	982.87	2441.07	2441.07	5865.01
6.	Goa	0.00013	3.74	2.53	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.07
7.	Gujarat	1.28	2.72	107400.38	2387.38	1514.97	1514.97	5537.24
8.	Haryana	5.76	9.07	474097.89	6879.83	1894.56	1894.56	10668.95
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2.03	0.8	57743.21	2550.39	1908.19	1908.19	6367.49
10.	Jharkhand	0.42	0.21	13125.89	172.03	217.83	217.83	607.69
11.	Karnataka	11.79	16.82	383677.88	6151.41	25586.70	25586.70	57324.81
12.	Kerala	0.43	0.3	20988.02	390.73	1003.19	1003.19	2397.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13.	Madhya Pradesh	30.51	58.19	1630265.26	28115.91	39033.35	39033.35	106182.60
14.	Maharashtra	8.28	3.86	294435.46	9325.87	26196.10	26196.10	61718.08
15.	Meghalaya	0.00026	16.04	17.93	0.30	0.35	0.35	1.00
16.	Odisha	0.54	0.68	36857.84	476.62	52.87	52.87	582.36
17.	Puducherry	0.09	0.07	3052.79	21.47	128.17	128.17	277.82
18.	Rajasthan	30.76	28.84	727627.71	14009.84	17143.60	17143.60	48171.26
19.	Sikkim	0.005	0.0015	117.75	0.76	0.22	0.22	1.19
20.	Tamil Nadu	15.19	12.56	493579.00	10350.67	39427.16	48025.95	97592.86
21.	Telangana	2.3	2.38	176401.68	3114.12	2288.18	2288.18	7690.48
22.	Tripura	0.15	0.06	3542.85	23.62	7.87	7.87	39.36
23.	Uttar Pradesh	36.26	33.23	1645090.89	24688.99	18376.68	18376.68	61442.12
24.	Uttarakhand	0.87	0.32	22623.59	495.84	567.58	567.58	1631.00
25.	West Bengal	10.69	5.17	448494.32	10099.15	17302.75	18714.15	46116.05
TOTAL		172.74963	211.84603	7321825.56	130682.43	213295.22	223305.88	567069.40

Above details and data are provisional and claims disbursement is in process.

**Workshop on modern technology for farmers**

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

- (a) whether Government organizes regular workshops to train farmers to adopt modern technology, better seeds and fertilizers for better productivity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the frequency and outreach of these workshops, State-wise; and
- (c) the funds allocated for the same in last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of institutional mechanisms are in place to make farmers aware for adoption of modern technologies, better seeds and fertilizers for better productivity. For this purpose, Government has taken various steps across the country including setting up of 680 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and 652 Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) at district level for dissemination of technologies among farm community. In addition, the farmers are provided information through Focused Publicity Campaigns, Kisan Call Centres (KCCs), Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (ACABC) of entrepreneurs, Agri Fairs and exhibitions, Kisan SMS Portal, DD Kisan TV Channel and Radio Stations. The State-wise details of the frequency and outreach of the workshops/training programmes are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

- (c) The expenditure for workshops/training programmes is made out of the recurring contingency provided to KVKs and as such, no separate funds are earmarked for the purpose. The State-wise and Year-wise (2014-15 to 2016-17) details of expenditure incurred for workshop/trainings are given in the Statement-I.

***Statement-I***

*State-wise details of the frequency and outreach of the workshops/training programmes*

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
		No. of workshops/ training	No. of participants	No. of workshops/ training	No. of participants	No. of workshops/ training	No. of participants
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	65	1816	173	2895	166	2743
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1127	34163	766	25803	871	30124
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	503	11351	649	20286	882	26183
4.	Assam	785	21952	1020	26827	1490	39910
5.	Bihar	5864	162405	5669	158580	10389	179929
6.	Chhattisgarh	1459	53558	1400	44601	1726	42640
7.	Delhi	91	2095	73	1605	83	1687
8.	Goa	119	3069	89	2054	70	1764
9.	Gujarat	1983	68269	2514	83199	2699	85710
10.	Haryana	2768	74091	2690	78749	2561	75755
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1104	36400	910	33145	1089	36128
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	1389	36176	1448	36294	1540	36470
13.	Jharkhand	2240	63852	1923	57450	4621	99279
14.	Karnataka	1653	67246	1642	87888	1806	75175
15.	Kerala	1263	46226	1189	47209	1221	43521
16.	Lakshadweep	0	0	42	4196	0	0
17.	Madhya Pradesh	3510	123853	3242	112339	3328	98475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Maharashtra	3700	114416	3166	67125	2626	90952
19.	Manipur	485	10923	289	7865	559	12522
20.	Meghalaya	384	8628	415	11016	545	13360
21.	Mizoram	263	8799	540	19214	569	18214
22.	Nagaland	347	9591	517	12362	592	15972
23.	Odisha	2296	44446	2454	47536	2074	39305
24.	Puducherry	33	850	79	2023	76	2007
25.	Punjab	2654	52066	1793	40082	1978	45219
26.	Rajasthan	2532	73085	2945	84043	3604	98504
27.	Sikkim	196	5579	365	11166	319	8648
28.	Tamil Nadu	2070	73973	1969	75544	2057	69458
29.	Telangana	594	16756	581	20918	865	34145
30.	Tripura	246	5102	298	7428	346	9025
31.	Uttarakhand	754	19079	894	18537	908	19568
32.	Uttar Pradesh	6603	142657	6416	135224	6450	134951
33.	West Bengal	1914	56561	2309	70364	4007	83807
TOTAL		50994	1449033	50469	1453567	62117	1571150

**Statement-II**

*State-wise and year-wise (2014-15 to 2016-17) details of fund allocated for workshops/Trainings*

(₹ in lakh)				
Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7.15	12.00	17.70
2.	Andhra Pradesh	48.70	98.23	227.59
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	35.21	45.43	61.74



1	2	3	4	5
4.	Assam	54.95	71.40	104.30
5.	Bihar	78.25	165.00	151.28
6.	Chhattisgarh	21.42	17.84	31.98
7.	Delhi	0.48	1.50	0.99
8.	Goa	1.20	2.50	2.35
9.	Gujarat	56.10	73.70	75.70
10.	Haryana	9.25	15.04	22.09
11.	Himachal Pradesh	6.36	12.75	15.84
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	10.82	19.47	21.09
13.	Jharkhand	60.00	95.50	101.40
14.	Karnataka	20.42	40.81	57.32
15.	Kerala	8.59	16.56	24.86
16.	Lakshadweep	0.25	0.90	1.10
17.	Madhya Pradesh	49.54	44.95	73.86
18.	Maharashtra	85.36	186.81	435.55
19.	Manipur	33.95	20.23	39.13
20.	Meghalaya	26.88	29.05	38.15
21.	Mizoram	18.41	37.80	39.83
22.	Nagaland	24.29	36.19	41.44
23.	Odisha	17.78	19.01	29.48
24.	Puducherry	1.23	2.85	3.20
25.	Punjab	9.07	18.97	29.93
26.	Rajasthan	59.70	88.84	95.90
27.	Sikkim	13.72	25.55	22.33
28.	Tamil Nadu	17.72	41.32	44.51
29.	Telangana	20.66	56.70	128.87
30.	Tripura	17.22	20.86	24.22

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Uttarakhand	7.80	15.05	14.95
32.	Uttar Pradesh	47.79	86.33	76.30
33.	West Bengal	47.00	78.00	74.40
TOTAL		917.27	1497.14	2129.38

#### Insurance cover for fish ponds in Odisha

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

(a) whether Government intends to impress upon the insurance companies to provide insurance cover to the fish ponds in Odisha; and

(b) whether Government also proposes to take steps to give equal status to Fisheries at par with Agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There are no such proposals presently under consideration in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

#### Drought in the country

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

(a) the total cultivable land in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the details of drought affected areas at present, State-wise;

(c) whether any financial aid or drought relief has been distributed to the farmers of drought affected areas during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17; and

(d) if so, whether any drought relief has been sanctioned to Kerala during the said period, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) As per Land Use Statistics (LUS), the State-wise details of cultivable/agricultural land in the country for the year 2014-15 (latest available) is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) During the current year (2017-18), no State has declared drought so far.

(c) and (d) State Governments are responsible for distribution of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)' National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) relief to affected farmers at ground level. However, during the year 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, the financial assistance under NDRF to the States including Kerala in the wake of drought approved by Government of India is given in the Statement-II.

***Statement-I***

*State-wise details of Cultivable/Agricultural land in 2014-15 (latest available)*

(Thousand Hectares)

States/UTs	Cultivable/Agricultural Land
Andhra Pradesh	9047
Arunachal Pradesh	423
Assam	3364
Bihar	6579
Chhattisgarh	5558
Goa	197
Gujarat	12661
Haryana	3656
Himachal Pradesh	812
Jammu and Kashmir	1075
Jharkhand	4343
Karnataka	12827
Kerala	2266
Madhya Pradesh	17252
Maharashtra	21099
Manipur	390
Meghalaya	1056
Mizoram	367
Nagaland	694

States/UTs	Cultivable/Agricultural Land
Odisha	6784
Punjab	4285
Rajasthan	25511
Sikkim	97
Tamil Nadu	8112
Telangana	6877
Tripura	272
Uttarakhand	1549
Uttar Pradesh	18939
West Bengal	5655
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	28
Chandigarh	1
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	24
Daman and Diu	3
Delhi	53
Lakshadweep	2
Puducherry	29
ALL INDIA	181886

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

#### Statement-II

*Financial assistance under NDRF in the wake of drought approved by Government of India during the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17*

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	States	Amount approved
<b>During 2014-15</b>		
1.	Haryana	166.87
2.	Karnataka	200.85
3.	Uttar Pradesh	777.34
4.	Maharashtra	1962.99

Sl. No.	States	Amount approved
5.	Andhra Pradesh	237.51
<b>During 2015-16</b>		
1.	Karnataka (Drought Kharif)	1540.20
	(Drought Rabi)	723.23
2.	Chhattisgarh	1276.25
3.	Madhya Pradesh	2032.68
4.	Maharashtra (Drought Kharif)	3049.36
	(Drought Kharif Supplementary)	589.47
	(Drought Rabi)	679.54
5.	Odisha	815.00
6.	Telangana	791.21
7.	Uttar Pradesh (Drought Kharif)	1304.52
	(Drought Rabi)	622.76
8.	Andhra Pradesh	433.77
9.	Jharkhand	336.94
10.	Rajasthan	1193.41
11.	Uttarakhand	70.22
<b>During 2016-17</b>		
1.	Karnataka (Drought Kharif)	1782.44
	(Drought Rabi)	795.444
2.	Andhra Pradesh	518.93
3.	Kerala	@
4.	Tamil Nadu	1748.28
5.	Rajasthan	588.34
6.	Puducherry	@

@The proposal under consideration.

**National programme on organic farming and millet cultivation**

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

- (a) the number of acres of land under organic farming in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government is working on a National level programme on organic farming and millet cultivation, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any consultations have been held in this regard with States, experts, agriculture scientists and others, if so, the outcome of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The total cultivable land certified under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) during 2016-17 was 1.44 Million Ha. The State-wise cultivable area under NPOP is given in the Statement-I (*See below*). The state-wise area under PGS certification is given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Two National level programmes on organic farming-Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development Programme for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) have been initiated for promoting organic farming of all crops including millets in the country since 2015-16 in consultation with the States, experts, ICAR scientists etc.

**Statement-I**

*State-wise cultivable certified area under National Programme for Organic Production NPOP during 2016-17*

Sl. No.	State Name	Cultivable Area (Ha.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17683.893
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4011.270
3.	Assam	23870.399
4.	Bihar	1.200
5.	Chhattisgarh	12712.137
6.	Goa	15762.433
7.	Gujarat	64241.064

Sl. No.	State Name	Cultivable Area (Ha.)
8.	Haryana	5011.599
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12376.722
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	22608.315
11.	Jharkhand	26813.947
12.	Karnataka	81089.096
13.	Kerala	24812.778
14.	Lakshadweep	895.523
15.	Madhya Pradesh	464859.434
16.	Maharashtra	224007.521
17.	Manipur	241.400
18.	Meghalaya	9629.598
19.	Mizoram	210.000
20.	Nagaland	4699.934
21.	New Delhi	9.230
22.	Odisha	92190.100
23.	Puducherry	2.835
24.	Punjab	1032.530
25.	Rajasthan	151609.913
26.	Sikkim	75218.279
27.	Tamil Nadu	5712.796
28.	Telangana	9687.841
29.	Tripura	203.560
30.	Uttar Pradesh	56249.385
31.	Uttarakhand	30907.417
32.	West Bengal	5176.026
TOTAL		1443538.175

**Statement-II***State-wise area under PGS certification*

Sl. No.	State	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



**MSPs for pulses, cotton and oilseeds**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has increased Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for pulses, cotton and oilseeds for 2017-18 crop year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria adopted for the said increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Government has increased the MSPs of all Kharif crops including pulses, cotton and oilseeds for 2017-18 crop year. The MSPs for pulses, cotton and oilseeds for 2016-17 and 2017-18 Kharif season and increase in MSPs of 2017-18 over 2016-17 season is given in the Statement (*See below*).

The decision to increase MSPs is based on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) which while recommending MSPs takes into account the cost of production, overall demand-supply, domestic and international prices, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, the likely effect on the rest of the economy, besides ensuring rational utilization of production resources like land, water etc.

***Statement******Details of Minimum Support Prices***

(As on 07.06.2017)

(₹ per quintal)

Kharif Crops	2016-17	2017-18	(#)Increase in MSP of 2017-18 over 2016-17
1	2	3	4
<b>Pulses</b>			
Arhar (Tur)	5050^^	5450^	400(7.9)
Moong	5225^^	5575^	350(6.7)
Urad	5000^^	5400^	400(8.0)
<b>Oilseeds</b>			
Groundnut	4220*	4450^	230(5.5)

1	2	3	4
Sunflower	3950*	4100*	150(3.8)
Soyabean	2775*	3050^	275(9.9)
Sesamum	5000^	5300*	300(6.0)
Nigerseed	3825*	4050*	225(5.9)
Cotton (Medium Staple)	3860	4020	160(4.1)
Cotton (Long Staple)	4160	4320	160(3.8)

# Figures in brackets indicate percentage increase.

^^ Including Bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal.

^ Including Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal.

\* Including Bonus of ₹ 100 per quintal.

### Marketing of maize, millet, ragi and similar crops

671. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers cultivating maize, millet, ragi and other similar crops are facing severe problems due to non-availability of buyers in the market;

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking to ensure marketing of these grains at remunerative price; and

(c) whether Government will come out with schemes to increase the awareness in the general public about the benefits of such produces in order to increase their market share for the benefit of the farmers cultivating them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) State Governments have not reported any problem faced by farmers cultivating millet, ragi and similar crops due to non-availability of buyers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The National Food Security Mission (NFSM)- Coarse Cereals is being implemented in 265 districts of 28 States for increasing production and productivity of coarse cereals, which include millets, maize, sorghum, ragi, pearl millet and small millets.

Three National Centres of Excellence have been established at Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU), Hissar for pearl millet, at Indian

Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad for sorghum and at University of Agriculture Sciences, Bengaluru for small millets. There is provision for setting up of processing units through progressive farmers, entrepreneurs/NGOs, creation of awareness and training of selected cluster of farmers.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by Government for major agricultural commodities ensures procurement through public and cooperative agencies.

The Centrally sponsored scheme on 'Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (ATMA)' recently strengthened in a Mission Mode promotes decentralized farmer-driven and farmer-accountable extension system. Extension activities include Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, Mobilization of Farmers Groups and organizing Farm Schools etc.

#### **Agitation by farmers**

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

- (a) the names of States where agitating farmers were fired at in the last six months, including the incident in Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) the details of demands of the farmers;
- (c) the number of farmers who committed suicides in the country in the last one year and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government would collect the data regarding the number of farmers who took loan from moneylenders at high rate of interest and the steps being taken by Government to emancipate them from the clutches of moneylenders; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The incident of firing on farmers had taken place in Madhya Pradesh. The main demands of the farmers are:—

- (i) waiver of farm loans,
- (ii) fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for agricultural produce as per Swaminathan Committee report,

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (iii) agricultural loan at 2% rate of interest,
- (iv) declaration of MSP for all crops by Central Government, and
- (v) higher price of agro produce like onions, soyabean, etc.

(c) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides upto 2015 are available at its website. The Report for the year 2016 has not been published yet. As per 2015 Report, 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' and 'Farming Related Issues' are the major causes of suicides among farmers/ cultivators. Other prominent causes are family problems, illness, etc.

(d) and (e) As per NSSO 70th Round, Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households in India, "At All India level, about 60 per cent of loan were taken from institutional sources which included Governmental (2.1%), Cooperative Society(14.8%) and banks (42.9%). Among the non-institutional sources, agricultural/professional money lenders (25.8%) had the major share in terms of outstanding loans."

Further, the activity of money lending is regulated by State-specific money lending laws. However, following measures have, *inter alia*, been taken to extend institutional credit to farmers so as to reduce their dependence on non-institutional sources:—

- (i) The Priority Sector Lending (PSL) directions of RBI mandate all Domestic Scheduled Commercial Banks to earmark 18% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) or Credit Equivalent amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure (OBE), whichever is higher, as on the corresponding date of the previous year, for lending to Agriculture including loans to farmers. Further, a sub-target of 8% for small and marginal farmers has also been fixed.
- (ii) Loans to distressed farmers and to other persons (not exceeding ₹ 1,00,000/- per borrower) indebted to non-institutional lenders is an eligible category under PSL, to enable them to repay their debt to non-institutional lenders.
- (iii) In order to ensure that all eligible farmers are provided with hassle-free and timely credit for their agricultural operations, the Government has introduced the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme, which enables them to purchase agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, etc. and draw cash

to satisfy their agricultural and consumption needs. The KCC Scheme has since been simplified. It has facilities of one-time documentation, built-in cost escalation in the limit and provision of ATM enabled debit card.

- (iv) To bring small, marginal, tenant farmers, oral lessees, etc. into the fold of institutional credit, Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) have been promoted by banks.

### **Effect of pesticides on human health**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the States where excessive use of dangerous pesticides for agricultural purpose was made, have shown considerable increase in cancer cases amongst the agricultural workers and those using their produces;

(b) if so, the measures Government will deploy to restrict the excessive use of pesticides by farmers; and

(c) the schemes introduced by Government to promote organic farming in order to minimize the bad effects of pesticides on human health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) There is no such information available with the National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research (NICPR). However, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" (MPRNL) scheme, under which food commodities and environmental samples are collected and analysed for the presence of pesticide residues. The annual report of the MPRNL are being shared with the States to take corrective action against possible misuse of pesticides. In addition, the Government is implementing "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" (SMPMA) Scheme through 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) of Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage established across the country with an aim to promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. CIPMCs *inter alia*, produce biological agents for release in the fields, conserve natural bio-control agents, promote bio-pesticides as an alternative to chemical pesticides and advocate judicious and safe use of chemical pesticides as a last resort. These activities are implemented through Farmers Field Schools (FFSs), 2 days and 5 days training

programmes and season long training program for State Agriculture Extension officers and NGOs / Private Bodies. A 'Grow Safe Food' campaign has been initiated disseminating message of safe and judicious use of pesticides to farmers and other stakeholders. Package of practices for control of pests and diseases in 87 crops have been revised to include techniques to reduce dependence on chemical pesticides and encourage use of bio-pesticides and other alternative plant protection measures.

(c) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCD-NER) are some schemes that promote comprehensive organic farming. Under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) also organic farming is promoted. These are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare through the State Governments.

#### **Drought in Andhra Pradesh**

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

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Central Government that Government of Andhra Pradesh has declared 301 Mandals in 8 districts of the State as drought-affected;

(b) whether Central Government has received proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to extend drought assistance to the tune of ₹ 3,173 crore;

(c) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(d) whether any consultations have been held with the Ministry of Rural Development for increasing the wage days to 150 under MGNREGA in drought affected areas, if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted a Memorandum in January, 2017 seeking financial assistance of ₹2281.79 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for drought relief in 268 Mandals in 7 districts. Thereafter, additional Memorandum was submitted in May, 2017 seeking financial assistance of ₹232.183 crore from NDRF for drought relief in 33 Mandals in 4 districts. The Central Government constituted Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) which, after visits to

the drought affected areas in Andhra Pradesh, submitted their reports with recommendations. On the basis of reports, ₹518.93 crore has been approved by the Central Government from NDRF in accordance with the norms.

(d) On recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the Ministry of Rural Development has sanctioned additional employment upto 50 days in notified drought affected districts under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), during the financial year 2016-17.

#### **Status of proposal under Blue Revolution**

†675. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for ₹1040.50 lakh under Blue Revolution has been sent *vide* endorsement number 6340, dated 8th March, 2017 and sanction of the same is awaited; and

(b) if so, by when the amount, as per proposal, would be released?

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

(b) The proposal for ₹1040.50 lakh under Blue Revolution sent by Government of Madhya Pradesh *vide* endorsement number 6340, dated 8th March, 2017 was received by this Ministry. The Government of Madhya Pradesh was however advised to submit a modified proposal as per the priorities identified for the development of fishery sector and enhancement of fish production in the State. A revised project proposal for Central assistance of ₹1130.25 lakh has been resubmitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh *vide* letter no.1172/Blue Revolution/2017-18 dated 16th June, 2017. Further action on the proposal is being taken in accordance with the guidelines of the Scheme, Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries.

#### **Decline in agricultural growth rate**

676. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that growth rate of Agriculture Sector has come down to 5.2 per cent from 6.9 per cent in the previous quarter?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): Yes, Sir. As per the Provisional estimates of Annual National Income, 2016-17 and Quarterly estimates of GDP for the fourth Quarter (Q4) of 2016-17 released by Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoS&PI), the growth rate of Gross Value Added for Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector at constant (2011-12 prices), for the third and fourth quarter of 2016-17 are 6.9 and 5.2 per cent respectively.

#### **Waiving of farm loans**

677. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that it is Government's policy not to waive off farm loans, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the details of outstanding loans to farmers, State/UT-wise; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government had promised to provide MSP plus 50 per cent price for their produces to the farmer, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Union Government to waive off farm loans of farmers. However, to reduce the debt burden of farmers, the following major initiatives have been undertaken:

- With a view to ensure availability of agriculture credit at a reduced interest rate of 7% p.a. to farmers, the Government of India is implementing Interest Subvention Scheme for short term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Under the said scheme, additional subvention of 3% is provided 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.

Reserve Bank of India has taken up the matter relating to adverse impact of loan waiver on the banking sector from time to time since August, 2014 with the concerned authorities. As reported by RBI, the empirical evidence suggests that loan waiver vitiates the credit culture and recovery climate and also impacts the financial soundness of the banks besides affecting fiscal position.

State/Union Territory-wise agriculture loan outstanding data for all agencies (Commercial, Cooperative and Regional Rural Banks)

*(No. of Accounts in lakh and Amount in ₹ Crore)*

*(As on 31.03.2017)*

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
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
<b>NORTHERN REGION TOTAL</b>		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

1	2	3	4
12.	Mizoram	0.40	325.71
13.	Nagaland	0.57	387.36
14.	Sikkim	0.21	193.00
15.	Tripura	6.28	2356.64
<b>NORTH EASTERN REGION TOTAL</b>		29.74	15651.92
16.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	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
<b>EASTERN REGION TOTAL</b>		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
<b>CENTRAL REGION TOTAL</b>		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
<b>WESTERN REGION TOTAL</b>		138.39	241339.14
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

1	2	3	4
35.	Tamil Nadu	151.61	142931.42
36.	Lakshadweep	0.01	6.33
<b>SOUTHERN REGION TOTAL</b>		456.62	510113.53
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		1209.62	1436799.48

*Source:* Data submitted by concerned banks in the ENSURE portal of NABARD.

(c) The National Commission on Farmers under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. S. Swaminathan had recommended that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) should be at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production. This recommendation was not accepted by the Government in the year 2007. Further, the MSP is recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) based on objective criteria and considering variety of relevant factors that includes cost of cultivation. Government has been fortifying MSPs year after year based on recommendations of CACP.

#### **Norms for tackling drought**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has prevailed upon the States to follow the accepted norms and guidelines for tackling the drought situation, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the names of States which have formulated and executed the famine code?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Home Affairs on 08.04.2015 revised items and norms for availing financial assistance from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for all natural calamities including drought, for the 5-year period from 2015-16 to 2019-20. The Memorandum submitted by the State Governments are being examined in the context of these norms. Meanwhile, the Manual for Drought Management has been revised/ updated in December, 2016. The revised Manual for Drought Management suggests a system for drought management policy and programmes to be followed by the Government of India and the State Governments. It focuses on the general / common elements of drought management at the national level, while allowing the States to

include their specific schemes and interventions and incorporates drought forecasting, monitoring, response and mitigation as a continuum of activities. The Manual provides relevant guidelines so that the States benefit from them and pursue the most efficient and practical course of action. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also amended Guidelines on Constitution and Administration of the SDRF and NDRF on 03.04.2017, making it mandatory for State Governments to implement the 'Manual for Drought Management, 2016', in determination/declaration of drought.

### **Marketing reforms**

679. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government, in consultation with the NITI Aayog, has identified a set of marketing reforms to ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their produces by reducing intervention of middlemen and aimed at doubling the farmers' income;
- (b) if so, the details of the marketing reforms; and
- (c) the time-frame for putting them in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A set of reforms, in agri-marketing sector were identified in consultation with NITI Aayog to make agricultural markets more competitive and efficient and also to ensure remunerative price to farmers for their produce with the larger aim to double their income. Further, Ministry has drafted a model "The Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017", in consultation with States and NITI Aayog which encompasses the entire basket of agricultural marketing reforms, including setting of private markets, direct marketing, de-regulation of fruits and vegetables, e-trading, single point levy of market fee, issue of unified single trading licence in the State, declaring warehouses/silos/ cold storage as market sub-yards, Market Yards of National Importance (MNI) and provision for inter-State trade.

This model APLM Act, 2017 was released on 24th April, 2017 to the States for adoption at the earliest.

**Pink bollworm attack on Bt. Cotton crops**

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

(a) whether Bt. Cotton is still being grown in the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the pink bollworm is attacking the Bt. Cotton crops, causing loss of yields; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to control pink bollworm in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The cultivation of Bt. cotton is preferred over non-Bt cotton in the country. During 2016-17, as per third advance estimates 108 lakh hectares area was planted under cotton including 86.39 lakh hectare (79.99%) under Bt. cotton and 21.61 lakh (20.01%) under Non Bt. Cotton. State-wise detail of area coverage under Bt cotton and non Bt. cotton during 2016-17 is given in the table below:—

(Area in lakh hectare)			
Major Cotton Growing State	Bt. Cotton	Non Bt. Cotton	Total
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	4.38	0.33	4.71
Gujarat	19.24	4.81	24.05
Haryana	3.77	1.93	5.70
Karnataka	2.95	1.71	4.66
Madhya Pradesh	5.39	0.60	5.99
Maharashtra	32.30	5.70	38.00
Odisha	-	1.36	1.36
Punjab	2.43	0.42	2.85
Rajasthan	2.87	1.84	4.71

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	0.79	0.58	1.37
Telangana	12.27	1.83	14.10
Others	-	0.50	0.50
ALL INDIA	86.39	21.61	108.00

(b) and (c) Incidence of infestation of Pink Bollworm in some pockets of cotton growing States especially Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have been reported. The steps have already been taken *viz.*, conducting frontline demonstration at farmers field on modern production and protection technologies including Integrated Pest Management (IPM) by major cotton producing States and ICAR institutes / SAUs. Besides, trainings on latest production and protection technologies including management of pests. The States take steps for Crop Pest Surveillance, Online Pest Monitoring System, Issuing Advisory from time to time for management of pests including pink bollworm in cotton.

#### Dependency on agriculture

681. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of the population depends on agriculture;
- (b) if so, what is their percentage;
- (c) what is this figure in China, Indonesia, Israel, Brazil, etc.; and
- (d) the measures being taken by Government to ease this pressure on agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) As per Census 2011, conducted by the Registrar General of India, there are about 263 million agricultural workers in the country, comprising of 119 million cultivators and 144 million agricultural labourers. This constitutes about 55 per cent of the total workforce in the country.

(c) As per the information available with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the share of agriculture in total employment in different countries is given below.

Country	Employment in Agriculture in 2013 (% share)
China (mainland)	31.4
Indonesia	34.8
Israel	1.2
Brazil	14.5

(d) In order to ease the pressure on agriculture, Government is taking various initiatives for development of secondary and tertiary sectors. These, *inter alia*, include Make in India initiative to promote manufacturing; Startup India initiative to build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation and Startups in the country; building of industrial corridors along the dedicated freight corridors; and significant change in FDI policy.

Furthermore, with a view to improve the employability of workforce, various skill development measures are being taken under the Skill India Initiative and its various components such as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) National Skill Development Mission, National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Skill Loan Scheme.

#### **Providing fair price and storage facility to farmers for their produces**

†682. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to ensure fair price and storing facility to farmers for their produces in case the agricultural production is more than its demand in the market and the procurement capacity of Government; and

(b) the analytical information of procurement price and consumer price of onion and its storage in the country including Madhya Pradesh, with reference to part (a) above, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Minimum Support Price (MSP) is notified by the Government on various Kharif and Rabi crops. Government's aim is to help farmers realise prices higher than MSP in the market. For this purpose, Government

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

has been focussing on creating an efficient marketing system. Towards this, the Government has shared a Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017 with the States and UTs. This will encourage more number of markets and enhance competition. The Government is also aiming at creating a unified National Agriculture Market (eNAM) by promoting market integration through online trade. Further, in order to improve/create scientific storage capacity, Government has sanctioned a total of 37889 godown projects with storage capacity of 65.15 million MT and released the subsidy to the tune of ₹ 2466.98 crore since April, 2001.

However, there can still be situations where prices of agricultural produce in the market rule below MSP when its production is more than its demand. This is addressed by procuring foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds at MSP and perishable agricultural/horticultural produce at remunerative price/cost of production under various schemes.

(b) Information of procurement price and consumer price of onion and its storage are given in the Statement-I to III respectively.

**Statement-I**

*Details of procurement price of onion*

Sl. No.	Procurement through Schemes	Average Procurement price (₹ per quintal)	Period of procurement
1.	Price Stabilization Fund (PSF)	NAFED - 826.37/- SFAC - 840.53/- in Maharashtra	April-June 2016
2.	Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)	586.707- (in Madhya Pradesh)	09.06.2017 to 08.07.2017

**Statement-II**

*(A) Daily Retail Prices of Essential Commodities*

Date: 17/07/2017		Commodity: Onion			Unit: (₹/Kg.)
States	Daily Retail Price				
	Price as-on- 17/07/2017	1 Week 10/07/2017	1 Month 17/06/2017	6 Months 17/01/2017	1 Year 17/07/2016
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andaman and Nicobar Islands					
Andhra Pradesh	13	13	13	13	15.75
Arunachal Pradesh					
Assam	16	16	16	20	20



1	2	3	4	5	6
Bihar	13.67	13.67	13	14.33	
Chandigarh	18	18	16	14	
Chhattisgarh	12.4	12.4	14	14	16
Dadra and Nagar Haveli					
Daman and Diu					
Delhi	21	21	21	21	22
Goa	18	19	18	20	
Gujarat	13	13	12	12.5	16.25
Haryana	14.75	13.5	13.5	16.25	16
Himachal Pradesh	15.5	16.25	15.5	17.5	15.67
Jammu and Kashmir	19	19	20	20	
Jharkhand	12	12	12	14	
Karnataka	17	17	12.75	14.75	
Kerala	16.83	16.6		18	20.83
Lakshadweep					
Madhya Pradesh	9.67	9.4	8.33	8.33	10
Maharashtra	16.5	16	15	13	20.5
Manipur					
Meghalaya		20		30	
Mizoram	35	35		35	
Nagaland	45		30	30	
Odisha	13.67	14.67	14.67	15	20
Puducherry	12	12	14	15	15
Punjab	14.67	15.67	20	15	18
Rajasthan	11.67	11.67	9	10	9
Sikkim	25	24	20		
Tamil Nadu	14.75	14.4	15.5	15.25	19.2

1	2	3	4	5	6
Telangana	15	15	15	15.17	15.2
Tripura	21	21		23	
Uttar Pradesh	13	12.88.	13.25	13.13	1.13.25
Uttarakhand	18.5	14.5	14.5	13.5	20.5
West Bengal	15.14	16	15.8	16.67	16

*(B) Daily Retail Prices along with Variation of Essential Commodities*

Date: 18/07/2017		Commodity: Onion					Unit: (₹/Kg.)
		Daily Retail Price					Variation
Centres	Price as on	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago	1 Year Ago	2 years Ago	3 Years Ago
	18/07/2017	18/06/2017	18/04/2017	18/01/2017	18/07/2016	17/07/2015	18/07/2014
Bhopal	8	8	8	6	10	22	18
Indore	8	8	8	8	10	15	25
Gwalior	8	NR	8	8	10	15	NR
Jabalpur	10	NR	10	10	NR	20	24
Rewa	9	NR	8	8	10	20	NR
Sagar	15	NR	10	10	15	NR	NR

NR - Not Reported

Source: State civil supplies Deptt.

Developed by: National Informatics Centre (NIC)

**Statement-III***State-wise position of low cost onion storage created under MIDH**(upto 31.03.2017)*

(Unit in nos.)

Sl. No.	State	Low Cost onion storage structure (25 MT)
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	26
3.	Bihar	488

1	2	3
4.	Chhattisgarh	462
5.	Delhi	0
6.	Goa	0
7.	Gujarat	6
8.	Haryana	239
9.	Jharkhand	2
10.	Karnataka	1180
11.	Kerala	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	951
13.	Maharashtra	1698
14.	Odisha	2462
15.	Puducherry	0
16.	Punjab	2
17.	Rajasthan	4338
18.	Tamil Nadu	462
19.	Telangana	0
20.	Uttar Pradesh	109
21.	West Bengal	143
SUB TOTAL (NHM)		12568
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
23.	Assam	0
24.	Manipur	0
25.	Meghalaya	0
26.	Mizoram	0
27.	Nagaland	0
28.	Sikkim	0
29.	Tripura	0

1	2	3
30.	Himachal Pradesh	0
31.	Jammu and Kashmir	0
32.	Uttarakhand	0
SUB-TOTAL (HMNEH)		0
GRAND TOTAL		12568

Data based on NHM/HMNEH Portal - from 2005-06 to 2016-17.

HMNEH was merged in MIDH from 2014-15.

### Income of farmers

683. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a proposal to double the income of farmers in the coming years;
- (b) if so, the current average income of farmers in terms of land holdings;
- (c) what would be the asking growth rate in agriculture, annually, for achieving this objective; and
- (d) the measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Yes, there is a proposal to double the income of farmers by the year 2022.

(b) The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducted Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households during NSS 70th round (January, 2013-December, 2013) in the rural areas of the country for the reference period of the agricultural year July, 2012- June, 2013. The survey did not estimate the average income of farmers. However, the survey estimated the average monthly income per agricultural household from different economic activities. The estimates for average monthly income per agricultural household during July, 2012- June, 2013 for different size classes of land possessed as obtained from the survey is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) As per NITI Aayog Policy Paper No. 1/2017 regarding doubling farmers' income - Rationale, Strategy Prospects and Action Plan by Shri Ramesh Chand, for achieving this objective, annual growth rate of 10.4% will be required.

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

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

The Committee has held several meetings so far to evolve a suitable strategy. In the meantime, Government of India has taken several steps to achieve the objective, such as:—

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and thus save money of farmers. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate urea use, enhance its availability to the crop and reduces cost of fertilizer application. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured and imported urea is now neem coated.
- (iii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promote organic farming in the country. This will improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realise premium prices.
- (iv) The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is being implemented to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.

- (v) 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'.
- (vi) The Government has drafted a new model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017, which was released on 24.04.2017 for adoption by the States through legislation of their respective Acts. The Act provides the options of alternate markets beyond the existing APMC regulated market yards to the farmers. The provisions also includes setting up of private markets, direct marketing, farmer-consumer markets, special commodity markets, declaring warehouses/silos/cold storages or such structures as market sub yards and Market Yards of National Importance (MNI) so as to reduce the number of intermediaries between producer and buyer and increase the share of the farmer in consumer's rupee.
- (vii) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is being implemented from Kharif 2016 season. PMFBY has addressed all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and is available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. This scheme would provide insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances.
- (viii) 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 warehouse 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.

- (ix) 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.
- (x) 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.
- (xi) Blue Revolution scheme has been approved in December, 2015 with the target of increasing the total fisheries production by 50% from 10 million tonnes in 2015-16 to 15 million tonne by 2019-20.
- (xii) The "Rashtriya Gokul Mission" has been launched by the Government for conservation and development of indigenous breeds in a focused and scientific manner. The mission also envisages establishment of integrated cattle development centres 'Gokul Grams' to develop indigenous breeds including upto 40% nondescript breeds.

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

Apart from the above, the Government is also focussing on ancillary activities like Bee-keeping for increasing of farmers' income.

**Statement**

*Average monthly income (₹) per agricultural household for each size class of land possessed during the agricultural year July 2012 - June 2013*

Size class of land possessed (ha.)	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
<0.01	2902	30	1181	447	4561
0.01 - 0.40	2386	687	621	459	4152
0.41 - 1.00	2011	2145	629	462	5247
1.01 -2.00	1728	4209	818	593	7348
2.01-4.00	1657	7359	1161	554	10730
4.01 -10.00	2031	15243	1501	861	19637
10.00+	1311	35685	2622	1770	41388
All size (inc. N.R.)	2071	3081	763	512	6426

N.R.: Not Reported

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

**Suicides by farmers**

†684. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total incidents of farmers' suicides during tenure of the present Central Government beginning from 2014 to 10th July, 2017, State-wise;

(b) the details of compensation provided by State Governments or Central Government to the deceased's family in above incidents; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by Central Government for farmers to make agriculture profession remunerative?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides upto 2015 are available at its website. The Report for the year 2016 has not been published yet. The State-wise details of suicides in farming/agriculture sector during the years 2014 and 2015 as per NCRB Report is given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to answer to USQ No. 658 part (a) to (c)]

State Governments provide relief to families that face farmer suicides. As per information available from the States, the details of relief etc. being provided are as follows:—

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

of the deceased will get free education up to post graduation including hostel facilities.

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

#### **Package for replacement of seized fishing vessels**

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

(a) whether Government had disbursed funds to any fishermen under the "Package for Replacement of Fishing Vessels Seized by Pakistan", as mentioned in Budget 2017-18, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether a similar package will be given for the replacement of fishing vessels seized by Sri Lanka, 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 have been earmarked under the budget head "Package for Replacement of Fishing Vessels Seized by Pakistan"

against the allocated Budget for 2017-18. However, no funds have been disbursed during the current financial year so far. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has recently introduced a new sub-component on "Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing" under the Blue Revolution Scheme. Under this sub-component, financial assistance is being provided for the traditional fishers for procurement of Deep Sea fishing vessels. Financial assistance upto 50% of vessel cost with a ceiling of ₹40 lakh per vessel is being provided to the traditional fishers, their societies/associations/Self Help Groups/Fish Producers Organizations, including the fishermen whose fishing vessels were seized by Sri Lanka.

**National Horticulture Mission in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra**

†686. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) the number of districts of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra included under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM);
- (b) the details of the horticulture crops likely to be included under the above Mission and the details of the producer and consumer relationship made applicable, State-wise; and
- (c) whether any infrastructural units for the management of crops, after their harvest, have been set up in the above States under this Mission, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) A total of forty five (45) districts of Uttar Pradesh and all the districts of Maharashtra are included under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM).

(b) All major horticulture crops are covered under the existing guidelines of the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). Formation of FPOs/Farmer's group is being promoted in all states in addition to logistics and infrastructural support to promote/establish relationship between producer and consumer.

(c) Under NHM, assistance is also provided for establishment infrastructural units for the management of crops, after their harvest which includes infrastructures

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

relating to cold chain management viz. cold storage units, refrigerated vans/containers, primary processing units, ripening chambers, pre-cooling units etc.

Details of infrastructural units setup under the mission (till date) in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra are as under:—

Sl. No	Component	Unit	Uttar Pradesh	Maharashtra
1.	Cold storage Units	No.	228	104
2.	Ripening chambers	No.	18	83
3.	Primary processing unit	No.	7	956
4.	Pre-cooling unit	No.	1	11
5.	Refrigerated van	No.	8	8

#### **Agitation by farmers in Madhya Pradesh**

687. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:

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

(a) whether Central Government has taken note of the farmers' agitations in the country, particularly in Madhya Pradesh where five farmers have been killed in police firing;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for their agitation;

(c) whether Government has sought any report from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by State Government against the police officials for killing of farmers and also for mitigating the hardships faced by them?

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

(b) The main reasons for agitation are:—

(i) waiver of farm loans,

- (ii) fixation of minimum support price (MSP) for agricultural produce as per Swaminathan Committee report,
- (iii) agricultural loan at 2% rate of interest,
- (iv) declaration of MSP for all crops by Central Government, and
- (v) higher price of agro produce like onions, soyabean, etc.

(c) and (d) The report has been sought from the State Government on farmers' agitation. No report has been received from the state Government so far.

**MSP and bonus to chilli growing farmers**

688. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

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

(a) whether Government of Telangana has sent any proposal to Central Government for providing MSP to chilli growing farmers and a bonus keeping in view the loss incurred by them, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Central Government has taken any decision on this matter, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stand of Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) A proposal for procurement of chilli under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) was received from Government of Telangana on 31.03.2017 and this Ministry has given an approval for procurement of chilli on 01.05.2017 in the State of Telangana.

(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. The crop of chilli does not meet the criteria for inclusion under MSP crops. For agricultural and horticultural commodities which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the Price Support Scheme, Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) is implemented 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.

**Suicides by farmers due to wrong policies**

689. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that farmers are still committing suicides due to the wrong policies of Government, if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the news of such incidents is also coming from those States which are considered advanced in agriculture; and
- (c) if so, the reasons for such suicides and the speedy redressal measures being taken by Government?

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

As per Report of 2015, the major suicides prone states are Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh and the main reasons of suicides are 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' and 'Farming Related Issues' among farmers/cultivators. Other prominent causes of farmers/cultivators suicides are family problems, illness, etc.

Agrarian distress as manifest from large number of farmers living below the poverty line (BPL) and unfortunate incidents of suicides can be addressed by enabling the farmers to increase their income. With this understanding, the Government is targeting to double the income of the farmers by the year 2022. To achieve this, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare has constituted an Inter-

Ministerial Committee to examine various dimensions of farmers' income and to recommend an appropriate strategy. In the meanwhile, the Government is realigning its interventions to move from production-centric to farmers' income-centric platform. The Department has, therefore, been implementing various schemes to meet this objective viz. Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Interest Subvention Scheme etc.

**Monopoly of foreign companies over GM seeds**

†690. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) by when the Ministry is proposing to start producing Genetically Modified mustard for commercial use after getting permission from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change;

(b) whether it is a fact that foreign companies have monopoly over seeds of other GM crops, including mustard, because of which farmers are bound to purchase seeds from them; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken/being taken by the Ministry for bringing seeds of GM crops within the reach of Indian companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) As on date, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has not given permission for environmental release of Genetically Modified mustard so the question of its commercial production does not arise.

(b) and (c) Bt. cotton is the only GM crop approved for commercial cultivation in the Country. About 1400 Bt. cotton hybrids have been approved for commercial cultivation in India.

In order to control the monopolization and exorbitant pricing of Bt. cotton seeds in the country, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare issued

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

a Cotton Seeds Price (Control) Order, 2015 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 on 7th December, 2015 to regulate maximum sales price of Bt. cotton seeds including trait value (Royalty). Under Section 5 of Cotton Seeds Price (Control) Order, 2015, a Committee has been constituted to recommend the maximum sale price of Bt. cotton seeds. The Government shall notify the maximum sale price of Bt. cotton seeds on or before 31st March of every year applicable for the next financial year.

In addition, ICAR has developed two indigenous Bt. cotton varieties viz. CICR Bt. 6 and PAU Bt. 1 for cultivation in Northern cotton growing States of the country. Further, four Bt. cotton varieties are in advance stage of release in Central and Southern cotton growing States.

#### **Procurement of agricultural produces at MSP**

†691. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

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

(a) the steps taken towards reducing the cost of production of agricultural produces and the details of initiatives taken for the implementation of recommendations of M. S. Swaminathan Committee for the pricing of agricultural produces;

(b) the name of agricultural produces for which Minimum Support Price (MSP) is being fixed currently and whether all the crop produces are being purchased at this rate from the farmers in the market; and

(c) the problems faced by farmers of the country and the steps taken to address them, 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 increase the productivity and reducing the cost of production of agriculture produce which *inter alia* includes Soil Health Card, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Neem-coated Urea (NCU), Bio Pesticides for promoting Integrated Pest Management, Production of Quality Seeds, Promoting water saving devices like sprinkler sets, drip irrigation systems, water carrying pipes/ underground pipelines etc.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



National Commission on Farmers (NCF) headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan had recommended that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) should be at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production. This recommendation, however, has not been accepted by the Government.

Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the major agricultural produce on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). While formulating its recommendations on price policy, CACP considers various important factors that include cost of cultivation, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc. MSP is recommended by CACP based on objective criteria, considering variety of relevant factors.

(b) Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for twenty two (22) major crops *viz.* Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Arhar, Moong, Urad, Groundnut-in-shell, Soyabean, Sunflower, Sesamum, Nigerseed, Cotton, Wheat, Barley, Gram, Masur (Lentil), Rapeseed/Mustardseed, Safflower, Jute and Copra and Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for Sugarcane on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). In addition, MSP for Toria and De-Husked coconut is fixed by the Department on the basis of MSPs of Rapeseed/Mustardseed and Copra respectively.

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.

(c) Low productivity of crops and lower income realization in agriculture are the major problems faced by farmers in the country. 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 etc.

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

### **New Drug Policy**

692. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to introduce a new Drug Policy, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when this new Drug Policy would come into effect, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is contemplating to introduce a new National Pharmaceutical Policy which would not restrict itself to pricing aspect only.

(b) No time limit can be indicated at this stage.

### Import of urea

693. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of urea imported by the country during the last three years;
- (b) the quantum of amount set aside for estimated urea import in 2017-18;
- (c) whether Government has decided to make available urea bags of 45 Kg. instead of 50 Kg., if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether this move will help to cut urea consumption and save large amount of money on subsidy annually, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken by Government to revive closed urea manufacturing plants to ramp up production and to export the same to our neighboring countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) The quantum of urea imported by the country for direct agriculture use during the last three years is as below:—

(Qty in Lakh MT)

Year	From OMIFCO	Through STE	Total
2014-15	14.63	72.86	87.49
2015-16	20.78	63.96	84.74
2016-17	20.02	34.79	54.81

(b) The quantum of amount set aside for estimated urea import in 2017-18 is ₹ 14000 crore.

