

Vol. 243

No. 10



Friday

28 July, 2017

6 Shravana, 1939 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
RAJYA SABHA
OFFICIAL REPORT

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RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

PRICE : ₹ 100.00

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RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 28th July, 2017/6th Shravana, 1939 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

Report and Accounts (2015-16) of NCCF, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): Sir, on behalf of Shri Ramvilas Paswan, I lay on the Table:—

- 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 2040 (E), dated the 29th June, 2017, amending notification No. S.O. 371 (E), dated the 8th February, 2017 to substitute certain entries therein, under Section 55 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7156/16/17]

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

- (a) Fifty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF), New Delhi, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

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

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7303/16/17]

Notification of the Ministry of Communications

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, on behalf of Shri Manoj Sinha, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications) Notification No. G.S.R. 407 (E), dated the 26th April, 2017, publishing the Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2017, under sub-section (5) of Section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7326/16/17]

Report and Accounts of the Hassan Mangalore Rail Development Company Limited (HMRDC), Bengaluru for the years 2006-07 to 2012-13 and related papers

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

- (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) (b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:—
 - (i) (a) Fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hassan Mangalore Rail Development Company Limited (HMRDC), Bengaluru, for the year 2006-07, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.
 - (ii) (a) Fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hassan Mangalore Rail Development Company Limited (HMRDC), Bengaluru, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.
 - (iii) (a) Sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hassan Mangalore Rail Development Company Limited (HMRDC), Bengaluru, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.
 - (iv) (a) Seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Hassan Mangalore Rail Development Company Limited (HMRDC), Bengaluru, for the year 2009-10, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.
 - (v) (a) Eighth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hassan Mangalore Rail Development Company Limited (HMRDC), Bengaluru, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

(vi) (a) Ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hassan Mangalore Rail Development Company Limited (HMRDC), Bengaluru, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

(vii)(a) Tenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hassan Mangalore Rail Development Company Limited (HMRDC), Bengaluru, for the year 2012-13, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

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

[Placed in Library. for (i) to (vii) See No. L.T. 7182/16/17]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

II. Reports and Accounts (2015-16) of various Board and Federation and related papers

III. MoU between the Government of India and the National Seeds Corporation Limited

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

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare), under sub-section (2) of Section 4D of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914:-

(1) S.O. 1344 (E), dated the 28th April, 2017, publishing the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Third Amendment) Order, 2017.

(2) S.O. 1475 (E), dated the 9th May, 2017, publishing the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Fourth Amendment) Order, 2017.

(3) S.O. 2019 (E), dated the 27th June, 2017, publishing the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Fifth Amendment) Order, 2017.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7164/16/17]

II. (A) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 14 and Section 16 of the National Oilseed and Vegetable Oils Development Board Act, 1983:—

(a) Thirty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board (NOVOD), Gurgaon, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

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

(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. 7306/16/17]

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

(i) (a) Fifty-sixth Annual Report of the National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, (NCARDBF), Navi Mumbai, for the year 2015-16.

(b) Annual Accounts of the National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, (NCARDBF), Navi Mumbai, for the year 2015-16, and the Audit Report thereon.

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

(d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7162/16/17]

(ii) (a) Fifty-third Annual Report of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited (NAFSCOB), Navi Mumbai, for the year 2015-16.

(b) Annual Accounts of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited (NAFSCOB), Navi Mumbai, for the year 2015-16, and the Audit Report thereon.

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

(d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7163/16/17]

III. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) and the National Seeds Corporation (NSC) Limited, for the year 2017-18.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7161/16/17]

Statement on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the budget

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 sub-section (1) of Section 7 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Statement on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget, at the end of the Financial year 2016-17.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7236/16/17]

Notification of the Ministry of Textiles

वस्त्र मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजय टम्टा): महोदय, मैं केंद्रीय रेशम बोर्ड अधिनियम, 1948 की धारा 13ख के अधीन वस्त्र मंत्रालय की निम्नलिखित अधिसूचनाओं तथा विलंब संबंधी विवरण की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:—

(1) G.S.R. 963 (E), dated the 11th December, 2015, publishing the Central Silk Board (Administrative, Accounts and General Cadre Posts) Recruitment Rules, 2015. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7199/16/17]

(2) G.S.R. 572 (E), dated the 3rd June, 2016, publishing corrigendum to Notification No. G.S.R. 963 (E), dated the 11th December, 2015 (in English only). [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7587/16/17]

Accounts (2014-15 & 2015-16) of NIPER, Mohali and Kolkata and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): Sir, on behalf of Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, I lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 23 of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act, 1998:—

(a) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), S.A.S. Nagar, Mohali, for the year 2014-15, and the Audit Report thereon.

- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), S.A.S. Nagar, Mohali, for the year 2015-16, and the Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7175/16/17]

- (c) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Kolkata, for the year 2015-16, and the Audit Report thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7176/16/17]

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

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, on behalf of Shri C. R. Chaudhary, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (4) of Section 52 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) Notification No. G.S.R. 629 (E), dated the 23rd June, 2017, publishing the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules, 2017.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7313/16/17]

Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India

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

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 2016 - Union Government (Defence Services), Air Force, Report No. 24 of 2017.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7221/16/17]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Disbursement of Defence Pension for the year ended March, 2016 - Union Government (Defence Services), Report No. 26 of 2017 (Performance Audit).

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7222/16/17]

- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Assessment of Private Hospitals, Nursing Homes/Medical Clinics, Medical Colleges/Research Institutes, Diagnostic Centers, Pathological labs and other Medical

supplies agencies/stores for the year ended March, 2017 - Union Government (Department of Revenue-Direct Taxes), Report No. 27 of 2017 (Performance Audit). [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7223/16/17]

- (iv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Recapitalisation of Public Sector Bank for the year ended March, 2017 - Union Government-Ministry of Finance, Report No. 28 of 2017 (Performance Audit). [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7224/16/17]

MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA

The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2017

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:—

“In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2017, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th July, 2017.”

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

REPORTS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA (Gujarat): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the Twenty-first and Twenty-second Reports of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Statement by Minister. Shri Radha Mohan Singh.

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुदर्शन भगत): महोदय, मैं आपकी अनुमति से दिनांक 28.07.2017...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; it cannot be done. You should have intimated. अगर किसी दूसरे मंत्री को स्टेटमेंट देनी हो, तो उसको पहले intimation देनी होती है।

श्री सुदर्शन भगत: सर, लिखित में दी हुई है।

श्री उपसभापति: क्या intimation है?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; I have not completed. Let me complete it. Now, Statement regarding Government Business. Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi.

STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Business for the week Commencing 31st July, 2017

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): Sir, I beg to announce that the Government Business in this House for the week commencing 31st of July, 2017 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any items of Government Business carried over from today's order paper consisting of:—
 - (a) Consideration and passing of the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-third Amendment) Bill, 2017, as passed by Lok Sabha and as reported by Select Committee of Rajya Sabha.
 - (b) Consideration and passing of the National Commission for Backward Classes (Repeal) Bill, 2017 as passed by Lok Sabha. (Item No. (a) and (b) may be discussed together).
 - (c) Consideration and passing of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2017, as passed by Lok Sabha.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Lok Sabha:—
 - (a) The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2016.
 - (b) The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
 - (c) The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
 - (d) The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2016.
3. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 (No. 1 of 2017) and consideration and passing of the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2017, after it is passed by Lok Sabha - To replace an Ordinance.
4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:—
 - (a) The Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Amendment Bill, 2017 - To replace an Ordinance.
 - (b) The Central Goods and Services Tax (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir) Bill, 2017 - To replace an Ordinance.

- (c) The Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir) Bill, 2017 - To replace an Ordinance.
 - (d) The Indian Institute of Management Bill, 2017.
 - (e) The State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017.
 - (f) The Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Amendment Bill, 2017.
 - (g) The Central Road Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
 - (h) The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
 - (i) The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2017.
 - (j) The Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy Bill, 2017.
 - (k) The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2017.
5. Consideration and return of the Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2017, after it is passed by Lok Sabha.
 6. Consideration and return of the Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2017, after it is passed by Lok Sabha.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is it for this Session; or, is it for the whole year?

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, there is a lot of Business.

**REGARDING POINT OF ORDER UNDER ARTICLES 80 AND 324
OF THE CONSTITUTION**

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes; what is your point of order?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, my point of order is under Articles 80 and 324 of the Constitution. Article 80 deals with composition of the Council of States and Article 324 about the conduct of elections. The responsibility and mandate to conduct free and fair elections is vested in the Election Commission of India. And, it is expected that the elections, whether to the Legislature or Parliament, have to be held in a manner..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is the point of order?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I am coming to that. Sir, recently, the Election Commission has issued notification for conduct of biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha from the States of Gujarat and West Bengal.

Last night, one ST Congress MLA, Shri Punabhai Gamit, representing Vyara Assembly Segment, Tapi district of Gujarat, was abducted by Police. And, many MLAs are being abducted. The ruling party there,... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Has he lodged any complaint?

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): Sir, this is not a point of order. *...(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: ... is involved in this. *...(Interruptions)*... For this, its President is camping there. *...(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How can it be a point of order? *...(Interruptions)*... How can it be a point of order? *...(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the point of order is this. *...(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, this is not a point of order. *...(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, it is the Council of States. *...(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order in this. *...(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the violation of the Constitution is taking place. *...(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If they are affected, they can complain. *...(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: No, no. Sir, the election is to the Council of States, this House. *...(Interruptions)*... The Constitution is very clear about it. *...(Interruptions)*... They are in the habit of stealing MLAs which they showed in Goa and Manipur. But, now, they are stealing for the Rajya Sabha elections and using police! *...(Interruptions)*... Sir, it is the same officer who was in prison for a fake encounter. *...(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not an issue of point of order. *...(Interruptions)*...

श्री दिलीपभाई पंडया (गुजरात): कुछ नहीं हुआ है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... कांग्रेस ...**(व्यवधान)**... हमने कुछ नहीं किया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, you have to protect us. ...**(Interruptions)**... It is an issue, Sir. ...**(Interruptions)**... It is an issue. ...**(Interruptions)**... It is a violation of the Constitution. ...**(Interruptions)**... The ruling party is violating. ...**(Interruptions)**... They are abducting MLAs! ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If it is an issue, you can complain. ...**(Interruptions)**... Anand Sharma ji, if it is an issue, you can complain. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: उपसभापति जी, घर संभल नहीं रहा है, मोहल्ले में शोर ...**(व्यवधान)**... घर संभल नहीं रहा है, मोहल्ले में शोर। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: इनको शर्म नहीं आती। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: आनन्द शर्मा जी, you can complain it to the Election Commission. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: आपके पास सरकार है ...**(व्यवधान)**... चोरी करने के लिए विधायकों की ...**(व्यवधान)**... संविधान की धज्जियां उड़ाने के लिए है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: कोई चोरी नहीं है ...**(व्यवधान)**... हमसे ज्यादा लोकतंत्र में विश्वास कोई नहीं करता। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप अपना ...**(व्यवधान)**... संभालिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप लोकतंत्र की चिंता मत कीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... लोकतंत्र की चिंता हम कर लेंगे और देश की चिंता भी हम कर रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी ...**(व्यवधान)**... सरकारें जिस तरह से विपक्ष के एम.एल.एज. को प्रताड़ित कर रही हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: ये देश को और हमें इस चीज को स्पष्ट करें कि यहां पर निष्पक्ष चुनाव होंगे ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can complain to the Election Commission...
(Interruptions)...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: केंद्र की तरफ से निगरानी की जाएगी। यहां के पर्यवेक्षक जाएंगे ...**(व्यवधान)**... विधायकों को छोड़ा जाए ...**(व्यवधान)**... हमारे सारे विधायक ...**(व्यवधान)**... जिनको रात को अगवा किया गया है ...**(व्यवधान)**... पुलिस की गाड़ियों में ले जाकर ...**(व्यवधान)**... पुलिस को भेजकर ...**(व्यवधान)**... नहीं कर सकते ...**(व्यवधान)**... संविधान की धज्जियां उड़ाई जा रही हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Anand Sharma ji, now, you please listen to me. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: उपसभापति जी, धज्जियां ...(व्यवधान)... चुनाव आयोग की उड़ाई जा रही हैं ...(व्यवधान)... हम आपको विश्वास दिलाते हैं चुनाव निष्पक्ष ...(व्यवधान)... चुनाव हो रहा है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Anand Sharma ji, it is not an issue of point of order. ...(Interruptions)... You have to seek solution for this elsewhere. ...(Interruptions)... If you have a complaint, you approach the Election Commission. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: खुलेआम चोरी हो रहे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... सत्ता का दुरुपयोग हो रहा है। ...(व्यवधान)... पुलिस को इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me complete. ...(Interruptions)... Anand Sharma ji, number one, it is not an issue for point of order here. ...(Interruptions)... If you have any complaint, the solution has to be sought elsewhere. ...(Interruptions)... You can approach the Election Commission. ...(Interruptions)... Why are you raising it here? ...(Interruptions)... You can approach the Election Commission. ...(Interruptions)...

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री; तथा पंचायती राज मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री परषोत्तम रुपाला): कोई इश्यू नहीं है ...(व्यवधान)... उपसभापति जी ...(व्यवधान)... मुझे इस पर बोलना है। ...(व्यवधान)... मुझे आनन्द शर्मा जी के इश्यू पर बोलना है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: बोलिए।

श्री परषोत्तम रुपाला: उपसभापति जी, माननीय आनन्द शर्मा जी ने जो इश्यू उठाया, यह कांग्रेस पार्टी का आंतरिक मसला है। ...(व्यवधान)... इनको किसी ने कांग्रेस पार्टी में बताया है या नहीं बताया है। ...(व्यवधान)... सर, गुजरात विधान सभा का लीडर ऑफ दि अपोजिशन गुजरात विधान सभा में पार्टी छोड़ देता है, उनके विधायक पार्टी छोड़ रहे हैं, उनके विधायक राष्ट्रपति के उम्मीदवार को वोट नहीं दे रहे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... आप उनकी कम्प्लेंट यहां क्यों कर रहे हैं? ...(व्यवधान)... हमारी पार्टी को क्यों बदनाम कर रहे हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. LoP. ...(Interruptions)... I am allowing the hon. LoP. ...(Interruptions)... Please listen to the hon. LoP. ...(Interruptions)... Rupalaji, I have heard you. Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री परषोत्तम रुपाला: आपके विधायक आपके राष्ट्रपति उम्मीदवार को वोट नहीं देते। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: रुपाला जी, बैठिए। ठीक है, जो आप बोल रहे हैं, समझ गया। ...(व्यवधान)... बैठिए, बैठिए। एलओपी जी, बोलिए।

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद): माननीय मंत्री जी, आपके पास तो बहुत पर्याप्त संख्या में एम.पीज़. हैं, आप क्यों बीच में आ रहे हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

† قائد حزب اختلاف (جناب غلام نبی آزاد): مائٹے منتری جی، آپ کے پاس تو بہت پریاپت تعداد میں ایم-پی-ز ہیں، آپ کیوں بیچ میں آ رہے ہیں؟ --- (مداخلت) ---

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: आप गुजरात से मेम्बर हैं।

श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद: अच्छा, गुजरात से हैं, लेकिन गुजरात से तो ऊपर से नीचे सारी सरकार है, पूरे अफसर हैं, सी.एम.से लेकर पी.एम. तक हैं। तो इसलिए आपकी जरूरत नहीं है।

सर, यह जो मुद्दा आनन्द शर्मा जी ने उठाया, इसका डायरेक्ट संबंध इस सदन से है। अगर यह मामला इस सदन में नहीं उठेगा, तो हिन्दुस्तान में कहीं भी नहीं उठ सकता, क्योंकि राज्य सभा के इलेक्शन में, जो काउंसिल ऑफ स्टेट्स यहां है, इनको चुने हुए प्रतिनिधि, यानी एम.एल. एज. वोट देकर यहां भेजते हैं। हम जितने भी एम.पी.ज. विपक्ष से लेकर सत्ताधारी पार्टी तक हैं, नॉमिनेटेड बारह को छोड़कर बाकी सब, उन्हीं एम.एल.एज. के द्वारा चुनकर आए हैं। हम उनको यहां इस हाउस में रिप्रेजेंट करते हैं। वे हमारे वोटर्स हैं और हम स्टेट्स को रिप्रेजेंट करते हैं, हम उन एम.एल.एज. को भी रिप्रेजेंट करते हैं, जिन्होंने आपको और हमें इस सदन में चुन कर भेजा है। इसलिए यह हमारा काम है कि अगर उनके साथ अन्याय होता है, तो एज रिप्रेजेंटेटिव, representing the State and representing those MLAs also, हमें इस सदन में उनके मामले को उठाना है। ठीक है, आप कह सकते हैं, हमारे मंत्री जी ने कहा कि उनका अंदरूनी मामला है, लेकिन क्या यह अंदरूनी मामला है कि आपने तीन एम.एल.एज. को डिफेक्ट करारकर उनसे रिजाइन दिलाया? क्या और कैसे कराया, मैं इस सदन में नहीं कह सकता हूँ, आप कह सकते हैं अंदरूनी मामला, लेकिन हम और आनन्द शर्मा जी उन तीन एम.एल.एज. की बात नहीं कर रहे हैं। हालांकि उनका आप पर चार्ज लगता है, तीन एम.एल.एज. कांग्रेस से रिजाइन करते हैं, जिसमें चीफ व्हिप हैं, उसको आप टिकट देते हैं। अगर टिकट नहीं देते, तो आप पकड़े नहीं जाते। आपने उसी रिजाइन किए हुए व्यक्ति को राज्य सभा का टिकट दिया, इसका मतलब आपने डिफेक्शन कराया, नंबर एक।

सर, यहां जो मामला है, मैं उन तीन के बारे में नहीं कह रहा हूँ। यह जो आनन्द शर्मा जी ने मसला बताया, वह पुनाभाई गामित, रिजर्व कंस्टीट्यून्सी व्यारा, जिला तापी का है। कल इनके डिस्ट्रिक्ट में कांग्रेस एग्जीक्यूटिव कमेटी की मीटिंग थी। उस एग्जीक्यूटिव मीटिंग के बाद ये दूसरे एम.एल.ए. के घर चाय पर चले गए और वहां इतने में डिस्ट्रिक्ट सुपरिंटेंडेंट ऑफ पुलिस पहुंच जाते हैं। वे इस कांग्रेस के एम.एल.ए. को बोलते हैं कि देखो, तुम्हारा इस दफा कांग्रेस पार्टी ने टिकट काट दिया है और वह तुम्हें नहीं मिलेगा। अब आपका डिस्ट्रिक्ट सुपरिंटेंडेंट ऑफ पुलिस कांग्रेस के टिकटों का निर्णय लेगा कि किस कांग्रेस के एम.एल.ए. को टिकट मिलना है या नहीं मिलना है? ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह आपत्तिजनक है, जो शायद इन्होंने नहीं बताया। आपत्तिजनक यह है कि आपका डिस्ट्रिक्ट सुपरिंटेंडेंट ऑफ पुलिस कांग्रेस के एम.एल.ए. को कहेगा कि तुम्हारा टिकट नहीं है, तुम कांग्रेस छोड़ दो, मैं बीजेपी से तुम्हें टिकट दिलवाऊंगा और ऑल इंडिया प्रेसिडेंट से मिलवाऊंगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**... वह एसपी ...**(व्यवधान)**... सुनिए, ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, अगर यह गलत होगा, ...**(व्यवधान)**... तो हमें मुजरिम ठहराए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह एसपी उसको अपनी जीप में ले जाता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: اچھا، گجرات سے ہیں، لیکن گجرات سے تو اوپر سے نیچے ساری سرکار ہے، پورے افسر ہیں، سی-ایم- سے لیکر پی-ایم- تک ہیں۔ تو اس لئے آپ کی ضرورت نہیں ہے۔

سر، یہ جو مدعا آند شرمہ جی نے اٹھایا، اس کا ڈائریکٹ سمبندھہ اس سدن سے ہے۔ اگر یہ معاملہ اس سدن میں نہیں اٹھے گا، تو ہندوستان میں کہیں بھی نہیں اٹھ سکتا، کیوں کہ راجیہ سبھا کے الیکشن میں، جو کاؤنسل آف اسٹیٹس یہاں ہے، ان کو چنے ہوئے پرتندھی، یعنی ایم-ایل-ایز- ووٹ دے کر یہاں بھیجتے ہیں۔ ہم جتنے بھی ایم-پیز- وپکش سے لے کر ستہ دھاری پارٹی تک ہیں، نومینڈ بارہ کو چھوڑ کر باقی سب، انہیں ایم-ایل-ایز- کے ذریعے چن کر آئے ہیں۔ ہم ان کو یہاں اس ہاؤس میں رپریزینٹ کرتے ہیں۔ وہ ہمارے ووٹرس ہیں اور ہم اسٹیٹس کو رپریزینٹ کرتے ہیں، ہم ان ایم-ایل-ایز- کو بھی رپریزینٹ کرتے ہیں، جنہوں نے آپ کو اور ہمیں اس سدن میں چن کر بھیجا ہے۔ اس لئے یہ ہمارا کام ہے کہ اگر ان کے ساتھ انیانے ہوتا ہے، تو یہ ہمارا ایز رپریزینٹیٹو، representing the State and representing those MLAs also, میں اس سدن میں ان کے معاملے کو اٹھانا ہے۔ ٹھیک ہے، آپ کہہ سکتے ہیں، ہمارے منتری جی نے کہا کہ ان کا اندرونی معاملہ ہے، لیکن کیا یہ اندرونی معاملہ ہے کہ آپ نے تین ایم-ایل-ایز- کو ڈفیکٹ کراکر ان سے ریزائن دلایا؟ کیا اور کیسے کرایا، میں اس سدن میں نہیں کہہ سکتا ہوں، آپ یہ کہہ سکتے ہیں اندرونی معاملہ، لیکن ہم اور آند شرمہ جی نے ان تین ایم-ایل-ایز- کی بات نہیں کر رہے ہیں۔ حالانکہ ان کا آپ پر چارج لگتا ہے، تین ایم-ایل-ایز- کانگریس سے ریزائن کرتے ہیں، جس میں چیف وپ ہیں، ان کو آپ ٹکٹ دیتے ہیں۔ اگر ٹکٹ نہیں دیتے، تو آپ پکڑے نہیں جاتے۔ آپ نے اسی ریزائن کئے ہونے آدمی کو راجیہ سبھا کا ٹکٹ دیا، اس کا مطلب آپ نے ڈفیکشن کرایا، نمبر ایک۔

سر، یہاں جو معاملہ ہے، میں ان تین کے بارے میں نہیں کہہ رہا ہوں۔ یہ جو آند شرمہ جی نے مسئلہ بتایا، وہ پونا بھائی گامت، رزرو کانسٹی ٹیونس وپارا ضلع تاپی کا ہے۔ کل ان کے ڈسٹرکٹس میں کانگریس ایگزیکٹیو کمیٹی کی میٹنگ تھی۔ اس ایگزیکٹیو میٹنگ کے بعد یہ دوسرے ایم-ایل-ایز- کے گھر چائے پر چلے گئے اور وہاں اتنے میں ڈسٹرکٹ سپریٹینڈینٹ آف پولیس پہنچ جاتے ہیں۔ وہ اس کانگریس کے ایم-ایل-ایز- کو بولتے ہیں کہ دیکھو، تمہارا اس دفعہ کانگریس پارٹی نے ٹکٹ کاٹ دیا ہے۔ اور وہ تمہیں نہیں ملے گا۔ اب آپ کا ڈسٹرکٹ سپریٹینڈینٹ آف پولیس کانگریس کے ٹکٹوں کا فیصلہ لے گا کہ کس کانگریس کے

ایم۔ایل۔اے۔ کو ٹکٹ ملنا ہے یا نہیں ملنا ہے؟۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔ یہ آپ تُو جنک ہے، جو شاید انہوں نے نہیں بتایا۔ آپ تُو جنک یہ ہے کہ آپ کا ڈسٹرکٹ سپریٹینڈنٹ آف پولیس کانگریس کے ایم۔ایل۔اے۔ کو کہے گا کہ تمہارا ٹکٹ نہیں ہے، تم کانگریس چھوڑ دو، میں بی۔جے۔پی۔ سے تمہیں ٹکٹ دلو اونگا اور آل انڈیا پریزیڈنٹ سے ملو اونگا۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔ وہ ایس پی۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔ سنئیے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔ سر، اگر یہ غلط ہوگا،۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔ تو ہمیں مجرم ٹھہرائیے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔ یہ ایس پی اس کو اپنی جیب میں لے جاتا ہے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, this is a serious allegation by the Leader of the Opposition....(Interruptions).. Sir, this is not acceptable. ..(Interruptions).. This type of allegation is not acceptable. ...(Interruptions)..

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: यह एसपी उसको अपनी जीप में ले जाता है, ... (व्यवधान)... जबरदस्ती बीजेपी के लीडर से मिलने के लिए ... (व्यवधान)...

†جناب غلام نبی ازاد: یہ ایس پی اس کو اپنی جیب میں لے جاتا ہے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔ زبردستی بی جے پی کے لیڈر سے ملنے کے لیے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: सर, इनसे अपना घर सँभल नहीं रहा है, ये मुहल्ले में शोर मचा रहे हैं। ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: रास्ते में वह कहता है कि मुझे कपड़े ले लेने दो, ... (व्यवधान)... एक दिन के लिए दिल्ली पहुँचने के लिए, तो वह वहाँ से भाग जाता है। ... (व्यवधान)...

†جناب غلام نبی ازاد: راستے میں وہ کہتا ہے کہ مجھے کپڑے لینے دو۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔ ایک دن کے لیے دہلی پہنچنے کے لیے، تو وہ وہاں سے بھاگ جاتا ہے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: सर, चुनाव आयोग चुनाव की निगरानी करता है। ... (व्यवधान)... चुनाव आयोग की निगरानी में चुनाव हो रहा है। ... (व्यवधान)... इसमें आपको चिंता करने की कोई जरूरत नहीं है। ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: वह एसपी कौन है? ... (व्यवधान)... जो fake encounter में जेल में रहा है। ... (व्यवधान)...

†جناب غلام نبی ازاد: وہ ایس پی کون ہے؟۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔ جو فیک اینکاؤنٹر میں جیل میں رہا ہے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: आप पहले अपने घर को सँभालिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: उसको जेल से बाहर किया गया ...**(व्यवधान)**... उसको बाहर किया गया ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह चोरी का काम करने के लिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

†جناب غلام نبی ازاد: اس کو جیل سے باہر کیا گیا ---**(مداخلت)**--- اس کو باہر کیا گیا---**(مداخلت)**--- یہ چوری کا کام کرنے کے لیے---**(مداخلت)**---

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: आप अपने घर को सँभालिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आपसे अपना घर सँभल नहीं रहा है और आप यहां पर शोर मचा रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद:* ...**(व्यवधान)**... यहां इस तरह से राज्य सभा एमपी चुनने के लिए ...**(व्यवधान)**... चोरियां करते हैं, ...**(व्यवधान)**... डाका डालते हैं, पुलिस को इस्तेमाल करते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... जो fake encounter पुलिस वाले करते हैं, जेल में ...**(व्यवधान)**... और जेल से निकल कर, जो बेल पर निकला है, उससे आप कांग्रेस के एमएलएज़ को उठवाते हैं और इस तरह से artificial number जोड़ कर आप इस सदन में आना चाहते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... शर्म आनी चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

†جناب غلام نبی ازاد:* ---**(مداخلت)**--- یہاں اس طرح سے راجیہ سبھا ایم پی چننے کے لیے ---**(مداخلت)**--- چوریاں کرتے ہیں---**(مداخلت)**--- ڈاکہ ڈالتے ہیں، پولیس کو استعمال کرتے ہیں---**(مداخلت)**--- جو فیک ایکاؤنٹر پولیس والے کرتے ہیں، جیل میں---**(مداخلت)**--- اور جیل سے نکل کر، جو بیل پر نکلا ہے، اس سے آپ کانگریس کے ایم ایل ایز کو اٹھواتے ہیں اور اس طرح سے آرٹیفیشیل نمبر جوڑ کر آپ اس سदन میں آنا چاہتے ہیں---**(مداخلت)**--- شرم انی چاہیئے---**(مداخلت)**---

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But the Chair cannot do anything. ..**(Interruptions)**.. You have to.....**(Interruptions)**..

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: यह सदन vacancy notify करता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह राज्य सभा के चुनाव का प्रश्न है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is up to.....**(Interruptions)**.. The Chair cannot do anything.

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: वहां की पुलिस का, वहां के प्रशासन का ...**(व्यवधान)**... दुरुपयोग हो रहा है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... केंद्र की सरकार राज्यों की सरकारों से ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Before that, you can lay the statement. ...**(Interruptions)**.. Hon. Minister, you can lay the statement. You can do that.

† Transliteration in Urdu script.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirty-sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demand for Grants (2017-18)**

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुदर्शन भगत): महोदय, मैं कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय, कृषि अनुसंधान और शिक्षा विभाग की अनुदान मांगों (2017-18) के सम्बन्ध में विभाग सम्बन्धित कृषि सम्बन्धी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के छत्तीसवें प्रतिवेदन में अंतर्विष्ट सिफारिशों के कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति के सम्बन्ध में एक वक्तव्य सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

REGARDING POINT OF ORDER UNDER ARTICLE 80 AND 324 OF THE CONSTITUTION — Contd.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order, Mr. Naqvi? ...*(Interruptions)*.. There is a point of order by Mr. Naqvi. ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, my point of order is...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Listen to the point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Listen to the point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*..

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: सर, जिस मुद्दे पर ये discussion चाहते हैं, ...*(व्यवधान)*... वह मुद्दा यह है कि चुनाव आयोग की निगरानी में चुनाव हो रहा है। वहां पर जो चुनाव होता है, चुनाव आयोग उसकी निगरानी करता है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... चुनाव आयोग वहां observer बैठाता है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... निष्पक्ष और भयमुक्त, free and fair माहौल में चुनाव हो, इसकी responsibility चुनाव आयोग की रहती है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... पूरी तरह से, न केवल गुजरात में, जहां पर भी राज्य सभा, लोक सभा या विधान सभा के चुनाव होते हैं, ...*(व्यवधान)*... चुनाव आयोग अपनी निगरानी में निष्पक्ष और भयमुक्त माहौल में चुनाव कराता है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... अगर वहां पर इनको चुनाव में किसी तरह की कोई शिकायत है, तो यहां पर राज्य सभा में नहीं, बल्कि चुनाव आयोग में जाकर, जैसा आपने कहा, ये अपनी शिकायत दर्ज करा सकते हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... दिक्कत यह नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... दिक्कत यह है कि इनसे अपना घर सँभल नहीं रहा है, ये मुहल्ले में शोर मचा रहे हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... ये सदन के समय को बर्बाद कर रहे हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... इसलिए इनको हमारी विनम्र सलाह यह है कि ये अपने घर को सँभालें, ...*(व्यवधान)*... अपने घर को ठीक करें। ...*(व्यवधान)*... मुहल्ले में शोर मचाने या सदन की कार्यवाही को बाधित करने से इनको कोई भी फायदा नहीं होगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... Listen to me, Boraji. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me have my say. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. LoP, you said something; I have to react on that. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have to react on what you said. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have to react on what you said. ...*(Interruptions)*... You said something, I have to react on that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir as the Deputy Chairman, you have to protect the Constitution.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is what I am saying.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: You have to protect the interests of the Council of States, the Members of States Assemblies? So, their voters are being hijacked. Their voters are being kidnapped by no less than a representative of the Central Government. ...*(Interruptions)*... Where do we go? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Ghulam Nabiji, now, let me say...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: If the Central Government. ...*(Interruptions)*... Where do we go? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: His allegation is related to the Election Commission. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Election Commission is a Constitutional authority.....*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please listen to me. Ghulam Nabiji, I have to say only one thing. Let me say. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad raised a point. I listened to it very carefully. But I am sorry to say that the Chair has nothing to do with the election. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me say. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me complete. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me complete. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me complete. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, you can direct the Election Commission to take action against the State. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me complete. ...*(Interruptions)*... Allow me to complete. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Let that ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You don't allow me to complete. ...*(Interruptions)*.. You don't allow me to complete. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am only saying, if what has been alleged by Ghulam Nabiji has happened, there is solution elsewhere. You can approach the Police. ...*(Interruptions)*... You can approach the Election Commission and seek remedy. ...*(Interruptions)*... Here, it cannot be ... *(Interruptions)*... No, I have no remedy for this. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have no remedy. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have no remedy with me. ...*(Interruptions)*... Have I got any remedy, you tell, Mr. Derek O'Brien? ...*(Interruptions)*... What is the use of shouting slogans? ...*(Interruptions)*... You are obstructing the time of Zero Hour; the time of those who have given Zero

Hour submissions. ...(Interruptions)... A number of Members have given Zero Hour submissions. ...(Interruptions)... What do I do? ...(Interruptions)...

श्री गोपाल नारायण सिंह (बिहार): उपसभापति महोदय, जो लोग ये कह रहे हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What do you want? ...(Interruptions)...What do you want? ...(Interruptions)... The House is adjourned for ten minutes. ...(Interruptions)...

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

The House reassembled at thirty-two minutes past eleven of the clock.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the issue that we have raised has serious implications for Indian democracy.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What can I do? ...(Interruptions)...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: अगर Council of States का चुनाव निष्पक्ष नहीं होगा, अगर शासन तंत्र में पुलिस के दुरुपयोग से विधायकों को अगवा किया जाएगा, उन्हें धमकाया जाएगा, उन्हें दूसरी पार्टी के अध्यक्ष के पास ले जाया जाएगा, जो खुद उम्मीदवार हैं, कि आपको कहां वोट देना है, क्या करना है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: यदि ऐसा है, तो मैं क्या करूँ? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: सर, अगर राज्य सभा वैकेंसी नोटिफाई करती है, ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: यह इलेक्शन कमीशन की जिम्मेदारी है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: सर, इलेक्शन कमीशन को चेयर की तरफ से डायरेक्शन दी जाए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: आप उधर जाकर शिकायत दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... यदि आपको इलेक्शन कमीशन से कोई शिकायत है, तो आप अपनी शिकायत वहां जाकर दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... You may go and make a complaint to the Election Commission. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: It is against the Constitution of our Republic. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री उपसभापति: इसमें मैं क्या कर सकता हूँ? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: आप संविधान की रक्षा कर सकते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: सर, as Deputy Chairman, आप यह कर सकते हैं कि Election Commission को आप यहां से direction दे सकते हैं to ensure fair and free elections. Misuse of any Government agency should be curbed and it must be ensured that such officers are removed from service. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: उपसभापति जी, ऐसा नहीं हो सकता है। यदि इस प्रकार से होगा, तो कल को ये कहेंगे कि यहां से सुप्रीम कोर्ट को डायरेक्शन दो या यहां से हाई कोर्ट को डायरेक्शन दो। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: All officers who are involved in kidnapping the MLA must be removed from service. ...**(Interruptions)**... In future, no Government officer would do this if one or two officers are removed from service. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Sir, they should be suspended immediately. Action should be taken. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, ...**(Interruptions)**... Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, I want to make it clear that the Election Commission does not require a direction from the Chair to conduct elections in a fair manner. The Election Commission is bound to conduct elections constitutionally and they are doing that. ...**(Interruptions)**... If you have a complaint, you may approach the Election Commission. I need not interfere in the matter. ...**(Interruptions)**... The Chair need not interfere in the matter. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, when some organization does not do its duty... ...**(Interruptions)**....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Chair need not interfere in the matter. I am going into Zero Hour now. Shri Pramod Tiwari. ...**(Interruptions)**... Zero Hour. ...**(Interruptions)**... Shri Pramod Tiwari. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सर, कल को ये कहेंगे कि यह चेयर सुप्रीम कोर्ट को डायरेक्शन दे। ...**(व्यवधान)**... क्योंकि इनके कई लोग भ्रष्टाचार में फँस गये हैं, तो सुप्रीम कोर्ट को डायरेक्शन दे कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट उनको मुक्त करे, फ्री करे। ...**(व्यवधान)**... ये कहेंगे कि इलेक्शन कमीशन को डायरेक्शन दे कि हम चुनाव हार गये हैं, इसलिए चुनाव आयोग हमको जिता दे। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, यह क्या हो रहा है? ...**(व्यवधान)**... मतलब हार की हताशा में ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Zero Hour. ...**(Interruptions)**... Shri Pramod Tiwari. ...**(Interruptions)**... Your own Members have Zero Hour notices. ...**(Interruptions)**... Your own Members have Zero Hour notices. ...**(Interruptions)**... Why do you block that? ...**(Interruptions)**... आप लोग सुनिए, your own Members have Zero Hour notices. ...**(Interruptions)**... Please listen, that is enough. ...**(Interruptions)**... You have raised the matter. ...**(Interruptions)**... Now, you go back to your seats. ...**(Interruptions)**... Let me take up the Zero Hour notices. ...**(Interruptions)**... Many Members have given Zero Hour notices. ...**(Interruptions)**... I am to protect their interests also. ...**(Interruptions)**...

Why do you say, 'No'? ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Derek O'Brien, your Zero Hour notice is also here. ...(Interruptions)... Your Zero Hour notice is here. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): There is so much noise...(Interruption)... is there. ...(Interruptions)... What Zero Hour? ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please go back now. ...(Interruptions)... Now, you have lodged your protest. ...(Interruptions)... Now, you go back. ...(Interruptions)... Let me take up the Zero Hour notices. ...(Interruptions)... Very bad! ...(Interruptions)... The House is adjourned up to 12:00 hours.

The House then adjourned at thirty-nine minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House re-assembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*

Regarding elections to the council of States

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 136 ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): चेयरमैन सर, सदन के सामने संवैधानिक संकट खड़ा हो गया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 136 by Shri Raj Babbar ...(Interruptions)... We have had enough discussion on this. ...(Interruptions)... Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Please allow Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)... कृपया बैठ जाइए! ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, the Constitution has to be ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... कृपया आप लोग भी बैठ जाइए! ...(व्यवधान)... Please sit down, everyone. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: We represent the States. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Please allow the Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Vacancies in the Council of States are notified by the Chairman...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot be heard like this. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, it is a very serious issue. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned for fifteen minutes.

The House then adjourned at two minutes past twelve of the clock,

The House re-assembled at seventeen minutes past twelve of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 136. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let us proceed.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, we have a larger question. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is a Constitutional matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 136. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Question Hour is being... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let Question No. 136 be... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, a statement is laid on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, we have a Government, which is subverting... ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, it is disrespecting the... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, a statement is laid on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has the questioner asked? ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Raj Babbar has not asked. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I just want to make a point. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, elections to the Council of States ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Look, in this... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I just want to raise a point. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, things like abduction by police officers of MLAs etc., on the eve of... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not on the agenda of Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not on the... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: This is wrong, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. This is Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let us deal with questions. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: I am only requesting you, as the Chairman, to direct the Government to look into the matter. ...*(Interruptions)*...

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री; तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी): महोदय, Election Commission वहाँ free and fair election करा रहा है। ...*(व्यवधान)*..

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Deputy Chairman has already said that matters relating to elections will be dealt with through the designated agency. Let us leave it at that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, democracy... ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, democracy... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us get on with our work. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: We are a temple of democracy, according to our Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: आप क्या कर रहे हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*... इससे क्या फायदा? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: If this is the temple of democracy, how can we not discuss this sort of a thing? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, they have enough Members to get their leaders elected. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, they want to get ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: We know that this is the temple of democracy but don't describe it as... ...*(Interruptions)*...

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री; तथा पंचायती राज मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री परषोत्तम रुपाला): इनसे अपना घर ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rupala ji, आप बैठ जाइए, प्लीज़। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: It is misuse of... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute. ...*(Interruptions)*... One minute, gentlemen. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री परषोत्तम रुपाला: इनसे अपना घर तो संभल नहीं रहा है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

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

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Uploading and sharing of objectionable videos**

*136. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that objectionable videos are being uploaded through mobile phones and shared through WhatsApp, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has any plan to stop sharing of objectionable videos through mobiles and WhatsApp; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or being taken to stop such objectionable content?

THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Instances of objectionable videos being uploaded through mobile phones and shared through WhatsApp have been noticed. According to WhatsApp, the messages are end- to-end encrypted and they and any third party can not read them. In other words, the messages are only seen by the sender and the receiver.

WhatsApp provides a feature to report any objectionable content. However, they also admit that since they do not have the contents of the messages available with them, it limits their ability to take action. A user can take screenshot of the content and share it with appropriate law enforcement authorities.

(b) and (c) The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 as amended in 2008, provides for punishment for publishing or transmitting objectionable contents. The Act provides for punishment through following provisions:

- **Section 66E:** Punishment for violation of privacy.
- **Section 67:** Punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form.
- **Section 67A:** Punishment for publishing or transmitting of material containing sexually explicit act, etc., in electronic form.
- **Section 67B:** Punishment for publishing or transmitting of material depicting children in sexually explicit act, etc. in electronic form.

In addition, several domain related Acts have provision which restrict/prohibit publication of objectionable contents in electronic form. These, *inter alia*, include:

- Indian Penal Code 1860.
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

- The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.

Concerned law enforcement agencies take necessary action for violation noticed or reported as per the law.

Vacancies of Judges

*137. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts of Judges of High Courts which are lying vacant in the country, the details thereof along with the steps taken to fill up the same;

(b) the process of appointing Judges of High Courts;

(c) whether the reservation policy is applicable in the appointment of Judges of High Courts and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to reserve 33 per cent posts of Judges of High Courts and the Supreme Court for SC, ST and OBC, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
(a) to (d) The details of the Approved strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in various High Courts as on 24 July, 2017 are given in the Statement (See below). As on 24.7.2017, there are 406 posts of High Court Judges lying vacant.

As per the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment and transfer of Chief Justices and Judges of High Courts, the proposal for initiation of filling up of vacancies in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of concerned High Court. However, if the Chief Minister desires to recommend the name of any person, he should forward the same to the Chief Justice of the High Court for his consideration. The Governor as advised by the Chief Minister forwards his recommendation along with the entire set of papers to the Union Minister for Law and Justice. The Union Minister of Law and Justice considers the recommendations in the light of such other reports as may be available to the Government in respect of the names under consideration. The complete material is then forwarded to the Chief Justice of India for his advice, who forms his opinion in consultation with the two Senior most Judges of the Supreme Court along with the views of Consultee Judges. The Supreme Court Collegium sends its recommendations to the Union Minister of Law and Justice who then seeks the approval of the Constitutional Authorities at the Centre.

Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous and collaborative process, between the Judiciary and Executive. It requires consultation and approval

from various Constitutional Authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and increase in Judge Strength from 906 in 30.06.2014 to 1079 as on today.

Due to the combined efforts of Executive and Judiciary, 126 fresh appointment of Judges were made in the High Court which is the highest ever in a given year. During the current year (as on 24 July 2017), 75 fresh appointment of Judges have been made in the High Courts.

Appointment of Judges of the High Courts is made under Article 217 of the Constitution of India. This Article does not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, no caste or class-wise data of Judges is maintained. There is no proposal to reserve 33% posts of Supreme Court and High Court Judges for SC/ST/OBC categories. The Government has, however been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and women.

Statement

*The details of the Approved strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of
Judges in the High Courts*

(As on 24.07.2017)

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Approved Strength			Working Strength			Vacancies as per Approved Strength		
		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	9	60	69
2.	Telangana and Andhra Pradesh	46	15	61	27	0	27	19	15	34
3.	Bombay	71	23	94	54	20	74	17	3	20
4.	Calcutta	54	18	72	32	1	33	22	17	39
5.	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	7	5	12	10	0	10
6.	Delhi	45	15	60	38	0	38	7	15	22
7.	Gauhati	18	6	24	7	12	19	11	-6	5
8.	Gujarat	39	13	52	25	6	31	14	7	21
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10	3	13	6	2	8	4	1	5
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	13	4	17	12	0	12	1	4	5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11.	Jharkhand	19	6	25	8	6	14	11	0	11
12.	Karnataka	47	15	62	20	8	28	27	7	34
13.	Kerala	35	12	47	31	5	36	4	7	11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	17	18	35	23	-5	18
15.	Madras	56	19	75	45	9	54	11	10	21
16.	Manipur	4	1	5	2	0	2	2	1	3
17.	Meghalaya	3	1	4	3	0	3	0	1	1
18.	Odisha	20	7	27	18	0	18	2	7	9
19.	Patna	40	13	53	23	12	35	17	1	18
20.	Punjab and Haryana	64	21	85	41	10	51	23	11	34
21.	Rajasthan	38	12	50	21	16	37	17	-4	13
22.	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23.	Tripura	4	0	4	2	0	2	2	0	2
24.	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	9	1	10	0	1	1
TOTAL		771	308	1079	518	155	673	253	153	406

Departmental inquiry in contract for National Internet Backbone

*138. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answers to Starred Question 107 and Unstarred Question 3424 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th November, 2016 and 16th December, 2016, respectively and state:

(a) whether Government has completed the departmental inquiry, which was to be completed by December, 2016, into the ₹ 300 crore scam in BSNL in award of contract for expansion of National Internet Backbone and in annual maintenance contract along with purchase of new hardware;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with details of action taken against the erring companies and officials till 10th July, 2017;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay;

(d) whether Government has fixed responsibility in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (e) Reports obtained from BSNL have been referred to Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for advice. The advice of CVC is awaited.

Closure of Dhanbad-Chandrapur rail line route

†*139. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dhanbad-Chandrapur rail line has been closed in view of the underground fire, and the operation of some other trains has also been discontinued;

(b) if so, whether Government would make an alternative rail route for the convenience of the passengers travelling along all of the above rail lines;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir. The section between Dhanbad-Chandrapura of Dhanbad Division of East Central Railway had been closed *w.e.f.* 15.06.2017 as per advise of Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India. DGMS had concluded that for the area falling under 7 mines affected by fire, the stability of ground beneath Dhanbad-Chandrapura Railway track can not be guaranteed and therefore, in the interest of the safety to human life, the movement of trains on Dhanbad-Chandrapura Railway Line is to be stopped. The line therefore had been closed considering the safety implications.

Accordingly, Railways have been forced to divert or cancel trains running on Dhanbad-Chandrapura section. Thus, 06 pairs of Passenger trains and 20 pairs of Mail/Express trains (7 Daily, 1 Six days a week, 4 Tri-weekly, 2 Bi-weekly and 6 weekly) got affected due to decision taken to close the movement of all Mail/Express and Passenger trains on Dhanbad-Chandrapura section. Ways and means were found to move 7 pairs of Daily trains and 1 pair Six days a week train (4 *via* Dhanbad-Gomoh-Chandrapura and 4 *via* Asansol-Joychandipahar-Bhojudih-Talgoria-Bokaro). These movements were implemented *via* diverted routes.

The matter was subsequently reconsidered in consultation with DGMS. DGMS certified that ground beneath Dhanbad-Kusunda, Phularitand-Jamunia-Chandrapura and Katrasgarh-Nichitpur Link Line is stable. Railway Board accordingly permitted operation of Passenger and Goods traffic on Dhanbad-Kusunda and Phularitand-

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Jamunia-Chandrapura sections and Goods traffic on Katrasgarh-Nichitpur Link Line which have been certified stable and safe by DGMS.

In the meantime, Railways received representations for starting additional trains which stood cancelled. In response to these representations, Railways have again rationalized the movements and have decided to restore certain trains *via* diverted routes numbering 5 pairs of Mail/Express and 1 pair of Passenger train. In view of congestion due to Engine reversal at Gomoh and Asansol as well as line capacity issues, these 5 services were accommodated by reducing frequency of 12019/12020 Howrah-Ranchi Shatabdi Express by One day, Short termination/Short origination of 12831/12832 Dhanbad-Bhubaneswar-Dhanbad at Bokaro Steel City and extension of 58013/58014 Howrah-Bokaro Steel city passenger upto Ranchi.

The list of cancelled/partially cancelled or diverted trains *via* alternative routes is as under:-

Cancellation of Trains due to closure of Dhanbad-Chandrapura Section

Sl. No.	Train No.	From—To	Name	Date of Cancellation
1.	18605/06	Ranchi-Jaynagar-Ranchi	Express	13.06.17/14.06.17
2.	18627/28	Howrah-Ranchi-Howrah	Intercity	18.06.17
3.	18603/04	Ranchi-Bhagalpur-Ranchi	Express	13.06.17/14.06.17
4.	17007/08	Secunderabad-Dharbhanga-Secunderabad	Express	13.06.17/16.06.17
5.	18629/30	Ranchi-New Jalpaiguri-Ranchi	Express	15.06.17/16.06.17
6.	17005/06	Hyderabad-Raxaul-Hyderabad	Express	15.06.17/18.06.17
7.	13025/26	Howrah-Bhopal-Howrah	Express	17.06.17/19.06.17
8.	53341/42	Dhanbad-Muri-Dhanbad	Passenger	14.06.17/15.06.17
9.	68079/80	Bhjudih-Chandrapura-Bhjudih	MEMU	15.06.17
10.	53335/36	Dhanbad-Ranchi-Dhanbad	Passenger	14.06.17/15.06.17
11.	53339/40	Chandrapura-Dhanbad-Chandrapura	Passenger	15.06.17
12.	68019/20	Jhargram-Dhanbad-Jhargram	MEMU	15.06.17

Restoration and Diversion of Trains due to closure of Dhanbad-Chandrapura Section

Sl. No.	Train No.	From — To	Train Name	Diverted Route	Date of Restoration
1.	12019/20	Howrah-Ranchi-Howrah	Shatabdi Exp.	Frequency reduction (Monday-Friday)	15.06.17
2.	11447/48	Jabalpur-Howrah-Jabalpur	Shaktipunj Exp.	Dhanbad Gomoh-Chandrapura	14.06.17/ 15.06.17
3.	15028/27	Gorakhpur-Hatia-Gorakhpur	Mourya Exp.		14.06.17/ 15.06.17
4.	13351/52	Dhanbad-Alleppey-Dhanbad	Express		15.06.17/ 13.06.17
5.	18622/21	Hatia-Patna-Hatia	Pataliputra Exp.	Chittaranjan Asansol	14.06.17
6.	18619/20	Ranchi-Dumka-Ranchi	Express	Joychandipahar-Bhojudih	14.06.17
7.	13303/04	Dhanbad-Ranchi-Dhanbad	Intercity Exp.	Bhojudih-Talgoria-	15.06.17
8.	13404/03	Bhagalpur-Ranchi-Bhagalpur	Vananchal Exp.	Bhoudih-Talgaria-Mahuda-Jamunia Tanr	14.06.17
9.	15662/61	Kamakhya-Ranchi-Kamakhya	Express	will run only one day via Asansol-Joychandipahar-Bhojudih-Jamunia Tanr-Chandrapura-Ranchi	29.07.17
10.	13425/26	Malda Town-Surat-Malda Town	Express	Asansol-Bhojudih-Jamunia Tanr-Chandrapura-Bokaro steel city	29.07.17/ 31.07.17

11.	19413/14	Ahmedabad-Kolkata-Ahmedabad	Express	Chandrapura-Gomoh-Dhanbad	19.07.17/ 22.07.17
12.	19607/08	Kolkata-Ajmer-Kolkata	Express	Dhanbad-Gomoh-Chandrapura with stoppage at Chandrapura	24.07.17/ 27.07.17

Short termination/partial cancellation

1.	12831/32	Dhanbad-Bhubaneshwar-Dhanbad	Garibrath	Short terminated/Originated at Bokaro Steel City and cancelled between Bokaro-Dhanbad	24.07.17/ 23.07.17
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Extension

1.	58013/14	Howrah-Adra-Bokaro steel city	Passenger	Extended upto Ranchi	23.07.17
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(b) and (c) Alternative route from Dhanbad to Chandrapura *via* Gomoh is available; however reversal of trains at Gomoh is involved. In view of longer and busy route *via* Gomoh, on the direction of Ministry of Railways, Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) has prepared survey cum feasibility report for diversion of trains on shortest route. As an urgent measure, 22 km. long alignment has been identified *via* Bhuli-Tetulmari-Nichitpur-Tundu (halt), out of above, land acquisition will be required between New Kusunda to Bhuli (3 km.) and between Nichitpur-Tundu Halt (7 km.). The alignment of proposed line will take off between Dhanbad-Kusunda on Dhanbad-Chandrapura route and will meet at existing Bhuli station on Dhanbad-Gomoh route. The proposed alignment between Bhuli-Nichitpur will run parallel to existing alignment of Dhanbad-Gomoh route. From Nichitpur station, the proposed alignment will take left turn toward Tundu Halt. After Tundu halt existing railway line will be used upto Chandrapura. The proposed alignment will serve major locality of Katrasgarh and Sonardih. RITES has been entrusted to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR), have dialogue with Jharkhand Government and Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for funding and execution. However, it is not feasible to give exact time lines since construction of new railway line also involve land acquisition. However, Railway is doing it as a priority project.

(d) Does not arise.

Storage of perishable horticulture produce

*140. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are facing problem of storing onions, potatoes and other perishable horticulture produce due to bumper production, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether Ministry has asked Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) to set up irradiation facilities in States and elsewhere to deal with the problem of plenty by increasing the shelf life of perishable horticulture produces, if so, details thereof;

(c) the response of BARC in this regard; and

(d) the other steps taken by Government to make available facilities through which farmers could preserve perishable produces and sell them as per demand and at adequate price?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) The production of fruits and vegetables including onion, potato and other perishable horticulture crops has been increasing due to various intervention of Government of India. The total production of horticulture crops

has increased from 277.4 million MT in 2013-14 to 295.2 million MT in 2016-17 (advanced estimates). During the same period production of onion increased from 19.40 million MT to 21.56 million MT and production of potato increased from 41.55 million MT to 46.54 million MT.

A recent study on All India Cold-chain Infrastructure Capacity (AICIC-2015) conducted by NCCD-NABCONS reported requirement of 35 million MT against the availability of 32 million MT. Around 75% of the total cold storage capacity in the country was used for the purpose of storage of horticulture crops including potato. Out of total production of potatoes in the country 75% was stored in cold storages for long term storage at farm gate. Similarly, 4.87 million MT capacity is available for storing of onion in the country. Generally rabi onion bulbs are stored in ventilated structures at farm level. As such, instead of creating bulk cold storage, there is requirement of creation of pack houses, refrigerated transport, ripening chambers etc. for providing better market connectivity, storage and post-harvest infrastructure to horticulture producers.

(b) and (c) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is a research centre where basic work on use of radiation processing for extending shelf life of food products have been carried out for the last 50 years. Extensive work at BARC has established the feasibility of radiation technology. Based on research at BARC two demonstration plants were set up, one for low dose irradiation (Krishi Utpadan Sanrakshan Kendra, Lasalgaon, Nashik, Maharashtra) to take care of sprout inhibition and quarantine treatment of fresh produce and another at Vashi Navi Mumbai Maharashtra for high dose irradiation with the purpose of microbial decontamination of products such as spices, herbal products and pet food. Success of these plants lead to the establishment of 15 plants to cater to the demands of the internal market as well as for exports. These plants are set up under the guidance of Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT), a commercial arm of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Apart from the 15 commercial plants available for treating food products by ionizing radiation, more irradiation facilities by entrepreneurs in association with BRIT are coming up.

(d) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) which includes assistance for establishment of post-harvest infrastructure including cold storage. 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.

Under MIDH, credit-linked back ended subsidy @ 35% of the project cost in general areas (and 50% in case of hilly and schedule areas) is available for various components of post-harvest infrastructure, including cold chain. The component is

demand/entrepreneur-driven from among entrepreneurs, private companies, cooperatives, farmers groups etc. through commercial ventures.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure (now subsumed under Kissan Sampada Yojana) to provide integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure facilities including irradiation from the farm gate to the consumer or from the production site to the market. Under this scheme ministry provides financial assistance in the form grant-in-aid @ 35% for general area and @ 50% for North-East States, Himalayan States, ITDP areas and Island for storage and transport infrastructure and @ 50% and 75% for value addition and processing infrastructure subject to a maximum grant-in-aid of ₹ 10.00 crore for setting up integrated cold chain projects including irradiation facilities. Ministry has so far sanctioned four irradiation facilities in the States of Rajasthan, Haryana, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

Assistance for micro irrigation under PMKSY

*141. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to enhance the rate of assistance, for the post harvest management, for the small and marginal farmers; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the micro irrigation assistance is to be increased to 70 per cent under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal to enhance the rate of assistance for post harvest management for the small and marginal farmers.

(b) As per operation guidelines of PMKSY “Per Drop More Crop” (micro irrigation), the pattern of assistance of Micro Irrigation is 55% for small and marginal farmers and 45% for other farmers. At present, there is no proposal for enhancing the said pattern of assistance.

Suicides by farmers

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

(a) whether the cases of suicides by farmers in certain parts of the country have increased considerably during the last three years and current year, if so, details

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

thereof, State-wise, and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether high dependence on private money lenders is one of the main reasons for suicides of farmers, if so, the details thereof and remedial measures taken in this regard; and

(c) whether the credit burden on farmers has increased as a result of disbursement of liberal/excess institutional credit for the farmers by the banks, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides upto 2015 are available on its website. The Report for the year 2016 and onwards 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*).

(b) and (c) Farmers are indebted to both institutional and non-institutional sources of credit. However, borrowing from non-institutional sources is the major reason for debt-related farmers' distress which is one of the reported reasons for farmers' suicide in the country. In order to reduce the dependence of farmers on private money lenders for meeting their credit needs and for providing relief to the indebted farmers, Government has already taken several measures which include the following:

The Government of India has been setting annual target for the flow of credit to the agriculture sector. The targets have been suitably increased every year to ensure that farmers get adequate and timely credit for their crop production and agri-allied activities. These targets have been surpassed by banks over the years. The details of targets and the achievement for all banks (commercial banks, RRBs and co-operative banks) for the last 3 years are as under:

(₹ in crore)

Year	Target	Achievement	% Achievement
2014-15	800,000.00	845,328.23	105.67
2015-16*	850,000.00	915,509.92	107.71
2016-17*	900,000.00	1,065,755.67	118.42

*Provisional

In order to reduce the interest burden on farmers, the Government has been continuing the scheme for providing interest subvention to Banks @ 2% for involvement of their own funds in lending to short term crop loans to farmers at 7% p.a. interest upto ₹ 3.00 lakh per farmer and 3% incentive provided to farmers for prompt repayment of crop loans. Thus, the farmer who is availing crop loan upto ₹ 3 lakh and repaying in time, is charged only 4% interest rate.

The limit of collateral free farm loan has been increased from ₹ 50000 to ₹100000.

Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme, enables the farmers to purchase agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. and to draw cash to satisfy their consumption needs. The KCC Scheme has since been simplified and converted into ATM enabled debit card (Rupay KCC-RKCC).

Reserve Bank of India has allowed State Level Bankers' Committee/District Level Consultative Committees/Banks to take a view on rescheduling of loans if the crop loss is 33% or more. Banks have been advised to allow maximum period of repayment of upto 2 years (including the moratorium period of 1 year) if the crop loss is between 33% and 50%. If the crop loss is 50% or more, the restructured period for repayment is extended to a maximum of 5 years (including the moratorium period of 1 year).

Keeping in view the risks involved in agriculture and to insure the farming community against various risks, Ministry of Agriculture introduced a crop insurance scheme in 1985 and thereafter brought improvements in the erstwhile scheme(s) from time to time based on the experience gained and views of the stakeholders, States, farming community etc. These crop insurance schemes have recently been reviewed in consultation with various stakeholders including States/UTs and a new scheme namely, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has been approved for implementation from Kharif 2016 season alongwith pilot Unified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) and the restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS). Under the PMFBY, a uniform maximum premium of only 2% will be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the maximum premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5%. The premium rates to be paid by farmers are very low and balance premium will be paid by the Government to provide full insured amount to the farmers against crop loss on account of natural calamities. There is no upper limit on Government subsidy.

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
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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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
A and N 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.

Funding of various projects by Central Government

*143. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is wriggling out of its responsibilities to farmers by transferring all financial burden on the States;

(b) whether projects like RKVY, Rainfed Area Development (RAD), NFSM, etc., which were fully funded by Centre till 2015-16, are now being implemented making State Government bear 40 per cent share;

(c) whether Government is aware that this additional burden on the States has put States like Kerala, which are adopting organic agriculture, entail additional burden; and

(d) whether in this context, Centre will extend financial help to States on earlier rates for projects like RKVY, NFSM, RAD, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir. On the basis of recommendations of Sub-

Group of Chief Ministers, the Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been grouped into three categories — (i) Core of the Core Scheme (ii) Core Schemes and (iii) Optional Schemes. Schemes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Rainfed Area Development (RAD) and National Food Security Mission (NFSM) have been grouped under Core scheme – ‘Green Revolution’ and has the Centre: State funding pattern of 60:40 for all States except three Himalayan States of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir and eight North-Eastern States which is 90:10.

(b) and (c) In accordance with the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, tax devolution has been raised from 32% to 42% of the net proceeds of the union tax revenues. In view of the above, the total transfer of funds to the State Government has not been reduced. However, States have been given a higher share of untied funds, so as to enable them to use the resources in accordance with the needs of the State concerned.

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

Suicides by farmers in Madhya Pradesh

*144. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 19000 farmers committed suicides in Madhya Pradesh in the past fifteen years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to ease the distress situation of farmers; and

(c) the details of compensation paid to the family members of the victims who committed suicide?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (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 on its website. The Report for the years 2016 onwards have not been published yet. As reported by NCRB, 18,396 farmers have committed suicide from 2002 to 2015.

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.

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 upto ₹ 3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount.

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

(c) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported that there is no policy to give compensation to farmers who commit suicide.

Computerization under Integrated Court Management Information System

*145. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court is considering to become paperless in phases;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the first five Courts, each Judge will have a computer before him and the Judges will peruse fresh case files on the computer; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Integrated Court Management Information System was almost ready to help the apex court registry gear up towards implementing paperless objective, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
(a) to (c) Yes. The Supreme Court is considering to become paperless in phases. Supreme Court of India has launched the Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS) on 10.05.2017. Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS) marks the introduction of digital filing, which is a step towards paperless Supreme Court.

The salient features of the system are:—

1. Web based case status displaying each movement of the case to lawyers/litigants and all stakeholders time to time,
2. Online availability of information,
3. Online availability of scanned paper books for judges,
4. Availability of WACOM interactive display panels for judges,
5. Login ids for High Courts to monitor cases,
6. Integration with software of Jail/Police Department,
7. Digitally signed certified copies,
8. File tracking,
9. Online fee calculator,
10. Online limitation calculator,
11. Online court fee payment gateway,
12. e-cause list,
13. Delivery of services to advocates and litigants

With the implementation of Integrated Case Management Information System and in furtherance towards making Supreme Court as paperless, in the first instance, interactive IT devices have been installed in the first nine courts of Supreme Court of India for accessing fresh matters in digitized form instead of paper books.

The web portal (www.sci.gov.in) has the provision to provide one login credential each for every Ministry/Department of Government of India to enable them to have access to their case details/documents in the Supreme Court of India. In the process of digitization of old records in the Supreme Court approximately two crores thirty lakhs pages (about 2.10 lakh case records) have been scanned.

Reuse policy for resources of sick fertilizer units

*146. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any 'reuse policy' for the land and other resources of sick fertilizer units;

(b) if so, the detailed facts and data thereof;

(c) if not, the factual and explanatory reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the plan outlay and administrative barriers, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) has issued guidelines on 07.09.2016 for time bound closure of Sick/Loss Making Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and disposal of their movable and immovable assets. These guidelines shall apply to all sick/loss making CPSEs where Government has decided closure of CPSE. There is no proposal in Fertilizer Department to close any sick fertilizer CPSE.

(c) In view of the (a) above, not applicable.

(d) Question does not arise in view of the (a) above.

Extension of jurisdiction of east coast railway

*147. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering for extension of the jurisdiction of East Coast Railway to include Banaspani-Padapahar, Rupsa-Bangirposi and Bhadrak-Laxmannath Road sections and to set up a new railway division with headquarters at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) At present, there is no decision to either extend the jurisdiction of East Coast Railway or to set up a new railway division with headquarters at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road.

(b) Divisions on Indian Railways are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, traffic pattern and other administrative/operational requirements, consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency, without any regional considerations. The proposal for creation of a new Division with headquarters at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road, when examined from these aspects, has not been found feasible.

Registration of rules/regulations made by Ministries

*148. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no system in place by Government for registering all the rules, regulations, etc., made by all Ministries under respective Acts at one place;

(b) if so, how is the work of rule and regulation framing being monitored in Government; and

(c) whether a Federal Registry is proposed to be made for this purpose where all the Ministries/Departments' rules and regulations would be entered at regular intervals?

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

(a) As per the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, the subject matters have been allocated to various Ministries/Departments and therefore, the concerned administrative Ministry/Department uploads the rules and regulations framed under the respective Acts administered by them on their website. Besides, the rules and regulations published by various Ministries/Departments are also available on the website <http://egazette.nic.in>.

(b) For monitoring of the framing of subordinate legislation under the Acts enacted by Parliament and notifying of the same, a module for updating the status of subordinate legislation has been included in the e-Samiksha portal.

(c) In view of (a) above, at present there is no such proposal.

Redevelopment of major railway stations

*149. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched any plan to redevelop major railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, how many countries have taken interest to participate in redeveloping the stations and the list of such stations;

(c) the amount involved in the development of each railway station over a period;

(d) whether vacant railway land in and around stations, would be utilized for commercial purposes and business activities, if so, for what period;

(e) whether major stations in all Railway Zones will be covered; and

(f) if not, the efforts made to see that there is balanced development in the country?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Railway (MoR) is redeveloping railway stations through the following modes:—

- (1) Station Redevelopment through Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd. (IRSDC).

- (2) Station Redevelopment through General Managers of Zonal Railways in PPP mode.
- (3) Station Redevelopment in cooperation with Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) in cities with SMART and AMRUT scheme.
- (4) Station Redevelopment by Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) and National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC).
- (5) Station Redevelopment through RLDA & PSUs of MoR.
- (6) Station Redevelopment through other Ministries.
- (7) Station Redevelopment in partnership with State Governments.
- (8) Station Redevelopment – Interest shown by foreign Governments/firms.

Station Redevelopment through Indian Railway Station Development Corporation Ltd. (IRSDC):–

One Malaysian company M/s MBSB Builders have participated in the Request for Qualification (RfQ) of redevelopment of Surat Station by IRSDC. Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd. (IRSDC) is a dedicated organization set up as a Joint Venture between IRCON International Ltd. – IRCON and Rail Land Development Authority – RLDA for redeveloping identified stations over Indian Railways *viz.* has been.

Twelve stations had been entrusted to IRSDC in the first phase. These stations are:

- (i) Surat – Western Railway
- (ii) Habibganj (Bhopal) – West Central Railway
- (iii) Gandhinagar(Gujarat) – Western Railway
- (iv) Bijwasan (Delhi) – Northern Railway
- (v) Anand Vihar (Delhi) – Northern Railway
- (vi) Shivaji Nagar (Pune) – Central Railway
- (vii) Chandigarh – Northern Railway
- (viii) Amritsar – Northern Railway
- (ix) Gwalior – North Central Railway
- (x) Gandhinagar (Jaipur) – North Western Railway
- (xi) Nagpur – Central Railway
- (xii) Baiyyappanahalli (Bengaluru) – South Western Railway

For Surat railway station, where the Malaysian Company has participated in the RfQ, in a very innovative and first-of-its-kind model, MoU has been signed

between IRSDC, Gujarat State Transport Corporation (GSRTC) and Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) for development of a Multi Modal Transport Hub at Surat on a total land plot of 2.5 lakh square meter by pooling the land parcels of the Railways, the GSRTC and the SMC. The equity contribution in the SPV is in the ratio of Railways: GSRTC: SMC : 63:34:3 (in ratio with the area of land parcels contributed for the pooling of land for the project). A grand Multi Modal Transport Hub has been conceptualised on this pooled land around the Surat Railway station to provide the integrated transport solutions for the citizens thereby synergising the core capabilities of the three forms of Government viz. The Central Government (Ministry of Railways), State Government (GSRTC) and the Urban Local Government (SMC). The cost of Multi Modal Transport Hub is anticipated as ₹ 645 cr. and gross development is anticipated to be of approximately ₹ 3000 cr. RFQ tender has opened on 05.06.2017 in which seven parties including one Malaysian firm, submitted their technical bids. The bids are under evaluation. Ministry of Railways has agreed for a lease period of 90 years for this project, in line with the policy of the Government of Gujarat.

Due to sustained efforts made by IRSDC, Developer has been fixed for redevelopment of Habibganj railway station and the Development Agreement for this has been signed on 14.07.2016. Station redevelopment is of approximate value of ₹ 100 crore and total value of development including commercial development is anticipated as ₹ 450 crore Financial closure of the project has been achieved. Existing earning commercial contracts are novated in favour of the Developer and the stations handed over to the developer on 1st March, 2017 after which the Developer has started his works and the Station Facility Management has also been taken over by the Developer. The Developer has also commenced construction activities.

For Gandhinagar station, a special purpose vehicle Gandhinagar Railway and Urban Development Corporation (GARUD) is formed by IRSDC with Government of Gujarat (GoG) with equity contribution as 24% that of IRSDC and 76% of GoG. The SPV is developing Gandhinagar station keeping architecture in harmony with adjoining Mahatma Mandir and Gandhi Kuteer. The SPV shall be responsible for management of station facilities, hotel and will have revenue streams from Mahatma Mandir and Gandhi Kuteer as well. A works contract (approx. ₹ 147 crore) for redevelopment of Gandhinagar (Gujarat) station along with construction of a 300 room hotel on the air space of the station has been awarded. The foundation stone for this work has been laid by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 09.01.2017. The work of pile foundation is in progress. As of now about 260 piles have been completed out of total 471 piles.

For Anand Vihar (Delhi) and Bijwasan (Delhi) stations, after detailed study and preparation of the Detailed Project Reports, RfQ for redevelopment of Anand Vihar and Bijwasan stations have been finalized and 13 bidders shortlisted for Anand Vihar

and 9 for Bijwasan stations. Request for Financial Proposal (RFP) proposals have been called from shortlisted bidders. The mandatory Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) of station development is ₹ 255 crore for Anand Vihar (Delhi) with total anticipated development of ₹ 600 crore For Bijwasan (Delhi) mandatory CAPEX is ₹ 384 crore and total development value as ₹ 1000 crore The RFPs for the both the stations are due to be opened in August 2017.

For Chandigarh and Shivaji Nagar (Pune) stations, the DPR is under finalization in consultation with the local municipal corporations.

For Amritsar station, an Architectural consultancy firm has been engaged the work for preparation of preliminary basic concept plan. The award of such work for the remaining four stations (Gwalior, Gandhinagar (Jaipur), Nagpur and Baiyyappanahalli (Bengaluru) is under process. IRSDC has planned to do this through an international design competition.

Station Redevelopment through General Managers of Zonal Railways:

Malaysian consortium has also shown interest to participate in the bidding for redevelopment of railway stations on Indian Railways. In recent past, in March/April, June and July 2017, Malaysian delegations led by senior officials including Minister of Transport, Minister for Works and the Secretary General/Ministry of Works, Malaysia have met with Railway officials at Railway Board for station redevelopment work. During the meeting CIDB Malaysia have indicated its interest and participation for few stations during 1st phase of bidding, which has started now from Feb. 8, 2017 for 23 A1 and A category stations.

It has been Railways endeavour to redevelop the stations by leveraging real estate development of spare land and air space in and around the stations. A redeveloped station is envisioned as an iconic structure with its architecture reflecting the culture and character of the city where it is located and integrates development for a comfortable and efficient passenger experience, security, safety and accessibility in a harmonious and environmentally sustainable way bringing satisfaction and value to the passenger/user.

The Major components of a redeveloped stations are envisaged as:

- Redevelopment of station building to provide an iconic structure with modern state-of-the-art facilities.
- Congestion free non-conflicting entry/exit to the station premises.
- Segregation of arrival/departure of passengers - No conflict between incoming and outgoing passengers.

- Adequate concourse without overcrowding-generally above the platforms/lines.
- All essential facilities at concourse-catering, small retail, wash rooms, cloak rooms, drinking water, ATM, pharmacy, internet, etc.
- Integration with other modes of public/private transport systems *e.g.* Bus, Metro, etc.
- Integrating both sides of the city, *i.e.* entry/exit on both sides of the station wherever site conditions permits.
- No parcel movement across the length of platforms.
- User friendly international signage understandable by all sections of passengers.
- Additional facilities like retail, shopping, hospitality, food courts etc.
- Medical facilities including polyclinics.
- Well illuminated circulating area and sufficient provision for drop off, pick up and parking.
- Green Buildings, with optimum use of natural ventilation and lighting.
- Business Centre.
- Skill Development Centre.
- Social Infrastructure.

Station redevelopment is planned by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the station. The revenues realized from real estate development should be sufficient to at least cover the entire cost of station redevelopment after meeting the full expenditure on real estate development and maintenance obligations *i.e.* the station redevelopment would be cost neutral to Railways.

Major constraints of station redevelopment:

Some of the major constraints in Station redevelopment are.

- Most of the major Railway stations are located in congested areas in city centres. Commercial development of land for financing the station redevelopment will add to footfalls in the area and in term add to congestion at these stations.
- Extensive discussions with local authorities/bodies required, for issues pertaining to permissible FAR, integration with other modes of transport, approach infrastructure issues, etc.
- Approval to be obtained from various authorities.

- Station specific issues *i.e.* Heritage clearances etc.
- Station planning must provide for future expansions of platforms/lines as well as maintenance facilities which are based on projected traffic for about 40 years. Forecasting for 40 years is not easy.
- Financial *viability* depends on real estate markets which are cyclical and city/location dependent in nature.
- Most of the stations would be brown field ones where redevelopment works have to be executed under running conditions, taking due precautions for the safety of passengers.

In the overall investment plan for the Railways for five years, ₹ 1.0 lakh crore has been planned to be invested through station redevelopment, out of total investment of ₹ 8.5 lakh crore. For this it has been decided that to expedite the station redevelopment, the stations would be offered for development on 'as is where is' basis. In this regard, Union Cabinet approved Railway's proposal for redevelopment of 'A-1' and 'A' category stations (total about 400 stations) on 'as is where is' basis, by inviting open bids from interested parties with their designs and business ideas duly providing for amenities and other requirements of the Railways including permitting commercial development of real estate by zonal railways. The railway land is given for commercial development in above of 45 years. The chosen Developer also manages the facilities of the stations for 15 years and make necessary expenditure for this. For this the non-fare revenues at the stations like catering, advertising, parking etc. are passed on to the developer. In doing so to ensure inclusivity few catering kiosks would serve the food articles at mandated price as at present. The core operation of railway will be remain with the railways. Accordingly guidelines were issued to all Zonal Railways for redevelopment of stations through the above mentioned process.

Accordingly tender documents were developed through RLDA for stakeholders' consultations. After consultations with various Railway stakeholders *viz.* developers, consultants, zonal railways etc., tender documents were amended, approved by Board and circulated to zonal railways. The scheme will be implemented by the General Railways of the Zonal Railways.

For the redevelopment of about 400 A1 and A stations, 2700 acres of spare railway land has been identified. M/s Boston Consulting Group (BCG) had been appointed as Strategic Consultant for this project. Based on the studies undertaken, M/s BCG have given the following broad estimates for the commercial development cost, station redevelopment cost (mandatory capital expenditure) and surplus post-construction:—

Sl. No.	Item	Cost Estimate (₹ in crores)
1.	Cost of commercial development	68,000
2.	Surplus before station redevelopment	39,000
3.	Station redevelopment cost	28,000
4.	Overall surplus	11,000
TOTAL		1,07,000

More than 25 rounds of road shows/stakeholder interactions, conferences etc. have been conducted within the country and also abroad in UAE and Malaysia to evoke stakeholder interest in the programme.

M/s BCG has initially suggested high potential in about 58 stations. Moreover, based on report of the Strategies Advisor detailed discussions held with the Zonal Railways, feedback from various stakeholders and collaboration of desktop studies with field visit/deep dive studies, a list of 23 stations was finalised to be taken up for bidding in first phase. Accordingly, first phase of station redevelopment program by zonal railways was launched on 8.2.2017. Bids for redevelopment of the 23 railway stations have been invited in the first phase. The details of such stations are given in the Statement (*See* below). These stations are spread over 13 zonal railways and 13 States. 145 acres of land had been identified and year marked for this.

Pre-bid conferences have been held for all 23 stations. Considering the real estate market sentiment and to evoke bidder interest for the 23 stations, a large marketing initiative has been undertaken. In this more than 100 firms of developers, consultants, financiers had been contacted on one to one basis and more than 600 meetings held with them. Efforts have also been made to have these firms form partnership amongst themselves. The results of these efforts is bearing fruits and now the bids for Jammu and Kozhikode have been opened on 12.07.2017 and 24.07.2017 respectively. Bids for other stations of this 1st stage are due for opening in July-October, 2017.

Bids for the other 35 stations are proposed to be invited in next phase, which shall *inter alia*, cover stations in all major States/UTs.

The Minister for Railways has also written to all Chief Ministers to provide all help and support to this programme including appointment of Nodal Officers in their States.

Station Redevelopment in cooperation with Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) in cities with SMART and AMRUT scheme:

The Government of India has launched schemes of 'SMART Cities' and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) for the redevelopment and rejuvenation of the cities with a population of more than 1 lakh and covering Capitals of all States and Union Territories. With a view to provide the cities covered in these schemes with a redeveloped railway station which is integratedly planned with the surrounding parts of their cities, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Ministry of Railways (MoR) and Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) for mutual cooperation between the two Ministries for integrated planning of redevelopment of railway stations in the cities included in these schemes. This would lead to the planning and development, integrated public transit hub around the railway stations and encourage Transit Oriented Development.

Station Redevelopment by Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) and National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC):

An MoU between MoUD and NBCC has been signed on 30.06.2017 for development of following 10 stations under this MoU and the process will be further taken up.

Sl. No.	Station	Category	Railways	State
1.	Tirupati	A1	South Central	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	A	Northern	Delhi
3.	Nellore	A	South Central	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Madgaon	A	Konkan Railway	Goa
5.	Lucknow	A1	Northern	Uttar Pradesh
6.	Gomtinagar	F	North Eastern	Uttar Pradesh
7.	Kota	A	West Central	Rajasthan
8.	Thane New	A	Central	Maharashtra
9.	Ernakulum Jn.	A	SR	Kerala
10.	Puducherry	E	SR	Puducherry (UT)

NBCC has indicated willingness to redevelop another 40 or so stations which are under discussion with them

Station Redevelopment through RLDA and PSUs of MoR:

Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) has been entrusted to redevelop Safdarjung (D Category) Station in New Delhi along with IRCON.

Similarly RLDA is examining the possibility of partnering Mumbai Rail Vikas

Corporation (MRVC) for redeveloping 18 Stations of C category in Mumbai area as per the following list:-

Sl. No	Station	Category	Zonal Railway
1.	Grant road	C	Western
2.	Lower Parel	C	Western
3.	Eliphinstone Road	C	Western
4.	Khar Road	C	Western
5.	Bhayandar	C	Western
6.	Mira Road	C	Western
7.	Byculla	C	Central
8.	Sion	C	Central
9.	Parel	C	Central
10.	Mulund/Bhandup	C	Central
11.	Kalwa	C	Central
12.	Ambernath/Badlapur	C	Central
13.	Titwala	C	Central
14.	Kanjur Marg	C	Central
15.	Chinchpokli	C	Central
16.	Chembur	C	Central
17.	Sewri	C	Central
18.	Wadala	C	Central

The world bank has shown interest in financing the feasibility study for the station so as to integrate interchange between various modes of transport at these stations.

Station Redevelopment through other Ministries

Ministry of Railways has also approached the Ministry of Coal, Petroleum, Power for the partnering in redevelopment of stations which serve their respective installations like sidings, collieries, power plants oil depots, offices etc. An MoU has been forwarded to the Ministry of Coal along with a list of suggested stations to choose from. Similarly, the Ministries of Petroleum and Coal have been approached to indicate the stations that they would like to be taken up.

Station Redevelopment in partnership with State Governments

Ministry of Railways has signed an MoU with Government of Odisha to redevelop the Bhubaneswar Station. In this the present railway station is being remodelled to

provide additional operational facilities and the station is being constructed in the adjoining land of the State Government by the State Government.

MoR has also signed Joint Venture agreement with 9 States Governments to jointly implement new railway infrastructure projects including stations.

With this now the Ministry of Railway has planned redevelopment of 65 stations by one or the other mode. Some more Stations are also planned to be taken up in the next phase by General Managers, IRSDC and other entities.

Station Redevelopment—Interest shown by Foreign Governments/Firms

Malaysian consortium CIDB has evinced interest to participate in the bidding for redevelopment of railway stations on Indian Railways. In recent past, in June and July, 2017, Malaysian delegation led by senior officials including Secretary General/Ministry of Works, Malaysia have met with Railway officials at Railway Board for station redevelopment work. During the meeting CIDB Malaysia have indicated its interest and participation for few stations during 1st phase of bidding, which has started now from Feb. 8, 2017 for 23 A1 and A category stations.

Besides South Korea, Belgium, UK and Germany and France have indicated interest in participating in the programme.

(e) and (f) The 23 stations which are developed in the 1st phase are spread over 13 Railways and 13 States. Apart from this, 12 stations are developed through IRSDC and 10 stations are planned for development through JV between RLDA and NBCC, in the 1st phase for A1 and A category station (major stations).

Bids for the other 35 stations are proposed to be invited in next phase, which shall *inter alia*, cover stations in all major States/UTs.

The details of redevelopment of 23 railway stations

Sl.No.	Name of Station	Zonal Railway
1.	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Central
2.	Pune	Central
3.	Thane	Central
4.	Howrah	Eastern
5.	Visakhapatnam	East Coast
6.	Kanpur Central	North Central
7.	Allahabad	North Central

Sl.No.	Name of Station	Zonal Railway
8.	Kamakhya	Northeast Frontier
9.	Udaipur City	North Western
10.	Faridabad	Northern
11.	Jammu Tawi	Northern
12.	Secunderabad	South Central
13.	Vijayawada	South Central
14.	Ranchi	South Eastern
15.	Chennai Central	Southern
16.	Kozhikode	Southern
17.	Yashwantpur	South Western
18.	Bangalore Cantt.	South Western
19.	Mumbai Central	Western
20.	Bandra Terminus	Western
21.	Borivali	Western
22.	Indore	Western
23.	Bhopal	West Central

Implementation of Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices

*150. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices, announced in January, 2015, was to be made mandatory in six months but instead, there have been four extensions with the last one for an indefinite period;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is stalling it because of pressure from pharma lobby; and

(c) if not, by when Government will make it mandatory so as to bar companies from bribing doctors, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR):

(a) The Government had prepared a Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) which has been adopted with effect from 1st January, 2015. It is at present voluntary till such time that a mandatory code comes into effect.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government is pursuing the implementation of this code by the pharmaceutical industry and in parallel, the Government has also taken steps to make this code mandatory. However, a definite time-frame cannot be given at this stage as question of Law and legal issues are involved that need resolution.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Debt burden on farmers due to higher cost of production

†1441. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that debtburden of farmers is increasing due to high cost of farming, which is disheartening for them;

(b) whether Government is considering to enhance MSP, giving 50 per cent profit margin, to farmers for their agricultural produce so that their economic condition could be improved; and

(c) the quantum of increase in income of Government employees due to implementation of recommendations of Seventh Pay Commission and the hike effected in the prices of agricultural produce of farmers in the meanwhile, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Debtburden of farmers has increased in some States due to various factors, *inter alia*, include crop failure on the account of unpredictable weather conditions, price volatility in agricultural commodities, socio-economic factors etc.

(b) 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

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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.

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 Oilpalm (NMOOP), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchaiyee Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Health Card, initiatives of Government of doubling the farmers' income etc.

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

(c) 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 in 10 years, whereas, the price policy of agricultural produce is announced every year recommendations of the CACP.

Sanctioning of funds to Odisha for Crop Insurance Portal

1442. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government would take steps to sanction the proposed amount of ₹1.50 crore to Odisha for procurement of mobile phones and activation of bank linkages in Crop Insurance Portal; and

(b) whether Government will also take steps for capacity building of State Officials and Bank Officials of Odisha on use of Crop Insurance Portal along with making provision of funds for programme monitoring?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Operational Guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) *in te ralia* provides for use of smart phone and mobile application in conducting and reporting of results of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs)/yield loss for early collection of yield data and settlement of admissible claims to the farmers in a transparent manner. 50% of expenses on purchase of smart phones/incentives for use of their own smart phones by staff of State Government are to be reimbursed by the Central Government. Guidelines in this regard have been

issued on 6.1.2017 and State Governments were requested to furnish the proposal for reimbursement of Central share in prescribed format. Proposals for release of Central Government 50% share for procurement of smart phones have not been received from some of the States including Odisha. The State Government of Odisha has opted for incentive model to their officials instead of purchasing of Smart phone.

As per the provisions of Operational Guidelines of PMFBY and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS), Government has designed a national crop insurance portal www.agri-insurance.gov.in for integration of all stakeholders on a uniform ICT platform to ensure better administration, coordination and transparency for getting real time information, monitoring and service delivery, particularly for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the beneficiary farmers, deduplication of beneficiaries, integration of agricultural loans, land records of the farmers, etc. There is provision to upload the information/data on crop insurance portal by all the stakeholders including banks through web service, online and/or offline facility. But, there is no provision to provide Central Government funds either to State Governments or banks for integration of their ICT platform to National Crop Insurance Portal.

(b) Yes Sir. Government of India has organized various workshops/training programmes at Central level for capacity building of State Officials including Odisha State Officials on use of Crop Insurance Portal and use of smart phone app for transfer of yield data/images of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs). In addition, programmes have also been organized in States including Odisha on demand by individual States. Issues relating to implementation of the scheme have also been monitored and resolved through weekly video conferences, on telephone, Whats App etc.

Damage of crops by animals

†1443. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) the number of oxen being used traditionally for cultivation-sowing in farms across the country and the number of tractors being used for the same;

(b) the cheaper and convenient method for cultivation-sowing by farmers in farms out of the two options; and

(c) whether Government is planning to build yard for unusable animals and cattle which cause heavy damage to farmers' crops, if so, the details thereof?

† 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): (a) and (b) Estimated number of Bullocks being used for draught agricultural works are 444.8 lakhs and the total draught animals are 496.9 lakh (2011-12) while, the number of tractors used in agriculture are 59.46 lakh (2014-15). Mechanization of agriculture is an essential input in modern agriculture. It enhances productivity besides reducing human drudgery and cost of cultivation efficiency of inputs like seed, fertilizer and pesticides besides safety and comfort of the agricultural worker, improvements in the quality and value addition of the produce and also enabling the farmers to raise a second crop or multi crop. The advantage of mechanization are such as saving in seed fertilizer, time reduction in labour, increase in cropping intensity and productivity. Agriculture is primarily a State subject and State take insure to protect crops from wild animals.

(c) No, Sir. However, assistance has been made available to the States for setting up of Gokul Grams for development and conservation of indigenous breeds including 40% unproductive animals under Rashtriya Gokul Mission along with various other components subject to the norms of the scheme.

Sale of milk through fair price shops

1444. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pasteurized milk is made available to the public in cartons by major dairies through Fair Price Shops in urban areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) There is no information of milk sale in any form through the Fair Price or Ration Shops through the Public Distribution System in urban areas. Pasteurized milk is packed in poly pack and the Sterilized/Ultra High Temperature (UHT) treated milk is packed in aseptic tetra pack by the major dairies and sold through retail outlets, milk booths owned by them or franchisees in the urban areas throughout the country.

Poor construction of green houses and shade nets under NHM in Chhattisgarh

†1445. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released to build green houses, shade nets and cooling chambers

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in Chhattisgarh during last five years;

(b) whether construction done with the amount released under the said head was of very poor quality and all the green houses and shade nets failed in just after a few months of their installation due to which beneficiaries could not get the targeted benefits; and

(c) whether any investigation has been done regarding poor quality of construction so as to take action against those usurping the fund of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) For development of Horticulture under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) the Annual Action Plans (AAPs) are prepared at the start of the financial year in consultation with the States. The AAP has different components for development of horticulture. The green houses and shade nets are part of protected cultivation and cooling chambers are covered under PHM component. The funds under NHM are released to the States in two or more tranches for implementation of the approved AAP and the States utilize these funds as per the targets approved under the various components. The funds released to Chhattisgarh under NHM to implement the AAP including building of green houses, shade nets and cooling chambers during last five years is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) In the initial years of the scheme, the green houses, shade nets and cooling chambers were made by the farmers themselves, with the help of construction companies of their own choice. Some of these shade nets and green houses were made by construction companies with poor quality material without following appropriate construction norms failed resulting in some farmers not getting targeted benefits.

Some shade nets were destroyed due to cyclonic conditions and natural calamities. Construction companies refused to repair the shade nets without taking charges as structures were damaged due to natural calamities.

To overcome the difficulties faced by the farmers Directorate of Horticulture has now decided to register the construction agencies through publication of Expression of Interest (EOI) at State Level to facilitate the construction of green houses and shade nets in the State is done through the empanelled agencies with appropriate construction norms ensuring that farmers get desired benefits under the scheme.