(c) and (d) Subsequent to introduction of Neem coating of urea, it has been reported from the field that this initiative has been well received by farmers. One of the primary benefits of Neem coating is that due to slow release of the nitrogen, the consumption of neem coated urea reduces as compared to uncoated urea. Further, since farmers mostly assess the requirement of urea in terms of bags for agriculture purpose, it is felt that if the urea is made available in 45 Kg bags instead of 50 Kg, the consumption of urea may further come down which will also lead to balanced fertilization and also increase the yield in the range of 7 to 12% in different crops. This proposal is currently under examination in the Department.

(e) Government of India has taken the lead in augmenting production of urea in the country by reviving five old urea plants of FCIL/HFCL at Ramagundam, Barauni, Sindri, Gorakhpur and Talcher by setting new urea plants of 1.27 million MT each.

#### **Support to small and medium pharma industries**

694. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to disinvest the loss making and underperforming pharmaceutical PSUs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the list of such PSUs, State-wise;

(c) the effective steps taken by Government to revive the IDPL, Chennai;

(d) whether Government has any special plans to motivate small and medium pharmaceutical companies in a very competitive field plagued by monopoly of pharmaceutical giants, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the incentives provided to support small and medium pharmaceutical industries in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (c) There are five pharmaceutical Public Sector undertakings (PSUs) under aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals, namely Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL), Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (RDPL), Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL), Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL) and Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited (KAPL). Out of these five PSUs, all except KAPL are sick or

incipient sick. The earlier revival/rehabilitation package of IDPL, HAL and BCPL have failed to achieve desired results. The production activities in RDPL have stopped after fire in its plant in October, 2016. In view of the same, the Government has decided for strategic sale of BCPL and HAL and closure of IDPL and RDPL after meeting their liabilities, cleansing their balance sheets and effecting Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) /Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) by sale of their surplus land. It was further decided to explore the possibility of hiving off the subsidiary companies of HAL and IDPL (including IDPL Chennai) for private participation. State-wise details of Pharma PSUs are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Company	Manufacturing facility at
1.	Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL)	i. Telangana ii. Uttarakhand iii. Haryana
2.	Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL)	i. West Bengal ii. Uttar Pradesh iii. Maharashtra
3.	Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL)	Maharashtra
4.	Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (RDPL)	Rajasthan
5.	Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited (KAPL)	Karnataka

(d) and (e) With a vision to catalyze and encourage quality, productivity and innovation in the pharmaceutical sector and to enable the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) to play a leading role in a competitive global market, the Department of Pharmaceuticals is operating a Scheme titled the 'Cluster Development Scheme for Pharmaceutical Sector for financing Common Facility Centers' for which a sum of ₹ 125 crores has been allocated during the current plan period. In response to Expression of Interest (EOI) invited, M/s Chennai Pharma Industrial Infrastructure Up-gradation Complex (CPIIUC), Alathur District Kanchipuram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu has been found suitable by the Scheme Selection Committee (SSC).

**Production capacity of fertilizer plants**

695. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that certain fertilizer units are understating and underutilizing their production capacities, if so, details thereof;
- (b) the action taken to re-assess the production capacity and quality; and
- (c) the action proposed against these companies and the concerned officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) The details of the reassessed capacity and actual production of urea manufacturing units during the period 2016-17 is given in the Statement (*See* below). Out of 30 urea manufacturing units, only 5 urea units *viz.*, GSFC- Baroda, BVFCL-Namrup-II& III, MFL-Chennai and SPIC- Tuticorin have produced urea below their production capacity during the year 2016-17 due to technical reasons/policy constraints. However, these units are not understating/underutilizing their production capacities.

(b) and (c) In view of above question does not arise.

***Statement***

*Unit -wise Reassessed Capacity and production of Urea during 2016-17*

(Fig. in "LMT")

Name of Plants	Annual Reassessed Capacity	2016-17
<b>Public Sector:</b>		
NFL: Nangal-II	4.79	5.02
NFL: Bhatinda	5.12	5.68
NFL: Panipat	5.12	5.43
NFL: Vijaipur	8.65	10.58
NFL: Vijaipur Expn.	8.65	11.39
TOTAL (NFL):	32.31	38.10
BVFCL Namrup-II	2.40	0.60
BVFCL: Namrup-III	3.15	2.50

Name of Plants	Annual Reassessed Capacity	2016-17
TOTAL (BVFCL):	5.55	3.11
RCF: Trombay-V	3.30	4.08
RCR: Thal	17.07	21.44
TOTAL (RCF):	20.37	25.52
MFL: Chennai	4.87	4.68
<b>TOTAL Public Sector:</b>	63.09	71.41
<b>Coop. Sector:</b>		
IFFCO: Kalol	5.45	6.02
IFFCO: Phulpur	5.51	6.32
IFFCO: Phulpur Expn.	8.65	9.92
IFFCO: Aonla	8.65	10.69
IFFCO: Aonla Expn.	8.65	10.34
TOTAL (IFFCO):	36.89	43.27
KRIBHCO: Hazira	17.29	23.53
<b>TOTAL Coop. Sector:</b>	54.19	66.81
<b>TOTAL (Pub.+Coop.)</b>	117.28	138.21
<b>Private Sector:</b>		
GSFC: Vadodara	3.71	3.59
SFG: Kota	3.80	3.94
KFCL (DIL): Kanpur	7.23	7.23
ZACL: Goa	3.99	4.65
SPIC: Tuticorin	6.20	5.63
MCF: Mangalore	3.80	3.80
GNFC: Bharuch	6.37	6.90
IGF: Jagdishpur	8.65	11.61
NFCL: Kakinada-I	5.97	7.88
NFCL: Kakinada-II	5.97	7.10

Name of Plants	Annual Reassessed Capacity	2016-17
CFCL: Gadepan-I	8.65	9.66
CFCL: Gadepan-II	8.65	10.36
TCL: Babrala	8.65	12.14
KSFL: Shahjhanpur	8.65	9.32
<b>TOTAL Private Sector:</b>	90.26	103.79
<b>TOTAL (Pub.+Coop.+Pvt.):</b>	207.54	242.01

\* Data from mfms.nic.in as on 18.07.2017.

### Setting up of Jan Aushadhi Kendras at railway stations

696. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the policy of Government on setting up of Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs);
- (b) the details of JAKs proposed and set up since implementation of scheme, State-wise and year-wise, respectively;
- (c) whether Ministry has decided to set up JAKs at more than 1,000 railway stations;
- (d) if so, in view of limited demand at railway stations and requirement of platform ticket to enter stations, how it would be useful for people; and
- (e) whether any consultations have been held with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for an enactment to mandate doctors to prescribe only generic medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) In order to make available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all, a countrywide campaign in the name of 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana' (PMBJP) covering all States/UTs and Districts of the country, has been started.

(b) As on 19.07.2017, 2025 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras' (PMBJKs) are functional in 31 States/UTs of the country. In addition, as on 19.07.2017, 47 Drug License (DL) have been received for opening PMBJP Kendrai in the country. The State-wise details of 47 PMBJP Kendras to be opened and the year-wise details

of PMBJP Kendras opened from the year of launching of the scheme is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The possibility of opening of PMBJP Kendras at various Railway Stations in the country is being explored.

(e) As per the Indian Medical Council (Professional, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, Para 1.5 provides that every physician should prescribe drugs with generic names and he/she shall ensure that there is a rational prescription and use of drugs.

**Statement**

*State-wise details of PMBJP Kendras to be opened*

Sl. No.	State	PMBJP Kendras to be opened / Drug License DL) received for opening PMBJP Kendras in addition to 2025 functional PMBJP Kendras as on 19.07.2017
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2
2.	Bihar	3
3.	Chhattisgarh	2
4.	Gujarat	3
5.	Karnataka	2
6.	Madhya Pradesh	1
7.	Maharashtra	4
8.	Manipur	1
9.	Mizoram	1
10.	Nagaland	2
11.	Odisha	1
12.	Punjab	2
13.	Rajasthan	2
14.	Sikkim	1
15.	Tamil Nadu	13



1	2	3
16.	Telangana	1
17.	Tripura	2
18.	Uttarakhand	3
19.	West Bengal	1
TOTAL		47

*Year-wise details of PMBJP Kendras opened*

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Number of PMBJP Kendras opened
1.	2008-2009	4
2.	2009-2010	19
3.	2010-2011	7
4.	2011-2012	17
5.	2012-2013	25
6.	2013-2014	6
7.	2014-2015	18
8.	2015-2016	165
9.	2016-2017	811
10.	2017-2018	953
	(As on 19.07.2017)	
TOTAL		2025

**SPV for Cluster Development in Pharma Sector**

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

(a) whether Government has established any Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in the State of Tamil Nadu under Cluster Development for Pharma Sector (CDS-PS), if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the manufacturer and enterprises of pharma producers as the share holders of SPV; and

(c) the details of the funds released so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Pharmaceuticals is operating a Scheme titled the 'Cluster Development Scheme for Pharmaceutical Sector' for financing Common Facility Centers in Pharma Clusters. One Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), M/s Chennai Pharma Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Complex (CPIIUC), Alathur District Kanchipuram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu has been selected under the scheme.

(b) The details of Manufacturers and Enterprises of Pharma Producers as the Shareholders of the above mentioned SPV, are given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of SPV member	Address of Firm/member
1.	Apex Laboratories Pvt. Ltd	B-23, Sidco Pharmaceutical Complex, Alathur-603110, TN
2.	Unilink Pharma Pvt. Ltd	A-2, Sidco Pharmaceutical Complex, Alathur-603110, TN
3.	Steadman Pharmaceuticals pvt. Ltd	C-4, Sidco Pharmaceutical Complex, Alathur-603110, TN
4.	Apex Laboratories Pvt. Ltd	B-24, Sidco Pharmaceutical Complex, Alathur-603110, TN
5.	Spincotech Pvt. Ltd	B-21, Sidco Pharmaceutical Complex, Alathur-603110, TN
6.	Eurokem Laboratories pvt. Ltd	C-25, Sidco Pharmaceutical Complex, Alathur-603110, TN
7.	Apex Laboratories Pvt. Ltd	C-7, Sidco Pharmaceutical Complex, Alathur-603110, TN
8.	Tamman Titoe Pharma Pvt. Ltd	56-57, Sidco Pharmaceutical Complex, Alathur-603110, TN
9.	Apex Laboratories Pvt. Ltd	A-8, Sidco Pharmaceutical Complex, Alathur-603110, TN

Sl. No.	Name of SPV member	Address of Firm/member
10.	Orchid Health Care	A-10, Sidco Pharmaceutical Complex, Alathur-603110, TN
11.	Global Pharma Healthcare Pvt. Ltd.	9A, Sidco Pharmaceutical Complex, Alathur-603110, TN
12.	Caress beauty care products pvt. Ltd.	A12, Sidco Pharmaceutical Complex, Alathur-603110, TN
13.	Clarion Cosmetics	D14, Sidco Pharmaceutical Complex, Alathur-603110, TN

(c) M/s Chennai Pharma Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Company (CPIIUC), Chennai has been sanctioned ₹ 1.40 crore as part of first instalment for installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CEPT) at Alathur, Tamilnadu under the Scheme for Cluster Development for Pharma Sector.

#### **Adherence to GMP by pharma companies**

†698. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has issued certain guidelines to pharmaceutical companies towards adhering with GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) norms;

(b) if so, whether pharmaceutical companies have taken no steps towards compliance in this regard;

(c) if so, whether Government is considering to take any action against such companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (d) The drug manufacturer, is required to comply with all the conditions of license, and follow Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) as prescribed under Schedule 'M' of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945, to ensure that the drugs manufactured by them are of standard

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

quality. State Licensing Authorities are empowered to take action on violation of any conditions of such Licenses.

### **Jan Aushadhi Kendras at railway stations**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to open Jan Aushadhi Kendras at railway stations of the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the railway stations identified under this scheme; and
- (c) whether Government has fixed any time-limit for implementing this scheme at all railway stations of the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (c) The possibility of opening of 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Kendras' at various Railway Stations in the country under 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana' (PMBJP) is being explored.

### **Flouting of NPPA's pricing norms by drug companies**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that many pharmaceutical companies are found flouting pricing norms by introducing drugs without the approval of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation or National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the action taken by Government to check the violation of pricing norms of the NPPA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes Sir, during the monitoring of compliance of various provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) by drug manufacturers, it is seen that the provisions related to 'new drugs' have not been followed in some cases wherein pharmaceutical companies have launched the

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

formulation without taking prior price approval from National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). The concerned companies were instructed to furnish certified batch wise production and sales details along with the corresponding MRP for the formulations from the date of launch of the product till date. Demand notices for an amount of ₹ 74.65 crore have been issued to the erring pharmaceutical companies for launching such drugs / medicines without prior price approval of NPPA. Out of this, an amount of ₹ 1.05 crore has so far been recovered.

(b) The Government is effectively monitoring the prices of scheduled medicines and taking action against companies found overcharging the consumers based on the references received from the State Drugs Controllers / individuals, samples purchased from the open market and reports from market based data and complaints reported through the grievance redressal websites, 'Pharma Jan Samadhan' (PJS) and 'Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)'.

#### **Declaration of prices of medical devices**

701. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medical devices which are declared as 'drugs' such as stents, valves, orthopaedic implants, syringes and tools for operations will have to declare their maximum retail price and other details including that of manufacturer and importer; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Government fixes ceiling price of only those drugs which are included in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) and consequently put in Schedule-I of the Drugs Price Control Order, 2013. Out of 23 Medical Devices regulated as drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetic Act, only 4 devices *viz.* cardiac stents, drugs eluting stents, condoms and intra uterine devices have been included in Schedule-I of DPCO, 2013. The remaining 19 medical devices are non-scheduled formulations as per the DPCO, 2013 and manufacturers of these 19 devices are not allowed to increase their prices by more than 10% yearly. Thus National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) monitors the prices of the 19 non-scheduled medical devices.

**Revised ceiling prices of drugs**

702. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had notified revised ceiling prices of about hundreds of medicines/drugs recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) to what extent the revised ceiling has reduced the prices of such medicines/drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has recently revised the ceiling price of scheduled formulations *vide* S.O. 2058(E), 2059(E), 2060(E), 2061(E), 2062(E) & 2063(E) dated 30.6.2017 on account of implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) to give effect to the excise duty being subsumed in the GST.

(c) NPPA has also analyzed the impact of GST on prices of the formulations and it is noticed that there will be no impact on the prices non-scheduled formulations which account for nearly 80% of the total pharmaceuticals sector. In respect of Scheduled formulations, there is no impact on the prices of about 4% of the total formulations, which mainly include formulations related to Immunisation Program, Anti-cancer, Oral rehydration salts and Contraceptives etc. In most of the remaining formulations, which account for nearly 16% of the total pharmaceutical sector, there is an increase in the prices to the extent of nearly 2.30%.

**Jan Aushadhi Kendras**

703. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of 3000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) proposed to be opened in various States of the country;
- (b) the details of JAKs made operational so far, State-wise;
- (c) the justification for making it mandatory for doctors to prescribe generic medicines when there are not even 3000 JAKs in the entire country; and

(d) the efforts made by the Ministry to bring awareness among the people about generic medicines and Jan Aushadhi Kendras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) As on 19.07.2017, 2025 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Kendras' are functional in 31 States/UTs of the country.

(b) A State-wise list of 2025 functional PMBJP Kendras is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) As per the Indian Medical Council (Professional, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, Para 1.5 Use of Generic names of drugs provides that every physician should prescribe drugs with generic names and he/she shall ensure that there is a rational prescription and use of drugs. The regulation is still not mandatory but recommendatory. Generic medicines are also available in other medical stores besides PMBJP Kendras.

(d) In order to spread awareness about the use of generic drugs and PMBJP Kendras in the country, Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) (the implementing agency of PMBJP) has initiated various publicity campaigns around PMBJP Kendras through hoardings, bulk SMS, mobile exhibitions, distribution of pamphlets, etc. for spreading awareness. Also, a 15 day Radio/FM campaign was also launched in various States of the country.

#### *Statement*

##### *State-wise list of functional PMBJP Kendras*

Sl. No.	State	Functional PMBJP Kendras
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	21
3.	Assam	40
4.	Bihar	37
5.	Chandigarh	5
6.	Chhattisgarh	165
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5
8.	Daman and Diu	1

Sl. No.	State	Functional PMBJP Kendras
9.	Delhi	27
10.	Gujarat	179
11.	Haryana	44
12.	Himachal Pradesh	23
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	23
14.	Jharkhand	39
15.	Karnataka	112
16.	Kerala	256
17.	Madhya Pradesh	57
18.	Maharashtra	138
19.	Manipur	30
20.	Mizoram	6
21.	Nagaland	11
22.	Odisha	44
23.	Puducherry	2
24.	Punjab	54
25.	Rajasthan	72
26.	Tamil Nadu	129
27.	Telangana	44
28.	Tripura	19
29.	Uttar Pradesh	277
30.	Uttarakhand	56
31.	West Bengal	9
TOTAL		2025

#### **Inclusion of Orthopaedic implants in the list of essential drugs**

704. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that manufacturing companies are charging



exorbitant prices of orthopaedic implants several times higher than its manufacturing cost, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to include the orthopaedic implants also in the list of essential drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Data regarding prices of Orthopedic Implants collected and analyzed recently by National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) has revealed that the maximum retail prices for various orthopedic implants are very high in comparison to the landing cost in case of imported devices or cost of production in case of manufactured devices. Though orthopedic implants are included in the 23 medical devices notified as drugs and are under price monitor mechanism, these have not yet been included in the list of essential medicines.

**Promotional offers allowed by TRAI**

705. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI has rejected Telecom Commission's contention that free promotional offers allowed by it are responsible for the industry's falling financial health and lower licence fee payments to Government, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Telecom Commission, in a letter to TRAI, had warned of loan default by operators and asked the TRAI to revisit its tariff orders and free promotional offers of firms; and

(c) if so, whether the Telecom Commission has received any response from TRAI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Telecom Commission in its communication to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has raised the issue of declining license fees from Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and the effect of fall in revenue in the overall financial health of Telecom companies and their ability to fulfill future commitments towards spectrum usage charge and service debts of the financial institutions. Telecom Commission further stated that it will also impact the financial health of the sector and

the capability of the service providers to raise the resources and invest in telecom networks for up gradation and maintenance. Telecom Commission has requested TRAI to revisit and review its tariff orders/direction/decisions in the larger interest of Government revenues as well as the telecom sector as also to ensure orderly growth of the telecom sector.

TRAI has responded that the promotional tariffs are as per the prevailing guidelines/directions and reduced tariff *inter-alia* maximizes the overall economic growth of the sector and results in increase in productivity. Further, stating that reduction in tariffs has benefited the customers. The fixation of tariff and consequent impact of Government revenues needs to be seen in the perspective, based on access and equity.

TRAI has requested Telecom Commission to consider its recommendations with respect to the license terms and conditions for different telecom services, methodology of estimation of revenue for levying license fee and spectrum usage charges, increased duration and installment for payment of spectrum fee and amount of Universal Services Obligation Fund.

An Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) has been formed by the Government to look into the issue of Stress in Telecom Sector. The IMG is seized of the matter.

#### **4G data traffic**

706. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the high speed broadband technology 4G drove data traffic across the country in 2016, making up 60 per cent of incremental data volumes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as 4G and 3G technology usage increases, service providers will need to improve capacity through site connectivity to fibre and use of optical fibre backhaul as an efficient and higher capacity data transfer solution; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the 4G coverage is yet to penetrate across all circles, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes Sir, high speed broadband technology 4G drove data traffic across the country in 2016.

(b) As 4G and 3G technology usage increases, site connectivity is to be augmented by using appropriate technology for backhaul like optical fibre or high bandwidth microwave.

(c) 4G services are available in all circles.

### **Decline in revenue of telecom operators**

707. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the decline in telecom operators' revenue was due to falling tariff, which impacts their capacity to invest and can also lead to delay in spectrum payment, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that telecom service providers' debt is almost ₹4,60,000 crore, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Details of revenue figures for Q1-Q4 of 2016-17 are as below:

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Revenue (in Rupees crores)	60838.9	60862.2	53998.4	35926.6

(b) Yes, Sir. As per information from State Bank of India, Telecom industry owes about Rupees 6.10475 Lakh crores to various Financial Institutions and Banks as detailed below:

### *Debt Liabilities of Telecom Services Providers (in ₹ crores)*

Particulars	Liabilities <sup>1</sup>
Airtel <sup>2, 3</sup>	160,322
Idea <sup>4</sup>	68,211
Vodafone <sup>4</sup>	70,136
Reliance Communications <sup>3</sup>	73,224
Tata <sup>3</sup>	52,390
Aircel <sup>4</sup>	29,569

Particulars	Liabilities <sup>1</sup>
BSNL <sup>5</sup>	19,630
MTNL <sup>5</sup>	23,820
Videocon <sup>5</sup>	2,936
Reliance Jio <sup>4</sup>	87,425
TOTAL	587,663

1. Excludes Non-Fund Based (NFB) limits of operators which may aggregate to another Rupees 50,000 crores.
2. Includes Africa and other Asia Operations.
3. Debt Numbers as on 31st December 2016.
4. Debt Numbers as on 28th Feb 2017.
5. Debt Numbers as on 31st March 2016. Split of Rupees and foreign Currency Facilities not available.

*Debt Liabilities of Telecom Tower Companies (in ₹ crores)*

Particulars	Liabilities
Bharti Infratel	2,329
Indus Tower	4,232
GTL Infra <sup>1</sup>	5,387
Chennai Network Infrastructure Limited (CNIL) <sup>1</sup>	4,864
Viom Networks	6,000
TOTAL	22,812

1. Number as on First Half Financial Year 2017

**Condition of Government companies in telecom sector**

†708. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether unprecedented progress in telephone communication, net revolution and other technical systems, due to which at present we are talking about 3G to 4G and even advanced technologies, has been brought about by Private sector only, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether on other hand, Government companies and corporations are in deplorable condition and corporations working at level of metropolitan cities are on verge of closure, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is considering any proposal for making Government telephone companies and corporations stronger so that they can pose stiff competition to Private sector, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No Sir, both the Public Sector Companies, namely, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are providing services using state of the art technology such as 3G besides providing 2G mobile services. BSNL and MTNL are also augmenting its 3G mobile network to enhance their capacity and data handling capability from time to time. Besides above, BSNL has planned introduction of 4G services under its Phase VIII.4 project.

(b) MTNL is incurring losses since 2009-10. As per unaudited accounts for the 3rd quarter ending 31st December, 2016 of MTNL, its net loss was ₹2306 crore and its net worth has turned negative to ₹2702 crore. Based on the financial results of MTNL for the financial year 2016-17, MTNL has been classified as "Incipient Sick CPSE (Central Public Sector Enterprise)" as per Department of Public Enterprise (DPE) Guidelines.

(c) Yes Sir, the revival plan of MTNL, which has been prepared by its consultant M/s Deloitte and approved by MTNL Board in its 323rd Meeting held on 27.03.2017, is under process in the Department of Telecommunications.

#### **Stressed debt in telecom sector**

709. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the increasing stressed debt in the Telecom sector;

(b) if so, the percentage share of debt of Telecom sector in financial years 2015, 2016 and 2017; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to tackle the rising stress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Upgradation of BSNL mobile tower**

710. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any letter regarding upgradation of BSNL mobile tower into 3G, which is installed in Udaipur, in village Bakhuli in Chirgaon Tehsil under Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, by when it will be upgraded into 3G, keeping in view the fact that most of the customers of that area are using BSNL mobile phones and also that other private telecom operators have already upgraded their mobile towers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to upgrade Udaipur Base Transceiver Station (BTS) site of Bakhuli village in Chirgaon Tehsil under Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh under Phase - VIII (4) project to 3G during 2017-18.

#### **Call drops**

†711. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consumers are facing heavy losses due to call drops while talking on mobile phones and companies are earning benefit from it; and

(b) whether Government is going to make such provisions through TRAI so that call drops could be avoided and in case it occurs, the consumers do not have to bear the losses, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) For calls terminated due to call drop, the mobile user is charged, as per the applicable tariff, for the duration of the call, which is rounded off to the next pulse. With about 95 per cent pre-paid subscribers out of which more than 85 per cent having per second billing the issue of financial loss may not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The dropping of calls in wireless network is a world-wide phenomenon and happens in every wireless network due to various reasons including poor radio coverage, radio interference, loading of available spectrum, change in pattern of traffic, shutdown of sites due to power failures, non-maintenance of the equipments and cable, etc.

The performance of Service Providers on call drop is accessed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for both 2G and 3G services through two parameters viz. "call drop rate (benchmark less than or equal to 2%)" on monthly average basis for the licensed Service Area and "worst affected cells having more than 3% Traffic Channel (TCH) drop/ Circuit Switched Voice drop rate (benchmark less than or equal to 3%)." Any Cell with TCH drop/Circuit Switched Voice drop rate more than 3% is treated as bad cell whose performance is to be improved. Both the Government and TRAI are taking all possible steps and pursuing with the TSPs to address the problem of call drop and bring it down within the permissible limit.

In order to address call drop issue in effective and time-bound manner, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has taken many initiatives including (i) making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services- auction of 965 MHz in 2016, (ii) allowing Spectrum Sharing, Trading and liberlisation of administratively allocated spectrum as per the guidelines to facilitate efficient utilisation, (iii) permitting sharing of active as well as passive infrastructure by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for achieving higher efficiency, (iv) notification of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 for regulating underground infrastructure (optical fibre) and over-ground infrastructure (mobile towers), (v) periodic review of expansion of mobile networks and related improvements carried out by the service providers- leading to addition of around 4.22 lakh additional Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) on aggregate basis for 2G/3G/4G services during the period-July 2015 to June 2017 as well as rectification/ optimisation of more than 4 lakh 2G/3G Cells on all-India basis and installation of over 13 thousand BTS-repeaters, (vi) facilitating use of Government estate for installation of mobile towers on multiple-sharing basis, and (vii) launching of Tarang Sanchar, a public web portal for information sharing on mobile towers and Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) emission compliances to clear misconceptions, myth and dispel fear.

In addition to the above, DoT has launched Interactive Voice Response Service (IVRS) using short code 1955 from 23 December 2016 onwards to get direct feedback from the subscribers on call drops. Over 47 lakh IVRS calls have been made till 31 May 2017, out of which 6.30 lakh subscribers participated in the survey and 3.74 lakh have

reported call drops, mostly indoors. The feedback is shared with the TSPs who in turn contact each subscriber by phone/SMS (Short Messaging Service) to get further details for resolution of specific complaints. So far, 23727 individual complaints of call drop reported through IVRS system have been resolved and 14881 complaints related to issues other than call drop such as roaming, billing, MNP (Mobile Number Portability), mobile device etc. have also been resolved. 358 new BTS sites/Boosters have been added during the period. The feedback has proved very useful and resulted in a drop of 7% in IVRS complaints related to call drops since its launch.

As a result, availability of 2G and 3G mobile networks have been consistently improving in terms of related TRAI benchmarks *i.e.* accumulated downtime (benchmark less than or equal to 2%). As per latest report published by TRAI for the quarter ending on March 2017, the non-compliance has reduced from 8 TSPs to 1 in case of 2G and from 7 TSPs to 1 in case of 3G services.

#### **Mobile towers operating in the country**

†712. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the number of mobile towers operating in the country, mobile company-wise, and the number of mobile towers being set up at present, State-wise;
- (b) whether complaints have been received that the mobile companies are not following the prescribed guidelines regarding electro-magnetic radiation, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the quantum of penalty imposed by Government on those companies and the total amount of penalty that could be recovered, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Sir, as on 31.05.2017, 14,85,753 number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) have been established by the different Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) at mobile tower locations across the country. The Licensed Service Area-wise (LSA-wise) details of these mobile towers and BTSs is given in the Statement-I. (*See below*) The Telecom Service Provider-wise (TSP-wise) details of BTSs are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



(b) and (c) During last three years *i.e.* 2014 to 2016 and current year 2017 (upto 31.05.2017), a total of 483 number of complaints against different mobile tower locations covering 2,416 number of BTSs of different TSPs have been received by DoT field units from public regarding EMF radiation. The TSP-wise details of BTSs covered in such complaints are given in the Statement-II. For such complaints, DoT field units have carried out audit to check the compliance to prescribed EMF emission norms and a total of 36 number of BTSs were found exceeding prescribed EMF emission exposure limits. Being recent cases, the show cause notices have been issued to erring TSPs and penalty imposition process has already been initiated.

Further, in addition to above mentioned complaints, as on 30.06.2017, a total of 29 number of measurement requests have been received by DoT field units through Tarang Sanchar portal to check the compliance to EMF emission exposure limits at specified locations which are not TSP-specific. All such complaints have been attended by DoT field units and none of measurement location is found non-compliant to prescribed EMF emission exposure limits.

***Statement-I***

*LSA-wise details of mobile towers and BTSs*

Sl. No.	Name of LSA	Number of BTSs established by different TSPs as on 31.05.2017	Number of mobile tower locations at which BTSs are established by different TSPs as on 31.05.2017
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,15,977	34,621
2.	Assam	30,372	10,114
3.	Bihar	70,581	29,390
4.	Delhi	77,237	19,535
5.	Gujarat	91,508	26,071

1	2	3	4
6.	Haryana	37,271	9,898
7.	Himachal Pradesh	14,911	5,022
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	21,975	7,730
9.	Karnataka	1,09,948	28,236
10.	Kerala	77,503	15,851
11.	Kolkata	39,012	8,861
12.	Madhya Pradesh	86,872	29,846
13.	Maharashtra	1,23,694	35,704
14.	Mumbai	48,608	14,407
15.	North East	19,241	6,474
16.	Odisha	37,966	15,028
17.	Punjab	63,154	17,663
18.	Rajasthan	74,715	24,277
19.	Tamil Nadu	1,27,601	38,799
20.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	92,155	29,748
21.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	72,002	23,303
22.	West Bengal	53,450	17,695
GRAND TOTAL		14,85,753	4,48,273

## ..Statement-II

## Telecom Service Provider-wise details of BTSs

Sl. No	Name of TSP	Number of BTSs established by different TSPs as on 31.05.2017	Number of BTSs covered in complaints received by DoT field units from public regarding EMF radiation during last three years <i>i.e.</i> 2014 to 2016 and current year 2017 (upto 31.05.2017)	Number of BTSs audited by DoT field units based on complaint during last three years <i>i.e.</i> 2014 to 2016 and current year 2017 (upto 31.05.2017)	Number of BTSs found exceeding prescribed EMF emission limits during audit carried out by DoT field units based on compliant during last three years <i>i.e.</i> 2014 to 2016 and current year 2017 (upto 31.05.2017)	Remarks
1.	Aircel/Dishnet	66,333	177	177	1	The penalty
2.	Airtel/BHL	3,41,373	502	502	10	imposition
3.	BSNL	1,32,759	101	101	2	process has been
4.	Idea/ABTL	2,41,927	322	322	1	initiated and
5.	MTNL	3,147	6	6	0	show cause
6.	Reliance	48,011	222	222	1	notices have

7.	Reliance Jio	3,06,384	326	326	8	already been issued to erring TSPs
8.	SSTL (MTS)	8,027	35	35	0	
9.	Tikona	421	0	0	0	
10.	TATA	65,500	220	220	2	
11.	Vodafone	2,41,778	434	434	10	
12.	Telenor/Uninor	29,563	71	71	1	
13.	Augure	530	0	0	0	
GRAND TOTAL		14,85,753	2,416	2,416	36	

**Internet facilities in the country**

713. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of internet users in the country, State-wise, and the extent of internet connectivity;

(b) whether low internet penetration in some parts of the country has adversely affected Digital India initiative, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has assessed the need to augment telecom infrastructure so as to provide internet services in villages, small towns and cities, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government is taking any steps to make available quality internet facilities in different States, especially Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Licensed service area wise number of internet subscribers and number of internet subscribers per 100 population as on 31st March' 2017, as published in the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI's) "The Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators January - March, 2017" report dated 05th July 2017 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Low internet penetration can affect Digital India initiatives. In the absence of internet facility to the users, e-Governance services are not accessible to them. However, for providing broadband for all as a part of initiatives under Digital India, internet connectivity is being strengthened in the country on continuous basis.

(c) The Government has assessed the need to augment telecom infrastructure to provide internet services upto Gram Panchayats and BharatNet project has been planned to provide 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media. 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, 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.

The augmentation of telecom infrastructure to provide internet services in cities and towns is left to the telecom service providers for their commercial decision and it is expected that competition in the market will drive them to roll out networks which provide better internet service.

(d) In addition to above, Government has allocated 965 Megahertz spectrum through auction in October 2016 to various telecom service providers for access services in the country including Rajasthan. In this auction, the spectrum as detailed below has been allocated in Rajasthan:

Spectrum Band	Quantum of Spectrum Allocated
800 MHz	5 MHz
1800 MHz	11 MHz
2100 MHz	15 MHz
2500 MHz	20 MHz

In order to provide high speed internet services, 3G/4G networks are being rolled out progressively by the telecom service providers.

**Statement**

*Licensed service area wise number of internet subscribers and number of internet subscribers per 100 population as on 31st March, 2017*

License Service Area	number of internet subscribers (in Millions)	number of internet subscribers per 100 population
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	31.80	35.70
Assam	8.07	24.58
Bihar	24.10	17.30
Delhi	26.79	122.06
Gujarat	27.30	42.40
Haryana	9.63	34.52

1	2	3
Himachal Pradesh	3.76	52.55
Jammu and Kashmir	4.51	35.94
Karnataka	26.87	42.68
Kerala	16.55	46.01
Madhya Pradesh	24.77	23.53
Maharashtra	35.94	44.89
Mumbai	19.57	
North East	4.75	33.68
Odisha	10.51	24.54
Punjab	16.65	53.25
Rajasthan	21.55	29.12
Tamil Nadu	32.32	45.20
Uttar Pradesh (East)	28.58	20.86
Uttar Pradesh (West)	19.93	
Kolkata	11.66	29.53
West Bengal	16.58	
TOTAL	422.19	32.86

*Notes:* Data/information for Andhra Pradesh includes Telengana, Madhya Pradesh includes Chhatisgarh, Bihar includes Jharkhand, Maharashtra includes Goa, Uttar Pradesh (West) includes Uttarakhand, West Bengal includes Sikkim and North-East includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland & Tripura states.

### **Review of telecom policy**

714. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would review its telecom policy in the midst of declining profits, mounting debts and high prices of spectrum acquisitions faced by telecom operators and to evolve some relief measures for the Telecom sector;

(b) whether with telecom density having reached a reasonable level, with operators spending huge money in rolling out their mobile networks in rural areas

entirely at their cost, the Government would suspend their Universal Service Obligation amounting to 5 per cent of their adjusted gross revenues for sometime; and

(c) the other relief measures Government contemplates to adopt to place the Telecom sector at comfort level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes Sir, the current National Telecom Policy-2012 is being reviewed and the Department envisages to formulate a new Telecom Policy in view of rapid technological advancement in the sector. The Policy review is an independent exercise that will lay down the vision for the sector for next 5 to 10 years.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) An Inter - Ministerial Group has been constituted to examine the issues related to stress in the balance sheet of the companies.

#### **Mobile towers in residential areas**

715. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several telecom service providers, including BSNL, are installing mobile towers in residential localities in violation of guidelines, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of mobile towers erected by mobile telecom service providers in residential locations, State-wise and operator-wise; and

(c) whether the safety of human beings is ensured from the radiation of these towers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (c) Sir, with regard to impact of Electromagnetic Field (EMF) emissions from mobile towers on health, World Health Organization (WHO) has referred to approximately 25,000 articles published around the world over past 30 years, and based on an in-depth review of scientific literature, has stated, *"Despite the feeling of some people that more research needs to be done, scientific knowledge in this area is now more extensive than for most chemicals."* WHO has concluded - *"current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to low level electromagnetic fields"*.



The main conclusion from the WHO reviews is that EMF exposures below the limits recommended in the International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) international guidelines do not appear to have any known consequence on health. In India norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) are already 10 times more stringent than the safe limits prescribed by ICNIRP and recommended by WHO. Making the norms ten times stricter than what has been prescribed by ICNIRP and recommended by WHO, obviates the need for having separate norms for special localities like residential. Accordingly, the advisory guidelines issued by DoT, to state governments on 01.08.2013 for issue of clearance for installation of mobile towers, do not place any restriction on installation of mobile towers in residential localities. As such question of violation of guidelines on installation of towers in residential localities, does not arise.

Government of India has not only prescribed stringent norms for EMF emission from mobile towers, but has also put in place a well structured process and adequate mechanism to ensure that Telecommunications Service Providers strictly adhere to these prescribed norms. All new mobile BTS sites start radiating commercially only after ensuring adherence to prescribed norms and after submission of certificate to this effect to relevant Telecom Enforcement Resource & Monitoring (TERM) field offices of DoT. In order to ensure compliance to the prescribed stricter precautionary norms of EMF radiation from mobile tower, the extensive audit of compliance of self-certificates being submitted by telecom service providers and Base Transceiver Station (BTS) sites is carried out by TERM field units of DoT. In case, any BTS site is found to violate the prescribed EMF norms, actions are taken to put a penalty of ₹ 10 lakh per BTS per incidence including closing of BTS site, if the violation persists. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints are also tested by TERM Cell.

(b) The Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) setup at mobile towers are established by the telecom service providers at suitable locations, as per their Radio Frequency (RF) Network Planning for proper coverage of the area and as per their service requirement to fulfil the license conditions. Department of Telecommunications (DoT) does not maintain information regarding number of mobile towers installed in specific localities like residential. The telecom licenses are issued Licensed Service Area (LSA) wise and accordingly the information about number of BTSs setup at mobile towers is maintained LSA-wise and given in the Statement-I. Telecom Service Provider (TSP) wise details of number of BTSs is given in the Statement-II (*See below*)

**Statement-I**

*Licensed Service Area (LSA) wise details of number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) setup at mobile towers as on 31.05.2017*

Sl. No.	Name of LSA	Number of BTSs established by different TSPs as on 31.05.2017
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,15,977
2.	Assam	30,372
3.	Bihar	70,581
4.	Delhi	77,237
5.	Gujarat	91,508
6.	Haryana	37,271
7.	Himachal Pradesh	14,911
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	21,975
9.	Karnataka	1,09,948
10.	Kerala	77,503
11.	Kolkata	39,012
12.	Madhya Pradesh	86,872
13.	Maharashtra	1,23,694
14.	Mumbai	48,608
15.	North East	19,241
16.	Odisha	37,966
17.	Punjab	63,154
18.	Rajasthan	74,715
19.	Tamil Nadu	1,27,601
20.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	92,155
21.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	72,002
22.	West Bengal	53,450
GRAND TOTAL		14,85,753

**Statement-II**

*Telecom Service Provider (TSP) wise details of number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) setup at mobile towers as on 31.05.2017*

Sl. No.	Name of TSP	Number of BTSs established by different TSPs as on 31.05.2017
1.	Aircel/Dishnet	66,333
2.	Airtel/BHL	3,41,373
5.	BSNL	1,32,759
4.	Idea/ABTL	2,41,927
5.	MTNL	3,147
6.	Reliance	48,011
7.	Reliance Jio	3,06,384
8.	SSTL (MTS)	8,027
9.	Tikona	421
10.	TATA	65,500
11.	Vodafone	2,41,778
12.	Telenor/Uninor	29,563
13.	Augure	530
GRAND TOTAL		14,85,753

**Value of mobile sets produced in the country**

716. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of mobile handsets imported during the year 2014-15, 2015- 16 and 2016-17 along with the amount of foreign exchange spent thereon;

(b) the value of mobile handsets produced in the country during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to encourage multi-national companies to set up manufacturing units in the country pursuant to the announcement of the Prime Minister in this regard and if so, the outcome thereof along with the details of such units set up so far in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The details regarding mobile phone import are as under:

*Mobile Handset Import*

Year	Volume (Million Units)	Value (in Million US \$)
2014-15	210	7948
2015-16	146	6059
2016-17	76	3788

(Source: DGCIS)

- (b) The value of mobile handset production during the last 3 years is as under:

*Mobile Handset Production*

Year	Value in ₹ Crores
2014-15	18,900
2015-16	54,000
2016-17	90,000

(Source: Indian Cellular Association)

- (c) Yes Sir, the following steps have been taken by the Government to promote indigenous manufacturing eco-system for cellular mobile handsets and components thereof in the country:

- i. The Government had introduced differential Excise Duty on cellular mobile handsets in the Union Budget of 2015-16.
- ii. Government of India has notified the Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP) to promote indigenous manufacturing of cellular mobile handsets and its sub-assemblies.
- iii. Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 10% has been imposed on cellular mobile handsets and identified parts thereof.

As a result of the above measures taken by the Government, the domestic production of cellular mobile handsets witnessed a spectacular growth of 185% in value terms in 2015-16, compared to the production witnessed in 2014-15 and 67% in 2016-17 as compared to the production in 2015-16.

Also, all major brands (both foreign and Indian) either have already set up their own manufacturing facilities or are in the process of doing so or have sub-contracted manufacturing to Electronics Manufacturing Services (EMS) companies operating from India. The list of more than 40 new mobile handset manufacturing units started during the last two years is given in the Statement.

**Statement***Mobile Handsets Factories in India*

Sl. No. Company	AP	Daman	Delhi	Haryana	HP	J&K	Maharashtra	Tamil Nadu	Telangana	UP	Uttarakhand	West Bengal	Grand Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1. ADCOM				1										1
2. BGM Electronics										1				1
3. Bingo Mobiles Tech.										1				1
4. Celkon Mobiles	1								1					2
5. Champion Computers				1										1
6. Compal (Mnfc. for LeEco)										1				1
7. Delhi Phone Battery											1			1
8. Dixon Technologies (India) Private Limited										1				1
9. Flextronics									1					1
10. Foxconn [Rising Star Mobiles India (P) Ltd.]	4							1						5

11.	GDN				1		1
12.	Higher Industries (India) Pvt. Ltd.	1					1
13.	Hi-Tech				1		1
14.	Hyve Mobiles	1					1
15.	Innovative Industries	1					1
16.	Intex Technologies		1	1	2		4
17.	KMC Electronics				1		1
18.	Labanyo Electronics				1		1
19.	Lava International				2		2
20.	MCM (Million Club Manufacturing)				1		1
21.	MickeyPhone				1		1
22.	Micromax (Bhagwati Products Ltd.)				1	1	2
23.	Penguin Electronics	1					1
24.	Runsheng Technologies Pvt. Ltd.		1				1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
25.	Samsung										1			1
26.	SEPL											1		1
27.	SST Electronics				1									1
28.	TMB Electronics				1									1
29.	Videocon							1				1		2
30.	Vivo Mobile										1			1
31.	VSUN				1									1
GRAND TOTAL		5	1	5	4	1	1	2	1	2	15	4	1	42

**BSNL network in naxal-affected Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand**

†717. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unavailability of proper network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in naxal-affected areas, including Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, has been a grave problem, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether this problem is more grave in Left Wing Extremism affected districts such as Dantewada, Sukma, Bastar, etc., if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the suitable measures being taken by Government to promote the facility of telecommunication, mobile network and internet facility in naxal-affected districts of Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) In Chhattisgarh State, 16 out of 27 districts are naxal affected. Total 961 mobile towers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are working in these Left Wing Extremism (LWE) districts of Chhattisgarh State. In Jharkhand State, 21 out of 24 districts are naxal affected. There are 782 number of mobile towers of BSNL working in LWE areas of Jharkhand. These towers are insufficient to provide coverage in naxal affected areas, particularly because of hilly terrain and dense forest.

(b) Dantewada, Sukma and Bastar districts are LWE affected districts of Chhattisgarh. Besides naxal activities, difficult geographical conditions and hilly terrain make it difficult to provide network coverage in these LWE areas. Total 180 mobile towers of BSNL are working in these three districts. In addition, mobile towers are being set up at 14 sites under LWE Project funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

(c) BSNL has already provided mobile services at 490 locations out of 525 locations in Chhattisgarh under a special project sanctioned from USOF.

Out of total 9,770 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in Chhattisgarh, 4104 GPs have been taken up in BharatNet Phase-I for providing broadband connectivity. As on 09.07.2017, a total of 7,873 kms (3,159 GPs) Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid. Total 1,289 GPs have been provided with broadband connectivity in Chhattisgarh.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



**Roaming charges**

718. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that roaming charges by telecom companies have been abolished in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether many of the private telecom operators are still charging for roaming in domestic network, if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) One of the objectives of National Telecom Policy (NTP) 2012 is to work towards One Nation - Free Roaming throughout the country. Tariffs are prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) as per TRAI Act 1997. TRAI through the Telecommunication Tariff Order (60th Amendment), 2015 dated 09.04.2015, prescribed the ceiling for voice calls and SMS while on national roaming, which came into effect from 01.05.2015. Details of national roaming tariff are given below:

Item	Ceiling tariff as per TTO (60th Amendment), 2015
Outgoing local voice call	₹ 0.80 per minute
Outgoing long distance (inter-circle) voice call	₹ 1.15 per minute
Incoming voice call	₹ 0.45 per minute
Outgoing local SMS	₹ 0.25 per SMS
Outgoing long distance (inter circle) SMS	₹ 0.38 per SMS

Further, TRAI has mandated the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) to offer a Special Roaming Tariff Plan to its pre-paid and post-paid subscribers wherein incoming voice calls while on national roaming shall be free, on payment of fixed charges, if any.

All the Telecom Service Providers are allowed to fix roaming tariff for various components within the ceiling prescribed by TRAI and there is no bar in offering free roaming services. All major TSPs have recently announced free incoming calls while roaming in India.

**Corruption cases against senior officials**

719. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has filed any cases against senior officials of the Department of Telecommunication for their alleged indulgence in serious corruption related offences after May, 2014, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) how many officials sued by Government previously have been convicted and punished between 2004-14, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes Sir, 8 Cases have been filed against 8 senior officials of the Department of Telecommunications for their alleged indulgence in serious corruption related offences after May, 2014. The details are given in Statement-I (See below).

(b) 117 officials sued by Government previously have been convicted and punished between 2004-14. The details are given in Statement-II.

**Statement-I**

*Details of Cases filed against Senior Officials of the Department of Telecommunications for their alleged indulgence in serious corruption related offences after May, 2014*

Sl. No.	Name of Officer	Designation	Investigating Agency	Case No	Date of Registration
1.	Chandra Gupta Bidika	Addl. GM	CBI	RC 6(A)/2017-BBS	04/04/2017
2.	Ram Vilas	GM	CBI	19(A)/2016-GZB	18/12/2016
3.	Chinmay Lal Yadav	GM	CBI	11(A)/2016-BPL	08/11/2016
4.	Bipin Kumar Roy	ADDL. GM	CBI	RC 1(A)/2016-JDH	07/01/2016
5.	Rajesh Bajpai	JWO	CBI	RC 15(A)/2015-DLI	15/07/2015
6.	P.S. Desale alias Patil	Addl. GM	CBI	RC 14(A) /2015-BA1	15/04/2015
7.	Rajesh Kumar Bansal	Addl. GM	CBI	RC 3(A)/2015-CHG	05/02/2015
8.	Gopi Chand Tolwani	Dy. GM	Lokayukta Madhya Pradesh	397/2014	04/09/2014

***Statement-II****Details of officials of Department of Telecommunications Convicted  
and punished between 2004 -14*

Sl. No.	Name Of Officer	Design.	Investigating Agency	Case No.	Date Of Conviction
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Vishnu Prasad Sai	JTO	CBI	RC5(A)/2002-ACB, JABALPUR	23-03-2004
2.	Prem Nath Dogra	JTO	CBI	RC3(A)/2003-ACB, JAMMU	30-04-2004
3.	Hari Shankar Sharma	DE	CBI	RC11(A)/2002-ACB, JABALPUR	30-06-2004
4.	J Thomas	JTO	CBI	RC14(A)/2002-ACB, COCHIN	12-08-2004
5.	Prakash Dehariya	DE	CBI	RC 19(A)/1996-ACB, BHOPAL	20-08-2004
6.	Ajit Singh	SDE	CBI	RC34(A)/2000-ACB, CHANDIGARH	18-09-2004
7.	Harjinder Singh	JTO	CBI	RC34(A)/2000-ACB, CHANDIGARH	18-09-2004
8.	Vinod Kumar	SE	CBI	RC31(A)/1997-ACB, CHANDIGARH	02-11-2004
9.	G K Agarwal	JTO	CBI	RC12 (A)/99-JBR	27-11-2004
10.	R D Raikwar	SDE	CBI	RC12 (A)/99-JBR	27-11-2004
11.	R N Gupta	TM	CBI	RC12 (A)/99-JBR	27-11-2004
12.	J P Renin	DGM	CBI	RC23(A)/2002-ACB, CHENNAI	31-12-2004
13.	S Durai	S.S.S	CBI.	RC46(A)/1999/ACB/ CHEN/207	21.04.2005
14.	Kanhiyalal Joita Ram Pareekh	CO	CBI	RC 1(A)/1997-ACB, GANDHINAGAR	24-05-2005

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	S D Kawade	SDE	ACB, Aurangabad, Maharashtra	CR NO. 3032/98, JAWAHAR NAGAR PS	15-06-2005
16.	P Satyanarayana	SDE	CBI	RC30(A)/2001-ACB, VISAKHAPATNAM	06-07-2005
17.	D C Das	TOA	CBI	RC 15(A)/95-SHG, ASSAM.	14-09-2005
18.	Rikhi Ram Paraste	SDE	Lokayukta, Bhopal	CASE NO. 82/2001	19-09-2005
19.	Amar Nath	TS	CBI	RC-04/2000-CHG	17.11.2005
20.	R K Verma	JTO	CBI	RC11(A)/2002-ACB, DEHRADUN	22-12-2005
21.	R BalaSubRamanian	SDE	CBI	RC56(A)/2002-ACB, CHENNAI	23-12-2005
22.	Niranjan Singh	JTO	ACB, DELHI	CC 47/2001 FIR 17/99PS ACB	06-03-2006
23.	A K Nayak	AE	CBI	RC18(A)/2002-ACB, BHUBANESHWER	31-03-2006
24.	M Chandra Rao	JTO	CBI	RC23(A)/2001-ACB, VISAKHAPATNAM	01-06-2006
25.	B N Behera	EE	CBI	RC17(A)/2002-ACB, BHUBANESHWER	18-08-2006
26.	Anoop Kumar Khare	JTO	CBI	RC 12(A)/1994-ACB, BHOPAL	04-10-2006
27.	Khakhanuprasa D J Jaiswal	SDE	CBI	RC12(A)/1998-ACB, GANDHINAGAR	17-10-2006
28.	Ram Nai Pal	SDE	CBI	RC54(A)/1997-ACB, MUMBAI	21-11-2006
29.	Baldev Kumar	JTO	CBI	RC. NO. 29/2000- CHG	30-11-2006
30.	Gopal Saran Sharma	TOA	CBI	RC No. 37-85	11.01.2007

1	2	3	4	5	6
31.	M M Parti	SW(C)	CBI	RC60(A).2000-ACB, DELHI	28-02-2007
32.	J M Basumatary	SDO	CBI	RC NO. 18(A)/99- SHG	31-03-2007
33.	Sanjay Kumar Sharma	SDE	CBI	RC6(A)/2003-ACB, JABALPUR	12-07-2007
34.	Ghanshyam Devangan	SDE	CBI	RC 12(A)/1996-ACB, JABALPUR	17-07-2007
35.	D Mohan	SDO	CBI	RC4(A)/2001-ACB, HYDERABAD	07-08-2007
36.	Babulal Kushwaha	JTO	STATE POLICE, UP	CASE NO. 30/2000. PS BHATNI, DEVARIA, UP	07-09-2007
37.	Ram Ujagar	SDE	CBI	RC51(A)/2001-ACB, DELHI	28-11-2007
38.	H G Patel	JTO	ACB, GUJARAT STATE	ACB/PS/CR.R. NO. 1/2003	30-11-2007
39.	M L Chandna	SDE	CBI	RC68(A)/1996-ACB, DELHI	07-04-2008
40.	S L Chouhan	SDE	ACB, BIKANER, RAJASTHAN STATE	ACB BIKANER CASE NO. 144/2002	20-06-2008
41.	S B Nag	EE(C)	CBI	RC2(A)/2002-ACB, BHUBANESHWER	30-06-2008
42.	Dukhishyam Routray	AE	CBI	RC34(A)/1997-ACB, BHUBANESHWAR	29-08-2008
43.	Bahadur Ram	JTO	CBI	RC NO. 13(A)/2001 -D, DHANBAD	12-09-2008
44.	Jhabar Singh	JTO	STATE POLICE, HARYANA	FIR 271 DATED 20-10-2000, PS ADAMPUR, HARYANA	29-09-2008

1	2	3	4	5	6
45.	D M BAGADE	CO	CBI	RC7(A)/2004-ACB, MUMBAI	04-10-2008
46.	Ellappa Kupuswamy Annamalai	AO	CBI	RC21(A)/2003-ACB, HYDERABAD	07-11-2008
47.	Tapan Kumar Pal	TDM	CBI	RC15(A)/1997-ACB, GANDHINAGAR	21-11-2008
48.	Gouranga Chandra Mazumder	TI	CBI	RC, 35/1995 - KOLKATA	07.02.2009
49.	I Seshagiri Rao	SDE	CBI	RC8(A), 2003-ACB, HYDERABAD	24-02-2009
50.	Raj Kumar Varun	DGM	CBI	RC67(A)/2000-ACB, DELHI	27-02-2009
51.	K Munirathinam	SDE	CBI	RC28(A)/2003-ACB, CHENNAI	20-03-2009
52.	Runu Ghosh	DDG	CBI	RC5(A)/1996-ACU-IV, DELHI	15-05-2009
53.	DD Panda	SDE	CBI	RC33(A)/1997-ACB, BHUBANESHWER	05-06-2009
54.	Pramod Kumar	JTO	CBI	RC11(A)/2003-ACB, CHANDIGARH	05-06-2009
55.	A J Gorghate	JTO	CBI	RC12(A)/2000-ACB, NAGPUR	04-07-2009
56.	DC Mishra	JTO	CBI	RC34(A)/2001-ACB, DELHI	22-09-2009
57.	Suresh Prasad Vyas	SDE	CBI	RC7(A)/1996-ACB, NAGPUR	01-10-2009
58.	S V Venkateshmurthy	SDE	CBI	RC31(A)/2001-ACB, BANGALORE	27-11-2009
59.	Sanjay Sabharwal	EE	CBI	RC6(A)/2004-ACB, BANGALORE	27-11-2009
60.	S P Mishra	GMTD	CBI	RC17(A)/2004-ACB, GANDHINAGAR	15-12-2009

1	2	3	4	5	6
61.	S J RODRIGO	SR AO	CBI	RC36(A)/2002-ACB, MUMBAI	22-01-2010
62.	V Paramshivam	CAO	CBI	RC28(A)/1998-GNR	22-01-2010
63.	Jharkhanday Rai	RM	CBI	RC-3(A)/95	30.01.2010
64.	V Babu Rao	JTO	CBI	RC25(A)/2003-ACB, HYDERABAD	15-02-2010
65.	S R Kamble	JTO	CBI	RC8(A)/2000-ACB, MUMBAI	18-02-2010
66.	G Venkata Ramana	JTO	CBI	RC15(A)/2002-ACB, HYDERABAD	14-05-2010
67.	Harish Kumar	JTO	CBI	RC 1(A)/1993-ACB, DELHI	02-06-2010
68.	Muthuman Gunaraj	SDE	CBI	RC 30(A)/1998-ACB, CHENNAI	24-06-2010
69.	Lala Ram	JTO	CBI	RC1(A)/94-DLI	02-08-2010
70.	Gulshan Rai	SDE	CBI	RC1(A)/1994-ACB, DELHI	04-08-2010
71.	S P Grover	AE	CBI	RC1 (A)/1994-ACB, DELHI	04-08-2010
72.	O P Chhabra	AO	CBI	RC58(A) 1998-ACB, DELHI	04-08-2010
73.	R D Gangwar	JTO	CBI	RC 1 (A)/1994-ACB, DELHI	04-08-2010
74.	Jai Singh	TO	CBI	RC-11(A)/98-DLI	10.11.2010
75.	S.Karaunakaran Nair	RM	POLICE	CRIME No. 195/06	29.01.2011
76.	J N Prasad	SDE	CBI	RC17(A)/2001-ACB, DHANBAD	22-02-2011
77.	S C Agarwal	AE	CBI	RC13(A)/1997-ACB, BHUBANESHWER	10-03-2011
78.	Maya Ram	AO	CBI	RC30(A)/2001-ACB, CHANDIGARH	30-04-2011

1	2	3	4	5	6
79.	Niranjan Kumar Das	SDE	CBI	RC6(A)/2002-ACB, DHANBAD	24-05-2011
80.	R B Nirgude	JTO	CBI	RC7(A)/2001-ACB, MUMBAI	16-12-2011
81.	J N P Sinha	SDE	CBI	RC5(A)/2001-ACB, RANCHI	21-12-2011
82.	Dilip Kumar Sahu	DGM	CBI	RC15(A)/2002-ACB, LUCKNOW	31-03-2012
83.	Hira Lal	SS	CBI	RC1(A)/2000 -PAT	22.06.2012
84.	Mundrika Choudhary	Sr. ToA	CBI/ACB	1(A)/2000-PAT	22.06.2012
85.	Prafulbha Shantilal Dave	AD	CBI	RC 19(A)/1997-ACB, GANDHINAGAR	22-06-2012
86.	Pagan Kisku	TA	CBI/ACB	1(A)/2000-PAT	22.06.2012
87.	K D Pandya	ToA	CBI	RC-14(A)/95-GNR	08.11.2012
88.	H. R. Gohil	TTA	CBI	RC-14(A)/1995-GNR	08.11.2012
89.	A K Magare	EE(C)	CBI	RC11(A)/2005-ACB, COCHIN	11-12-2012
90.	B K Jena	AE	CBI	RC 1(A)/1994-ACB, BHUBANESHWER	24-12-2012
91.	G N Tripathy	DGM	CBI	RC7(A)/1997-ACB, BHUBANESHWER	24-12-2012
92.	M G Jillani	CGM	CBI	RC I (A)/1994-ACB, BHUBANESHWER	24-12-2012
93.	Padmanabha Acharya	DGM	CBI	RC1(A)/1994-ACB, BHUBANESHWER	24-12-2012
94.	Pravarkar Lenka	CAO	CBI	RC 1(A)/1994-ACB, BHUBANESHWER	24-12-2012
95.	T. S. Rajan	TM	CBI	RC.4(A)/2002- NGP	05.01.2013
96.	K Ganesh	CGM	CBI	RC5(A)/1998-ACB, SHILLONG	26-03-2013



1	2	3	4	5	6
97.	Rakesh Prasad	EE	CBI	RC25(A)/2005-ACB, VISAKHAPATNAM & RC26(A)/2005-ACB, VISAKHAPATNAM	26-03-2013 & 30-09-2013
98.	Om Prakash	TO	CBI	RC-20(A)/96-DLI	28.03.2013
99.	Ashok Kumar	SDE	CBI	RC 6(A)/2003-ACB PATNA	18-04-2013
100.	MN Khan	DIR	CBI	RC11(A)/2002-ACB.SHILLONG; RC12(A)/2002-ACB, SHILLONG; RC9 (A)/2002-ACB, SHILLONG & RC6 (A)/2002-ACB, SHILLONG	30-08-2013; 02-09-2013; 17-10-2013 & 17-10-2013
101.	Ram Prasad	DGM	CBI	RC12(A)/2002-ACB, SHILLONG	02.09.2013
102.	R C Yadav	TM	CBI	RC-11(A)/98-GNR	27.09.2013
103.	R S Parmar	TM	CBI	RC-11(A)/98-GNR	27.09.2013
104.	KR Pandey	TM	CBI	RC.11(A)/1998-GNR	27.09.2013
105.	C Chandrasekhar	SDE	CBI	RC 36(A)/1999 & RC51(A)/1999-ACB, CHENNAI	08-01-2014
106.	S R Nagarajan	SR. SDE	CBI	RC 36(A) & 51(A) 99 -CHN	08-01-2014
107.	G Kumararaja	DE	CBI	RC 36(A) & 51(A)/ 99 -CHN	08-01-2014
108.	P Santhankrishnan	SDE	CBI	RC 36(A) & 51(A), 99-CHN	08-01-2014
109.	B Amar Singh	PHONE MECHANIC	CBI	RC 36(A) & 51(A) 99 -CHN	08-01-2014
110.	K S Seshadri	DE	CBI	RC 36(A) & 51(A) 99 -CHN	08-01-2014

1	2	3	4	5	6
111. R Shankarappa	JTO	CBI	RC30(A)/2002-ACB, BANGALORE & RC31(A)/2002-ACB, BANGALORE	07-03-2014 & 18-03-2014	
112. J Mandal	SDE	CBI	RC5(A)/2002-ACB, PATNA	30-06-2014	
113. L F Humney	AWA	CBI	RC9(A)/2009-ACB, MUMBAI	05-07-2014	
114. B K Srivastava	DE	CBI	RC33(A)/2000-ACB, MUMBAI	17-07-2014	
115. E B Lad	SDE	CBI	RC 33(A) /2000- MUMBAI	17-07-2014	
116. Nand Lal	OS	CBI	RC-2(A)/ 97-ACU (V)/DLI	15.11.2014	
117. AC De	DIR	CBI	RC10(A)/2001-ACB, SHILLONG: RC8 (A)/2001-ACB, SHILLONG & RC7 (A)/2001-ACB, SHILLONG	19-11-2014; 19-11-2014 & 30-12-2014	

#### Payment of dues to sugarcane growers of Andhra Pradesh

720. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 mandates payment of cane prices within 14 days of supply, failing which interest at the rate of 15 per cent per annum, on amount due, has to be paid to sugarcane growing farmers;

(b) whether sugar mills in Andhra Pradesh owe nearly ₹250 crore to cane growers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some of the dues are as old as three years; and

(d) if so, the action Government will take to ensure that cane dues are paid to farmers in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the information provided by Government of Andhra Pradesh, as on 30.06.2017 an amount of ₹44.42 crores is due to cane growers of which ₹ 15.48 crores pertains to 2014-15 sugar season(SS), ₹ 20.97 crores for 2015-16 SS and remaining ₹ 7.97 crores pertain to current sugar season 2016-17.

(d) The Powers to enforce the provisions of Sugarcane Control Order, 1966 with regard to payment of cane dues of farmers is vested with the State Governments as they have necessary field formation for its implementation. However, the Central Government advises the state governments including Government of Andhra Pradesh to take strict action as per provisions of law against the defaulting sugar mills to clear pending dues of farmers.

#### **Detection of fake ration cards**

721. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of fake ration cards have been detected while linking them up with Aadhaar;

(b) if so, the number of fake ration cards detected, State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a large number of genuine persons in the country do not have ration cards and getting them is a very difficult task; and

(d) whether Government has any plan to make the process of issuance of ration cards for genuine persons simpler, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) As an outcome of implementation of 'End-to-end Computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System Operations' and steps taken by the states in the run-up the implementation of National Food Security Act, a total of 2.48 Crore ration cards have been reported as deleted/ cancelled in 29 States/UTs since 2013. The State-wise details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities

for the identification of eligible beneficiaries/families and issuance of ration cards to them inter alia rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. There are 23,15,82,448 no. of ration cards covering 79.96 crore beneficiaries in the country.

**Statement**

*Updated of Deleted Ration Cards due to detection of Ghost/fraudulent/duplicate/  
ineligible/migration /deaths, etc. during the process of digitization,  
de-duplication, Aadhaar seeding in run-up /implementation  
of NFSA (2013-2017)*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Number of Deleted ration cards
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	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

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Number of Deleted ration cards
20.	Odisha	6,61,372
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

#### **Wastage of foodgrains and vegetables**

722. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported news that vegetables and foodgrains are being destroyed on a large scale in the country due to inadequate storage infrastructure facilities; and

(b) if so, the action Government has taken in this regard, the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No damage of foodgrains have been reported due to lack of adequate storage facilities in the Food Corporation of India. The storage capacity available for Central Pool foodgrains is 794.48 Lakh tonnes against the foodgrain stock of 533.19 Lakh tonnes as on 30.06.17.

As regards fruits & vegetables, the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme was implemented during 12th Five Year Plan. The mission envisages production and productivity improvement of

horticulture crops like fruits and vegetables through various interventions, besides creation of infrastructure for Post Harvest Management and Marketing for better prices realization of produce. Under Integrated Post Harvest Management component of MIDH, assistance is provided for establishment of infrastructure related to cold chain management viz., pre-cooling units, on farm-pack houses, mobile pre-cooling units, cold storage units, integrated cold chain supply system, refrigerated vans/ containers, primary/mobile processing units, ripening chambers, evaporative /low energy cool chambers, preservation units..etc. Subsidy is provided as credit linked back ended subsidy at the rate of 35% of cost of project in general areas and 50% of cost in case of Hilly and Scheduled areas for individual entrepreneurs.

In order to improve/create scientific storage capacity for storing farm produce, processed farm produce and agricultural inputs, etc. to reduce post harvest and storage losses, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare was launched a subsidy linked central sector scheme 'Grameen Bhandaran Yojana (GBY)' w.e.f. April, 2001. Further, the existing scheme of GBY was subsumed with another ongoing scheme of Development / Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization (AMIGS) of the Ministry implemented since 20.10.2004, into Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme of Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) w.e.f. 01.04.2014.

Under AMI sub-scheme of ISAM (including erstwhile GBY), since inception and up to 30.04.2017, a total of 37889 godown projects with storage capacity of 65.15 Million MT have been sanctioned and the subsidy to the tune of ₹ 2466.98 crore has been released. The State-wise figures are given in the Statement.

## Statement

Infrastructure projects (godowns) sanctioned under GBY/AMI (storage component) w.e.f. 01.04.2001 to 30.04.2017.

Sl. No.	State	Sanctioned under GBY			Sanctioned under AMI (Storage Component)			Total Sanctioned (01.04.2001 to 30.04.2017)		
		No. of Projects Sanctioned	Storage Capacity (MT)	Subsidy Released (₹ in lakh)	No. of Projects Sanctioned	Storage Capacity (MT)	Subsidy Released (₹ in lakh)	No. of Projects Sanctioned	Storage Capacity (MT)	Subsidy Released (₹ in lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,726	7,337,677	25,470.60	153	1,315,353	11,260.96	1,879	8,653,030	36,731.56
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	945	6.30	0	0	0.00	1	945	6.30
3.	Assam	266	724,806	2,429.77	0	14,551	551.25	266	739,357	2,981.02
4.	Bihar	976	465,616	1,534.19	14	21,571	438.71	990	487,187	1,972.90
5.	Chhattisgarh	519	1,646,449	4,813.67	123	580,789	589.98	642	2,227,238	5,403.65
6.	Goa	1	299	0.90	0	0	0.00	1	299	0.90
7.	Gujarat	9,293	3,029,714	11,113.94	2,033	1,260,023	10,403.53	11,326	4,289,737	21,517.47
8.	Haryana	2,071	6,205,438	16,258.32	41	1,789,904	13,685.71	2,030	7,995,342	29,944.03
9.	Himachal Pradesh	71	22,347	121.56	7	2,451	9.56	78	24,798	131.12
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	7	35,648	72.34	7	47,379	486.63	14	83,027	558.97
11.	Jharkhand	16	79,918	123.69	8	39,398	312.05	24	119,316	435.74

12.	Karnataka	4,251	2,933,085	10,985.45	202	1,342,516	5,640.46	4,453	4,275,601	16,625.91
13.	Kerala	205	71,718	277.16	-6	17,254	69.11	199	88,972	346.27
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3,127	6,981,671	17,529.47	631	3,268,697	25,949.57	3,758	10,250,368	43,479.04
15.	Maharashtra	3,037	4,845,976	13,771.21	432	1,482,538	5,634.64	3,469	6,328,514	19,405.85
16.	Meghalaya	16	21,012	183.87	0	0	0.00	16	21,012	183.87
17.	Mizoram	1	302	2.52	0	0	0.00	1	302	2.52
18.	Nagaland	1	814	4.35	-1	563	1.60	0	1,377	5.95
19.	Odisha	416	778,369	2,266.30	3	3,206	559.62	419	781,575	2,825.92
20.	Punjab	1,671	6,291,363	17,142.14	71	432,383	4,736.74	1,742	6,723,746	21,878.88
21.	Rajasthan	1,242	1,508,474	3,129.30	182	1,064,434	4,793.76	1,424	2,572,908	7,923.06
22.	Tamilnadu	1,037	1,110,793	2,899.75	68	221,552	1,498.87	1,105	1,332,345	4,398.62
23.	Uttar Pradesh	1,064	4,731,145	7,346.06	44	462,065	8,509.45	1,108	5,193,210	15,855.51
24.	Uttarakhand	272	750,585	2,725.30	13	-31,884	399.39	285	718,701	3,124.69
25.	West Bengal	2,467	1,352,307	3,680.70	81	218,469	768.27	2,548	1,570,776	4,448.97
26.	Tripura	2	7,340	40.61	2	18,416	235.95	4	25,756	276.56
27.	Telangana	0	0	0.00	107	648,038	6,232.85	107	648,038	6,232.85
28.	UTs	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
TOTAL		33,756	50,933,810	143,929.47	4,133	14,219,666	102,768.66	37,3889	65,153,477	246,698.13



**Pendency in consumer fora**

723. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases pending before the National, State or District Consumer Fora in the country;
- (b) the efforts Government has made for the disposal of the pending backlog;
- (c) the steps Government proposes to take for the speedy disposal of the cases; and
- (d) whether Government has made any assessment of the long pendency of such cases, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The details of cases pending before the National, State and District Consumer Fora are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) The Government has made the following efforts for disposal of the pending backlog:

- (1) State Governments have been requested from time to time to take action well in advance for filling up of vacancies of President and Members and to maintain a panel of candidates for filling up of future vacancies also to avoid delay in appointments so that the State Commissions and the District Fora do not remain non-functional.
- (2) The Central Government has been impressing upon the State Governments and the Consumer Fora in the National level conferences and also through videoconferencing to take measures to reduce the pendency of cases.
- (3) Circuit Benches from National Commission have been frequently visiting States.
- (4) Some State Commissions have constituted Additional Benches mainly to dispose of backlog of pending cases.
- (5) The National Commission and some of the State Commissions as well as

District Fora are adopting the process of holding Lok Adalats for speedy disposal of the cases.

- (6) Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government to the States/UTs for strengthening of infrastructure of Consumer Fora including computerization and networking.

(c) The Government has introduced Consumer Protection Bill 2015 in the Parliament on 10th August, 2015. The bill contains a number of provisions for reforming the adjudication process in the Consumer Fora.

(d) The National Commission, which is empowered under the provisions of the Consumer protection Act, 1986 to monitor the functioning of the State Commissions and the District Fora, calls for periodical returns regarding the institution, disposal, pendency of cases.

#### *Statement*

*Total Number of Consumer Complaints Filed / Disposed since inception under Consumer Protection Law as on 30.06.2017.*

Sl. No.	Name of Agency	Cases filed since inception	Cases disposed of since inception	Cases Pending	% of total Disposal	Remarks
1.	National Commission	112089	97079	15010	86.61%	
2.	State Commissions	755590	647701	107889	85.72%	
3.	District Forums	3974833	3672899	301934	92.40%	
	TOTAL	4842512	4417679	424833	91.23%	

#### **Expenses incurred in keeping foodgrains**

724. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data regarding the expenses incurred in keeping the foodgrains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir. To keep the foodgrain FCI incurs storage expenses. For Decentralized Procurement operations, food subsidy is reimbursed to States to meet the procurement and distribution expenses which includes expenses incurred by them on storage of foodgrains.

(b) Storage expenses incurred by FCI for the last three years is as under:

(Amount in ₹ crore)

Year	Amount
2014-15	2376.60
2015-16	2021.86
2016-17 (Provisional)	2293.32

#### **Levying of service charge by hotels and restaurants**

725. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued an advisory to States/UTs to discontinue the charging of service charges by restaurants and hotels in bills for food and drinks and termed it as illegal practice, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that in spite of this advisory, many restaurants in Delhi, Mumbai and other metropolitan cities are charging service charges; and

(c) if so, whether Government has any mechanism to trace such restaurants levying service charges and penalize them, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir. A copy of the circular No. J-24/9/2014-CPU dated 21.4.2017 in this regard is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) and (c) National Consumer Helpline has received 105 complaints related to Service Charges from 22nd April, 2017 to 30th June, 2017. The status of the complaints received is given in the Statement-II (*See below*). Under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 consumers can lodge complaints in the Consumer Fora for redressal in case of compulsory levying of service charges.

**Statement-I**

*A. Levying of Service Charge by Hotels and Restaurants*

No. J-24/9/2014-CPU(Pt)

Government of India

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution  
(Department of Consumer Affairs)

Krishni Bhavan, New Delhi  
The 21st April, 2017

To,

The Secretary/Principal Secretary  
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer  
Protection of All State Governments/UT  
Administrations

Subject: - Issuance of guidelines on fair trade practices related to charging of service charge from consumers by the hotels/restaurants

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter of even number dated 14th December, 2016, wherein an advisory was issued to the State Governments for sensitizing the companies, restaurants in the state regarding the provisions in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 relating to unfair trade practices and the provision for making a complaint by the consumer against unfair trade practices to the appropriate consumer forum and also to advise the hotels and restaurants to disseminate information through display at the appropriate place in hotels/restaurants that the service charges are discretionary/voluntary and a consumer dissatisfied with the services can have it waived off.

2. With a view to bring clarity on the matter, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, hereby issues guidelines on 'fair trade practices related to charging of service charge from consumers by the hotels/restaurants', as enclosed.

3. The State Governments are requested to give wide publicity to these guidelines for educating the consumers of their rights to be heard and get their disputes redressed through the Consumer Fora, and also to circulate these guidelines among the hotels/restaurants in the State for bringing about clarity on fair trade practices on the subject and their liability thereto.

Yours faithfully

(G C Rout)

Deputy Secretary to the Govt of India

Telfax:- 011-23389936

B. No. J-24/9/2014-CPU (Pt.)

Government of India

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

(Department of Consumer Affairs)

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi

The 21st April, 2017

**GUIDELINES ON FAIR TRADE PRACTICES RELATED TO CHARGING OF  
SERVICE CHARGE FROM CONSUMERS BY HOTELS/RESTAURANTS**

Whereas, the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India is mandated to ensure that consumers are protected as per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (hereinafter referred as 'The Act');

Whereas, a customer visiting a hotel or restaurant for availing its hospitality, which includes buying the food & beverages and availing services connected therewith or incidental thereto for consideration, falls under the definition of consumer as per the Act;

Whereas, it has come to the notice of this Department that some hotels and restaurants are charging tips/gratuities from the customers without their express consent in the name of service charges;

Whereas, it has also come to the notice of this Department that some customers have been paying tips to waiters in addition to service charges under the mistaken impression that service charge is a part of taxes;

Whereas, it has also come to the notice of this Department that in some cases hotels/restaurants are restraining customers from entering the premises if they are not in prior agreement to pay the mandatory service charge;

Whereas, public interest has arisen due to a number of grievances reported against mandatory levy of service charges by the hotels and restaurants;

Now therefore, the Government considers it appropriate to clearly distinguish between the fair and unfair trade practices in respect of service charges, charged by the hotels/restaurants, and issues the following guidelines.

- (1) A component of service is inherent in provision of food and beverages

ordered by a customer. Pricing of the product therefore is expected to cover both the goods and service components.

- (2) Placing of an order by a customer amounts to his/her agreement to pay the prices displayed on the menu card along with the applicable taxes. Charging for anything other than the afore-mentioned, without express consent of the customer, would amount to unfair trade practice as defined under the Act.
- (3) Tip or gratuity paid by a customer is towards hospitality received by him/her, beyond the basic minimum service already contracted between him/her and the hotel management. It is a separate transaction between the customer and the staff of the hotel or restaurant, which is entered into, at the customer's discretion.
- (4) The point of time when a customer decides to give a tip/gratuity is not when he/she enters the hotel/restaurant and also not when he/she places his/her order. It is only after completing the meal that the customer is in a position to assess quality of service, and decide whether or not to pay a tip/gratuity and if so, how much. Therefore, if a hotel/restaurant considers that entry of a customer to a hotel/restaurant amounts to his/her implied consent to pay a fixed amount of service charge, it is not correct. Further, any restriction of entry based on this amounts to a trade practice which imposes an unjustified cost on the customer by way of forcing him/her to pay service charge as condition precedent to placing order of food and beverages, and as such it falls under restrictive trade practice as defined under section 2(1)(nnn) of the Act.
- (5) In view of the above, the bill presented to the customer may clearly display that service charge is voluntary, and the service charge column of the bill may be left blank for the customer to fill up before making payment.
- (6) A customer is entitled to exercise his/her rights as a consumer, to be heard and redressed under provisions of the Act in case of unfair/restrictive trade practices, and can approach a Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission/Forum of appropriate jurisdiction.

(G.C. Rout)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

***Statement-II****Complaints of levying of service charge by hotels and restaurants*

Complaints against Service charges received at NCH Period: 22 April to  
30 June 2017 (after issue of guidelines)

Complaint Sent to Hotel	Response Awaited (in-process)	Response Received*	Disposed with Advice (no details / non response case)
105	55	34	16

Break up of Response Received from Hotels/ Restaurants (34)

Action taken/ Responded by Hotels	Count	%
.Amount Refunded to Consumer	15	44.12%
Resolved with Consumer Consent	8	23.53%
Prior Information given to consumer	6	17.65%
Removed Service Charge	5	14.70%
TOTAL	34	100

**Import duty on sugar**

726. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sugar output in the country in the last five years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether this sugar output has matched with the demand in the country, the year-wise comparison thereof;

(c) the details of sugar imported during the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) whether Government resorts to dynamic import duty rates on sugar to regulate supply and demand, if so, the details of import duty rates applicable on sugar in the years 2016-17 and 2017-18, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) A Statement showing details of State-wise & sugar season-wise production of sugar in the country during last five sugar seasons is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Demand and production of sugar during last five sugar seasons in the country has been as under:

Sugar Season	Production (in Lakh MT)	Consumption/Demand (in Lakh MT)
2011-12	263.43	227.25
2012-13	251.83	230.00
2013-14	245.54	243.00
2014-15	284.63	256.00
2015-16 (Provisional)	251.21	247.61

(c) As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCIS), Kolkata, quantity of sugar imported during last five sugar seasons is as under:

Sugar Season	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Quantity* Imported (in Lakh MT)	1.89	17.12	10.79	12.82	19.06

\* This includes quantity imported under Advance Authorization Scheme (AAS).

(d) In order to make smooth availability of sugar at reasonable price in the country, the Government reviews import duty rates from time to time. The import duty on sugar during financial year 2016-17 was 40% which continued till 10.7.2017 in current financial year 2017-18. Thereafter, the duty has been increased from 40% to 50%.

#### Statement

*Details showing State-wise sugar Production for the last five sugar seasons from 2011-12 to 2015-16*

	(in lakh MT)				
State	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Bihar	4.51	5.10	5.96	5.26	5.03
Haryana	4.91	5.10	5.37	5.73	5.36
Punjab	3.88	4.38	4.73	5.36	6.71
Uttarakhand	3.31	3.40	2.98	3.28	2.74
Uttar Pradesh	69.58	75.01	66.13	71.38	68.47



State	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Andhra Pradesh	11.35	9.84	6.75	5.65	5.52
Telangana	-	-	3.32	3.21	2.77
Gujarat	10.02	11.30	11.78	11.46	11.19
Maharashtra	89.96	79.87	77.20	105.14	84.72
Karnataka	38.66	34.43	41.60	49.89	40.48
Tamil Nadu	23.79	19.32	14.18	12.56	13.65
Pondicherry	0.20	0.53	0.52	0.32	0.05
Chhattisgarh	0.40	0.49	0.68	0.65	0.57
Odisha	0.67	0.64	0.60	0.43	0.48
Madhya Pradesh	1.87	2.08	3.51	4.08	3.31
Goa	0.10	0.10	0.12	0.11	0.10
Rajasthan	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.07	0.05
West Bengal	0.20	0.20	0.06	0.05	0.005
ALL INDIA	263.43	251.83	245.54	284.63	251.21

Source: Directorate of Sugar and Vegetable Oils

#### **Import of foodgrains**

727. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to import the foodgrains; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) There is at present no plan to import foodgrains on Government Account.

#### **Distribution of essential commodities through fair price shops**

728. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is striding towards end of public distribution of essential commodities through Fair Price Shops;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is reducing the concessions on the essential commodities also, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) No Sir, the Public Distribution System is being implemented as per the provisions of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, under which foodgrains are distributed to eligible households at the rate of ₹ 3/2/1 per kg respectively for rice/wheat/coarsegrains. These prices have been kept unchanged till June, 2018.

Further, in respect of distribution of sugar also through PDS, the subsidy by the Central Government has been kept unchanged at ₹ 18.50 per kg. However, the coverage of the targeted population has been restricted to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families only.

#### **Foodgrains damaged in FCI godowns**

729. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 62,000 tonnes of foodgrains were damaged in FCI godowns in the last six years;

(b) if so, the details of foodgrains and quantity of foodgrains damaged beyond human consumption in the last six years and the current year, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government is planning to sell the damaged stock, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Procured foodgrains are stored in scientific godowns. In spite of all precautions, some quantity of foodgrains may get damaged/become non-issuable during storage due to various reasons such as storage pests' attack, leakages in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, exposure to rains, floods, etc. FCI handled 3083.79 lakh tonnes of foodgrains during last six years. State-wise details of the damaged/non-issuable foodgrains accrued in FCI during last six years and current year are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) As per procedure the damaged/non-issuable foodgrains are sold through tender sale to registered parties for manufacturing feed stocks. Only 562 tonnes (wheat 31 & rice 531) damaged/non-issuable foodgrains is available with FCI as on 01.06.2017, out of which 477 tonnes is covered under tender process.

***Statement***

*State-wise details of the damaged/non-issuable foodgrains accrued in FCI during last six years and current year*

(Figs. in tonnes)

Sl. No.	States	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (As on 01.06.17)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Bihar	0	997.3	3909.4	703.7	46.4	0	0
2.	Jharkhand	29	3.4	622.1	2.7	0	0	0
3.	Odisha	36	1	1084.8	7108.8	25.9	1.4	0.3
4.	West Bengal	477	45	12539.9	120.5	12.4	0	0
5.	Assam	442	51.5	180.7	96.6	119.9	205.2	73.7
6.	NEF	0	195	1827.8	95.4	210.4	104.9	48.8
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	3.3	0	0	0	0
8.	Nagaland	0	0	32.3	38	10.6	3	0
9.	Delhi	10.9	39.9	34.3	2.6	16.1	11.9	0
10.	Haryana	0	148.0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	6120	0	0	0
12.	Punjab	37	123	72.6	44.6	29.7	8.5	7.7
13.	Rajasthan	30	120.8	13.0	2.8	2.4	124.9	0
14.	Uttar Pradesh	258	18.3	1109.6	322.0	116.1	47.8	7.4
15.	Uttarakhand	72	221	90.0	7.5	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
16.	Andhra Pradesh	4.3	24.7	475.5	2262.1	2202.2	5.7	0
17.	Kerala	200	0	355	397.7	178.9	88.1	0.3
18.	Karnataka	0	141.8	45.6	747.8	35.2	12.8	13.0
19.	Tamil Nadu	29	749.7	293.8	377.0	30.4	66.4	0
20.	Gujarat	226	195	444.0	195.2	15.6	119.2	3.6
21.	Maharashtra	1473	61	1234.1	104.0	56.3	7963.4	0
22.	Madhya Pradesh	0	3.0	76.9	80.2	0	0	0
23.	Chhattisgarh	13.8	9.0	250.7	18.0	7.1	12.4	0
TOTAL		3338.0	3148.4	24695.5	18847.2	3115.7	8775.6	154.8

#### Aadhaar-enabled ration shops

730. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- whether Government plans to make all ration shops under Public Distribution System in the country Aadhaar-enabled;
- if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far, State-wise; and
- to what extent the Aadhaar-enabled ration shops will be helpful in preventing black marketing by ration shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) In line with the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, which has been implemented in all States and UTs and covers about 81 crore beneficiaries for receiving foodgrains. Department in association with States/UTs is implementing the installation of electronic Point of Sale (e-PoS) devices for the biometric authentication of and distribution of the subsidised foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries. e-PoS devices facilitate the authentication of beneficiaries (preferably Aadhaar based), recording of sales to beneficiaries electronically and uploading of sale transactions data in a central server.

Out of 5.27 lakh FPSs across the country, 2,45,706 FPSs have been automated so far. As a result of FPS automation, the State/UT Governments are able to reduce ghost lifting and achieve rightful targeting of food subsidies. The progress made so far towards Aadhaar Seeding and FPSs automation (State-wise) is given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*Status of End-to-End Computerization of PDS Operations*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Aadhaar Seeding	Total FPS	Operational ePoS
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100	29,528	28,643
2.	Chandigarh	100	0	0
3.	Chhattisgarh	98	12,319	12,176
4.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	96	62	62
5.	Daman and Diu	100	51	51
6.	Gujarat	95	17,197	17,197
7.	Jharkhand	97	23,356	23,115
8.	Puducherry	100	0	0
9.	Tamil Nadu	100	34,773	34,773
10.	Karnataka	100	20,456	6,336
11.	Madhya Pradesh	91	22,401	22,401
12.	Rajasthan	95	25,617	25,617
13.	Telangana	100	17,159	4,464
14.	Andaman and Nicobar	100	482	373
15.	Delhi	100	2,264	17
16.	Goa	91	446	42
17.	Haryana	86	9,543	9,507
18.	Himachal Pradesh	91	4,904	4,176
19.	Maharashtra	87	51,363	41,085
20.	Odisha	88	13,373	13,305
21.	Punjab	97	16,657	0
22.	Sikkim	82	1,440	20

Sl. No.	State/UT	Aadhaar Seeding	Total FPS	Operational ePoS
23.	Tripura	97.52	1,800	25
24.	Uttar Pradesh	77	79,645	2,254
25.	Arunachal Pradesh	44.50	1,683	0
26.	Assam	0	38,794	0
27.	Bihar	68.83	42,117	59
28.	Jammu and Kashmir	45	5,970	0
29.	Kerala	98	14,335	0
30.	Lakshadweep	98	39	0
31.	Manipur	21.81	2,154	0
31.	Meghalaya	0	4,651	0
33.	Mizoram	44.59	1,248	0
34.	Nagaland	6.50	1,691	0
35.	Uttarakhand	90	9,212	8
36.	West Bengal	62	20,278	0
TOTAL		78.67%	5,27,008	2,45,706

**Setting up of additional storage capacity**

731. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total storage capacity for foodgrains in the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a grave situation has arisen due to non-availability of storage facilities for foodgrains in the country, resulting in a lot of foodgrains and edible items lying in open places and thus getting damaged/destroyed; and
- (c) whether Government plans to give incentives to Private sector to set up additional storage capacity for foodgrains in the country along with other efforts being made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State agencies for storage of central pool stock is 783.17 Lakh MT including covered godowns of 633.00 LMT and Cover And Plinth (CAP) facilities of 150.17 LMT, against the stock of 555.40 Lakh MT as on 31.05.2017. In addition, a total capacity of 11.75 Lakh MT of steel silos is also available with FCI & State agencies.

(b) No, Sir. Normally peak stock of foodgrains in the central pool occurs around 1st June of every year. Total storage capacity available with FCI and State Agencies as on 1st June during the last four years with corresponding stock position in central pool is given below:—

(Fig. in Lakh MT)

As on	Storage capacity owned by FCI	Storage capacity hired by FCI	Storage capacity with State agencies	Total Storage capacity	Stock position
01.06.14	156.47	226.58	375.47	758.52	622.31
01.06.15	153.42	215.33	357.68	726.43	568.34
01.06.16	154.15	208.32	449.47	811.94	534.29
01.06.17	154.25	207.45	421.47	783.17	555.40

Thus, on the overall, there is sufficient capacity for storage of foodgrains in the country and no damage can be directly attributed due to lack of adequate Storage space and handling facilities.

(c) Government has been augmenting storage capacity through the private sector. Under, Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) scheme, which was introduced in 2008, godowns have been constructed through private entrepreneurs selected by tendering process. In return for investment, the private parties get guarantee of hiring for 10 years from FCI. As on 31.05.2017, a capacity of 137.45 lakh MT has been created under this scheme.

Further, modern storage facilities in the form of steel silos are also being constructed in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode through private investors, who are assured

30 years of guaranteed storage charges for operation and maintenance. Tenders are floated both by FCI and State Agencies to select the private parties at identified places for silos. The construction is carried out in Viability Gap Funding (VGF) model and non-VGF model. In case of VGF model a provision of grant upto 20% of the investment is also available from Department of Economic Affairs. Silos of total capacity 6.25 LMT have been completed as on 31.05.2017.

### **Incidents of cyber attacks**

732. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently country faced a wave of cyber security incidents ranging from targeted attacks on Government organisations to ATM malware attacks, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the country is ill-prepared to combat potential risks associated with cashless transactions and pushing hundreds of millions of citizens' private information into the digital space; and

(c) if so, the steps Government is taking to deal with sophisticated financially motivated espionage actor groups focusing on critical systems and maturing business in 2017?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) With the proliferation of Information Technology and related services, there is a rise in number of cyber security incidents in the country like elsewhere in the world. As per the information reported to and tracked by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), a total no. of 44679, 49455, 50362 and 27482 cyber security incidents were observed during the year 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 (till June) respectively. The types of cyber security incidents include phishing, scanning/probing, website intrusions and defacements, virus/malicious code, targeted attacks, ATM malware, ransomware, Denial of Service attacks, etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government is aware of the nature of the threats in Cyber Space. Accordingly, Government is following an integrated approach with a series of legal, technical and



administrative steps to ensure that necessary systems are in place to enhance security of digital payment systems. In order to enhance safety of the digital technology and to prevent cyber attacks on critical financial systems, the following key actions have been taken, namely:—

- (i) All authorised entities/banks issuing Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) in the country have been advised by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) through the Reserve Bank of India to carry out audit by empanelled auditors of CERT-In on a priority basis and take immediate steps thereafter to comply with the findings of the audit report and ensure implementation of security best practices.
- (ii) All organizations providing digital payment services have been mandated to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In expeditiously.
- (iii) Government has formulated Cyber Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks for implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.
- (iv) Cyber security mock drills are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. Till date, 15 such drills have been conducted by the CERT-In involving 148 organisations from different sectors including Finance sector.
- (v) CERT-In issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/ vulnerabilities and countermeasures to protect computers and mobile phones on regular basis. 25 advisories have also been issued regarding safeguards for users and institutions to secure digital payments.
- (vi) Government has established Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre). The centre is providing detection of malicious programs and free tools to remove the same for banks as well as common users.
- (vii) Government has issued general guidelines for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) for securing applications and infrastructure and their key roles and responsibilities for compliance.

- (viii) CERT-In is regularly conducting cyber security trainings for IT / cyber security professionals including Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) of Government and critical sector organisations to give an exposure on current threat landscape and countermeasures. In addition, CERT-In has also conducted a workshop on security of digital payments systems for stakeholder organisations covering 110 participants.
- (ix) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up Cyber Crisis Management Group to address any major incidents reported including suggesting ways to respond and recover to/ from the incidents.
- (x) Department of Banking Supervision under RBI also conducts cyber security preparedness testing among banks on the basis of hypothetical scenarios with the help of CERT-In.
- (xi) RBI has issued circular on 9th December, 2016 on security and risk mitigation measure for all authorised entities / banks issuing Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) in the country.
- (xii) RBI issues Circulars/advisories to all Commercial Banks on phishing attacks and preventive / detective measures to tackle phishing attacks.
- (xiii) RBI has issued a comprehensive circular on Cyber Security Framework in Banks on June 2, 2016 covering best practices pertaining to various aspects of cyber security.
- (xiv) RBI has set up a Cyber Security and IT Examination (CSITE) cell within its Department of Banking Supervision in 2015.

#### **Losing of jobs by IT engineers**

733. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that about two lakh IT engineers are going to lose jobs annually in the next three years;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and
- (c) if not, the views of Government on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), the industry is estimated to employ around 1,70,000 people during the FY 2016-17, taking the total number of employees in IT-ITeS industry to nearly 39 lakh people currently. The IT-ITeS industry will remain a net hirer in FY 2017-18 and is expected to add 130,000 to 150,000 jobs in the year. There is a continuing gentle deceleration in net hiring growth rate (but with a growing base) as industry focuses on innovation, enhanced efficiencies and lower attrition. Companies are re-aligning and re-adjusting themselves to the changing business scenarios and adjusting their workforce accordingly. Additionally, technologies such as advanced robotics and automation are changing job roles and profiles drastically, across industries as well as causing extinction of certain existing job profiles. The trend over the last 3 years is as follows:—

Year	Number of Total employees	Net addition during the year	Growth in Total employees
FY2014-15	3,485,000	217,000	7%
FY2015-16	3,688,000	203,000	6%
FY2016-17	3863,000	175,000	5%

Source: NASSCOM.