(c) Economic Offence Wing of Government of Chhattisgarh has initiated preliminary level investigation in some districts on complaints made by farmers regarding quality issues in construction of green houses and shade nets.

Statement

Funds released to Chhattisgarh under NHM to implement the AAP including building of green house, shade nets and cooling chambers during last five years

(₹ in lakh)

Year	Allocation			Release
	Central Share	State Share	Total	Central Share
2012-13	10625	1875	12500	9136
2013-14	11475	2025	13500	9062
2014-15	12070	2130	14200	11188
2015-16	8000	5333	13333	7755
2016-17	6923	4616	11539	6147

Lapses in addressing the problems of farmers

†1446. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of suicides by farmers have increased incessantly due to failure in appreciating and addressing the problems of the farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the suicides committed by the farmers in the last five years across the country; and

(c) the lapses in understanding and addressing the problems of farmers due to which they are being forced to commit suicide, the details thereof?

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 report for the year 2016 has not been published yet. The State-wise details of suicides in farming/agriculture sector during the years 2011 to 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.

(c) During the last two years, the strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming *viable*. Farm *viability* is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The Government is realigning its interventions to move from production-centric to farmers' income-centric platform. In order to realise net positive returns for the farmer, schemes as follows, are being promoted and implemented in a major way, *viz.*:-

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and thus save money of farmers. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers. The second cycle which began from 1st May 2017 is building on the learning of the first cycle so as to improve efficiency and make its use more acceptable by the farmers. Till date approximately 912.15 lakh Soil Health Cards have been distributed to farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea (NCU) is being promoted to regulate use of urea, enhance availability of nitrogen to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer application. NCU slows down the release of fertilizer and makes it available to the crop in an effective manner. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured and imported urea is now neem coated. The reports from field are positive. The expected saving is 10% of urea consumption, thereby resulting in reduced cost of cultivation and improved soil health management.
- (iii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promote organic farming in the country. This will improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realise premium prices. Under this scheme, an area of 5 lakh acre is targeted to be covered through 10,000 clusters of 50 acre each, from the year 2015-16 to 2017-18. So far 7208 clusters have been formed and remaining clusters would be formed during 2017-18.
- (iv) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched on 1st July, 2015 with the motto of 'Har Khet Ko Paani' for providing end-to-end solutions in irrigation supply chain, comprising water sources, distribution network and farm level applications. PMKSY not only focuses on creating sources for assured irrigation, but also creating protective

irrigation by harnessing rain water at micro level through 'Jal Sanchay' and 'Jal Sinchan'. Micro irrigation is also incentivized through subsidy to ensure 'Per drop-More crop'. PMKSY adopts State level planning and projectised execution that allows States to draw up their own irrigation development plans based on District Irrigation Plans and State Irrigation Plans. The target for the year 2016-17 was 8 lakh ha. under micro irrigation against which 8.39 lakh ha. have been covered.

- (v) The National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM) was launched on 14.04.2016 in 8 States viz. Gujarat, Telangana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand covering 21 markets. The scheme envisages initiation of e-marketing platform at national level and will support creation of infrastructure to enable e-marketing in 585 regulated markets across the country by March, 2018. This innovative market process is revolutionizing agri markets by ensuring better price discovery, bringing in transparency and competition to enable farmers to get improved remuneration for their produce moving towards 'One Nation One Market'. 455 markets in 13 States have been on boarded as on 30.6.2017.
- (vi) Government has introduced Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2016 to address the risks associated with agriculture. PMFBY addresses all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and is available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. The farmers will get full insurance cover as there is no capping of sum insured and consequently the claim amount is not cut or reduced. This scheme provides insurance cover at all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances. It is targeted to increase the area coverage to 30% by 2016-17, 40% by 2017-18 and 50% by the end of following year. The first year target has been achieved. The coverage was 390.02 lakh farmers and 386.75 lakh hectares area insured with a sum of ₹ 1,41,883.30 crore during Kharif 2016 and 172.94 lakh farmers and 196.29 lakh hectares area insured with a total sum of ₹ 69,851.37 crore during Rabi 2016-17. The year also brought focus on covering non-loanee farmers under PMFBY along with loanee farmers, for whom the insurance cover is compulsory. The number of non-loanee farmers covered in the year 2016-17 increased to 135 lakh, showing the popularity of the scheme.
- (vii) The Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment.

Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2016-17, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. In order to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against negotiable receipts, the benefit of interest subvention will be available to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of upto six months post harvest on the same rate as available to crop loan.

- (viii) In addition, the Government is implementing 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).
- (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) Further the Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production.

Statement

Details of State-wise suicides in farming/agriculture sector during the years 2011 to 2015

Sl.No.	State/UT	2011	2012	2013
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2206	2572	2014
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	11	37
3.	Assam	312	344	305

Sl.No.	State/UT	2011	2012	2013
4.	Bihar	83	68	127
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	4	0
6.	Goa	1	1	1
7.	Gujarat	578	564	582
8.	Haryana	384	276	374
9.	Himachal Pradesh	46	29	33
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	10	18
11.	Jharkhand	94	119	142
12.	Karnataka	2100	1875	1403
13.	Kerala	830	1081	972
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1326	1172	1090
15.	Maharashtra	3337	3786	3146
16.	Manipur	0	0	1
17.	Meghalaya	22	10	5
18.	Mizoram	14	10	6
19.	Nagaland	2	9	2
20.	Odisha	144	146	150
21.	Punjab	98	75	83
22.	Rajasthan	268	270	292
23.	Sikkim	12	19	35
24.	Tamil Nadu	623	499	105
25.	Telangana	NA	NA	NA
26.	Tripura	20	18	56
27.	Uttar Pradesh	645	745	750
28.	Uttarakhand	25	14	15
29.	West Bengal	807	NR	0
	TOTAL (STATES)	14004	13727	11744
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	5
31.	Chandigarh	0	0	0

Sl.No.	State/UT	2011	2012	2013
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	13	6	15
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
34.	Delhi (UT)	10	21	8
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	0	0	0
TOTAL (UTs)		23	27	28
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)		14027	13754	11772

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
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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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.

Relief under PMFBY

†1447. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intends to provide relief to farmers through the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of districts in Bihar in which nodal officers have been appointed by Government to provide relief through PMFBY and the system put in place to inform the farmers about the same, the details thereof?

† 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) Yes, Sir. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) with several farmer friendly features like, risk coverage for pre-sowing to post-harvest losses, one premium for all crops in a season, reduction in premium to be paid by the farmers, removal of cap on premium which had earlier led to reduction in sum insured *vis-à-vis* claims, if any; equating the sum insured with scale of finance for maximum risk coverage of farmers, on account payment for mid-season adversities, farm level claim assessment in respect of localized calamities of hailstorm, landslide and inundation and post-harvest losses etc. has been introduced from Kharif 2016 season to provide relief to farmers under the scheme. Details of Salient features of the PMFBY are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) As per provisions of the scheme, no nodal officers are appointed by the Government at district level for implementation of PMFBY. However, District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC) oversees the implementation of the PMFBY at district level. Crop insurance is a financial tool to provide financial help to farmers in the wake loss by non-preventable risks, which is being implemented at grass-root level through empanelled implementing insurance companies. Insurance companies calculate the claims on receipt of yield data from concerned State Government and disburse the claims, if any, through concerned banks or directly to the concerned insured farmer's account.

Statement

Salient features of PMFBY

- (i) Provide comprehensive insurance coverage against crop loss on account of non-preventable natural risks, thus helping in stabilising the income of the farmers and encourage them for adoption of innovative practices.
- (ii) Increase the risk coverage of Crop cycle—pre-sowing to post-harvest losses.
- (iii) Area approach for settlement of claims for widespread damage. Notified insurance unit has been reduced to village/Village Panchayat for major crops.
- (iv) Uniform maximum premium of only 2%, 1.5% and 5% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops, Rabi Crops and commercial/horticultural crops respectively.
- (v) The difference between premium and the rate of insurance charges payable by farmers is provided as subsidy and shared equally by the Centre and State.
- (vi) Uniform seasonality discipline and sum insured for both loanee and non-loanee farmers.
- (vii) Removal of the provision of capping on premium and reduction of sum insured to facilitate farmers to get claim against full sum insured without any reduction.

- (viii) Inundation has been incorporated as a localized calamity in addition to hailstorm and landslide for individual farm level assessment.
- (ix) Provision of individual farm level assessment for post harvest losses against the cyclonic and unseasonal rains for the crops kept in the field for drying upto a period of 14 days, throughout the country.
- (x) Provision of claims upto 25% of sum insured for prevented sowing.
- (xi) “On-Account payment” upto 25% of sum insured for mid season adversity, if the crop damage is reported more than 50% in the insurance unit. Remaining claims based on Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) data.
- (xii) Use of Remote Sensing Technology, Smartphones and Drones for quick estimation of crop losses to ensure early settlement of claims.
- (xiii) Crop Insurance Portal has been developed for ensuring better administration, co-ordination, transparency, dissemination of information and delivery of services including crediting the claim amount electronically to the individual farmer’s bank account.
- (xiv) Focused attention on increasing awareness about the schemes among all stakeholders and appropriate provisioning of resources for the same.
- (xv) Premium rates under Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) have also been reduced and brought at par with new scheme. Further, capping on actuarial premium and reduction in sum insured has been removed in this scheme also.
- (xvi) In addition, a Unified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) has also been approved for implementation on pilot basis in 45 districts of the country from Kharif 2016 season to cover the other assets/activities like machinery, life, accident, house and student-safety for farmers alongwith their notified crops (under PMFBY/Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme – WBCIS).

Inferior quality of agricultural appliances

†1448. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the appliances and machines such as water pumps, ploughs, sowing machine, pesticide spraying machine and digging machines are of poor design and inferior quality resulting in less production by farmers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to upgrade the irrigational machines being used in agricultural activities?

† 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 promote farm mechanization in the country, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is providing financial assistance to farmers through State Governments for procurement of various agricultural machinery, implements and tools under Sub Mission of Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). To assure the quality of these agricultural machinery, implements and tools before their supply under subsidy scheme, testing from Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes (FMTTIs) or from any of the identified designated testing centres of DAC&FW is mandatory. For irrigation pumps it is mandatory to have BIS marking.

(b) To improve the efficiency of irrigation pumps, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power started the labeling program of agricultural pump sets. The efficiency of 5 star labeled pump sets is 20-30 % higher than the non-star rated pump sets. The labeling program of agricultural pump sets is valid for both single phase and three phase supply covering mono set pumpsets (up to 22 kW), submersible pump sets (up to 75kW) and open well submersible pump sets (up to 15 kW).

Funds for drought relief to Karnataka

1449. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released from the National Disaster Response Fund to the Government of Karnataka during the financial year 2014-15 and 2015-16 for drought relief in the State;

(b) whether Government of Karnataka has submitted a report to the Ministry on the utilisation of the above funds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The High Level Committee (HLC) approved ₹ 200.85 crore, subject to the adjustment of 75% of balance available in the SDRF account and ₹ 2263.43 crore, subject to the adjustment of 50% of balance available in the SDRF account, to the Government of Karnataka from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) in the wake of drought during 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively.

(b) and (c) The Government of Karnataka has reported that 629394 farmers benefited during 2014-15 and 4643475 farmers benefited during 2015-16.

Agriculture courses without permission of ICAR

1450. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed any educational institute to run the agriculture course without the permission of ICAR; and

(b) if so, the details of the rule in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Ensuring proper price for agro products

1451. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is unrest among farmers for multiple reasons in different States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Centre has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of certain commodities;

(c) if so, the details of increase in the MSP of these commodities; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure procurement of agro products to ensure proper price of these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) During the past few months, incidents of unrest among farmers have come to the notice of the Government specially in the States of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. 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,

(iii) agricultural loan at subsidised rate of interest,

(iv) procurement of crops at MSP by Central Government, and

(v) higher price of agro produce like onions, soyabean, etc.

(b) to (d) Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural crops to ensure remunerative prices for farmers on the recommendation of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of the concerned State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors.

Government had increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of both Rabi and Kharif crops for 2016-17 season. Government has also increased the MSPs of Kharif crops for 2017-18 season. The MSPs fixed by the Government provide adequate returns over all India weighted average of all paid out costs including family labour (A2+FL) as estimated by the CACP. The Government offers to procure crops at MSP. However, farmers are free to sell their produce to the Government procurement agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them. The details of MSP of various crops for last five years are given in the Statement.

Statement*Details of MSP of various crops for last five years*

(According to crop year)		(As on 09.06.2017)									
Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	(#) increase in MSP 2016-17 over 2015-16	2017-18	(#) increase in MSP 2017-18 over 2016-17	2018-19	(#) increase in MSP 2018-19 over 2017-18
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Kharif Crops											
1.	Paddy	Common	1310	1360	1410	1470	60(4.3)	1550	80(5.4)		
		Grade 'A'	1345	1400	1450	1510	60(4.1)	1590	80(5.3)		
2.	Jowar	Hybrid	1500	1530	1570	1625	55(3.5)	1700	75(4.6)		
		Maldandi	1520	1550	1590	1650	60(3.8)	1725	75(4.5)		
3.	Bajra		1250	1250	1275	1330	55(4.3)	1425	95(7.1)		
4.	Maize		1310	1310	1325	1365	40(3.0)	1425	60(4.3)		
5.	Ragi		1500	1550	1650	1725	75(4.5)	1900	175(10.1)		
6.	Arhar (Tur)		4300	4350	4625^	5050^^	425(9.2)	5450^	400(7.9)		
7.	Moong		4500	4600	4850^	5225^^	375(7.7)	5575^	350(6.7)		
8.	Urad		4300	4350	4625^	5000^^	375(8.1)	5400^	400(8)		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9.	Cotton	Medium Staple	3700	3750	3800	3860	60(1.6)	4020	160(4.1)
		Long Staple	4000	4050	4100	4160	60(1.5)	4320	160(3.8)
10.	Groundnut in Shell		4000	4000	4030	4220*	190(4.7)	4450^	230(5.5)
11.	Sunflower Seed		3700	3750	3800	3950*	150(3.9)	4100*	150(3.8)
12.	Soyabean		2560	2560	2600	2775*	175(6.7)	3050^	275(9.9)
13.	Sesamum		4500	4600	4700	5000^	300(6.4)	5300*	300(6)
14.	Nigerseed		3500	3600	3650	3825*	175(4.8)	4050*	225(5.9)
	Rabi Crops								
15.	Wheat		1400	1450	1525	1625	100(6.6)		
16.	Barley		1100	1150	1225	1325	100(8.2)		
17.	Gram		3100	3175	3500**	4000^	500(14.3)		
18.	Masur (Lentil)		2950	3075	3400**	3950@	550(16.2)		
19.	Rapeseed/ Mustard		3050	3100	3350	3700*	350(10.4)		
20.	Safflower		3000	3050	3300	3700*	400(12.1)		
21.	Toria		3020	3020	3290	3560	270(8.2)		

Other Crops

22. Copra	Milling	5250	5250	5550	5950	400(7.2)	6500	550(9.2)
(Calendar Year)	Ball	5500	5500	5830	6240	410(7.0)	6785	545(8.7)
23. De-Husked Coconut		1425	1425	1500	1600	100(6.7)	1760	160(10)
(Calendar Year)								
24. Jute		2300	2400	2700	3200	500(18.5)	3500	300(9.3)
25. Sugarcane [§]		210.00	220.00	230.00	230.00	-	255	25(10.9)

Figures in brackets indicate percentage increase.

\$ Fair and remunerative price.

* 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.

Price support scheme for farmers

1452. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement of oilseeds, pulses and cotton has been implemented across the country;

(b) if so, the details of procurement of farmers' produces under the said scheme, when the prices of the produces fell below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) during the current period; and

(c) the other corrective steps taken by Government to provide adequate price/proper procurement mechanism to farmers for their produces in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh?

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

(b) The details of farmers' produce procured under PSS during the last year and current year are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Government has also undertaken procurement of pulses under Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) at Minimum Support Price (MSP) through NAFED, SFAC and FCI, foodgrains at MSP through FCI across the country including Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Further, Government has also provided remunerative price to onion farmers in the State of Madhya Pradesh through Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). Besides this, the Government has removed pulses from the list on which stock limit can be imposed by States and also increased the import duty imposed on various pulses to discourage cheap imports.

Statement

Details of procurement made by NAFED and SFAC under PSS during 2016-17 and 2017-18

Year	Commodities	State	Quantity (in Mts.)	MSP (in ₹/Mt.)	MSP Cost (₹ in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Procurement by NAFED					
2016-17	Sunflower Seed	Odisha	164.56	38,000.00	62.53
	Rabi 2016	Haryana	4784.708		1818.21
	TOTAL		4949.268		1880.74

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Milling Copra 2016	Tamil Nadu	1170.443	59500.00	696.41
		Andhra Pradesh	3318.500		1974.51
		TOTAL	4488.943		2670.92
	Ball Copra	Tamil Nadu	0.459	62400.00	0.29
		Karnataka	1835.00		1145.04
		TOTAL	1835.459		1145.33
	Ground Nut Pods 2016	Gujarat	210731.16	42200.00	88928.55
	Moong K-16	Maharashtra	6430.28	52250.00	3359.82
		Karnataka	1837.30		959.99
		TOTAL	8267.58		4319.81
	Soyabean	Maharashtra	163.81	27750.00	45.46
	Toor	Gujarat	49797.10	50500.00	25147.54
		Maharashtra	115276.03		58214.40
		Karnataka	30920.55		15614.88
		TOTAL	195993.68		98976.82
2017-18	Green Gram	Odisha	819.54	52250.00	428.21
	Mustard	Haryana	37648.77	37000.00	13930.04
	Sunflower	Telangana	112.10	39500.00	44.28
	Sunflower (As on 20.07.2017)	Haryana	4474.97		1767.61
	Summer Urad	Madhya Pradesh	12463.95	50000.00	6231.98
	Summer Moong	Madhya Pradesh	111000.00	52250.00	57997.50
		Odisha	1405.99		734.63
		TOTAL	112405.99		58732.13
	Sesamum Seed	West Bengal	15.633	50000.00	7.82
Procurement by SFAC					
2016-17	Moong K-16	Karnataka	679.90	52250.00	355.25
		Maharashtra	548.00		286.35
		TOTAL	1227.90		641.60

GST rates on pesticides

1453. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reduce the GST rates on pesticides from the existing rate of 18 per cent, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to reduce input cost on agriculture and to double the farmers' income by 2022?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) has communicated a proposal to the Department of Revenue for revision of GST rates on Agricultural Items, which *inter alia*, includes a proposal for NIL or 5% of GST on insecticides.

(b) The Government is implementing “Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India” Scheme, wherein, Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) are being organized to sensitize farmers about Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach so as to reduce dependence on chemical pesticides and encourage use of bio-pesticides and other alternative plant protection measures. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing various schemes, wherein, financial assistance is provided to the farmers for procurement of inputs like machineries, bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides, etc.

Promoting Happy Seeder Technology

1454. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Happy Seeder Technology and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to promote the technology, State-wise, including Karnataka; and

(b) whether any assessment has been made by the Ministry in Punjab and other States regarding the same and where this technology is being used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Happy Seeder Technology can be used to sow wheat directly in a combine harvested paddy field without removal of straw. It consists of a straw management rotor, which cuts and chops the straw in front of furrow openers and guides the cut material between the sowing tines, presenting the seeding drill with clear soil while leaving the chopped straw as mulch in between the seed rows.

To promote the various farm mechanization technology including Happy Seeder Technology, Government of India has introduced Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) *w.e.f.* 2014-15, under which, financial assistance is provided to State Governments including Karnataka State for demonstration, training, distribution, establishment of Custom Hiring Centers of various agricultural machinery and implements.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research's (ICAR) All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) centres on Farm Implements and Machinery (FIM) located at Choudhari Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU), Hisar (Haryana) and Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture Technology and Sciences (SHUATS), Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh) have conducted prototype Feasibility Testing of Happy seeder in an area of 12 ha. and 18.25 ha., respectively during 12th plan. The centre located at Panjab Agricultural University (PAU) Ludhiana has conducted front line Demonstration of Happy Seeder in an area of 158 ha. during 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Plan to replenish fish resources in Tamil Nadu

1455. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fish resources have exhausted within 12 nautical miles of coastal areas, including Tamil Nadu in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has formulated any plan to replenish fish resources within 12 nautical miles of coastal areas, including Tamil Nadu; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT) (a) No, Sir. No such reports have been received in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. As per the report of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi, the marine fish landings in India were 3.63 million tonnes during 2016, showing 6.6% increase in comparison to 2015 (3.40 million tonnes). In marine fish landings, Tamil Nadu has ranked second in 2016 with a share of 7.07 lakh tonnes amongst the maritime States/UTs.

(b) and (c) Fishing and fisheries within 12 nautical miles of territorial waters is a subject matter of the respective maritime States/UTs. Accordingly, formulation of any plan relating to fisheries regulation, management and development of fishery resources within the 12 nautical miles falls under the jurisdiction of the respective maritime States/UTs.

Shortage of fodder

1456. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is substantial shortage of feed and fodder in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether livestock is a major source of livelihood for a majority of the rural population in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details of measures taken to bridge the gap between the demand and availability of the fodder in the country, particularly during the lean periods and crisis situations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) As reported by the Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi, under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, there is an estimated deficit of 35.6% green fodder (supply of 526 MT against demand of 817 MT) and 11.0% of dry forage (supply of 453 MT against demand of 509 MT) in the country.

- (b) The main reasons of fodder shortages are as follows:—
 - (i) Fodder area being stagnated since last two decades and there is little or no scope to further increase area under fodder crops;
 - (ii) Diversion of crop residues for other purposes like fuel, packaging and paper industry;
 - (iii) Forages are generally least preferred crops among the farmers and generally face competition from the food and commercial crops meant for human population;
 - (iv) Poor fertility, degraded and marginal lands are usually allocated for forage production with minimum inputs in terms of fertilizers, water and human resource which results in poor fodder production;
 - (v) Non availability of good quality fodder seeds.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Livestock is a major source of livelihood for a majority of the rural population in the country. Government in conjunction with the State Government have already taken necessary measures to bridge the gap between the demand and availability of the fodder in various parts the country by providing financial assistance to the States and UTs under Centrally Sponsored National Livestock Mission of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) with a

Sub Mission on Feed and Fodder Development. The Mission is in operational since 2014-15 in all the States and Union Territories including the lean periods and crisis situations with a budgetary allocation of ₹ 310 crore during the current year 2017-18.

Additional Fodder Development Programme (AFDP) as a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) of Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare is also being operational since 2014-15 in the Districts/Blocks in the event of declaration of drought by the State Governments in order to mitigate drought implications on livestock with a budgetary allocation of ₹ 20 crores during the current year 2017-18 to mitigate the adverse impacts of drought which is continuing at present.

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

Functioning of KVKs

1457. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) have been established in the country since 1974;

(b) if so, the number of such Kendras established in 1974 and the total number of these Kendras in the country till June, 2017;

(c) the average amount spent annually for each KVK by Government; and

(d) the annual amount spent on an average basis for various activities by KVKs and the mechanism developed by Government for monitoring the functioning of these Kendras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes, only one Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) was established in 1974. Till June, 2017, a total of 676 KVKs have been established in the country.

(c) and (d) The average amount spent on each KVK depend on its stage of development and number of staff working at a KVK. During 2016-17 an amount of ₹ 830.90 crore was provided to KVKs which included ₹ 276.88 crore for its various activities and infrastructure.

A number of institutional mechanisms are in place for monitoring and review of KVKs which include holding of Scientific Advisory Committee meetings, Annual State and Zonal Workshops, Activity Specific Training-cum-Workshops, site visits by the Officers/Scientists of Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes, Directorates of Extension of Agricultural Universities and ICAR Headquarters; Annual National Conference, linkage and convergence meetings/discussions and review by Quinquennial Review Team.

Impact of drought on farmers of Tamil Nadu

1458. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) in view of the fact that State of Tamil Nadu was worst affected due to the recent drought, what measures were taken by Government to support the affected farmers in the State; and

(b) the total amount of crop insurance given to the farmers in the State of Tamil Nadu during Rabi season-2016?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Assistance is provided to the farmers from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), as per the laid down procedure. The extant norms, inter-alia, provide for assistance to the farmers in the form of Agriculture input subsidy (where crop loss is 33% and above), for damage caused due to notified natural calamities. During 2016-17, the Government of India approved an amount of ₹ 1748.28 crore to Government of Tamil Nadu from NDRF in the wake of drought, subject to adjustment of 50% of balance available in the SDRF account of the State.

(b) An amount of ₹ 121326.09 lakh has been given so far to the farmers towards crop insurance in Tamil Nadu during Rabi season-2016.

Use of cotton seed cakes for animal feed

1459. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton seed cakes are the mainstay of animal feed, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether a considered policy approach has been evolved to declare Bt. Cotton seed as safe enough to be continued as animal feed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir. Cotton seed cakes are the mainstay of animal feed used as a source of protein supplement and its incorporation helps in improving milk fat in dairy animals. It also helps in enhancing production performance in other livestock species.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has conducted study trials of short duration nature on animals and livestock species related to impact of Bt. Cotton seed and products as feed. There is no policy approach to recommend to the farmers for use through package of practices on Bt. cotton seeds based upon available findings.

Impact of GST on the rate of agricultural tools

†1460. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of tools used in farming have risen significantly with the introduction of GST;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry would request the Ministry of Finance to keep the tools used in farming out of the ambit of GST, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would consider giving grants for buying farming tools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Agricultural Hand Tools, such as, spades, shovels, mattocks, picks, hoes, forks and rakes; axes, bill hooks and similar hewing tools; secateurs and pruners of any kind; scythes, sickles, hay knives, hedge shears, timber wedges and other tools of a kind used in agriculture, horticulture or forestry and other Agricultural implements manually operated or animal driven are exempted from GST. Hence, there is no rise in price on these Agricultural Hand Tools due to introduction of GST.

There is 12% GST on Agricultural Machinery and equipments other than Agricultural Hand or animal driven tools. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has taken up with Ministry of Finance to reduce the rate of GST so as to ease out the financial burden on farmer.

(c) To promote farm mechanization in the country, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is providing financial assistance to farmers through

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

State Governments for procurement of various agricultural machinery, implements and tools under Sub Mission of Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY), National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

Launching of e-Krishi Samvad

1461. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated to the newly launched *e-Krishi Samvad*, an online interface platform;

(b) whether the interface will also be able to generate employment as more and more specialists and institutes will be required to provide direct and effective solutions to the problems faced by farmers;

(c) if so, the number of jobs Government proposes to generate in first year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) No additional funds are allocated to develop *e-Krishi Samvad*. The application was developed in-house with available man power and resources.

(b) No. Effective solution to the problems faced by farmers will be given by the Scientist (Subject Matter Specialists) of ICAR Institutes through internet.

(c) No employment will be generated.

(d) *e-Krishi Samvad* was developed in-house and the solutions to the problems of farmers will be provided by ICAR Scientist online. So, no additional employment is required.

Threat of yellow rust fungus on wheat crops

1462. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that yellow rust fungus threatens to ruin wheat crops in many parts of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that farmers have been advised to consult experts for confirmation of yellow rust and to spray a solution to control its spread, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) During 2016-17, some incidence of yellow rust was reported from few fields in Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. Immediate action was taken to control the same and no major loss was done by the fungus.

(b) The farmers were advised to spray the infected crop with fungicides like propiconazole @ 01%. Proper survey and surveillance were conducted to diagnose and manage the disease with fungicides. Awareness cards for management of rust were distributed among the farmers. In addition, disease susceptible varieties have been replaced with rust resistant high yielding varieties in Northern Hills and North western plains zones.

Hope of bumper harvest in view of good monsoon

1463. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether total rainfall recorded across the country in June, 2017 at 168.9 mm which is 4.0 per cent more than long-term average, has raised the hopes for a bumper harvest;

(b) whether, according to Meteorological Department's projection, with the prospects of El-Nino receding, above monsoon rainfall is likely to continue in the coming months; and

(c) whether good monsoon rainfall for the past few days has ensured major pick up in planting of pulses, cotton, coarse cereals and sugarcane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The total rainfall recorded across the country in the month of June, 2017 has been 170.2 mm which is 4% higher than its Long Period Average (LPA) of 163.6 mm.

(b) As per the latest forecast of India Meteorological Department (IMD) taking into account the prospects of receding of El-Nino, monsoon season rainfall for the country as a whole is likely to be 98% of the Long Period Average (LPA) with a model error of $\pm 4\%$. The monthly rainfall over the country as a whole is likely to be 96% of its LPA during the month of July and 99% of LPA during August both with a model error of $\pm 9\%$.

(c) As per reports received from State Governments, area coverage under Kharif crops as on 21st July, 2017 has been 685.31 lakh ha. as against 563.17 lakh ha.

as on 14th July, 2017. Details of area coverage under pulses, cotton, coarse cereals and sugarcane as on 21st July, 2017 and 14th July, 2017 are given as under:

(in lakh ha.)

Crop	Area Coverage as on	
	21.07.2017	14.07.2017
Pulses	93.36	74.61
Cotton	104.29	90.88
Coarse Cereals	130.90	113.06
Sugarcane	49.15	47.94

Development of high yielding seeds

1464. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had given nod for the GM seeds and to foreign companies to distribute and sell their GM seeds in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for giving such permission despite being opposed vehemently by the farmers, local people and civil society groups;

(c) whether Government has initiated research and development programmes to produce good quality seeds for high yield of crops like rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, cotton and fruits of good quality; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to double the yields by 2023?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) As of now, Bt. cotton is the only Genetically Modified crop approved by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for commercial cultivation in ten States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Telangana after extensive evaluation and satisfying all regulatory requirements as per the Rules, 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. There are 61 Seed Companies distributing seeds of about 1462 Bt. cotton hybrid in the country.

Bt. technology is effectively controlling bollworm damage, which is major pest of cotton crop and preventing yield losses from 30 to 60 per cent. As a result, productivity of cotton in the country increased significantly from 191 kg.

per hectare in 2002-03 to 513 kg. per hectare in 2016-17 and the production of cotton has been increased from 86.21 lakh bales in 2002-03 to 325.76 lakh bales in 2016-17. More than 80 per cent of the cotton area have been cultivating under Bt. cotton.

(c) and (d) Indian Council of Agricultural Research developing high yielding and stress tolerant varieties in different crops including rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, cotton and fruits suited to different agro climatic conditions of the Country through crop-specific All India Coordinated Research Project Centres. In the last three years, 430 improved crop varieties have been developed, out of which 153 varieties in rice, 50 varieties in wheat, 90 varieties in pulses, 99 varieties in oilseeds, 35 varieties in cotton and 3 varieties in fruits.

In addition, locations specific field demonstration trials and farmers participatory adaptive trials/demonstration are conducted and validation of crop production technologies including integrated pest management and integrated nutrient management are developed for improved crop varieties.

This Department providing assistance/subsidy for seed production and distribution under various existing Schemes/Programmes *viz.* National Food Security Mission, National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil palm, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture, National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology (Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Materials) and Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India. Further, ICAR implementing National Seed Project (Crops), ICAR Seed Project and special programme for quality seed production on pulses for establishing 150 seed hub in the Country.

Decrease in crop sowing area in Tamil Nadu

1465. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a 29 per cent decrease in crop sowing in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the reasons for such decrease in the crop sowing;

(c) whether Government has taken any measures to increase the area of crop sowing/cultivation in the forthcoming year; 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 S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Due to deficient/

deficit and erratic rainfall during 2016-17, the overall area under cultivation of major agricultural crops in the State of Tamil Nadu has decreased by 18 per cent in the year 2016-17 (as per Third Advance Estimates) as compared to 2015-16.

(c) and (d) In order to boost crop production in the country including Tamil Nadu, Government of India has been implementing various Crop Development Schemes/Programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Health Card, etc.

Thus, Government has undertaken following measures in the State of Tamil Nadu to increase the area of crop sowing in the forthcoming year:

- Reducing dependency on monsoons with better irrigation/water harvesting and harnessing methods.
- Ensuring timely availability of quality inputs such as seeds/planting materials, fertilizers, bio-fertilizers, biocides/bioagents, agriculture machinery etc.
- Bringing fallow lands under cultivation and reclaiming the problematic soils.
- Promoting utilization of non-conventional energy resources.
- Increasing agricultural production and productivity by improving soil health and input use efficiency.
- Promoting agro based infrastructure in rural areas.
- Reducing cost of cultivation by better crop management, popularizing cost effective indigenous inputs, adopting location specific innovative technologies, educating the farmers on good agricultural practices and mechanizing the farming operations.
- Planting of drought tolerant varieties and popularizing drought mitigation technologies.

Upgradation of cold storages

†1466. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of cold storages, in crore metric tonnes, which has been targeted to be built by Government at the country level in the year 2017-19, the policy of Government for it; and

(b) whether the National Centre for Cold Chain Development, which conducts studies on this from time to time, has submitted any report regarding upgradation

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of cold storages already built in rural areas for some specific purpose, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) A recent study on All India Cold-chain Infrastructure Capacity (AICIC-2015) conducted by NCCD-NABCONS assessed demand and reported the gaps in end-to-end connectivity. As per this report, status of cold chain infrastructure created and required is tabulated as follows:

Sl. No.	Component	Existing Capacity (2014)	Approximate Requirement
1.	Integrated Pack Houses	250 numbers	70,000 numbers
2.	Reefer Trucks	<10,000 numbers	62,000 numbers
3.	Cold stores (Bulk and distribution hubs)	3.20 crore metric tonnes	3.50 crore metric tonnes
4.	Ripening Chambers	800 numbers	9000 numbers

Study reveals that there is larger shortfall in other components that integrate the cold chain, which includes establishment of pack houses, refrigerated transport, ripening chambers etc. As on 31.03.2017, cold storage capacity available in the country was 3.47 crore MT.

As a policy Government through Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is supporting establishment of all relevant infrastructure including cold stores and ripening chambers to promote logistic integration with the aim to reduce losses across total supply chain and enable farmers to access markets. The component of post harvest under MIDH is demand and entrepreneur driven for which credit linked back ended subsidy is available through respective State Horticulture Missions.

National Centre for Cold-chain Development (NCCD), has developed minimum system standards in May, 2015, for cold chain projects to guide the owners of existing cold stores to choose necessary option and make relevant upgradation to suit their business. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme also provides credit linked back ended assistance for modernization of refrigeration and insulation system of existing cold storages. Assistance is available @ 50% of cost for modernisation. For modernization of refrigeration, the maximum admissible cost is ₹ 100.00 lakh @ ₹ 2500/MT and for modernization of insulation the maximum admissible cost is ₹ 100.00 lakh @ ₹ 1500/MT.

Drought in Andhra Pradesh

1467. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh has declared some parts of the State as drought-affected and submitted a proposal for assistance to the tune of ₹ 2,282 crore;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an Inter-Ministerial Team has also visited the State to assess the damage caused due to drought; and

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Team and action taken by Central Government to help the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (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 and recommended ₹ 518.93 crore and ₹ 28.153 crore respectively. On the basis of reports, the Central Government approved ₹ 518.93 crore from NDRF in accordance with the norms.

Agriculture market reforms

1468. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States will once again be pushed to adopt provisions of the new model farm Act to usher in agri market reforms in the country in a time-bound manner, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this issue has been discussed with the Agriculture Ministers of the States recently; and

(c) if so, the deliberations made in the said meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Government has

formulated a holistic, progressive and facilitative model Act “The State/UT Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017” with the objectives to enhance marketing efficiency by making it more transparent and competitive. This is expected to increase remuneration to the farmers so as to help in doubling their income in time bound manner. The said model Act has been released on 24th April, 2017 for adoption by the States.

(b) and (c) Issues pertaining to agricultural marketing and provisions in this model Act were discussed with the Hon’ble State Ministers incharge of Agricultural Marketing in the meeting held on 24th April, 2017 at New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Hon’ble Union Agriculture Minister. After the deliberations, there was broad consensus among the States to adopt this model Act.

**Policy to ensure remunerative price for
farmers' produces**

1469. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a recent report, wherein it has been stated that due to wrong policies of Government, the farmers of the country are forced to sell their crops to private players at cheaper rates; and

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to frame a new policy for fixing MSP of every crop of farmers and purchase them under MSP to ensure that the farmers may get remunerative prices for their produces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for major agricultural crops to ensure remunerative prices for farmers on the recommendation of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of the concerned State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors. Further, there is no proposal to change the formula for determining MSP 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 Committee was to examine the cost concepts for the purpose of fixing MSP and suggest various factors for improvement so as to make it more realistic.

MSP for cotton, oilseeds and pulses

1470. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production of pulses, cotton and oilseeds during last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(b) whether Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices has recommended increase in MSP of above crops for 2017-18, if so, the details of MSP fixed for these items;

(c) whether Government has also asked States to procure all farm produces to protect the farmers from distress sale, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government also held meeting with seed companies to cut prices of hybrid seeds by 10 per cent, if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The production of pulses, cotton and oilseeds for the years 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Government has increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of all Kharif crops including pulses, cotton and oilseeds for 2017-18 season on the basis of the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of State Governments, Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors.

The MSPs fixed by the Government for pulses, oilseeds and cotton for 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 are given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

Government ensures MSP through procurement operations undertaken by the Central, State and Cooperative agencies in the States. State Governments have been alerted from time to time to make adequate arrangements to ensure MSP to farmers.

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.

(d) During a meeting held on 16.06.2017, representatives of seed companies agreed to reduce the selling price (on MRP) of hybrid seeds except cotton seeds by 10 percent during Kharif 2017-18.

Statement-I*Production of pulses, cotton and oilseeds*

(Million Tonnes)

Pulses	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17*
Tur	3.17	2.81	2.56	4.60
Moong	1.61	1.50	1.59	2.07
Urad	1.70	1.96	1.95	2.93
Gram	9.53	7.33	7.06	9.08
Other Pulses	3.24	3.54	3.19	3.73
Cotton#	35.90	34.81	30.01	32.58
Oilseeds				
Groundnut in shell	9.71	7.40	6.73	7.65
Sunflower	0.50	0.43	0.30	0.23
Soyabean	11.86	10.37	8.57	14.01
Sesamum	0.72	0.83	0.85	0.80
Niger seed	0.10	0.08	0.07	0.09
Rapeseed/Mustard	7.88	6.28	6.80	7.98
Safflower	0.11	0.09	0.05	0.06

* 3rd Advance Estimates.

Million bales of 170 kgs. each

Statement-II*The details of MSP for cotton, oilseeds and pulses for
2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18*

(₹ per quintal)

Sl. No.	Commodity	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18\$
Pulses				
1.	Arhar (Tur)	4625 [^]	5050 ^{^^}	5450 [^]
2.	Moong	4850 [^]	5225 ^{^^}	5575 [^]
3.	Urad	4625 [^]	5000 ^{^^}	5400 [^]
4.	Gram	3500 ^{**}	4000 [^]	-
5.	Masur (Lentil)	3400 ^{**}	3950 [@]	-

Sl. No.	Commodity	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18\$
Oilseeds				
6.	Groundnut In Shell	4030	4220*	4450^
7.	Sunflower Seed	3800	3950*	4100*
8.	Soyabean	2600	2775*	3050^
9.	Sesamum	4700	5000^	5300*
10.	Nigerseed	3650	3825*	4050*
11.	Rapeseed/Mustard	3350	3700*	-
12.	Safflower	3300	3700*	-
13.	Cotton (Medium Staple)	3800	3860	4020
	(Long Staple)	4100	4160	4320

^Including bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal

^^Including bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal

*Including bonus of ₹ 100 per quintal

@ Including bonus of ₹ 150 per quintal

**Including bonus of ₹ 75 per quintal

\$ MSP for Kharif season 2017-18

Agitation by farmers in various states

1471. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the States where the farmers' unrest has taken place recently;
- (b) the reasons for the farmers agitation in various States, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government will conduct a study on the various grievances of farmers in different States;
- (d) the amount-spent from the exchequer by State Governments for waiving off the loans of farmers, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Central Government will compensate the State Governments to meet the loan waiver; and
- (f) the steps that Government proposes to take to solve farmers' grievances in the country, including changes in the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) During the

past few months, incidents of unrest among farmers have come to the notice of the Government specially in the States of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. 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,
- (iii) agricultural loan at subsidised rates of interest,
- (iv) procurement of crops at MSP by Central Government, and
- (v) higher price of agro produce like onions, soyabean, etc.

(c) Yes, Sir. A study titled 'Farmer Suicides: An all India Study' has been conducted during 2016-17 by the Government to ascertain various reasons for the growing number of farmers suicide in the country. This Pan-India study was carried out in 13 major suicide prone states namely: Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka. The study was assigned to Agriculture Research Unit, ISEC Bangalore and was completed with the association of the Agro-Economic Research Centres. The reference year of the study was decided as the agriculture year 2015-16 (June, 2015 – May, 2016).

(d) and (e) Keeping in view the resources available, the state governments may formulate and utilise the funds for spending towards welfare measures including waiver of farm loans.

The Government has taken several measures to provide institutional loans to farmers under the Interest Subvention Scheme, interest subvention of 2% per annum is provided to Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Scheduled Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks on their own funds used for short term crop loans upto ₹ 3.00 lakh per farmer provided the lending institutions make available short term credit at the ground level at 7% per annum to farmers. Farmers are provided with 3% additional interest subvention for the short term crop loan of upto ₹ 3.00 lakh for a maximum period of one year for prompt repayment on or before the due date. Thus, farmers, who promptly repay their crop loans as per the repayment schedule fixed by the banks, are extended loans at an effective interest rate of 4% per annum.

(f) During the last two years, the strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming *viable*. Farm *viability* is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The Government is realigning its interventions

to move from production-centric to farmers' income-centric platform. In order to realise net positive returns for the farmer, schemes as follows, are being promoted and implemented in a major way, *viz:-*

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and thus save money of farmers. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea (NCU) is being promoted to regulate use of urea, enhance availability of nitrogen to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer application. NCU slows down the release of fertilizer and makes it available to the crop in an effective manner. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured and imported urea is now neem coated. The reports from field are positive.
- (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) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched on 1st July, 2015 with the motto of 'Har Khet Ko Paani' for providing end-to-end solutions in irrigation supply chain, comprising water sources, distribution network and farm level applications. PMKSY not only focuses on creating sources for assured irrigation, but also creating protective irrigation by harnessing rain water at micro level through 'Jal Sanchay' and 'Jal Sinchan'. Micro irrigation is also incentivized through subsidy to ensure 'Per drop-More crop'. PMKSY adopts State level planning and projectised execution that allows States to draw up their own irrigation development plans based on District Irrigation Plans and State Irrigation Plans.
- (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) Government has introduced Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2016 to address the risks associated with agriculture. PMFBY addresses all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and is available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. The farmers will get full insurance cover as there is no capping of sum insured and consequently the claim amount is not cut or reduced. This scheme provides insurance cover at all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances. It is targeted to increase the area coverage to 40% by 2017-18 and 50% by the end of following year.
- (vii) 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).
- (viii) 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.
- (ix) Further the Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production.

Production of pulses, foodgrains and edible oils in West Bengal

1472. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the projects carried out to support and improve production of pulses, grains and essential edible oils in West Bengal;
- (b) the details of funds allocated, released and utilized for the above purpose during the last five years;

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide adequate financial, logistic and technical support to West Bengal to improve production of pulses, grains and essential edible oils; and

(d) the details of funds allocated, released and utilized for the above purpose during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (d) Government of India has been providing support to Government of West Bengal for improving production through various crop development programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP). Under these programmes, assistance is provided to the farmers for cluster/cropping system based demonstrations, distribution of quality seeds, micro-nutrients, soil ameliorants, plant protection chemicals including integrated pest management, farm implements/equipments, water saving devices and cropping system based trainings, etc. The allocation, release and expenditure of the above schemes is given in the Statement.

Statement

Allocation, release and expenditure of NFSM, RKVY and NMOOP

(₹ in crore)

Year		NFSM	RKVY	NMOOP
2012-13	Allocation	60.01	464.81	6.65
	Release	41.89	374.58	6.65
	Expenditure	42.47	374.58	4.99
2013-14	Allocation	82.56	508.14	3.34
	Release	59.93	265.08	3.34
	Expenditure	55.53	265.08	5.26
2014-15	Allocation	68.98	598.61	9.58
	Release	54.32	582.34	6.03
	Expenditure	68.00	582.19	7.75
2015-16	Allocation	38.05	285.26	13.00
	Release	33.13	284.56	9.85
	Expenditure	33.29	284.56	7.08
2016-17	Allocation	57.78	352.47	13.37
	Release	56.02	280.78	5.00
	Expenditure	50.73	167.74	8.92

Ban on use of toxic pesticides in agriculture

†1473. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there are many pesticides which are being used for production of vegetables and fruits in the country and many countries of the world have banned their use considering them dangerous;

(b) whether the National Nutrition Institute located in Hyderabad has conducted any study in this regard, if so, the report thereof; and

(c) the stringent steps Government is going to take to ban the use of pesticides like Endosulphan, Cypermethrin and Chlorpyrifos in production of vegetables and fruits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The Registration Committee (RC) constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides after considering its efficacy and safety to human beings, animals and environment. In additions, technical reviews are carried out from time to time to assess the safety of pesticides for their continued use. There are 66 pesticides which are banned, restricted, withdrawn in one or more countries but continue to be registered in India. The list of such pesticides is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) As per the Information received from the National Nutrition Institute, a study was conducted in 2012, which showed the presence of organophosphate pesticides in vegetable and fruit samples. Further, the results of the study on exposure assessments in different age, sex and physiological groups revealed that the estimates of daily dietary intakes of pesticide residues were much lower than their corresponding Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI).