#### **Encouraging online services**

734. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is encouraging the States to adopt online services through its schemes and projects, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Central Government helps infrastructural development in the States for achieving the same, the details thereof;

(c) the projects sanctioned for the purpose with their corresponding amounts in Manipur during the last five years; and

(d) the details of plans of action for computerization and cyber connectivity of Central and State Government offices in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India is implementing the Digital India programme to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. One of the primary focus areas of Digital India is e-Kranti-Electronic delivery of services. e-Kranti aims to ensure a Government wide transformation by delivering all Government services electronically to the citizens through integrated and interoperable systems via multiple modes, while ensuring efficiency, transparency & reliability of such services at affordable costs. Under e-Kranti, 44 Mission Mode Projects (13 Central, 17 State and 14 Integrated MMPs) are being implemented. These MMPs are providing e-Governance services in the areas such as education, healthcare, agriculture, justice, land records, social benefits, local governments, rural development, women and child development, legislature, transport, financial services etc.

(b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has implemented following core infrastructure projects to help the Government Departments at the Centre and States/UTs to implement their e-Governance applications and to deliver citizen-centric services more efficiently and effectively, namely:—

- (i) **State Wide Area Networks (SWANs):** Under the scheme, technical and financial assistance are being provided to the States/UTs for establishing SWANs to connect all State/UT Headquarters up to the Block level via District/sub-Divisional Headquarters, in a vertical hierarchical structure with a minimum bandwidth capacity of 2 Mbps per link. Each of the States/UTs can enhance the bandwidth up to 34 Mbps between State Head Quarter (SHQ) and District Head Quarter (DHQ) and upto 8 Mbps between DHQ and Block Head Quarter (BHQ) depending upon the utilization. Presently, the SWANs have been made operational in 34 States/UTs.
- (ii) **State Data Centres (SDCs):** Under the SDC Scheme, it is proposed to establish Data Centres in all the States/UTs to consolidate services, applications and infrastructure in order to provide efficient electronic delivery of Government to Government (G2G), Government to Citizen (G2C) and Government to Business (G2B) services. Presently, 27 SDCs have been made operational.
- (iii) **Common Service Centres (CSCs):** CSCs are internet enabled centres to deliver various online services (eServices) to rural citizens. CSCs are the

front-end delivery points for a range of citizen services. Till June, 2017, 3,00,774 Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been registered across the country, among which, 1,96,922 are at Gram Panchayat (GP) level. Out of the total registered CSCs, 2,61,071 CSCs are functioning and transacting for delivery of eServices and among which, 1,63,226 are at GP level.

- (iv) **State Service Delivery Gateways (SSDGs):** The State Portal, SSDG and E-Forms project aims at creating a State Portal, secure middleware named as State Service Delivery Gateway (SSDG) and electronic forms for every State/UT to offer convenient and easy e-services to citizens. This project leverages the existing e-Governance infrastructure like CSCs, SDCs and SWANs. The project aims to reduce the number of visits of citizens to a government office / department for availing the services. At present, SSDG have gone live in 26 States/UTs with 759 services.
- (v) **e-District Mission Mode Project (MMP):** e-District is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) that aims at electronic delivery of identified high volume citizen centric services at the district or sub-district level. The MMP is being implemented by State Governments/UT Administrations through their designated agencies. Till June, 2017, e-District services have been launched in 598 districts out of the total of 672 districts.

(c) The projects sanctioned for infrastructural development with their corresponding amounts in Manipur during the last five years are as follows:—

Sl. No.	Project	Date of Approval	Outlay (₹ in Crore)	Status/Remark
1.	SWAN	29.03.2007	20.55	Operational since March, 2011.
2.	SDC	03.03.2008	39.04	Operational since January, 2013
3.	CSC	15.01.2008	13.92	Till June, 2017, in Manipur, 646 Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been registered, out of which, 256 are at Gram Panchayat (GP) level.
4.	e-District	31.03.2012	11.54	e-District Services have been launched in all 9 districts of Manipur.
5.	SSDG	27.11.2009	9.00	SSDG have gone live in Manipur since January, 2012

(d) The Manipur SWAN has been made operational in March, 2011 to provide connectivity to government offices at 1 State Head Quarter(SHQ), 7 District Head Quarter(DHQ) and 34 Block Head Quarters(BHQ). In addition to this, National Informatics Centre (NIC) has implemented NICNET up to District Head Quarters, National Knowledge Network (NKN) and Video Conferencing infrastructure in the State.

#### **Augmenting cyber security**

735. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government considers any need to improve and augment cyber security after the recent ransomware threat to digital infrastructure in the country; and
- (b) 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) and (b) Propagation of ransomware called WannaCry has been reported in many countries around the world including India since 12 May, 2017. In tune with the dynamic nature of Information Technology, continuous efforts are required to be made to prevent and recover from cyber attacks. As such, the protection of Information Technology infrastructure is a dynamic activity and continuing process.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to prevent cyber attacks and enhance cyber security:—

- (i) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities and countermeasures to protect IT systems and mobile devices.
- (ii) Government has launched the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre). The centre is providing detection of malicious programs and free tools to remove the same for banks as well as common users.
- (iii) Government has formulated Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism for implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.

- (iv) Cyber security mock drills are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. 15 such drills have so far been conducted by CERT-In where 148 organisations from different states and sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom, Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ITeS, etc participated.
- (v) Government has empanelled 54 security auditing organisations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.
- (vi) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) regularly conducts programs to generate information security awareness. Specific books, videos and online materials are developed for children, parents and general users about information security which are disseminated through Portals like "<http://infosecawareness.in/>" and "[www.cyberswachhhtakendra.in](http://www.cyberswachhhtakendra.in)"

#### **Cyber attacks and GST networking**

736. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that during the recent past, a number of cases of major cyber attacks were reported, which have taken entire digital network on task;
- (b) if so, whether Government is taking cyber safety measures to combat such attacks;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether GST network would also be safe from cyber attackers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) As per the information reported to and tracked by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), a total no. of 44679, 49455, 50362 and 27482 cyber security incidents were observed during the year 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 (till June) respectively. The types of cyber security incidents include phishing, scanning/probing, website intrusions and defacements, virus/malicious code, ransomware, Denial of Service attacks, etc.

(b) and (c) Government is taking the following cyber safety measures to combat cyber attacks, namely:—

- (i) Government has formulated Cyber Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks for implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.
  - (ii) Cyber security mock drills are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. Till date, 15 such drills have been conducted by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) involving 148 organisations from different sectors.
  - (iii) CERT-In issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/ vulnerabilities and countermeasures to protect computers and mobile phones on regular basis.
  - (iv) CERT-In is regularly tracking the hacking of websites and alerts the concerned website owners to take actions to secure the websites to prevent recurrence.
  - (v) All the new government websites and applications are to be audited with respect to cyber security prior to their hosting. The auditing of the hosted websites and applications is conducted on a regular basis after hosting also. CERT-In has empanelled 54 security auditing organizations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.
  - (vi) CERT-In is conducting cyber security trainings for IT / cyber security professionals including Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) of Government and critical sector organisations. 14 training programmes covering 431 participants and 13 training programmes covering 329 participants were conducted during 2016 and 2017 (till June).
  - (vii) Government has established Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre). The centre is providing detection of malicious programs and free tools to remove the same for banks as well as common users.
- (d) The cyber security is part of GST system and a dedicated Security Operations Command Center (SOOC) is operational 24x7x365 as part of GST Network (GSTN). GSTN has been desined with various requisite security features including the following:–
- (i) Core GST System is not exposed directly to internet and any interaction with GST system is only through Application Programming Interfaces (APIs);



- (ii) Multi-layered security architecture;
- (iii) Segregation *via* Virtual Local Area Network (VLANs) / Zoning, Segregation of Duties (SODs), least privilege access principles, IP filtering/blocking rogue IPs, Resiliency at each layer;
- (iv) Secure Coding practices ensuring security of GST software development throughout Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC);
- (v) Data Encryption (at rest and during transit) and Data sharding- Any data transfer from GST System is in encrypted format using AES256/SHA256; and
- (vi) Thorough Security testing *i.e.* Secure code scanning, static and dynamic Analysis of Open Source components, Full system Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing of IT Infrastructure, Apps using licensed tools and customized scripts.

#### **Cyber security pact with Spain and Germany**

737. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India has signed a cyber security pact with Spain and Germany;
- (b) if so, the details of the agreement and the likely benefits to India from pact; and
- (c) the steps Government is planning to undertake to address the challenges pertaining to the cyber security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) India has not signed any Cyber Security Pact with Spain and Germany.

- (c) The following steps have been taken by the Government to prevent cyber attacks and enhance cyber security:—
  - (i) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities and counter/ measures to protect IT systems and mobile devices.

- (ii) Government has launched the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre). The centre is providing detection of malicious programs and free tools to remove the same for banks as well as common users.
- (iii) Government has formulated Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism for implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.
- (iv) Cyber security mock drills are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. 15 such drills have so far been conducted by CERT-In where 148 organisations from different states and sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom, Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ITeS, etc participated.
- (v) Government has empanelled 54 security auditing organisations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.
- (vi) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) regularly conducts programs to generate information security awareness. Specific books, videos and online materials are developed for children, parents and general users about information security which are disseminated through Portals like <http://infosecawareness.in/> and [www.cyberswachhtakendra.in](http://www.cyberswachhtakendra.in).

#### **Steps to control ransomware attacks**

738. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to control the spread of a ransomware called 'Wannacrypt', which locked the data in computers across globe including India, demanding a ransom; and
- (b) the precautions and measures taken/ considered to be taken by Government in handling such situations in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Propagation of ransomware called WannaCry/WannaCrypt has been reported in many countries around

the world including India since 12 May, 2017. Ransomware is a type of malicious software that infects a computer and restricts users' access to affected files by encrypting them until a ransom is paid to unlock it.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to control spread of WannaCrypt ransomware:—

- (i) The Indian Computer Emergency (CERT-In) issued an advisory regarding detection and prevention of Wannacry ransomware on its website on 13 May 2017.
- (ii) CERT-In had issued a vulnerability note on its website with a Severity Rating of high on March 15, 2017 providing information regarding vulnerabilities in Microsoft Windows systems which have been exploited by Wannacrypt ransomware alongwith remedial measures.
- (iii) CERT-In informed various key organisations across sectors in the country regarding the ransomware threat and advised measures to be taken to prevent the same. A webcast was also conducted in this regard for organisations and users.
- (iv) Free tools for detection and removal of wannacrypt ransomware were provided on the website of Cyber Swachhta Kendra ([www.cyberswachhtakendra.gov.in](http://www.cyberswachhtakendra.gov.in)).

(b) The following steps are taken by the Government to prevent malware/ ransomware threats:—

- (i) CERT-In issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/ vulnerabilities and countermeasures to protect systems and mobile devices.
- (ii) Security tips are published for users to secure their Desktops and mobile/ smart phones.
- (iii) Government has launched the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre). The centre is providing detection of malicious programs and free tools to remove the same for banks as well as common users.
- (iv) Cyber security mock drills are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government

and critical sectors. 15 such drills have so far been conducted by CERT-In where 148 organisations from different states and sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom, Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ITeS, etc participated. 4 such drills have been conducted specifically for ransomware scenarios to enable preparedness of organisations for such threats.

- (v) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) regularly conducts programs to generate information security awareness. Specific books, videos and online materials are developed for children, parents and general users about information security which are disseminated through Portals like "<http://infosecawareness.in/>" and "[www.cyberswachhtakendra.in](http://www.cyberswachhtakendra.in)"

#### **Cyber attacks and preventive measures**

739. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of number of cyber attacks that happened in the country in the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the steps taken to ensure cyber security and warnings issued to the corporate sector;
- (c) the impact of recent Petya ransomware in the country and proactive measures initiated by Government; and
- (d) the details of preventive measures being taken to guard against such attacks in future in view of increasing digitization in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) As per the information reported to and tracked by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), a total no. of 44679, 49455, 50362 and 27482 cyber security incidents were observed during the year 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 (till June) respectively. The types of cyber security incidents include phishing, scanning/probing, website intrusions and defacements, virus/malicious code, ransomware, Denial of Service attacks, etc.

- (b) The following actions are taken by the Government to ensure cyber security:
- (i) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities and countermeasures to protect IT systems and mobile devices. In addition, tailored alerts are being sent to key organisations in public and private sector regarding latest cyber threats and countermeasures.
  - (ii) Government has formulated Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism for implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.
  - (iii) Cyber security mock drills are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors including Corporate sector. 15 such drills have so far been conducted by CERT-In where 148 organisations from different states and sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom, Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ITeS, etc participated.
  - (iv) Government has empanelled 54 security auditing organisations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.
  - (v) CERT-In is conducting cyber security trainings for IT / cyber security professionals including Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) of Government and critical sector organisations. 14 training programs covering 431 participants and 13 training programs covering 329 participants were conducted during 2016 and 2017 (till June).
  - (vi) Government has launched the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre). The centre is providing detection of malicious programs and free tools to remove the same for banks as well as common users.
  - (vii) Government has issued general guidelines for (Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) for securing applications and infrastructure and their key roles and responsibilities for compliance.
  - (viii) CERT-In is regularly conducting cyber security trainings for IT/cyber security professionals including Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) of

Government and critical sector organisations to give an exposure on current threat landscape and countermeasures. In addition, CERT-In has also conducted a workshop on security of digital payments systems for stakeholder organisations covering 110 participants.

- (ix) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) regularly conducts programs to generate information security awareness. Specific book, videos and online materials are developed for children, parents and general users about information security which are disseminated through Portals like <http://infosecawareness.in/> and [www.cyberswachhtakendra.in](http://www.cyberswachhtakendra.in)

(c) and (d) Propagation of ransomware called Petya has been reported in many countries around the world including India since 27 June, 2017. Ransomware is a type of malicious software that infects a computer and restricts users' access to affected files by encrypting them until a ransom is paid to unlock it. As reported to CERT-In, operations of one sea port were partially affected by the Petya ransomware. Remedial measures to contain damage and prevent such incidents have been advised by CERT-In.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to prevent recent ransomware attacks:—

- (i) The Indian Computer Emergency (CERT-In) has issued an advisory regarding detection prevention of WannaCry ransomware on its website on 13 May, 2017. Advisory regarding detection and prevention of Petya ransomware was issued by CERT-In on 27 June, 2017.
- (ii) CERT-In has issued a vulnerability note on its website with a Severity Rating of high on March 15, 2017 suggesting information regarding vulnerabilities in Microsoft Windows systems which have been exploited by Wannacry and Petya ransomware alongwith remedial measures.
- (iii) CERT-In has informed various key organisations across sectors in the country regarding the ransomware threat and advised measures to be taken to prevent the same.
- (iv) Free tools for detection and removal of ransomware/bots have been provided on the website of Cyber Swachhta Kendra ([www.cyberswachhtakendra.gov.in](http://www.cyberswachhtakendra.gov.in)).

- (v) All authorized entities/banks issuing Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) in the country have been advised by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to carry out audit by the empanelled auditors of CERT-In on a priority basis and take immediate steps thereafter to comply with the findings of the audit report and ensure implementation of security best practices.
- (vi) All organizations providing digital payment services have been mandated to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In expeditiously.

**Issues related to Aadhaar linked payments**

740. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the issue related to Aadhaar linked payments wherein security and other problems occurred during linking with PAN cards; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The role of UIDAI under the Ministry is to issue Aadhaar numbers and perform authentication thereof.

As per the information provided by Central of Board Direct Taxes (CBDT), Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, the Income Tax Department does not use the Aadhaar linked payment facility for payment of Income Tax refunds.

- (b) Does not arise.

**Fraudulently issued Aadhaar numbers**

741. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than 100 crore residents were enrolled in Aadhaar under the weak enrolment system existing before the Aadhaar Act; and
- (b) the steps and guidelines Government has issued to ensure that fraudulently issued Aadhaar numbers do not become gateways to obtaining Voter ID and passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Prior to the Aadhaar Act, 2016 coming into force, UIDAI had been functioning as an attached office of the erstwhile Planning commission (now NITI Aayog) *vide* Gazette Notification No. A-43011/02/2009-Admn.I dated 28th January, 2009 with a mandate to generate and issue Unique Identification Number to all residents of India. Aadhaar Act, 2016 came into force in September 2016 by which time more than 100 crore Aadhaar numbers had been generated.

The enrolment system adopted by UIDAI, since inception, for enrolling the residents for Aadhaar is a robust one and is guided by well defined processes and guidelines along with a suitable deterring mechanism to discourage any deviation from these laid down guidelines. Aadhaar is generated after a number of quality checks and biometric de-duplication. Every attempt is made to ensure that fake/bogus enrolments are identified through quality checks and biometric de-duplication process, and rejected. In a miniscule number of cases, where an ineligible enrolment may slip through, there are provisions for taking action against the delinquent operator/ supervisor/ enrolment agency including imposing financial penalties and initiating criminal proceedings by lodging of FIR, besides cancellation of such Aadhaar numbers.

UIDAI only issues Aadhaar to the residents of the country. Aadhaar is a proof of identity and does not confer any right or entitlement on its holder. The Departments intending to use Aadhaar for delivering services to people are required to exercise due diligence in identifying their true beneficiaries.

#### **Cold chain units/cold storages in Himachal Pradesh**

742. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cold chain units/cold storages set up in collaboration with Public-Private Partnership in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the problems being faced by the entrepreneurs and stakeholders of Food Processing Industries and the steps taken to solve these problems/issues; and

(c) whether Government has recently conducted any survey to identify the places for setting up of cold chain/food chain in Himachal Pradesh, if so, the details thereof?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) Cold Chain infrastructure under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode is supported under the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme of the Ministry of Finance. However, till date no proposal to set up cold chain project/cold storage under the PPP mode has been received in this Ministry.

(b) Lack of processable varieties, non availability of skilled manpower, delay in land use conversion and consent from State Pollution Control Boards are some of the issues being faced by food processing industries in the country.

The Ministry conducts regular review meetings with the promoters of assisted projects to monitor the progress and to resolve the issues, if any, arising during the course of implementation. The projects are also reviewed in Inter Ministerial Approval Committee (IMAC) meetings chaired by Hon'ble Minister, FPL For effective resolution of issues and speedy clearances, State government representatives have been included as members of the IMAC.

(c) Ministry has not conducted any survey to identify the places for setting up of cold chain/food chain in Himachal Pradesh.

#### **FDI in FPIs**

743. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the norms and extent to which the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted in the Food Processing Industries (FPIs) in the country;

(b) whether any concern and apprehension has been expressed in regard to aforesaid issue and if so, the details thereof and response of the Government thereto; and

(c) whether any assessment has been made to ascertain the impact of FDI on the domestically established FPIs in the country and if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) As per extant Policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% is allowed in food processing industries under the automatic route subject to applicable laws/sectoral rules/regulations/security conditions.

Further, 100% FDI is permitted under Government approval route for trading, including through e-commerce, in respect of food products manufactured and/or produced in India.

(b) FDI Policy on different sectors are formulated/reviewed after intensive consultations with stakeholders including Ministries/Departments concerned, apex industry chambers and other organizations. Views/ suggestions received are considered by the Government and necessary amendments, if required, are made in the policy from time to time. Policy on this sector is also decided with similar consultations.

(c) No such assessment has been made by the Ministry till date.

#### **Creation of National Food Grid**

744. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to create a National Food Grid to oversee the food processing and allied sector activities, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of SAMPADA scheme with budget allocation;

(c) whether it is a fact that in spite of Government's approval for FDI in food retail, the Ministry is struggling to get any concrete response from the investors, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to mitigate issues such as farm-gate to market, reefer vehicles, cold chain grids, Food Park clusters and Mega Food Parks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) and (b) Government has recently approved KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA with an outlay of ₹ 6000 crore. KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA is a comprehensive package to give a renewed thrust to the food processing sector covering the entire supply chain from farm gate to retail with food processing infrastructure and backward & forward linkages across the country. KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA includes new schemes of Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters, Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages, and Creation / Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities alongwith ongoing schemes of Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure and Human Resources and Institutions.

(c) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100%, under the automatic route is allowed in food processing industries. Further, 100% FDI is also now permitted under Government approval route for trading, including through e-commerce. M/s Amazon Corporate Holdings Private Limited, M/s Grofers India Ltd., M/s Supermarket Grocery Supplies Pvt. Ltd. (Big Basket) and M/s Mountains Trail Foods Pvt. Ltd. have submitted foreign investment proposals for undertaking retail trading of food products in India.

(d) Government has taken several other steps to promote food processing sector in the country. A Special Fund of ₹ 2000 crore has been setup in NABARD to make available affordable credit to designated food parks and agro-processing units in such parks. Food and agro-based processing units and cold chain infrastructure have been classified under agriculture activities for Priority Sector Lending (PSL) as per the revised RBI Guidelines issued on 23.04.2015. Fiscal incentives are also being provided to promote food processing industries in the country.

#### **Pendency of cases in courts**

745. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of pending cases in courts has been increasing consistently over the past few years;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending in Supreme Court, down to lower courts during last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether functioning of courts could be improved to expedite judgement in these cases; and

(d) if so, the types of improvement which could be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Disposal of cases is within the domain of the domain of judiciary. Increase / decrease of disposal of cases and Increase / decrease of pendency of cases depends upon various factors such as nature and type of cases, completion of investigation of cases, availability of Judges / Judicial Officers, availability of judicial infrastructure, availability of accused / witness, computerisation of courts, automation of court procedures, efficiency of Judges / Judicial Officers etc. Despite

various constraints, pendency of cases in the Supreme Court has declined from 62 thousand cases in the year 2014 to 58 thousand cases in the year 2017. Pendency of cases in High Courts has also declined from 41.53 lakh cases in the year 2014 to 40.15 lakh cases in the year 2016. Pendency of cases in District and Subordinate Courts has, however, increased from 2.64 crore cases in the year 2014 to 2.74 crore cases in the year 2016 due to increased filing of cases. The details of year-wise pendency of cases in the Supreme Court, various High Courts and District / Subordinate Courts during last three years are given in the Statement.

The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, which, *inter alia*, involves better court infrastructure including computerisation, increase in the strength of subordinate judiciary and initiating policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development.

In addition to the above, following steps have also been taken by the Central Government in the matter.

- (i) The sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 judges to 1079 judges. Total 173 posts were sanctioned between June, 2014 and May, 2016.
- (ii) The sanctioned strength of the subordinate judiciary has been increased from 20,174 at the end of 2014 to 22,288 in December, 2016.
- (iii) National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) provides mechanisms for access to justice for poor people in India, under the overall supervision of the Chief Justice of India as the Patron-in Chief. It organised the National Lok Adalat in July, 2017. More than 9.97 lakh cases including 5.33 lakh pending cases and 4.64 lakhs pre-litigation cases with the settlement amount of ₹ 2925 crores were disposed.
- (iv) 1824 redundant Central Acts have been identified for repeal. So far, 1200 Acts have been repealed.
- (v) The Government has launched a nation-wide drive to reduce the number of cases pending in courts by curtailing the Government litigation. The Minister of Law and Justice has written on 10th April, 2017 to all Ministers of Central Ministries and Chief Ministers of States to launch 'special arrears clearance drives' to reduce pending cases and minimize fresh litigations.

- (vi) Based on the proposals received from the High Court Collegium, during the year 2016, 126 fresh appointment of Judges in High Courts and 131 Additional Judges were made permanent, which is the highest number of appointments made in a given year. In addition, the tenure of 22 Additional Judges of High Courts was also extended. Besides, based on the proposal received from the Supreme Court Collegium, 4 judges were appointed in the Supreme Court in 2016. During the current year (2017), 05 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court, 75 Judges in the High Courts and 28 Additional Judges have been made Permanent. Besides, 08 Chief Justices have been appointed in the High Courts.
- (vii) The 14th Finance Commission has endorsed the proposal to strengthen the judicial system in States which includes, *inter alia*, establishing 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for a period of five years for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children, disabled and litigants affected with HIV AIDS and other terminal ailments; and civil disputes involving land acquisition and property / rent disputes pending for more than five years at a cost of ₹ 4,144 crore. The 14th Finance Commission has urged State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the tax devolution to meet such requirements. The Hon'ble Minister for Law and Justice has written to all Chief Ministers on 02nd May, 2017 to make available the fund recommended by the 14th Finance Commission to judiciary and to furnish the status of the implementation- of the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission.
- (viii) As per the resolution adopted in the Joint Conference held in New Delhi on 24th April, 2016, the Government *vide* its letter dated 26th September, 2016 requested the State Governments to strengthen the institutional mechanism between the State and the Judiciary where the Chief Secretary and his team and 2 or 3 Judges of the High Court to regularly meet and monitor utilisation of plan fund and timely completion of infrastructure and eCourts Mission Mode project. The States have also been requested to assist Judiciary in preparing perspective / annual plan for various activities to be undertaken in the justice sector on account of enhanced devolution of funds to the States under the 14th Finance Commission. In addition, the States were requested to provide technical manpower for ICT upgradation.

- (ix) The Government *vide* a letter dated 3rd February, 2017, addressed the Chief Justices of the 24 High Courts requesting them to advise the district judiciary to ensure effective implementation of Section 436A Code of Criminal Procedure and ensure periodic monitoring of the associated Undertrial Review Committee Mechanism.
- (x) Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Court Act, 2015 has been notified on 1st January, 2016 to have a streamlined procedure for the conduct of cases in the Commercial Division and in the Commercial Court by amending the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (CPC) for commercial cases so as to improve the efficiency and reduce delays in disposal of commercial cases.
- (xi) Necessary amendments have been made to Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 to make the award within 12 months, to resolve the dispute through fast track procedure, to ensure neutrality of arbitrators, and to restrict usage of the term 'Public Policy of India' (as a ground for challenging the award).
- (xii) The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2015 has been notified to clarify the jurisdiction where cases pertaining to dishonour of cheque may be filed and provide for transfer of cases to the appropriate jurisdiction and consolidation of multiple cases filed in different courts.
- (xiii) The Government *vide* letter dated 7th February, 2017, addressed the Chief Justices of the all High Courts has requesting them to speed up the process of implementation of e-courts project actualising the objectives of the Project.
- (xiv) The Government has approved a scheme of engaging 227 Nyaya Mitras in States where there are large number of pendency of court cases. The Nyaya Mitras are required to assist the litigants who are suffering due to delay in investigations or trial, by actively identifying such cases through the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). These Nyaya Mitras are meant to identify the bottlenecks due to which these cases are delayed.
- (xv) The Government has also approved two 'legal aid and empowerment' initiatives, Pro bono legal services and Tele Law service. Under the Pro bono legal services an online database of lawyers and eligible litigants has been created. As on date 140 lawyers have enrolled under the scheme to provide

free legal aid to marginalized persons. Under the Tele Law service, legal aid is mainstreamed through 1800 Common Services Centres in selected Panchayats in U.P., Bihar and States of North East and J & K. As on date a total of 568 cases have been registered in Tele Law portal for legal aid.

(xvi) In pursuance of resolution passed in the Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, High Courts have set up Arrears Committees to clear the backlog of cases pending for more than five years. The Supreme Court has also constituted an Arrears Committee consisting of two Hon'ble Judges to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts.

(xvii) The Minister of State for Law and Justice has also written to all Chief Ministers on July 19, 2017 to use additional fiscal space provided by 14th Finance Commission to set up special Courts especially for the crimes against women.

### ***Statement***

#### *Details of pendency of cases in courts*

(A) Number of Cases pending in Supreme Court of India during last three years.

Year	Number of Cases pending
As on 31.12.2014	62,791
As on 31.12.2015	59,272
As on 31.12.2016	62,537

As per information recently obtained from Supreme of Court of India, 58,438 cases (48,772 Civil Cases and 9,666 Criminal Cases) were pending in the Supreme Court of India as on 14.07.2017.

(B) Number of Cases pending in various High Courts during last three years.

Year	Number of Cases pending
As on 31.12.2014	41.53 lakh
As on 31.12.2015	38.70 lakh
As on 31.12.2016	40.15 lakh

(C) Number of Cases pending in various District / Subordinate Courts during last three years.

Year	Number of Cases pending
As on 31.12.2014	2.64 crore
As on 31.12.2015	2.70 crore
As on 31.12.2016	2.74 crore

#### **Empowerment of Election Commission with contempt powers**

746. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of a request by Election Commission (EC) that contempt powers be given against those who make unfounded allegations and question the EC's credibility, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government agrees with the Poll Panel and proposes to amend the Contempt of Court Act, 1971 to empower EC to act against those who question the authority of the Poll Panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The proposal was examined from legal and constitutional scheme of things as also in the light of various judicial observations and pronouncements in the past. It has been opined that the conferment of power of contempt on the Election Commission may be inconsistent with the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

#### **Constitution of All India Judicial Service**

747. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the constitution of All India Judicial Service;

(b) the details of various views given by the State Governments and Courts on the issue;

(c) whether Government has finalized the consultative process in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and



(d) the measures taken by Government to overcome the objections raised by the different High Courts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) A comprehensive proposal was formulated for the constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) and the same was approved by the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2012. The proposal was included as an agenda item in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2013 and it was decided that issue needs further deliberation and consideration. The views of the State Governments and High Courts were sought on the proposal. There was divergence of opinion among the State Governments and among the High Courts on the constitution of All India Judicial Service. While some State Governments and High Courts were not in favour of creation of All India Judicial Service, some other State Governments and High Courts wanted changes in the proposal formulated by the Central Government.

Only High Courts of Sikkim and Tripura have concurred with the proposal approved by Committee of Secretaries for formation of All India Judicial Service. High Courts of Allahabad, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha and Uttarakhand have suggested changes in age at induction level, qualifications, training and quota of vacancies to be filled through All India Judicial Service. Rest of High Courts not favoured the idea. Most of the High Courts want the administrative control over the Subordinate Judiciary to remain with the respective High Courts. The High Courts of Jharkhand and Rajasthan have indicated that the matter regarding creation of AIJS is pending consideration. No response has been received from the High Courts of Calcutta, Jammu and Kashmir and Gauhati.

The State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Punjab do not favour the formation of AIJS. The State Government of Maharashtra wants the recruitment to be done at Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) level which is not in consonance with the provisions of AIJS included in the Constitution of India. The State Government of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Odisha and Uttarakhand want changes in the proposal formulated by the Central Government. The State Government of Haryana has stated that the proposal seems to be justified. The State Government of Mizoram supported creation of AIJS on the lines of IAS, IPS and other Central Services. The State of Jammu and Kashmir has mentioned that provisions of Constitution of India for formation of

AIJS incorporated in the Constitution by 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 are not applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. No response has yet been received from rest of the States.

The proposal for constitution of All India Judicial Service with views from the High Courts and State Governments received thereon was included in the agenda for the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held on 5th April, 2015. However, no progress was made on the subject. The matter regarding creation of a Judicial Service Commission to help the recruitment to the post of district judges and review of selection process of judges / judicial officers at all level was also included in the agenda for the Chief Justices Conference, which was held on 03rd and 04th April, 2015, wherein it was resolved to leave it open to the respective High Courts to evolve appropriate methods within the existing system to fill up the vacancies for appointment of District judges expeditiously.

However, keeping in view the divergence of opinion among the stakeholders on constitution of All India Judicial Service, the Government has undertaken the consultative process to arrive at a common ground.

#### **Shortage of Judges and pendency of cases**

†748. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people are not getting justice timely due to shortage of Judges in courts and the burden of cases continue to increase on courts, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the reasons for Government not taking any concrete steps in this regard in spite of being aware of it;

(c) if not, the number of pending cases in courts as of now and by when these cases will be disposed of; and

(d) by when shortage of Judges in courts will be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) The sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court is 31 and 4 posts of judges are vacant as on 10.07.2017. The sanctioned strength

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of judges in the High Courts is 1,079 in July, 2017. 401 posts of judges in the High Courts are vacant as on 10.07.2017 which includes 173 newly created posts. The Appointment of Judges and Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts falls within the domain of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. The details of approved and working strength and vacancies of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts as on 10.07.2017 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, which, *inter alia*, involves better court infrastructure including computerisation, increase in the strength of subordinate judiciary and initiating policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development. In pursuance of resolution passed in the Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, High Courts have set up Arrears Committees to clear the backlog of cases pending for more than five years. The Supreme Court has also constituted an Arrears Committee consisting of two Hon'ble Judges to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts.

The Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice *vide* his letters dated 10th April, 2017 addressed to all Hon'ble Union Ministers and all Hon'ble Chief Ministers requested to launch '*special arrears clearance drives*' to reduce Government Litigations. In the case of Imtiyaz Ahmed *versus* State of Uttar Pradesh and others, the Supreme Court had asked the Law Commission of India to evolve a method for scientific assessment of the number of additional courts to clear the backlog of cases. In its 245th report (2014), the Law Commission has observed that filing of cases *per capita* varies substantially across geographic units as filings are associated with economic and social conditions of the population. As such the Law Commission did not consider the judge population ratio to be a scientific criterion for determining the adequacy of the judge strength in the country. The Law Commission found that in the absence of complete and scientific approach to data collection across various High Courts in the country, the "Rate of Disposal" method to calculate the number of additional judges required to clear the backlog of cases as well as to ensure that new backlog is not created, is more pragmatic and useful. In May, 2014, the Supreme Court asked the State Governments and the High Courts to file their response to the recommendations made by the Law Commission. In August 2014, the Supreme Court asked the National Court Management System Committee (NCMS) to examine the recommendations made by the Law Commission and

to furnish their recommendations in this regard. NCMS submitted its report to the Supreme Court in March, 2016. It has, *inter-alia*, observed that in the long term, the judge strength of the subordinate courts will have to be assessed by a scientific method to determine the total number of "Judicial Hours" required for disposing of the case load of each court. In the interim, the Committee has proposed a "weighted" disposal approach - disposal weighted by the nature and complexity of cases in local conditions. The matter is *sub-judice* before the Supreme Court, at present. As per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Order dated 02.01.2017, the Department of Justice has forwarded a copy of interim report of the NCMS Committee to all State Governments and High Courts to enable them to take follow up action to determine the required Judges Strength of district judiciary based on the NCMS report.

As far as, disposal of cases are concerned, it is in the domain of Judiciary. Data on pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and the High Courts. As per the information available on the website of the Supreme Court, 58,438 cases were pending in the Supreme Court as on 14.07.2017. As per the information furnished by High Courts, 40.15 lakh cases were pending in various High Courts, and 2.74 crore cases were pending in various District and Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.2016.

Following steps have also been taken by the Central Government in the matter:—

- (i) The sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 judges to 1079 judges. Total 173 posts were sanctioned between June 2014 and May, 2016.
- (ii) The sanctioned strength of the subordinate judiciary has been increased from 20,174 at the end of 2014 to 22,288 in December, 2016.
- (iii) National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) provides mechanisms for access to justice for poor people in India, under the overall supervision of the Chief Justice of India as the Patron-in Chief. It organised the National Lok Adalat in July, 2017. More than 9.97 lakh cases including 5.33 lakh pending cases and 4.64 lakhs pre-litigation cases with the settlement amount of ₹ 2925 crores were disposed.
- (iv) 1824 redundant Central Acts have been identified for repeal. So far, 1200 Acts have been repealed.
- (v) The Government has launched a nation-wide drive to reduce the number of cases pending in courts by curtailing the Government litigation. The Minister

of Law and Justice has written on 10th April, 2017 to all Ministers of Central Ministries and Chief Ministers of States to launch 'special arrears clearance drives' to reduce pending cases and minimize fresh litigations.

- (vi) Based on the proposals received from the High Court Collegium, during the year 2016, 126 fresh appointment of Judges in High Courts and 131 Additional Judges were made permanent, which is the highest number of appointments made in a given year. In addition, the tenure of 22 Additional Judges of High Courts was also extended. Besides, based on the proposal received from the Supreme Court Collegium, 4 judges were appointed in the Supreme Court in 2016. During the current year (2017), 05 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court, 75 Judges in the High Courts and 28 Additional Judges have been made Permanent. Besides, 08 Chief Justices have been appointed in the High Courts.
- (vii) The 14th Finance Commission has endorsed the proposal to strengthen the judicial system in States which includes, *inter-alia*, establishing 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for a period of five years for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children, disabled and litigants affected with HIV AIDS and other terminal ailments; and civil disputes involving land acquisition and property / rent disputes pending for more than five years at a cost of ₹ 4,144 crore. The 14th Finance Commission has urged State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the tax devolution to meet such requirements. The Hon'ble Minister for Law and Justice has written to all Chief Ministers on 2nd May, 2017 to make available the fund recommended by the 14th Finance Commission to judiciary and to furnish the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission.
- (viii) As per the resolution adopted in the Joint Conference held in New Delhi on 24th April, 2016, the Government *vide* its letter dated 26th September, 2016 requested the State Governments to strengthen the institutional mechanism between the State and the Judiciary where the Chief Secretary and his team and 2 or 3 Judges of the High Court to regularly meet and monitor utilisation of plan fund and timely completion of infrastructure and eCourts Mission Mode project. The States have also been requested to assist Judiciary in preparing perspective / annual plan for various activities to be undertaken

in the justice sector on account of enhanced devolution of funds to the States under the 14th Finance Commission. In addition, the States were requested to provide technical manpower for ICT upgradation.

- (ix) The Government *vide* a letter dated 3rd February, 2017, addressed the Chief Justices of the 24 High Courts requesting them to advise the district judiciary to ensure effective implementation of Section 436A Code of Criminal Procedure and ensure periodic monitoring of the associated Undertrial Review Committee Mechanism.
- (x) Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Court Act, 2015 has been notified on 1st January, 2016 to have a streamlined procedure for the conduct of cases in the Commercial Division and in the Commercial Court by amending the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (CPC) for commercial cases so as to improve the efficiency and reduce delays in disposal of commercial cases.
- (xi) Necessary amendments have been made to Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 to make the award within 12 months, to resolve the dispute through fast track procedure, to ensure neutrality of arbitrators, and to restrict usage of the term 'Public Policy of India' (as a ground for challenging the award).
- (xii) The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2015 has been notified to clarify the jurisdiction where cases pertaining to dishonour of cheque may be filed and provide for transfer of cases to the appropriate jurisdiction and consolidation of multiple cases filed in different courts.
- (xiii) The Minister of State for Law and Justice *vide* a letter dated 7th February, 2017, addressed the Chief Justices of the all High Courts requesting them to speed up the process of implementation of e-courts Project actualising the objectives of the Project.
- (xiv) The Government has approved a scheme of engaging 227 Nyaya Mitras in States where there are large number of pendency of court cases. The Nyaya Mitras are required to assist the litigants who are suffering due to delay in investigations or trial, by actively identifying such cases through the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). These Nyaya Mitras are meant to identify the bottlenecks due to which these cases are delayed.

- (xv) The Government has also approved two 'legal aid and empowerment initiatives', Pro bono legal services and Tele Law service. Under the Pro bono legal services an online database of lawyers and eligible litigants has been created. As on date 140 lawyers have enrolled under the scheme to provide free legal aid to marginalized persons. Under the Tele Law service, legal aid is mainstreamed through 1800 Common Services Centres in selected Panchayats in U.P., Bihar and States of North East and J & K. As on date a total of 568 cases have been registered in Tele Law portal for legal aid.
- (xvi) In pursuance of resolution passed in the Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, High Courts have set up Arrears Committees to clear the backlog of cases pending for more than five years. The Supreme Court has also constituted an Arrears Committee consisting of two Hon'ble Judges to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts.
- (xvii) The Minister of State for Law and Justice has also written to all Chief Ministers on July 19, 2017 to use additional fiscal space provided by 14th Finance Commission to set up special Courts especially for the crimes against women.

***Statement***

*Details of Approved Strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges  
in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts*

(As on 10.07.2017)

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Approved Strength			Working Strength			Vacancies as per Approved Strength		
A.	Supreme Court	31			27			04		
B.	High Court	Pmt	Addl	Total	Pmt	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Allahabad	76	84	160	67	24	91	09	60	69
2.	High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad	46	15	61	27	0	27	19	15	34
3.	Bombay	71	23	94	54	20	74	17	03	20
4.	Calcutta	54	18	72	33	01	34	21	17	38

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5.	Chhattisgarh	17	05	22	08	05	13	09	0	09
6.	Delhi	45	15	60	38	0	38	07	15	22
7.	Gauhati	18	06	24	07	12	19	11	-06	05
8.	Gujarat	39	13	52	25	06	31	14	07	21
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10	03	13	06	02	08	04	01	05
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	13	04	17	12	0	12	01	04	05
11.	Jharkhand	19	06	25	08	06	14	11	0	11
12.	Karnataka	47	15	62	21	08	29	26	07	33
13.	Kerala	35	12	47	31	05	36	04	07	11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	17	18	35	23	-05	18
15.	Madras	56	19	75	45	09	54	11	10	21
16.	Manipur	04	01	05	02	0	02	02	01	03
17.	Meghalaya	03	01	04	03	0	03	0	01	01
18.	Odisha	20	07	27	18	0	18	02	07	09
19.	Patna	40	13	53	23	12	35	17	01	18
20.	Punjab and Haryana	64	21	85	43	10	53	21	11	32
21.	Rajasthan	38	12	50	21	16	37	17	-04	13
22.	Sikkim	03	0	03	03	0	03	0	0	0
23.	Tripura	04	0	04	02	0	02	02	0	02
24.	Uttarakhand	09	02	11	09	01	10	0	01	01
TOTAL		771	308	1079	523	155	678	248	153	401



**Regional Benches of Supreme Court**

†749. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that lakhs of people in the country have to travel from remote areas to New Delhi to file appeals in the Supreme Court against the verdicts/judgements of High Courts of States;

(b) if so, whether Government, on advice of the Supreme Court, will take initiative *de novo* to establish regional Benches of the Supreme Court in four regions of the country in view of various representations, recommendations of Law Commission and in the interest of general public; and

(c) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to Article 130 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.

Representations have been received from time to time from various quarters for establishment of Benches of Supreme Court in various parts of the country. The Law Commission, in its 229th Report had also suggested that a Constitutional Bench be set up at Delhi and four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region at Delhi, the Southern region at Chennai/Hyderabad. the Eastern region at Kolkata and the Western region at Mumbai.

The matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India, who has informed that after consideration of the matter, the Full Court in its meeting held on 18th February, 2010, found no justification for setting up of benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi.

A Writ Petition (Civil) No. 36 of 2016, filed in the Supreme Court on the subject of establishment of National Court of Appeal, is *sub-judice*.

**Computerization of courts**

750. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of courts computerized in the country till date the details thereof with special emphasis to the courts in NE States;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of Judicial Service Centres currently being operated by the Ministry and out of them, the number of those constructed in the last three years;

(c) whether all the court proceedings, judgments and information on pending cases are made online by the courts in the country including High Courts, District and Subordinate Courts, if so the details thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated by the Ministry for computerization of courts in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Government of India is implementing the eCourts Mission Mode Project for computerization of district and subordinate courts. As per information provided by eCommittee of Supreme Court of India, funds have been released to 16089 courts for computerization till date. The High Court-wise details of such district and subordinate courts, including the courts in NE States are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	No. of computerised courts
1.	Allahabad	1733
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1078
3.	Bombay	2079
4.	Calcutta	772
5.	Chhattisgarh	340
6.	Delhi	427
7.	Gauhati	442
8.	Gujarat	1108
9.	Himachal Pradesh	118
10.	Jabalpur	1203
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	218
12.	Jharkhand	351
13.	Jodhpur	978
14.	Karnataka	897

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	No. of computerised courts
15.	Kerala	486
16.	Madras	988
17.	Odisha	509
18.	Patna	1025
19.	Punjab and Haryana	1018
20.	Sikkim	15
21.	Uttarakhand	185
22.	Tripura	62
23.	Manipur	30
24.	Meghalaya	27
TOTAL		16089

(b) Judicial Service Centres are not operated by the Ministry. However, Judicial Service Centres have been established at the computerised district and subordinate courts which serve as a single window for filing petitions and applications by litigants/ lawyers as also obtaining information on ongoing cases and copies of orders and judgments etc.

(c) Court proceedings, judgments and information on pending cases of 16089 courts are provided online by the district and subordinate courts in the country. All the district and subordinate courts computerized under eCourts project have been linked to National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), which is a common repository of case records across the country. The portal also provides online information to litigants such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders, and final judgments. Currently litigants can access case status information in respect of over 7 crore pending and decided cases and more than 4 crore orders / judgements pertaining to the computerized district and subordinate courts.

(d) The funds allocated by the Ministry for computerization of courts in the country during the last three years are as under:—

Year (financial)	Funds released under eCourts Project for computerization of courts (Rupees in Crores)
2014-15	9.89
2015-16	212.23
2016-17	357.50
2017-18 (till date)	231.40

#### Steps to increase Subordinate and District judiciary

751. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to increase the strength of Subordinate and District judiciary considering the large number of pending cases, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, in what manner does the Government propose to deal with this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Appointment of Judges and Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts falls within the domain of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. The Central Government has no role in the matter.

The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, which, *inter-alia*, involves better court infrastructure including computerisation, increase in the strength of subordinate judiciary and initiating policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development. In the case of *Imtiyaz Ahmed versus State of Uttar Pradesh* and others, the Supreme Court had asked the Law Commission of India to evolve a method for scientific assessment of the number of additional courts to clear the backlog of cases. In its 245th report (2014), the Law Commission has observed that filing of cases *per capita* varies substantially across geographic units as filings are associated with economic and social conditions of the population. As such the Law Commission did not consider the judge population ratio to be a scientific criterion for determining the adequacy of the judge strength in

the country. The Law Commission found that in the absence of complete and scientific approach to data collection across various High Courts in the country, the "Rate of Disposal" method to calculate the number of additional judges required to clear the backlog of cases as well as to ensure that new backlog is not created, is more pragmatic and useful. In May, 2014, the Supreme Court asked the State Governments and the High Courts to file their response to the recommendations made by the Law Commission. In August 2014, the Supreme Court asked the National Court Management System Committee (NCMS) to examine the recommendations made by the Law Commission and to furnish their recommendations in this regard. NCMS submitted its report to the Supreme Court in March, 2016. It has, *inter-alia*, observed that in the long term, the judge strength of the subordinate courts will have to be assessed by a scientific method to determine the total number of "Judicial Hours" required for disposing of the case load of each court. In the interim, the Committee has proposed a "weighted" disposal approach - disposal weighted by the nature and complexity of cases in local conditions. The matter is sub-judice before the Supreme Court, at present. As per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Order dated 02.01.2017, the Department of Justice has forwarded a copy of interim report of the NCMS Committee to all State Governments and High Courts to enable them to take follow up action to determine the required Judges Strength of district judiciary based on the NCMS report.

In addition to the above, following steps have also been taken by the Central Government in the matter.

- (i) The sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 judges to 1079 judges. Total 173 posts were sanctioned between June 2014 and May, 2016.
- (ii) The sanctioned strength of the subordinate judiciary has been increased from 20,174 at the end of 2014 to 22,288 in December, 2016.
- (iii) National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) provides mechanisms for access to justice for poor people in India, under the overall supervision of the Chief Justice of India as the Patron-in Chief. It organised the National Lok Adalat in July, 2017. More than 9.97 lakh cases including 5.33 lakh pending cases and 4.64 lakhs pre-litigation cases with the settlement amount of Rs.2925 crores were disposed.

- (iv) 1824 redundant Central Acts have been identified for repeal. So far, 1200 Acts have been repealed.
- (v) The Government has launched a nation-wide drive to reduce the number of cases pending in courts by curtailing the Government litigation. The Minister of Law and Justice has written on 10th April, 2017 to all Ministers of Central Ministries and Chief Ministers of States to launch 'special arrears clearance drives' to reduce pending cases and minimize fresh litigations.
- (vi) Based on the proposals received from the High Court Collegium, during the year 2016, 126 fresh appointment of Judges in High Courts and 131 Additional Judges were made permanent, which is the highest number of appointments made in a given year. In addition, the tenure of 22 Additional Judges of High Courts was also extended. Besides, based on the proposal received from the Supreme Court Collegium, 4 judges were appointed in the Supreme Court in 2016. During the current year (2017), 05 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court, 75 Judges in the High Courts and 28 Additional Judges have been made Permanent. Besides, 08 Chief Justices have been appointed in the High Courts.
- (vii) The 14th Finance Commission has endorsed the proposal to strengthen the judicial system in States which includes, *inter-alia*, establishing 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for a period of five years for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children, disabled and litigants affected with HIV AIDS and other terminal ailments; and civil disputes involving land acquisition and property / rent disputes pending for more than five years at a cost of Rs. 4,144 crore. The 14th Finance Commission has urged State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the tax devolution to meet such requirements. The Hon'ble Minister for Law and Justice has written to all Chief Ministers on 02nd May, 2017 to make available the fund recommended by the 14th Finance Commission to judiciary and to furnish the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission.
- (viii) As per the resolution adopted in the Joint Conference held in New Delhi on 24th April, 2016, the Government *vide* its letter dated 26th September, 2016 requested the State Governments to strengthen the institutional mechanism

between the State and the Judiciary where the Chief Secretary and his team and 2 or 3 Judges of the High Court to regularly meet and monitor utilisation of plan fund and timely completion of infrastructure and eCourts Mission Mode project. The States have also been requested to assist Judiciary in preparing perspective / annual plan for various activities to be undertaken in the justice sector on account of enhanced devolution of funds to the States under the 14th Finance Commission. In addition, the States were requested to provide technical manpower for ICT upgradation.

- (ix) The Government *vide* a letter dated 3rd February 2017, addressed the Chief Justices of the 24 High Courts requesting them to advise the district judiciary to ensure effective implementation of Section 436A Code of Criminal Procedure and ensure periodic monitoring of the associated Undertrial Review Committee Mechanism.
- (x) Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Court Act, 2015 has been notified on 1st January, 2016 to have a streamlined procedure for the conduct of cases in the Commercial Division and in the Commercial Court by amending the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (CPC) for commercial cases so as to improve the efficiency and reduce delays in disposal of commercial cases.
- (xi) Necessary amendments have been made to Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 to make the award within 12 months, to resolve the dispute through fast track procedure, to ensure neutrality of arbitrators, and to restrict usage of the term 'Public Policy of India' (as a ground for challenging the award).
- (xii) The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act 2015 has been notified to clarify the jurisdiction where cases pertaining to dishonour of cheque may be filed and provide for transfer of cases to the appropriate jurisdiction and consolidation of multiple cases filed in different courts.
- (xiii) Minister of State for Law and Justice *vide* a letter dated 7th February 2017, addressed the Chief Justices of the all High Courts requesting them to speed up the process of implementation of e-courts Project for actualising the objectives of the Project.
- (xiv) The Government has approved a scheme of engaging 227 Nyaya Mitras in States where there are large number of pendency of court cases. The Nyaya

Mitras are required to assist the litigants who are suffering due to delay in investigations or trial, by actively identifying such cases through the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). These Nyaya Mitras are meant to identify the bottlenecks due to which these cases are delayed.

- (xv) The Government has also approved 'two legal aid and empowerment' initiatives, Pro bono legal services and Tele Law service. Under the Pro bono legal services an online database of lawyers and eligible litigants has been created. As on date 140 lawyers have enrolled under the scheme to provide free legal aid to marginalized persons. Under the Tele Law service, legal aid is mainstreamed through 1800 Common Services Centres in selected Panchayats in U.P., Bihar and States of North East and J & K. As on date a total of 568 cases have been registered in Tele Law portal for legal aid.
- (xvi) In pursuance of resolution passed in the Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, High Courts have set up Arrears Committees to clear the backlog of cases pending for more than five years. The Supreme Court has also constituted an Arrears Committee consisting of two Hon'ble Judges to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts.
- (xvii) The Minister of State for Law and Justice has also written to all Chief Ministers on July 19, 2017 to use additional fiscal space provided by 14th Finance Commission to set up special Courts especially for the crimes against women.

#### **Speedy disposal of cases pending against MPs and MLAs**

†752. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether special provisions have been made for the disposal of criminal cases pending against Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies; and
- (b) whether Special Courts have been constituted to dispose of such cases in a fixed period of one year?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir. No special provision has been made for the disposal of criminal cases pending against Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies.

(b) No special court has been constituted to dispose of such cases in a fixed period of one year.

#### **Status of special mentions**

753. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Mentions laid in the Rajya Sabha between 7th of July, 2014 and the 12th of April, 2017;

(b) the number of Special Mentions laid in the Rajya Sabha between the 7th July, 2014 and 12th of April, 2017 that have been responded to by the respective Ministries within 30 days; and

(c) the steps being implemented currently to ensure that all special mentions are responded to within 30 days?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) the number of Special Mentions laid / made in the Rajya Sabha between 7th of July, 2014 and the 12th of April, 2017 is 915.

(b) This Ministry does not have any information about Ministries who have responded to the Special Mentions within 30 days as basically Ministries respond to Members directly.

(c) This Ministry periodically circulates instructions for early disposal of the matters in compliance with the stipulated time period *i.e.* 30 days. Besides, Senior Officers of this Ministry take meetings with officers of the various Ministries to impress upon them for strict compliance of the instructions for early disposal of the Special Mentions raised in the Rajya Sabha. Two meetings with officers of various Ministries were held by Joint and 10.02.2017 respectively.

**MSP for agricultural produces**

†754. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that farmers have not been given an appropriate price for their produce to keep inflation in food items under check;
- (b) if so, the details of the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of various agricultural produces during a decade;
- (c) the details of the increase in the income of Government employees in the corresponding period; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (d) Price of agricultural produce is determined by market forces of demand and supply. However, Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for twenty two (22) major crops viz. Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Arhar, Moong, Urad, Groundnut-in-shell, Soyabean, Sunflower, Sesamum, Nigerseed, Cotton, Wheat, Barley, Gram, Masur (Lentil), Rapeseed/Mustardseed, Safflower, Jute and Copra and Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for Sugarcane on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP).

MSP is in the nature of minimum price offered by the Government to farmers to procure their produce when market prices tend to fall below MSP. However, farmers are free to sell their produce to Government agencies or in the open market as is advantageous to them.

The MSPs fixed by Government since 2007-08 is given in the Statement (See below).

There is no direct link between the price policy of agricultural crops and the increase in income of the Government employee. The salary of Government employee is fixed on the basis of the recommendations of Pay Commission and is revised once

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in 10 years, whereas, the price policy of agricultural produce is announced every year on CACP's recommendations.

**Statement***(A) Details of Minimum Support Prices*

(₹ per quintal)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Kharif Crops</b>							
1.	Paddy	Common	745\$/850~	900\$	1000\$	1000	1080
		Grade 'A'	775\$/880~	930\$	1030\$	1030	1110
2.	Jowar	Hybrid	600	840	840	880	980
		Maldandi	620	860	860	900	1000
3.	Bajra		600	840	840	880	980
4.	Maize		620	840	840	880	980
5.	Ragi		600	915	915	965	1050
6.	Arhar(Tur)		1590^^	2000	2300	3000	3200
7.	Moong		1740^^	2520	2760	3170	3500
8.	Urad		1740AA	2520	2520	2900	3300
9.	Cotton	Medium Staple	1800	2500a	2500a	2500a	2800a
		Long Staple	2030	3000aa	3000aa	3000aa	3300aa
10.	Groundnut in Shell		1550	2100	2100	2300	2700
11.	Sunflower Seed		1510	2215	2215	2350	2800
12.	Soyabean	Black	910	1350	1350	1400	1650
		Yellow	1050	1390	1390	1440	1690
13.	Sesamum		1580	2750	2850	2900	3400
14.	Nigerseed		1240	2405	2405	2450	2900
<b>Rabi Crops</b>							
15.	Wheat		1000	1080	1100	1170\$	1285

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
16.	Barley		650	680	750	780	980
17.	Gram		1600	1730	1760	2100	2800
18.	Masur (Lentil)		1700	1870	1870	2250	2800
19.	Rapeseed/ Mustard		1800	1830	1830	1850	2500
20.	Safflower		1650	1650	1680	1800	2500

\$ Including bonus of ₹ 50 per quintal.

\$\$ Including bonus of ₹ 100 per quintal.

^^ Including bonus of ₹ 40 per quintal.

~ From 12.06.2008

a Staple length (mm) of 24.5 - 25.5 and Micronaire value of 4.3 - 5.1

aa Staple length (mm) of 29.5 - 30.5 and Micronaire value of 3.5 - 4.3

#### Details of Minimum Support Prices

(₹ per quintal)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
<b>Kharif Crops</b>								
1.	Paddy	Common	1250	1310	1360	1410	1470	1550
		Grade 'A'	1280	1345	1400	1450-	1510	1590
2.	Jowar	Hybrid	1500	1500	1530	1570	1625	1700
		Maldandi	1520	1520	1550	1590	1650	1725
3.	Bajra		1175	1250	1250	1275	1330	1425
4.	Maize		1175	1310	1310	1325	1365	1425
5.	Ragi		1500	1500	1550	1650	1725	1900
6.	Arhar (Tur)		3850	4300	4350	4625^	5050^^	5450^
7.	Moong		4400	4500	4600	4850^	5225^	5575^
8.	Urad		4300	4300	4350	4625^	5000^^	5400^
9.	Cotton	Medium Staple	3600	3700	3750	3800	3860	4020
		Long Staple	3900	4000	4050	4100	4160	4320
10.	Groundnut In Shell		3700	4000	4000	4030	4220*	4450^

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
11.	Sunflower		3700	3700	3750	3800	3950*	4100*
	Seed							
12.	Soyabean	Black	2200	2500	2500	-	-	-
		Yetlow\$\$	2240	2560	2560	2600	2775*	3050^
13.	Sesamum		4200	4500	4600	4700	5000^	5300*
14.	Nigerseed		3500	3500	3600	3650	3825*	4050*
<b>Rabi Crops</b>								
15.	Wheat		1350	1400	1450	1525	1625	
16.	Barley		980	1100	1150	1225	1325	
17.	Gram		3000	3100	3175	3500**	4000^	
18.	Masur		2900	2950	3075	3400**	3950@	
	(Lentil)							
19.	Rapeseed/		3000	3050	3100	3350	3700*	
	Mustard							
20.	Safflower		2800	3000	3050	3300	3700*	

\$\$ Minimum Support Price of Soyabean yellow is also applicable to black variety during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18.

\* Including Bonus of ₹ 100 per quintal.

\*\* Including Bonus of ₹ 75 per quintal.

^ Including Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal.

^^ Including Bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal.

@ including bonus of ₹ 150 per quintal

*(B) Details of Minimum Support Prices for other crops*

(₹ per quintal)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1.	Copra	Milling	3620	3660	4450	4450	4525
	(Calender Year)						
		Ball	3870	3910	4700	4700	4775
2.	De-Husked		-	988	1200	1200	1200
	Coconut						
	(Calender Year)						

Sl. No.	Commodity Variety	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
3.	Jute	1055	1250	1375	1575	1675
4.	Sugarcane	81.18	81.18	129.84@	139.12@	145.00@*

@ Fair and remunerative price.

\* At 9.5 percent recovery, subject to a premium of ₹ 1.53 for every 0.1 percent increase in the recovery above 9.5 percent.

*Details of Minimum Support Prices for other crops*

(₹ per quintal)

Sl. No.	Commodity Variety	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1.	Copra (Calender Year)	5100	5250	5250	5550	5950	6500
	Ball	5350	5500	5500	5830	6240	6785
2.	De-Husked Coconut (Calender Year)	1400	1425	1425	1500	1600	1760
3.	Jute	2200	2300	2400	2700	3200	3500
4.	Sugarcanes	170.00	210.00	220.00	230.00	230.00	255.00

\$ Fair and remunerative price.

**Implementation of assurances of Ministers**

755. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implementation of assurances given by Ministers in Parliament is a function of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the percentage pendency of assurances made in the Rajya Sabha between the 7th of July 2014 and the 12th of April 2017;

(c) the Ministry-wise percentage pendency of assurances between the 7th of July 2014 and the 12th of April 2017; and

(d) whether on comparing between the 15th and 16th Lok Sabha, there is an increase in the pendency of assurances; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) Yes Sir, however, the role of the Ministry is restricted to coordinate with all Ministries/Departments to ensure timely Implementation of the Assurances by holding periodical meetings with concerned Ministries/Departments. The onus of Implementation of Assurances lies on the Ministry/Department concerned.

(b) and (c) The percentage of pending assurances made in the Rajya Sabha between the 7th July 2014 to 12th April 2017 is 41.06%. However, the Ministry does not maintain the record of Ministry wise percentage of pendency of Assurances.

(d) The percentage of pendency in respect of 15th Lok Sabha is 8.07% and that of 16th Lok Sabha upto 12th AprTI, 2017 is 41.06%. However, as the 16th Lok Sabha is still on, it may not be feasible to compare the figures.

#### **Rail connectivity with capital of Manipur**

756. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) by when the capital of Manipur would be connected through railway;
- (b) whether many deadlines could not be met in the past, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the proposed railway stations in the State;
- (d) whether the Imphal to Jiribam railway line is part of the Trans-Asian railway network; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the proposed stations of the network in the State and the time-frame of actions proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) and (e) Jiribam-Imphal (125 km) new line has been taken up to connect capital city of Manipur (Imphal) at an anticipated cost of ₹9658 crore. An expenditure of ₹5278 crore has been incurred upto March, 2017 and an outlay of ₹1400 crore has been provided for 2017-18 for this project. Completion of projects depends on many factors such as land acquisition, forestry and wild life clearances, shifting of services, construction of road over and road under bridges, law and order etc. As many

of these factors are not within the control of Railways, it is not feasible to fix timelines for all the projects. The proposed railway stations of Jiribam-Imphal new line falling in the State of Manipur are: Jiribam, Vangaichingpo, Kaimai, Kambiron Thingao, Khongsang, Awangkul, Noney, Tupul, Haochong and Imphal.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Imphal to Jiribam railway line is part of the Trans-Asian railway network.

#### **Corruption cases against railway officials**

757. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has filed any cases against any senior railway officials for their alleged indulgence in serious corruption related offences after May, 2014, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) how many officials sued by Government previously have been convicted and punished between 2004-2014 along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has filed cases against 6 senior officials (i.e. equivalent to Joint Secretary and above) for their alleged indulgence in serious irregularities in finalization of tender, supply of material, contract management and acquisition of disproportionate assets.

(b) During 2004-2014, 137 Railway officials have been convicted on various accounts i.e. acquisition of disproportionate assets, acceptance of bribe, irregularities in contract management etc.

#### **Option of alternate choice to waitlisted ticket holders**

758. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that waitlisted train ticket holders will get an option of selecting an alternative choice of any other train on the same route, if the original ticket does not get confirmed on the day of the journey;

(b) whether the said scheme might give Railways a realistic idea of demand for a special train for the route to be rolled out to meet the rush so that no demand remains unmet; and

(c) whether country-wide, the overall vacancy of berths in trains is in the range of just 12 per cent?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) With a view to providing confirmed accommodation to waitlisted passengers and also to ensure optimal utilisation of available accommodation, a scheme known as Alternate Train Accommodation (ATAS) known as "VIKALP" was introduced as a pilot project in November, 2015. This scheme has been expanded to cover all type of train on all sectors from 01.04.2017. To avail this facility the passenger has to give an option at the time of booking of ticket. Passengers with waiting list status at the time of preparation of reservation charts are shifted to opted alternate trains, subject to availability of vacant accommodation.

(b) With a view to assessing the demand pattern, waiting list of trains is monitored on regular basis and to cater to additional rush during peak periods, special trains are run and load of existing trains are augmented subject to operational feasibility. This scheme will supplement the existing procedure and ensure passenger satisfaction.

(c) The overall utilisation (end to end) of reserved accommodation on Indian Railways during the financial year 2016-17 was more than 100%.

#### **New railway line from Baramulla to Kupwara**

759. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan for a new railway line from Baramulla to Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Updating Survey for 39 km new railway line from Baramulla to Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir was completed in 2010-11. The estimated cost of the project at price level of 2010-11 was ₹ 628 crore with Rate of Return (ROR) of (-) 7.48%. The project could not be taken forward due to unremunerative nature and huge throwforward liability.

#### **Cadres of railway officers**

760. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Railways is divided into eight structured cadres of officers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are considering to send out officers of one cadre to work for another cadre for a fixed period in order to qualify for top post, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. There are 10 Group 'A' Railway Cadres/Services and several Miscellaneous Cadres on the Railways. The names of Cadres are as under:

**Group 'A' Cadres/Services.**

- (i) Indian Railway Service of Engineers
- (ii) Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers
- (iii) Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers
- (iv) Indian Railway Traffic Service
- (v) Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineers
- (vi) Indian Railway Accounts Service
- (vii) Indian Railway Stores Service
- (viii) Indian Railway Personnel Service
- (ix) Indian Railway Medical Service &
- (x) Railway Protection Force

**Miscellaneous Cadres:**

- (i) Cash & Pay
- (ii) Chemist & Metallurgist
- (iii) Electronic Data Processing
- (iv) Law
- (v) Mining & Coal Inspection
- (vi) Official Language
- (vii) Printing & Stationery
- (viii) Public Relations
- (ix) Schools
- (x) Statistical & Traffic Costing
- (xi) Psycho Technical Cell
- (xii) Library
- (b) No, Sir.

**Derailment of 15014 Kathgodam-Jaisalmer express**

761. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ten coaches of 15014 Kathgodam-Jaisalmer Express derailed between Thaiyat Hamira-Jaisalmer recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government suspects involvement of ISI in the said derailment; and

(c) if so, whether Government has ordered any inquiry into this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. 10 coaches of train No. 15014 Kathgodam-Jaisalmer Express derailed at Km. 282/8-9 to 283/4 between Thaiyat Hamira and Jaisalmer stations of Jodhpur-Jaisalmer section of Jodhpur Division on 20.01.2017.

(b) No involvement of ISI is suspected in the said derailment.

(c) The derailment was inquired into by a departmental inquiry committee. As per the findings of the inquiry report, the accident occurred due to one Alumino Thermit (AT) weld (at Km. 282/860 on left side rail of the track) getting suddenly fractured in heat affected zone in fast progressive manner under the wheel load of Loco No. 70599 WDG4D. The accident is classified as "Failure of Equipment-Permanent Way".

**Incidents of unlocking of coupling of train coaches**

762. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of incidents of unlocking of coupling of train coaches have been noticed in the last one year;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last one year, Division-wise;

(c) whether it is due to mechanical failure or human negligence;

(d) whether any corrective action has been taken so that it does not recur in future; and

(e) the details of such action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) As per available information, there have been 16 incidents of uncoupling of coupling of coaching trains in the last one year. The details are given below:

- Central Railway: 3 cases (Nagpur Division-1, Bhusaval Division-1, Pune Division-1)
- East Central Railway: 1 case (Mughalsarai Division)
- East Coast Railway: 1 case (Khurda Road Division)
- Northern Railway: 2 cases (Lucknow Division -2)
- North Central Railway: 3 cases (Jhansi Division-2, Allahabad Division-1)
- Northeast Frontier Railway: 1 case (Alipurduar Division)
- North Western Railway: 2 cases (Jodhpur Division -2)
- South Eastern Railway: 2 cases (Kharagpur Division-2)
- South Western Railway: 1 case (Bangalore Division)

(c) The uncoupling of trains can occur due to mechanical failure, inadequate staff awareness, human negligence, miscreant activity, etc.

(d) and (e) Corrective action as given below is taken so as to ensure that uncoupling of trains does not occur:

- Purchasing the couplings from approved vendors.
- Provision of restrictor in coaches having H type coupler and loco having E type coupler.
- Ensuring proper maintenance of couplings in the workshops and open line.
- Regular training and counselling of staff and conduct of safety drives, etc.

**Modernization of railway network**

763. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are undergoing a US \$ 139 billion, five year overhaul to modernize its network, which is blighted by aging tracks and saturated capacity; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have also introduced a US \$ 15 billion fund to improve rail safety, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) 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. Under the investment plan, major areas of priority include Network Decongestion/ Expansion, Safety related works, rolling stock procurement, station development works, modernization, speed raising, signalling, traffic facility works, information technology and customer service improvement, etc.

(b) A Fund, namely, 'Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK)' has been introduced in 2017-2018 for financing critical safety related works. The Fund has been created with a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore over a period of five years.

**Supply of steel for rail tracks**

764. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering ending State-owned Steel Authority of India Limited's virtual monopoly on supplying steel for standard rail tracks; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are considering to purchase steel worth upto US \$ 700 million from the private sector; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Indian Railways is procuring its total requirement of rails from Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in terms of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Ministry of Railways and SAIL. Rail requirement that is not met by SAIL is amenable to procurement from alternate sources.

For the year 2017-18, SAIL has committed to supply 11.45 lakh-tonne rails. The balance requirement of about 3.14 lakh-tonne rails is under consideration for procurement from alternate sources other than SAIL.

**Dedicated freight corridors**

765. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are in the process of developing Dedicated Freight Corridors in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) by when these will be operational and the sectors that would be covered; and

(c) the total estimated cost of the projects and the mode of financing the projects, along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Ministry of Railways have sanctioned implementation of Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs), namely, Western DFC (1504 km) and Eastern DFC (1856 km).

(b) The commissioning of Western and Eastern DFCs (excluding few sections) is targeted in phases by 2019/2020.

Western DFC covers Dadri-Rewari-Phulera-Ajmer-Marwar- Palanpur - Ahmedabad -Vadodara -Surat- Valsad-Vasai Road and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Mumbai through the States of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Eastern DFC covers Ludhiana-Ambala-Saharanpur-Meerut-Khurja-Kanpur-Allahabad-Mughalsarai-Sonnagar through the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

(c) The revised Cost Estimate of the Western DFC and Eastern DFC (excluding construction cost of Sonnagar-Dankuni to be implemented through Public Private Partnership) is ₹ 81,459 crore (Western DFC - ₹ 51,101 crore & Eastern DFC - ₹ 30,358 crore).

The funding of the project is through World Bank loan (US \$ 2.725 billion) for the Eastern DFC and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) loan (₹ 38,722 crore) for the Western DFC and the rest from Gross Budgetary Support (GBS).

**Abolition of posts in railways**

766. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are considering abolition of a large number of posts, which are now vacant due to retirement of staff, for privatizing various components of work; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal for abolition of large number of posts.

(b) Does not arise.

**Second broad-gauge line from Mumbai to Madgaon**

767. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to start a second broad-gauge railway line from Mumbai to Madgaon on Konkan railway route;

(b) if so, whether the work has commenced;

(c) whether help from Government of Goa has been sought in writing by Government;

(d) the quantum of land which will be required in Goa sector for the purpose; and

(e) whether any initiative in this regard has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) In the first phase, patch doubling of ROHA-VEER (46.89 Km) at a cost of ₹ 296 crore has been sanctioned. The construction work has started.

Further, proposal for Capacity Doubling of its route comprising patch doubling of track for 147 kms and 21 new Railway Stations over Konkan Railway has been received.

(c) All the Shareholders of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited i.e. Ministry of Railways and all Participating State Governments, including Government of Goa, have

consented to increase the Authorized Share Capital of Konkan Railway from ₹806.47 Crs to ₹ 4000 Crs.

In the first phase, Konkan Railway has approached Government of Goa for the Equity Payment of ₹18.60 Crs. for Track Doubling and Railway Electrification.

(d) and (e) For proposed Capacity Doubling Project of Konkan Railway, about 45 Hectares of land in Goa Sector will be required.

### Upgradation of railway stations

768. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of railway stations under South Central Railway (SCR), Central Railway (CR) and Western Railway (WR);
- (b) the number of stations upgraded during the last three years; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by Government to ensure availability of minimum essential amenities at all the stations under SCR, CR and WR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The total number of railway stations under Central Railway, South Central Railway and Western Railway are as under:

Sl. No.	Zonal Railway	No. of stations
1	Central Railway	475
2	South Central Railway	704
3	Western Railway	792
	Total	1971

(b) At present, Railway Stations are upgraded/modernised under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme. Under this scheme, 206 railway stations have been developed during the last three years i.e. 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 on Indian Railways.

(c) Minimum essential amenities have been provided at all railway stations on South Central Railway and Western Railway. All Minimum Essential Amenities have been provided at 391 railway stations out of 475 railway stations on Central Railway.



Action plan has already been formulated by Central Railway to eliminate shortfall of minimum essential amenities at the remaining stations.

**Flexi fare system**

†769. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the passengers are facing difficulties due to Flexi Fare System introduced for Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express trains; and

(b) if so, by when the Government will withdraw said fare system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No inconvenience to the passengers has been caused since only fares have been rationalised and no major changes have been made in the booking/cancellation system due to flexi fare scheme in Shatabdi, Rajdhani and Duronto Trains.

(b) Review of all existing schemes is an ongoing process to effect improvement. Accordingly, an interim review of the flexi fare system has been made and the following changes have been made with effect from 20.12.2016:—

- (i) 10% rebate in basic fare on vacant berths/seats after preparation of first chart in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains.
- (ii) Provision of Tatkal quota has been reduced in flexi fare trains from maximum 30% to 10% of the total available berths.
- (iii) Discounted fare has been offered for the passengers of Jaipur-Ajmer and Ajmer-Jaipur in 12015/12016 New Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi Express and for the passengers of Bengaluru City-Mysuru and Mysuru-Bengaluru City in 12007/12008 Chennai Central-Mysuru Shatabdi Express.

**Setting up of electric loco workshop in Kalahandi, Odisha**

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

(a) whether Railways have sanctioned setting up of an electric loco periodical overhauling workshop in Kalahandi, Odisha, if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Railways will set up the workshop at its existing land or any new site has been identified for it;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated for the purpose in the current year's budget; and

(d) by when the workshop is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. A work for setting up of electric loco periodical overhauling workshop at Kalahandi has been included in Budget 2017-18 at an anticipated cost of ₹186.37 Crore.

(b) and (c) The workshop is proposed to be set up in the land to be provided free of cost by Government of Odisha in and around Chapatkhandra, Ragadimal and Bhatang villages in Kalahandi district.

₹ One Lakh has been allotted as a token amount for commencement of the work, in Budget 2017-18.

(d) The work of setting up of the workshop will commence when a suitable land is provided by Government of Odisha.

**Efforts to increase the speed of trains between New Delhi to Jaipur**

†771. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the average speed of various trains running from New Delhi to Jaipur at present; and

(b) whether Railways are making any efforts to increase the speed of these trains from New Delhi to Jaipur to reduce the journey time, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The present average speeds of trains running from Delhi area to Jaipur are as under:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl. No.	Trains	Average speed (in KMPH)
1.	12015 New Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi Express	67.41
2.	12958 New Delhi-Ahmedabad Rajdhani Express	69.96
3.	Super fast trains	55.34 to 68.66
4.	Mail/Express trains	48.1 to 62.68

Increase in speed of trains is a constant endeavor of Indian Railways. Speeds of trains are governed not only by the maximum speed of the track but also speed restrictions on routes, stoppages, maximum speed of the rolling stocks etc. Works of easing line capacity on the Bandikui-Alwar sector through completion of sanctioned Doubling works and provision of Double Distant signaling between Rewari and Jaipur will further help to reduce the travelling time between these two cities.

#### **Bullet train**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bullet train project is going to take a long time to materialise;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the country will get a chance to travel by a Bullet train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed train project has been sanctioned with financial and technical assistance from Government of Japan. As per the feasibility study conducted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the project is targeted for completion by 2022-23.

#### **Non-imposition of fine on minors travelling without train ticket**

†773. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after accepting the suggestion of Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Government has decided that neither fine nor any action would be taken against minors travelling without ticket/violating any rule of Railways;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) whether it is also a fact that most gangs execute crimes in trains through minors;
- (c) if so, the likely impact of that on law and order of Railways; and
- (d) whether Government would reconsider its decision if it has adverse impact on law and order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Kerala State Commission for protection of child rights had issued the following directions:

- i. Either as per Railway Authority or any other Authority if a person below the age of eighteen years has committed a wrong, then either the Railway Police or Ticket Checking authorities should not collect any fine from such minors.
- ii. If the Railway Authorities are required to initiate action against the minor for the wrong, if any, then the proper proceeding is to submit a report before the Juvenile Justice Board enacted as per Section-4 of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015. On the other hand, they are not supposed to submit and report or physically present these juveniles before the Railway magistrates.

Instructions have been issued to all Zonal Railways to take action accordingly.

- (b) No such instance has been reported on Railways.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Government would take appropriate action as per the law of the land.

#### **Recreational amenities in major trains**

†774. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to provide the recreational amenities in certain major trains running through various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government is also considering to provide such amenities in the trains running through Gujarat; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the names of such trains and the timeline specified thereto and if not, the reason thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Railways have announced a policy on "Content on Demand" on 10.01.2017 wherein preloaded entertainment "Content on Demand" will be provided on personal devices in all trains in a phased manner including trains passing through the State of Gujarat. RAILTEL, the nodal agency responsible for floating the tender has already published a Notice inviting Tender on 19.06.2017.

**Jan Aushadhi stores at railway stations**

775. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to introduce generic drug medical shops in the railway stations in the name of "Jan Aushadhi"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana' is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India, to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through special kendras known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras. Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers has, in view of Railways' pan-India reach, approached Ministry of Railways for proliferation of such kendras over Railway network. The two Ministries have, in principle, agreed to set up such kendras at Railway premises. Deliberations between the two Ministries to work out the modalities, are going on. Further, to augment the emergency medical facilities at railway stations, policy guidelines for setting up of chemist stalls/corners are already in vogue vide Commercial Circular number 50/2000 dated 03.11.2000 and Commercial Circular number 67/2008 dated 02.12.2008 wherein Zonal Railways have been advised to provide Chemist Stalls/corners at all important Railway Stations, wherever justified. At present, 22 exclusive chemist stalls and 15 chemist corners are operational on Indian Railways. Besides, medicines for common ailments and painkillers, which do not normally require doctor's prescription, are also being sold through existing 339 miscellaneous article stalls at various Railway Stations.

**Running of private-owned rakes in railways**

776. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to run private-owned rakes in the Railways primarily under the cargo sector, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has received any proposal under the Special Freight Train Operations Scheme therefor; and
- (c) if so, the details of offer and the infrastructural award process thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

In order to make the freight transportation more attractive and to improve the efficiency of freight traffic, the following schemes have been introduced by Indian Railways for procurement of wagons/rakes through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode:

- (1) Liberalized Wagon Investment Scheme.
- (2) Wagon Leasing Scheme.
- (3) Special Freight Train Operators Scheme.
- (4) Automobile Freight Train Operators Scheme.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Under Special Freight Train Operator scheme, the details of offer and procurement of rakes are as under:

No. of Firms - 2

No. of Rakes approval given - 10

No. of Rakes inducted - 4

**Reasons for loss to railways**

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

- (a) the reasons for loss to Railways at present inspite of rise in fare of passengers/ goods;

(b) whether Government is contemplating any plan to overcome the loss by removing the reasons behind it, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has planned to change the previous structure of income sources to patch up the losses, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) There has been no increase in Passenger fare since 2014-15. 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. However, this has resulted in the passenger fares remaining much below the cost of providing these services. As a welfare measure also, Indian Railways extends concessions in passenger fare to more than 50 categories of passengers from 10% to 100%. Revenue forgone due to concession in passenger fare during 2015-16 is approximately ₹1602/- crore. Traditionally, these losses on the Passenger side have been compensated by Freight rates. 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. On the other hand in freight we have out priced ourselves as compared to other modes of transport.

(b) and (c) Evaluation of various alternatives relating to rationalization of Fare and Freight rates is an ongoing process. However, to improve the passenger earnings, decrease in the recurring loss in passenger business, to provide better facilities at stations as well as in the trains, continuance of the social service obligation by Indian Railways with low/ concessional fare to the poor and disadvantaged passengers, the Ministry of Railways have taken a number of steps to minimize the losses, as follows:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) Platform ticket rate has been increased from ₹ 5 to ₹ 10.
- (iii) Introduction of Flexi Fare system in higher category of trains i.e. Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains.
- (iv) In view of special attempts/arrangements made for running of special train services during peak period, higher fares have been fixed for running of special trains.

- (v) Suvidha trains are introduced on variable fare structure during the peak seasons depending on the demand pattern.
- (vi) Humsafar Express, Tejas Express, Antyodaya Express and Mahamana Express have been introduced on higher fare on cost recovery basis.
- (vii) However, such increase in fare is limited to only certain categories of trains and limited passengers.
- (viii) Freight rates have been rationalized and various freight policy/initiatives have been introduced to make it more competitive in comparison to other modes of transport.

**Losses incurred in certain divisions and zones of railways**

778. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways are incurring huge losses in certain Divisions and Zones despite the best efforts, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of income and expenditure during the last two years, Zone-wise and Division-wise; and
- (c) the reasons for such losses and strategy of the Government to minimise them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Railways earnings and expenditure is accounted for on Zonal Railways basis only and as such shortfall/ surplus is also accounted for on Zonal Railway basis. The Zone-wise details of shortfall/surplus and the details of income and expenditure for last two years i.e. 2015-16 and 2016-17 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) All zones of Indian Railways, for reasons of their geographical location, state of industrialization/ commercial/ business activity, are not placed evenly in respect of traffic earnings which are apportioned amongst the Zonal Railways on the basis of traffic carried/ traversed on the respective system. Nevertheless, all the zones, irrespective of their output, have a fixed element of operating expenses to run the system. Hence, some of the zones incur losses.



However, all zones, including the ones incurring losses, are urged upon to improve their traffic earnings and minimise the working expenses. The earnings and expenditure trends of all the zones are also regularly monitored at the Board level towards this end.

For improving profitability /minimising losses, measures for enhancing earnings and controlling avoidable revenue expenditure are adopted. Revenue enhancing measures, inter alia, include targeting progressively higher traffic throughput, effective marketing strategies to capture more and more traffic, creation of additional capacity and optimum utilization of the existing rail infrastructure, enhancement in productivity and efficiency, improvement of passenger interface, periodic rationalization of fare and freight rates and focus on increasing the share of non fare revenue source in Railways earnings. Measures to improve parcel earnings include leasing parcel space to private parties. The policy has been liberalized and powers delegated to Zonal Railways to fix the reserve price in a manner so as to make it more attractive vis a vis road sector. Expenditure control measures include strict economy and austerity measures, improved man-power planning, better asset utilization, inventory management and optimizing fuel consumption etc.

***Statement***

*Zone-wise details of income and expenditure for 2015-16 and 2016-17*

<b>(A) Year 2015-16</b>			<b>(₹ in crore)</b>
Zones	Total Receipts	Total Expenditure	Excess/Shortfall
Central	13424.69	13388.56	36.13
Eastern	6382.78	11713.44	-5330.66
East Central	11303.57	10608.43	695.14
East Coast	13904.98	7457.75	6447.23
Northern	16722.82	20727.52	-4004.70
North Central	13978.79	8892.11	5086.68
North Eastern	3057.22	6175.20	-3117.98
Northeast Frontier	5067.99	8274.07	-3206.08
North Western	7179.39	6680.13	499.26
Southern	7782.42	10774.03	-2991.61
South Central	15328.49	12407.99	2920.50

Zones	Total Receipts	Total Expenditure	Excess/Shortfall
South Eastern	12506.61	9106.01	3400.60
South East Central	12234.87	6347.38	5887.49
South Western	5323.53	5208.61	114.92
Western	12936.16	11784.15	1152.01
West Central	10939.36	7196.22	3743.14
Metro	206.15	488.47	-282.32
<b>(B) Year 2016-17</b>			(₹in crore)
Central	12709.55	13360.43	-650.88
Eastern	7174.03	11944.33	-4770.30
East Central	10861.69	11053.83	-192.14
East Coast	14890.82	7965.27	6925.55
Northern	16296.91	20078.01	-3781.10
North Central	13293.23	9357.54	3935.69
North Eastern	3137.58	6184.64	-3047.06
Northeast Frontier	5977.73	7774.17	-1796.44
North Western	7628.28	7251.07	377.21
Southern	7529.28	11223.91	-3694.63
South Central	14582.39	12637.49	1944.90
South Eastern	12849.74	9442.24	3407.50
South East Central	12002.45	6708.88	5293.57
South Western	4615.32	5515.88	-900.56
Western	11727.66	12116.06	-388.40
West Central	9875.23	7308.01	2567.22
Metro	214.74	553.84	-339.10

**Railway zones and divisions in the country**

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

- (a) the number of Railway Zones/Divisions in the country at present along with their names and headquarters;
- (b) whether some States have been kept under more than one Railway Zone and Division, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the people's representatives of Uttarakhand have requested to keep the complete State under the Northern Railway; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for not taking action on the said request so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At present there are 17 Railway Zones and 68 Divisions in the country. The details are given below:

Sl. No.	Railway zones	Headquarter	Divisions
1.	Central Railway	Mumbai	Mumbai (CST), Bhusawal, Nagpur, Solapur, Pune.
2.	Eastern Railway	Kolkata	Asansol, Howrah, Malda, Sealdah.
3.	East Central Railway	Hajipur	Danapur, Dhanbad, Mughalsarai, Samastipur, Sonpur.
4.	East Coast Railway	Bhubaneswar	Khurda Road, Sambalpur, Waltair.
5.	Northern Railway	New Delhi	Ambala, Delhi, Lucknow, Moradabad, Ferozpur.
6.	North Central Railway	Allahabad	Allahabad, Agra, Jhansi.
7.	North Eastern Railway	Gorakhpur	Lucknow, Izzatnager, Varanasi.
8.	Northeast Frontier Railway		Guwahati Katihar, Alipurduar, Rangiya, Lumding, Tinsukia.
9.	North Western Railway	Jaipur	Ajmer, Bikaner, Jaipur, Jodhpur.
10.	Southern Railway	Chennai	Chennai, Madurai, Palghat, Trichy, Trivandrum, Salem.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl. No.	Railway zones	Headquarter	Divisions
11.	South Central Railway	Secunderabad	Guntakal, Guntur, Hyderabad, Nanded, Secunderabad, Vijayawada.
12.	South Eastern Railway	Kolkata	Adra, Chakradharpur, Kharagpur, Ranchi.
13.	South East Central Railway	Bilaspur	Bilaspur, Nagpur, Raipur
14.	South Western Railway	Hubli	Bangalore, Hubli, Mysore
15.	Western Railway	Mumbai	Mumbai (Central), Vadodara, Ratlam, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Bhavnagar.
16.	West Central Railway	Jabalpur	Bhopal, Jabalpur, Kota.
17.	Metro Railway	Kolkata	Not applicable.

(b) Yes, Sir. Zonal and Divisional boundaries are decided by operational/administrative requirements and not on considerations of State boundaries and as such there are some States which have railway lines under jurisdictional control of more than one Zonal Railway/Division.

(c) and (d) Requests for keeping Uttarakhand under one railway zone have been received from time to time from various fora. The jurisdiction of a Zone/Division is decided on the basis of operational/administrative requirements, without any regional considerations, keeping in view the geographical contiguity of the divisions forming a zone, smooth movement of traffic with optimal control, for improving the efficiency of the system. The suggestion to place all railway lines in Uttarakhand under one railway zone, when examined in the light of above, has not been found feasible.

#### Measures for timely running and safety of trains

†780. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of special measures taken for timely running, protection and safety of trains during the last three years, *i.e.* 2014, 2015 and 2016 along with the outcomes thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): It has been the constant endeavour of Indian Railways (IR) to take short

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and long term measures so that trains reach their destinations timely. In this direction, focussed attention is continuously given for monitoring the punctuality of all passenger carrying trains on a 4-tier level - Station, Division, Zonal headquarters and Railway Board.

On Indian Railways, the average number of Mail/Express trains originating and terminating over Indian Railways per day and punctuality performance for the last 3 years and current financial year is given below:

Year	Average number of originating trains per day	Originating Punctuality performance (%)	Average number of terminating trains per day	Terminating Punctuality performance (%)
2014-2015	1571	80.56	1571	79.37
2015-2016	1605	83.15	1605	77.51
2016-2017	1630	83.48	1630	76.69
2017-2018 (April 2017 to 17th July 2017)	1654	85.95	1654	78.13

To put matters in perspective, on an average per day, Indian Railways ran 1571 trains in 2014-15, 1605 trains in 2015-16 and 1630 trains in 2016-17 *i.e.*, an increase of 59 trains per day from 2014-15 to 2016-17.

IR has 7 high density network routes along with feeder routes which constitute 18% of the network but carries 58% of the total traffic, which is of mixed nature *i.e.*, freight and passenger traffic. These are saturated and highly congested routes. In some parts on the Delhi-Guwahati, Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Kolkata routes, the capacity utilisation of the track touches 150-200% which affects the mobility of rail traffic including punctuality of trains. While most of the trains reach their destination on time, some trains, at times, get delayed due to causes, some of which are in the control of Railways as well as reasons beyond the control of the Railways.

In order that punctuality of trains and safety of the passengers is maintained, care is taken to give regular maintenance blocks over these congested routes. In addition, blocks are also being given for Dedicated Freight Corridor between Ghaziabad-

Mughalsarai so that it is in position at the earliest. Execution of these blocks lead to unavoidable train detentions and speed restrictions, which entail reduction in speed as works are under progress in these sections.

In order to build capacity, Railways have embarked on projects relating to construction of multiple tracks and doubling in these critical areas. During the last three years, Indian Railways has initiated various measures to improve timely running of trains such as prioritization of preventive maintenance of assets to minimize asset failures, capacity enhancement projects by construction of additional loop lines at stations, doubling, construction of third line corridors, automatic signaling, construction of low height subway to replace level crossings, Rail under Bridges and Rail Over Bridges, etc. In addition, Zonal Railways have also been advised to have better co-ordination with Civil and Police authorities of States to deal with situations arising out of law and order problems. It is due to these strenuous efforts undertaken by Indian Railways for maintenance as well as capacity augmentation which have resulted in maintaining punctuality almost at the same level despite growth in passenger as well as freight traffic.

Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP to provide better protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith.

Besides, the following steps are also being taken by the Railways to ensure protection and safe journey of the passengers:

1. Regular coordination is made 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.
2. 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.

Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis including up-gradation of technology to aid safe

running of trains. These include replacement of over-aged assets, elimination of unmanned level crossings, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems used to prevent accidents include complete track circuiting, provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Train Protection Warning Systems (TPWS), Colour Light LED Signals, Vigilance Control Device (VCD), usage of 60 kg rails and Pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers, long rail panels, better welding technology, digital types of machines for ultrasonic flaw detection (USFD), electronic monitoring of tracks using track recording cars (TRC) and portable oscillation monitoring system (OMS), progressive use of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) Coaches, Centre Buffer Coupler with Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Coaches, etc. Other measures include training of loco pilots and other safety category staff, improvement of their working conditions including proper rest and periodic medical examinations etc. Besides," periodic safety drives, inspections as per laid down schedules, patrolling of tracks, footplate inspections and safety reviews at various levels are regularly conducted to continuously monitor and improve safety aspects of the Railways. Because of the concerted effort, consequential train accidents have continuously decreased from 135 in 2014-15 to 107 in 2015-16 and further to 104 in 2016-17.

#### **Representation against circular of Railway Board**

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

(a) whether Railways have received representations from Akhil Bhartiya Railway Khan-Pan Licensees Welfare Association against Railway Board circular No. 22/2017;

(b) if so, whether Association has drawn attention of Government towards unemployment caused/going to be caused to thousands of small catering vending licensees and their vendors as a result of implementation of circular;

(c) if so, whether Railways have received suggestions for withdrawal of circular No. 22/2017 so as to protect employment/livelihood of thousands of vendors and their dependent families working on different catering vending units of Railways; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Representations/suggestions from Akhil Bhartiya Railway Khan-Pan Licensees Welfare Association have been received against Railway Board Commercial Circular number 22/2017. The Akhil Bhartiya Railway Khan-Pan Licensees Welfare Association has raised its objections and has demanded modification of the above Commercial Circular, which has been issued pursuant to Judgement delivered by Hon'ble Supreme Court on 29/01/2016. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, *vide* its Judgement dated 29/01/2016 has ordered that only those licensees shall be eligible for renewal of their licenses who can declare on affidavit that they do not have the license of more than one shop or kiosk in their name or benami license at the railway stations. One license will be renewed with periodical reasonable increase of license fee.

#### **Pending railway projects**

782. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many railway projects are pending due to lack of coordination between various State Governments and the Ministry; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to ensure that State Governments nominate their representatives to sort out different issues for speedy execution of railway projects in their respective States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Sometimes there are issues like alignment, land acquisition, forestry and wild life clearances, law and order problems, Road Over and Under Bridges, shifting of electrical lines, canal crossings, funding of projects, identification of interested parties etc., which are being resolved through coordination with respective State Governments.

To expedite the Railway Projects and to improve coordination with State Government for faster execution, Ministry of Railways had requested the State Governments for nomination of representatives of the States. Majority of the States have nominated their representatives to sort out different issues of mutual coordination and to monitor progress of Railway Projects in their respective State.

Railways have nominated Nodal Officers from Ministry of Railways as well as from Zonal Railways for each State with a defined role of identifying the projects, requiring coordination with State Government and arranging meetings of Railway Officials with the State Government.



The representative / nominee from States hold regular meetings with railway authorities.