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 residue. In the last five years a total of 49744 and 11042 samples of vegetables and fruits samples were analysed respectively, out of which 2.5 % of vegetable samples and 1.6 % of fruits samples were found containing residue above Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recommended Maximum Residue Limit (MRL). None of the banned pesticides were detected under the MPRNL scheme.

(c) The Supreme Court passed an ad-interim order on 13.05.2011 banning production, sale and use of Endosulfan in the country till further orders. Accordingly,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the Central Government issued instructions to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to implement the interim order of the Court in toto, which are binding on all manufacturers. The Secretariat of Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee has written to the Pesticide Associations to recall Certificates of Registration for Endosulfan. These certificates are deemed to have been treated as withdrawn in compliance of the ad-interim order passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions.

Cypermethrin is restricted for use in the Country. As per the Order of High Court of Delhi in WP(C) 10052 of 2009 dated 14-07-2009 and LPA-429/2009 dated 08-09-2009, Cypermethrin 3 % Smoke Generator, is to be used only through Pest Control Operators and not allowed to be used by the General Public.

Technical reviews are carried out from time to time to assess the safety of pesticides for their continued use. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) has constituted an expert committee in July 2013, to review 66 pesticides that are banned, restricted, withdrawn in one or more countries but continued to be registered in India. The Expert Committee, *inter alia*, recommended 13 pesticides to be completely banned, 27 pesticides to be reviewed in 2018 after completion of certain technical studies (including Chlorpyriphos) and 6 pesticides to be phased out by 2020. The Complete list is given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

List of pesticides which have been banned/restricted/withdrawn in one or more countries of the world but are still being used in agriculture in India

Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide	Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide
1.	Acephate	13.	Chlorfenapyr
2.	Alachlor	14.	Carbosulfan
3.	Aluminum Phosphide	15.	Chlorothalonil
4.	Atrazine	16.	Chlorpyriphos
5.	Benfuracarb	17.	DDT
6.	Benomyl	18.	Dezomet
7.	Bifenthrin	19.	Deltamethrin
8.	Butachlor	20.	Diazinon
9.	Captan	21.	Dichlorovos
10.	Carbaryl	22.	Dicofol
11.	Carbendazim	23.	Diflubenzuron
12.	Carbofuran	24.	Dimethoate

Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide	Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide
25.	Dinocap	45.	Oxyfluorfen
26.	Diuron	46.	Paraquat Dichloride
27.	Endosulfan (Supreme Court has banned its use)	47.	Pendimethalin
28.	Ethofenprox	48.	Phorate
29.	Fenpropathrin	49.	Phosphomidon
30.	Fenarimol	50.	Peitilachlor
31.	Fenitrothion	51.	Propargite
32.	Fenthion	52.	Propineb
33.	Iprodione	53.	Quinalphos
34.	2, 4-D	54.	Sodium cyanide
35.	Kasugamycin	55.	Sulfosulfurone
36.	Linuron	56.	Thiodecarb
37.	Methomyl	57.	Thiometon
38.	Methoxy Ethyl Mercury Chloride	58.	Thiophanate Methyl
39.	Methyl Parathion	59.	Thiram
40.	Malathion	60.	Triazophos
41.	Mancozeb	61.	Trichlorofon
42.	Mepiquat Chloride	62.	Tridemorph
43.	Metaldehyde	63.	Trifluralin
44.	Monocrotophos	64.	Zinc Phosphide
		65.	Zineb
		66.	Ziram

Statement-II

Recommendation of the expert committee with respect to 66 pesticides

Sl. No.	Category	No. of Pesticides	Name of the Pesticides
1	2	3	4
1.	I—to be continued	18	Aluminium phosphide, Bifenthrin, Carbosulfan, Chlorfenapyr, Chlorothalonil, Dazomet, Diflubenzuron, Ethofenprox, Fenpropathrin, Iprodione,

1	2	3	4
			Kasugamycin, Mepiquat chloride, Metaldehyde, Paraquat dichloride, Pretilachlor, Propargite, Propineb and Zinc phosphide
2.	II—to be reviewed again in 2018, after completion of the recommended studies	27	Acephate, Atrazine, Benfuracarb, Butachlor, Captan, Carbendazim, Carbofuran, Chlorpyriphos, Deltamethrin, Dicofol, Dimethoate, Dinocap, Diuron, 2,4-D, Malathion, Mancozeb, Methomyl, Monocrotophos, Oxyfluorfen, Pendimethalin, Quinalphos, Sulfosulfuron, Thiodicarb, Thiophanate methyl, Thiram, Zineb, Ziram
3.	III—to be phased out by 2020	6	Alachlor, Dichlorvos, Phorate, Phosphamidon, Triazophos, Trichlorfon
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new certificate of registration to manufacture shall be issued after December 2017 • No person shall import, manufacture or formulate <i>w.e.f.</i> 1st January 2019 • The use shall be completely banned <i>w.e.f.</i> 31st December 2020 		

1	2	3	4
4.	IV- ban to be continued	1	Fenitrothion
5.	V-it's use to be completely banned	13	Benomyl, Carbaryl, DDT Diazinon, Fenarimol, Fenthion, Linuron, MEMC, Methyl Parathion, Sodium Cyanide, Thiometon, Tridemorph, Trifluralin
6.	VI-not reviewed as it is <i>sub-judice</i>	1	Endosulfan

Fishing by foreign deep sea trawlers

1474. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any reports regarding the quantity of fishing done by the foreign deep sea trawlers, which had been operating since 1997 on the basis of Letter of Permits (LoPs) issued by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the absence of such information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) to (c) Foreign deep sea fishing trawlers have not been permitted to do fishing in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) under the Letter of Permission (LoP) regime implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The LoPs have been granted only to the Indian owned resource-specific deep-sea fishing vessels. The LoP vessels were in operation since 2002 till 2015. The details of fish catch reported by LoP vessels during 2011 to 2015 (last five years) are furnished as below:-

Year	Catch (Kg)
2011	375944
2012	526520
2013	19074
2014	526620
2015	477830

**Remunerative price for farmers producing
grapes, onion and sugarcane**

1475. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the leading grapes, onion and sugarcane producing States in the country, and the total production recorded thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the facilities provided by Government to the farmers cultivating these crops;

(c) whether the farmers producing these crops are not getting remunerative prices; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The names of the leading grapes, onion and sugarcane producing States in the country and the total production recorded during the last three years, State-wise is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Government provides several facilities to the farmers growing agricultural crops including sugarcane and horticulture crops including grapes and onion, for increasing production, which are as under:—

- Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented during Twelfth Plan w.e.f. 2014-15, for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering all the horticulture crops including grapes and onion.
- The Mission envisages production and productivity improvement of horticulture crops including grapes and onion through increased coverage of area with improved cultivars, rejuvenation of senile orchards, protected cultivation, creation of water resources, adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), organic farming, including in situ generation of organic inputs.
- Capacity buildings of farmers and technicians is also provided for adopting improved technologies, for all crops including grapes, onion and sugarcane.

(c) In case of sugarcane, the farmers are getting remunerative prices as the Government fixes Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane on the basis of recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

In case of horticulture crops, so far no representation has been received from any State regarding farmers producing grapes not receiving remunerative prices for their produce. However, with regards to onion crop, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh Governments have submitted proposal for sanction of funds under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of onion, as due to higher production, farmers were not getting remunerative prices.

(d) Steps taken by the Government to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers producing horticulture crops including Grapes and Onion are as under:-

- Fixing Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane on the basis of recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and after consultations with all stake holders. The FRP is the minimum benchmark price below which sugar mills can not purchase cane from the cane growers. The FRP for the current sugar season 2016-17 has been fixed at ₹ 230 per quintal and for ensuing sugar season 2017-18 at ₹ 255 per quintal linked to a basic recovery rate of 9.50%.
- Implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities including grapes and onion, under which losses, if any, are shared between the Central Government and the State Government concerned on 50:50 basis. The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of onion from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop this year.
- Providing assistance for development of infrastructure for Post Harvest Management and marketing such as storages, wholesale Markets, Rural Primary Market, Kissan Mandies, etc.
- Facilitating direct marketing, contract farming, setting up of private markets, farmer consumer markets and e-markets.
- Providing market information to farmers on prices and arrivals of agricultural commodities in regulated markets on AGMARKNET portal to enable the farmers to get better remunerative prices.

Statement

Details of leading grapes, onion and sugarcane producing States with total production during the last three years

Table-1: State-wise Production of Grapes

(Production in '000 MT)

State/UT	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Maharashtra	2160.00	2292.53	2048.11
Karnataka	302.39	420.81	429.78
Tamil Nadu	47.72	32.63	34.10
Mizoram	23.87	22.55	22.55
Kerala		1.88	15.50
Andhra Pradesh	8.93	11.19	14.64
Telangana	25.79	26.81	13.54
Punjab	12.02	9.21	8.49
Madhya Pradesh	2.00	3.00	2.20
Others	2.63	2.18	1.14
TOTAL	2585.34	2822.78	2590.04

Table-2: State-wise Production of Onion

(Production in '000 MT)

State/UT	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Maharashtra	5864.04	5361.00	6529.34
Madhya Pradesh	2826.02	2842.00	2848.00
Karnataka	2065.16	3227.04	2695.99
Rajasthan	704.96	960.78	1435.11
Gujarat	1851.22	1126.55	1355.78
Bihar	1304.16	1247.31	1247.34
Andhra Pradesh	1004.55	575.58	885.42
Haryana	672.17	640.22	705.80
West Bengal	342.85	380.15	544.55

State/UT	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Uttar Pradesh	409.96	413.60	422.75
Telangana	424.22	450.54	395.96
Tamil Nadu	472.69	259.63	380.95
Odisha	432.05	395.96	378.58
Chhattisgarh	309.54	308.10	375.99
Jharkhand	320.53	322.73	254.63
Punjab	185.40	188.18	193.71
Assam	28.81	32.42	80.31
Others	183.34	195.63	201.03
TOTAL	19401.68	18927.41	20931.21

Source: Horticulture Statistics Division, DAC&FW.

Table-3: State-wise Production of Sugarcane Crop

(Production in '000 MT)

State/UT	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Uttar Pradesh	134688.6	133061.4	145385
Maharashtra	76901	84699	73679.6
Karnataka	37905	43776	37833.8
Tamil Nadu	32454.1	28092.8	25494.1
Bihar	12881.8	14034.1	12649.3
Gujarat	12550	14330	11120
Andhra Pradesh	12008.8	9987	9353
Haryana	7499	7169	6692
Punjab	6675	7039	6607
Uttarakhand	5939.8	6165.1	5885.8
Madhya Pradesh	3173.7	4567	5281
Telangana	3376.2	3343	2405
West Bengal	1945	2105.5	2075
Assam	1075.2	1099.1	1038.3

State/UT	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Jharkhand	462.8	469.8	708.9
Odisha	936.5	722.9	577.2
Rajasthan	362.9	408.9	531.3
Manipur	339.3	339.3	348
Puducherry	304.1	317	214
Others	663.1	607	570.4
TOTAL	352141.9	362332.9	348448.7

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES).

Output of foodgrains

1476. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the total foodgrains output for the crop year 2016-17; and

(b) if so, the details of various foodgrains output for the last two years and the current year, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The country has witnessed record foodgrain production in the year 2016-17. State/UT-wise details of the foodgrains production for the last two years *i.e.* 2015-16 and 2016-17 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

However, the First Advance Estimates of production (covering only kharif crops) for an agriculture year (July-June) are normally released in September and Second Advance Estimates covering both Kharif and Rabi crops are normally released in February of subsequent calendar year. Therefore, it is too early to have firm assessment of production of total foodgrains for the current year *i.e.* 2017-18.

Statement*State/UT-wise production of major foodgrains during 2015-16 to 2016-17*

State/UT	Rice						Wheat			Coarse Cereals			Total Pulses			Total Foodgrains		
	2015-16	2016-17*	2015-16	2016-17*	2015-16	2016-17*	2015-16	2016-17*	2015-16	2016-17*	2015-16	2016-17*	2015-16	2016-17*	2015-16	2016-17*	2015-16	2016-17*
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Andhra Pradesh	7488.7	7457.0	7457.0	0.0	0.0	1916.0	1935.0	1229.0	1054.0	10633.7	10446.1							
Arunachal Pradesh	204.0	#	#	7.7	#	102.8	#	13.0	#	327.6	#							
Assam	5125.1	5231.0	5231.0	34.3	31.0	91.6	90.0	107.6	118.0	5358.6	5470.0							
Bihar	6802.2	7476.9	7476.9	4736.4	4718.5	2548.6	2581.5	420.7	429.4	14507.9	15206.3							
Chhattisgarh	5789.4	8048.4	8048.4	137.4	152.6	215.5	292.1	511.9	604.3	6654.2	9097.4							
Goa	115.1	#	#	NA	#	0.0	#	0.3	#	115.3	#							
Gujarat	1702.0	1959.0	1959.0	2484.0	2938.0	1549.7	1952.0	543.6	824.0	6279.3	7673.0							
Haryana	4145.0	4453.0	4453.0	11352.0	11142.0	796.0	1153.0	65.6	116.8	16358.6	16864.8							
Himachal Pradesh	129.9	130.9	130.9	667.6	663.3	777.0	780.3	40.6	60.9	1615.1	1635.4							
Jammu and Kashmir	646.4	619.4	619.4	541.5	463.3	535.4	518.7	9.4	8.3	1732.7	1609.8							
Jharkhand	2882.2	3361.5	3361.5	287.3	446.8	395.5	611.1	527.0	728.0	4092.1	5147.4							
Karnataka	3021.0	2599.1	2599.1	156.0	110.0	5608.2	5029.9	1138.8	1488.9	9924.0	9227.9							
Kerala	549.3	508.1	508.1	NA	NA	0.3	0.3	4.3	1.4	553.8	509.8							

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Madhya Pradesh	3546.7	4158.4	17688.7	17778.4	3848.8	4620.5	5302.4	6069.8	30386.5	32627.1
Maharashtra	2593.0	3176.5	981.0	1671.7	3635.7	6603.7	1544.7	3668.8	8754.4	15120.7
Manipur	338.8	#	5.6	#	61.6	#	29.8	#	435.7	#
Meghalaya	301.1	#	0.9	#	44.0	#	11.7	#	357.7	#
Mizoram	62.1	#	NA	#	10.3	#	5.0	#	77.4	#
Nagaland	318.8	#	6.0	#	148.0	#	43.1	#	515.8	#
Odisha	5875.4	8425.4	0.5	1.3	157.2	278.3	375.1	387.0	6408.2	9092.0
Punjab	11823.0	11018.5	16077.0	16040.5	457.3	491.1	43.5	52.7	28400.8	27602.8
Rajasthan	369.8	452.7	9871.0	8998.0	5808.9	6724.3	1990.2	2972.7	18039.9	19147.7
Sikkim	13.1	#	0.4	#	75.2	#	5.4	#	94.1	#
Tamil Nadu	7517.1	4092.4	NA	NA	3406.6	2370.5	554.8	605.6	11478.5	7068.6
Telangana	3047.0	4763.1	8.5	6.0	1834.0	2812.5	239.6	474.8	5129.0	8056.4
Tripura	794.8	#	0.4	#	12.2	#	10.9	#	818.3	#
Uttar Pradesh	12501.0	12937.6	25425.2	30400.8	3460.0	3939.0	1164.6	2165.1	42550.8	49442.5
Uttarakhand	639.1	626.0	772.4	790.0	282.8	308.0	51.6	53.0	1745.9	1777.0
West Bengal	15953.9	15028.8	960.0	960.0	732.7	732.5	358.6	335.4	18005.2	17056.7
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	13.4	#	NA	#	0.4	#	0.9	#	14.7	#

Dadra and Nagar Haveli	36.8	#	0.1	#	1.6	#	2.6	#	41.1	#
Delhi	17.3	#	85.6	#	7.7	#	1.2	#	111.7	#
Daman and Diu	2.0	#	NA	#	0.6	#	1.0	#	2.6	#
Puducherry	43.9	#	NA	#	0.0	#	0.8	#	44.7	#
Chandigarh	NA	#	0.3	#	0.0	#	NA	#	NA	#
Others	NA	2625.6	NA	124.3	NA	564.9	NA	182.2	NA	3497.1
ALL INDIA	104408.2	109149.4	92287.5	97436.5	38522.3	44389.4	16348.2	22401.1	251566.3	273376.5

* As per 3rd Advance Estimates.

NA: Not Available.

Included in others.

Fish cage farming

1477. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fish cage farming is covered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana;

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

(c) 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) No, Sir. Fish cage farming is not covered under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) as the scheme is meant for only field crops and annual commercial/horticultural crops only. However, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has formulated Mission Cage Culture-2022 to install 25000 cages in the potential States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Total 4745 cages have been approved in various States at a total cost of ₹ 13825 lakh involving Central Government share of ₹ 7036.70 lakh.

Organic farming in Maharashtra

1478. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any road-map for promoting organic farming in Maharashtra and other parts of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and by when Government proposes to have such a road-map?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Government has prepared the road map for promoting organic farming in country including Maharashtra under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), a sub-scheme of National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) through adoption of organic village by cluster approach and certification through Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)-India programme. Under the scheme, the farmers will form a cluster of 20 hectare land and will be provided ₹ 50,000 per hectare per farmer in cluster during the 3 years to develop 10,000 organic clusters of 20 hectare each so as to cover certified area by 2 lakh hectare during the 3 years. The detail of the scheme PKVY are given

in the Statement-I (See below). The detail of funds allocated and released to States and to Maharashtra under (PKVY) are given in the Statement-II and Statement-III.

Statement-I

Details of the scheme Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is a sub-scheme under National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) through which assistance is provided for Organic Farming clusters. Assistance will be provided @ ₹ 50,000 per hectare per farmer in cluster for a period of 3 years to develop organic clusters of 20 hectare each and to cover certified area by 2 lakh hectare during 2015-16 and 2017-18

Under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) Scheme, financial assistance is provided towards cluster formation, mobilization of farmers, PGS certification and quality control, residue analysis of samples in NABL, conversion of land to organic farming, establishment of production units (Pachagavya/Beejamruth/Jeevamruth), green manuring/ biological nitrogen harvest planting, botanical abstracts production units, liquid biofertilizers, liquid biopesticides, Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM), establishment of vermi-compost unit, supply of improved agricultural implements, transportation of organic products, packaging, labeling and branding of organic products etc.

Status of Scheme: The Annual Action Plan of 29 States and 1 Union Territory was approved with total outlay for ₹ 496.62 crore during 2015-16 and total 7208 clusters developed in 2015-16. The scheme is implemented with a 90:10 (GoI: State Government) funding pattern in 8 NE States and 3 hilly States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, 100% in Union Territory and 60:40 funding pattern in remaining States of the country. The details of funds released is as:-

(₹ in crore)

Year	No. of clusters	Allocation	Release
2015-16	7208	300.00	226.19
2016-17	—	297.00	152.19
2017-18	—	350.00	—

Statement-II*Funds allocated and released to States under PKVY*

All India status under PKVY scheme

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No of clusters	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		
			Allocation (₹ in lakh)	Release (₹ in lakh)	Expenditure (₹ in lakh)	Allocation (₹ in lakh)	Release (₹ in lakh)	Expenditure (₹ in lakh)	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	433	1854.47	1100.15	0	1308.50	798.17	0	759.88
2.	Bihar	327	1400.49	1050.37	0	988.17	664.26	0	573.86
3.	Chhattisgarh	188	805.17	603.88	249.65	568.12	314.78	314.78	329.92
4.	Gujarat	100	428.28	178.45	0	302.19	238.83	17.4	175.49
5.	Goa	4	17.13	7.14	0	12.09	0	0	7.02
6.	Haryana	20	85.66	53.53	0	60.44	45.98	0	35.10
7.	Jharkhand	100	428.28	321.21	178.45	302.19	203.14	0	175.49
8.	Karnataka	545	2334.15	1945.12	1945.12	1646.96	815.27	785.268	956.43
9.	Kerala	119	509.66	382.22	355.296	359.61	0	0	208.83
10.	Madhya Pradesh	880	3768.90	2826.67	2826.67	2659.31	1787.6	526.379	1544.33
11.	Maharashtra	932	3991.61	2598.51	2598.51	2816.45	2957.59	0	1635.58
12.	Odisha	320	1370.51	1027.88	1027.88	967.02	650.03	650.03	561.57
13.	Punjab	50	214.14	160.6	160.6	151.10	0	0	87.75

14.	Rajasthan	755	3233.55	2373.69	2082.27	2281.56	1491.13	597.78	1324.96
15.	Tamil Nadu	112	479.68	399.73	295.97	338.46	207.2644	0	196.55
16.	Telangana	300	1284.85	1070.71	0	906.58	448.77	0	526.47
17.	Uttar Pradesh	575	2462.64	2052.2	2002.16	1737.62	1270.64	402.438	1009.08
18.	West Bengal	120	513.94	214.14	214.14	362.63	393.66	0	210.59
19.	Assam	220	1413.34	576.39	20	997.24	0	0	579.12
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	19	122.06	51.41	51.41	86.13	81.08	0	50.02
21.	Mizoram	34	218.43	89.08	89.08	154.12	138.65	0	89.50
22.	Manipur	30	192.73	107.07	0	135.99	0	0	78.97
23.	Nagaland	24	154.18	153.33	153.33	108.79	0	0	63.18
24.	Sikkim	150	963.64	409.105	201.63	679.94	0	0	394.86
25.	Tripura	50	321.21	133.84	133.84	226.65	308.83	308.83	131.62
26.	Meghalaya	45	289.09	144.55	144.55	203.98	296	0	118.46
27.	Himachal Pradesh	110	706.67	395	345.005	498.62	0	0	289.56
28.	Jammu and Kashmir	28	179.88	74.95	74.95	126.92	87.81	26.79	73.71
29.	Uttarakhand	550	3533.35	1962.97	1902.21	2493.10	2019.4	1641.29	1447.81
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	68	485.39	130	0	342.49	0	0	198.89
31.	Other admin. charges			24.85	0		0		
TOTAL		7208	33763.09	22618.75	17052.72	23822.96	15218.88	5270.99	13834.58

Statement-III*Funds allocated and released to Maharashtra under PKVY*

State: Maharashtra

Name of Scheme – Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

Year	Physical Progress		Financial Progress (₹ in lakh)			Status of utilisation certificate		
	Total Plan	Achievement Unachieved (with reason)	Allocation	Amount release	Expenditure		Balance amount	
2015-16	Formation of 932 Clusters*	Work continue on existing 932 clusters	The scheme is expected to complete in 3 years	3991.61	2598.51	2598.51	0	UC received utilized Amount of ₹ 2598.51 lakh
2016-17				2816.45	2957.59	0	2957.59	Awaited
2017-18				1635.58	0	0	0	-
TOTAL				5556.10	2598.51	2598.51	2957.59	

*At present, total 932 clusters of 40762 beneficiaries are formed which covered 20346 ha. area.

Remunerative price to farmers' produces

†1479. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangement made for safe storage of agricultural produces like potato, onion, garlic, green peas, tomatoes and such other vegetables along with the measures taken to provide remunerative price to farmers in the case of bumper crops of these vegetables; and

(b) the procedure followed to fix the acreage for sowing crops conforming to the demand and supply in the interest of farmers with reference to (a) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Government is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for holistic development of Horticulture sector which also provides assistance for storage of horticulture produce. Under the scheme, Government has taken several other measures to ensure remunerative prices to farmers which include mobilisation of farmers into Farmer Producer Organisations for aggregation and economies of scale, assistance for development of post harvest management and marketing infrastructure, etc.

In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the Price Support Scheme. The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production. It is implemented on the specific request of the concerned State/UT Government, which has to bear 50% of the loss (25% in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation.

(b) Acreage under crops is not fixed by the Government. Farmers are free to decide type of crops and area to be sown.

Prices of hybrid seeds

†1480. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to decrease the prices of hybrid seeds;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any step in this regard, so far; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(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) To supplement the efforts of Government of India to provide quality seeds including hybrid seeds to farmers at affordable prices, Government made an appeal to National Seeds Corporation and Private Seeds Companies to voluntarily reduce the prices of hybrid seeds.

Accordingly, Private Seed Industries and National Seeds Corporation, a Public Sector Undertaking under this Department has agreed to reduce the prices of hybrid seeds (except cotton seeds which is already regulated) by 10% on MRP during Kharif season 2017-18. Distributors/ Dealers of Private Seed Companies and Regional Offices of NSC have been suitably instructed by them to comply the above decision with immediate effect.

Effect of bollworm on bt. cotton

1481. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that bt. cotton is no longer resistant to pests as bollworm has developed resistance, thereby affecting farmers using these seeds;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government of Maharashtra has written to the Ministry for its intervention;

(c) whether other States have also written to the Ministry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government on those requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) There is decline in susceptibility of pink bollworm in last two years to toxins Cry1Ac present in Bollgard I and Cry1Ac+Cry2Ab toxins in Bollgard-II in few areas of Gujarat, Khandesh region of Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

(b) to (d) The Ministry has received communication from the State of Maharashtra citing issues in respect of pink bollworm. The ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) has taken the following actions:-

- Advisory for management of pink bollworm has been formulated and given wide publicity among extension agencies, farmers and media.
- Regular field surveys, pest monitoring and resistance monitoring studies being carried out.

- Weekly advisories have been issued in English and 8 local languages on the CICR web site, with mails and alerts sent to the State Agricultural Departments.
- Weekly Voice mail advisories (E-Kapas) have been disseminated to 1,80,000 farmers across India.

Creating a separate Ministry for Fisheries

1482. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre is considering to create a separate Ministry for Fisheries; and

(b) if so, whether any time-frame has been set to form the said new Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) No Sir. There is no such proposal for creation of a separate Ministry for Fisheries under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Use of unsafe pesticides in farming

1483. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pesticides declared unsafe for human consumption are being used for agricultural farming;

(b) whether the retailers have no direction for controlled selling of the dangerous pesticides, not fit for human consumption;

(c) whether it is a fact that the manufacturers of the dangerous pesticides are actually encouraging the retailers to sell more of such pesticides to the farmers; and

(d) if so, whether there is any measure put in place by the Ministry to monitor the use of dangerous pesticides by the farmers for agricultural purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) 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. None of the banned pesticides were detected under the MPRNL scheme.

(b) The Insecticides Act, 1968 has been enacted to regulate the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides with a view to prevent risk to human beings or animals, and for matters connected therewith. The Act provides provision for issuance of licenses to the retailers for sale of registered pesticides.

(c) and (d) There is no such information available with the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW). However, as per provision under Section 5 of the Act, the Government has constituted Registration Committee (RC). The Committee registers pesticides for manufacture/import/sale in the country after evaluating its safety to human health and environment. Further, technical reviews of registered pesticide/insecticide are being conducted regularly to evaluate its impact for their continued use. In addition, under the provision of the Insecticides Act, 1968, the Central and State Government have notified Insecticides Inspectors to carry out inspection of manufacturing, storage and sale points etc., draw samples of pesticides and analyze them with the help of notified Pesticide Analysts. Prosecution is initiated in competent courts of law in cases of violation of the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968.

Fishing in coastal areas

1484. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in availability of fish in western coastal areas of the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide fish famine package to support the fishing community in coastal areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There are no such reports of decline in availability of marine fish in the western coastal areas of the country during the last three years. As per reports of various States / UTs of the western coast of the country the marine fish catch data during the last three years is given below:—

(in 000' tonnes)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17(P)
1.	Goa	114.70	107.07	113.56
2.	Gujarat	698.45	697.33	698.83
3.	Karnataka	399.82	411.74	398.93

Sl. No.	State/UT	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17(P)
4.	Kerala	524.47	516.75	447.28
5.	Maharashtra	463.59	434.12	462.75
6.	Daman and Diu	31.54	22.55	23.40
7.	Lakshadweep	13.19	15.94	29.80
TOTAL		2245.76	2205.5	2174.55

(P) Provisional.

(c) In order to promote fish conservation and sustainable management of fisheries, the Government of India notifies uniform fishing ban in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) beyond territorial waters on both the East and West Coast. The Department under the Central Plan Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries also provides relief to the fishers during the fishing ban period/lean fishing season.

Facilities and schemes for small and marginal farmers

1485. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the various facilities and schemes of Government provided to the small and marginal farmers of the country in the last two years in order to empower them;

(b) whether Government has waived or planning to waive off farm loans of small and marginal farmers upto ₹1 lakh; 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) Agriculture is a State subject. However, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing various Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the benefit of farmers of the country including small and marginal farmers. Guidelines of Schemes like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Rainfed Area Development envisage that at least 50% of the allocation is to be utilized for small and marginal farmers. Details of major schemes being implemented are given in the Statement (*See* below).

Government has taken several measures to increase institutional credit flow and bringing more and more farmers including small and marginal farmers within the institutional credit fold. These measures, *inter alia*, includes 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, collateral free loan upto ₹ 1.00 lakh, scheme for financing of Joint Liability Group (JLGs) etc.

Share of Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) accounts in total number financed by all agencies grew from 60.07 per cent in 2015-16 to 72.06 per cent in 2016-17. More importantly, in terms of amount disbursed the share of SMF grew from 41.51 per cent (in 2015-16) to 50.14 per cent (in 2016-17). Table indicating share of small and Marginal farmers in Agriculture Credit Flow by banks is as under:—

Year	% Share of SF/MF in total no. of accounts	% Share of SF/MF in total loan disbursed
2014-15	56.94	41.01
2015-16 *	60.07	41.51
2016-17 *	72.06	50.14

*Provisional.

Keeping in view the risks involved in agriculture and to insure the farming community against various risks, Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) along with pilot Unified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) and the restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS). Under the PMFBY, a uniform maximum premium of only 2% will be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the maximum premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5%. The premium rates to be paid by farmers are very low and balance premium will be paid by the Government to provide full insured amount to the farmers against crop loss on account of natural calamities. There is no upper limit on Government subsidy.

(b) No, Sir. The Government of India has no proposal to waive off farm loans of small and marginal farmers at the moment.

(c) In view of above, does not arise.

Statement

*Details of major schemes implemented by Department of Agriculture,
Cooperation and Farmers Welfare*

1. National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
2. National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)

3. Rainfed Area Development and Climate Change (RAD)
4. Soil Health Management (SHM)
5. Soil Health Card (SHC)
6. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
7. Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization (SMAM)
8. Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE)
9. National E- Governance Plan-Agriculture (NEGP)
10. Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP)
11. National Horticulture Mission (NHM)
12. National Agro Forestry and Bamboo Mission (NABM)
13. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
14. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)
15. Horticulture Mission for North East Himalayan States (HMNEHS)
16. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
17. National Agriculture Market (NAM)
18. Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Census and Statistics (ISACS)
19. Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Cooperation (ISAC)
20. Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Marketing (ISAM)
21. Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI)
22. Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)

Drought in Andhra Pradesh

1486. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of drought conditions prevailing in Andhra Pradesh in the last three years and current year, year-wise;

(b) the details of Mandals declared as drought-affected during the above period, year-wise;

(c) the details of assistance sought by Government of Andhra Pradesh and provided by Central Government, year-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that every State is supposed to submit its drought-relief proposals before August every year; and

(e) if so, whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted drought-related details of the year 2016-17 so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (e) Details of declaration of drought by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and assistance sought by the State Government and approved by the Government of India from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), for drought during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are given in the Statement (*See below*). So far the Government of Andhra Pradesh has not reported drought during 2017-18. As per the revised 'Manual for Drought Management 2016', which is effective from Kharif 2017, the States are required to notify/declare the Kharif drought by 30th October and the Rabi drought by 31st March of the financial year.

Statement

The details of declaration of drought and assistance sought by Andhra Pradesh and Proved by GoI from NDRF for drought during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17

Year	Declaration of Drought in	National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)	
		Assistance sought by Andhra Pradesh	Assistance approved by Central India
2014-15	7 districts* (230 Mandals)	1532.00	237.51
2015-16	10 districts ** (359 Mandals)	2000.56	433.77
2016-17	(i) 7 districts *** (268 Mandals)	2281.79	518.93
	(ii) 4 districts **** (33 Mandals)–Additional Memorandum	232.18	\$

*Anantapur, Chittoor, Guntur, Kadapa, Kurnool, Nellore and Prakasam.

**Anantapur, Chittoor, Guntur, Kadapa, Krishna, Kurnool, Nellore, Prakasam, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram.

*** Anantapur, Chittoor, Kadapa, Kurnool, Nellore, Prakasam and Srikakulam.

****Chittoor, Prakasam, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram.

\$The Sub-Committee of National Executive Committee in its meeting held on 22.06.2017 observed that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sufficient balance available in the SDRF, which can be utilized in accordance with the guidelines for SDRF/NDRF for relief in drought affected areas in the State.

Banning of pesticides

1487. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

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

(a) whether Government has received any representation regarding banning of 66 types of pesticides like Aluminium Phosphide, Corbosulfan, dezomet, DDT, Zinc Phosphide, Captan, etc., as they are detrimental to the health of mankind, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has taken any decision against the registration of these pesticides, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) has constituted an expert committee in July, 2013, to review 66 pesticides that are banned, restricted, withdrawn in one or more countries but continued to be registered in India. The Expert Committee, *inter alia*, recommended 13 pesticides to be completely banned, 27 pesticides to be reviewed in 2018 after completion of certain technical studies and 6 pesticides to be phased out by 2020. The Complete list is given in the Statement-I (*See* below). Considering the recommendation of Expert Committee as accorded by the Registration Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, *vide* its Notification S.O. 4212(E) dated 15th December, 2016, had invited objections and suggestions from the public/stakeholders on banning/phasing out of certain pesticides. The details are given in the Statement-II (*See* below). In response to the Notification S.O. 4212(E) dated 15th December, 2016, the Ministry has received various objections and suggestions. Keeping in view of which, a committee has been constituted to review the received objections and suggestions.

Statement-I*Recommendation of the expert committee with respect to 66 pesticides*

Sl. No.	Category	No. of Pesticides	Name of the Pesticides
1	2	3	4
1.	I- to be continued	18	Aluminium phosphide, Bifenthrin, Carbosulfan, Chlorfenapyr, Chlorothalonil,

1	2	3	4
			Dazomet, Diflubenzuron, Ethofenprox, Fenpropathrin, Iprodione, Kasugamycin, Mepiquat chloride, Metaldehyde, Paraquat dichloride, Pretilachlor, Propargite, Propineb and Zinc phosphide
2.	II- to be reviewed again in 2018, after completion of the recommended studies	27	Acephate, Atrazine, Benfuracarb, Butachlor, Captan, Carbendazim, Carbofuran, Chlorpyrifos, Deltamethrin, Dicofol, Dimethoate, Dinocap, Diuron, 2,4-D, Malathion, Mancozeb, Methomyl, Monocrotophos, Oxyfluorfen, Pendimethalin, Quinalphos, Sulfosulfuron, Thiodicarb, Thiophanate methyl, Thiram, Zineb, Ziram
3.	III- to be phased out by 2020	6	Alachlor, Dichlorvos, Phorate, Phosphamidon, Triazophos, Trichlorfon
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new certificate of registration to manufacture shall be issued after December, 2017 • No person shall import, manufacture or formulate w.e.f. 1st January, 2019 • The use shall be completely banned w.e.f. 31st December, 2020 		
4.	IV-ban to be continued	1	Fenitrothion

1	2	3	4
5.	V- it's use to be completely banned	13	Benomyl, Carbaryl, DDT Diazinon, Fenarimol, Fenthion, Linuron, MEMC, Methyl Parathion, Sodium Cyanide, Thiometon, Tridemorph, Trifluralin
6.	VI-not reviewed as it is <i>sub-judice</i>	1	Endosulfan

Statement-II

Names of the pesticides in the notification S.O.4212 (E)

Sl. No.	Name	Sl. No.	Name
1.	Benomyl	10.	Thiometon
2.	Carbaryl	11.	Tridemorph
3.	Diazinon	12.	Trifluralin
4.	Fenarimol	13.	Alachlor
5.	Fenthion	14.	Dichlorvos
6.	Linuron	15.	Phorate
7.	MEMC	16.	Phosphamidon
8.	Methyl Parathion	17.	Triazophos
9.	Sodium Cyanide	18.	Trichlorfon

Availability of essential drugs post-GST

1488. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any review of the prices and availability of essential drugs after the implementation of GST in the country;

(b) the steps taken to make available adequate quantity of medicines, in view of low stocks and restricted inventory of certain medicines across cities in the country;

(c) the manner in which Government proposes to ensure that the benefit of price difference is passed on to the consumers; and

(d) the details of measures taken to allay the fear of retailers and wholesalers about getting tax refund in time, in case of expired goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) A facility for reporting shortage of medicines, if any, by the public has been provided by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) through helpline number /Pharma Jan Samadhan/mobile number and twitter handle (https://twitter.com/nppa_india). NPPA is monitoring about 97,000 SKUs based on Pharmatrac data. NPPA had earlier received a number of complaints from individuals through WhatsApp in the first week of July about non-availability of some formulations. These complaints of non-availability of a particular drug do not appear to be due to introduction of GST. However, in all these cases, the concerned companies have been instructed to coordinate with the complainants and ensure supply of medicine to the complainants. As per the information received from the All Indian Origin Chemists and Distributors Limited (AIOCD), there is no shortage of drugs and smooth supplies are being maintained.

(c) NPPA has recently revised the ceiling price of scheduled formulations *vide* S.O. 2058(E), 2059(E), 2060(E), 2061(E), 2062(E) and 2063(E) dated 30.6.2017 on account of implementation of GST and have reduced the ceiling prices to the extent the excise duty component was included in the ceiling prices.

(d) Return of expired goods would be governed by the provisions of Section 34 of the Central Goods and Services Act, 2017. A manufacturer may issue a credit note within the time specified in sub-section (2) of Section 34 subject to the condition that the person returning the expired medicines reduces his inputs tax credit. Subsequently, at the time when the expired goods are destroyed, the manufacturer has to reverse his input tax credit on account of the goods being destroyed. Further, where the goods are returned after the time limit specified in Section 34(2), the registered person returning the goods shall issue a tax invoice as it will be a supply within the meaning of the said Act. To allay the fear of stakeholders on implementation of GST, NPPA has conducted various meetings with Pharmaceutical Associations/Federations etc. including Wholesalers and Retailers Associations and the issues raised by the stakeholders have been appropriately addressed.

Price cap on medical devices

1489. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after cardiac stents, Government is planning to cap price of four more devices; and

(b) if so, what are those four devices and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Smuggling and diversion of fertilizers

1490. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantity of urea is diverted for non-agricultural purposes while other fertilizers are smuggled to Bangladesh and other neighboring countries;

(b) if so, the details of measures taken by Government to curb diversion and smuggling of fertilizers to neighboring countries and to maintain strict vigil on the borders to check smuggling of fertilizers; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to establish an institutional mechanism, in cooperation with State Governments, to take notice of instances of smuggling and diversion of fertilizers for non-agricultural purposes and to ensure stringent punishment for those who are involved in such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (c) Sir, during last year, there were no reports of alleged diversion and smuggling of subsidized urea for non-agricultural purposes. Also, in the current year, no report of diversion and smuggling has been received from any State Government.

Government has declared fertilizer as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955(ECA) and notified Fertilizer (Control) Order (FCO), 1985 and Fertilizer (Movement Control) Order, 1973 under the EC Act. State Governments have been adequately empowered to ensure selling of fertilizers at MRP besides stopping smuggling and diversion of fertilizers. State Governments are empowered to conduct search, make seizures and take punitive action against any person violating provisions of FCO, 1985 and Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

The State Governments have been empowered to take appropriate action to curb diversion of fertilizers and initiate action against the persons who violate these orders. Department of Fertilizers has, from time to time, written to the Chief Secretaries of various States and Ministry of Home Affairs to activate the enforcement agencies under their jurisdiction to take appropriate action to curb diversion.

Department of Fertilizers ensures availability of all fertilizers at State level as

per requirement projected by DAC&FW in consultation with States/ UTs for each season and distribution within the States is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. The availability is monitored regularly at various levels and there is no shortage of any fertilizer.

Further, following steps are being taken to check black-marketing/ smuggling/ diversion of fertilizers meant for farmers:—

- (a) The movement of all major subsidized fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system (www.urvarak.co.in) also called as Integrated Fertilizer Monitoring System (iFMS);
- (b) The State Governments have been advised to sensitize the State Institutional Agencies to coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies;
- (c) Department of Fertilizers and Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) are jointly reviewing fertilizer availability with State Agriculture department through Video Conferences every week. The corrective actions, if required, are taken immediately to avoid any hardships to farmers;
- (d) Fertilizer companies are required to print Maximum Retail Price (MRP) on the fertilizer bags clearly. Any sale above the printed MRP is punishable under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955; and
- (e) State Governments as enforcement agencies are adequately empowered to check the irregularities.

Analysis of price data of critical devices by NPPA

1491. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has started analyzing price data of critical devices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the NPPA has called for a stakeholders' consultation in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has notified 23 medical devices as drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules. Out of these, 4 devices (Cardiac

stents, drug eluting stents, condoms and intra uterine devices) consequently are under price control. The remaining 19 medical devices or drugs are non-scheduled formulations. Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) provides for only monitoring the maximum retail prices (MRPs) of all such non-scheduled drugs to ensure that no manufacturer increases the maximum retail price of a drug by not more than ten percent per annum. In order to monitor the price movement of the 19 medical devices, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), as an ongoing process, directed the manufactures /importers of these medical devices to declare their maximum retail price and other details and submit the same.

(c) Consultation with the stakeholders on various issues relating to pricing is an ongoing process.

Growth of pharma sector in Visakhapatnam

1492. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pharma sector in Visakhapatnam is growing rapidly with ₹ 15,000 crores of pharma exports every year;

(b) the steps taken to attract more and more pharma companies in Jawaharlal Pharma City which helps in generating more and more employment;

(c) whether Government is planning to acquire additional 2,000 acres of land for another Pharma City and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how the Ministry is going to help Andhra Pradesh to make Visakhapatnam a pharmaceutical hub of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) The pharma exports from the country, including Vishakhapatnam, have shown rapid growth during the past three years, the details of which are as under:—

(Value ₹ crores)			
Commodity Group	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Bulk Drugs, Drug Intermediates	23268.06	22949.60	23180.87
Drug Formulations, Biologicals	68753.55	72275.00	81498.81
GRAND TOTAL	92021.61	95224.6	104679.68

(b) The Central Government provides the available necessary help to the State Government in implementing their projects which also help in generating more employment.

(c) The Department of Pharmaceuticals has at present no plan for acquiring any land for Pharma City.

(d) The Department is at present implementing a scheme for Cluster Development Programme for Pharma Sector (CDP-PS) for financing common facilities in Pharma Clusters in the country. Through this scheme, the government proposes to finance common facilities of these clusters/parks.

Retaining fertilizer retail sellers in fertilizer business

1493. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many retail sellers have left the fertilizer business due to confusion in implementing PoS/Aadhaar-based scheme, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any remedial action has been taken to retain fertilizer retail sellers in fertilizer business in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) No, Sir. No such report has been received from any State Government/Fertilizer Company.

(b) Does not arise.

Adulteration in neem coated urea

1494. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for fertilizer companies to produce 100 per cent neem-coated urea under New Urea Policy of 2015;

(b) if so, the total metric 15 rga of urea produced *vis-à-vis* imported neem-coated urea during last two financial years:

(c) the total savings accrued to exchequer in fertilizer subsidy due to such neem-coating during the said period;

(d) the measures taken to curb malpractice of using spurious/ cheap oil in lieu of neem oil in neem-coating of urea; and

(e) the steps taken to promote organised cultivation of neem and processing of neem oil under New Urea Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. This was made mandatory *vide* OM 12012/20/2007-FPP dated 25th May, 2015 on the basis of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) decision.