**Commissioning of khurda road bypass line**

783. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the target date of Railways for commissioning of the Khurda Road bypass line (1.3 kms) to facilitate smooth movement of trains between Puri and important south Odisha cities like Brahmapur, Ganjam, Chhatrapur, Chilika, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): Khurda Road bypass line from Argul to Haripurgram (1.616 Km) project was sanctioned in 2015-16 at a cost of ₹25.22 crore. Requisition for land acquisition (5.595 acre) for the project has been placed with the State Government and payment has also been made. Tenders for earthwork, minor bridges, P.Way linking have been finalized and the work has been started in the available land of Railways.

**Revenue generated from flexi fare system**

784. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the revenue generated through Flexi Fare System from 9th September, 2016 till 11th November, 2016;

(b) whether it is a fact that 8,95,462 seats/berths remained vacant in this period, if so, the details of the total revenue which Railways would have generated if full seats/berths were sold out;

(c) if so, whether the reason of these vacant seats is surge pricing, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government is planning to introduce Flexi Fare System in other than the 148 trains at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Occupancy of the train varies during peak, non-peak, festivals seasons, special occasions and weekends etc. Therefore, sometimes the trains run with higher occupancy (more than the berth potential) and some times during non-peak times, some berths remain vacant. Flexi fare system has been introduced in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains from 09.09.2016. In most of these trains, advance reservation

period is 120 days. From 9th September to 11th November, 2016 in many trains berths/ seats thus would have been booked on old rates without Flexi fare. Therefore actual assessment of Flexi Fare system cannot be made for the period.

However, during the period from September 2016 upto June 2017, Railways have generated additional earnings of about ₹551 crore after introduction of Flexi fare system compared to the same period of previous year. Number of passengers booked in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains during June 2017 is also more than the passengers booked in these trains during previous year.

(d) At present, there is no proposal to introduce Flexi Fare system in other trains.

#### **Supply of power to railways**

†785. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of power supply companies who have supplied power to Railways in the years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016;

(b) the details of the quantum and cost of power supplied by the said companies, year-wise;

(c) whether procurement agreements have been made with some other companies for power supply in the year 2017; and

(d) if so, the details of quantity and the cost involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Indian Railways (IR) has procured power from the following six power supply companies during the said period:

1. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)
2. TATA Group (TATA)
3. Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)
4. Adani Power Ltd. (APL)
5. Ratnagiri Gas & Power Pvt. Ltd (RGPPL)
6. Jindal India Thermal Power Limited (JIPTL)

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Apart from these companies, IR has been procuring power from State Electricity Boards/Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) in consumer mode.

(b) Details of quantum of power supplied (in Mega Watt) to Indian Railways and cost (in ₹/unit) by above mentioned companies during years from 2012 to 2016 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) IR signed agreement for about 500 Mega Watt (MW) power from Ratnagiri Gas and Power Pvt. Ltd. (RGPPL) at an average rate of ₹ 5.50 per unit. This power is being drawn in the States of Maharashtra, M.P., Gujarat, Jharkhand and U.P.

***Statement***

*Company wise quantum of power supplied (in MW) to Indian Railways and cost (in ₹/unit) during the years 2012 to 2016 is as given below:*

Year	Name of Power Supply Company	Quantum of Power (in MW)	Cost of Power (in ₹/unit)
1	2	3	4
2012	National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)	100	7.35
	Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)	50	4.05
	TATA Group (TATA)	100	5.96
2013	National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)	100	6.75
	Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)	50	4.11
	TATA Group (TATA)	100	6.67
2014	National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)	100	5.90
	Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)	50	4.11
	TATA Group (TATA)	100	7.68
2015	National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)	100	4.68
	Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)	50	4.52
	TATA Group (TATA)	100	7.25
	Adani Power Limited (APL)	50	3.96
	Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited (RGPPL)	300	4.75

1	2	3	4
2016	National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)	100	4.66
	Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)	50	4.32
	TATA Group (TATA)	100	4.46
	Adani Power Limited (APL)	50	4.16
	Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited (RGPPL)	500	4.65
	Jindal India Thermal Power Limited (JIPTL)	18.4	3.52

### Impact of GST on railway fare

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

- (a) the impact of GST on railway fare;
- (b) whether it has hiked railway AC fare too much;
- (c) whether due to impact of GST, the present fare of every class has almost doubled in comparison to last few year; and
- (d) the steps being taken to reduce its impact on common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) There is no impact of GST (Goods & Services Tax) on passenger fare of Sleeper and other non-AC classes (except First Class). The impact on Air-conditioned and First Class services is minimal as GST rate is five percent as compared to 4.5% Service Tax (including Cess) which was being levied.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) There is no impact of GST on common man as it is not applicable on passengers of Second Class and Sleeper Class.

### Increasing the speed of trains

787. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether NITI Aayog has approved a project to increase the speed of trains in select sectors, if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether upgradation of signalling system and safety measures would be included, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total cost involved in the project and by when it would be operationalised, route-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. While appraising the two projects at estimated cost of ₹ 18,163 crore for Raising of speed to 160/200 kilometer per hour on existing corridors of Delhi-Mumbai (including Vadodara-Ahmedabad) and Delhi-Howrah (including Kanpur-Lucknow), in June 2017, NITI Aayog has supported the proposal. The project details are as under:

- (i) New Delhi-Mumbai Route (including Vadodara-Ahmedabad) covering 1483 Route km. at an estimated cost of ₹11,189 crore.
- (ii) New Delhi-Howrah route (including Kanpur-Lucknow) covering 1525 Route kms at an estimated cost of ₹6974 crore.

Signalling system and safety improvement measures on the entire route of Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah include *inter-alia* provision of clamp type point Machines in the facing direction of train movement, elimination of level crossing gates, Interlocking and track circuit changes in connection with closure of Level crossing gates, end to end fencing, Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS) and Mobile Train Radio Communication system (MTRC).

(c) No time frame can be indicated at this stage before the projects are approved.

#### **Railway employees facing major penalty**

†788. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Group 'A' and 'B' employees of Railways who are facing cases of major penalty, the details thereof, Zone-wise; and

(b) the posts on which these officers are appointed at present and whether their appointments have been made in view of the guidelines of the Central Vigilance Commission, along with the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) 251 Group 'A' and 128 Group 'B' officers of various Zonal Railways are facing major penalty DAR cases. Zone-wise details are stated below:

Zone	Gr.A	Gr.B
Central Railway	19	10
Eastern Railway	15	0
East Central Railway	19	7
East Coast Railway	11	1
Northern Railway	23	18
North Central Railway	15	6
North Eastern Railway	6	7
Northeast Frontier Railway	14	7
North Western Railway	9	3
Southern Railway	14	6
South Central Railway	21	6
South Eastern Railway	16	14
South East Central Railway	15	5
South Western Railway	8	9
Western Railway	19	15
West Central Railway	11	10
Chittaranjan Locomotive Works	3	1
Diesel Locomotive Works	1	0
Integral Coach Factory	1	0
Rail Coach factory	1	1
Modern Coach Factory	3	1
Research Design and Standards Organization	7	0
TOTAL	251	127

(b) Most of the officers have been posted to non-sensitive posts keeping in view the guidelines of the Central Vigilance Commission. Some of the officers are on sensitive posts due to operational necessity in administrative interest and have been barred from dealing of sensitive functions like important financial matters, tender, selections etc.

### **Doctors working in Railways**

†789. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of doctors working in the Central Divisional Health Unit in Railways;

(b) the total number of sanctioned posts along with the vacant posts against it and the steps being taken to fill up these vacant posts;

(c) the minimum educational qualifications prescribed for appointment of doctors in Railways and the number of doctors who possess higher degrees than the MBBS;

(d) whether any policy has been formulated by Railways for recruitment of specialist doctors for its different departments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) Total number of sanctioned posts is 2497 and vacant posts is 660. Total number of Doctors working in the Railways is 1837. Due to low rate of joining of Doctors, indents for the posts of Assistant Divisional Medical Officers have been increased from 250 to 600 in 2013, to 650 in 2014, 600 in 2015 and to 600 in 2016 and placed before the Union Public Service Commission. This has led to decrease in the vacant posts. Pending joining of regularly selected Assistant Divisional Medical Officers, the vacant posts are being manned by engagement of Contract Medical Practitioners. Candidates for being eligible for appearing in the Combined Medical Services Examination must have passed the written and practical part of the final M.B.B.S. Examination and must have also completed the Compulsory Rotatory Internship. No special policy has

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

been formulated by the Indian Railways for direct recruitment of Specialist Doctors. However, Indian Railway Medical Services Recruitment Rules provide for 30% direct recruitment in the Senior Scale Specialist post of Divisional Medical Officer, failing which by promotion and 5% direct recruitment in Junior Administrative Grade in Super Specialist post, failing which by promotion.

#### **Utilisation of vacant railway land**

790. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the effective steps taken by Government to utilise the vacant lands belonging to Railways for additional income generation and production of energy, etc.;
- (b) whether Government has any special plans to involve corporate companies in exploiting the railway lands for commercial ventures; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the list of such corporate companies involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) The vacant land is leased/licensed for generation of non-tariff revenue for development of ancillary logistic support/infrastructure required for Railways operational needs such as bulk oil installations and oil depots, steel yards, concrete sleeper plants, coal dumps, connectivity to private sidings commercial plots, vending stalls, etc. The vacant land, which is not required by Railways for its immediate operational needs, is also utilized in the interim period for commercial development through Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), wherever feasible, in order to mobilize additional financial resources.

Railways has also planned to utilize vacant Railway land where commercial development is not feasible for Railways' captive energy sources, such as solar/wind energy.

Commercial development of Railway land is undertaken through open competitive bidding. Any one fulfilling the eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions as stipulated in bid document can participate. However, for production of (solar/wind) energy, "Railway Energy Management Corporation Limited" (REMCL), a Railways' owned corporate, has been involved.



**Schemes to National Handloom Development Programme**

791. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) The schemes of the National Handloom Development Programme implemented in the country in the last three years ending June, 2017;
- (b) the number of these schemes implemented in the State of Karnataka; and
- (c) to what extent the handloom weavers of the State of Karnataka have benefited from such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) to (c) The National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) is implemented in the country, including Karnataka. Main components of NHDP are Concessional Credit, Handloom Marketing Assistance, and Block Level Cluster. These components have been availed by the State of Karnataka. The benefits to the weavers vary from component to component. The weavers have been benefitted by waiver of their overdue loan, availing loan at concessional rates, participation in exhibitions/fair/craft melas for marketing their handloom products, upgradation of their looms, training etc. to improve their earnings. Details relating to the State of Karnataka are as follows:

				(₹ in lakh)
Components	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (till date)
Loan sanctioned	393.13	265.82	748.90	34.40
Handloom Marketing Assistance	104.00	-	24.00	-
Block Level Cluster	62.07	-	34.22	28.13

**Mega textile exhibition in Gujarat**

792. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has organized a mega textile exhibition in Gujarat, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of countries which have participated in the exhibition;

- (c) the main theme of the exhibition;
- (d) the number of MoUs signed with global manufacturers during the exhibition; and
- (e) the other steps taken by Government to make India as a global sourcing hub and to provide a platform to connect and collaborate with global manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, The Ministry of Textiles has organised a 3 day mega textile exhibition namely, Textiles India-2017 from 30th June, 2017 to 2nd July, 2017 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat. This event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 30 June, 2017. The principal objective of organising the said mega event was to bring all segments of the Textiles sector under one umbrella trade event and showcase the strength of the Indian Textiles sector to the world. This event witnessed participation of buyers from 105 countries, international delegates and representatives and artisans and weavers. This event provided an excellent platform for B2B interactions and explored investment and technological tie-ups across various segments in the textiles value chain. During this event, *inter-alia*, 65 MoU's between different organisations, including foreign government and companies and Indian entities were signed. During the event, 3 Country Sessions, 7 State Sessions, 6 conferences Chaired by Hon'ble Union Ministers, 01 Conference of ASEAN countries, 26 round table Conferences, and Fashion Shows were held. Besides this, national and international exhibitors showcased their products.

- (e) Government has taken following initiatives to make India a global sourcing hub:-
  - (i) Announcement of a special Textile Package for garments and made-ups sector
  - (ii) MEIS Scheme under new Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20.
  - (iii) Restoring Interest rate subvention for pre and post shipment credit for the textile sector,
  - (iv) Increased Duty Drawback rates for some textile articles.
  - (v) Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme.

- (vi) Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme.
- (vii) Duty Free import of trimmings, embellishments and other specified item under Export Performance Certificate Entitlement Scheme.

#### **Census of handloom sector**

793. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a proposal for conducting the census of Handloom sector is pending with Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for delay in conducting the said census; and
- (c) by when the said census is likely to be conducted and the data released for formulation of development and welfare policies for the said sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) to (c) During the celebration of second Handloom Day, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, had announced conducting of 4th Nation-wide Handloom census at Varanasi on 7.8.2016. As a follow up of the said announcement, Office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles has invited request for proposal (RFP) from the reputed agencies on-line for conducting Fourth nation-wide Census for Handlooms and issue of Photo Identity cards to Handloom weavers through Central Public Procurement Portal and agency has been selected and assigned the task on 4.01.2017. The entire work is likely to be completed within one year from the date of assignment. The data of Handloom sector to be enumerated during the ensuing Census, shall be used in formulation of development and welfare policies for the Handloom Sector.

#### **Success of Textile India-2017**

794. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 'Textile India-2017' organized by Government at Ahmedabad could achieve appreciable success, if so, the details thereof including the success achieved; and

(b) whether Government has any plan to organize similar mega shows in other countries also to promote Indian textiles which may result in much greater export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) Yes Sir, The Ministry of Textiles has organised a 3 day mega textile exhibition namely, Textiles India-2017 from 30th June, 2017 to 2nd July, 2017 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat. This event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 30th June, 2017. The principal objective of organising the said mega event was to bring all segments of the Textiles sector under one umbrella trade event and showcase the strength of the Indian Textiles sector to the world. This event witnessed participation of buyers from 105 countries, international delegates and representatives and artisans and weavers. This event provided an excellent platform for B2B interactions and explored investment and technological tie-ups across various segments in the textiles value chain. During this event, *inter-alia*, 65 MOU's between different organisations, including foreign government and companies and Indian entities were signed. During the event, 3 Country Sessions, 7 State Sessions, 6 conferences Chaired by Hon'ble Union Ministers, 01 Conference of ASEAN countries, 26 round table Conferences, and Fashion Shows were held. Besides this, national and international exhibitors showcased their products.

(b) No Sir. However, at present the Textiles Export Promotion Councils under this Ministry participate in national/international trade fairs/exhibitions and Government supports them under Market Access Initiative (MAI) scheme.

### **Textile parks**

795. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of operational textile parks in the country, including the ones set in SEZs, along with the details thereof;

(b) the number of those set up under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks, the details thereof;

(c) the number of garment and apparel manufacturing units under these textile parks, the details thereof;

(d) the number of labour employed in these textile parks across the States in the country along with the details thereof with special reference to percentage of women therein; and

(e) the details of textile parks sanctioned by the Ministry in the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) The information for operational textile parks in the country is being sought and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) to (d) Presently sixty six (66) textile parks have been sanctioned by Government of India under Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) including the parks setup in SEZ, out of which production has started in 33 textile parks. The details of these textile parks along with the number of garment and apparel manufacturing units and the number of labour employed including women is given in the Statement-I. (*See below*)

(e) The details of Textile Parks sanctioned in last two years (April 2015- March 2017) under SITP is given in the Statement-II.

***Statement-I***

***Textile Parks***

Sl. No.	Name of the Park	State	Total No. of Garment/ Apparel Manufac- turing Units	No. of Garment/ Apparel Manufac- turing Units Operational	Total No. of labour emplo- yed in Textile Parks	Total No. of women emplo- yed in Textile Parks	% of Women emplo- yed in Textile Parks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	MAS Fabric Park India Ltd- Under SEZ	Andhra Pradesh	7	1	512	450	88
2.	Brandix India Apparel City Private Limited- Under SEZ	Andhra Pradesh	10	5	19000	14000	74
3.	RJD Integrated Textile Park Ltd	Gujarat	30	30	1200	240	20
4.	Gujarat Eco Textile Park Limited	Gujarat	0	0	13500	2633	20
5.	Mundra SEZ Textile & Apparel Park Limited- Under SEZ	Gujarat	4	0	810	15	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Fairdeal Textile Park Pvt. Ltd.	Gujarat	0	0	1850	103	6
7.	Vraj Integrated Textile Park Limited	Gujarat	0	0	4000	300	8
8.	Sayana Textile Park Ltd.	Gujarat	19	19	1020	235	23
9.	Kejriwal Integrated Textile Park	Gujarat	0	0	25	0	0
10.	Himachal Textile Park Ltd	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	428	21	5
11.	J&K Textile Park	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	60	15	25
12.	Doddabalapur Integrated Textile Park	Karnataka	1	0	550	26	5
13.	Metro Hi-Tech Cooperative Park Limited	Maharashtra	0	0	2024	700	35
14.	Pride India cooperative Textile park Limited	Maharashtra	0	0	8525	150	2
15.	Baramati Hi Tech Textile Park Limited	Maharashtra	20	11	3000	2700	90
16.	Purna Global Textiles Park Ltd.	Maharashtra	7	2	758	15	2
17.	Islampur Integrated Textile Park	Maharashtra	4	4	1645	498	30
18.	Latur Integrated Textile Park	Maharashtra	10	2	100	Nil	0
19.	Deesan Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	Maharashtra	0	0	1972	394	20
20.	Asmeeta Infratech Ltd.	Maharashtra	475	95	2746	1098	40

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21.	Lotus Integrated Tex Park	Punjab	0	0	1500	900	60
22.	Rhythm Textile & Apparel Park Ltd	Punjab	10	2	560	150	27
23.	Ludhiana Integrated Textile Park Ltd	Punjab	10	5	100	64	64
24.	Jaipur Texweaving Park Limited	Rajasthan	0	0	450	10	2
25.	Kishangarh Hi-Tech Textile Weaving Park Limited	Rajasthan	0	0	400	70	18
26.	Next Gen Textile Park Pvt Ltd	Rajasthan	0	0	2541	25	1
27.	Jaipur Integrated Texcraft Park Pvt Ltd	Rajasthan	4	2	500	60	12
28.	Palladam Hi-Tech Weaving park	Tamil Nadu	23	21	2650	800	30
29.	Komarapalayam Hi-Tech Weaving Park Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	1350	585	43
30.	Karur Integrated Textile Park	Tamil Nadu	4	4	2500	1630	65
31.	Madurai Integrated Textile Park Ltd	Tamil Nadu	7	7	2800	2520	90
32.	The Great Indian Linen & Textile Infrastructure Company- Under SEZ	Tamil Nadu	3	3	120	78	65
33.	Pochampally Handloom Park Limited	Telangana	0	0	350	195	56

**Statement-II***Textile Parks sanctioned from April, 2015 to March, 2017*

Sl. No.	Name of Textile Park	State
1.	NSP Infrastructure Private Limited	Gujarat
2.	Karanj Integrated Textile Park	Gujarat
3.	Shahlon Textile Park	Gujarat
4.	Srinath Integrated Textile Park	Rajasthan
5.	Farukhabad Integrated Textile Park	Uttar Pradesh

**Implementation of NHDP schemes in Odisha**

796. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes of the National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) that have been implemented in the country;

(b) how many of them have been implemented in the State of Odisha; and

(c) in what manner the Handloom weavers of the State of Odisha got benefited from such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) to (c) The National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) is implemented in the country, including Odisha. Main components of NHDP are concessional credit, Handloom Marketing Assistance and Block level cluster. The benefits to the weavers vary from component to component. The weavers have been benefitted by availing loan at concessional rates, participation in exhibitions/fair/craft melas for marketing their handloom products, upgradation of their looms, training etc. to improve their earnings.

**Production and export of cotton**

797. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of cotton commodities has fallen by over 30 per cent in the last three years, if so, the details thereof;



(b) the details of the cotton production during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to revive the export of cotton commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) No, Sir. The overall export of cotton textiles has declined by 10% over the past three years. Break up of product wise export of Cotton Yarn, Cotton Fabrics, Cotton Made-ups and Total export of Cotton Textiles is as under:-

Item	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		
	(Apr-March.)		(Apr-March.)		(Apr-Mar.)		
	INR	US\$	INR	US\$	INR	US\$	%
	Crore	Mn	Crore	Mn	Crore	Mn	change
Cotton Textiles	71913	11753	72994	11134	70936	10594	-10%
Cotton Yarn	24104	3938	23601	3608	22490	3358	-15%
Other Textile Yarn, Fabric, Madeups Article	2443	399	2170	332	2410	360	-10%
Cotton raw including waste	11643	1900	12816	1938	10982	1635	-14%
Cotton fabrics & madeups	33723	5515	34407	5257	35054	5240	-5%

(b) The State-wise production of Cotton during each of the last three years is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Steps taken by the Government to boost the export of textiles including cotton commodities are as under:

- (i) Announcement of a special Textile Package for garments and made-ups sector.
- (ii) MEIS Scheme under new Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20.
- (iii) Restoring Interest rate subvention for pre and post shipment credit for the textile sector.

- (iv) Increased Duty Drawback rates for some textile articles.
- (v) Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme.
- (vi) Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme.
- (vii) Duty Free import of trimmings, embellishments and other specified item under Export Performance Certificate Entitlement Scheme.

Apart from this, the Government has taken following initiatives specifically for cotton sector:

- (i) **Export Policy of Cotton:** The Export of Cotton at present is under Open General License. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry being the facilitator for the Import and Export of Cotton *vide* notification No. 102(RE-2013)/ 2009-14 dated 08.12.2014 has dispensed with the registration requirement for Export of Cotton.
- (ii) **Export Policy of Cotton Yarn:** The present policy for export of cotton yarn is "Free" *i.e.* export of cotton yarn has been permitted under Open General License. Further, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry being the facilitator for the Import and Export *vide* Notification No. 103(RE-2013)/2009-14 has dispensed with the registration requirement for export of cotton yarn, respectively.

#### **Statement**

##### *State-wise production of Cotton for last three years*

State	Cotton Year 2014-15	Cotton Year 2015-16 * (P)	Current Cotton Year 2016-17 * (P)
1	2	3	4
Punjab	13.00	7.50	9.00
Rajasthan	23.00	15.00	20.00
Haryana	17.00	15.00	18.00
<b>Northern Zone</b>	53.00	37.50	47.00
Gujarat	112.00	94.00	95.00
Maharashtra	80.00	75.00	89.00

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	19.00	18.00	21.00
<b>Central Zone</b>	211.00	187.00	205.00
Telangana	50.50	59.50	48.00
Andhra Pradesh	26.50	24.00	19.00
Karnataka	34.00	20.00	21.00
Tamil Nadu	6.00	5.00	6.00
<b>Southern Zone</b>	117.00	108.50	94.00
Odisha	3.00	3.00	3.00
Others	2.00	2.00	2.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>386.00</b>	<b>338.00</b>	<b>351.00</b>

(P) Provisional

\* As estimated by CAB in its meeting held on 24.10.2016

**Schemes/funds for development of handloom and handicraft sectors**

798. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes being implemented for development of handloom and handicraft sectors in the country;

(b) the funds allocated/released to Himachal Pradesh and utilised by the State Government under these schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for development of handloom and handicraft sectors and for increasing the employment opportunities in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise including Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) The Government of India has been implementing following schemes/programmes for development of handloom and handicraft sectors in the country:

**Handloom Sector:**

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
  - (v) Bunkar Mitra
2. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
3. Yarn Supply Scheme
4. Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme

**Handicraft Sector:**

1. National Handicraft Development Programme (with following components)
  - (i) Dastkar Shashtikaran Yojana under Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yajana (AHVY)
  - (ii) Design & Technology Upgradation (DTU)
  - (iii) Human Resource Development (HRD)
  - (iv) Direct Benefit to Artisans (DBT)
  - (v) Infrastructure and Technology Support (ITS)
  - (vi) Research and Development (R&D)
  - (vii) Marketing Support Services (MSS)
2. Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (with following components)
  - (i) Mega Cluster (MC)
  - (ii) Special projects under Integrated Development and Promotion of Handicrafts (IDPH)

(b) Scheme-wise funds released during the last three years and the current year to the State of Himachal Pradesh, is as under:

**Handloom Sector:**

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Funds released (₹ in lakh)			
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1	National Handloom Development Programme (including all components)	18.00	155.78	72.08	-

**Handicraft Sector:**

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Funds released (₹ in lakh)			
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1	National Handicraft Development Programme (including all components)	121.73	72.82	143.07	-

(c) The office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms and the office of the Development Commissioner for Handicrafts have been implementing the above mentioned schemes and programmes for overall development of handloom and handicraft sectors in the country, including Himachal Pradesh. The schemes and programmers facilitate the handloom weavers and handicraft artisans to sustain their employment in their present profession.

**Safeguarding handloom cooperative societies**

799. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 per cent of the Handloom Cooperative Societies in Telangana have become powerless and at the stage of extinction;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to safeguard the Handloom Societies in the State, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the incentives and financial assistance being given to these Handloom Societies and handloom workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) No, Sir. No such report has been received from State Government of Telangana that Handloom Cooperative Societies in Telangana have become powerless and at the stage of extinction.

(b) and (c) Government of India is implementing various welfare and developmental schemes/programme, viz. National Handloom Development Programme, Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, Yarn Supply Scheme and Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme for the development of Handloom sector and welfare of Handloom Weavers. Apart from the above State Government of Telangana is also implementing Pavala Vaddi Scheme and Share Capital Assistance to newly organized societies. From the financial year 2017-18, Government of Telangana has introduced intensive Thrift Fund Scheme and Input Subsidy wage support to weavers. Financial assistance provided to the Handloom Societies of Telangana under National Handloom Development Programme, for setting up of Block Level clusters, during last two years and current year are as under:

Year	Amount released (₹ in crore)
2015-16	1.13
2016-17	1.48
2017-18 (Till date)	-

**Special package for displaced labourers in textile sector**

800. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many labourers have lost their jobs during the last three years in Textile sector;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry to protect the labourers in this sector; and

(c) whether Government proposes any special package for the displaced labourers in this sector, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) The details of workers affected due to closure of cotton and man-made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) are given below:

Financial Year	Number of mills closed	Number of workers affected
2014-15	21	5384
2015-16	27	7938
2016-17	19	4356

Employment in the textile industry is mostly in the decentralized sectors viz powerloom, handloom and ready-made garments etc. Details of variations in employment in the decentralized sector are not compiled.

(b) and (c) There is no special package for the displaced labourers in textile sector. However, Government of India had introduced the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) w.e.f. 15.09.1986 to provide relief to workers rendered jobless due to permanent closure of Non-SSI Textile Mills in private sector. With effect from 01.04.2017, TWRFS has been merged with Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojna (RGSKY) under Ministry of Labour and Employment.

*The House then adjourned for lunch at one of the clock.*

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*The House reassembled at thirty-four  
minutes past two of the clock,*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

**GOVERNMENT BILL**

**The North-Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill, 2013**

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka) Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. First, we would take up the withdrawal of the North-Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill, 2013. Dr. Jitendra Singh.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): Sir, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill further to amend the North-Eastern Council Act, 1971.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

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**REGARDING TAKING UP GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, what is the next thing? We have two minutes extra for Private Members' Bills.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is it?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, in the past, the Government has tried to use Friday afternoon meant for the Private Members' Bills, to get important legislation passed. The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill was passed in this back door manner. Again, Bills have been listed for this afternoon. Sir, Friday is reserved for Private Members' Bills. This is not meant for legislative Business.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: After 5 p.m.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: So, I would like the Minister not to spring another surprise on us like his friend two Sessions earlier, and got a Bill passed because there was nobody present from the Opposition Benches.



MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will tell you for, your information that the Private Members' Business is from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m., and the House will sit up to 6.00 p.m. Today, in the morning meeting, it was decided that the Admiralty Bill, for which one hour is allotted by the Business Advisory Committee, will be taken up. That was a decision in the morning meeting where all party leaders were present. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, the House is supreme. The House overrides what is decided inside. So, the House will decide whether this Bill will be taken up or not. Sir, I am quoting you only. You are the one who keeps reminding us that the House is supreme.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay; if at 5.00 p.m., you want to raise the issue, you can raise the issue. Then, I have no problem. The House is supreme, I agree. But, I am only informing that this is a decision taken in the morning by the leaders of the parties.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Now, you are informing us. You could have informed us in the morning. Sir, this is another example of how Private Members' time is used to pass legislation. This is completely wrong.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; there is no need of informing you separately. It is already listed in the List of Business. Listen. It is included in the List of Business. I will read if you want the List of Business. It is there. But, if the House does not want to take it up, it is a different matter. Then, you can raise it. Now, let me come back to Private Members' Legislative Business, Bills for introduction.

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### **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS**

#### **The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Insertion of new article 21B)**

SHRI K.K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

#### **The Privately Financed Infrastructure Projects (Regulation of Swiss Challenge Method of Procurement) Bill, 2017**

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the acceptance of unsolicited proposals from the private sector

through Swiss challenge method of procurement in respect of infrastructure projects in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Prevention of Crimes in the Name of Honour and Tradition and Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances Bill, 2017**

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to protect individual liberty, right of association, movement and bodily integrity and the right of adults to choose their own partners in marriage and to prevent victimisation by prohibiting unlawful assemblies and other conducts interfering with matrimonial alliances in the name of honour and tradition and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Tribal Children and Lactating Women in Maharashtra and Other States (Removal of Hunger, Malnutrition and Prevention of Starvation Deaths) Bill, 2017**

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT (Maharashtra): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the removal of hunger and malnutrition and for the prevention of starvation deaths of tribal children including adolescent and young girls and pregnant and lactating women in tribal areas of the country particularly in Maharashtra through a nodal agency at the National and State levels, by formulating a National policy for the purpose and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Water Scarce Regions of Marathwada, Vidarbha, Bundelkhand and in Eastern and Southern Parts (Prohibition of Growing Water Intensive Crops and setting up of Thermal Power Plants and other Large Scale Water Intensive Industries) Bill, 2017**

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT (Maharashtra): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the prohibition of growing water intensive crops and setting up of

[Shri Rajkumar Dhoot]

thermal power plants and other large scale water intensive industries in water scarce regions of Marathwada, Vidharbha, Bundelkhand and such other regions in eastern and southern parts of the country and for the promotion of growing less water consuming crops particularly those developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research and such other bodies and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017- (Insertion of new article 24A)**

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT (Maharashtra): 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.*

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Vivek Gupta to move two Bills; he is not present. Now, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

**The Gymnasiums and Fitness Centres (Regulation) Bill, 2017**

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation and control of gymnasiums and fitness centres which are engaged in activities, such as giving training on weight lifting and body building and conduct courses for weight reduction and proper nutrition in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up further discussion on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Amendment of the Eighth Schedule). It was moved by Shri B.K. Hariprasad. He has already spoken. Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla to continue his speech.

**The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Amendment of the  
Eighth Schedule) — Contd.\***

**श्री शिव प्रताप शुक्ल** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मान्यवर, हिन्दी के अतिरिक्त अन्य क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं को संविधान की आठवीं अनुसूची में सम्मिलित करने का जो प्रस्ताव श्री बी.के. हरिप्रसाद जी ने दिया था, मैं उसका पूरे तौर पर समर्थन करता हूँ। मान्यवर, जब देश स्वतंत्र हुआ, तो स्वतंत्रता के बाद से इस देश में यह कहा गया कि हिन्दी राष्ट्र भाषा होगी। उस संदर्भ में सभी लोगों ने इसको माना और संविधान के अनुच्छेद 351 के अनुसार यह कहा गया कि हम हिंदी को राष्ट्रभाषा मानेंगे, कामकाज की भाषा मानेंगे, लेकिन आगे के पंद्रह वर्षों तथा उनके साथ-साथ चलने के लिए अंग्रेजी को भी रखें, क्योंकि देश अभी इसके लिए पूरे तौर पर परिपक्व नहीं हुआ है। जब समिति का गठन हुआ तो आदरणीय बी.जी. खेर की कमेटी और आदरणीय पंत जी की कमेटियां बनीं। इन दोनों में से बी.जी. खेर की कमेटी ने जो अपनी बात कही, उसमें उन्होंने सीधे-सीधे यह कहा कि हमें हिंदी को ही इस देश को एक सूत्र में जोड़ने के लिए, आगे विकास करने के लिए रहने देना चाहिए। लेकिन नुकसान क्या हुआ? नुकसान यह हुआ कि 1957 में जब माननीय पंत जी की राजभाषा कमेटी इस संदर्भ में आई, उन्होंने राजभाषा कमेटी में जो कहा, उसमें हिंदी को राजभाषा बनाने पर जोर तो दिया, लेकिन अंग्रेजी को न हटाने की स्थिति में उन्होंने कहा कि अगर यह होगी, तभी काम चलता रहेगा। यहीं पर कहीं न कहीं पूरे देश में आज, 1965 से 1967 तक भाषा को लेकर दंश की स्थिति आई थी। मैं समझता हूँ कि पूरे देश में यदि केवल भाषा के आधार पर राज्यों का गठन न किया गया होता, तो यह देश कहीं भी भाषा के विवादों में नहीं पड़ा होता, इस देश की एकरूपता पूरे तौर पर बनी रहती और जब, जहाँ, किसी जगह पर जो एक प्रश्न उठ जाता है कि यह नहीं होना चाहिए, वह नहीं होता।

श्रीमन्, अनुच्छेद 351 में हम निश्चित रूप से यह कह सकते हैं कि इसमें हिंदी के लिए काफी उपयोगी स्थिति रही है। बाद में, अन्य जगहों पर जब भाषाओं की बात आई और यह कहा गया कि बोली जाने वाली भाषाओं को आठवीं अनुसूची के अंतर्गत दर्ज किया जाये, तो उसमें सिंधी को भी जोड़ा गया, पंजाबी को भी जोड़ा गया, डोगरी को भी जोड़ा गया और मैथिली को भी जोड़ा गया। भोजपुरी इत्यादि की बात तब भी चलती रही, क्योंकि लोगों के द्वारा, बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश एवं और जगहों पर भोजपुरी को लेकर जब इसका आंदोलन उठा तो यह कहा गया कि ऐसे 11 करोड़ लोग हैं, जो भोजपुरी भाषा बोलते हैं। लेकिन उन 11 करोड़ लोगों की उपेक्षा की गई। उसके सापेक्ष सिंधी भाषा को स्थान दे दिया गया, अन्यो को दे दिया। मेरे कहने का यह मतलब है कि आठवीं अनुसूची में महामहिम राष्ट्रपति जी ने स्वयं इस बात को कहा है कि अगर किसी प्रदेश में अधिक बोली जाने वाली भाषा हो तो उस भाषा के अनुसार आठवीं अनुसूची में उसको दर्ज करने के लिए प्रत्यावेदन दिया जा सकता है और उस सरकार को यह सोचना चाहिए कि उस भाषा को आठवीं अनुसूची में दर्ज करना है। आज जब यह विषय आया है और पिछली बार भी, जब आदरणीय हरिप्रसाद जी ने यह दिया था, तो उन्होंने कई भाषाओं को मिला करके दिया था, जिसमें उन्होंने यह कहा था ...**(व्यवधान)**... हाँ, वही तुलु भाषा। तुलु भाषा और दूसरी भाषा, इन दोनों को, जो वहाँ पर काफी बोली जाती हैं - मेरा यह कहना है कि जब भी इस पर पूरे तौर से विचार हो, अगर दो-चार भाषाएँ ऐसी हैं, जिनकी मान्यता है, अगर उस मान्यता के

\* Further discussion continued on the motion moved by Shri B.K. Hariprasad on 7th April, 2017.

[श्री शिव प्रताप शुक्ल ]

आधार पर सरकार उनको आठवीं अनुसूची में लाती है, तो गृह विभाग जब इस पर निश्चित रूप से अपनी टिप्पणी देगा, माननीय गृह मंत्री जी जब इस पर कुछ कहेंगे, तो मेरा उनसे निवेदन होगा कि एक-दो क्षेत्रों की स्थिति में यदि 11 करोड़ लोग एक भाषा को बोलते हों, तो आखिर ऐसी कौन-सी परिस्थिति बनती है कि उन 11 करोड़ लोगों द्वारा बोलने वाली बोली को आठवीं अनुसूची में नहीं दर्ज किया जाता है?

मान्यवर, इस देश का दुर्भाग्य है कि त्रिभाषा फॉर्मूला लागू हुआ था और त्रिभाषा फॉर्मूला लागू होने के बाद भी हिंदी, अंग्रेजी, संस्कृत - अंग्रेजी इसके साथ जोड़ दी गई। इस नाते यदि हिंदी, अंग्रेजी, संस्कृत की कहें तो आज संस्कृत विलुप्त हो चुकी है। भारत की इस भाषा को जर्मनी अपना लेता है और अपनी खोज करता है। जर्मनी के विद्वान, जो यहां आकर इसी वेद की भाषा को गड़रियों की बोली कहा करते हैं, वे इसी वेद से, इसी भाषा से अपनी खोज निकाल कर विज्ञान में उन्नति करते हैं। हमने संस्कृत को छोड़ दिया और जर्मनी इसे अपना लेता है। आप आगे चले जाइए, मॉरीशस, त्रिनिदाद है, इन जगहों पर देखिए, ये जो दूसरे देश हैं, लेकिन इन दूसरे देशों में भी हिन्दी को दूसरी राजभाषा का दर्जा दिया गया है। हमारे देश में राजभाषा की स्थिति ऐसी नहीं है कि हम इसे संपर्क भाषा के रूप में लेकर चलें। दुर्भाग्य हमारा यही है। मैं निवेदन कर रहा था कि जब उस समय भाषा के आधार पर प्रांतों का गठन हुआ, अगर ऐसा नहीं हुआ होता और 1955 में यह बात हो गई होती तो मुझे लगता है कि ये सारी समस्याएं न आई होतीं और पूरा देश इससे सहमत होकर इसके आधार पर कार्य करता, लेकिन ऐसा हो नहीं सका।

महोदय, मैं आज आपके माध्यम से माननीय गृह मंत्री जी से भी यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि जब भी वे अपना वक्तव्य देने का काम करेंगे, तो चाहे तुलु की बात हो, चाहे भोजपुरी की बात हो, अगर उसको आठवीं अनुसूची में दर्ज करेंगे, तो निश्चित रूप से यह उन लोगों का सम्मान होगा, जिसको राष्ट्रपति जी स्वयं कह चुके हैं कि अगर विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में कोई भाषा-भाषी अधिक संख्या में हैं तो उसको पूरे तौर पर आठवीं अनुसूची में मान्यता दी जानी चाहिए। मैं आपसे यही निवेदन करूंगा और माननीय गृह मंत्री जी से भी निवेदन करूंगा कि भोजपुरी को निश्चित रूप से आठवीं अनुसूची में दर्ज किया जाए।

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Odisha): Sir, I also support this Amendment Bill brought by Shri B. K. Hariprasad. Sir, as you know, our country is a very large country. We have many languages. We have many traditions followed by different people in different parts of the country. Our country is a multi-diverse country. But, as we say, "अनेकता में एकता, यही भारत की विशेषता।" In spite of all these diversities this nation has been one since ages together and this nation will continue to be one for time immemorial. Sir, one thing is, a true human being basically loves three things. We love our motherland, we love our mother and Sir, we love our mother tongue. You ask anybody. Who does not love her mother tongue or his mother tongue? So, India is a country of multi-language people. Various languages are there in different parts of the

country. The two languages, as Shri Hariprasad who has brought this Amendment Bill, namely, the Kodava — it is of the Kodava region of Karnataka — and Tuli which is spoken by a large number of people in Udupi and South Canara district of Karnataka, these are the two important languages which are spoken by many people. I don't know the number. It is spoken in different regions in the State of Karnataka. Like this, in many of the States of the country there are various regions, various people, various traditions followed by the people and languages spoken by those people. The hon. Member was mentioning about the language, Bhojpuri. When I was in the Lok Sabha, Sir, many a times Members have raised this demand to include Bhojpuri language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. More than 18 crore people speak Bhojpuri, and Bhojpuri is yet to be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. I hail from Odisha. Mr. Hariprasad, the mover of this Amendment Bill, is the observer of his party in Odisha. If I am correct, he visits Odisha, at least, once in a month, if not more than that or less than that. And, he might be knowing the cultural, political and other aspects of Odisha. Sir, there is a region in Odisha called Western Odisha. Mr. Hariprasad, you might be knowing this very well. As you are the observer of Odisha and bringing such a good Amendment Bill, you must also visit, maybe on political or party work, the Western region of this State. There are 1.5 crore people in the Western region consisting of 11 districts. Odisha has 30 districts. Out of 30 districts, the Western region consists of 11 districts. People here speak a different language. It is called Sambalpuri-Kosli language.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, it is Odisha which inspired me to bring this amendment, because way back in 1853 there was a revolt against imposition of any language on Odisha.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Thank you, Mr. Hariprasad. But, I am saying that this should have been included in this Amendment Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can bring an amendment.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: So, Sir, 1.5 crore people speak Sambalpuri-Kosali language; it is widely spoken and it is an ancient language. Sir, you cannot believe that epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata have already been written in that language. There is a separate dictionary in that language. And, the folk song called Rangabathi has crossed the boundaries of the country. It is such a popular folk song in Sambalpuri-

[Shri Prasanna Acharya ]

Kosali language. There are many poets in this language. Only last year, the Government of India conferred Padma Shri on Shri Haldhar Nag, a famous poet of Sambalpuri-Kosali language. It means, indirectly, the Government of India recognizes this language. And, there have been demands to include this language also in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

Sir, I must also mention about the historical background. Earlier, this region was not in Odisha. During the British days, it was in the Central Province. It merged into Odisha only in 1905. So, people in this area are also well-versed in Hindi and this language is their mother-tongue.

I know that some years back the Government of India constituted a Committee to look into all such demands. The Government had a detailed survey so that more languages can be included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India. I don't know what has happened to the Committee. I don't know what is the fate of the Committee and what had happened to the recommendations of the Committee.

So, my humble suggestion would be: Why not the Government of India constitute a fresh Committee? I am saying this because there is not only a demand to include Bhojpuri or the languages proposed by Mr. Hariprasad, there are various demands from different regions and different States of the country. Maybe, there is no logic in some demands. But, at the same time, there may be logic in some other demands of the people to include their own language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. So, why should not the Government of India constitute a fresh Committee, look into the demands of people from all regions of the country about including their own languages? I know that it is practically not possible to include 100 or 200 languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution; it is not practically possible. But, there are certain languages which have their own logic, own genuine demand and background to be included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. So, my proposal would be, let the Government of India come out and constitute a separate Committee for this.

Sir, we say we are an ancient country with ancient civilization, many traditions and languages. We teach nationalism to people. We are all nationalist; nobody is anti-national.

**3.00 P.M.**

You know, Sir, many agitations are going on for creation of many States. A serious agitation is going on for Gorkhaland for the last couple of months, rather for the last couple of years. In Southern States, there are demands for bifurcation of present States. This cannot continue for unlimited period. Why is this happening? Unless you respect and recognize the sentiments of the people of those regions; unless you recognize their language; unless you recognize their tradition their culture; unless you know and recognize their history and historical background; unless you stop hurting their sentiments; unless you stop hurting their emotions, such demands will keep on growing. These demands will not decrease, rather these will increase. That will create great problems not only for the State Governments, but also for the Central Government too. The Union Government cannot wash away its hands, eschew its responsibilities saying that it is a State problem. It is a problem of the nation. So, why is this happening? Yes, there are some genuine demands. You bifurcated Uttar Pradesh, you bifurcated Bihar, but nothing adverse happened. The country did not go to the hell. Things are going well. So, what is the harm if you seriously consider the demands of certain people of certain States for bifurcation of that State? The basic question remains why such demands are being raised by the people. It is because we are failing in recognizing their sentiments; we are failing in recognizing their language; we are sometimes failing in recognizing their traditions. These are the root causes why the secessionists — if I use the word 'secessionists' — are growing. Why is this mentality of division growing? So, we have to go into the crux of the problem. But, I think, the Government has seriously failed in it.

So, while discussing this Bill, brought forward by Mr. Hariprasad, I take this opportunity to impress upon that the Union Government and all the State Governments should very seriously ponder over this matter. Unless we do that, we would be leading ourselves to a disastrous situation in future.

We love our motherland, we love our mother tongue. I was talking about recognizing Sambalpuri-Kosli language and including it in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. The Government of Odisha has repeatedly requested the Centre. The Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik, has also repeatedly written letters to the Union Government to consider recognizing and including this language of Odisha, which is spoken by more than 1.5 crore people of that State, in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.



[Shri Prasanna Acharya ]

Finally, while welcoming and supporting this Bill, I would like to request the Central Government to come out with a broader Bill, a Constitution (Amendment) Bill. I know what the fate of this Bill will be, Mr. Hariprasad. Rarely a Private Member's Bill is passed either in this House or in the other House. I don't think that this Bill is going to be passed. Therefore, I would like to reiterate that the Government should come out with a broader Bill, a Constitution (Amendment) Bill. Let the Government constitute a Committee. Let the language experts of that area, whoever the Central Government deem fit, be included in that Committee. Let the Committee, after consulting all the States and the people concerned, go deeper into the subject and make its recommendations. And, on the basis of those recommendations the Central Government may come out with a broader Bill, a Constitution (Amendment) Bill, so that we can recognize those languages, which have so far been not recognized. Thus, we will be able to satisfy the sentiments of the people of that area. It is not only the question of sentiments, the people are angry in some of the areas, like, the Gorkhaland. What is happening in Darjeeling? So, unless we respect the feelings of the people, we cannot say that India is united in real sense. We cannot keep India united forever unless we take steps to bring people into the fold of India as a whole. If we go on neglecting the people, if we go on neglecting the languages ignoring their sentiments, we will not be able to keep India united. It is the basic responsibility of the Central Government, though as Indian citizens, it is the responsibility of all of us. Basically, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments, but, primarily, it is also the responsibility of the Central Government. With this, Sir, I, once again, support this Amendment Bill. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Acharyaji. Now, Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu.