(b) The details of the production of normal urea and neem coated urea during the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 is annexed. It is further mentioned that no neem coated urea is imported on Government account. However, neem oil coating facilities have been created at all Indian ports where the urea imported on Government account is being neem coated. The quantities moved from the ports w.e.f. 01.12.2015 and onwards are being 100% neem coated, the details of which is as under:—

Year	Quantity (in LMT)
2015-16 (from 01.12.2015)	28.18
2016-17	54.81

(c) The details of the subsidy paid to urea manufacturing units during 2015-16 and 2016-17 is as under:—

Year	Subsidy payment (in crores)
2015-16	38,200
2016-17	40,000

It is mentioned that NUP-2015 has led to additional production of approximately 20 LMT from the existing plants against the year 2014-15 and the total production of urea during the year 2015-16 was 244.5 LMT *i.e.* the highest ever urea production in the country. During the year 2016-17, the production of urea has reached the level of 242.01 LMT which is also higher than 2014-15. Therefore, subsidy disbursed to the urea units was relatively higher during 2015-16 and 2016-17 as compared to 2014-15.

Further, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) was entrusted to conduct a study to determine the impact of Neem Coated Urea. The interim report prepared by Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre (ADRTC), Bengaluru has been submitted by DAC and FW. The brief findings of the study are as follows:—

- Improvement in soil health.
- Reduction in costs with respect to plant protection chemicals.
- Reduction in pest and disease attack.

- An increase in yield of paddy to an extent of 5.79 per cent.
- An increase in yield of sugarcane to extent of 17.5 per cent.
- An increase in yield of maize to the extent of 7.14 per cent.
- An increase in yield of Soyabean to the extent of 7.4 per cent.
- An increase in yield of Tur/Red Gram to the extent of 16.88 per cent.
- Diversion of highly subsidized urea towards non-agricultural purposes negligible among farmers after the introduction of the mandatory policy of production and distribution of only neem coated urea.

(d) The following measures has been taken to curb malpractice of using spurious/cheap oil in lieu of neem oil in neem coating of urea:—

- (i) DoF from time to time has issued instructions to urea units for ensuring the quality of neem oil and to procure it from genuine neem oil manufacturers only.
- (ii) *Vide* gazetted order dated 6th February, 2017, DAC&FW has amended the specification of NCU wherein a foot note regarding specification of neem oil has been included. DoF has directed all the urea manufacturers/importers to strictly adhere to the specification of neem oil used for the purpose of production of neem coated urea.
- (iii) DoF has requested DAC&FW to advise the Central Laboratories to lift samples of neem oil used for neem coated urea from the premises of urea manufacturing units to test its quality as per the specification of neem oil.
- (iv) DoF has advised all the urea manufacturers/importers to include the details of the production/import capacity and quantity of neem oil to be supplied to urea manufacturers/importers as a condition in the 'Tender Notice'.

(e) No such steps have been taken under NUP-2015.

Supply of fertilizers to Maharashtra

1495. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has supplied fertilizers to Maharashtra in accordance with the demand for the years 2016-17 and 2017-18;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the plan to supply fertilizers for the next monsoon season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has supplied fertilizers to Maharashtra in accordance with the demand for the years 2016-17 and 2017-18 till date *i.e* upto 24.07.2017. Department of Fertilizers ensures availability of all fertilizers at State level and the distribution to farmers within the States is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. The district-wise availability is not monitored by Department of Fertilizers, it is monitored at State level which is available in an on-line web based monitoring system (www.urvarak.co.in) also called as Integrated Fertilizer Monitoring System (iFMS). The information available from iFMS of district-wise availability in 2016-17 and 2017-18 upto 24.07.2017 is given in the Statement-I and Statement-II respectively (*See* below).

(c) Requirement of States is assessed by Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) in consultation with States before the start of each season. Department of Fertilizers ensures availability as per demand projected by DAC&FW. The requirement for the next monsoon season has not been assessed yet.

Statement-I

(A) Maharashtra District-wise Urea Data 2016-17

(Figures in '000' MTs)

District	Yearly Plan	Availability	Sales
Ahmednagar	138.30	155.06	148.56
Akola	31.45	40.63	32.99
Amravati	36.90	51.17	46.98
Aurangabad	107.03	114.15	111.41
Beed	58.26	62.96	66.52
Bhandara	22.98	22.63	31.82
Buldhana	61.93	69.06	63.41
Chandrapur	53.01	58.47	54.67
Dhule	64.49	66.77	56.42
Gadchiroli	21.78	17.38	24.13
Gondia	35.47	40.54	29.77
Hingoli	20.73	21.10	22.49
Jalgaon	154.25	184.17	172.82

District	Yearly Plan	Availability	Sales
Jalna	83.59	94.31	89.29
Kolhapur	105.70	109.17	112.76
Latur	40.50	36.15	32.79
Mumbai	0.00	0.00	0.19
Nagpur	68.62	72.51	70.91
Nanded	110.36	135.46	126.20
Nandurbar	53.79	52.85	61.22
Nashik	118.02	126.45	117.17
Osmanabad	22.23	19.41	23.29
Palghar	16.15	14.72	2.05
Parbhani	39.04	45.36	44.00
Pune	147.49	155.44	152.83
Raigarh	17.94	15.93	15.90
Ratnagiri	9.97	6.80	5.58
Sangli	78.14	84.99	75.09
Satara	68.01	80.65	78.12
Sindhudurg	6.10	4.07	5.52
Solapur	145.21	151.34	148.44
Thane	12.01	10.62	22.99
Wardha	51.86	65.28	55.61
Washim	19.29	24.00	24.32
Yavatmal	71.80	85.01	91.83
TOTAL	2092.43	2294.62	2218.09

(B) *Maharashtra District-wise DAP Data 2016-17*

(Figures in '000' MTs)

District	Yearly Plan	Availability	Sales
Ahmednagar	36.73	37.34	31.10
Akola	21.50	21.95	14.67
Amravati	21.29	21.75	18.09
Aurangabad	13.88	14.29	13.51

District	Yearly Plan	Availability	Sales
Beed	14.00	15.72	19.06
Bhandara	0.68	0.70	2.05
Buldhana	24.69	27.45	23.38
Chandrapur	6.61	7.65	7.45
Dhule	4.10	5.07	5.01
Gadchiroli	1.05	1.08	2.10
Gondia	3.83	5.02	1.78
Hingoli	3.63	5.83	8.84
Jalgaon	15.92	21.74	22.18
Jalna	29.81	32.28	26.96
Kolhapur	11.70	13.85	23.19
Latur	23.90	24.62	22.86
Nagpur	13.92	16.23	17.05
Nanded	47.78	57.99	47.19
Nandurbar	1.15	1.15	5.82
Nashik	30.45	30.65	30.44
Osmanabad	8.31	8.34	12.83
Palghar	0.04	0.04	0.15
Parbhani	12.63	13.73	15.70
Pune	31.79	32.36	30.90
Raigarh	1.99	2.00	2.33
Ratnagiri	0.85	0.85	2.10
Sangli	39.09	43.04	24.26
Satara	13.59	14.44	16.32
Sindhudurg	0.59	0.60	0.61
Solapur	27.06	27.42	28.65
Thane	0.83	0.85	1.13
Wardha	12.49	13.84	17.74
Washim	9.17	9.34	9.21
Yavatmal	11.40	11.46	15.92
TOTAL	496.47	540.70	520.57

(C) Maharashtra District-wise MOP Data 2016-17

(Figures in '000' MTs)

District	Yearly Plan	Availability	Sales
Ahmednagar	12.31	14.90	12.77
Akola	4.82	5.78	5.39
Amravati	6.16	9.43	9.13
Aurangabad	8.40	10.44	10.47
Beed	1.99	2.45	5.80
Bhandara	0.26	0.26	0.87
Buldhana	5.32	5.97	7.33
Chandrapur	0.48	0.90	1.91
Dhule	5.23	7.91	6.96
Gadchiroli	0.24	0.27	0.89
Gondia	0.75	1.85	0.38
Hingoli	1.17	1.63	3.27
Jalgaon	52.52	74.42	66.57
Jalna	11.21	14.65	12.16
Kolhapur	16.71	20.87	27.68
Latur	0.91	2.21	2.72
Nagpur	4.44	8.03	7.26
Nanded	24.43	28.13	24.67
Nandurbar	2.44	3.33	9.70
Nashik	2.44	3.07	5.29
Osmanabad	0.47	0.69	1.30
Palghar	0.02	0.02	0.11
Parbhani	1.71	2.97	2.84
Pune	17.97	21.61	18.21
Raigarh	0.66	0.75	1.20
Ratnagiri	0.10	0.22	0.87
Sangli	31.66	36.60	24.81
Satara	5.86	7.60	11.08
Sindhudurg	0.24	0.24	0.52

District	Yearly Plan	Availability	Sales
Solapur	13.66	18.32	20.13
Thane	0.15	0.15	0.24
Wardha	11.97	13.85	8.16
Washim	0.40	0.53	0.97
Yavatmal	1.81	3.37	10.39
TOTAL	248.89	323.40	322.08

(D) Maharashtra District-wise NPK Data 2016-17

(Figures in '000' MTs)

District	Yearly Plan	Availability	Sales
Ahmednagar	117.29	147.78	127.22
Akola	32.98	48.93	26.08
Amravati	34.69	42.15	35.86
Aurangabad	93.02	103.13	99.38
Beed	71.95	80.19	96.72
Bhandara	10.82	11.20	25.95
Buldhana	58.73	75.99	66.53
Chandrapur	24.61	29.09	30.69
Dhule	26.34	29.93	29.74
Gadchiroli	7.00	7.30	16.22
Gondia	31.95	38.01	21.17
Hingoli	9.83	12.89	15.84
Jalgaon	83.29	106.21	96.94
Jalna	67.33	76.11	69.60
Kolhapur	52.05	66.82	68.04
Latur	36.81	43.92	31.77
Mumbai	0.00	0.00	0.07
Nagpur	37.11	48.08	40.54
Nanded	64.23	82.06	64.57
Nandurbar	10.65	11.71	19.49
Nashik	110.41	132.18	116.32

District	Yearly Plan	Availability	Sales
Osmanabad	12.71	13.32	19.52
Palghar	5.18	5.87	1.74
Parbhani	33.91	38.50	35.72
Pune	89.74	103.08	101.64
Raigarh	3.46	3.88	3.98
Ratnagiri	3.06	3.23	2.81
Sangli	55.12	77.10	61.44
Satara	39.59	54.90	52.95
Sindhudurg	2.32	2.41	3.22
Solapur	67.17	80.29	68.95
Thane	4.17	4.40	8.76
Wardha	31.74	47.12	27.13
Washim	14.31	19.28	20.07
Yavatmal	34.22	35.41	50.87
TOTAL	1377.78	1682.46	1557.53

Statement-II*(A) Maharashtra District-wise Urea Data 2017-18 upto 24.07.17**(Figures in '000' MTs)*

District	Yearly Plan	Availability	Sales
Ahmednagar	32.12	41.67	38.20
Akola	11.67	9.17	8.13
Amravati	19.32	26.48	13.54
Aurangabad	48.79	88.36	71.50
Beed	25.88	33.72	28.52
Bhandara	14.74	4.72	5.16
Buldhana	21.94	31.70	25.59
Chandrapur	23.44	29.65	26.15
Dhule	16.39	26.45	16.75
Gadchiroli	12.97	5.49	5.92
Gondia	7.98	6.97	4.74

District	Yearly Plan	Availability	Sales
Hingoli	9.00	14.45	13.95
Jalgaon	37.22	58.59	42.33
Jalna	28.03	49.78	41.48
Kolhapur	34.03	34.07	34.84
Latur	13.19	17.17	14.87
Mumbai	0.02	0.03	0.06
Nagpur	20.98	26.30	17.78
Nanded	36.50	62.02	55.27
Nandurbar	17.60	21.83	20.62
Nashik	32.92	42.25	33.97
Osmanabad	11.19	12.62	10.43
Palghar	8.16	11.43	11.43
Parbhani	17.74	23.23	19.76
Pune	38.26	43.22	36.56
Raigarh	9.91	11.63	11.62
Ratnagiri	12.03	13.65	10.95
Sangli	21.92	24.66	19.98
Satara	22.41	25.64	19.34
Sindhudurg	4.94	4.70	5.65
Solapur	33.73	45.14	36.56
Thane	6.70	6.28	6.05
Wardha	19.34	28.86	24.46
Washim	7.37	4.48	2.92
Yavatmal	39.86	35.23	33.16
TOTAL	718.30	921.65	768.22

(B) Maharashtra District-wise DAP Data 2017-18 upto 24.07.17

(Figures in '000' MTs)

District	Yearly Plan	Availability	Sales
Ahmednagar	14.94	11.38	5.58
Akola	6.23	16.53	9.67

District	Yearly Plan	Availability	Sales
Amravati	12.47	9.35	8.64
Aurangabad	9.48	4.17	4.36
Beed	9.85	9.84	8.37
Bhandara	5.21	0.65	0.95
Buldhana	11.18	21.15	13.67
Chandrapur	10.09	7.06	6.36
Dhule	7.89	2.16	2.83
Gadchiroli	5.17	1.25	1.80
Gondia	3.42	2.50	0.33
Hingoli	11.59	7.93	9.87
Jalgaon	10.60	10.76	8.56
Jalna	16.25	13.18	12.17
Kolhapur	12.74	5.76	10.06
Latur	11.81	16.41	12.41
Nagpur	13.06	13.54	11.28
Nanded	25.25	36.66	32.00
Nandurbar	5.24	1.86	2.35
Nashik	16.60	12.85	10.00
Osmanabad	11.00	10.21	10.27
Palghar	1.02	0.08	0.11
Parbhani	9.89	15.06	9.99
Pune	12.74	9.42	8.46
Raigarh	2.87	1.97	1.97
Ratnagiri	3.23	0.63	1.18
Sangli	14.59	16.37	6.06
Satara	8.56	4.38	4.24
Sindhudurg	1.32	0.66	0.52
Solapur	10.67	12.38	12.96
Thane	1.77	1.27	0.03
Wardha	14.33	12.54	13.84

District	Yearly Plan	Availability	Sales
Washim	6.17	6.27	6.79
Yavatmal	8.34	11.14	10.92
TOTAL	325.56	307.38	258.58

(C) Maharashtra District-wise MOP Data 2017-18 upto 24.07.17

(Figures in '000' MTs)

District	Yearly Plan	Availability	Sales
Ahmednagar	7.89	5.60	5.40
Akola	3.93	3.19	2.41
Amravati	7.14	6.67	2.84
Aurangabad	10.41	8.86	7.31
Beed	1.93	1.12	1.99
Bhandara	5.21	0.01	0.17
Buldhana	7.79	3.54	3.39
Chandrapur	5.63	0.98	1.76
Dhule	6.25	2.85	3.34
Gadchiroli	1.05	0.41	0.54
Gondia	1.46	0.87	0.22
Hingoli	7.53	2.64	2.22
Jalgaon	26.02	44.47	36.34
Jalna	10.36	11.74	7.58
Kolhapur	13.05	9.84	11.93
Latur	2.30	1.71	1.58
Nagpur	5.26	3.47	2.52
Nanded	11.18	18.37	12.90
Nandurbar	4.52	3.73	5.08
Nashik	4.83	4.43	3.16
Osmanabad	1.30	0.76	1.75
Palghar	0.30	0.00	0.00
Parbhani	2.28	4.64	1.87
Pune	8.51	11.23	6.28

District	Yearly Plan	Availability	Sales
Raigarh	1.47	0.97	0.97
Ratnagiri	0.53	0.03	0.08
Sangli	16.13	16.44	11.24
Satara	6.70	4.75	5.27
Sindhudurg	0.52	0.13	0.32
Solapur	11.48	13.69	11.10
Thane	1.75	1.55	0.00
Wardha	8.53	11.06	9.04
Washim	1.12	0.29	0.39
Yavatmal	7.51	5.49	7.60
TOTAL	211.87	205.52	168.59

(D) Maharashtra District-wise NPK Data 2017-18 upto 24.07.17

(Figures in '000' MTs)

District	Yearly Plan	Availability	Sales
Ahmednagar	27.99	42.21	27.29
Akola	13.70	24.21	10.93
Amravati	12.04	16.82	9.77
Aurangabad	33.41	48.02	39.11
Beed	27.05	36.73	33.48
Bhandara	8.69	3.16	5.10
Buldhana	28.46	38.49	23.69
Chandrapur	12.73	22.24	16.95
Dhule	17.02	15.18	13.69
Gadchiroli	8.28	1.71	3.01
Gondia	9.63	12.45	3.77
Hingoli	15.76	12.87	13.52
Jalgaon	44.49	54.04	39.08
Jalna	29.81	41.71	31.54
Kolhapur	22.74	27.78	18.11
Latur	22.22	29.60	16.51

District	Yearly Plan	Availability	Sales
Mumbai	0.00	0.02	0.04
Nagpur	20.14	27.33	16.63
Nanded	33.48	58.91	32.90
Nandurbar	11.89	6.97	9.67
Nashik	34.41	53.40	30.82
Osmanabad	12.76	15.66	13.44
Palghar	3.96	1.54	1.62
Parbhani	21.94	31.25	19.85
Pune	27.98	27.76	21.04
Raigarh	3.75	1.15	1.07
Ratnagiri	6.18	5.36	5.08
Sangli	23.24	38.09	14.64
Satara	16.96	17.98	12.50
Sindhudurg	4.42	2.49	2.83
Solapur	17.85	25.48	17.06
Thane	3.20	0.84	0.72
Wardha	19.60	37.33	20.94
Washim	8.35	11.11	8.73
Yavatmal	22.06	29.87	32.40
TOTAL	626.17	819.74	567.51

Ensuring availability of generic medicines at affordable rates

1496. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure the availability of generic medicines at affordable rate to public at large in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has any plan to augment the existing Public Sector pharma company set up to ensure the availability of generic medicines at affordable rate in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes Sir. In order to ensure the availability of quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all, a countrywide

campaign in the name of 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana' (PMBJP) is presently being implemented. As on 25.07.2017, 2052 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Kendras' are functional in 31 States/UTs of the country. Presently, more than 600 medicines, 154 surgicals and consumables are available in the product basket of the scheme.

(b) Out of the present product basket of the scheme, only some medicines are procured from Central Pharma Sector Undertakings (CPSUs).

New centres of CIPET in backward and tribal districts of Chhattisgarh

†1497. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, apart from Raipur, Government proposes to establish Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology (CIPET) in backward and tribal-dominated districts of Chhattisgarh also, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any proposal has been received from State Government in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Government of India approved setting up 16 centres of Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET) in different parts of the country including one centre in Chhattisgarh at Raipur during 2015-16 to 2018-19. Requests have been received from Government of Chhattisgarh to set up CIPET centres at Jagdalpur, Korba and Rajnandgaon. As the Government of India has to ensure full utilization of the facilities at the existing centres in a State before considering a new centre based on justification and availability of resources, no further proposal for setting up of CIPET centre in Chhattisgarh can be considered at the present juncture.

Revival of closed fertilizer plants

1498. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to revive closed fertilizer plants with the help of cash-rich Public Sector energy companies;

(b) if so, the number of closed fertilizer plants in the country and the number of fertilizer plants proposed to be revived under the plan; and

(c) the details and time-frame for implementation of the plan?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present eight fertilizer public sector plants have been lying closed. Out of these closed plants presently five plants namely Talcher, Ramagundam, Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni are being revived by setting up Ammonia-Urea plants of 1.27 million metric tonne per annum (MMTPA) capacity each.

(c) Gorakhpur and Sindri units of Fertilizer Corporation of India limited (FCIL) and Barauni unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) are being revived by means of Special Purpose Vehicle of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) through nomination route. A Joint Venture (JV) Company named "Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited (HURL)" comprising of National Thermal Power Corporation, Coal India Limited, Indian Oil Corporation Limited and FCIL/HFCL has been formed.

Talcher Unit of FCIL is being revived on 'Nomination basis' by a Consortium of PSUs namely Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF), GAIL(India) Limited, CIL and FCIL. A JV Company named "Talcher Fertilizers Limited (TFL)" has been formed.

Ramagundam unit of FCIL is being revived on nomination basis by consortium of PSUs namely Engineers India Limited (EIL), National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) and FCIL. A JV Company named "Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited" has been formed.

Expected date of operationalization of these plants are as under:-

Fertilizer Plant	Expected month of operationalization
Talcher	December, 2020
Ramagundam	November, 2018
Gorakhpur	August, 2020
Sindri	September, 2020
Barauni	October, 2020

Range of generic medicines available at Jan Aushadhi Kendras

1499. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had opened a few Jan Aushadhi Kendras at Government hospitals, in collaboration with State Governments, Red Cross Society and NGOs in last three years;

(b) whether the number of such Kendras were to be increased gradually to make available the basic medicines to the people at lower prices;

(c) whether in the existing Kendras, the range of medicines available is very limited comprising antibiotics, analgesics; and

(d) the current programme of Government to spread wide network of such Kendras as also to keep in stock the entire range of generic medicines with them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) As on 25.07.2017, out of 2052 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Kendras', 400 PMBJP Kendras are functional at Government hospitals in collaboration with State Government, Red Cross Society and NGOs.

(b) Yes Sir. The status of the functional PMBJP Kendras during the last three years are as under:

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	As on 25.07.2017
99	269	1080	2052

(c) Presently, the product basket of the PMBJP having more than 600 medicines and 154 surgicals and consumables covering major therapeutic segments like Anti-infectives, Anti-diabetics, Anti-cancers, Cardiovasculars, Gastro-intestinal medicines, etc.

(d) As on 25.07.2017, 2052 PMBJP Kendras have been opened in 31 States/UTs across the country. Government is also endeavouring to cover all States/UTs and Districts across the country by opening PMBJP Kendras. At present, the product basket of the scheme covers more than 600 medicines, 154 surgicals and consumables covering all the therapeutic groups such as Anti-infectives, Anti-diabetics, Cardiovasculars, Anti-cancers, Gastro-intestinal medicines, etc.

Direct Benefit Transfer scheme for fertilizer subsidy

1500. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the proposed deadline for the National launch of Direct Benefit Transfers for fertilizer subsidies;

(b) whether all preparations, including installation of PoS machines, have been completed for this purpose; and

(c) if not, by when all these preparations will be completed to avoid glitches and inconvenience to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) The deadline of the National rollout of DBT for Fertilizer subsidies is 31.03.2018.

(b) and (c) All preparations including deployment of PoS machines are continuing as per National Rollout action plan.

Percentage increase in internet penetration

1501. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the internet penetration in the country in terms of percentage;
- (b) the target of Government in increasing the percentage and the initiatives taken therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by Government towards the finalization of a policy on Net Neutrality; and
- (d) the impact of Net Neutrality in the increase of internet penetration percentage, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) As per information provided by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), there were 422.19 million broadband subscribers and the internet penetration (internet subscriber per 100 populations) was 32.86% in the country as on 31st March 2017.

(b) There is no target fixed in terms of increase in percentage. However, National Telecom Policy-2012 envisages 600 million broadband connections by the year 2020.

Government has planned the BharatNet project to provide 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country. Under first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be connected by laying underground Optical Fibre Cable(OFC) which is under implementation. Under Phase-II, targeted to be completed by March 2019, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media. Provision of last mile access to the network and broadband service provisioning shall be through Wi-Fi or any other broadband access technologies in all 2,50,000 GPs in the country.

As on 23.07.2017, the status of implementation of BharatNet is as under:—

No. of GPs where OFC laying is completed	:	100,299 GPs
Optical Fibre Cable laid	:	221,925 Kms
Broadband Connectivity provided in GPs	:	25,426 GPs

Government has also allocated 965 Megahertz spectrum through auction in October, 2016 to various telecom service providers for access services. In order to provide high speed internet services and enhancement of internet penetration in the country, 3G/4G networks are being rolled out progressively by the telecom service providers.

(c) In order to identify the relevant issues involved in Net Neutrality, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) had constituted a Committee in Jan., 2015. The Committee had recommended various measures including adherence to core principles of Net Neutrality.

Further, TRAI issued a pre-consultation paper on net neutrality on 30.05.2016. Based on the inputs received during the pre-consultation stage, TRAI issued a consultation paper on Net Neutrality on 04.01.2017 and TRAI is currently examining the various issues involved in Net Neutrality.

The matter shall be further examined on receipt of recommendations of TRAI on Net Neutrality.

(d) In view of above, at present, no assessment has been carried out about the impact of Net Neutrality in the increase of internet penetration percentage.

Irregularities in offers of mobile Telecom Service Providers

1502. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mobile Telecom Service Providers are luring the customers by resorting to illegal offers which restrict the customers from shifting from one provider to another, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether TRAI has noticed any such irregularities being offered by mobile Telecom Service Providers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) (a) and (b) As per the existing tariff framework, tariff for telecommunication access service is under forbearance except for National Roaming and Rural Fixed Line Services. Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have flexibility to design their products to suit consumer demand and fix tariffs for these products. There is no bar on TSPs in offering special tariff for valid class of subscribers as part of Loyalty/Customer retention schemes. Luring the customers by adopting illegal offers has not been noticed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

Predatory pricing rules by TRAI

1503. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI is contemplating on unveiling predatory pricing rules shortly to bring transparency in tariff assessment of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), keeping in view the fight between TSPs and blaming each other on disruptive pricing, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any punitive measures are also being initiated against the erring TSPs, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) In order to identify and address the various emergent issues and challenges, *inter alia*, related to regulatory principles of tariff assessment *e.g.* transparency, promotional offers, disclosures and non-discrimination, adherence to the principle of non-predatory pricing, meaning of predatory pricing, relevant market, assessment of dominant position etc., Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has initiated a consultation process on 17th February, 2017 by releasing a Consultation Paper on 'Regulatory Principles of Tariff Assessment' to solicit comments from the stakeholders.

A consultation process in TRAI, typically, takes about 6 to 8 month time to conclude and appropriate view would be taken by TRAI after conclusion of the consultation process.

Alleged scam in network for spectrum equipments

1504. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scam of ₹ 2000/- crore has been reported in Purchase Order No. CT/ APO/12/2014-15 dated 19.06.2014 for supply, installation and commissioning of IP-MPLS Edge Routers and associated equipments for Network for Spectrum (NFS), if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of complaints received in this regard, complaint-wise; and

(c) the details of action Government has taken against erring authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) BSNL has informed that no such Purchase order No. CT/APO/12/2014-15 dated 19.06.2014 for supply, installation and commissioning of IP-MPLS Edge Routers and associated equipments for Network for Spectrum (NFS) has been issued by the BSNL.

Formulation of new National Telecom Policy

1505. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is formulating a National Telecom Policy to meet the developments in the industry;

(b) if so, by when the draft policy will be ready;

(c) whether the new policy will seek to address over the National Telecom Policy of 2012 and look at areas such as technology innovation and security, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the new policy will meet the targets on broadband speed and formulation of National Mobile Property Registry, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, how the interests of consumers will be protected in the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes Sir, the Department of Telecom envisages to formulate a new National Telecom Policy in view of rapid technological advancement in the sector;

(b) The draft policy is likely to be ready by the end of this financial year.

(c) to (e) As the process of formulation of the aforesaid policy is at a very nascent stage, the exact provisions of the policy cannot be indicated at present. However, the new National Telecom Policy may include areas of technology innovation, security and protecting the interests of consumers.

Tracing lost/stolen mobiles through IMEI number

1506. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is difficult to trace lost or stolen mobile phones in the country even on the basis of IMEI number, if so, the main reason for this slip;

(b) whether Government has taken any cognizance of the hardship which the mobile owners face in everyday life; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures taken or to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) State Police/Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) trace the lost/or stolen mobile handsets through International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) search facility available in the Telecom Network. Moreover, as and when required Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) block the mobile handsets by putting the IMEI of said handsets into the black list in Equipment Identity Register (EIR) of telecom network. However, some instances have been reported of changing IMEI of mobile phones with the help of softwares available in market, which make tracing of the lost/or stolen handsets difficult.

(b) and (c) Government has already taken cognizance of this matter and to address this, steps taken by the Government are as follows:—

- (i) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is implementing Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) in a phased manner with an aim to curtail the counterfeit mobile phone market and discourage mobile phone theft, in order to protect consumer interest and facilitate law enforcement authorities for lawful interception. CEIR intends to connect IMEI database of all mobile Operators and act as a central system for all telecom network operators to share black listed mobile terminals so that devices blacklisted in one network will not work on other networks even if the Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card in the mobile device is changed.
- (ii) The instructions have been issued by DoT *vide* letter dated 27.11.2009 directing all the telecom service providers that calls from mobile handsets with any IMEI number which is not available in the latest updated IMEI database of Global System for Mobile Association (GSMA) or without IMEI or with zeroes only as IMEI should not be processed and must be rejected with effect from 30.11.2009.
- (iii) DoT is also considering to frame a Rule under Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 making intentional removal, obliteration, tampering with or altering of mobile phone equipment identification number an illegal offence. Moreover, anybody indulging in this illegal activity can be dealt under Section 25 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 which deals with intentionally damaging or tampering with telegraphs.

- (iv) After due consultations with Ministry of Home Affairs, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) and Industry, the amended Notification has been issued vide No. 107/ (RE-2013)/2009-2014 dated 16th January, 2015 which prohibits import of 'GSM Mobile Handsets' without IMEI No., with all zeroes IMEI, duplicate IMEI or fake IMEI and CDMA mobile phones without Electronic Serial Number (ESN)/ Mobile Equipment Identifier (MEID), with all zeroes as ESN/MEID, duplicate ESN/MEID or fake ESN/MEID with immediate effect.
- (v) In collaboration with GSMA which allocates IMEI, the IMEI Cloning and Duplication Restriction (ICDR) system has been installed across the country for validation of genuine IMEI by the customs authorities. DoT in consultation with CBEC has issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for validation process of genuine IMEI at the ports of import to ensure that mobile handsets with fake/duplicate IMEI are prevented from entry into the country.
- (vi) DoT also provides technical assistance in detection of mobile handsets, as and when required by the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs)

Covering of Gram Panchayats under BharatNet

1507. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:—

- (a) the various deadlines for covering all Gram Panchayats under the BharatNet project, the reasons for delay and for coming out with new deadlines;
- (b) how many Gram Panchayats have been covered so far, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the deadline for covering the rest of the Gram Panchayats;
- (d) whether active broadband connections have been made available to all Gram Panchayats, the State-wise details of all Gram Panchayats which have active internet connections; and
- (e) the reasons for delay in covering all Gram Panchayats with active internet and the deadline for completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (e) A Committee was set up by the Department of Telecom in January, 2015 to review the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project. Based on the recommendations of the Committee and implementation experience of Phase I, implementation strategy for the project (renamed as BharatNet) has been

modified and new timelines have been drawn. The target for connecting of 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) is November, 2017. All the Gram Panchayats are to be connected by March, 2019.

The reasons for delay are as follows:—

- (i) Delay in the initial commencement of project due to field survey of GPs to assess the cable route and length, and pilot testing of the technology model.
- (ii) Implementation of the project only through three Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) namely, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), RailTel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL).
- (iii) Connectivity to GPs only by laying underground Optical Fibre Cable (OFC).
- (iv) Inadequate quality of BSNL fibre between Block and Fibre Point of Interconnect (FPOI) being used to connect GPs.
- (v) Centralised procedure of procurement and sourcing of equipment through Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL).
- (vi) Default by the L1 supplier of Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) equipment
- (vii) Challenges faced in awarding contractors because of various reasons *viz.* difficult areas (Hilly/Rocky/Left Wing Extremism), limited number of Trenching and laying contractors, Schedule of Rates (SoR) of BSNL, High rates quoted by contractors.

The details of Gram Panchayat which have been covered so far are given in the Statement.

Statement*State-wise status of NOFN (BharatNet) as on 16.07.2017*

Sl. No.	State/UTs	No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)-Phase I	Pipe laid (kms.)	Cable laid (in kms.)	No. of GPs where Pipe laid	No. of GPs where Cable laid	GPs connected
1.	Assam	1533	3807	4159	1422	1348	354
2.	Bihar	5754	12225	12940	4974	4742	798
3.	Chhattisgarh	4104	10267	7898	3310	3164	1293
4.	Haryana	6020	9791	11005	5907	5803	1007
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	388	430	389	214	200	0
6.	Karnataka	6092	11951	12463	6028	6014	4826
7.	Kerala	977	720	830	1129	1129	1129
8.	Madhya Pradesh	12655	35945	31120	12073	11644	3674
9.	Maharashtra	15301	26740	25201	12710	11853	2109
10.	Punjab	8049	9848	9162	6989	6747	806
11.	Rajasthan	8194	21136	20414	7114	7055	1794
12.	Uttar Pradesh	27974	48651	44790	25378	23417	2919
13.	Uttarakhand	1863	2804	2646	1503	1463	464
14.	West Bengal	2637	5208	4882	1830	1792	240
15.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	69	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Chandigarh	12	18	19	12	12	12

17.	Arunachal Pradesh	863	1558	665	609	227	0
18.	Nagaland	994	2614	1481	831	462	0
19.	Manipur	904	334	236	154	123	26
20.	Mizoram	763	740	448	125	75	0
21.	Tripura	1021	1690	1586	834	810	79
22.	Meghalaya	1208	1213	530	434	194	0
23.	Gujarat	6905	10608	9655	5091	4524	1126
24.	Puducherry	98	82	92	98	98	101
25.	Andhra Pradesh	1673	2642	766	545	283	0
26.	Telangana	2017	4539	4462	2038	2038	220
27.	Odisha	3860	8153	7970	3109	3108	524
28.	Jharkhand	2713	5053	4669	1892	1775	568
29.	Himachal Pradesh	252	517	481	155	153	85
30.	Daman and Diu	15	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	20	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Sikkim	52	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Lakshadweep	10	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Goa*	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		124990	239285	220959	106508	100253	24154

*All the GPs of Goa are already connected with Optical Fibre.

Complaints regarding non-availability of mobile network of BSNL

1508. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any complaints regarding non-availability of mobile network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), frequent call drops etc., in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the complaints received from Himachal Pradesh, during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the action taken by Government to improve the BSNL connectivity in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Mobile services being provided by BSNL in its Licensed Service Areas (LSA) throughout the country including Himachal Pradesh are in general, meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

However, due to topographical conditions in hilly States such as Himachal Pradesh, BSNL receives a number of complaints regarding call drop rate. The main reasons for such complaints include, failures/damages to network due to hilly terrain, landslides, incessant rains and frequent OF media failure due to damage to Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) during road expansion works.

(b) As per report received from BSNL, for poor signal and network, the number of complaints received are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Year	No. of complaints received in BSNL
1.	2014	4296
2.	2015	11859
3.	2016	8026
4.	2017 (upto June, 2017)	1290

(c) To address call drops in effective and time-bound manner, the Department has been conducting periodic reviews with the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and other stakeholders. As a result, BSNL has added 495 Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) in last three years which include 250 BTSs for 2G/3G services in Himachal Pradesh during July, 2016 to May, 2017.

In addition to above, BSNL is taking the following steps to overcome call drop issue:—

- (i) Augmenting its mobile network progressively so as to enhance coverage/capacity and to further improve the QoS; up-gradation of existing equipment is also under progress.
- (ii) Optimising its network continuously for its performance.
- (iii) Continuous surveys for the low signal areas and taking corrective measures.
- (iv) Mechanism has been introduced in order to monitor day-to-day call drop status on a Pan-India basis. In case any deviation in call drop is observed, immediate remedial action is taken to strengthen the network.

**Mobile and internet facilities in rural and Tribal areas
of Himachal Pradesh**

1509. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that mobile and internet facilities frequently remain out of order for a long period in rural and tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by Government to improve the services in rural and tribal areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The telecom service providers are in general meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters for mobile and broadband services as prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in the license service area of Himachal Pradesh.

However, in some areas due to topographical conditions such as in Himachal Pradesh, call drop rate and fault in internet are on a bit higher sides. The main reasons for the same are due to hilly, hard terrains, landslides, incessant rains, frequent Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) media failure due to damage to OFC during road expansion works and landslides etc.

(c) To provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats in the country including Himachal Pradesh, “BharatNet” is being implemented by the Government through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). This will provide non-discriminatory access to the Service Providers for provisioning of broadband services in rural and tribal areas of the state.

Further, the following steps are being taken by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to improve the mobile and internet services in Himachal Pradesh including its rural and tribal areas.

- (i) For improvement and upgradation of mobile services, mobile equipment is being procured/upgraded progressively in BSNL time to time. At present, Global System for Mobiles (GSM) phase VII+ expansion project is under roll out and its present status in Himachal Pradesh is as follows: Out of 150 number of 2G Base Transceiver Station (BTS) planned, 150 BTSs are on air and out of 276 number of 3G BTSs planned, 276 are on air.
- (ii) Mechanism has been introduced in order to monitor the network continuously in BSNL. In case of any interruption, immediate remedial action is taken to smoothen the same.
- (iii) BSNL is optimizing its network continuously for its performance.
- (iv) BSNL has upgraded the satellite Bandwidth in tribal areas (Udaipur and Keylong)
- (v) Life expired batteries and Power Plants are being replaced in phased manner.
- (vi) Node-B Internet Protocol (IP)-fication in Himachal Pradesh Circle is being done for improving data speed of mobile service.
- (vii) Solar panels have been installed at various places in tribal areas to minimize the interruptions due to power failure.

Shortage of telephone equipments in MTNL and BSNL

†1510. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of telephone equipments in MTNL and BSNL across the country;

(b) whether production of telephone equipments is not in proportion to the number of subscribers and many subscribers are not being given new connections just because of shortage of telephone equipments; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to compete with private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) It is reported by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) that there is no shortage of telephone equipments in MTNL and BSNL across the country and new connections are not being denied due to shortage of telephone equipments.

Total internet connectivity in rural areas

1511. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide total internet connectivity in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan formulated for rural areas, State-wise, including Tripura and North Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) BharatNet project, which is one of the pillars of Digital India Programme, is planned to establish a network infrastructure by connecting all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, aerial fibre, radio and satellite media, for providing broadband connectivity by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis.

The project is planned to be implemented in three phases. Under Phase I of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be connected by laying underground OFC by November, 2017. Under Phase II, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, by March, 2019. Under Phase III, a state-of-the-art future-proof network, including fibre between districts and blocks, with 5G services and Internet of Things and with underground OFC in ring architecture, is planned to be completed by 2023. The State-wise status of BharatNet, including Tripura and North Eastern States, as on 16.07.2017, is given in the Statement.

Statement*State-wise status of NOFN (BharatNet) as on 16.07.2017*

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)- Phase I	Pipe laid (kms.)	Cable laid (in kms.)	No. of GPs where Pipe laid	No. of GPs where Cable laid	GPs Lit
1.	Assam	1533	3807	4159	1422	1348	354
2.	Bihar	5754	12225	12940	4974	4742	798
3.	Chhattisgarh	4104	10267	7898	3310	3164	1293
4.	Haryana	6020	9791	11005	5907	5803	1007
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	388	430	389	214	200	0
6.	Karnataka	6092	11951	12463	6028	6014	4826
7.	Kerala	977	720	830	1129	1129	1129
8.	Madhya Pradesh	12655	35945	31120	12073	11644	3674
9.	Maharashtra	15301	26740	25201	12710	11853	2109
10.	Punjab	8049	9848	9162	6989	6747	806
11.	Rajasthan	8194	21136	20414	7114	7055	1794
12.	Uttar Pradesh	27974	48651	44790	25378	23417	2919
13.	Uttarakhand	1863	2804	2646	1503	1463	464
14.	West Bengal	2637	5208	4882	1830	1792	240
15.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	69	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Chandigarh	12	18	19	12	12	12

17. Arunachal Pradesh	863	1558	665	609	227	0
18. Nagaland	994	2614	1481	831	462	0
19. Manipur	904	334	236	154	123	26
20. Mizoram	763	740	448	125	75	0
21. Tripura	1021	1690	1586	834	810	79
22. Meghalaya	1208	1213	530	434	194	0
23. Gujarat	6905	10608	9655	5091	4524	1126
24. Puducherry	98	82	92	98	98	101
25. Andhra Pradesh	1673	2642	766	545	283	0
26. Telangana	2017	4539	4462	2038	2038	220
27. Odisha	3860	8153	7970	3109	3108	524
28. Jharkhand	2713	5053	4669	1892	1775	568
29. Himachal Pradesh	252	517	481	155	153	85
30. Daman and Diu	15	0	0	0	0	0
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	20	0	0	0	0	0
32. Sikkim	52	0	0	0	0	0
33. Lakshadweep	10	0	0	0	0	0
34. Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0
35. Goa*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	12490	239285	220959	106508	100253	24154

*All the GPs of Goa are already connected with Optical Fibre.

Differential pricing for data

1512. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI recently released its decision on differential pricing for data by operators in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this has affected services of operators in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether TRAI held consultations before arriving on this decision, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued 'Prohibition of discriminatory tariff for Data services Regulations 2016' on 8th February, 2016 which *inter alia* mandate the following:—

(i) No service provider shall offer or charge discriminatory tariffs for data service on the basis of content.

(ii) No service provider shall enter into any arrangement, agreement of contract, by whatever name called, with any person, natural or legal, that has the effect of discriminatory tariffs for data services being offered or charged by the service provider for the purpose of evading the prohibition in this regulation.

(iii) Reduced tariff for accessing or providing emergency services, or at times of public emergency has been permitted.

(b) Pursuant to issue of the aforesaid Regulations all discriminatory tariffs for data services on the basis of content ceased to exist in the market. The service providers were however free to offer other forms of differential tariffs which are not based on content.

(c) TRAI had issued a Consultation Paper on Differential Pricing for Data Services on 09.12.2015 inviting comments of stakeholders. An overwhelming number of detailed and well reasoned responses, representing a diverse set of views were received in the consultation process. All these comments and counter comments were placed on TRAI website and are still available. The comments received during the consultation process contained both supporting and opposing views on differential pricing for data services. Certain service providers, their associations, organization/ institutions and individuals opposed the practice of differential pricing for data services. There were also suggestions that differential pricing should be allowed on a case to case

basis and for services to be in public interest. Some had suggested that differential pricing along dimensions of time, locally dependent pricing and application dependent pricing should be allowed. After considering the comments, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India issued the aforesaid Regulations on 08.02.2016.

Increase in number of subscribers of BSNL

†1513. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in number of subscribers across the country made by BSNL which is making losses for the last few years, by offering new plans during 2016-17;

(b) the average increase achieved in number of subscribers by offering many attractive plans like local/STD/ISD/night free plan on basic phone;

(c) if the number of subscribers has increased the profit earned by BSNL during 2016-17; and

(d) whether more interest/purchasing was seen in rural areas or in urban areas with regard to these plans for subscribers of mobile/basic phone, if so, the number of subscribers that has increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (d) The details of subscriber base and urban/rural connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) across the country for the last three years are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) There has been no net addition in basic phone connections. The basic phone connections have been decreased by 10.73 lakhs in 2016-17. However, the disconnection rate has been arrested; it was 10.05% during 2015-16 and in 2016-17 it has come down to 7.27%.

(c) BSNL's net loss during 2015-16 was ₹ 3,880 crores. However, its EBITDA (Earning Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization) was ₹ 3855 crores. BSNL audited accounts for 2016-17 are being finalised. The details of profit/loss will be available after finalised of the audited accounts.

Statement*Details of Subscriber Base of BSNL for the last three years*

Connection as on	Wired line			WLL			GSM			Total		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
31.03.2015	11,405,038	5,007,402	16,412,440	460,330	1,524,612	1,984,942	50,069,848	24,772,624	74,842,472	61,935,216	31,304,638	93,239,854
31.03.2016	10,558,454	4,203,916	14,762,370	336,451	1,066,640	1,403,091	57,096,073	28,323,458	85,419,531	67,990,978	33,594,014	101,584,992
31.03.2017	9,965,252	3,723,712	13,688,964	288,803	672,223	961,026	67,984,890	32,452,765	100,437,655	78,238,945	36,848,700	115,087,645

Signal towers in Goa

1514. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is facing problems in erecting signal towers in the State of Goa;

(b) the number of proposals for erecting towers that are pending;

(c) whether the assistance of State Government has been taken;

(d) whether it is a fact that towers erected during BRICS event in Goa have been removed; and

(e) whether any technology has been invented to replace towers, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) are established by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs)/ Infrastructure Providers (IPs) 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. TSPs have to obtain necessary right of way related clearances from concerned local authorities before installation of tower. As reported by the TSPs, they are facing resistance/delay in some of the cases during issuance of No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Gram Panchyats as well as from local residents under the pretext of Radiation hazards. As on 30.04.2017, in the state of Goa which is a part of Maharashtra Licensed Service Area (LSA), the total number of towers is 1233 supporting 5403 BTSs of all technologies.

(b) The number of proposals that are pending for erection of tower in the State of Goa taken together for all the TSPs is 259.