**श्री आनंद भास्कर रापोलू** (तेलंगाना): माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, कोडुवा पुत्र होने के नाते और कोडुवा और तुलु भाषाओं के प्रति निष्ठा प्रतिष्ठापित करने के लिए हमारे वरिष्ठ माननीय सदस्य श्री बी.के. हरिप्रसाद जी द्वारा निजी बिल के रूप में लाए गए इस प्रस्ताव का मैं समर्थन करते हुए उनके प्रति सम्मान प्रकट करना चाहता हूँ।

महोदय, मैं इस निजी बिल का समर्थन करने से पहले एक बात माननीय सदन में कहना चाहता हूँ। चन्द दिन पहले, मैंने सामाजिक स्तर पर एक तस्वीर देखी थी, जिसमें चंडीगढ़ में एक पंजाबी वहाँ एक साइन बोर्ड के ऊपर लिखे हिन्दी के शब्दों पर काला रंग पोत रहा था, जिससे वे न दिखें और न ही पढ़ा जा सकें। इसके पीछे उनका उद्देश्य सिर्फ यही था कि केवल हमारी पंजाबी भाषा में लिखा ही

दिखे, हिन्दी में नहीं, क्योंकि हिन्दी ज्यादा हो गई है। इसलिए अब हिन्दी नहीं दिखनी चाहिए, इस प्रकार वे अपना आक्रोश दिखा रहे थे।

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुखेन्दु शेखर राय) पीठासीन हुए]

महोदय, हमारे देश में ऐसा माहौल नहीं बनना चाहिए। स्थानीय भाषाओं के प्रति हमें जितना सम्मान देना चाहिए, यदि हम उतना सम्मान देने की कोशिश करते रहे, तो देश में कभी भी ऐसा माहौल कहीं भी पैदा नहीं होगा। हम ऐसे राज्यों से आते हैं, जहां स्वातंत्र्य संग्राम के दौरान हमारे चेन्नई में आज भी उसे केन्द्र बनाकर, पूरे द्रविड़ राज्य में, पूरे दक्षिण भारत में, फिर चाहे वह हैदराबाद का दक्कन इलाका हो, मद्रास की प्रेसीडेंसी हो, केरल और कर्णाटक, सभी राज्यों को मिलाकर "दक्षिण भारत हिन्दी प्रचार सभा" प्रस्थापित की गई थी।

महोदय, आज भी आपस में ऐसा प्यार है, मगर उससे जुड़ने की कोशिशों की बजाय राष्ट्र प्रेम के रूप में राष्ट्र भाषा के प्रतिष्ठापन के संकल्प को लेकर यदि क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं की ध्वनि को दबाया जाएगा या क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं को दिक्कत पहुंचाई जाएगी, तो पूरे देश में बहुत कठिन परिस्थितियां बनने की आशंका पैदा हो जाती है। इसीलिए चंडीगढ़ में हमारे किसी पंजाबी भाई ने साइन बोर्ड पर हिन्दी में लिखे अक्षरों पर काला रंग पोत कर अपना आक्रोश जताया था।

Sir, I would like to take a few minutes on linguistic priorities. Sounds will never die. One sound, one letter and one word uttered will be permanently vibrating the air. Let us not forget about its cosmic signs. Sounds have shapes. They can be scientifically measured with numbers. This is the essence with which I would like to press about the priority and importance of the dialects, the lesser-spoken languages and also about their protection. When there is a dearth of affinity on the part of the Government in promoting and protecting the literary levels and their literacy expansion, the demands will rise. Primarily, keeping these priorities in view, the founding fathers of our Constitution evolved the Eighth Schedule. Let it not become fundamental. Orthodoxy will lead to fundamentalism. Fundamentalism will lead to dictatorship. Let us be very flexible keeping the contemporary priorities in view. Then only can we cater to the emotional expectations of the population. Take the case of Kodava. Take the case of Tulu. Besides Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, these two are having high importance in more than one thousand year-old Dravidian literature. In these two languages, there were and there is folklore and sanskritized and grammatical literature and even the pioneering printing efforts were primarily into the Kodava and Tulu besides all other important Indian languages. Tulu is also into the respect of the land. The Kerala part, the Tamil Nadu part, the Kannada part are the Tulu, proudly called themselves as 'Tulu Nadu'. They won't hesitate to relate to it. But the recognition which is supposed to come from the Government quarters is meagre. In just second century B.C., there was a Greek drama based on the

[श्री आनंद भास्कर रापोलू]

Kodava literature. Kodava language words are there in it. Likewise, several linguistic experts — take the case of Robert Caldwell or several recent experts — also studied and delved into the importance of the languages. But the Government cannot open up their priority-box to promote the importance of the dialects. Kodava language is having two dialects. They admit. They are not hesitating. They admit that just more than 20 lakh people are speaking Kodava and around 20 lakh people are speaking Tulu. Kodava is having two dialects. Even those dialects are protected in those lands cautiously with a lot of care and concern. But we are not trying to emotionally integrate these things. These emotions and disrespect and unconnectedness towards these emotions are hampering the expected level of usage of Hindi language. Wherever we can utilize it as the occupational language, professional language, administrative language, adjudication language, that is welcome. But unless the translation and transliteration of these languages besides precise promotion of the literacy and the language-development of each and every dialect and small lesser-spoken languages is evolved, there will be a danger. There will be a danger of their own expression of agony. This is visible recently in Bangalore, in Tamil Nadu and even in Kerala. We have to take these things seriously, though happening at very small level. But these have to be carefully studied and have to be addressed to. Then only can we satisfy the emotions of the people, in particular, connected to the languages. There have been constant demands for a realistic assessment of the stature of various languages. We had to go to courts to realize our demands for a classic language status for even languages like Tamil, Telugu and Kannada. There is the case of Kodava and Tulu that needs to be considered, but we have one thousand years old literature on these languages. There are deities, prayers, traditions and even modern practices in these languages, but we have not valued them. Like the earlier speaker, Shri Prasanna Acharya, said, I would urge the Union Government to once again take stock of the actual realities in order to harmonize, normalize, emotionally satisfy people and to come to an understanding, adopting a scientific approach, with an intent to promote and protect the various languages and dialects and to consider the possibility of inclusion of such languages in the Eighth Schedule. They may add new clauses to the Eighth Schedule, if needed, so that dialects and lesser spoken languages like Kodava and Tulu could be protected.

With this urge, I appreciate the initiative taken by our veteran, Shri B.K. Hariprasad, for highlighting the importance of the languages Kodava and Tulu. I urge the Union

Government to give priority to this issue, satisfy emotions and harmonize populations all across the country. Thank you.

SHRI LA. GANESAN (Madhya Pradesh): Respected Vice-Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I wish to make it clear that I have no objection to the proposal to include Tulu and Kodava in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Now, what has happened so far is this. In the beginning, 18 languages were included. Later, some more languages were added. Now, there are 22 languages. For the sake of information, this particular subject has already been discussed, not only here but even outside, and there is a demand for inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule. After the inclusion of 18 languages in the Eighth Schedule, Sindhi was added in 1967, Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were included in 1992. Subsequently, Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added in 2004.

Now, for the information of the hon. Member, the Central Government has already got with itself a list of languages that are being demanded for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule. There are 38 languages in that waiting list. In that list, Kodava, spoken in Coorg, is at the 19th place while Tulu is at the 38th. Inclusion of these two languages is already under the consideration of the Government. Now, the Government has a procedure for inclusion of languages in the Eighth Schedule. It has already been mentioned that a Committee was set up in September, 2003, under the chairmanship of Shri Sitakant Mohapatra, to evolve a set of objective criteria for inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. The Committee submitted its report in 2004, but the report of the Committee is still under consideration. A decision is pending with the Government. So, already these two languages find a place there. Very recently, in the last Session, the same subject was discussed. My friends here have suggested inclusion of Marwari and Saurashtrian in that list. Many such suggestions are being made. In my opinion, I consider all the languages that have originated in our motherland as national languages and these are all the children of Bharat mata. About that, I have no objection. But my point is this. We demand the inclusion of one or two languages. But I want to know whether the State Government has properly recognized these languages. This should be considered. First of all, the State Government should consider inclusion of those languages in their official languages. Then only they can demand the Central Government. We have to consider this. Piecemeal amendment of the Constitution will not work. As I have told you that the Government has already got a list of some languages in which these two languages are also there. My hon. friend has suggested appointment of a committee to consider various

[Shri L.A. Ganesan ]

demands from various States and finally come to a conclusion as to what are the languages which should be included. But why is there this demand for more and more languages to be included in the Eighth Schedule? Because they feel that by including a language in the Eighth Schedule, that language will get all the benefits and protection from both the State Government and the Central Government. It is not. Of course, the Government is very clear on Hindi and Sanskrit. I have no objection from my side for promoting Hindi. The traditional language which is respected by the whole country is Sanskrit. I have no problem. But, at the same time, what I want is that both the State Governments and the Central Government jointly plan to improve the languages that have already been included in the Eighth Schedule. Whether it is happening, is a big question. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, I am not here to blame any political party. If at all somebody is to be blamed, that includes me also being a Tamilian. But what I want to stress is that a generation has been created in Tamil Nadu that they cannot write Tamil. Not only writing Tamil also reading Tamil, a generation has been created. In future, a generation may be created which will not speak Tamil and understand Tamil. What is the use of such a language being in the Eighth Schedule? Is it not the duty of the State Government and the Central Government? Hindi was introduced as a national language, I say, a link language. I have already told you that I am very much clear that all the languages are national languages, including my language Tamil. But, at the same time, Hindi is a link language or swadeshi language of our country. I am for it; I have no objection. But when it was decided to introduce Hindi, of course, there was objection from my state. I can understand it. Jawaharlal Nehruji gave a promise. In Kerala, they have accepted Hindi; and for Malayalam, there is no problem. In Karnataka, they have accepted Hindi in their schools and colleges; Kannada language has not faced any problem. In both Telangana and Andhra, they have accepted Hindi; there is no problem for Telugu. But in Tamil Nadu, children have started learning English even from the childhood, even at the Kindergarten level. I have no objection to learning English also. But at the cost of Tamil or Indian languages? English should not be imposed. This is my point of view. Here I am quoting an example. To explain my views, a kisan in a remote village in Tamil Nadu should not be suffering for lack of knowledge of either Hindi or English. Suppose he wants to convey something to the Prime Minister and he writes a letter in Tamil to the Prime Minister. There should be an arrangement that whatever he has written, shall be conveyed to the hon. Prime Minister. And, he should get a reply in Tamil from the PM and the Central

Government. Then only, the people in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country will feel that they are one. The emotional integrity will be there. This is my point of view. Of course, we have to make more and more arrangements for learning Hindi and other languages. At the same time, not knowing Hindi or English should not become a handicap for anybody, not only in Tamil Nadu but even in other States. When I expressed this opinion to hon. Prime Minister, I was really happy at the way he replied to me. Not only that, he told that there should be such arrangements in States' colleges and universities that students of one State can go to other State to learn and study the language of other States. The hon. Prime Minister has himself told about the richness of Tamil language. I am really very happy. He spoke the same in another meeting also and there was an update in all the media. So, what I mean is that including a language in the Eighth Schedule is all right, but that is not the only solution. After inclusion of a language, and the languages which are already included, the languages should be developed and future should not record that once, there were languages spoken and now, they have become dead languages. That should not happen. So, we have to encourage our languages. My suggestion is that this is mainly the responsibility of the States Governments, but the Central Government also has to intervene. Both, the Central Government and State Governments, should jointly see to it that all the languages are encouraged. This is my opinion. Whatever may be situation, our mother tongue should remain our mother tongue, and should not become the mother's tongue of next generation. This is my point of view.

As far as the demand of the hon. Member is concerned, I have no problem in inclusion of these two languages in the Eighth Schedule. Already, demand for more languages are there. Let the Government consider it in toto. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY): Mr. Ram Vichar Netam, when I called your name, you were not here. So, you will get the chance but after Mr. Pradeep Tamta.

**श्री प्रदीप टम्टा** (उत्तराखंड): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं आपका आभारी हूँ कि आपने मुझे समय दिया। हमारे साथी, बी.के. हरिप्रसाद जी द्वारा जो संविधान संशोधन का बिल लाया गया है, उसका मैं समर्थन करता हूँ। उनके द्वारा कोड़वा और तुलु, इन दो भाषाओं को संविधान की आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल करने के लिए कहा गया है। मैं भी कुछ समय पहले संसदीय समिति के दौरे पर मेडिकेरी कुर्ग क्षेत्र में गया था। मैं जब उस क्षेत्र में गया, तो मेरा परिवार भी मेरे साथ था। वहाँ जाकर मुझे ऐसा नहीं लगा कि मैं हिमालय से कहीं दूर आया हूँ। वह पहाड़ों और घने जंगलों वाला इलाका था। मुझे ऐसा लग रहा कि मैं सुदूर उत्तर से दक्षिण में भी अपने ही घर के क्षेत्र में आ गया हूँ। यह जरूर है कि

[श्री प्रदीप टम्टा ]

आज बहुत-सी भाषाएँ आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल करने की माँग है। आठवीं अनुसूची को हमें आज नये रूप में परिभाषित करना पड़ेगा। हमारे सम्मानित सदस्य ने कहा कि यह जरूर है कि पहले आठवीं अनुसूची में 14 भाषाएँ शामिल थीं, उसके बाद धीरे-धीरे बढ़ते हुए उसमें आज 22 भाषाएँ स्थान ग्रहण कर चुकी हैं। आज भारत सरकार के पास 38 भाषाएँ आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल होने के लिए इंतजार कर रही हैं, जिनमें कोड़वा और तुलु भी हैं।

महोदय, मैं उत्तराखंड से आता हूँ और वहाँ भी दो भाषाएँ - कुमाऊँनी और गढ़वाली आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल होने की राह देख रही हैं। हिमालय के सुदूर क्षेत्र उत्तराखंड से कुमाऊँनी और गढ़वाली ही नहीं जौनसारी भाषाएँ भी इस सूची में शामिल होना चाहती हैं। कुमाऊँनी भाषा उत्तराखंड के एक क्षेत्र में है। हमारे ऐसे 13 जिले हैं, जो कुमाऊँनी रीजन में हैं, वहाँ कुमाऊँनी भाषा बोली जाती है। एक तरफ नेपाल से जुड़ी हुई हमारी सीमा है और यह भाषा अल्मोड़ा, पिथौरागढ़, बागेश्वर, नैनीताल, ऊधमसिंह नगर, चम्पावत आदि जिलों में बोली जाती है। दूसरी ओर, जो कुमाऊँनी लोग अपनी जीवन-यात्रा को चलाने के लिए प्रवास में रहते हैं, वे देश के विभिन्न हिस्सों में गए हैं। चाहे वह दिल्ली, असम, पंजाब, पश्चिमी बंगाल, और महाराष्ट्र हो, देश के हर प्रदेश में हमारे क्षेत्र के लोग रहते हैं, वे वहाँ अपनी मातृभाषा कुमाऊँनी को बोलते हैं। इसी तरह, दूसरी भाषा गढ़वाली है, जो गढ़वाल के पाँच-छह जिलों में बोली जाती है। ये दो भाषाएँ पिछले लम्बे समय से आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल होने की माँग कर रही हैं। इसी तरह, हमारी एक जौनसारी भाषा है। जौनसारी हमारे उत्तराखंड के गढ़वाल रीजन और हिमाचल प्रदेश से जुड़े हुए क्षेत्रों की मिली-जुली भाषा है। वे भी अपनी भाषा के लिए लड़ें कि हमको भी अनुसूची में शामिल किया जाए। आज देश के अंदर जो नई भाषाएँ हैं, वे अपने लिए आठवीं अनुसूची में जगह माँग रही हैं। यह कोई बड़ी बात नहीं है। वे अपने देश से, केन्द्र सरकार से अपने लिए संरक्षण की, अपने विकास की उम्मीद करती हैं। यह कोई जरूरी नहीं कि जो भाषाएँ शामिल हो गईं, रेलवे की तरह, डिब्बे में प्रवेश करते ही दरवाजा बंद कर दिया कि अब दूसरी कोई नहीं आएगी। हमारे क्षेत्र के बड़े ही कलाकार हैं, बहुत अच्छे गायक हैं। नरेन्द्र नेगी जी का एक गीत है, जिससे एक तरह का नया आकार दे दिया गया है। एक पहाड़ी लड़का जो पहाड़ से अपनी आजीविका के लिए देहरादून में आता है, अपने आपको कम फील करता है। तो लोगों से कहता है कि मुझसे पहाड़ी मत बोलो, मैं देहरादून वाला हूँ। यह जो अंतर है शहरी भाषा का और बोलियों का, तो बोलियों के इस अंतर को हमको दूर करना पड़ेगा। इस देश में बहुत सी बोलियाँ हैं, जिनकी अपनी लिपि नहीं है। इसी देश में हिन्दी भी है, नेपाली है, गुजराती है, मराठी है। इन सबकी लिपि एक है। लिपियाँ अलग हैं, भाषाएँ अलग हैं। लिपि एक भी हो सकती है। रोमन लिपि में बहुत सी भाषाएँ यूरोप की लिखी जाती हैं। कहा भी जाता है कि भारत गांवों का देश है, धीरे-धीरे यह शहर की ओर बढ़ रहा है। गांव में रहने वालों की जो सम्पर्क भाषा है, वे उसी में एक-दूसरे से बात करते हैं। मैं भी जब अपने क्षेत्र में जाता हूँ और ग्रामीण शादी में जाता हूँ, अपनी माँ और अपने बड़े लोगों से बात करता हूँ, वे मुझे पहचान नहीं पाते, टूटी-फूटी पहाड़ी में बोलना पड़ता है। अभी एक सम्माननीय साथी ने कहा है कि अगर भाषाओं के आधार पर राज्य न बने होते तो आज यह समस्या नहीं होती। भाषा ने भी इस देश में लोगों की अपनी सांस्कृतिक पहचान को रूप देने का आकार दिया है। देश की आजादी के दौरान ही अंग्रेजों ने देश को बांटा था, तब ये भाषाएँ ही थी जिन्होंने लोगों को संगठित किया और उसी समय हमारे देश की आजादी के समय लोगों ने गांधी जी,

नेहरू जी ने, सब ने कहा था कि जब नया भारत बनेगा तो हम भाषाओं के आधार पर प्रांतों की संरचना करेंगे। आज नए राज्य बन रहे हैं, नए राज्यों में नई बोलियां बन रही हैं। जो अपनी रिकोगनिशन की भाषा बोली जा रही है। आज कुमाऊँनी और गढ़वाली लगभग 50-60 लाख लोगों की यह बोली है। यूनेस्को के वर्ल्ड एटलस ने कहा कि ये भाषाएं मृत रूप हो जाएंगी, इनको संरक्षण की जरूरत है। जब यू.एन.ओ. की बड़ी संस्था यूनेस्को कह सकती है कि वर्ल्ड एटलस में कि इन भाषाओं को भी संरक्षण की जरूरत है, दुनिया की हैरिटेज में ये भाषाएं शामिल हैं, तो आज यह आजाद देश है, इस देश में जिनको हम बोलियां कहते थे, उनको भाषा के रूप में आज रिकोगनिशन देने की जरूरत है। यह जो हमारे भारत सरकार के गृह मंत्रालय की कमेटी थी, जिसने एक तरह जो पैमाने तय किए थे, उसमें नए सिरे से उसको भी परिमार्जित करने की जरूरत है। मेरी भाषा का, कुमाऊँनी भाषा का तीन सौ सालों से लिखा गया साहित्य है, ड्रामा है। तीन सौ सालों से रामलीला कुमाऊँनी भाषा में आज भी चल रही है। कुमाऊँनी रामलीला के माध्यम से हमारे लोगों ने आज ही पढ़ा है। उसका लिखित साहित्य है। लिखित साहित्य में जब पेपर आया तभी तो वह साहित्य लिखा गया। उससे पहले पीढ़ी दर पीढ़ी जेनरेशन भाषाएं आगे बढ़ी हैं। इसलिए आज मैं भी मांग करूंगा भारत सरकार से कि जो 38 भाषाएं दरवाजे पर खड़ी हैं, सरकार के गृह मंत्रालय के, आज उन सब को आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल करने की जरूरत है। आठवीं अनुसूची में जो बोलियां बोली जा रही हैं, चाहे भोजपुरी हो, राजस्थानी हो, अगर मैथिली आ सकती है तो भोजपुरी क्यों नहीं आ सकती? फिर सवाल है, हमसे कहा जाता है कि आपकी अपनी बोली नहीं है। अगर बृज का साहित्य हिन्दी का है तो कुमाऊँनी और गढ़वाली तो हिन्दी में कहीं नहीं पढ़ाई जाती है। क्यों नहीं वे बोलियां वहां शामिल कर दी जाती हैं? वहां उसका स्थान नहीं है। जैसा उनका इतिहास है वैसा हमारा बोलियों, भाषाओं का इतिहास है। हमारा लिखित साहित्य है। देवनागरी में लिखा जा रहा है कि आज जब से उत्तराखंड राज्य बना है, इस राज्य ने लोगों को अपनी नई पहचान दी है। अपनी भाषा को नया संरक्षण देने के लिए एक नया आंदोलन चलाया। उसके लिए जगह-जगह गोष्ठियां हुईं। महोदय, मैं एक बार लखनऊ से अपने एक साथी के यहां गया जोकि बहुत ही प्रतिष्ठित परिवार से हैं। वे कुमाऊँ से आकर लखनऊ में बस गए हैं। वहां मैंने देखा कि दो बुजुर्ग बात कर रहे थे। वे या तो अंग्रेजी में बोलते थे या कुमाऊँनी में बात करते थे। मुझे उनकी मानसिकता को समझने में समय लगा कि वे अपनी मातृभाषा में या फिर भारतीय भाषा से एक अलग अंग्रेजी भाषा में बात कर रहे हैं। तो मुझे लगा कि वे भी अपनी भाषा को पहचान देना चाहे रहे हैं। तो यह सोच सिर्फ गांव के लोगों में ही नहीं बल्कि जो अब भारत से बाहर भी जा रहे हैं, वे भी अपनी भाषा का संरक्षण चाहते हैं। इसलिए मैं इस संविधान संशोधन विधेयक का समर्थन करते हुए "कोड़वा" और "तुलु" को आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल करने के साथ-साथ कुमाऊँनी, गढ़वाली और जौनसारी हमारी भाषाएं हैं, जो 38 भाषाएं लिस्ट में हैं, माननीय गृह मंत्री जी के पास वह सूची है, हमारी कुमाऊँनी व गढ़वाली भी उस में शामिल है, उनके संरक्षण के लिए आप उन सब को आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल करें। अगर आपको पुरानी कमेटी की रिपोर्ट में मानकों में परिवर्तन के लिए नए सिरे से विचार की जरूरत है, तो वह एक अलग कमेटी बनाकर विचार करें।

महोदय, यह मांग उसी प्रकार धीरे-धीरे बढ़ रही है जैसे इस देश में सब लोग अपनी पहचान की लड़ाई के लिए लड़ रहे हैं। वे लोग जो जाति के कारण उत्पीड़ित हैं या तरह-तरह से उत्पीड़ित हैं, जो लोग धार्मिक रूप से उत्पीड़ित हैं, जो भाषायी रूप से उत्पीड़ित हैं या जिन भाषाओं को बोली का दर्जा



[श्री प्रदीप टम्टा ]

दे दिया है, गांव का दर्जा दे दिया है, ये सब अपनी लड़ाई लड़ रहे हैं। महोदय, अभी एक सम्मानित सदस्य ने कहा कि इस बिल का हश्र क्या होगा? यह बिल हारेगा, लेकिन महोदय, हार से ही जीत की लड़ाई लड़ी जाती है। दुनिया में कोई भी संघर्ष पहले चरण में ही नहीं जीता गया होगा, हम कदम-कदम पर हारे होंगे, प्रताड़नाएं सही होंगी, लेकिन अपने अस्तित्व के लिए हम लगातार संघर्ष करते रहे होंगे। मैं समझता हूँ कि आज फिर इस देश में अपनी पहचान के लिए - चाहे भाषायी हो, चाहे साहित्य की हो, उत्पीड़ित समूह की हो, जो भी लोग उत्पीड़ित और वंचित रहे हैं, वे अपनी पहचान की लड़ाई लड़ रहे हैं। आज भाषायी बोलियां उस पहचान का एक अभिन्न अंग बन चुकी हैं। हमारी भारत सरकार इस सर्वोच्च सदन की आवाज को सुनें। मैं एक बार फिर इस संविधान संशोधन का समर्थन करते हुए हमारे क्षेत्र की कुमाऊँनी और गढ़वाली और जौनसारी भाषाओं को भी इस में शामिल करने की मांग करते हुए अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। जय भारत।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुखेन्दु शेखर राय):** धन्यवाद टम्टा जी। श्री राम विचार नेताम।

**श्री राम विचार नेताम (छत्तीसगढ़):** उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, धन्यवाद, आपने मुझे इस विषय पर बोलने का अवसर दिया। सब से पहले तो मैं आदरणीय बी.के. हरिप्रसाद जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहूंगा, जिन्होंने 7 अप्रैल, 2017 को इस विधेयक को यहां प्रस्तुत किया और कुछ माननीय सदस्यों के भाषण के बाद आज पुनः यह चर्चा के लिए प्रस्तुत हुआ और मुझे सदन में अपनी बात रखने का सौभाग्य प्राप्त हुआ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, छत्तीसगढ़ के निर्माण से लेकर आज तक छत्तीसगढ़ी को राष्ट्रीय भाषा के रूप में मान्यता दिलाने तक संघर्ष जारी रहा है। चाहे मध्य प्रदेश की विधान सभा हो या छत्तीसगढ़ विधान सभा बनने के बाद वहां की विधान सभा हो, एक संकल्प के माध्यम से भारत सरकार से तत्कालीन समय में यह आग्रह किया गया था। छत्तीसगढ़ के साथ-साथ देश के अन्य राज्यों में भी बड़े पैमाने पर जो अलग-अलग भाषाओं का प्रयोग हो रहा है, आज उसी को लेकर यहां संकल्प प्रस्तुत हुआ है। यहां माननीय सदस्यों द्वारा लोगों की भावनाओं व आस्थाओं से जुड़े इस विषय को प्रस्तुत किया गया है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि इस विषय पर छाया वर्मा जी बोल चुकी हैं और आज मुझे भी इस पर बोलने का अवसर मिला है कि छत्तीसगढ़ी भी राष्ट्रीय भाषा बननी चाहिए। महोदय, मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य बनने के बाद 28 नवम्बर, 2007 को छत्तीसगढ़ी हिन्दी राजभाषा के रूप में विधान सभा में स्वीकृत की गई और इसको 11 जुलाई, 2008 को छत्तीसगढ़ राजपत्र में भी प्रकाशित किया गया। इसी परिप्रेक्ष्य में छत्तीसगढ़ी राजभाषा को राजकाज की भाषा बनाने के लिए 3 सितम्बर, 2010 को छत्तीसगढ़ राजभाषा आयोग के गठन की अधिसूचना छत्तीसगढ़ राजपत्र में भी प्रकाशित की गई।

महोदय, छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार की ओर से और वहां की पौन तीन करोड़ जनता की ओर से लगातार यह प्रयास किया जाता रहा है कि हमें जिस प्रकार छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य मिला है, उसी प्रकार छत्तीसगढ़ी को भी मान्यता मिले। यद्यपि छत्तीसगढ़ी सरकार ने वहां की बोल-चाल की भाषा के लिए, वहां के स्थानीय काम-काज की भाषा के लिए, छत्तीसगढ़ी को मान्यता दे दी, लेकिन इसको संविधान

की आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल नहीं किया गया। इसको संविधान की आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल करने का हमारा भी अधिकार है और यह हम छत्तीसगढ़ियों का हक है। मैं सदन से और आप से आग्रह करता हूँ कि आप इसको मान्यता दिलाने के लिए सर्वसम्मति से इस संकल्प को पारित करें।

महोदय, मैं यह भी निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि आज शायद ही देश में ऐसा कोई राज्य होगा, जिसके पहले या बाद में 'मां' शब्द लगता होगा, लेकिन जब हम छत्तीसगढ़ में बात करते हैं, तो हम लोग छत्तीसगढ़ महतारी बोलते हैं, महतारी छत्तीसगढ़ी हमारी भाषा है और महतारी का आशय मां से है। आज भी हम जब वहां बात करते हैं, तो छत्तीसगढ़ महतारी के नाम से बात करते हैं।

महोदय, राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी ने भी कहा था कि राष्ट्रभाषा के बिना राष्ट्र नहीं बन सकता और राजभाषा के बिना राज नहीं बन सकता। महोदय, छत्तीसगढ़ी, छत्तीसगढ़ की राजभाषा है, इसलिए छत्तीसगढ़ को राज्य की मान्यता देने के लिए छत्तीसगढ़ी को भी मान्यता देना अनिवार्य है। यदि छत्तीसगढ़ शरीर है, तो छत्तीसगढ़ी उसकी आत्मा है। छत्तीसगढ़ के लोक में जो आलोक है, वह छत्तीसगढ़ी के कारण ही है। छत्तीसगढ़ के लोग केवल छत्तीसगढ़ी में बोलते ही नहीं, बल्कि छत्तीसगढ़ी में सांस भी लेते हैं, क्योंकि गाय के दूध में पुष्टिदायनी शक्ति होती है, किन्तु मां के दूध में प्राणदायिनी शक्ति होती है, वहां के लोगों की इस प्रकार की भावनाएं हैं, इसलिए मेरा आग्रह है कि इसे इस संकल्प के माध्यम से इसको स्वीकार किया जाए। छत्तीसगढ़ी को आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल किया जाए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, वहाँ के एक कवि ने बहुत ही अच्छे ढंग से छत्तीसगढ़ के बारे में बहुत ही मार्मिक उद्धरण प्रस्तुत किया है। यदि आपकी इजाजत हो तो मैं उसको यहाँ प्रस्तुत करना चाहूंगा। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, उन्होंने कहा है कि,

अरपा पैरी के धार, महानदी हे अपार  
इंदिरावती हा पखारय तोर पईयां  
महूँ पांवे पंरव तोर भुंझ्या  
जय हो जय हो छत्तीसगढ़ मईया...  
सोहय बिंदिया सहीं, घाट डोंगरी पहार  
चंदा सुरुज बनय तोर नैना  
सोनहा धाने के अंग, लुगरा हरियर हे रंग  
तोर बोली हावय सुग्घर मैना  
अंचरा तोर डोलावय पुरवईया  
महूँ पांवे पंरव तोर भुंझ्या  
जय हो जय छत्तीसगढ़ मईया...  
रयगढ़ हावय सुग्घर, तोर मउरे मुकुट  
सरगुजा अउ बिलासपुर हे बझ्यां  
रयपुर कनिहा सही घाते सुग्घर फबय  
दुरुग बस्तर सोहय पैजनियाँ  
नांदगांव नवा करधनिया  
महूँ पांवे पंरव तोर भुंझ्या  
जय हो जय हो छत्तीसगढ़ मईया...

[श्री राम विचार नेताम ]

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह भावना यहाँ के आम छत्तीसगढ़ियों की है, इसलिए हम सभी का यह आग्रह है, आपसे निवेदन है कि अगर आज हम इस संकल्प के माध्यम से, छत्तीसगढ़ी को आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल करने के इस संकल्प को सर्वसम्मति से पारित करते हैं, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि जिस प्रकार से एनडीए की हमारी तत्कालीन सरकार, माननीय अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी की उस समय की एनडीए की सरकार में छत्तीसगढ़ का निर्माण हुआ था और इसका निर्माण होने के बाद गाँव, गरीब किसान, मजदूर, नौजवान, बच्चे, मजदूर, सभी का जिस प्रकार से और जिस गति से विकास हुआ है, उसके अनुसार निश्चित तौर पर आज जरूरत है कि यदि आज यहाँ हम छत्तीसगढ़ी को आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल कर पाते हैं तो मैं समझता हूँ कि छत्तीसगढ़ के हित के लिए, छत्तीसगढ़ की पौने तीन करोड़ जनता के हित के लिए यह एक बहुत बड़ा काम होगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, इसी प्रकार से अन्य राज्यों के बारे में भी जो-जो प्रस्ताव आए हैं, खासकर के जो ट्राइबल्स स्टेट्स हैं, उन ट्राइबल्स स्टेट्स की अपनी अलग-अलग भाषा है। हमारा छत्तीसगढ़ अकेले ही इतना बड़ा प्रान्त है कि यदि उसको क्षेत्रफल की दृष्टि से देखें तो उसका क्षेत्रफल केरल से भी बड़ा है, कर्णाटक से भी बड़ा है, तमिलनाडु से भी बड़ा है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, इसलिए वहाँ की जो जन-भावना है, उसका आदर किया जाए। इसी के साथ-साथ देश के जो अन्य आदिवासी समाज हैं, उन समाजों की भी अपनी-अपनी भाषाएँ हैं। जैसे कुड़कु है, कुरमाली है, अन्य कुड़क बोली बोली जाती हैं, उनको भी इसमें शामिल किया जाए और आज इस संकल्प को पारित किया जाए। मैं इन्हीं भावनाओं के साथ अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। मुझे बोलने के लिए इतना समय दिया, आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुखेन्दु शेखर राय):** धन्यवाद। आज सदन का माहौल कुछ बदल गया है। टम्टा जी ने आजाद हिन्द फौज का गीत कदम-कदम बढ़ाये जा सुनाया, आपने छत्तीसगढ़ का विजय गीत भी गाया, आपका बहुत धन्यवाद। श्री नरेन्द्र बुढ़ानिया, अनुपस्थित, अनुपस्थित, डा.विकास महात्मे, बोलिए।

**डा. विकास महात्मे (महाराष्ट्र):** उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देना चाहूंगा कि आपने मुझे बोलने के लिए यह अवसर दिया है। हमारे मित्र, ऑनरेबल मेम्बर, श्री बी.के. हरिप्रसाद जी कोडवा और तुलु, ये दोनों भाषाएँ आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल हों, इसके लिए यह विधेयक लेकर आए हैं। अभी ला. गणेशन जी और बाकी मेम्बर्स ने बताया है कि इससे पहले भी संविधान में कुछ भाषाएँ शामिल हुई थीं। जैसे 1967 में सिंधी, 1992 में तीन भाषाएँ शामिल हुई थीं, 2004 में फिर से संशोधन करके चार भाषाएँ शामिल की गई थीं।

माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, सबसे इम्पोर्टेंट सवाल यह है कि भाषा किस लिए होती है? भाषा इसलिए होती है कि हम अपने विचार, अपनी भावनाएँ लोगों तक पहुँचा पाएं, दूसरों तक पहुँचा पाएं। यह सबसे बड़ी महत्वपूर्ण बात है और इसी से भाषा की शुरुआत हुई। भाषा और विचार, मैं हमेशा यह सोचता हूँ कि हम जो भी सोचते हैं, वह मातृभाषा में ही सोचते हैं। आज भी मुझसे कोई इंग्लिश में पूछता है कि eight fours are, या हिंदी में आठ गुणा चार कितने होते हैं, चूंकि मैं मराठी भाषी हूँ तो मैं मराठी में पहले गुणा करता हूँ कि आठ चौक, और फिर बताता हूँ। यानी जो भी हमारी सोच है, वह पहले

मातृभाषा में होती है, बाद में उसे हम दूसरी भाषा में परिवर्तित करते हैं। इसलिए सबसे अच्छा यह है कि मातृभाषा का प्रयोग हम सब जगह पर कर सकें, यह बहुत जरूरी है, क्योंकि हमारी सोच, देश की सोच, देश के लोगों की सोच तभी बढ़ेगी, जब सारी एजुकेशन और सारी बातचीत मातृभाषा में हो सकेगी और यह मुश्किल नहीं है। मैं आपको उदाहरण देकर बताना चाहूंगा कि हम आजकल जो इंग्लिश स्कूल में, कॉन्वेंट स्कूल में बच्चों को भेजते हैं, तो वहां बच्चे समझ नहीं पाते कि टीचर्स क्या पढ़ा रहे हैं? उसमें परेशानी यह होती है कि शायद उनकी इंग्लिश थोड़ी-बहुत अच्छी हो सकती है, लेकिन उनकी सोच बढ़ती नहीं है। इसलिए यह जरूरी है कि जो भी मातृभाषा में हो, उसमें हम ज्यादा से ज्यादा बताने की कोशिश करें। इससे मातृभाषा समृद्ध बनती है और बनती जाती है। इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि हम हिन्दी, अंग्रेजी, तमिल, कन्नड़ या किसी अन्य भाषा का प्रयोग न करें, इस्तेमाल न करें या उन्हें न सीखें। ऐसा नहीं है कि उसे मातृभाषा के अलावा कोई दूसरी भाषा नहीं जानना चाहिए या नहीं सीखना चाहिए। यदि भारतवर्ष का हर आदमी दो-तीन भाषाएं सीखता है, तो इससे देश समृद्ध बनेगा, सबका जीवन और अच्छा हो पाएगा क्योंकि हम सब आपस में घुल-मिल सकते हैं और यह एक भारतवर्ष है ऐसा कह सकते हैं। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं कि भाषा के संदर्भ में मातृभाषा को सबसे ज्यादा महत्व दें। यह इसलिए भी जरूरी है कि हम जो एग्जामिनेशन लेते हैं, जो परीक्षाएं लेते हैं, जिसमें छात्रों की नॉलेज या ज्ञान का टेस्ट इंग्लिश में लिया जाता है, लेकिन अगर कोई छात्र अच्छे से इंग्लिश में नहीं जानता है तो वह अपनी जानकारी या अपना ज्ञान अच्छे से प्रस्तुत नहीं कर सकता और उसकी वजह से उसको कम अंक मिलते हैं। जब भी आप कहीं बाहर जाएंगे, अगर वहां आपके सामने वाला अंग्रेजी में बोल रहा है, तो उसका एक इम्पेशन यह बनता है कि वह बहुत अच्छा या बहुत ज्ञानी आदमी है, लेकिन यह विचार बहुत गलत है। ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए। हमारी बोली जाने वाली भाषा, मातृभाषा सबसे महत्वपूर्ण मानी जानी चाहिए और इसीलिए सभी मातृभाषाएं, जो कि बहुत ज्यादा लोग जानते हैं, बोलते हैं, उनको आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल करना चाहिए, ऐसा मुझे लगता है।

महोदय, बोली जाने वाली भाषा या मातृभाषा का मतलब यह नहीं है कि मैं जैसे कहूंगा कि मैंने टीवी में ये-ये बातें देखीं, तो यह "टीवी" शब्द उपयोग नहीं करना चाहिए, "दूरदर्शन" शब्द का भी उपयोग करना चाहिए। हम जो भाषा बोल रहे हैं, उसमें इंग्लिश का या किसी दूसरी भाषा का कोई शब्द प्रयोग हो रहा है, तो वह भी सही हो सकता है, लेकिन हम अपने विचार और भावनाएं अच्छे से प्रकट कर सकें, हम अपना ज्ञान-विचार परीक्षा में भी अच्छे से प्रकट कर सकें, यह हमारे लिए बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। जब भी किसी भाषा को ऑफिशियल लैंग्वेज करके डिक्लेयर करते हैं, जैसा ला. गणेशन जी ने कहा, उसको विकसित करना भी जरूरी है। वह सिर्फ अनुसूची में आए और बाद में कुछ भी न हो, तो यह बात बिल्कुल अच्छी नहीं है। भाषा के अनुसूची में आने के बाद उसको विकसित करने के जो बहुत सारे तरीके हैं, वे हम सब अपना सकते हैं। अभी सभी साथियों ने बताया भी है कि जैसे तुलु और कोडवा भाषा है, वैसे ही अभी 38 भाषाएं प्रतीक्षा में हैं कि उनको आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल होना जरूरी है। जैसा अभी राम चरित नेताम जी ने छत्तीसगढ़ी भाषा का बताया, वैसे ही भोजपुरी है, राजस्थानी है जो हम पांच करोड़ लोग बोलते हैं, बंगारा है, इंग्लिश भी है क्योंकि कुछ नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न स्टेट्स में लोग इंग्लिश में बोलते हैं, लेकिन उनकी भी भाषा अभी उसमें शामिल नहीं की है। तो इसमें ये सभी भाषाएं शामिल होनी जरूरी हैं। इसलिए मैं यह कहता हूँ कि यह जो विधेयक है, इसमें सिर्फ दो भाषाओं के लिए नहीं, विस्तार से एक कमेटी होनी चाहिए, जैसा अभी ऑनरेबल मेम्बर ने बताया। उस पर चर्चा

[डा. विकास महात्मे ]

होनी चाहिए और उस चर्चा के बाद हम उसमें जितनी भी भाषाएँ शामिल कर सकते हैं, उन्हें ज्यादा से ज्यादा शामिल करें। उसमें लोग कठिनाई बताएँगे कि इसको official language बनाने से परिपत्रक या जो भी पत्र निकालना है, उसमें कठिनाई हो सकती है और जो rules and regulations बने हुए हैं, उनमें परिवर्तन करने में कठिनाई हो सकती है। ये पुरानी बातें हैं। आज हम technology के ज़रिए Google Translator use करते हैं। आज translation बहुत आसान है। आज इसमें इतनी manpower लगने वाली नहीं है, जो पहले लगती थी, जब 2003 में वह पहली कमिटी form हुई थी। अभी यह जरूरी है कि हम इस पर पुनर्विचार करें और ये सब जो rules and regulations हैं, हम technology को साथ लेकर उनको convert कर सकते हैं, ताकि हर आदमी इसमें पढ़ने और बोलने लायक हो जाए, अपनी-अपनी मातृभाषा का प्रयोग करे, अपनी सोच बढ़ाए और इस देश को आगे ले जाए।

इसलिए मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि इसके लिए एक कमिटी बना कर हम जितनी भी भाषाओं को official language के रूप में आठवीं अनुसूची में डाल सकते हैं, उस कमिटी के ज़रिए उन सभी भाषाओं को Constitution में amendment करके आठवीं अनुसूची में डाल कर उनका प्रयोग होना चाहिए। आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए आपका धन्यवाद।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU): Sir, first of all, I would like to compliment and acknowledge the issue brought out by the hon. Member, Shri B. K. Hariprasad. He has brought his Constitutional Amendment Bill under the Private Member's Bill for inclusion of Kodava and Tulu language under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. Many hon. Members have already put forward their views and echoed the sentiments of their communities in this august House. I must tell you, Sir, that we also share those sentiments and those view points which all the hon. Members have raised in this august House. Sir, this is a very sensitive issue as well as full of emotions. The sentiments reflect the identity, the culture, the heritage of various communities of this country. From time to time, various groups have been coming to the Home Ministry and putting forward their demand. As you know, Sir, we have 22 languages under the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution of India and we have formally listed 38 languages which have come in the form of demands to be included to the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. Besides these 38 languages, there are many more dialects, many more spoken languages informally, which keep coming to the Home Ministry for their inclusion. Sir, just to make my point clear, I want to bring forward before the House what the Home Ministry had recently replied in response to one of the Special Mentions made in the other august House, the Lok Sabha. Sir, it is very difficult to distinguish between dialect and language, even various forms of demands for inclusion as a language under the Eighth Schedule. Many of the languages are using the same script which we call the Devanagari.

**4.00 P.M.**

So, what should be the criteria? Language is a socio, cultural, geographical construct which takes its shape after having a long journey and then it gets recognition.

Now, I would like to appeal to this august House to understand the position of the Government. It is not easy to define the criteria to make provisions which will make a particular language or a dialect qualify to be included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India. It is such a complicated thing. That is why whether it is Pahwa Committee set up in 1996 or Mohapatra Committee set up in 2003, the Reports of which we have gone through in detail, could not conclusively come to the conclusion and form criteria which should be adopted as a means in deciding the languages to be included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

It was a political decision before. But, now, this demand has come through a Private Member' Bill and many hon. Members, while participating in the debate and supporting the Bill moved by Shri B.K. Hariprasadji, put forward their pending cases. These cases have come before the Home Ministry and we are in the knowledge of all the demands, their background and cases being made out in respect of such demands.

Sir, let me point out one important resolution of Parliament. There were two cases — one was relating to the official language through which Hindi was recognized as the official language and there was another resolution passed in 1968. The second resolution speaks about forming certain criteria and asking the UPSC to decide what are the criteria to be adopted while conducting examination for the All India Civil Services and Allied Services. So, the UPSC sent its Report and it was almost ready with its recommendations. Then, many hon. Members of Parliament had raised objections. So, recommendations made by the UPSC also kept in abeyance.

Shri B.K. Hariprasad is the original mover of this Bill. I also would like to make a mention in this august House about some of the important personalities belong to Kodava language group from the Kodagu region who have contributed to the growth and greatness of this country. Shri Hariprasad, while initiating this discussion, mentioned the names of the Field Marshall Cariappa and General Thimayya. The nation cannot forget those important souls. They have contributed so much to this nation. Besides that, all other languages or dialects which have come in the form of demand also have their rich heritage and history which we have to admit. We cannot ignore the importance of each language in the list of 38 pending cases before the Home Ministry.

[Shri Kiren Rijiju]

Sir, both, the Pahwa Committee of 1996 and the Sitakant Mohapatra Committee of 2003 could not come to the conclusive criteria required as per the objective set up by the Government. Now, the Home Ministry has set up one internal Committee headed by an Additional Secretary rank officer to relook it again... to relook into both, this Committee's recommendations as well as various cases that are pending. And, the Committee has representatives from various Ministries, like, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, and the Sahitya Akademi. So, the Committee, constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, is actively looking into the concerns raised by the hon. Members, while taking part in this discussion.

Besides that, I would also like to make two-three important points. During the discussion, some of the hon. Members have raised the issue of imposition of one language over the other language. I am the Minister-in-charge of the Official Language, that is, Hindi. When we came to power, we had made it clear that there is no question of imposition of Hindi over any of the regional language. All regional languages are equally important. And, it was because of the joint decision of both the Houses of Parliament that Hindi was made an Official Language, as a link. English continues to be the colloquial language or the official language or the working language. And, it will continue. Hindi has been made Official Language, considering the spirit of all the Members of Parliament, who took part in the discussion on the Resolution. Thereafter, there is no question of Hindi being imposed on any region or any other language. In 2014, when we issued one circular, it was a repetition of the circular which is issued from time to time that this is the spirit of the Resolution, passed by the Parliament, and these are the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs. So, Hindi has to be promoted. But, at the same time, all the other Indian languages are also to be promoted. And, there are provisions under various Ministries where regional languages are to be promoted. Regional languages means, no language is more important than other language; all Indian languages are equally important. It is just a constitutional status that 22 languages are included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India, and some others have not yet been. But, it does not mean that those languages, which are not there in the Eight Schedule, are less important. It is just a procedure.

For the benefit of this august House, I would like to mention that we have had series of discussions in the Ministry. We have met most of the delegations which have

put forward their cases of their respective languages. We have not given any kind of preference to any language over other languages. It is the endeavour of the Ministry of Home Affairs to ensure that justice must be done, but while justice is being done, we must also ensure that no complications arise in future because the subject matter is very sensitive. While we appreciate the Resolution moved by the hon. Member, Shri B.K. Hariprasad, we also take into account the suggestions made by various Members of Parliament who have participated in this discussion.

वाइस चेयरमैन साहब, मैं इस बारे में ज्यादा वक्त न लेते हुए सिर्फ इतना कहना चाहता हूं ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुखेन्दु शेखर राय):** मंत्री जी को बोलने दीजिए। दूसरे मंत्री बीच में क्यों बाधा डाल रहे हैं?

**श्री किरन रिजिजू:** सर, पार्लियामेंटरी अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर के पास अधिकार हैं।

सर, कुछ भाषाएं ऐसी हैं, जिनके बोलने वालों की संख्या बहुत कम है। कुछ-कुछ भाषाओं को बोलने वालों की संख्या बहुत ज्यादा है। फिर भी हमने उसको गम्भीरता से देखते हुए यह कभी नहीं कहा कि आपकी भाषा बोलने वाले इतने कम हैं, इसलिए आपका महत्व कम है। ऐसा सरकार ने कभी नहीं कहा। हमने सबसे बात की। जो ओरिजिनल और सबसे पुरानी डिमांड्स हैं, उनसे और जो सूची में नये-नये आये हैं, उन लोगों से भी, सबसे हम लोग मिले। मैंने खुद बहुत सारे डेलिगेशंस से वार्ता की। सबको यही कहा कि क्योंकि हमारे पास कोई सेट क्राइटीरिया नहीं है, हमारे पास कोई सेट गाइडलाइन नहीं है, बहुत से मेम्बर्स ने यह कहा कि आप गाइडलाइन क्यों नहीं बना सकते और भारत सरकार ने आज तक प्रॉपर गाइडलाइन क्यों नहीं बनाई?

महोदय, मैं यही कहना चाहता हूं कि भाषा ऐसी चीज़ है कि अगर इसके लिए मैं एक सीधा क्राइटीरिया बना दूँ, तो उस पर भी सवाल उठेगा। यह मामला ऐसा है कि इसमें हम पूरी गाइडलाइन नहीं बना सकते। जो 38 भाषाएँ हैं, उनमें से कुछ भाषाएँ ऐसी हैं, जिनकी स्क्रिप्ट है, जिनको आप लिख सकते हैं, लेकिन कुछ भाषाएँ ऐसी हैं, जिनमें स्क्रिप्ट नहीं है। आम तौर पर यह कहा जाता है कि जो dialect होती है, वह सिर्फ बोली है, उसका लिखित रूप नहीं होता है और कुछ भाषाएँ ऐसी हैं, जिनकी स्क्रिप्ट होती है। कुछ लोग कहते हैं कि जिस भाषा की स्क्रिप्ट है, उसको हम लोग language कहते हैं, भाषा कहते हैं और जिसकी स्क्रिप्ट नहीं है, जो भाषा सिर्फ बोली जाती है, उसको हम लोग dialect कहते हैं। सर, यह भी मैं नहीं कह रहा हूँ, क्योंकि अगर मैं यह कहूँगा, तो फिर यह भी controversy हो जाएगी। इसलिए dialect कौन है, language कौन है और कब करना होगा। एक मंत्रालय, एक सरकार के लिए इसको लेकर अपना एकतरफा कोई मत देना भी संभव नहीं है।

सर, काफी लोगों ने अपने sentiments व्यक्त किए। उस दिन जब चर्चा आरम्भ हुई, तो हमारे काफी senior Members of Parliament ने इस चर्चा में भाग लेते हुए अपने बहुत ही खूबसूरत experiences, अपनी knowledge और अपने ideas share किए और आज भी काफी माननीय



[श्री किरन रिजिजू]

सदस्यगण ने इस बात को सामने रखा है। हमने नोट्स तो बनाए हैं, लेकिन अगर एक-एक मेम्बर को जवाब देंगे, तो फिर चर्चा बहुत लम्बी हो जाएगी। लेकिन, सामूहिक रूप से जितने मेम्बर्स ने इस चर्चा में भाग लिया, उन सबके sentiments और भावनाओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी सरकार के आने के बाद, 2014 के बाद, हमने एक समिति — एक internal mechanism work out किया है। हमारे पास पाहवा कमेटी, महापान्ना कमेटी या उनके अलावा जो भी अनुशंसाएँ आई हैं, सजेरेंस आए हैं, उन सबको एकजुट कर हम एक तरीका निकालने का, एक रास्ता ढूँढ़ने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जैसा मैंने कहा कि क्राइटीरिया या गाइडलाइन बहुत मुश्किल चीजें हैं, लेकिन रास्ता निकालना बहुत जरूरी है और बहुत जोरों की माँग आई है कि इसका एक रास्ता निकालना चाहिए, तो वह रास्ता निकालने का हम लोग प्रयास कर रहे हैं। मुझे विश्वास है कि हम लोग जल्द से जल्द, किसी न किसी तरीके से एक रास्ता निकालेंगे कि जो 38 भाषाएँ पेंडिंग हैं, उनको हम किस तरह से और किस प्रक्रिया से आठवीं अनुसूची में ला सकते हैं।

आज जो रिजॉल्यूशन बी.के. हरिप्रसाद जी लाये हैं, अगर हम उसे उसी फॉर्म में पास करेंगे, तो इस सदन की जो भावना है, उसको हम उसमें पूरा सम्मिलित नहीं कर पाएँगे, क्योंकि इस प्राइवेट मेम्बर रिजॉल्यूशन में आपने कोडवा और तुलु भाषा का जिक्र किया है। अगर हम इस बिल को आइसोलेशन में पास करेंगे, तो फिर हम सदन की भावना की पूरी कद्र नहीं कर पाएँगे। इसलिए मैं हरिप्रसाद जी से हाथ जोड़कर निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इस सेंटिमेंट से हम सब जुड़े हुए हैं, इससे सरकार भी जुड़ी हुई है और पूरा सदन भी जुड़ा हुआ है। आपको सबने धन्यवाद भी दिया है। आपने मेहनत करके यहां पर यह बिल लाया है और इसके माध्यम से आपने इस पर विस्तृत रूप से चर्चा करने के लिए एक रास्ता दिखाया है। आपकी भावना के साथ मैं सम्मिलित हूँ और पूरा सदन भी सम्मिलित है। माननीय सदस्यों ने आपकी भावना के साथ सम्मिलित होते हुए अपनी-अपनी बातें भी रखी हैं। इन सारी बातों के लिए सरकार को कुछ समय और चाहिए। अब आप यह मत पूछिए कि आप और कितना समय लेंगे, क्योंकि पिछले कई सालों से यह चल रहा है। मैंने इन सारी चीजों को शॉर्टकट में बताने की कोशिश की है। मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार की जो कठिनाई है, जो परिस्थिति है, उसको बी.के. हरिप्रसाद जी जरूर समझेंगे।

मैं माननीय सदस्य से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आप इस बिल को विदझों कीजिए और सरकार को इस दिशा में एक नई पहल करने में सहायता कीजिए। सर, यही अनुरोध करते हुए मैं आपके माध्यम से बी.के. हरिप्रसाद जी को धन्यवाद देते हुए इस प्राइवेट मेम्बर विधेयक को विदझों करने की अपील करता हूँ।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुखेन्दु शेखर राय):** धन्यवाद, मंत्री जी। श्री बी.के. हरिप्रसाद जी।

**SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka):** Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir.

I sincerely thank all the Members. Almost ten Members spoke on this Bill to include some of the languages of this country in the Eighth Schedule. I thank our good old friend

and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Kiren Rijijuji, for assuring us about some of our languages.

While Kiren Rijiji was mentioning that he can't take decision when I brought two languages in isolation, it is not in isolation. As he has rightly mentioned, in 2014 when they had decided and they brought some order to promote, propagate Hindi in a different way, there was a lot of resentment in the Southern part of the country.

Secondly, Sir, this country is a unique country. We all know that. With three major races, Aryan, Mongolian and Dravidian, with almost eight major religions in this land, with 22 languages and with hundreds of dialects and different regions, it is one of the most beautiful and wonderful countries we are living in. Prior to 1947, it was the Princely States which were ruling the entire region. It was not known as 'Hindustan' or 'India'. The concept of India came when Mahatma Gandhi thought from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Kutch to Kohima, it was the diverse culture which he was uniting in the name of freedom struggle. That is how the entire country came together. I would not have raised this issue if the Government would not have taken the initiative in 2014. Later, one of your senior colleagues and now a former Member, Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, said that Hindi is a national language.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is still a Member.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: He is still a Member. Right. Then, when I was in Prasanna Acharyaji's State, Odisha, some of our colleagues gave me the history of the people of Sambalpur where they revolted against the Central Province while they tried to impose a language in the official managements. In Southern part of the country, there are about 25 Dravidian languages, as I said, and five major languages are Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Tulu and Kodava. They are all the major languages. Of course, the fifth language was Tulu. It is not being recognized. It is not that the State is not doing it. Mr. Ganesan was saying, it is the duty of the State that they should send the proposal. Already those proposals are there. We have already established the Tulu Academy in Karnataka to promote and protect that language and the culture. There is no politics in this. Hardly, any Member from Coorg gets elected to this House. At least, some voice should be there to represent them. I am not talking out of the way. Article 29 of the Indian Constitution deals with the protection of interest of the minorities. It states that 'any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a

[Shri B.K. Hariprasad]

distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same.' Denial of due recognition to the *Tulu* or *Kodava* languages is a violation of minority rights. Therefore, it has crushed the spirit of Article 29 of the Constitution.

Sir, as I said, the Eighth Schedule relates to Articles 344 and 351. Article 351 directly says, 'to promote, protect and propagate Hindi'. I have no problem with that. As I said even earlier, as a Congressman, I take pride in speaking Hindi. I can speak better Hindi than some of our friends here, but that does not mean that somebody can impose a language on us. Well, as per the 2001 Census, the total population that speaks Hindi is 45 per cent. According to the norms, since Hindi is a widely spoken language in the country, it is accepted as the official language, but not a national language. Way back in 2010, the Gujarat High Court, while hearing a PIL, observed that Hindi was not the country's national language. The PIL had sought the directions of the Centre and the State to make it mandatory for print details to be in Hindi. But the Court had observed, "Normally in India, majority of the people have accepted Hindi as the national language and many people speak Hindi and write in *Devnagri* script, but there is nothing on record to suggest that any provision has been made, or order issued declaring Hindi as the national language of the country. When the responsible people, who are Ministers, make a statement that Hindi is a national language, definitely the other 22 languages would also feel that they are no less national or patriotic. That is the reason I had to bring this Resolution.

Sir, talking about Karnataka, *Tulu* is spoken not just in Karnataka, but also in parts of Mumbai, parts of Chennai and parts of the Middle-East. Karnataka has got a unique feature. जैसा मैंने कहा, मुझे पहले अपनी मातृभाषा सीखनी है। मातृभाषा सीखने के बाद, मुझे राज्य-भाषा सीखनी है। राज्य-भाषा सीखने के बाद एक अधिकृत भाषा सीखनी है। इस तरह मुझे चार-पाँच भाषाएँ सीखनी पड़ती हैं। ऐसा नहीं है कि हम लोग हिन्दी के खिलाफ हैं। जब कर्णाटक में ही चार भाषाएँ हैं — we speak Kannada as the State language, we speak *Tulu*, *Kodava* and *Konkani*. Instead of imposing Hindi, they should have brought *Tulu*, *Kodava* and *Konkani*. When already there is a three language-formula, instead of Hindi they could have brought in one of our local languages. Nobody is imposing English anywhere in the country. People, on their own, are learning English. They say that if you learn Hindi, the country would develop and move forward. That is wonderful! Please compare the Hindi-speaking region with the southern region. Take the example of Chennai. Our Prime Minister used to talk about the Gujarat Model. Till now I don't understand what

the Gujarat Model is. Just go to Chennai; it is not a Congress-ruled State or any other political party's domain; it is the Dravidian parties that are ruling there. It is a real role model. You name any industry; it is there in Tamil Nadu. Whether it is electronics, automobiles, textiles, hosiery, or machine tools, you would find it there. That is what is called real development and a real role model for the country. Don't say that just because we speak Dravidian languages, we cannot develop. You may look anywhere in the world, especially in the US and Europe, and you would find that majority of the doctors and engineers are from the southern parts of our country. Majority of the people working in the Middle-East are also from the southern part of our country, especially from Kerala. They feel that this is discrimination. Recently, there was this issue in Karnataka. Hardly about four per cent of the population in Karnataka speaks Hindi, 14 per cent of the people speak Telugu, 12 per cent speak Tamil and almost nine per cent speak Urdu. There is no mention of these languages. Well, agreed. They want Hindi as a national language; fine. They want others to learn this language; fine. Tamil and Telugu also are widely spoken languages in this country. Tamil is spoken in the South East Asia, apart from Tamil Nadu. We have no problem if you just make Hindi compulsory language in the southern part of India. If boys or girls want to learn, they will learn. Make one of the Southern languages compulsory in the entire Hindi-speaking belt. We accept that; but you don't want to accept our language and you want us to learn all the languages. That is not possible. These are very sensitive issues. As Shri Kiren Rijiju has said, it has to be handled with care. For any small mistake, we may have to pay a very huge price. In the North Eastern Region, the entire population understands Bengali, but you cannot impose Bengali. Nobody imposes Bengali there. In the entire South, people know Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada but you cannot impose these languages in the North. It is a unique country with a vast diversity. Hence, issues were raised by the responsible people and they have again erupted here. Mr. Ganesan was asking what the advantage of including *Tulu* and *Kodava* in the Eighth Schedule is. There is no advantage. According to Article 351, it is the directive to the entire nation that you should propagate and learn Hindi. All kind of support is there. We don't want any support. On our own for thousands of years, we have stood strongly on the ground and in future also we will stand. But we have to protect our language, our culture. This is the major issue here because this country is not a unitary country. It is with the vast diversity that this country has born and we have to continue with this. They were talking of some of the languages. It is not that I just confine to *Tulu* or *Kodava*. There

[Shri B.K. Hariprasad]

are other languages, as my friend Shuklaji has said. Twelve crore people speak Bhojpuri. How many people speak Nepali? How many people speak Konkani? How many people speak some other languages which are in the Eighth Schedule? When compared to Bhojpuri, they are microscopic minorities. The other languages are Angika, Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Bundeli, Chhattisgarhi, Haryanvi, Hindustani, Kannauji, Magadhi, Marwari, Bhil, Gondi. If you go to Andhra Pradesh, Sir, Gondis are the real tribals. That language doesn't have the script. Gondi and Kondamama are the masters of Ayurveda. But they don't have any recognition. They, including Koyas, are nomadic in nature. It is high time that there should be some criteria. As the hon. Home Minister rightly said, currently there is objective or stated criterion to include more languages in the Eighth Schedule. The first Commission was constituted way back in 1956. Later there was a Commission on the languages but couldn't do much on this. There is no doubt that there is a demand of including almost 38 languages in the Eighth Schedule. Though Shri Sitakant Mahapatra from Odisha has submitted his Report, as Mr. Rijiju has rightly said, they are unable to take any decision on that. We should develop a list of criteria for inclusion of the languages in the Eighth Schedule to make the process transparent and devoid of politics. Regarding some of the endangered languages, I would present some statistics. According to 2001 Census, there are 1,635 mother tongues in India, not one or two. Sir, 96.56 per cent of people speak in 22 languages scheduled in Indian Constitution. Just 3.4 per cent of our countrymen speak all remaining 1,613 mother tongues. If these languages are not conserved, our linguistic diversity will vanish. The People's Linguistic Survey of India conducted by Bhasha Research and Publication Centre found that 20 languages have become extinct in Andhra Pradesh in the last 50 years. A number of tribal languages in the State, such as Konda, Dora, Kolmi, Gondi, are endangered.

Shri Ram Vichar Netam was telling that one language is good to keep the country united. I am very sorry, but while he was speaking, sub-consciously, he was saying, '*Chhattisgarhiya badiya*' If you go to any State, they will say, '*Jai Maharashtra*', '*Jai Karnataka*', '*Jai Tamil Nadu*', '*Jai Telugu*', etc. Without knowing, sub-consciously, they will speak their languages. Do you call it sub-conscious or sub-nationalism? So, don't create any further confusion. As far as these languages are concerned, these are mother tongues. I don't know. यह जो पितृ संगठन है भारतीय जनता पार्टी का, वह मानता है या नहीं

मानता है, यह मातृ भाषा है, क्योंकि यह पितृ भूमि के ऊपर भरोसा रखने वाले हैं। पितृ भूमि, पुण्य भूमि कहने वाले अब कितना भरोसा रखते हैं, यह मुझे मालूम नहीं है। जो भाषाएं हैं, जो संस्कृतियां हैं इस देश में, उसने सबको एक रखा है। भाषा लेकर हम एक नहीं हो सकते हैं? अलग-अलग भाषा है, अलग-अलग धर्म और जाति ने इस देश को एक रखा है। इसलिए मैं अनुरोध करता हूं होम मिनिस्टर साहब से कि वे पुराने कांग्रेसी भी रहे, अनुरोध इसलिए करता हूं क्योंकि वे अरुणाचल प्रदेश से हैं, उधर से उठकर होम मिनिस्टर बनकर इतनी दूर आना कोई आसान बात नहीं है। मैं इसलिए अनुरोध कर रहा हूं कि most of the languages, which are not Hindi, whether far from East or from down South, reaching Delhi will take minimum 48 hours if they come by train. For any need or if they want anything from the Government, it is a very tough job. So, their languages, their cultures should be protected.

My only appeal to Shri Kiren Rijiju is that he should clarify that Hindi is not a national language; it is an Official Language; that Hindi will not be imposed anywhere in the country without the consent, or, even with the consent also, it should not be imposed. It is for the people to choose. It is a free democratic country. The framers of our Constitution have provided an opportunity to the citizens to learn any language that they want. It is a free country. So, I only appeal that Mr. Kiren Rijiju should assure the country that no languages will be imposed on anybody for that matter, nor will they coerce any local regional languages with Hindi. This is my only appeal. With this, as he said that, in isolation, he can't take *Tulu* and *Kodava* to be included in the Eighth Schedule, I hope he will bring a new Bill to include all the 38 languages which are pending before the Government to be included in the Eighth Schedule. Of course, the Eighth Schedule has lost its relevance, but to protect and preserve the heritage and culture of these languages, the Central Government should come forward. In case he assures that, I have no problem in withdrawing this Bill.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Sir, the hon. Member, Shri B.K. Hariprasad, has made eloquent speech again in continuation to what he had initiated earlier. So, once again, I appreciate his concern. I have to make two-three clarifications, in which he has sought my indulgence.

Sir, it is very clear, which I have quoted earlier also, that promotion of language is not solely dependent on the Government efforts because all these years, the dialects and languages have emerged and survived on their own with different contributory factors. So, a language is not solely dependent on the Government for its survival. It is a question of

[Shri Kiren Rijiju]

recognition and when we talk about inclusion of certain languages to get a status, it means that it should be included in the Constitutional provisions, so that it gets a Constitutional status. So, basically it has to do with the status. Some believe that with that status, there will be larger recognition, and, thereby, it will get bigger importance in terms of spreading its language or creating its value.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*)

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the reason why I am insisting on this is not that just because it will be in the Eighth Schedule, it will be protected. In the entire South, take the money order form, you will find that it will be in English and Hindi language; go to any Bank, the challans are in English and Hindi; go to any Central Government offices in the Southern parts of the country, it is using only the two languages, Hindi and English. If you believe in three languages, the local languages like *Tamil, Kannada, Telugu* or *Malayalam*, should be there. That is my stand but I agree with your point. No law or provision in the Constitution can protect or improve the language; it is we, who have to improve it on our own but there should be no discrimination against any language for that matter. That is my demand.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Sir, I do not dispute what the hon. Member has stated. The point which I want to make is that the issue of languages is very sensitive. So, a slight mistake or misrepresentation or twisting of meaning can lead to so much of difference within the country. So, I am also very guarded in terms of my response.

Sir, in the last three years, we have seen some kinds of debate or some kinds of resentment from some corners that Hindi is being imposed or there is an effort to impose Hindi over some of the regional languages in some of the regions. I have mentioned it earlier also. The first debate, which was generated by some English news channel, was on the basis of one circular. When I took over the charge of the Department of Official Languages, I wanted to know what has been done to promote Hindi as per the Official Languages Act. So, I just issued a circular which was a repetition of the circular which was issued earlier. It is not a question of trying to impose Hindi on the regional languages. For that matter, let us be very clear that there is no one language which is the national language. No one language is the national language. Every Indian language is national language and Hindi is an official language. As per the Official Languages Act, Hindi is an

official language for the purpose of performing work in the system, but it is not a national language. If somebody has said it, he must have mis-spelt it or mis-interpreted it. I cannot comment on what somebody has said but the official position is that Hindi is an official language of this country, and, every language is a national language, *matra-bhasha*, mother tongue. Every language is a *matra-bhasha* of India. So, there is no question of discrimination.

Secondly, Sir, no inferences should be drawn from the hon. Prime Minister whose mother tongue is also not Hindi. So, it is wrong to refer to some of the cases and to say that Hindi is being imposed or there is an effort to impose Hindi over other languages, which is very wrong.

Thirdly, Sir, the promotion of the languages is not dependent only on the Central Government. There is every right and freedom on the part of the State Governments to promote the regional languages or various dialects which are spoken in that particular State or region. There is no stoppage or there is no kind of regulation from the Government of India. In fact, there are various provisions under various Ministries, through which you can promote the languages of various regions. So, there is no special effort or attempt to promote only Hindi. There are provisions for all the Indian languages. Let me give you one example. It is the mentality that we, sometimes, try to run over all other Indian languages. We must be very careful in this regard. I appreciate hon. Member's statement that he respects Hindi as well as all the other Indian languages. That should be the spirit. Now, we have no problem in learning English, or we have no problem in learning German, or Spanish and so on. But we become very sensitive when we talk about learning the language of our neighbouring States.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, just one minute. I am grateful to the hon. Minister for categorically stating that Hindi is not the national language, it is our Official Language. I am grateful for that.

So, my request to the hon. Minister is that, just as we observe *Hindi Pakhwada*, why can't we also observe Tamil, Malayalam, or Kannada *Pakhwadas*?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Why not? Why not?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Why do we insist on having only *Hindi Pakhwadas* all the time? We organise only *Hindi Pakhwadas*! By your logic, we must have Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and Bangla *Pakhwadas*. Please consider this suggestion.



SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Why not? If a State is ready to promote...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: No, no. It is the Government of India. The Government organises Hindi *Pakhwada*. Why doesn't the Government of India organise a Tamil *Pakhwada*, or a Bangla *Pakhwada*, or a Kannada *Pakhwada*?

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: I am standing here in the capacity of the Minister who is looking after the Official Language. So, whatever I said, it was in that capacity. As per the Official Language Act, Hindi is the Official Language. And I am just following the law or the Act which has been passed by this Parliament. Now, I can't direct what Tamil Nadu should do, or what Karnataka should do. It should be voluntary. Promotion of a language is a voluntary act, and we must support each other. That is why I was referring to one example. When we went to Russia — it was U.S.S.R. in 1987 — as an Indian delegation, we were trained to speak some basic Russian words and expressions. It was something like a one-month crash course. We were told that all our interpreters in Russia, or in U.S.S.R., would be speaking in Hindi. So, each group was provided one Russian interpreter. But the problem was that — I won't name the region or the college — when our students, my colleagues, etc., went there, the interpreter was speaking in Hindi whereas our Indian friends were speaking only in English. So, the Russians were facing a problem. They said that they learnt Hindi to interpret our speeches since we come from India, but the Indians were speaking only in English, and so, they were facing problems. So, whereas we are over-enthusiastic in learning foreign languages, we sometimes run down each others' language in India. That is the mentality! We can't help it. My only point is, we must show respect for all Indian languages.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, we are not running down any language. He must take those words back. Since Hindi is the Official Language, everybody speaks in Hindi. If you go to China, even they speak Hindi. In Chennai, they speak Hindi. Even if you go to Russia, or anywhere else, they speak Hindi. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Not 100 per cent.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: But, please! We are not running down any language. As I said even earlier, as a Congressman, I am proud that I speak Hindi. I speak Hindi because I am a Congressman. We believe in the three-language policy, but that doesn't mean that we are running down other languages, nor anybody has the right to impose

Hindi on our languages. As Mr. Jairam Ramesh has rightly said, you are going by Article 351, where there are clear directions that Hindi should be promoted. Fine! But there are 22 other languages too under Article 345(1), that is, in the Eighth Schedule. Those languages must also be promoted. That is the only point. There is no dispute.

SHRI LA. GANESAN: Sir, last year, our Government had organized a 'Mother Tongue *Pakhwada*. Shrimati Smriti Irani had visited Chennai. There was a Tamil *Pakhwada*. I attended that meeting. Last time, the Government had announced that. In respect of all the regional languages, there would be a *pakhwada*. This is for the information of hon. Member, Shri Jairam Ramesh. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Tamil *Pakhwada* should be observed in Delhi, not in Chennai. It should be in Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI LA. GANESAN: Hon. Member, Shrimati Smriti Irani had visited Chennai. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): These *Pakhwad*as should be organised all over India. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, as I have said already, we have no problem with Hindi being made compulsory in all the southern States. But, please, make one of the southern languages compulsory in northern India; then, this country would have no problem! ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What happened to the 'Three-Language Formula'? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: In all Central Government organizations and PSUs even in Tamil Nadu, only Hindi is being promoted. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, what about the 'Three-Language Formula'? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: If they wish to learn Hindi in the manner they like to learn Japanese and other languages, it is all right. But, it should not be made compulsory because we need our language. First, we will communicate in our language. It is the mother language. So, we don't want Hindi to come into Tamil Nadu. A very big agitation the Dravidian parties have fought against Hindi entering Tamil Nadu. We don't

[Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth]

want. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; we want the Hindi language to come as an official language because Hindi has to be an official language in the High Court; Hindi should be an official language. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hindi alone should not be an official language, we also need Tamil to be an official language in the High Court. That is what is our demand. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us not fight over language. Sit down. Shrimati Vijila, don't fight over language. You use the language which you want. Sit down. Don't fight over language. Mr. Ragesh, you want Malayalam to be an official language. What is your problem?

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा पंचायती राज मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री  
(श्री परषोत्तम रूपाला): जयराम जी, गुजराती करो ...*(व्यवधान)*... गुजराती ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI K.K. RAGESH (Kerala): I want to seek a simple clarification.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is your clarification?

SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the regional languages, including Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada etc., are being taught even in the Central schools. In Central schools, Sir, Sanskrit is being taught, but, regional languages are not at all being taught. Why does it happen? Even regional languages is not a compulsory subject. It is not at all an optional subject. It is not at all taught in the Central schools. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are also not speaking in the regional language. You are speaking in English.

SHRI K.K. RAGESH: I don't have any problem speaking in Malayalam, but, the problem is that in Kerala, I am very sure that in all the Central schools, Malayalam is not being taught. At the same time, Sanskrit is being taught. What does it mean?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sanskrit is the mother of all Indian languages.

SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Sir, this is not the language that is being used by. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is a kind of apathy towards the regional languages.

श्री परषोत्तम रूपाला: ये ...*(व्यवधान)*... नहीं मानें। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us not fight over languages. Mr. Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): While sitting on the Chair, I was patiently hearing the submissions made by the hon. Members, particularly, Shri B.K. Hariprasad, and all other hon. Members, and the reply given by the hon. Minister. What occurred to my mind is that, yes, there are differences; there are grievances; but, still, when the Minister says that there is no straight-jacket formula, and two Committees were appointed at different points of time by different Governments, and neither of the Committees would arrive at any conclusion whatsoever, in spite of that reality, possibly, the present Government, as per the Minister's reply has constituted one Committee under the Additional Secretary to relook at the recommendations of those Committees as well as the demands raised in the meantime from different quarters for inclusion of languages, possibly, 38 languages, in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. After conclusion of all these deliberations, Shri B.K. Hariprasad wanted a commitment from the Minister that his demand shall be looked into with all seriousness that it deserves. This much commitment is expected from the Minister. That is all, Sir. Thank you.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister, instead of giving a proper reply and assuaging the exact emotions, he has diverted the topic. Rather, he has provoked us. For myself, I have begun my speech in Hindi only. Let us not divert the issue. Shri B.K. Hariprasad was so pointed in his points: 'Come on! Try to use one of the southern Dravidian languages in the northern India.' Try to begin with that. You are not responding to it but you are provoking us. We learn and speak several languages. You also should speak several languages.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, you have made your point. Please sit down.

**महंत शम्भुप्रसाद जी तुंदिया** (गुजरात): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यहां पूरे सदन में सभी सदस्य अपनी-अपनी क्षेत्रीय भाषा की बात कर रहे हैं। गुजराती लोग पूरे विश्व में हैं, चाहे आप चीन में चले जाओ, रूस में कहीं आप चले जाओ, चाहे आप अमेरिका में चले जाओ, कहीं पर भी चले जाओ, आपको वहां गुजराती मिलेगा और गुजराती का परचम अलग से है। पूरे देश को भी यह मालूम है। तो आज मैं यहां माननीय मंत्री जी से, यह जो भाषाओं की चर्चा हो रही है, क्षेत्रीय भाषा के संदर्भ में जितने भी विचार किए जा रहे हैं, उसमें गुजराती का भी रहना चाहिए।

**श्री उपसभापति:** हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर भी गुजरात से हैं।

**महंत शम्भुप्रसाद जी तुंदिया:** जी, प्रधान मंत्री जी भी गुजरात से हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, सारे राष्ट्रीय सहायक जो हैं, ...**(व्यवधान)**... आदरणीय जगत चन्द मेघाणी जी, वे भी गुजरात से आए हैं। उन्होंने राष्ट्र के लिए बहुत ही काम किए हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री उपसभापति:** और क्या चाहिए? ...**(व्यवधान)**... तो Mr. Minister, I also asked a question as to what happened to the Three-Language Formula.

**सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रामदास अठावले):** उपसभापति महोदय, भाषाओं के बारे में जो चर्चा हुई, यह बहुत अच्छी बात है कि राज्य में लोकल लैंग्वेज होनी चाहिए। अगर गुजराती भाषा ऑल इंडिया में बोलते हैं, तो मराठी लोग भी सब जगह हैं, यहां दिल्ली में तीन लाख लोग हैं। इसलिए अगर साउथ इंडिया की भाषा का विचार हो रहा है, तो मराठी भाषा का भी विचार होना चाहिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am allowing everybody today. It is a very good discussion.

**डा. अनिल कुमार साहनी (बिहार):** उपसभापति महोदय, देश के हर क्षेत्र की क्षेत्रीय भाषा के संबंध में बात आई है, वहीं मैं मंत्री महोदय से मैथिली भाषा, बजिका भाषा और भोजपुरी की बात करूंगा। भोजपुरी भाषा, जो पूरे देश में प्रिय है, उसके संबंध में आपका क्या विचार है? मैथिली भाषा के संबंध में आपका क्या विचार है? और, हमारी जो बजिका भाषा है, बजिका भाषा के संबंध में भी आप अपने विचार रखिए। पूरे देश में इन भाषा के लोग जाकर मजदूरी करते हैं और इसी भाषा में अपनी बात को रखते हैं, चाहे वे मैथिली भाषा में रखते हैं, चाहे बजिका भाषा में रखते हों, चाहे भोजपुरी भाषा में रखते हों। आप इनको भी संवैधानिक रूप से दर्जा दीजिए।

**श्री उपसभापति:** ठीक है, बैठिए। What do you want to say, Mr. C.P. Narayanan? You have to speak in Malayalam then!

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN (Kerala): Sir, then you should translate what I speak! The Minister said that earlier two committees were appointed and that they had identified 38 local languages. My request to him is that you may, along with the 22 recognised languages, include these 38 which have been identified. Then, appoint a committee to identify other languages. As was pointed out by other Members, these two committees have done some work. Let us work on that. Let us recognize languages like Bhojpuri, Kodava and Tulu. If there are other languages to be included, you may work on it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Jatiyaji, what do you want to say? Why do you worry about Hindi? It is already there. It is already an Official Language. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया (मध्य प्रदेश):** माननीय उपसभापति जी, भाषाओं को हम किसी सीमा में नहीं बाँध सकते, इनको कोई राजनीतिक परिवेश नहीं दे सकते। भाषाएँ सबको जोड़ती हैं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Kerala is very beautiful.

**डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया:** मैंने मलयालम सीखी है। यानी आपका नाम क्या है?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Very good. Good Malayalam.

**डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया:** मैंने सीखी है। ऐसा भी सीखा है। परन्तु कुल मिला कर ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया:** वणक्कम तो है ही। कोई ज्यादा, न कोई कम, हम सबको करते हैं वणक्कम।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have only five minutes.

**डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया:** मेरा कहना है कि भाषाओं के कारण से हम न सदन में विभाजित हों, न देश में विभाजित हों। सबको जोड़ने वाली भाषा, जैसा मैंने कहा देवनिर्मितम्, तो देवनिर्मित संस्कृत भाषा ही हम सबको जोड़ने वाली भाषा है। इसलिए "उत्तरम् यत् समुद्रस्य हिमाद्रेः चैव दक्षिणम्। वर्षम् तद् भारतम् नाम भारतीय यत्र संततिः।" हम सब भारतीय हैं, ऐसा हमारा स्वाभिमान रहना चाहिए।

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: He should reply to what Mr. Sukhendu Sekhar Roy has said. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, what do you have to say?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, let me first respond to what you have asked about the Three Language Formula, तीन-भाषा फॉर्मूला। It is already in existence. Besides Hindi, English, all other Indian languages, there is no bar on any State to conduct its official business in its own language. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: It is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*... We learn three languages. In which North Indian State are you learning three languages?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, that is all right. He is challenging your view. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Right, Sir. That is why I referred to it earlier that you have to have interest to learn other languages and trying to impose them really does not help. It is very promotional in nature. But what we are talking about, and what B.K. Hariprasadji raised, to which I responded earlier also, it is not merely promotion of the languages which is dependent on the Constitutional recognition but it is about the prestige, it is about the identity of the particular community. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: They are all Indians.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: That is right. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The matter is very simple. Mr. Hariprasad only asked you to give an assurance that no language will be imposed. If that is so and if you adhere to that, he will withdraw the Bill.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: He has also to answer the point raised by Sukhendu Royji.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you can give that assurance, we can dispose it of now. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: That is what I was coming to. See, the promotion of the language is not the job of the Official Language Department, which is under the Home Ministry. It is under the HRD. We are talking about its recognition in the Constitution. So many Members have spoken about the promotion of their languages. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is not asking you for any of such things. He is asking you only a simple question. Mr. Minister, he is asking you only a simple question. Will the Government of India impose any language? That is all what he is asking for.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, I have responded to it and I am repeating that the imposition of Hindi over any other language...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He said 'any languages', he did not say about Hindi also. ...*(Interruptions)*... He only said, 'any language'. He did not say about Hindi also. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Secondly, I also made it very clear that Hindi is Official Language and all other Indian Languages are National Languages. So, there is no question of imposing one language over other language. There is no question about that. As for recognition in the Constitution, I have made it very clear in the beginning that even in the UPA Government in 2006, the Cabinet Note was ready, which could have been taken up. We have taken it up. I am giving this information to this august House that after 2014, we have taken a positive step forward to deal with this impending issue. That is why we have appointed an Additional Secretary rank officer having members from DoPT, HRD, Law & Justice, Information & Broadcasting and various other Ministries and relevant

**5.00 P.M.**

institutions who are looking after this particular issue. Sukhendu Dada has said that the Government must come with a concrete solution and that is what we are doing exactly to come out with a concrete solution.

Otherwise, two Committees were formed and those two Committees failed to give the objective criteria as to which are the languages to be included under the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India. That is my point, Sir, and I am very clear and the Government is considering about all the concerns of the House and I am making appeal to the hon. Member, Shri B. K. Hariprasad, who brought this particular Private Member's Bill, to withdraw it keeping in mind that I have spoken very clearly about the position of the Government.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The position is that no language will be imposed. Is it not?

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I know that I have come from a linguistic minority, very microscopic minority. Even if I insist for an amendment, the majority may not support me. So, it ends there. Having said that, the Home Minister has said that he will take all steps to see that all the languages get due recognition. He being a former Congressman, I withdraw my Bill.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: He is misleading the House and this amounts to political assassination. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: He was a Congressman twice, not once. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री किरन रिज्जु:** आज़ादी के समय में सब तो कांग्रेसी ही थे। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**श्री मोहम्मद अली खान** (आन्ध्र प्रदेश): सर, जिस बात के लिए बी.के. हरिप्रसाद साहब ने अपील की थी, मैं उस लैंग्वेज का स्वागत करता हूँ, लेकिन होम मिनिस्टर साहब से मैं एक बात जानना चाहता हूँ। इस हाउस के अंदर उन्होंने अभी यह बयान दिया कि मदर लैंग्वेज का जो सवाल है, वह रियासतों के अंदर बराबर अपनी लैंग्वेज के हिसाब से चलेगा, लेकिन मैं आपको हाल का यूपी का एक वाकया सुनाता हूँ। जब यूपी के अंदर हिन्दुस्तान के आईन के मुताबिक जब मेम्बरान-ए-असेम्बली ओथ ले रहे थे, उस समय संस्कृत में भी ओथ ली गई, हिन्दी में भी ली गई, लेकिन मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जिन दो लोगों ने उर्दू में ओथ ली थी, उनके ओथ लेने के बाद पलटाकर फिर उनको हिन्दी में ओथ दिलाई गई। यह कैसा इंसफ है? हिन्दुस्तान में जो कानून है, उस कानून को पूरे देश के अंदर एक



[ श्री मोहम्मद अली खान ]

जैसा चलना चाहिए। हम हिन्दुस्तान के अंदर मुख्तलिफ़ फूलों के बने हुए गहवारा हैं। किसी भी ज़बान का जानने वाला, हिन्दुस्तान का वह शहरी चाहे किसी भी मज़हब से ताल्लुक रखता हो, लेकिन वह हिन्दुस्तान के आईन को सामने रखकर अपने आप को हिन्दुस्तान के गहवारे के अंदर आगे बढ़ाता है। लेकिन यह अफ़सोस की बात है कि यूपी के चीफ़ मिनिस्टर साहब ने जो क़ानून की धज़्जियां उड़ाई हैं, मैं होम मिनिस्टर साहब से उनका ओपिनियन जानना चाहता हूँ कि आखिर क्या वह वजह थी, जो उर्दू में ओथ लेने वाले दो मेम्बरान की ओथ को बदलकर हिन्दी में ओथ दिलवाई गई? ...**(व्यवधान)**... डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब, जबकि ...**(व्यवधान)**... जबकि यूपी में उर्दू सैकेंड लैंग्वेज है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उर्दू के लिए यूपी में सैकेंड लैंग्वेज का ऐलान हुआ है।

† جناب محمد علی خان (آندھرا پردیش) : سر، جس بات کے لئے بی-کے۔ ہری

پرساد صاحب نے اپیل کی تھی، میں اس لینگویج کا سواگت کرتا ہوں، لیکن ہوم منسٹر صاحب سے میں ایک بات جاننا چاہتا ہوں۔ اس ہاؤس کے اندر انہوں نے ابھی یہ بیان دیا کہ مدر لینگویج کا جو سوال ہے، وہ ریاستوں کے اندر برابر اپنی لینگویج کے حساب سے چلے گا، لیکن میں آپ کو حال کا یوپی۔ کا ایک واقعہ سناتا ہوں۔ یوپی۔ کے اندر ہندوستان کے آئین کے مطابق جب ممبران اسمبلی اوتھ لے رہے تھے، اس وقت سنسکرت میں بھی اوتھ لی گئی، ہندی میں بھی لی گئی، لیکن میں پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ جن دو لوگوں نے اردو میں اوتھ لی تھی، ان کے اوتھ لینے کے بعد پلٹ کر پھر ان کو ہندی میں اوتھ دلانی گئی۔ یہ کیسا انصاف ہے؟ ہندوستان میں جو قانون ہے، اس قانون کو پورے دیش کے اندر ایک جیسا چلنا چاہئے۔ ہم ہندوستان کے اندر مختلف پھولوں کے بنے ہوئے گہوارہ ہیں۔ کسی بھی زبان کا جاننے والا، ہندوستان کا وہ شہری چاہے کسی بھی مذہب سے تعلق رکھتا ہو، لیکن وہ ہندوستان کے آئین کو سامنے رکھ کر اپنے آپ کو ہندوستان کے گہوارہ کے اندر آگے بڑھاتا ہے۔ لیکن یہ افسوس کی بات ہے کہ یوپی۔ کے چیف منسٹر صاحب نے جو قانون کی دھجیاں اڑائی ہیں، میں ہوم منسٹر صاحب سے ان کی رائے جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ آخر کیا وہ وجہ تھی، جو اردو میں اوتھ لینے والے دو ممبران کی اوتھ کو بدل کر ہندی میں اوتھ دلوانی گئی؟ ...**(مداخلت)**... ٹپٹی چیئرمین صاحب، جبکہ ...**(مداخلت)**... جبکہ یوپی۔ میں اردو سیکنڈ لینگویج ہے ...**(مداخلت)**... اردو کے لئے یوپی۔ میں سیکنڈ لینگویج کا اعلان ہوا ہے۔

SHRI KIREN RIJU: I rise to thank the hon. Member, B. K. Hariprasadji for gracefully withdrawing, listening and heeding to the appeal of the Government for withdrawing, we want all Indian languages to flourish together and make this country great. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Therefore, since Shri Hariprasad has expressed his willingness to withdraw the Bill, has he, the leave of the House, to withdraw this Bill?

*The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn.*

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**REGARDING TAKING UP GOVERNMENT BUSINESS — Contd.**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up Government Business.  
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I am prepared to sit here till midnight.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't do that. You are putting me into trouble. What do I do then?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I know, the passing of the Bill is very important. On Friday evening, when there is compulsion on many Members — you see the attendance in the House — this is the second time that the Government has brought an important Bill towards the fag-end of the week. Sir, this is not acceptable. I don't know what the compulsion is. They did it with the Enemy Property Bill. They are now doing it with the Admiralty Bill. As I said, Bills are important. We should sit here till Bills are passed. But, knowing that the attendance is poor on Friday evening and also knowing that hon. Members have to go back to their Constituencies or to their States on Friday evening, deliberately this is being done. I don't think that this is acceptable. I don't know under what rule, under what law you are permitting this.

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, in the morning meeting, senior leaders of all parties have decided that since there is time between 5.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m., Government Business can be taken up. And, the BAC has already allotted one

[Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi ]

hour. सर, हम इसे एक या आधे घंटे में डिस्कस कर के पास कर सकते हैं। यदि देर तक बैठना आवश्यक होगा, तो बैठ सकते हैं।

जयराम रमेश जी, अभी तीन-चार दिनों से हमारा हाउस चल रहा है, लेकिन हमने एक भी लैजिस्लेटिव बिल पर डिबेट नहीं की है। यह लैजिस्लेटिव बिजनेस हमारा नहीं है, सरकार का नहीं है। यह देश के गरीबों, देश के किसानों, देश के मजदूरों और देश के आम लोगों के विकास से जुड़ा हुआ है। आपको डिसाइड करना है और आपको डिस्कस करना है। अगर आप कहेंगे कि हम कोई लैजिस्लेटिव बिजनेस डिस्कस नहीं करेंगे और हम किसी मुद्दे को डिसाइड नहीं करेंगे, तो देश ने जिस काम के लिए हमें यहां भेजा है, हम उसके साथ अन्याय कर रहे हैं।

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, you yourself have said repeatedly that the House is supreme. You yourself have said that whatever leaders may decide, the House is supreme. Why don't you take the sense of the House? I am prepared to sit.

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, it is on the basis of consensus of the House. Consensus of the House does not mean consensus of one hon. Member. Consensus of the House means the consensus of the entire House.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, it is an important Bill. It is not a routine one.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Jairamji, I agree that it is an important Bill. But, it is a Bill that is necessary to pass. Now, leaders in the morning have decided that we will take up this Bill.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: And, none of the leaders are present here! None of those who have decided are present here.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is not my fault.

Second point is, time for sitting of the House is up to 6.00 p.m. One more hour is left. The Private Members' Business is over.

SHRI VEER SINGH (Uttar Pradesh): Sir,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One second. I am coming to you. One more hour is left and that is for Government Business. Therefore, we have to take it up. What is your problem, Mr. Veer Singh?

**श्री वीर सिंह:** सर, जो प्राइवेट बिल है, यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Private Members' Business is over. You make it in the next Private Members' Business Day.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, when did you pass this order?

SHRI K.K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, it is very clear that there would not be any fruitful discussion today.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, when did you pass this order that there will be Government Business on Friday? When was this order passed?

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: It was already decided.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is like this. Hon. Chairman has decided that the sitting of the House would be up to 6.00 p.m. That is applicable to Friday also. If necessary, I will issue a Bulletin and make it available to you. If you want to change it, you try to change that instead of asking me not to take up this Bill now. I am duty bound to take up this Bill, because it is the Government's time and it is Government's Business. Mr. Veer Singh, you can take up your issue in the next Private Members' Business day.

**श्री वीर सिंह:** सर, आज ही ले लिया जाए।

**श्री उपसभापति :** अब आज कैसे लिया जा सकता है। आज तो 5.00 बजे तक का समय था, वह समय समाप्त हो चुका है। मैं क्या करूँ? 5.00 बजे तक प्राइवेट मैम्बर्स बिल का समय था। वह खत्म हो चुका है। Now, we will take up the Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2017, Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, it was decided in the morning that after the Private Members' Business, only one Bill will be taken up and that is Admiralty Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes. That is it and it is Admiralty Bill. Mr. Mandaviya.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): Sir, I rise to move:

That the Bill to consolidate the laws relating to admiralty jurisdiction, legal proceedings in connection with vessels, their arrest, detention, sale and other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Is there quorum in the House, Sir? How can you pass a Bill when there is no quorum?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no. Please check the quorum and get back to me.

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सर, अभी लोग बैठे हुए थे। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

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

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: आपके भी लोग बैठे हुए थे, वे कहाँ गये? ...*(व्यवधान)*... अभी तो बैठे थे, वे कहाँ गये? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री जयराम रमेश: आप कोरम करवाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... कोरम करवाना हमारी नहीं, आपकी जिम्मेदारी है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please check the quorum and get back to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... अगर quorum नहीं है, तो quorum bell बजाइए। ...*(Interruptions)*... Quorum bell बज रही है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Yes, quorum bell is ringing. Let us see if there is quorum. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Either there is quorum, or, there is no quorum. And, when there is no quorum, the House gets adjourned. You know that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is my duty to ring the Bell. At the end of three-and-a-half minutes, I will tell whether there is quorum or not. If there is no quorum, I will adjourn the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are only 23 Members present. There is no quorum. The House is adjourned till 11.00 a.m. on Monday, the 24th July, 2017.

*The House then adjourned at fifteen minutes past  
five of the clock till eleven of the clock on  
Monday, the 24th July, 2017.*