(c) Concerted efforts were made by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in coordination with State Government and TSPs/IPs (Infrastructure Providers) to improve the mobile services in the State. State Government of Goa has extended support by issuing instructions to related administrative bodies and Village Panchayat to support the erection of towers.

Further, with regard to concerns about impact of radiation from mobile towers and handsets, several studies have been conducted in different countries, under the aegis of World Health Organization (WHO). 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" and concluded "current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health

consequences from exposure to low level electromagnetic fields". Accordingly, to create awareness among the citizens and to allay the fear of EMF radiations and resistance from local bodies, 15 teams comprising of officials from DoT, Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) and senior doctors from Goa, Karnataka and Hyderabad were mobilised in September, 2016 to address the concerns across 18 Gram Sabhas in South Goa.

(d) There was temporary requirement to enhance the telecom connectivity during BRICS event in Goa. In order to meet the requirement, 38 towers/Cell on Wheels (COW) shared by multiple operators were given clearance by the Gram Panchayats for installation. After conclusion of event, 8 towers have been dismantled.

(e) As of now, extensively towers are being used to provide the mobile coverage.

Failure of telephone services in Samastipur, Bihar

†1515. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is committed to strengthen the communication system, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether owing to the repeated failure of telephone services in the Samastipur district of Bihar, the public has to face a lot of inconvenience; and

(c) the reasons why the officers do not heed despite repeated requests, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to facilitate improvement and expansion of telecommunication services, the Government has initiated a series of measures which include: (i) making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services including auction of 965 MHz in 2016, (ii) allowing Spectrum Sharing, Trading and liberalisation 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 for achieving higher utilisation 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 Telecom Service Providers (TSP) leading to addition of around 3.58 lakh additional Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) on aggregate basis for 2G/3G/4G services during the period: 15 June, 2016 to 30, June 2017, (vi) facilitating use of Government estate for installation of mobile towers on multiple-sharing basis, (vii) launching of Interactive Voice Response Service (IVRS)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

on call drops to get direct feedback from mobile subscribers and sharing the feedback with TSPs for corrective action (viii) launching of Tarang Sanchar, a public web portal for information sharing on mobile towers and their EMF compliances.

Further, various Schemes are being implemented/planned with financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to improve the communication system in the country including Bihar.

(b) and (c) No repeated failure of telephone services has been reported in the Samastipur district of Bihar.

Procurement of wheat

1516. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity of wheat produced since 2014 and that procured by Food Corporation of India, year-wise;

(b) the estimated quantity of wheat production in the current harvesting of Kharif season;

(c) the quantity of wheat targeted to be procured from farmers by Government during the current season and at what price and the quantity procured, so far; and

(d) whether large quantity of wheat is contemplated to be imported from overseas, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The total production of the nation and procurement from that of wheat by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government/Agencies for Central Pool since 2014 is as under:—

[Fig. in Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT)]

Rabi Marketing Season (RMS)	Production	Procurement		
		FCI	State Government/ Agencies (SGA)	Total
2014-15	958.5	35.33	244.90	280.23
2015-16	865.3	29.84	251.04	280.88
2016-17	922.9	30.47	199.14	229.61
2017-18	974.4*	36.09	272.15	308.24

*As per third Advance estimates of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare for crop season 2016-17 dated 09.05.2017.

(c) Government of India (GoI) had estimated to procure 330.00 LMT of wheat during RMS 2017-18, against which a quantity of 308.24 LMT has been procured for Central Pool at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of ₹ 1625 per Quintal.

(d) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal to import wheat on Government account.

Printing of Post-GST rates on old stock

1517. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that some companies are not printing post-GST rates on old stocks manufactured and packed before 1st July, 2017; and

(b) if so, the response of the Ministry to the statement of some of the big companies that printing or stamping of any price other than MRP is illegal and it is impossible to do so in view of huge inventory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) On account of implementation of GST there may be instances where the retail sale price printed on a pre-packaged commodity is required to be changed. The Department has issued an order according to which, manufacturers/ packers/ importers of pre-packaged commodities are allowed to declare the revised retail sale price (MRP), by way of stamping or putting sticker or online printing, as the case may be, on the unsold stock manufactured/ packed/imported prior to 1st July, 2017, if any, in addition to the existing retail sale price (MRP), for three months *i.e.* upto 30th September, 2017. Use of un-exhausted packaging material/wrapper has also been allowed upto 30th September, 2017 after making the necessary corrections.

Further, *vide* this advisory, it has been informed that for reducing the Retail Sale Price (MRP), a sticker with the revised lower MRP (inclusive of all taxes) may be affixed and the same shall not cover the MRP declaration made by the manufacturer or the packer, as the case may be, on the label of the package.

Therefore, declaration of the revised retail sale price (MRP) on the pre-packaged commodities, by way of stamping or putting sticker or online printing, as the case may be, has already been allowed where on account of implementation of GST, the retail sale price of a pre-packaged commodity is required to be changed/revised.

Timely payment to sugarcane growing farmers

1518. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to raise the fair and remunerative price (FRP) of sugarcane for the 2017-18 season, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware that the problem being faced by sugarcane growing farmers is the absence of timely payment by mill owners and accumulated arrears; and

(c) if so, the details of the arrears being reported in different States and the steps being taken to ensure timely payment to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) As against the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane at ₹ 230 per quintal for sugar season 2016-17, the FRP for the ensuing sugar season 2017-18 has been fixed by the Central Government at ₹ 255 per quintal linked to a basic recovery rate of 9.5%. Further, for every 0.1% increase in recovery rate, the FRP will be increased by ₹ 2.68 per quintal.

(b) and (c) Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 stipulates payment of cane price within 14 days of supply of sugarcane, failing which, interest @ 15% per annum on amount due for the delayed period beyond 14 days is payable. However, the powers for enforcing these provisions are delegated and vested with the State Governments/UT Administrations who have necessary field formations. Besides, the Central Government also advises the State Governments from time to time to ensure that timely payment is made to the cane growers.

However, this time-schedule is not adhered to sometimes by the sugar mills due to dynamics of sugar prices in the domestic as well as international market which leads to accumulation of cane price arrears. In sugar season 2014-15, cane price arrears of sugarcane farmers had peaked at ₹ 21837 crore in April, 2015. To mitigate the situation and to improve the liquidity position of sugar industry for facilitating liquidation of cane price arrears, the Government has taken the following measures:-

- (i) Extended working capital loans with interest subvention under Scheme for Extending Financial Assistance to Sugar Undertakings (SEFASU-2014) and Soft loan scheme.
- (ii) Incentive for exporting raw sugar in sugar seasons 2013-14 and 2014-15;
- (iii) Facilitated supply of ethanol under Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme by fixing remunerative price;

- (iv) Provided comprehensive performance based production subsidy @ ₹ 4.50 per quintal of cane crushed payable to farmers against their cane dues contingent on mills undertaking export and supplying of ethanol;

As a result of these measures, 99.33% of cane dues payments of farmers for 2014-15 sugar season and 99% for 2015-16 sugar season have been cleared. Even in the current sugar season 2016-17, 92% of cane dues payments of farmers have been cleared. The details of quantum of outstanding cane price arrears of the farmers state-wise are given in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of quantum of outstanding sugarcane arrears of the farmers

(₹ in crores)

(As on 25.07.2017)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Cane Price Arrears			Total
		2016-17	2015-16	2014-15 and earlier	
1.	Bihar	24	1	39	64
2.	Haryana	22	0	0	22
3.	Punjab	127	0	0	127
4.	Uttarakhand	302	44	25	371
5.	Uttar Pradesh	2535	57	138	2730
6.	Andhra Pradesh	8	21	15	44
7.	Telangana	0	0	0	0
8.	Gujarat	1067	9	13	1089
9.	Maharashtra	4	62	196	262
10.	Karnataka	6	28	74	108
11.	Tamil Nadu	494	591	550	1635
12.	Puducherry	12	4	7	23
13.	Chhattisgarh	0	1	0	1
14.	Odisha	2	0	3	5
15.	Madhya Pradesh	7	4	13	24
16.	Goa	1	0	0	1
17.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		4611	822	1073	6506

Consumer grievance redressal system in the country

1519. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country does not have a quick and effective consumer grievance redressal system;

(b) if so, the manner in which the standard specifications in different areas are monitored; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir. Under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, there is a three-tier quasi-judicial mechanism in place for redressal of consumer grievances. These are District Fora at the districts, State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in States and the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission at the Centre.

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission holds circuit bench sitting from time to time at different state capitals to expedite the process of adjudication.

As an alternative means of redressal, consumers can also lodge complaints with the National Consumer Helplines (NCH). There are around 250 companies which have partnered with NCH for redressal of consumer grievances. Complaints received against these companies are referred to them for redressal.

(b) In terms of the BIS Act, 1986, the Bureau of Indian Standards has been established for the harmonious development of the activities of standardisation, and marking and quality certification of goods etc. The Bureau has powers to grant, renew, suspend or cancel a licence for use of the standard mark and *inter alia*, make inspections and collect samples to see conformity with the Indian standard as also whether the standard mark has been improperly used.

(c) The Department has introduced Consumer Protection Bill, 2015 in the Lok Sabha in August, 2015, which contains a number of provisions for strengthening the consumer grievance redressal mechanism. A new BIS Act, 2016 has also been notified.

Subsidy on sugar

1520. 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 has recently withdrawn subsidy being given on sugar, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has received any representation from any State to continue the subsidy being given on sugar;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter; and

(d) the stand of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 is now being universally implemented in the entire country. There is no identified category of BPL under the NFSA, 2013. However, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries are clearly identified. The Government has reviewed the sugar subsidy scheme and has decided to continue it only for AAY families. The Central Government will continue to reimburse a fixed subsidy of ₹ 18.50 per kg. @ 1 kg. per month per AAY family to participating States/UTs. The States/UTs are also allowed either to absorb the additional cost on account of handling, transportation and dealer's commission or pass it on to the consumer by adding it to the Retail Issue Price (RIP) of ₹ 13.50 per kg. under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

(b) to (d) The State Governments/UT administrations of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Delhi and Andaman and Nicobar Island have requested for continuation of earlier sugar subsidy scheme. The issue of continuance of the same has been considered by the Central Government and it has been decided to continue the sugar subsidy scheme with coverage to AAY families only.

Supply of subsidized foodgrains through ration shops

1521. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided not to hike prices of foodgrains sold under the Food Law in various ration shops for one more year, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government supplies highly subsidised foodgrains at 1-3/kg. to over 81 crore people in the country costing the exchequer about 1.4 lakh crore annually, 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. The highly subsidized prices of foodgrains under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) *i.e.* ₹ 1/2/3 per kg. for coarsegrains/wheat/rice have been continued upto June, 2018.

Currently, about 80.55 crore persons are covered under NFSA for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains. The budget allocation for food subsidy in 2017-18 is ₹ 1,45,138.60 crore.

Distribution of quality foodgrains under PDS

†1522. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of procedure followed by the FSSAI to test foodgrains distributed under PDS along with the number of times foodgrains distributed under PDS has been tested by FSSAI, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has issued directions to distribute quality foodgrains under PDS, if so, the mechanism put in place to monitor the same, the details thereof; and

(c) whether complaints have been received with regard to distribution of rotten and substandard foodgrains under the PDS, if so, the details with the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of all the food products are undertaken by the officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/UTs to check that they comply with the standards laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the Rules and Regulation made thereunder. In cases where food samples are found to be non-conforming, recourse is taken to penal provisions under Chapter-IX of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The implementation and enforcement of norms under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulation made thereunder primarily rests with the States/UTs Government.

No separate enforcement data regarding samples taken from foodgrains distributed under PDS by Food Safety Authorities of the States/UTs is maintained centrally by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). However, based on information made available by the States/UTs, details of all food samples received, analyzed, found non-conforming to the norms and action taken under provision of FSS Act, 2006 during the year 2016-17 is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir. Government has issued following instructions to State Governments/ Union Territories and Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ensure supply of good quality foodgrains under Public Distribution System (PDS).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (I) Only good quality foodgrains free from insect infestation and conforming to Food Safety Standards are to be issued under PDS.
- (II) Ample opportunities are to be provided to the State Government to check the quality of foodgrains prior to lifting the foodgrains stocks from FCI godowns.
- (III) Samples of foodgrains are to be collected and sealed from the stocks of foodgrains to be issued under the PDS jointly by FCI and State Governments/ UT Administrations.
- (IV) An officer not below the rank of Inspector is to be deputed from State Government to take the delivery of foodgrain stocks from FCI godowns.
- (V) Regular inspection to check the quality of foodgrains is to be carried out by the officers of State Government.
- (VI) It is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations to ensure that during transportation and storage at different stages in the distribution chain, the foodgrains retain the required quality specifications.

State Governments, where the decentralized procurement is in operation, should ensure that the quality of foodgrains issued under PDS and other welfare schemes meet the desired standards prescribed by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

(c) PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/ UT Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibility for intra-state allocation and distribution of foodgrains lies with the States/UTs. State-wise details of the complaints and action taken by the Department about supply of poor quality foodgrains distributed under PDS during 2016-17 are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I
Annual public laboratory testing report for the year 2016-2017

Sl. No.	State	Total No. of Samples received	No. of Samples analysed	No. of Samples found adulterated and misbranded	No. of cases Launched		No. of Convictions/penalties/amount		
					Criminal	Civil	Convictions	Penalties	Amount (₹)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	302	302	10	1	8	0	12	348400
2.	Assam	536	526	67	3	23	0	2	30000
3.	Bihar	2507	2427	42	3	30	6		73000
4.	Chandigarh	251	251	19	2	14	1		300000
5.	Chhattisgarh	1693	1693	425					
6.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	44	44	3		3			
7.	Delhi	1155	1152	120	9	98	106	68	3741500
8.	Goa	920	874	111		5	1	1	20000
9.	Gujarat	11364	11329	839	46	513	2		16681000
10.	Haryana	2041	2033	188	18	243	14	71	2982170
11.	Himachal Pradesh	351	315	57		35	23		195000
12.	Karnataka	2837	2837	341	26	112		112	2195900
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5075	5461	609	60	483	26	252	74,27,700

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.	Manipur	207	207	30	0	30	0	5	520000
15.	Meghalaya	47	43	3					
16.	Mizoram	26	20	2	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Puducherry	495	495	32	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Punjab	4431	4054	2240	56	1442			1410921
19.	Rajasthan	5801	4923	1276	193	169	0	65	115557
20.	Tamil Nadu	4080	3022	970	244	617	109	442	7898500
21.	Tripura	173	173	12	0	6	0		
22.	Uttarakhand	749	676	119	3	199		19	1004000
TOTAL		45085	42857	7515	664	4030	288	1049	4,49,43,648

Statement-II

State-wise details of the complaints and action taken by the department about supply of poor quality foodgrains distributed under PDS during 2016-17

State	Complaints	Action Taken by the Government
Maharashtra	Complaint received in FCI from S.K. Shrivastava, India RTI News dated 30.08.2016 regarding supply of poor quality of Rice and Wheat to BPL quota under Dombivali Region (Thane), Maharashtra.	FCI got investigated the complaint and was not found to be true.
Kerala	News report published in 'MINT Delhi' on 23.09.2016 titled wheat meant for PDS infested with worms - 8 tonnes of Wheat supplied to tribal children in Attapady, Palakkad was found to be infested with worms on 22.9.2016.	The complaint was investigated by GM, FCI, Kerala Region. The stocks in question were issued after conducting joint inspection with the representative of WBNP Scheme, who has confirmed that the stocks were pest free. Complaint found baseless.
Uttar Pradesh	Complaint dated 12.08.2016 and 15.09.2016 received in FCI from Sh. Atul Gupta, S/O Sh. Rammurti Gupta, Dist. Bahraich (UP) regarding storage of damaged rice stock in the godowns of District Bahraich (UP) FCI due to negligence of officers and dispatch of poor quality rice under PDS and no action initiated on complaints.	The complaint was investigated jointly by FCI, Regional office, UP and officers of State Government. The stock was found within specifications.
Sikkim	Joint Secretary, Government of Sikkim, Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, informed to FCI regarding Poor Quality of Rice supplied from FCI Jorethang.	The complaint was investigated by FCI by deputing two officers from district office Siliguri and Gangtok, and from that only pest free and FAQ stocks have been issued with full satisfactions of

State	Complaints	Action Taken by the Government
		Inspector-in Charge, Government of Sikkim in terms of quality and quantity. Government of Sikkim was informed accordingly.
Madhya Pradesh	A complaint made by Shri Kishore Samrite, Dist. Balaghat, (MP) regarding issue of poor quality rice under TPDS at Balaghat, Siwan, Katni, Jabalpur and Mandla District of Madhya Pradesh.	Madhya Pradesh being a DCP State, complaint regarding distribution of substandard/ inferior quality stocks primarily related to State Government. Accordingly the complaint was forwarded to Principal Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection and Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Storage facilities

1523. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the storage facilities available with the FCI are sufficient to store foodgrains, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains stored in the FCI godowns in the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the quantity of foodgrains that got rotten recently; and

(d) whether Government proposes to increase the storage infrastructural facilities, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir. Foodgrains are stored by both Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government Agencies. On the basis of peak stock requirement during procurement season, the overall storage capacity required in the country is about 600 Lakh MT. Against this, the total capacity available with FCI and State Agencies for storage of foodgrains as on 30.06.2017 was 794.48 Lakh MT. Thus on the overall, there is sufficient capacity for storage of foodgrains in the country.

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

It may be seen that storage capacity was more than the peak stock in all the 4 years.

(b) The quantity of foodgrains stocked varies from day to day. The data regarding stock of foodgrains as on 1st of January and 1st of July during the last three years is given below:—

(Fig. In lakh MT)

As on	FCI	State Agencies	Total
01.07. 2014	332.44	277.93	610.37
01.01. 2015	214.26	154.30	368.56
01.07. 2015	310.72	235.03	545.75
01.01. 2016	236.63	128.14	364.77
01.07.2016	279.66	216.29	495.95
01.01. 2017	192.61	79.61	272.22
01.07. 2017	304.96	228.23	533.19

(c) The quantity of foodgrains that became non issuable in FCI's godowns recently (during 01.04.2017 to 30.06.2017) is 200 MT, which is only 0.002% of 104.52 Lakh MT offtake under PDS and other welfare scheme.

(d) To augment and modernize the storage facilities the Government is implementing the following schemes:—

- (i) **Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme:** Under this Scheme, storage capacity is created by private parties, Central Warehousing Corporation

(CWC) and State Agencies for guaranteed hiring by FCI. A capacity of 138.51 lakh MT has already been completed as on 30.06.2017.

- (ii) **Central Sector Scheme:** This scheme is focussed on the North Eastern States. Funds are released by the Government to FCI and also directly to the State Governments for construction of godowns. During Twelfth Five Year Plan, a capacity of 1,17,680 MT in North Eastern (NE) States and 20,000 MT in other than NE States has been completed by FCI. Further, a capacity of 46,495 MT has been created by State Governments.
- (iii) **Construction of steel silos:** Government of India has also approved action plan for construction of steel silos in the country for a capacity of 100 LMT in 3 phases. Against the target of 36.25 LMT for selection of silo operators in Phase-I, tenders have been awarded for 37.50 LMT. Further, 6.25 LMT silos have been added under the above action plan, in addition to 5.5 LMT silos already available with FCI.

Making Post Offices compatible for physically challenged persons

1524. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has received official notification with regard to making Post Offices compatible for the physically challenged persons with wheel chair;
- (b) whether despite repeated requests and reminders, the Post Office at HAL, Bengaluru Karnataka has refused to make its Post Office compatible for the physically challenged persons with wheel chair; and
- (c) the action the Ministry has proposed against those responsible for such negligence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Posts has received official notification from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment regarding provisions for making Government buildings accessible for persons with disabilities.

(b) The plinth level of the HAL Post Office is very low and there is no obstruction for movement of wheel chair. Thus, it is easily accessible to the physically challenged persons with wheel chair. No requests/complaints have been received about any inconvenience faced by physically challenged persons with wheel chair visiting the HAL Post Office.

- (c) In view of the above stated facts no such action is mandated.

Legislation to bring e-commerce platforms under consumer law

1525. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government, since the inception of e-commerce platforms, for consumer protection;

(b) whether Government is planning to bring in a separate legislation to cover such platforms under consumer protection in the near future, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has received complaints regarding poor quality goods and services of e-commerce firms, if so, the details thereof including number of complaints received; and

(d) whether many firms did not respond to action taken by Government, if so, the details thereof indicating Government's plan for addressing the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 has been enacted to better protect the interests of the consumers. Under the said Act, a three-tier quasi-judicial mechanism has been established at the district, State and National levels to provide for speedy, simple and inexpensive resolution of consumer disputes. Under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, a consumer can file a complaint against defective goods, deficient services and other unfair trade practice in a Consumer Forum. The provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, in so far as it relate to redressal of consumer grievances, apply to consumers transacting in e-commerce also.

The Consumer Protection Bill, 2015, introduced in the Lok Sabha in August 2015, seeks to provide for establishment of an executive agency, to be known as the Central Consumer Protection Authority, which will look into, *inter alia*, unfair trade practices. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, which has examined the Bill, has recommended for empowering the Central Government to make rules to regulate e-commerce.

(c) The details of complaints received against e-commerce companies in the National Consumer Helpline during the period April 2016 to March 2017 are as under:—

Nature of Complaints	Number of Complaints
Paid amount not refunded	11595
Delivery of Defective Product	8106

Nature of Complaints	Number of Complaints
Deficiency in Services	7029
Poor quality/Spurious/Fake Products	2040
TOTAL	28770

(d) The NCH sends complaints to e-commerce companies against whom it receives complaints from complainants. In 2016-17, following are the 20 e-commerce companies with the largest number of complaints, who have not responded to complaints sent by NCH:-

Sl. No.	Company Name	Sl. No.	Company Name
1.	Myntra.com	11.	Dhamaldiscount.Com
2.	Bookmyoffer.Com	12.	Trapthedeal.in
3.	Street Style Store	13.	Bookmyshow
4.	Shopazz.Com	14.	Flaberry.in
5.	Phone Pe	15.	Craftsvilla
6.	Zonic	16.	Superbdealonline.com
7.	Onlineclues.Com	17.	Printlan.In
8.	Quickr	18.	Bestpriceshop
9.	Deals Amzon	19.	Maxbhi
10.	Dealandooffers	20.	Dealzkart

In such cases, the complainants are advised to approach the appropriate Consumer Forum established under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

Procurement of foodgrains in Maharashtra

1526. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is aware that in Maharashtra purchasing foodgrains from farmers below MSP will be an offence;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to take similar steps for the entire country to protect the interests of the farmers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) As per

the provision in rule 94D of The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Rules, 1967, the Market Committee is authorized to take steps to prevent purchases of agricultural produce below the support price fixed by the Government. It shall be competent for the Market Committee to suspend or cancel the license of the person who purchases the agricultural produce below support price if he is a licensed person and to prosecute him for contravention of sections 6 and 7 of the Act if he is not a licensed person.

(b) and (c) The enforcement and provision of Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), Act comes under the purview of State Governments.

Allocation of wheat and rice to States including Karnataka

1527. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

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

(b) whether a number of States have sought timely release of allocated quantum of rice and wheat; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Government of Karnataka implemented the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 with effect from January, 2014. While protecting the annual average offtake of 3 years preceding the year when NFSA came into effect, following allocation of foodgrain was made to Karnataka during the last three years:—

(in thousand tonnes)

Year	Wheat	Rice	Total
2014-15	120.525	2422.132	2542.657
2015-16	576.433	2032.403	2608.836
2016-17	491.821	2117.015	2608.836

(b) and (c) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Government. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibility for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, including distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS rests with the concerned State Governments/UT Admn. As

per the extant norms, the State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to ensure the lifting of foodgrains from FCI (in non-DCP States) or State Godown (in DCP States) by the last day of the month preceding the allocation month. Under NFSA, the receipt of foodgrains by the beneficiary in time is a legal entitlement and therefore it is imperative that the States/UTs lift the foodgrains within the validity period and ensure its timely distribution to the targeted beneficiary. Further, States/UTs have been permitted for advance lifting and distribution of upto six months ration in one go to the beneficiaries under NFSA.

Steps taken to protect consumers in online purchasing/business

1528. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that online purchase/e-commerce business has grown speedily in the country during the last two years, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether consumers are facing various problems like payment, quality, quantity and manufacturing defects, services, etc. after purchasing the products;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and
- (d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for the protection of consumers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) It has been informed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology that as per NASSCOM India's e-commerce market is estimated to be USD 33 billion in the financial year 2017 and has grown by 19% over the financial year 2016.

(b) and (c) The complaints received in the National Consumer Helpline indicate that consumers face problems like payment, quality, quantity and manufacturing defects, services, etc. after purchasing the products. The details of the complaints relating to e-commerce during the last financial year 2016-17, registered in National Consumer Helpline, are as under:—

Nature of Complaints	Number of Complaints
Paid amount not refunded	11595
Delivery of Defective Product	8106
Deficiency in Services	7029
Poor quality/Spurious/Fake Products	2040
TOTAL	28770

The complaints are forwarded to the companies concerned for resolution. In the event of non-resolution of a complaint or no response from the company, the consumer is advised to approach an appropriate consumer forum established under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(d) At present, there is a three-tier quasi-judicial mechanism in place for redressal of consumer grievances. These are District Fora at the districts, State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in States and the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission at the Centre. In addition, as an alternative means of grievance redressal, a National Consumer Helplines (NCH) has also been established.

The Department has introduced Consumer Protection Bill, 2015 in the Lok Sabha in August, 2015. The Bill contains a number of provisions to strengthen the consumer grievance redressal mechanism.

Standards for gold in the country

1529. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that standards for 18, 22 and 24 carat gold have not been fixed so far in the country, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether gold, without hallmark, is also being sold in the market, if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir. The grades of 18, 22 and 24 carat gold were specified in Indian Standard 1417:1999 in the year 1999. The Indian Standard on Gold Hallmarking has been revised with effect from 1st January, 2017. Now the grades of 18, 22 and 24 carat gold have been specified in Indian Standard 1417:2016 on Gold and Gold alloys, Jewellery/artefacts. This standard specifies gold content (fineness) in terms of parts per thousand.

Grades of fine gold (fineness 999) and standard gold (fineness 995) are used for manufacture of gold bullion and coins and grades of 22 carat (fineness 916), 18 carat (fineness 750) and 14 carat (fineness 585) are used in manufacture of gold jewellery/artefacts.

(b) Yes, sir. As the hallmarking scheme is voluntary in nature, both hallmarked as well as without hallmark jewellery/artefacts are sold in the market.

(c) The new Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 has enabling provisions for making hallmarking of precious metal articles mandatory by the Central Government.

Implementation of NFSA in Manipur

1530. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes under which PDS items are made available to the public at subsidized rates;

(b) the details of per capita or per family entitlements of items under those schemes in Manipur;

(c) the details of assistance provided to the State Government under NFSA, since its inception, district-wise; and

(d) whether PDS is being implemented with desired level of achievement, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Under the National Food Security Act, 2013, upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population, at the all India level, is entitled to receive highly subsidized foodgrains at ₹ 3/2/1 per kg. for rice/wheat/coarse grains. Coverage under the Act is under two categories-households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) to the extent specified by the Central Government and the remaining households as Priority Households. Priority Households are entitled to receive 5 kg. of foodgrains per person per month and AAY Households, which constitute the poorest of the poor, are entitled to receive 35 kg. of foodgrains per household per month. These entitlements are uniform for all the States/UTs, including Manipur.

National Food Security Act (NFSA) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation as per NFSA and transportation of such foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India in the State/UT. The operational responsibilities for lifting and distribution of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

Based on identification of beneficiaries reported by the State Government within the coverage determined for the State, 12.03 thousand tons of foodgrains per month is

being allocated to Manipur under NFSA. The entire subsidy burden for this allocation at highly subsidized prices under NFSA, amounting to about ₹ 428 crore per year, is borne by the Central Government.

Linking of Aadhaar with PDS

1531. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made Aadhaar compulsory for availing PDS subsidy, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether eligible households, which do not have Aadhaar, have been given some time to get their Aadhaar in order to get PDS subsidy;

(c) if so, whether Government is considering granting more time to people in remote areas, such as Jaisalmer and Bikaner in Rajasthan; and

(d) the other steps being taken/contemplated to make PDS more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) In pursuance of the provisions of the Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 the Department has issued a notification dated 8th February, 2017 for the use of Aadhaar as identity document for delivery of services/benefits/subsidies that simplifies the Government delivery processes, brings in transparency and efficiency and enables beneficiaries to get their entitlement directly in a convenient and seamless manner and Aadhaar obviates the need for producing multiple documents to prove one's identity. An individual eligible to receive the subsidized food grains/Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA and having valid Ration Cards issued by State Governments/UT Administration is required to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication. Any new eligible beneficiary who is selected by State Governments/UT Administration for receiving subsidized food grains/Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA is also required to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication. All such eligible beneficiaries entitled to receive subsidized food grains/Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA, who do not possess the Aadhaar number or, are not yet enrolled for Aadhaar, but are desirous of availing subsidized food grains/Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA are required to make application for Aadhaar enrolment by 30th June, 2017, provided he or she is entitled to obtain Aadhaar as per Section 3 of the said Act. The said time limit has been extended upto September, 2017 which covers the people residing in remote areas like Jaisalmer and Bikaner in Rajasthan.

(d) For effective implementation of and bringing transparency in Public Distribution System (PDS), Government is implementing a scheme on “End-to-end Computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Operations”. The component-I of the scheme comprises digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other databases, online allocation, computerization of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portal and grievance redressal mechanisms. Besides, Central Government has also asked States/UTs to opt for any of the two models of Direct Benefit Transfer – Cash transfer of food subsidy into the bank account of beneficiaries or Fair Price Shop (FPS) automation, which involves installation of Point of Sale (PoS) device at FPS, for authentication of beneficiaries and electronic capturing of transactions. The cash transfer of food subsidy is being implemented in 3 UTs namely Chandigarh, Puducherry w.e.f. 1-9-2015 and partially in Dadra and Nagar Haveli w.e.f. 1-3-2016. For remaining areas, States/UTs have been asked for Fair Price Shop (FPS) automation. So far, more than 2.45 lakh FPSs have been automated across the country.

Sale of bottled water on same rate post GST

1532. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite reduction in tax from 21 per cent to 18 per cent on bottled water post GST, the price of the same has not been reduced by the manufacturers and it is still being sold at the old rates; and

(b) if so, the action Government proposes to take against such violators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) On account of implementation of GST there may be instances where the retail sale price of a pre-packaged commodity is required to be changed. Department of Consumer Affairs has therefore issued an advisory on the matter.

Further, *vide* this advisory it has been informed *inter alia*, that for reducing the Retail Sale Price (MRP), a sticker with the revised lower MRP (inclusive of all taxes) may be affixed and the same shall not cover the MRP declaration made by the manufacturer or the packer or importer, as the case may be, on the label of the package, which includes the packed water bottles also.

The said information has already been disseminated to all the Controllers of Legal Metrology of all States/UTs for immediate necessary action.

Further, Section 171 of the GST Act provides that:

- (1) Any reduction in rate of tax on any supply of goods or services or the benefit of input tax credit shall be passed on to the recipient by way of commensurate reduction in prices.
- (2) The Central Government may, on recommendations of the Council, by notification, constitute an Authority, or empower an existing Authority constituted under any law for the time being in force, to examine whether input tax credits availed by any registered person or the reduction in the tax rate have actually resulted in a commensurate reduction in the price of the goods or services or both supplied by him.

Hoarding of grains in forest areas

1533. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any new digital mechanism to check the illegal hoarding of grains in the forest areas, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the details of steps and organizational set up of aforesaid mechanism; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) No digital mechanism has been put in place by the Department of Food and Public Distribution to check hoarding of foodgrains in the forest areas. It is the responsibility of States/UTs to enforce provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supply of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 to take action against unscrupulous trading, black marketing, hoarding, profiteering and speculative trading.

Stored quantity of cereals, including maize, in Madhya Pradesh

†1534. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cereals stored, including maize, procured in Madhya Pradesh, till date;

(b) the manner in which Government would acquire the same for consumption under Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme or other schemes; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the measure taken so far along with the future plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) As on 30.06.2017, the available quantity of cereals (as reported by State Government) are as under:—

1.	Wheat	:	62.05 LMT
2.	Rice	:	04.45 LMT
3.	Maize	:	00.52 LMT
4.	Pulses	:	00.68 LMT

(b) Madhya Pradesh being a DCP State, the food grains/cereals are procured at MSP from farmers by State Agencies, if required, and are distributed under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) like Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme etc. as per the food grain allocation given by Government of India.

(c) Before the commencement of each Marketing Season, the State Government makes an assessment of production of foodgrains, marketable surplus, price trends and accordingly procure food grains/cereals, which are utilized for distribution under NFSA/OWS scheme as per food grain allocation approved by Government of India.

As per existing guidelines for procurement/distribution of coarse grains, State Governments are allowed to procure coarse grains under central pool if the same is to be disposed of under TPDS/OWS.

Wastage of foodgrains

1535. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 70 thousand tonnes of foodgrains have been damaged in the warehouses of Food Corporation of India, if so, the details thereof, State-wise, and the action taken by Government thereon; and

(b) the effect of such wastage on the implementation of the National Food Security Act along with the proposal to increase the storage facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir. Procured foodgrains are stored in scientific godowns and code of scientific storage

practices are followed during storage. In spite of all precautions, some quantity of foodgrains may get damaged/become non-issuable during storage due to various reasons such as storage pests' attack, leakages in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, exposure to rains, floods, etc. A quantity of 3115.7 tonnes and 8775.6 tonnes of foodgrains accrued as damaged/non-issuable in FCI godowns during 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively. State-wise details of the damaged/non-issuable foodgrains accrued in FCI during last two years and current year are given in the Statement-I (See below).

Appropriate disciplinary action against the officials found responsible for negligence in proper preservation of foodgrains is invariably taken. Various penalties such as recovery of losses, compulsory retirement, reversion to lower post and reduction in time scale of pay etc have been imposed against the defaulters. Number of officials against whom action has been taken by FCI during the last 2 years for damages to foodgrains are as under:-

Year	No. of Officials
2015-16	31
2016-17	13

Steps taken by the Government for safe storage to avoid damage are given in the Statement-II (See below).

(b) There is no effect on the implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA) as a meagre quantity of foodgrains accrued as damaged/non-issuable and only good quality of foodgrains, free from insect infestations and conforming to Food Safety norms are issued under NFSA. Following steps have been taken by the Government to augment covered storage capacity:-

- (1) Government has formulated Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme for construction of godowns for storage of foodgrains by private parties, CWC, SWCs and other State agencies. Storage capacity of 138.51 lakh tons has been completed as on 30.06.2017.
- (2) In addition, a capacity of 1,17,680 tonnes in North Eastern States and 20,000 tonnes in other than NE States has been completed under Twelfth Five Year Plan.
- (3) Government has also approved action plan for construction of steel Silos for a capacity of 100 lakh tonnes in phased manner.

Statement-I

State-wise details of the damaged/non-issuable foodgrains accrued in FCI during last two years and current year

(Fig. in tonnes)

Sl. No.	State	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (As on 01.07.17)
1.	Bihar	46.4	0	0
2.	Jharkhand	0	0	0
3.	Odisha	25.9	1.4	0.3
4.	West Bengal	12.4	0	0
5.	Assam	119.9	205.2	73.7
6.	NEF	210.4	104.9	48.8
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
8.	Nagaland	10.6	3	0
9.	Delhi	16.1	11.9	0
10.	Haryana	0	0	0
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0
12.	Punjab	29.7	8.5	7.7
13.	Rajasthan	2.4	124.9	0
14.	Uttar Pradesh	116.1	47.8	12.0
15.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0
16.	Andhra Pradesh	2202.2	5.7	0
17.	Kerala	178.9	88.1	0.3
18.	Karnataka	35.2	12.8	23.0
19.	Tamil Nadu	30.4	66.4	0
20.	Gujarat	15.6	119.2	3.6
21.	Maharashtra	56.3	7963.4	0
22.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0
23.	Chhattisgarh	7.1	12.4	0
TOTAL		3115.7	8775.6	169.4

Statement-II*Steps taken by the Government for safe storage to avoid damage*

- (1) Before the commencement of Rabi and Kharif Marketing Seasons, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India issues uniform specifications for procurement of foodgrains for the Central Pool. These uniform specifications are circulated to F.C.I. and all State Govts./Agencies with instructions to ensure that foodgrains are procured strictly in accordance with the uniform specifications.
- (2) Foodgrains procured by F.C.I. and State Governments/Agencies are stored in covered godowns as well as in CAP (cover and plinth).
- (3) During storage, the following steps are taken for safe storage and preservations of foodgrains:—
 - (i) All godowns are constructed as per specifications.
 - (ii) Foodgrains are stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.
 - (iii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check migration of moisture from the floor to the foodgrains.
 - (iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are provided in all the godowns.
 - (v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.
 - (vi) Effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are used.
 - (vii) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are used as dunnage material. Stacks are properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water -proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
 - (viii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are undertaken by qualified and trained staff and all senior officers. The health of the foodgrains is monitored at regular intervals by a system of checks and super checks at different levels. Following Checks and Super checks are conducted in the godowns by FCI to ensure proper preservation of foodgrains in the storage.
 - (a) Fortnightly inspection of stocks on 100% basis by Technical Assistant.

- (b) Monthly inspection by Manager (QC)
- (c) Quarterly inspection by AGM (QC)
- (d) Super Checks by Regional, Zonal and FCI Hqrs. Squads.
- (ix) The principle of “First in First Out” (FIFO) is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (x) Only covered rail wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.
- (xi) Damage Monitoring Cells have been set up at District, Regional and Zonal levels to regularly monitor quality of stocks and reduce damages.

Rise in prices of vegetables and fruits

1536. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of vegetables and fruits in various parts of the country have shown a rising trend during the last three months, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the increase in prices of vegetables and fruits is mainly on account of high margins of middlemen and other factors, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard along with the steps taken to increase the production of vegetables and fruits in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) As per the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Base Year 2011-12) and the Combined Consumer Price Index (CPI) (Base Year 2012), there is some rise in the prices of fruits and vegetables during June, 2017. The movement of the WPI and the CPI are as under:—

Commodities	Wholesale Price Index			Consumer Price Index		
	April, 2017	May, 2017	June, 2017	April, 2017	May, 2017	June, 2017
Fruits and Vegetables	130.8	129.0	137.3	-	-	-
(1) Vegetables	124.0	123.3	135.6	123.4	125.6	133.3
(2) Fruits	138.7	135.7	139.4	139.9	137.9	139.2

Source: MoSPI and DIPP.

(b) Prices of fruits and vegetables may increase due to various reasons such as crop seasonality and unfavourable weather conditions. The difference between wholesale and retail price is due to transportation cost, loading/unloading expenses,

grading/sorting, wholesaler's margin, wastages during movements/weighting, location of retail shop, fixed overhead expenses of retailers and margins of retailers.

(c) Government is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), which provides support for production of planting material, vegetable seed production, vegetable cultivation, rejuvenation of senile orchards, protected cultivation, creation of water resources, creation of infrastructure to prevent post-harvest losses of horticultural crops and adoption of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)/Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Assistance for increasing horticulture production is also being provided under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) scheme. Basic and strategic research in the field of production of vegetables and fruits is conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

Subsidy on sugar

1537. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States may soon have to bear major share of the sugar subsidy, if they want to continue selling the sweetener under the Public Distribution System at cheaper rates, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Centre pays a subsidy of 18.5 per kg. for people to get sugar at 13.5 per kg. At ration shops; and

(c) if so, the views of the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 is now being universally implemented in the entire country. There is no identified category of BPL under the NFSA, 2013. However, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries are clearly identified. The Government has reviewed the sugar subsidy scheme and has decided to continue it only for AAY families. The Central Government will continue to reimburse a fixed subsidy of ₹ 18.50 per kg. @ 1 kg. per month per AAY family of the participating States/UTs. The States/UTs are also allowed either to absorb the additional cost on account of handling, transportation and dealer's commission or pass it on to the consumer by adding it to the Retail Issue Price (RIP) of ₹ 13.50 per kg. under the PDS.

(c) Some State Governments/UT administrations have requested for continuation of sugar subsidy scheme as it was existing before.

Strengthening of storage facilities

1538. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to introduce state-of-art Technology in foodgrains preservation and protection, distribution and supply to poorest people in rural/remote areas of the country;

(b) if so, details thereof and effective methods adopted by Government to minimise wastage of foodgrains, pulses and other food items due to poor storage facilities, lack of technology, rotting and destruction by pests and rats, etc.; and

(c) the funds allocated to Tamil Nadu for strengthening and development of Central godowns of CWC and FCI as also godowns of State/private sector for the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is implementing latest scientific technology in foodgrain preservation and distribution of foodgrain under PDS.

- Government has approved action plan for construction of steel Silos for a capacity of 100 lakh tonnes in a phased manner.
- To bring all operations of FCI godowns online and to check leakage and automate operations at the depot level, “Depot Online” system has been launched. Depots online-System is operational at 521 depots.
- As a pilot project, 15 computerized rice analyzers have been installed in 15 selected depots for rice analysis during KMS 2016-17.
- The National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries database have been completely digitized in all States/UTs.
- Transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs.
- Online allocation has been implemented in 30 States/UTs and supply chain has been computerized in 20 States/UTs.
- More than 2.45 lakh FPSs have been automated so far across the country.

Steps taken by the Government for safe storage to avoid damage are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) For strengthening and development of godowns, no specific fund is allocated to any State by CWC and FCI. However, construction/upgradation of godowns is carried

out depending on the requirement. Funds allocated in Tamil Nadu for strengthening/development/maintenance of godowns by FCI and CWC during last three years are as under:—

Sl. No.	Year	Expenditure incurred (₹ in crores)	
		FCI	CWC
1.	2014-15	22.68	7.17
2.	2015-16	34.82	7.81
3.	2016-17	14.61	7.89

Under Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agriculture Marketing (ISAM), capital investment subsidy is available for State/private sector. State-wise funds are not allocated under the scheme and the funds are released to the eligible projects as per demand in the particular State, through the subsidy channelizing agencies NABARD, NCDC, DAC&FW. The funds released to Tamil Nadu under the above sub- scheme for last three years is as under:—

Years	Funds released to Tamil Nadu (₹ in crores)
2014-15	5.86
2015-16	6.83
2016-17	2.29

Statement

Steps taken by the Government for safe storage to avoid damage

1. Before the commencement of Rabi and Kharif Marketing Seasons, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India issues uniform specifications for procurement of foodgrains for the Central Pool. These uniform specifications are circulated to F.C.I. and all State Governments/Agencies with instructions to ensure that foodgrains are procured strictly in accordance with the uniform specifications.

2. Foodgrains procured by F.C.I. and State Governments/Agencies are stored in covered godowns as well as in CAP (cover and plinth).

3. During storage, the following steps are taken for safe storage and preservations of foodgrains:—

- (i) All godowns are constructed as per specifications.
- (ii) Foodgrains are stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.

- (iii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check migration of moisture from the floor to the foodgrains.
- (iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are provided in all the godowns.
- (v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.
- (vi) Effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are used.
- (vii) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are used as dunnage material. Stacks are properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water-proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (viii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are undertaken by qualified and trained staff and all senior officers. The health of the foodgrains is monitored at regular intervals by a system of checks and super checks at different levels. Following checks and super checks are conducted in the godowns by FCI to ensure proper preservation of foodgrains in the storage.
 - (a) Fortnightly inspection of stocks on 100% basis by Technical Assistant.
 - (b) Monthly inspection by Manager (QC).
 - (c) Quarterly inspection by AGM (QC).
 - (d) Super Checks by Regional, Zonal and FCI Hqrs. Squads.
- (ix) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (x) Only covered rail wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.
- (xi) Damage Monitoring Cells have been set up at District, Regional and Zonal levels to regularly monitor quality of stocks and reduce damages.

Non-availability of PDS items in Manipur

1539. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of FCI godowns under the Ministry, State-wise;
- (b) the details of godowns being constructed and proposed for construction, State-wise;

(c) the details of the above with their locations in Manipur, district-wise;

(d) whether the Ministry would construct more godowns in Manipur in view of the frequent disruption of connectivity of the State from rest of the country, resulting in non-availability of PDS items in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) As on 30.06.2017, there are total 2086 godowns with Food Corporation of India (FCI) comprising 1894 Covered and 192 Covered and Plinth (CAP) facilities. State-wise details are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The Government has been constructing new storage facilities under the following schemes:-

- (i) **Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme:** Under this Scheme, storage capacity is created by private parties, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Agencies for guaranteed hiring by FCI. No funds are given by the Government for construction. A capacity of 138.51 lakh MT has already been completed as on 30.06.2017. The State-wise details of godowns being constructed are given in the Statement-II (*See* below).
- (ii) **Central Sector Scheme:** This scheme is focussed on the North Eastern States. Funds are released by the Government to FCI and also directly to the State Governments for construction of godowns. During Twelfth Five Year Plan, a capacity of 1,17,680 MT in North Eastern (NE) States and 20,000 MT in other than NE States has been completed by FCI. Further, a capacity of 46,495 MT has been created by State Governments. The State-wise details of godowns being constructed are given in the Statement-III (*See* below).
- (iii) **Construction of steel silos:** Government of India has also approved action plan for construction of steel silos in the country for a capacity of 100 LMT in 3 phases. No funds will be given by the Government for construction. Private parties selected through tendering process will construct the silos to be taken on guaranteed hiring by FCI/State Agencies. Total 31.50 LMT is planned to be constructed by Government of India through FCI and CWC. Balance capacity of 68.50 LMT is to

be constructed by the State Governments/Agencies. The State-wise details of silos planned to be constructed are given in the Statement-IV (See below).

(c) District-wise godowns planned for construction by FCI are given below:—

District	Capacity (in MT)
Churanchandpur	2,500
Imphal East	10,000
Thoubal	2,500
Bishnupur	5,000
Tamenglong	5,000
TOTAL	25,000

(d) and (e) The Ministry would like to have more godowns constructed in Manipur in view of frequent disruption in connectivity of the State. Accordingly, the State Government has been requested to send detailed proposals, which are still awaited.

Statement-I

State-wise details of number of godowns with FCI as on 30.06.2017

Sl. No.	Region (State/Union Territory)	Covered			Cap			Total Units
		Owned	Hired	Total Covered	Owned	Hired	Total Covered	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Bihar	13	42	55	0	0	0	55
2.	Jharkhand	6	27	33	0	0	0	33
3.	Odisha	23	31	54	0	0	0	54
4.	West Bengal	23	9	32	0	0	0	32
5.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	8	13	0	0	0	13
6.	Assam	20	19	39	0	0	0	39
7.	Manipur	4	1	5	0	0	0	5
8.	Nagaland	4	1	5	0	0	0	5
9.	Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura	14	6	20	0	0	0	20
10.	Delhi	6	0	6	0	0	0	6
11.	Haryana	33	189	222	31	0	31	253
12.	Himachal Pradesh	6	12	18	0	0	0	18
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	16	14	30	0	0	0	30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14.	Punjab	118	429	547	106	0	106	653
15.	Rajasthan	37	113	150	2	12	14	164
16.	Uttar Pradesh	46	226	272	4	13	17	289
17.	Uttarakhand	4	14	18	0	0	0	18
18.	Andhra Pradesh	25	14	39	4	0	4	43
19.	Karnataka	22	29	51	0	0	0	51
20.	Kerala	23	1	24	0	0	0	24
21.	Tamil Nadu	14	36	50	1	0	1	51
22.	Telangana	11	25	36	4	0	4	40
23.	Chhattisgarh	20	28	48	0	0	0	48
24.	Gujarat	14	13	27	5	0	5	32
25.	Madhya Pradesh	19	2	21	6	0	6	27
26.	Maharashtra	13	66	79	4	0	4	83
	TOTAL	539	1355	1894	167	25	192	2086

Statement-II*Status of construction of godowns under PEG Scheme as on 30.06.2017*

(Figures in MT)

Sl. No.	State	Work Completed	Work under construction
1.	Andhra Pradesh	87,800	25,000
2.	Bihar	2,94,787	1,05,213
3.	Chhattisgarh	5,37,230	5,000
4.	Gujarat	49,800	0
5.	Haryana	34,49,959	16,680
6.	Himachal Pradesh	24,170	88,360
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	1,55,520	85,830
8.	Jharkhand	1,28,000	75,000
9.	Karnataka	2,41,440	0
10.	Kerala	5,000	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	12,83,920	95,740
12.	Maharashtra	5,64,527	0
13.	Odisha	3,09,500	43,000
14.	Punjab	44,93,365	0
15.	Rajasthan	2,20,000	15,000
16.	Tamil Nadu	2,00,000	55,000
17.	Telangana	2,69,000	
18.	Uttarakhand	0	10,000
19.	Uttar Pradesh	13,73,127	1,53,000
20.	West Bengal	1,64,090	70,000
TOTAL		1,38,51,235	8,42,823

Statement-III*Details of construction of godowns under Central Sector Scheme*

(Figures in MT)

States	Capacity Completed in Twelfth Plan (2012-17)	Capacity planned for construction during next three years (2017-20)	Capacity Completed in Twelfth Plan (2012-17)	Capacity planned for construction during next three years (2017-20)
	By FCI*		By State Governments	
Assam	87,000	42,500	4,000	31,000
Arunachal Pradesh	11,100	6,130	5,120	3,600
Manipur	2,910	25,000		
Meghalaya	2,500	7,500	2,000	
Mizoram	0	10,000	8,000	
Nagaland	9,170	4,590		3,840
Sikkim	0	3,500	375	3,450
Tripura	5,000	20,000	27,000	
Himachal Pradesh	-	11,220		
Kerala	10,000	15,000		
Jharkhand	-	65,000		
Odisha	10,000	-		
TOTAL	1,37,680	2,10,440	46,495	41,890

*Subject to availability of land from the respective State Governments.

Statement-IV*Details of plan for construction of steel silos*

(Figures in LMT)

State	By FCI	By CWC	By State Governments	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Punjab	4.25	2.50	24.25	31.00
Haryana	3.00		6.50	9.50

1	2	3	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	7.00		5.00	12.00
Delhi	0.50		0.00	0.50
Maharashtra	1.00		0.50	1.50
Bihar	4.50		5.00	9.50
Madhya Pradesh	0.00		10.00	10.00
Gujarat	1.00		2.00	3.00
West Bengal	4.00		3.50	7.50
Assam	0.50		0.00	0.50
Karnataka	0.25		0.00	0.25
Rajasthan	1.50		4.75	6.25
Delhi	0.50		0.00	0.50
Andhra Pradesh	0.00		3.50	3.50
Telangana	0.00		1.50	1.50
Odisha	0.00		2.00	2.00
Chhattisgarh	1.00		0.00	1.00
TOTAL	29.00	2.50	68.50	100.00

Calculation of GST on products

1540. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to exclude advertisement cost of products, as GST is calculated on MRP, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether there are any measures to curb extravagant advertisement on FMCG products in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Department of Revenue has informed that:

No Sir. As per information provided by Department of Revenue under the GST law, tax is liable to be paid on the transaction value of the supply as per sub-section 1 of section 15 of the Central Goods and Services Act, 2017 which states that "The value of supply of goods or services or both shall be the transaction value, which is the price actually paid or payable for the said supply of goods or services or

both where the supplier and the recipient of the supply are not related and the price is the sole consideration for the supply". It is added that MRP is inclusive of all taxes (GST also).

(b) The amount spent on advertisements on FMCG products is the prerogative of the respective Companies and there is no provision in the GST law to curb the same.

Government network affected by Ransomware attacks

1541. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA:

SHRI SANJIV KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any IT network of Government of India or any State Government or any Government body has been affected by the recent Ransomware attacks, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the quantum of damage by the said attack has been evaluated, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to strengthen the security of online data being held by Government agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Propagation of ransomware called WannaCry/WannaCrypt has been reported in many countries around the world including India since 12 May, 2017. Propagation of another ransomware called Petya was also reported 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.

4 incidents from Central Government Departments and 4 incidents from State Government Departments have been reported to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) regarding infections of WannaCry ransomware. 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.

(c) The following measures are taken to strengthen security of Government departments and prevent ransomware attacks:—

(i) CERT-In issued an advisory regarding detection and 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 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 and Petya ransomware along with remedial measures.
- (iii) CERT-In informed various key organisations across different 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 and Petya ransomware were provided on the website of Cyber Swachhata Kendra (www.cyberswachhtakendra.gov.in).
- (v) CERT-In regularly issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities and countermeasures to protect systems and mobile devices.
- (vi) 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.
- (vii) 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.
- (viii) Government has empanelled 54 security auditing organisations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.
- (ix) Government has published Guidelines for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) for Secure Applications and Infrastructure. Government has also specified key roles and responsibilities of CISOs in Ministries/Departments and Organisations managing ICT operations.

Leaking of Aadhaar details from Government websites

1542. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the leaks of Aadhaar details of citizens from its very own websites, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the data on the numbers of such leaks in the last three years and its impact on individual privacy; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that there are no further breaches of Aadhaar data of citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) There has been no leakage of Aadhaar data from UIDAI. However, some instances have come to the notice of the Government wherein personal identity or information of the residents including Aadhaar number and demographic information and sensitive data such as bank account details collected by several Ministries/State Government Departments in the administration of their welfare schemes has been reportedly published online.

(c) Numerous steps have been taken to avoid unauthorized display of Aadhaar details of residents. The Aadhaar (Sharing of Information) Regulations, 2016, framed under the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 mandate that core biometric information collected by the Authority under the Act shall not be shared with anyone for any reason whatsoever. Responsibility has also been cast upon the Agency or entity other than the requesting entity with respect to Aadhaar numbers. Restriction is also there on sharing/circulating/publishing of Aadhaar numbers.

The Secretaries of all the Ministries/Departments and the Chief Secretaries of all the State/UTs have been advised by the Government of India in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in March, 2017 and April, 2017 to refrain from such publishing online/publicity and also that any such contents already published or still appearing publicly may be discontinued with immediate effect.

STPI at Amritsar

1543. SHRI SHWAIT MAILK: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of Software Technology Park of India (STPI) at Amritsar, the foundation stone of which was laid on 7th November, 2016; and

(b) the tentative date by which this project will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) As per STPI, the final drawings of the STPI centre at Amritsar have been submitted by the Project Management Consultant (PMC) to Amritsar Local Authority for approval which is awaited.

(b) Subsequent to the approval of drawings, the construction of the building is expected to be completed within 18 months from date of commencement of construction.

Linking Aadhaar with SIM card

1544. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to link Aadhaar number with the mobile SIM card;

(b) if so, whether any official notification has been issued therefor;

(c) if so, the details of process of linking Aadhaar with SIM card;

(d) whether the linking is valid only in the home town of the SIM card holder or is universal to make the link; and

(e) the notification of TRAI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (e) Initially, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) had issued instructions on 16.10.2014 and 29.12.2014 to the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for collecting 'Aadhaar' numbers along with mobile 'Customer Acquisition Form' and storing the same in the database along with other data by telecom service operators. Further, DoT has also issued 'Aadhaar based Electronic-Know Your Customer (E-KYC) process for issuing new mobile connections to subscribers' on 16.08.2016 (copy available at http://www.dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/2016_08_16%20eKYC-AS-II.pdf?download=1) in which the customer is biometrically authenticated from the server of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and their demographic details received from UIDAI are stored in TSP's database. This process is an alternative process to existing Proof of Identity/Proof of Address documents based process.

Hon'ble Supreme Court, while disposing off the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 607/2016 filed by Lokniti Foundation *V/s* Union of India, *vide* its order dated 06.02.2017 has directed for re-verification of all existing mobile subscribers through Aadhaar based E-KYC process preferably within a period of one year. In compliance to these orders, instructions have been issued to all TSPs on 23.03.2017 (copy available at <http://www.dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/Re-verification%20instructions%2023.03.2017.pdf?download=1>) and 11.04.2017 (copy available at <http://www.dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/11.04.2017.pdf?download=1>) for Aadhaar based E-KYC based re-verification of all existing mobile subscribers except bulk, outstation and foreign customers.

For re-verification of outstation subscribers *i.e.*, subscribers who are having Aadhaar issued in other Licensed Service Areas, as well as issue of new mobile connection to outstation customers through Aadhaar based E-KYC process, instructions have been issued by DoT on 15.06.2017 (copy available at <http://www.dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/Outstation%2015.06.2017-final.PDF?download=1>).

Increase in percentage of cyber frauds

1545. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that globally, India ranks 4th in cyber threats;
- (b) if so, the proposed action of Government on addressing the instances of security breaches;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that India has an instance of increase in cyber frauds from 3.4 per cent in 2015 to 5.1 per cent in 2016; and
- (d) if so, the proposal of Government to prevent such cracking of code and stealing of data identities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) There have been some media reports based on the survey by Symantec indicating India ranks 4th globally in cyber threats of hacking data.

(c) With the proliferation of Information Technology and related services, there is a rise in instances of cyber crimes in the country like elsewhere in the world. As per the data maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 9622 and 11592 cyber crime cases were registered during the years 2014 and 2015 respectively, showing a rise of 20% during 2014 to 2015. This includes cases registered under the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and related sections of Indian Penal Code and special and local Laws involving computer as medium/target. Similar data for the year 2016 is under collection. Further, as per the information reported to and tracked by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), a total no. of 49455 and 50362 cyber security incidents were observed during the year 2015 and 2016 respectively. The types of cyber security incidents include phishing, scanning/probing, website intrusions and defacements, virus/malicious code, Denial of Service attacks, etc.

(b) and (d) Government has taken a number of legal, technical and administrative policy measures for addressing cyber security. These include the following, namely:-

- (i) Enactment of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 which has adequate provisions for safety of sensitive personal information.
- (ii) Government is implementing a Framework for enhancing cyber security, with a multi-layered approach for ensuring defence-in-depth and clear demarcation of responsibilities among the stakeholder organizations in the country.
- (iii) Government has established National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) as per the provisions of Section 70A of the IT Act, 2000 for protection of Critical Information Infrastructure in the country.
- (iv) The CERT-In, a statutory authority under IT Act, 2000, issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats and countermeasures on regular basis. CERT-In has published guidelines for securing IT infrastructure, which are available on its website (www.certin.org.in). In order to detect variety of threats and imminent cyber attacks from outside the country, periodic scanning of cyber space is carried out.
- (v) Government has initiated setting up of National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and to enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive and protective actions by individual entities.
- (vi) Cyber Crime Cells have been set up in all States and Union Territories for reporting and investigation of Cyber Crime cases.
- (vii) Government has set up cyber forensic training and investigation labs in the States of Kerala, Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir for training of law enforcement personnel and Judiciary in these States.
- (viii) Industry associations such as Data Security Council of India (DSCI), NASSCOM, Cyber Forensic Labs, set up in certain States, have taken up tasks of awareness creation and training programmes on Cyber Crime investigation. Academia like National Law School, Bangalore and NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad are also engaged in conducting several awareness and training programmes on Cyber Laws and Cyber crimes for judicial officers.
- (ix) A number of Cyber forensics tools for collection, analysis and presentation of the digital evidence have been developed indigenously and such tools are being used by law enforcement Agencies.

- (x) CERT-In and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) are involved in providing basic and advanced training to law enforcement agencies, Forensic labs and judiciary on the procedures and methodology of collecting, analysing and presenting digital evidence.
- (xi) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issues Circulars/advisories to all Commercial Banks on phishing attacks and preventive/detective measures to tackle phishing attacks. RBI also issues advisories relating to fictitious offers of funds transfer, remittance towards participation in lottery, money circulation schemes and other fictitious offers of cheap funds.
- (xii) All banks have been mandated to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In expeditiously.
- (xiii) All authorised entities/banks issuing Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) in the country have been advised 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. Government has empanelled 54 security auditing organisations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.
- (xiv) Government has formulated Cyber Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks for implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors. Regular workshops are conducted for Ministries, Departments, States and UTs and critical organizations to sensitize them about the cyber security threat landscape and enabling them to prepare and implement the Cyber Crisis Management Plan.
- (xv) 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.
- (xvi) Ministry of Home Affairs has issued National Information Security Policy and Guidelines (NISPG) to Government organizations to ensure safety of data and minimize cyber threats.
- (xvii) 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 have participated.

- (xviii) 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).
- (xix) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY), regularly conducts programs to generate 'information security awareness'. Specific books, videos and online materials have been developed for children, parents and general users about 'information security' which are disseminated through Portals like "<http://infosecawareness.in/>" and "www.cyberswachhtakendra.in"

Ransomware attack on Government computers

1546. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the effect of the ransomware attack on Government computers;
- (b) whether any sensitive data was stolen;
- (c) the overall extent of the damage;
- (d) the measures taken to reduce the effect of the attack and to ensure quick elimination; and
- (e) the corrective action being taken to increase security and to protect information in case of a similar attack in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Propagation of ransomware called WannaCry/WannaCrypt has been reported in many countries around the world including India since 12 May, 2017. Propagation of another ransomware called Petya was also reported 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, thus rendering them unusable till recovery/cleaning is performed.

As on date, 4 incidents from Central Government Departments and 4 incidents from state Government Departments have been reported to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) regarding infections of Wannacry ransomware. 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.

- (d) The following measures are taken to mitigate recent ransomware attacks:
- (i) CERT-In issued an advisory regarding detection and 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 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 and Petya 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.
 - (iv) Free tools for detection and removal of Wannacrypt and Petya ransomware were provided on the website of Cyber Swachhta Kendra (www.cyberswachhtakendra.gov.in).
- (e) The following measures are taken to mitigate recent ransomware attacks and enhance cyber security in the country, namely:-
- (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) 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
 - (v) 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.

- (vi) Government has empanelled 54 security auditing organisations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.
- (vii) Government has published Guidelines for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) for Secure Applications and Infrastructure. Government has also specified key roles and responsibilities of CISOs in Ministries/Departments and Organisations managing ICT operations.

Study to identify cyber threats

1547. SHRI ANIL DESAI:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to control the rising trend of cyber attacks in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any study has been conducted to identify the cyber threats in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Government has taken a number of legal, technical and administrative policy measures for addressing cyber security. These include the following, namely:-

- (i) Enactment of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 which has adequate provisions for safety of sensitive personal information.
- (ii) Government is implementing a Framework for enhancing cyber security with a multi-layered approach for ensuring defence-in-depth and clear demarcation of responsibilities among the stakeholder organizations in the country.
- (iii) Government has established National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) as per the provisions of Section 70A of the IT Act, 2000 for protection of Critical Information Infrastructure in the country.
- (iv) The CERT-In, a statutory authority under IT Act, 2000, issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats and countermeasures on regular

basis. CERT-In has published guidelines for securing IT infrastructure, which are available on its website (www.certin.org.in). In order to detect variety of threats and imminent cyber attacks from outside the country, periodic scanning of cyber space is carried out.

- (v) Government has initiated setting up of National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive and protective action by individual entities.
- (vi) Cyber Crime Cells have been set up in all States and Union Territories for reporting and investigation of Cyber Crime cases.
- (vii) Government has set up cyber forensic training and investigation labs in the States of Kerala, Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir for training of law enforcement personnel and Judiciary in these States.
- (viii) Industry associations such as Data Security Council of India (DSCI), NASSCOM, Cyber Forensic Labs, set up in certain States, have taken up tasks of awareness creation and training programmes on Cyber Crime investigation. Academia like National Law School, Bangalore and NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad are also engaged in conducting several awareness and training programmes on Cyber Laws and Cyber crimes for judicial officers.
- (ix) A number of Cyber forensics tools for collection, analysis and presentation of the digital evidence have been developed indigenously and such tools are being used by law enforcement agencies.
- (x) CERT-In and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) are involved in providing basic and advanced training to law enforcement agencies, Forensic labs and judiciary on the procedures and methodology of collecting, analysing and presenting digital evidence.
- (xi) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issues Circulars/advisories to all Commercial Banks on phishing attacks and preventive/detective measures to tackle phishing attacks. RBI also issues advisories relating to fictitious offers of funds transfer, remittance towards participation in lottery, money circulation schemes and other fictitious offers of cheap funds.
- (xii) All banks have been mandated to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In expeditiously.
- (xiii) All authorised entities/banks issuing Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs)

in the country have been advised 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. Government has empanelled 54 security auditing organisations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.

- (xiv) Government has formulated Cyber Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks for implementation by all Ministries/Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors. Regular workshops are conducted for Ministries, Departments, States and UTs and critical organizations to sensitize them about the cyber security threat landscape and enabling them to prepare and implement the Cyber Crisis Management Plan.
- (xv) 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.
- (xvi) Ministry of Home Affairs has issued National Information Security Policy and Guidelines (NISPG) to Government organizations to ensure safety of data and minimize cyber threats.
- (xvii) 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 have participated.
- (xviii) 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).
- (xix) 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.gov.in”

(b) In tune with the dynamic nature of Information Technology and limited window time available for an effective response, continuous efforts are required to be made to detect and prevent cyber attacks by way of continuous threat assessment and near real-time situational awareness. Such timely information enables coordinated actions by the stakeholders to take appropriate proactive and preventive action.

Concerted efforts are made to harvest the requisite information from multiple sources. These include incidents reported to and tracked by CERT-In, technical measures, security cooperation arrangement with overseas Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) and leading security product and service vendors as well as agencies within the government. In addition, the study reports published by various agencies across the world are also studied to understand the historical data with respect to global threat landscape and threat predictions. As such, Government has not conducted a separate study to identify cyber threats.

Schemes for development of fruit and vegetable processing units

1548. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government implements a number of schemes and extends financial assistance for fruit and vegetable processing units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the fruit and vegetable processing units set up/being set up in Karnataka and financial assistance extended under these schemes during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken for infrastructure development specifically meant for these processing units and to encourage them in exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Government has recently approved a new Central Sector Scheme "Kisan Sampada Yojana (KSY)" with an allocation of ₹ 6,000 crore for the period 2016-20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle. KSY is an umbrella scheme for overall development of the food processing sector which includes development of units involved in fruit and vegetable processing.

KSY encompasses three new schemes *viz.* Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities, Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters and Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages and four ongoing schemes such as Mega Foods Parks, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure and Human Resources and Institutions. The

farmers, Farmers Producers Organizations, entrepreneurs, cooperative societies, Self Help Groups, Private Companies and State PSUs, etc. are eligible to avail financial assistance under these schemes for setting up food processing units in the country.

The schemes are project-oriented applicable throughout the country and not state/location specific. The schemes provide freedom to the promoters to choose the project locations based on availability of raw material, techno-economic feasibility and *viability* of the project.

Under the earlier scheme namely the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries which has now got delinked from Government assistance w.e.f. 01.04.2015 financial assistance extended during last three years for fruit and vegetable processing units in Karnataka is as follow:

Year	No. of units assisted	Amount of assistance provided (₹ in crore)
2014-15	16	1.79
2015-16	17	2.38
2016-17	12	1.81

(c) The ongoing as well as three new schemes under KSY are meant for creation and development of infrastructure for improving the entire food supply chain including the infrastructure development for fruit and vegetable processing units, thereby it encourages them in exports.

Availability of value addition facilities under cold chain infrastructure

†1549. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are being trained by Government regarding value addition in respect of their produces and in order to create awareness about facilities which are being made available under cold chain infrastructure in the country, including Maharashtra;

(b) the details of the value addition facilities in operation at cold chain projects, State-wise; and

(c) whether any methodology is in place to fix the rates of storage of agricultural produce and value addition for farmers to avail the facility of cold storage, if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under their scheme of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) provide various types of training to farmers/Self Help Group (SHGs)/Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) to enhance horticulture production, enhancement of farmer income, improve productivity and strengthen nutritional security.

The objectives of Mission (MIDH) are to promote holistic growth of horticulture sector through area based regionally differentiated strategies which include research, technology promotion, extension, post-harvest management, processing and marketing in consonance with comparative advantage of each State/region and its diverse agri-climatic features, to encourage aggregation of farmers into farmers groups like Farmer Interest Groups/Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Farmer Producer Companies to bring economy of scale and scope, to enhance horticulture production augment farmer's income and strengthen nutritional security, to improve productivity by way of quality germplasm, planting material and water use efficiency through Micro Irrigation, to support skill development and create employment generation opportunities for rural youth in horticulture and post-harvest management, especially in the cold chain sector.

(b) State-wise details of value addition facilities in operation at completed cold chain projects under the Central Sector Scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure being implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The Integrated Cold Chain projects set up under the Cold Chain scheme of the Ministry are being operated by the promoters on different business models *viz.* rental basis, captive use and a mix of rental and captive use. The Ministry has not determined any methodology to fix the rates of storage of agricultural produce and value addition for the facilities at these projects.

However, Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority under Department of Food and Public Distribution registers the warehouses including cold storages which intend to issue Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs) to the depositors against their deposits. Registration of warehouses/cold storages with WDRA is voluntary. The farmers depositing their produce in the registered warehouses/cold storages can benefit from these NWRs to avail loan from the Banks against pledge of the NWRs.

Statement

State-wise details of value addition facilities at completed cold chain projects under the scheme of Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure of Ministry of Food Processing Industries

State	No. of projects	Milk Storage/ Processing (Lakh Litre Per Day)	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Deep Freezer (Lakh MT)	Freezer (Lakh MT)	Blast Freezer (MT/ Batch)	Ripening Chamber (MT/Day)	IQF (MT/ hour)	Pre-Cooling Chamber (MT/Day)	Sorting, Grading, Packing Line (MT/Hr)	Irradiation (KCI)	
1	2	0.00	0.02	2.25	0.0	1.75	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Andhra Pradesh	1	0.00	0.02	2.25	0.0	1.75	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Assam	1	0.00	0.01	0.0	0.0	0.75	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bihar	1	1.30	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chhattisgarh	1	0.00	0.05	0.0	20.0	0.00	20.0	1	0.0	0.0
Gujarat	7	8.00	0.024	0.0	0.0	8.20	10.0	12	0.0	0.0
Goa	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Haryana	3	0.00	0.00	0.0	375.0	2.00	0.0	5	1000.0	0.0
Himachal Pradesh	6	0.00	0.024	0.0	0.0	2.00	3.33	24	0.0	0.0
Jammu and Kashmir	3	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	50	15	0.0	0.0
Jharkhand	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Karnataka	2	0.50	0.005	0.0	50	0.50	6.0	0.0	300.0
Kerala	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Madhya Pradesh	3	1.00	0.04	14	0.0	4.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Maharashtra	20	13.45	0.23	51.60	140.0	28.20	84.00	24.05	0.0
Manipur	1	0.00	0.004	0.0	100.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Meghalaya	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mizoram	2	0.00	0.00	6.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	1.4	0.0
Nagaland	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Odisha	1	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Punjab	8	3.50	0.061	5.5	0.0	12.00	60.0	8.0	0.0
Rajasthan	4	2.10	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	70.0	3.5	1000.0
Sikkim	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tamil Nadu	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Telangana	2	2.50	0.005	0.0	40.0	1.00	0.0	1.0	0.0
Tripura	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Uttar Pradesh	6	5.00	0.033	0.0	60.0	5.00	0.0	9.0	1000.0
Uttarakhand	9	0.50	0.181	0.0	0.0	15.50	0.0	20.0	0.0
West Bengal	4	0.00	0.02	2.0	0.0	4.00	50.0	4.0	0.0
ALL UTS	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	85	37.85	0.707	81.35	785	84.90	353.33	127.95	3300

Law for compulsory registration of marriages

1550. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Law Commission has recommended need for a law to make the registration of marriages compulsory in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the response of Government thereto;

(c) whether such registration would put a check on child marriages, bigamy and gender violence in the Indian society; and

(d) whether all stakeholders, like religious heads of various religions having personal laws will be consulted before taking a decision, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The 21st Law Commission of India in its 270th Report has, *inter alia* recommended that the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 (18 of 1969) may be suitably amended to include registration of marriage within its scope so that the existing administrative machinery would also be able to carry out registration of marriages. In order to provide for evidentiary value in matrimonial cases and prevent unnecessary harassment meted out to women, it has been recommended to provide for compulsory registration of marriages.

(d) No decision has been taken in this regard.

Dip in e-transactions post demonetization

1551. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cashless (digital) transactions are not picking up as expected post demonetization, with e-transactions dipping by more than 29 per cent since peaking in March, 2017;

(b) whether Government's much-hyped BHIM-Aadhaar initiative, aimed at encouraging merchants to accept digital payments using customer's biometric authentication (Aadhaar), is also not performing as expected; and

(c) whether the cost of authentication device-between ₹ 3000 and ₹ 5000, is deterring small traders from getting onto the Aadhaar-based payment system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) the following is the volume of Digital transactions post- demonetisation during the period November 2016 to March 2017 in comparison to pre-demonetisation period of October 2016:—

Sl. No.	Month	Total Digital Payment Transactions (In crores)
1.	Oct. 2016	71.27
2.	Nov. 2016	83.48
3.	Dec. 2016	123.46
4.	Jan. 2017	114.96
5.	Feb. 2017	101.18
6.	March 2017	119.07
7.	April 2017	118.01
8.	May 2017	111.45

Source: RBI and NPCI

From the above data it is apparent that the volume of digital transactions increased during November-December 2016 and have thereafter plateaued out.

(b) As BHIM-Aadhaar has been launched on 14th April 2017, it is a fairly new payment service and so daily transactions are in the range of 300-400. However, it is gradually showing up-swing as illustrated below:

Period	Increase in Transactions	Increase in Unique Aadhaar
May <i>Vs</i> April 2017	30%	26%
June <i>Vs</i> May 2017	11%	2%

(c) No, Sir. The device cost does not seem to be deterring small traders from getting onto the Aadhaar-based payment system, as the device cost is a one time investment, which would ensure long term convenience and transparency in the transactions for the customers and the traders.

Disposal of pending court cases

1552. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the various measures Government has taken so far in order to reduce and dispose of the huge pending cases in different High Courts of the country;

(b) the number of cases still pending in the High Courts till date; and

(c) whether the judicial process is largely hampered due to the pendency of such large number of cases, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Following measures have been taken to reduce the pendency of cases in different Courts including High Courts of the country:—

- (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 ₹ 2,925 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 have been appointed 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 Crores. 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 e-Courts 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* letter dated 7th February 2017, addressed the Chief Justices of all the High Courts requesting them to speed up the process of implementation of e-Court 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 Jammu and Kashmir. 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 handling cases pertaining to the crimes against women.
- (b) Data on pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and the High Courts. As per the information furnished by High Courts, 40.15 lakh cases were pending in various High Courts of the country as on 31.12.2016.

(c) Disposal of cases is within the domain of judiciary. Increase/decrease of pendency of cases and their disposal 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/witnesses, computerisation of courts, automation of court procedures, efficiency of Judges/Judicial Officers etc.

Computerization of courts

1553. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has computerized the courts in various parts of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of courts computerized during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has computerized courts in various parts of the country. The Government is implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. The objective of the e-Courts Project is to provide designated services to litigants, lawyers and the judiciary through universal computerisation of district and subordinate courts in the country and enhancement of ICT enablement of the justice system. The Project includes provisioning of basic digital infrastructure, printers and connectivity to judicial officers and imparting ICT training to them. It also encompasses Process Re-engineering exercise which involves fundamental re-thinking and re-designing of judicial processes to bring about a significant improvement in performance. Additional features of the Project include delivery of the e-Services such as case registration, cauelists, daily case status, and cases of final order/judgment. Under the Phase-II of the Project (2015-2019), the Government has released ₹ 799.14 crores so far. As per information received from eCommittee of Supreme Court of India, funds have been released to 16089 courts during the last three years for computerization.

The High Court-wise details are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	No. of computerised courts
1.	Allahabad	1733
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1078
3.	Bombay	2079

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	No. of computerised courts
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
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

Linking Voter I Cards with Aadhaar number

1554. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme to make it mandatory to link all Voters' I Cards with Aadhaar number and to cancel all such Cards which have not been linked there with to avoid fake Voter I Cards and fake voting, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when it will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Election Commission has informed that there is no proposal to make it mandatory to link all Voters' I Cards with Aadhaar number.

Election Commission's recommendations on electoral reforms

1555. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any set of recommendations from the Election Commission on electoral reforms and other related matters; and

(b) whether these recommendations have been examined, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Electoral Reforms is a continuous and ongoing process. The Election Commission has been taking up such proposals at different points of time in the past. However, in the year 2013, the issue of electoral reforms in its entirety was referred to the Law Commission of India. The Law Commission has submitted its 244th and 255th Reports containing various recommendations on electoral reforms, which are under consideration of the Government.

Deadline to declare party funding sources

1556. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has extended the deadline to declare party funding sources, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has, so far, not issued any Show Cause Notices to political parties in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that whatever communications sent to political parties were just a routine practice, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The deadline to declare party funding source has not been extended.

(c) The Election Commission has informed that they have instructed all political parties to submit their Annual Audited Accounts before 31st October of each year. The recognized political parties are required to file their Contribution Reports in Form 24A by 30th of September of each year as per section 29C of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The Commission also issued reminders to concerned political

parties to submit their Annual Audit and Contribution Reports in case the same are not filed within the time prescribed.

National level examination for selection of Judges

1557. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court is planning to conduct NEET-like All India test to select Judges in the country;

(b) whether views from States have been sought by the Supreme Court regarding this;

(c) whether States are opposing an All India Judicial Service since, 1990; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Ministry plans to go ahead?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) It is observed that number of vacancies of Judges and Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased from 4,589 in 2014 to 5,875 in 2016. The large number of vacancies is hampering reduction in pendency of cases in District and Subordinate Courts to a large extent. Though appointment of Judges and Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts falls within the domain of the High Courts and State Governments concerned in which the Central Government has no role, in order to facilitate regular filling up of these vacancies in a smooth and time-bound manner, the Department of Justice *vide* its letter dated 28th April, 2017 suggested certain options to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for creation and operation of the Central Selection Mechanism. The Hon'ble Supreme Court *suo motu* converted the Government's letter dated 28th April, 2017 into a *writ* petition on 9th May, 2017 and directed all State Governments (including Union Territories) to file their responses and suggestions by way of affidavits. The above matter is *sub-judice* at present.

(c) A comprehensive proposal was formulated for the constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) and the same was approved by the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2012. The proposal was included as an agenda item in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2013 and it was decided that issue needs further deliberation and consideration. The views of the State Governments and High Courts were sought on the proposal. There was divergence of opinion among the State Governments and among the High Courts on the constitution of All India Judicial Service. While some State Governments and High Courts were not in favour of creation of All India Judicial Service, some other

State Governments and High Courts wanted changes in the proposal formulated by the Central Government.

(d) 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.

Servicing of court notices abroad

1558. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has appointed nodal officers to facilitate and oversee the serving of notices abroad; and

(b) if so, the number of appointments and other relevant details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. For service of summons/notices/extra judicial documents in Civil and Commercial matters, Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Legal Affairs is the Nodal Ministry/Central Authority. For service of summons/notices in a foreign country, a Notification is required to be issued by Central Government under Section 29(c) of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908, declaring that the provisions of said section shall apply to the Civil Courts in that country.

India is one of the parties to the Convention of 15 November, 1965 on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters. Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Legal Affairs is the Central Authority, for the purpose of the said convention and contact person is Shri R.K.Srivastava, Dy. Legal Adviser. *Vide* Notification, GSR 24 (E) dated 12th January, 2009, issued under Section 29 (c) of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908, it has been declared by the Central Government that provisions of said section shall apply to all Civil Courts in all the countries who are parties to the said Convention of 1965. Individual Notifications under Section 29 (c) have also been issued in respect of Bangladesh, Belgium, Burma (now Mynmar), Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Egypt, France, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Federation of Malaya, Nepal, Pakistan, Persia, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, U.A.E., Mongolia, Bahrain.

Central Government has also entered into bilateral Agreements with Malaysia, Singapore, Kuwait, Mongolia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, France, Bulgaria, Bahrain, UAE, Russia, Turkey and Afghanistan on Juridical and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and

Commercial Matters for the service of summons, judicial documents, commission, execution of judgments and Arbitral Awards.

For service of summons/notices/judicial processes in criminal matters, M/o Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry. All requests for service of summons/notices/judicial processes on persons residing abroad shall be addressed to the Under Secretary (Legal), IS-II Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi.

Section 105 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) speaks of reciprocal arrangements to be made by Central Government with the Foreign Governments with regard to the service of summons/warrants/judicial processes in criminal matters. The Ministry of Home Affairs has entered into Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)/Agreements with 22 countries which provide for serving of documents. These countries are Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, Canada, Kazakhstan, United Arab Emirates, Russia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Mongolia, Thailand, France, Bahrain, South Korea, United States of America, Singapore, South Africa, Mauritius, Belarus, Spain and Kuwait. In other cases, the ministry makes a request on the basis of assurance of reciprocity to the concerned foreign government through the Mission/Embassy. The difference between the two categories of the countries is that the country having MLAT has obligation to consider serving the documents whereas the non-MLAT countries do not have any obligation to consider such a request.

Fraudulent withdrawal through BHIM App

†1559. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of withdrawing money fraudulently from the accounts of account holders through BHIM App have surfaced; and

(b) if so, the State-wise number of account holders who suffered from such incidents and whether banks have refunded the amount illegally withdrawn through it to the account holders or whether the account holders will have to wait till the enquiry is completed to get their money back, and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

No such fraud regarding BHIM App has come to the notice of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Implementation of Court Judgments/Orders on parties abroad

1560. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether the Ministry has undertaken measures to ensure the implementation of Judgments/Orders by Indian Courts when the parties are located abroad, 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): Execution of decrees passed by Indian Courts in a foreign country can be done on reciprocal basis and a Notification under Section 44 A of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 is required to be issued declaring that country/territory to be a reciprocating territory and that Notification shall also specify superior Courts of that territory. Notifications under Section 44A of the Code of Civil Procedure have been issued in respect of Aden, Federation of Malaya, Fiji Islands, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Trinidad and Tabago, United Kingdom, Victoria, Western Samoa, New Zealand and Cook Islands.

Central Government has entered into bilateral Agreements with Malaysia, Singapore, Kuwait, Mongolia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, France, Bulgaria, Bahrain, UAE, Russia, Turkey and Afghanistan on Juridical and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters for the service of summons, judicial documents, commission, execution of judgments and Arbitral Awards.

Vacant post of Chief Commercial Manager in Eastern Railway headquarter

†1561. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of the Chief Commercial Manager in Eastern Railway headquarter is lying vacant for a long time;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the experts have expressed possibility of its negative impact on the functioning of Railway, if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. Chief Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway is in position.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Sanctioned and existing strength of officials in Railway Board
and Northern Railway Headquarter**

1562. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sanctioned strength of Officials in Railway Board, New Delhi and Northern Railway headquarter at Baroda House, New Delhi as on date, category-wise;

(b) the details of existing strength of officials in Railway Board, New Delhi and Northern Railway headquarter at Baroda House, New Delhi as on date, category-wise;

(c) the reasons for difference in sanctioned and existing strength of officials at above said offices; and

(d) the corrective measures Government would take in this regard along with the time-frame therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The details of sanctioned and existing strength of officials in Railway Board, New Delhi and Northern Railway headquarter at Baroda House, New Delhi as on date, category-wise, are as under:—

Organisation	Category	Sanctioned Strength	Existing Strength
Railway Board	A	595	555
	B	1188	1060
	C	1019	900
Northern Railway	A	260	238
	B	105	73
	C	1993	1624

(c) The vacancies occur from time to time on account of retirements, promotions, deputations, transfers, resignations, sudden demise etc.

(d) Occurrence of vacancies and filling them up is a continuous process.

Survey to ascertain route worthiness of old bridges

1563. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have conducted any survey to find out route worthiness/strength of old bridges of old railway tracks, if so, the details of such study, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the report has also expressed concerns about the condition of many bridges which need immediate attention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) As on 01.04.2017, there are 1,44,698 railway bridges of varying ages on Indian Railways' network. There is a well-established system of inspection of railway bridges in Indian Railways. All the bridges are inspected at least twice a year, one before the onset of monsoon and one detailed inspection after the monsoon by the designated officials. In addition, certain bridges are also inspected more frequently depending upon their condition. Repair/strengthening/rehabilitation/rebuilding of railway bridges is a continuous process and is undertaken whenever so warranted by their physical condition as ascertained during these inspections and not on the basis of their ages. If the corrective/remedial measures are expected to take a long duration due to the complexity of the site situation etc., suitable safety measures like imposing speed restrictions and keeping such bridge under close watch are taken till the bridge is repaired/strengthened/rehabilitated/rebuilt. All bridges are safe for train movement at permitted speed. During 2016-17, 753 bridges were repaired/strengthened/rehabilitated/rebuilt. As on 01.04.2017, 3017 bridges have been sanctioned for repair/strengthening/rehabilitation/rebuilding out of which 800 bridges are targeted during 2017-18.

Pending railway projects in Kerala

1564. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many projects of the Ministry are pending in Kerala;

(b) the efforts that have been made by the Ministry, in the last three years, to expedite those projects in Kerala;

(c) the allocation that has been made in the last three years for those projects in Kerala;

(d) the details of allocated funds spent and remaining unspent during the said period; and

(e) the reasons for the unspent allocation during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At present, 2 New Line, 1 Gauge Conversion and 7 Doubling projects falling partly/fully in the State of Kerala are in different stages of implementation.

(b) To expedite completion of projects, a number of initiatives have been taken to speed up the works like increased allocation of funds through measures like funding by State Governments and other beneficiaries, funding through loan from Institutions, execution of projects through Special Purpose Vehicles, etc. Besides these, to reduce delays on account of land acquisition, security issues and forestry clearances etc, meetings with State Officials at various levels are being held from time to time. Field units have also been empowered with further delegation of powers to sanction estimates and award of tenders.

(c) to (e) The outlays are provided for projects on yearly basis and not State-wise. However, total outlay provided to the ongoing New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling projects falling partly/fully in the State of Kerala during the last three years *i.e.* 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 and current year are as under:—

(₹ in crore)

Plan Head	Outlay			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
New Line	25	6	45	231.59
Gauge Conversion	115	236	181	76.48
Doubling	119	792	790	364.32

Expenditure on individual projects depends on a number of factors such as acquisition of land, forestry and wildlife clearances, shifting of various services, construction of Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges by road maintenance departments, apart from availability of adequate funds. Many of these factors are beyond the control of the Ministry of Railways. However, steps are being taken to spend the available funds to the extent possible.

Late running of trains from Delhi to North Eastern States

†1565. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that almost all trains from Delhi to North Eastern States run late due to which passengers have to face a lot of difficulties;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the reasons for late running of these trains;
- (c) whether Government monitors departure and arrival of these trains; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government to run these trains on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Focused attention is given daily by the Indian Railways at the station, Division, Zonal headquarter and Railway Board levels in ensuring the punctuality of all passenger carrying trains, in general, and specifically for North East bound trains. Trains, at times, get delayed due to causes, some of which are in the control of Railways, such as, equipment failures related to locomotives, Over Head Electrical Equipment, track, signals, carriage and wagon etc., congestion due to saturated line capacity on sections dealing with excess freight and passenger traffic than warranted and blocks are to be given for maintenance and increasing line and terminal capacity for carrying more traffic every year as well as the reasons beyond control of the Railways, such as law and order problems—observance of Bandhs and security threats in Left Wing Extremist areas involving Mokameh-Jhajha, Muzaffarpur-Barauni, Chhapra-Muzaffarpur sections of East Central Railway requiring reduction of speeds for maintaining the safety of operations, passing of trains through the elephant corridor with restricted speed as per the laid down stipulations, natural calamities, frequent public agitations in North Eastern States, electricity grid failures, bad weather, cattle run over, heavy road traffic at level crossing gates etc.

(c) and (d) Presently, movement of both Mail/Express and Passenger trains is being monitored online at divisional level, zonal level and Railway Board level through Punctuality Analysis and Monitoring Module (PAM) which is a part of ICMS (Integrated Coaching Management System), an online monitoring system.

Indian Railways have initiated various long and short term measures for addressing the problem of capacity constraints on the routes of North East bound trains passing through Mughalsarai-Allahabad-Ghaziabad sector of North Central Railway which includes provision of automatic signaling from Aligarh to Ghaziabad on 3rd line, extension of platforms, commissioning of longer loop lines at 10 stations, raising of speed to 160 kmph on New Delhi-Mughalsarai route besides the construction of double-line dedicated freight corridor (DFC) between Mughalsarai-Allahabad-Khurja.

Further, Railways have initiated various measures such as launching of punctuality drives, sensitising staff involved in train operations, improving asset reliability, rectification of asset failures in the shortest possible time and having better co-ordination with State Governments and civil authorities to deal with law and order problems effectively.

Making old style bogies safe and comfortable

†1566. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to make the old style ICF bogies safe and comfortable;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any step in this regard, so far; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Integral Coach Factory (ICF) type coaches plying over the Indian Railways (IR) have been designed with the necessary safety features considering the operating conditions over IR. However, the Ministry of Railways has decided to carry out the work of upgradation of the coach interiors and exteriors and to provide additional safety features like the anti-climbing feature, which reduces the chances of coaches climbing one over the other in the event of accidents, in the identified ICF type coaches, that have a certain balance residual life.

The upgradation of coaches would result in an improvement in the overall ambience and furnishing and enhanced passenger comfort. The work includes, among others, complete stripping of the coaches to bare shell, extensive corrosion repair of the body and underframe, replacement of headstock, if required, provision of new / overhauled draw and buffing gear, refurbishment of coach interiors, Polyurethane painting of the exteriors, renewal of toilets and fittings along with plumbing, provision of new fans, lights and batteries, etc.

It has been decided to carry out the above works in a phased manner depending upon the availability of capacities and funds.

Development of important railway stations

1567. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to develop important railway stations of the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government proposes to sell major railway stations to private players for their development; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Development/upgradation of passenger amenities at stations in Indian Railways is undertaken under various schemes. At present, stations are undertaken for development under Adarsh Station Scheme and 1253 stations have been identified under this Scheme. Upgradation of stations is a continuous and on-going process and works in this regard are undertaken depending upon need, volume of the passenger traffic and *inter-se* priority, subject to availability of funds.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Proposals received from Madhya Pradesh for extension
of railway services**

†1568. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public representatives of Madhya Pradesh have sent many proposals to the Ministry regarding extension of railway services during the last three years;

(b) if so, the proposals to which approval has been accorded, out of the proposals sent, and the proposals which are yet to be accorded sanction;

(c) whether the Ministry has received proposals for extension of railway services in the Gwalior region also; and

(d) if so, whether those proposals are under consideration or have been considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the various proposals received from Public Representatives as well as from Railway administration, the following train services have been extended in Madhya Pradesh, including for the Gwalior region, in the last three years *i.e.* from 2015-16 to 2017-18 (till date).

(1) Introduction (Originating/Terminating Basis):

Sl. No.	Train No.	From	To	Nature	Frequency	W.e.f.
1.	79311/79312	Ratlam	Laxmibai Nagar	DEMU	6 days a week	20-Oct-2015
2.	19331/19332	Indore	Kochuveli	Express	Weekly	28-Jun-2016
3.	19311/19312	Indore	Pune	Express	Bi-weekly	28-Jun-2016

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl. No.	Train No.	From	To	Nature	Frequency	W.e.f.
4.	79313/14/15/16 /17/18/19/20/21 /22/23/24/25/26	Indore	Mhow	DEMU	Daily	28-Jun-2016
5.	21801/21802	Indore	Gwalior	Link Express	Jhansi	1-Sep-2016
6.	51703/04/05/06	Jabalpur	Sukrimangla	Passenger	Daily	18-Oct-2016
7.	22163/22164	Bhopal	Khajuraho	Mahamana Express	Daily	13-Jul-2017
8.	19305/19306	Indore	Guwahati	Express	Weekly	07-July- 2017

(2) Extension:

Sl. No.	Train No.	From	To	Nature	Extension upto	W.e.f.
1.	11111/11112	Gwalior	Gonda	Sushasan Express	Balrampur	22-Nov-2015
2.	78807/78808	Gondia	Balaghat	DEMU	Warasoni	29-Nov-2015
3.	78809/78810	Balaghat	Gondia	DEMU	Katangi	3-Dec-2015
4.	78821/78822	Gondia	Balaghat	DEMU	Katangi	29-Nov-2015
5.	11449/11450	Jabalpur	Jammu Tawi	Express	Katra	8-Sep-2015
6.	79307/79308	Ratlam	Fatehabad	DEMU	Indore	14-Jun-2015
7.	79309/79310	Ratlam	Laxmibai Nagar	DEMU	Indore	14-Jun-2015
8.	59827/59828	Bhind	Gwalior	Passenger	Etawah	28.02.2016
9.	59821/59822	Bhind	Kota	Passenger	Etawah	28.02.2016
10.	51817/51818	Jhansi	Tikamgarh	Passenger	Khajuraho	19.10.2016
11.	19653/19654	Ratlam	Ajmer	Express	Indore	28.03.2017
12.	51703/04/05/06	Jabalpur	Sukrimangla	Passenger	Ghunsore	31-Mar-2017
13.	12919/12920	Indore	Jammu Tawi	Express	Katra	1-Jun-2017
14.	11703/11704	Indore	Rewa	Express	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Nagar (Mhow)	7-Jul-2017
15.	19653/19654	Ratlam	Ajmer	Express	Indore	28.03.2017

(3) Increase in frequency:

Sl. No.	Train No.	From	To	Nature	Old and New Freq.	W.e.f.
1.	11265/11266	Jabalpur	Ambikapur	Express	3 to 7 days	9-Apr-2017

New coaches with advanced facilities in Railways fleet

†1569. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to add 40,000 coaches, with new decor and advanced facilities, to the fleet of Railways;

(b) if so, the details of facilities to be provided to the passengers in these coaches alongwith the number of coaches to be manufactured every year; and

(c) the names of trains in which the new coaches are proposed to be utilized by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) It has been decided that around 15,000 coaches having upgraded interiors and exteriors would be added to the fleet of the Indian Railways by 2022-23. In addition, the interiors and exteriors of about 25,000 existing coaches would also be upgraded. However, this would depend on the availability of required sanctions.

The upgradation of coaches would result in a marked improvement in the overall ambience and enhanced passenger comfort, and would include, *inter alia*, the provision of aesthetically appealing toilet modules with enhanced passenger amenities; Modular panels without visible screws inside the passenger area; Dustbins and fire extinguishers in all coaches; Passenger Address System and Global Positioning System (GPS) based Passenger Information System; Enhanced number of mobile/laptop charging points and Light Emitting Diode (LED) Lighting.

The above works shall be carried out in a phased manner depending upon the availability of capacities and funds.

(c) Deployment of new coaches/refurbished coaches is generally done both for new trains as well as for existing trains depending on operational feasibility, maintenance practices, and passenger demand obtained at the time. It is an on-going exercise.

Direct train from Amritsar to Ahmedabad

1570. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to introduce a direct train from Amritsar to Ahmedabad to facilitate the business and religious tourism to Gujarat; and

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

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) 19415/19416 Ahmedabad-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express (weekly) *via* Amritsar has been introduced w.e.f. 25.01.2015 to facilitate the business and religious tourism to Gujarat. Introduction of additional train from Amritsar to Ahmedabad is not feasible, at present, due to operational and resource constraints.

Bengaluru Suburban Railway System

1571. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of the suburban railway system in Bengaluru; and
- (b) whether Government would provide special financial assistance to make the suburban railway system a reality for Bengaluru, given the importance of additional public transport due to rapid growth of Bengaluru?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Ministry of Railways and Government of Karnataka on 16.01.2017 for development of Suburban Rail System in Bengaluru in accordance with Policy on Indian Railway Suburban Rail System. Accordingly, two works have been identified by State Government *i.e.* (i) Conversion of 15 existing short distance passenger trains with 12 cars MEMU trains, and (ii) Enhancement of maintenance facilities for MEMU shed at Banaswadi. Both these projects have been approved by the Ministry of Railways.

Manufacturing of Train Sets

1572. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to manufacture its own train sets which can run at a speed of 160 kilometre per hour, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) since when this project has been in progress and whether this project has attained its proposed timeline, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has ensured that our present railway tracks are capable enough to handle these fast moving trains, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) A Project for acquisition of 15 Train sets was sanctioned in Railway Budget of 2015-16. Two stage bidding process was carried out for procurement cum maintenance of EMU Train Sets. Five bidders qualified

in the Request for Qualification (RFQ) stage concluded on 12th September, 2015. However, no bid was received in the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage on the bid due date of May 2, 2016. Now, Fifteen Train sets, fit to run 160 kmph, have been planned for production in Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, over the period 2017-18 to 2019-20.

(c) At present, the section between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Agra Cantt. is capable to handle 160 kmph speed. In addition, two works of speed raising for 160 kmph/200 kmph have been included in Railway's works program 2017-18 for New Delhi-Howrah (including Kanpur-Lucknow) and New Delhi-Mumbai Central routes (including Vadodara-Ahmedabad).

Bidding for redevelopment of railway stations

1573. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are very soon going to bid 25 railway stations for redevelopment;

(b) if so, the details of each of the 25 stations so identified for redevelopment, with particular reference to those in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether redevelopment will be done on PPP model or by Railways on its own; and

(d) by when the entire process of redevelopment will be over and its estimated cost and from where Railways are going to pool the resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Railways has already invited Bid for 26 Railway Stations.

Zonal Railways, in the first phase of station redevelopment program which was launched on 08.02.2017, have already invited bids for 23 stations. The State-wise details of these stations are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Station	State
1.	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Maharashtra
2.	Pune	Maharashtra
3.	Thane	Maharashtra
4.	Mumbai Central	Maharashtra
5.	Bandra Terminus	Maharashtra
6.	Borivali	Maharashtra

Sl. No.	Name of Station	State
7.	Howrah	West Bengal
8.	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
9.	Kanpur Central	Uttar Pradesh
10.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
11.	Kamakhya	Assam
12.	Udaipur City	Rajasthan
13.	Faridabad	Haryana
14.	Jammu Tawi	Jammu and Kashmir
15.	Secunderabad	Andhra Pradesh
16.	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh
17.	Ranchi	Jharkhand
18.	Chennai Central	Tamil Nadu
19.	Kozhikode	Kerala
20.	Yashwantpur	Karnataka
21.	Bangalore Cantt.	Karnataka
22.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
23.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh

In the first phase of 23 stations, bids for Jammu Tawi and Kozhikode railway stations have been opened on 12.07.2017 and 24.07.2017 respectively.

Further, a dedicated organization *viz.* Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) has been set up to undertake redevelopment of stations to international standards. They have invited tenders for 3 stations, namely Anand Vihar, Bijwasan and Surat.

The work of Habibganj railway station has been started. A contract of civil engineering works for redevelopment of Gandhinagar railway station along with construction of a 300 room hotel on the air space of the station has also been awarded and ground-breaking done. The work is in progress. Bids for Surat Railway Station have been opened on 05.06.2017.

(c) Indian Railways has advertized its plan to offer 'A-1' and 'A' category stations on 'as is where is' basis for redevelopment by inviting proposals from developers with their designs and business ideas. The entire cost of the station redevelopment is to be met by revenues/proceeds obtained from leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the stations.

(d) These projects are new to Railways and complex in nature. These require detailed techno-economic feasibility studies. Hence no time frame has been presently set for completion of these projects.

The cost of station redevelopment is to be met by leveraging commercial development of vacant land/air space in and around the station. Therefore, railway funds are not required for station redevelopment projects. Such projects shall generally be cost neutral to Railways.

Derailments and shutdown in Assam

1574. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two derailments and one shutdown took place in Assam sector after Railways ignored safety warning, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Assam line is in operation now after corrective steps taken by railways, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Passenger train services were commenced on Lumding-Silchar section from 21.11.2015. There have been no derailments of passenger train coaches so far except for the following two instances:

- (i) Derailment of front pair of locomotive of Sampark Kranti Express in the night of 23.04.2016 due to dashing of train locomotive with boulder which had fallen on the track due to extremely heavy rainfall between Ditockcherra and Bandarkhal stations of Lumding-Silchar section.
- (ii) Derailment of one pair of wheels of near trolley of coach No. NF/SLR-00732 of Up 15061 Sampark Kranti Express on 26.04.2016 due to continuous distortion of track parameters due to upheaval and lateral shift of alignment as a result of movement of hill from the right hand side caused by incessant rains during this period.

In either case given above no casualty or loss of Railway property has been reported.

Besides this there has been one instance of land slide at km 92 near Migrendeesa caused due to very heavy rain of the order of more than 300 mm in a day occurred on multiple days in short span. The hills could not cater that much rainfall and slide occurred.

It is clear from the above that the derailments/land slide took place due to incessant rain.

No safety norms have been violated. The section has been opened after satisfactory inspection of high level technical team of RDSO and clearance of Railway Board.

(b) High level enquiries have been conducted in both of the derailment cases and appropriate action as suggested in the findings of the enquiry report has been taken. This includes the following:

- (i) Improvement monitoring of the railway track especially during the period when heavy rains are occurring in the section. The railway has established practices in place for track surveillance during the rainy season by way of monsoon patrolling. It has to be ensured that these practices are followed in letter and spirit.
- (ii) Improved drainage system at critical locations to take care of the enhanced discharges in the catchment area during the rainy season. This will be a long drawn affair and will be completed over a period of several monsoons as per availability of funds.

Critical locations have already been identified which are being monitored round the clock. The lists of these locations are reviewed on a continuous basis to ensure timely corrective action.

The restoration of land slide location was done with toe protection using sausage crates on pile foundation and development of drainage network and protection of cutting surface by geosynthetics.

Late running of trains due to negligence of railway officials

†1575. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the trains are now running late due to negligence of railway officials;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the main reasons for late running of trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Railways closely monitor punctuality of trains at Stations, Divisions, Zonal Railway and Railway Board levels. Trains running on Indian Railways lose punctuality due to factors both related to its internal working as well as external factors of which Railways may not always be in control. Apart from asset failures, which may delay trains, punctuality is also affected by line

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

capacity constraints on account of increasing passenger and freight traffic on certain railway sectors, granting of blocks for maintenance purpose as well as for increasing line capacity, diversions due to accidents, leading to rescheduling, adverse weather conditions such as fog, excessive rains leading to water logging and breaches of tracks, natural calamities such as cyclonic weather conditions, heavy road traffic at level crossing gates across the Indian Railways network, multi faceted law and order problems, Bandhs, miscreant activities such as theft of Railway assets, mid-section run over cases involving cattle, humans and incidents such as doctors attending sick passengers etc.

Train accidents

1576. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents which took place during the last three years, including the current year, year-wise and Zone-wise;

(b) whether any investigation/inquiry has been conducted in the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of these investigations/inquiries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Zone-wise and year-wise number of consequential train accidents over Indian Railways during the last three years *i.e.* 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and the current year from 1st April, 2017 to 30th June, 2017 are given below:—

Railways	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (up to 30.06.17)
Central	10	7	7	3
Eastern	4	4	7	0
East Central	19	12	17	1
East Coast	8	2	7	0
Konkan	4	1	1	0
North Central	7	4	7	2
North Eastern	14	9	3	1
Northeast Frontier	4	4	8	0
North Western	11	11	4	0
Northern	20	20	14	3
South Central	4	2	1	2
South Eastern	6	4	2	0

Railways	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (up to 30.06.17)
South East Central	1	3	5	0
South Western	11	8	3	1
Southern	2	6	8	2
West Central	3	2	2	0
Western	7	8	8	0
Metro Kolkata	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	135	107	104	15

(b) and (c) All consequential train accidents on Indian Railways are inquired into either by Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation or Departmental Inquiry Committee of the Railway. Out of the above 361 accidents, 31 accidents have been inquired by the Commission of Railway Safety and balance have been inquired into by the Departmental Inquiry Committees of the zonal railways.

Of the 361 train accidents, investigations have been completed in 356 cases. Based on the findings of the inquiry reports, 185 accidents were caused due to failure of Railway Staff, 123 were due to failure on the part of other than Railway staff, 10 due to failure of equipment, 07 due to Sabotage, 25 due to the Incidental factors and 4 accidents occurred due to the combination of factors, and in 2 cases none has been held responsible.

Cancellation and deviation of trains

1577. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of trains cancelled or deviated due to accident, bad weather or some other reason, since 2014 year-wise;

(b) the details of the reimbursement processed when an alternative option of travel was not provided to the passengers, since 2014, year-wise; and

(c) the details of the yearly loss to Railways due to cancellation and deviation of the trains because of accident, bad weather or some other reason, since 2014?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The details of the number of Mail/Express trains cancelled

or diverted due to accident, bad weather or some other reason, since 2014 year-wise are as under:

Reasons	2014		2015		2016		2017 (upto June)	
	Cancelled	Diverted	Cancelled	Diverted	Cancelled	Diverted	Cancelled	Diverted
Weather including Fog, Cyclone etc.	1025	390	2346	186	4358	266	2806	1
Accident	133	559	605	551	160	357	92	128
Agitation + Law and Order	31	136	540	362	1149	251	121	102
Construction + Maintenance block	359	756	639	1313	1109	2480	491	954
Other reasons (such as late arrival of link rake, non availability of rake due to cancellation for above reasons)	1131	2215	4475	1173	2459	694	899	516
TOTAL	2679	4056	8605	3585	9235	4048	4409	1701

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The yearly loss to Railways due to cancellation/deviation of trains because of accidents etc. is not maintained. However, due to train accidents, approximate cost of damage to Rolling Stock and Permanent Way during the years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 is as under:

Year	Approximate cost of damage (₹ in lakh)
2013-14	3802
2014-15	7208
2015-16	5924

Progress of rail project from Imphal to Moreh

1578. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of rail projects works from Imphal to Moreh and Moreh to Kalay in Myanmar;

(b) the position of rail project of Agartala-Aakhaura (Bangladesh);

(c) the estimated cost of Imphal-Moreh and Moreh-Kalay and Agartala-Aakhaura projects; and

(d) the target of completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for a new Broad Gauge (BG) line from Imphal (India) to Moreh (Mynmar) (111.25 km) was completed in 2014-15. As per survey, cost of the project was assessed as ₹ 5428.46 crore. Further, on invitation by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), M/s. Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd. (RITES), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of Ministry of Railways, has submitted an offer to MEA for Detailed Project Report (DPR) for a new BG rail link between Moreh-Tamu-Kalay (110.15 km) in July, 2013 which was further revised in September, 2014. The portion Imphal to Moreh is in India and from Tamu to Kalay is in Myanmar. The project is not yet sanctioned.

(b) Agartala-Akhaura new line project is 15.06 km out of which 5.05 km falls in India and 10.01 km falls in Bangladesh. Bangladesh portion is funded by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Indian Portion is being funded by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER). An MoU has been signed between Government of India and Bangladesh. Presently, work on Indian portion has been entrusted to IRCON International Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of Ministry of Railways. IRCON has prepared revised estimate for Indian portion at a total cost of ₹ 580 crore with elevated corridor/*viaduct* of 3.31 km. Tender for earthwork and *viaduct* on Indian portion has been finalized.

So far as Bangladesh portion is concerned, Detailed Project Report has been submitted by IRCON to MEA for further approval of Government of Bangladesh. The project cost of Bangladesh portion is estimated at ₹ 350 crore.

(c) (i) The estimated cost of Imphal to Moreh (111.25 km) proposed new BG line is assessed as ₹ 5428.46 crore, (ii) For Agartala-Akhaura (15.6 km) BG line project, cost for Indian portion (5.05 km) is ₹ 580 crore and Bangladesh portion is

₹ 350 crore, (iii) Estimated cost of Moreh to Kalay BG rail link will be available once the survey has been done.

(d) Completion of projects depends on many factors such as land acquisition, forestry and wild life clearances, shifting of services, construction of road over and road under bridges, law and order etc. As many of these factors are not within the control of Railways, it is not feasible to fix timelines for all the projects.

Encroachment of railway land

1579. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large stretches of railway land are being encroached upon in various parts of the country, including under Southern Railway, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether such encroachments have been causing serious operational problems;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Railways thereto; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to remove such encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) At present, out of 4.73 lakh hectare land assets available with Indian Railways, approximately 861.70 hectare (0.18%) land is under encroachment including 60.39 hectares land of Southern Railway.

Most of the encroachments on Railway land are in the approaches of stations in Metros and big cities in the form of slums. At certain locations, these encroachments cause bottlenecks and safety hazard in train operations and difficulties in maintenance which at times affect the line capacity and the throughput which ultimately affects the revenue of Railways.

For removal of these encroachments, Railways carry out regular surveys and take action for their removal. If the encroachments are of a temporary nature (soft encroachment) in the shape of jhuggies, jhopries and squatters, the same are got removed in consultation with and the assistance of Railway Protection Force and local civil authorities. For old encroachments, where party is not amenable to persuasion, action is taken under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 (PPE Act, 1971), as amended from time to time. Actual eviction of unauthorized occupants is carried out with the assistance of State Government and police.

Increase in ticketless travelling

1580. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an increase has been registered in the number of ticketless travellers during the last three years and the current financial year;

(b) if so, the exact number of ticketless travellers along with the amount recovered by Railways in the form of penalty during the above said period; and

(c) the steps taken by Railways to dissuade the people from travelling without ticket in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The details of number of passengers detected travelling without ticket and with improper tickets during the last three years and the current financial year upto June, 2017 along with amount of Railway dues realized, are given below:—

Zonal Railway	Persons detected travelling without ticket and with improper tickets (in lakhs)				Amount of railway dues realized (₹ in Rupees crores)			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (Upto June)	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (Upto June)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Central	19.27	22.48	24.24	9.19	98.00	117.91	125.13	53.18
Eastern	8.07	8.79	9.56	2.81	25.55	28.02	30.56	9.22
East Central	12.18	15.55	18.62	6.80	41.25	59.40	72.52	27.87
East Coast	3.82	4.97	5.11	1.54	15.63	21.19	22.11	6.76
Northern	20.45	24.86	26.40	9.87	90.13	111.62	116.52	45.31
North Central	13.18	15.29	16.56	6.18	66.56	77.99	84.09	32.52
North Eastern	10.12	11.01	12.00	4.17	50.32	55.71	60.80	22.01
Northeast Frontier	4.21	4.65	5.75	1.65	28.30	30.05	38.53	10.77
North Western	5.47	5.96	5.56	1.93	23.12	24.92	23.10	8.61

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Southern	10.08	8.51	8.19	2.66	41.98	35.35	34.17	11.02
South Central	20.13	24.43	25.86	6.73	86.79	101.32	111.50	31.15
South Eastern	5.25	5.26	6.11	1.72	23.27	24.74	29.05	8.22
South East Central	3.64	4.01	4.24	1.28	14.35	15.93	17.55	5.65
South Western	3.94	4.46	6.20	1.95	20.55	22.64	30.46	10.01
Western	18.73	20.28	20.24	6.23	86.43	94.91	95.86	31.47
West Central	8.27	8.98	8.97	3.56	39.17	44.63	43.70	18.74
TOTAL	166.81	189.49	203.60	68.25	751.40	866.33	935.64	332.50

(c) The steps taken by the Government to dissuade people from travelling without ticket are as under:-

- (i) Conducting of regular and surprise checks against ticketless travel, which are intensified during peak rush periods.
- (ii) Vigorous drives such as Ambush Checks, Fortress Checks are conducted in association with Railway Protection Force and Magistrates under the Action Plan framed by Railway Board.
- (iii) Intensive Check Posts have been set up at important stations of each division of Zonal Railways to curb ticketless travelling in unreserved segments.
- (iv) With a view to curbing entry of without ticket passengers in ticketed areas and to reduce ticketless travel, instructions have been issued for ensuring effective manning of all designated/functional gates at stations.
- (v) Travelling public are urged to avoid ticketless travel through publicity campaigns launched by Zonal Railways through posters/notices/announcements at railway stations and advertisements in newspapers.

Utilization of space of halt stations

1581. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are considering utilizing the space capacity of such halt stations where there are only one or two trains stopping during the day for organizing local functions;

(b) if so, the details of stations identified and also details of stations where permission for the above purpose has been granted;

(c) whether Railways are also considering to utilize the space at such stations for skill development activities for the benefit of railway men and local people, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the steps taken in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Railways have issued a new Non Fare Revenue Policy for encouraging *viable* proposals for generating revenue from non-conventional sources.

Zonal Railways and Divisions have been empowered under the policy to take decisions regarding revenue generating proposals, subject to feasibility and desirability which, *inter-alia*, includes selection of specific events and locations.

(c) As part of the 'Skill India' initiative, Ministry of Railways had signed an MoU with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to make available spare capacity of Railway Infrastructure to MSDE for their skill development initiatives. MSDE identified 53 locations spread across the country and identified the Training Partners who will set up Skill Development Centres through Directorate General of Training and National Skill Development Corporation.

Name of Zonal Railway	Name of Railway Station/Division
Central	Panvel (Mumbai), Pune (Pune) and Jalgaon (Bhusaval)
Eastern	Asansol
Northern	Bhatinda (Ambala), Kiratpur Sahib (Ambala), Jind (Delhi), Lucknow (Lucknow), Udampur (Ferozpur), Chandigarh (Ambala), Meerut (Delhi), Baghpat (Delhi), Bijnor (Moradabad), Haridwar (Moradabad), Pratapgarh (Lucknow) and Amritsar
North Eastern	Varanasi, Ghazipur (Varanasi), Siwan (Varanasi), Lucknow (Anand Nagar), Chhapra (Sonepur)
Northeast Frontier	Dibrugarh (Tinsukia)
Southern	Kannur (Palghat), Trivandrum (Trivandrum)
Western	Mumbai, Gandhinagar (Ahmedabad), Ujjain (Ratlam)
South Central	Eluru (BZA), Nellore (BZA), Ongole (BZA), Nizamabad (Hyderabad), Bhongir (Secunderabad), Mahbubabad (Secunderabad)

Name of Zonal Railway	Name of Railway Station/Division
East Central	Hajipur (Sonepur), Patna (Danapur), Jamui (Danapur), Chandauli (Mughalsarai)
East Coast	Waltair
North Central	Gwalior (Jhansi), Mirzapur (Allahabad), Allahabad
North Western	Jodhpur, Dausa (Jaipur), Bikaner
South East Central	Nagpur, Mandla (Nagpur)
South West	Bangalore, Hubli, Belgaum (Hubli)
West Central	Vidisha (Bhopal), Kota, Hoshangabad (Bhopal), Sagar (Jabalpur)

Out of the above in 16 locations, agreements have been signed/site handed over and 3 more are under process. In 20 places, even though locations have been identified, the training partners are yet to respond. Further, in 14 locations, either there is no response or the alternative locations offered by Railway are not being considered by the training partners.

(d) 477 people are under training at these Skill Development Centres. 255 people have completed their training so far.

Catering services and food quality in premium trains

1582. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of railway passengers had to travel without food and security for more than 16 hours during their journey by Rajdhani Express;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the catering services and food quality in Rajdhani/Duronto/Shatabdi and other paid services in pantry are not upto the mark; and

(d) the total number of complaints received by Government in this regard and the action taken thereon during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) High quality food and strict Security is provided in all Rajdhani express trains. However, an incident of delayed supply of food took place on 10.05.2017 in train number 12454 New Delhi-Ranchi Rajdhani Express, where due to shortage of staff, food service got delayed between New Delhi-Kanpur, which is a journey

time of about 5 hours. There was no complaint beyond Kanpur as the Service was made good by deputing staff at Kanpur.

(b) Further to this incident, the contract of M/s Ambuj Hotels & Real Estate Private Limited was terminated on 11.05.2017 by Northern Railway. Thereafter the management of catering service on this train has been taken over by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) w.e.f. 12.05.2017.

(c) In its endeavour to provide quality and hygienic food to the passengers, Indian Railways have developed and operationalized an institutionalized mechanism for monitoring of quality and hygiene of catering services through regular inspections at various levels to address catering complaints. Further, to improve the standard of food being provided to passengers in trains, new Catering Policy has been issued on 27th February, 2017 wherein *inter alia* IRCTC has been mandated to carry out the unbundling by creating a distinction primarily between food preparation and food distribution. In order to upgrade quality of food preparation, IRCTC is to set up new kitchens and upgrade existing ones.

(d) The details of total number of complaints received regarding poor quality of food served in trains including Rajdhani/Duronto/Shatabdi Express and the action taken during the last three years and current year are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of total number of complaints received regarding poor quality of food served in trains including Rajdhani/Duronto/Shatabdi Express and the action taken during the last three years and current year

Year	Total number of complaints received regarding poor quality of catering services	Action Taken								Total
		Fined		Warned	Termination	Suitably Advised	Not Substantiated	D and AR Action	Any Other	
		No. of cases wherein a fine is imposed	Amount of fine imposed (₹)							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2014 (01.01.2014 to 31.12.2014)	2845	1099	60,00,750	1140	1*	282	71	33	219	2845
2015 (01.01.2015 to 31.12.2015)	1774	754	64,92,100	446	0	322	132	4	116	1774

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2016 (01.01.2016 to 31.12.2016)	1869	656	70,43,650	795	0	211	53	2	152	1869
2017 (01.01.2017 to 30.06.2017)	1374	514	38,27,285	528	4**	103	54	0	171	1374

* Train No.- 05037-38 Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar Jan Sadharan Exp., Name of Contractor :- M/s Hotel Rajasthan

** (i) Train No. 12313-14 Sealdah-New Delhi Rajdhani; Name of Contractor:- M/s R. K. Associates & Hoteliers Private Limited (ii) Train No. 12439-40 New Delhi – Ranchi Rajdhani; Name of Contractor :- M/s Ambuj Hotels & Real Estate Private Limited (iii) Train No.12453-54 New Delhi – Ranchi Rajdhani ; Name of Contractor :-M/s Ambuj Hotels & Real Estate Private Limited (iv) Train no. 12957-58 Ahmedabad-New Delhi Swarna Jayanti Rajdhani Express Name of Contractor :- M/s Ambuj Hotels & Real Estate Private Limited

**Operation of Kathgodam to Bhojipura-Bareilly-Lucknow
train *via* Rampur**

†1583. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that operation of Kathgodam to Bhojipura-Bareilly-Lucknow train *via* Rampur causes additional running of about 65 kilometre as there is lack of co-ordination between Eastern Railway and Northern Railway, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) if not, the details of distance from Kathgodam to Bareilly *via* Bhojipura, Kathgodam to Rampur *via* Rudrapur and from Rampur to Bareilly;

(c) whether Railways have to incur additional financial burden and time due to running of Kathgodam-Rampur-Bareilly train; and

(d) if so, the details of additional financial burden and time incurred by Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No sir, there is no lack of co-ordination of between Northern Railway and North Eastern Railway. However, it is a fact that operation of Kathgodam to Bhojipura-Bareilly-Lucknow train *via* Rampur causes additional running of 46 kilometre as the distance between Kathgodam and Bareilly *via* Bhojipura is 106 KM where as distance between Kathgodam and Bareilly *via* Rampur is 152 KM.

At present, there are 3 pairs of Mail/Express trains from Kathgodam/Lalkuan to Bareilly *via* Rampur and Rudrapur. In addition, there are 3 pairs of Mail/

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Express and 4 pairs of Passenger trains from Kathgodam/Lalkuan to Bareilly via Bhojipura.

(b) Distance between Kathgodam and Bareilly via Bhojipura is 106 KM. Distance from Kathgodam to Rampur via Rudrapur is 89 KM and Rampur to Bareilly is 63 KM.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Railways incur approximately ₹ 53,636/- on each train as additional financial burden due to running of Kathgodam-Rampur-Bareilly train.

Trains running from Kathgodam to Bareilly via Rampur and Rudrapur takes approximately one hour more on an average compared to trains running from Kathgodam to Bareilly via Bhojipura to cover the extra 46 km distance.

Crime against women in long distance trains

†1584. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with regard to railway safety, the main problem is the crimes committed against women in long distance trains, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the crimes committed against women in the trains and the action taken against the criminals in those cases during the last three years; and

(c) whether specific policy measures have been adopted/are to be adopted in order to strengthen safety of women in long distance trains, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. It is not a fact that crime committed against women in long distance train is the main issue as far as Railway safety (security) is concerned.

(b) The number of cases of crime against women passengers in trains and the number of persons arrested in these cases during the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 is as under:-

Year	No. of cases of crime against women passengers in train registered	No. of persons arrested
2014	448	347
2015	553	443
2016	606	426

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP). However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of the GRP by providing better protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith. RPF escorts important trains in affected areas and also provide access control duties at important and sensitive stations.

Besides, the following measures are being taken by Railways for safety and security of passengers including women passengers in trains:

1. On vulnerable and identified routes/ sections, 2500 trains (on an average) are escorted by Railway Protection Force daily, in addition to 2200 trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States daily.
2. Security Help Line number 182 is made operational over Indian Railways for security related assistance to passengers in distress.
3. The train escorting parties have been briefed to keep extra vigil on the ladies coaches en-route and at halting stations.
4. Regular drives are conducted to prevent entry of male passengers in compartments reserved for ladies, and if found, they are prosecuted under the provisions of Railways Act.
5. Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras, provided at about 344 stations over Indian Railways, to ensure safety and security of passengers.
6. The ladies special trains running in Metropolitan cities are being escorted by lady RPF constables.
7. The ladies compartments in sub-urban trains running in metropolitan cities are being escorted by RPF and GRP. Staff deployment is made during late night and early morning in such trains to ensure proper security to the lady passengers.
8. RPF holds regular coordination meetings with State Police at all levels to ensure proper registration and investigation of crime by GRP.

Entry to platforms on Balamau Junction at Moradabad

1585. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that authorised entry to platforms and booking window on Balamau junction of Moradabad mandal is opposite to main city side

and passengers face a lot of difficulties and have to spare twenty minutes more to reach the platform/booking window after a level crossing, if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(b) whether Government has received any representation to construct a platform and booking window towards city side for better facilities to the users; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon, representation-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. The main entry and booking office of station building is located on the north end, but its major population is located on the south side. As such, the local population has to cross level crossing for approaching the booking office at the main entry of station building on north side.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been made for passenger entry to south side with circulating area, booking office, platform and enquiry office as per extant norms subject to availability of funds. However, as an immediate relief to passengers, 02 Jan Sadharan Ticket Booking Sewak (JTBS) have been commissioned on south side of this station for the convenience of local population.

Special coaches for tourists

1586. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways propose to reserve special coaches for tourists on trains running through tourist spots across the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways will auction such dedicated tourist coaches to tour operators at a premium, based on which, the tour operator may carry the booking of passengers/tourists on it; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways will look into increasing the frequency of hill tourist trains during peak season and have proposed reviving steam trains to be operated in hill stations, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Tourist coaches are already available on the basis of Full Tariff Rates, as per demand. One special design coach with features including roof with glass look out with controlled opalescence, has been attached in Train No. 58501/02 Visakapatnam-Kirandul passenger for operation in Araku Valley between Vishakapatnam and Araku from 16.04.2017. However, a decision for attaching dedicated Tourist Coaches is yet to be taken as the new tourism policy has not been framed.

(c) Indian Railways has 5 (five) hill railways, namely Darjeeling Himalayan Railways (DHR), Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR), Kalka Shimla Railway (KSR), Kangra Valley Railway (KVR) and Matheran Light Railway (MLR). Regular steam operations already exist over DHR and NMR. Steam locomotive hauled charters are provided on demand in DHR and KSR. Commencement of Steam hauled charters are also under consideration over NMR and KVR. Based on tourist demand, Railways have provision for increasing the frequency of regular service trains, addition of extra coaches in regular service trains and introduction of additional trains over hill railways.

**Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on safety
and security in Railways**

1587. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways in its 'Safety and Security in Railways' report tabled in Lok Sabha on 14th December, 2016 observed that Railways have failed in maintaining safety standards of the rail tracks;

(b) if so, whether recommendations of the Committee have been implemented by Railways; and

(c) 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) Track renewal is an ongoing process which is undertaken as and when a stretch of track becomes due for renewal on age-cum-condition basis. Track renewal works are planned in advance every year and their execution is prioritized according to the condition of track and overall availability of funds ensuring all the time that track is in a sound condition for safe running of trains.

Physical targets of track renewal for the year 2017-18 have been kept as 3600 km against 2668 km for the year 2016-17.

The outlay for planhead 31-Track Renewals, which was ₹ 4000 crore in Budget Estimate (BE) 2016-17, was enhanced to ₹ 6739.80 crore in Revised Estimate (RE) 2016-17. The same has further been increased in BE 2017-18 to ₹ 9960.76 crore.

Cost sharing of railway projects with Kerala

1588. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are demanding that State Government of

Kerala should meet 50 per cent of the expenses for all pending projects in the State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have taken up only very few projects in the State;

(c) whether Railways are still meeting 100 per cent expenses of various projects implemented in other States; and

(d) if so, the justification for Railways to neglect already announced projects in Kerala, like coach factory, and take up similar ones in other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Out of 10 ongoing New Line/Gauge Conversion/Doubling projects falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala, Government of Kerala has been requested for their consent to share cost of 4 projects.

(c) In other States also, Ministry of Railways has been requesting State Governments to share part cost of the project to improve availability of funds to execute these projects. In certain cases, State Governments have also come forward to provide land free of cost. In all, 45 projects on cost sharing with State Governments are under different stages of implementation.

(d) In view of exorbitant increase in project cost of the 04 projects mainly due to increase in land cost, State Government has been requested for their consent to share part cost of the projects so that availability of funds could improve to expedite execution of the projects.

The work of setting up of Rail Coach Factory at Palakkad in Kerala has not been neglected. However, the project could not be pursued further as the requirement of coaches *vis-à-vis* available manufacturing capacity is under review.

Water vending machines at railway stations of South Central Railway

1589. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Central Railway is installing water vending machines at all stations in phases for providing purified drinking water at lower prices in a bid to prevent fleecing of train passengers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Ministry will replicate it at other stations across the country, if so, by when, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Over South Central Railway, 131 Water Vending Machines (WVMs) have been commissioned by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation

Limited (IRCTC) at A1, A, B and C category stations of Hyderabad, Guntakal, Vijayawada and Guntur Divisions of South Central Railway. Further, contracts have been awarded for installation of 62 more WVMs in Secunderabad and Nanded Divisions.

(b) Yes, Sir. To provide pure drinking water to passengers at nominal rates, IRCTC has awarded licenses for installation of 2900 WVMs over Indian Railways, out of which 1300 WVMs have been installed up till 30.06.2017.

Stoppage of trains at Dhanbad-Chandrapur rail route

1590. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of trains that have been stopped due to closure of the Dhanbad-Chandrapura rail service;

(b) the basis for taking such a drastic measure by Railways;

(c) the steps taken to mitigate the hardship of the local residents on account of this closure; and

(d) whether there is any plan for restoration of train service on the above route, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Initially, 20 pairs of Mail/Express and 6 pairs of Passenger trains were cancelled w.e.f. 15.06.2017.

(b) The section between Dhanbad-Chandrapura of Dhanbad Division of East Central Railway has been closed w.e.f. 15.06.2017 in view of Director General of Mines Safety (Ministry of Coal)'s observation that the section is not fit for running of trains on account of the fire underneath and due to chances of subsidence. The line, therefore, has been closed considering the safety implications. Accordingly, Railways had to divert or cancel trains running on Dhanbad-Chandrapura section.

(c) 13 pairs of Mail/Express and one pair of passenger train services have been restored *via* alternative routes.

(d) After re-introduction of the above mentioned train services *via* the diverted routes, Railways is not in a position to restore further services.

Ambiguities in circular of Railway Board

1591. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are ambiguities in Railway Board's Commercial Circular No. 22/2017, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether representations, letters, objections have been received from Zonal Railways against the Circular, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether suggestions have also been received by the Ministry for withdrawal of the Circular No. 22/2017 but not considered in spite of the ambiguities, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Some letters have been received from Zonal Railways in respect of Railway Board's Commercial Circular No. 22/2017 seeking clarifications regarding tenure of unit to be renewed and fixation of license fee on renewal of such units etc. Queries received from Zonal Railways have been examined and a clarification has been issued on 30.06.2017. Further, as Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) is a policy making body, Zonal Railways seek clarifications from the Ministry for implementation of such policy guidelines.

(c) Representations/suggestions from Akhil Bhartiya Railway Khan-Pan Licensees Welfare Association have been received against Railway Board's Commercial Circular No. 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 railway stations with periodical reasonable increase of license fee.

Late running of trains

1592. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noticed the complaints that the trains are running late in certain parts of the country;

- (b) the areas affected by late running of trains;
- (c) the reasons for late running of trains; and
- (d) the steps taken by Railways to improve the punctuality of trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Complaints are mainly from sectors like Delhi-Mughalsarai-Howrah, Mughalsarai-Patna-Barauni, Ghaziabad-Moradabad, Lucknow-Varanasi, Lucknow-Gorakhpur-Chhapra, Barauni-Katihar-New Jalpaiguri, Agra-Jhansi-Bina where line capacity utilization in these sections are 110% to 160%.

(c) Focussed attention, daily, is given by the Indian Railways at the station, Division, Zonal headquarter and Railway Board levels in ensuring the punctuality of all passenger carrying trains. While most of the trains reach their destinations on time, some trains, at times, get delayed due to causes, some of which are in the control of Railways, such as, equipment failures related to locomotives, Over Head Electrical Equipment, track failures, signal failures, mechanical failures etc., saturated line capacity due to excess freight and passenger traffic than warranted and blocks to be given for maintenance and increasing line and terminal capacity for carrying more traffic every year as well as the reasons beyond control of the Railways, such as law and order problems – observance of Bandhs and security threats in Left Wing Extremist areas requiring reduction of speeds for maintaining the safety of operations, adverse weather conditions (fog, rains, breaches), public agitations, natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, heavy rains, electricity grid failures, multi faceted law & order problems, miscreant activities such as theft of Railway assets, cattle run over, heavy road traffic at level crossing gates etc.

(d) Despite increase in average number of trains per day from 13098 (2014-15) to 13313 (2015-16), Indian Railways are endeavouring to improve the mobility and punctuality of Mail/Express trains, for instance for the East bound passenger carrying trains on the saturated Mughalsarai-Allahabad-Ghaziabad route having line capacity utilization of about 150%. Indian Railways, *inter alia*, have initiated various long and short term measures. These include automatic signaling from Aligarh to Ghaziabad on 3rd line, Bi-directional automatic signaling on middle line between Aligarh-Ghaziabad, Commissioning of new Platform-11 at Allahabad, extension of loop lines between Aligarh-Mughalsarai, extension of 4 Platforms at Shikohabad, doubling of Lucknow-Sultanpur-Varanasi route, commissioning of longer loop lines at 10 stations on Ghaziabad –Mughalsarai route, raising of speed to 160 kmph on New Delhi-Howrah route costing approximately ₹ 6900 crore. On the north-south corridor, provision of 3rd line between Bina-Bhopal section, 4th line between Palwal-Mathura Junction, 3rd line between Agra-Jhansi-Bina will improve both mobility

and punctuality of trains. In addition to these works the construction of double-line dedicated freight corridor (DFC) between Mughalsarai-Allahabad-Khurja will remove the bottlenecks and ease line capacity on the eastern corridor.

Further, Railways have initiated various measures such as replacement of conventional coaches by LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches having higher speeds, replacement of conventional passenger trains by MEMU (Main Line Electrical Multiple Unit) trains on the Ghaziabad – Mughalsarai route.

Besides, to give impetus to punctual running, Railways takes periodic measures to launch Punctuality drives, sensitise staff involved in train operations, improve asset reliability by taking pre-emptive maintenance, rectify asset failures in the shortest possible time and have better co-ordination with State Governments and Civil authorities to deal with law & order problems effectively.

Installation of new toilets in trains

1593. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are flooded with complaints about dirty toilets in train coaches and have planned to fit swanky toilets in 66 premium trains in the next four months aiming at improving passenger experience, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways have been struggling for a long time to provide clean toilets in train coaches; and

(c) whether in a bid to make train journey more pleasant, Railways have come out with two designs for new toilets with luxury finish, on par with personal toilets in big hotels, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Railways are doing cleaning of coaches including toilets in trains at both ends. On Board Housekeeping Service (OBHS) is provided in about 900 trains. Cleaning of toilets of nominated passing trains is also done at designated Clean Train Stations enroute.

However, a few complaints are received regarding cleaning of toilets in train coaches. Efforts are being made to improve cleaning. To meet cleanliness requirement on demand during course of journey, 'Clean My Coach' service is provided in nearly 880 important Superfast/Mail/Express long distance trains having On Board Housekeeping Service.

No decision has been taken by the Ministry of Railways to fit swanky toilets in 66 premium trains in the next four months. However, it has been decided to carry

out the work of upgradation of coach interiors and toilets in the identified coaches that have a certain balance residual life, in a phased manner depending upon the availability of capacities and funds.

(c) In order to finalize the scheme of upgradation of coach interiors and toilets, various steps have been taken by the Indian Railways. No decision has been taken with regard to proliferation of any particular design of new toilet.

Establishment of railway safety authority

1594. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is taking steps to improve the security and safety of the passengers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a part of this mission, the Ministry is contemplating establishment of a separate authority for this purpose in the name of 'Railway Safety Authority'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains 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 the GRP by providing better protection and security of passengers in Railways. In addition, Railways is taking steps to improve safety of passengers by way of escorting of trains, providing access control at major stations, assisting passengers in distress through Security Helpline number 182, exercising surveillance at about 344 railway stations through close circuit television cameras etc. Regular coordination is also being made with the State Police/GRP authorities at all levels to improve security in Railways.

Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis including upgradation of technology to aid safe running of trains. These include replacement of over-aged assets, elimination of unmanned level crossing, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling 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.

(b) The High Level Safety Review Committee (Kakodkar Committee) has recommended that a Railway Safety Authority should be set up as a statutory body, independent of Railway Board under the Government.

The above recommendation of the Committee has not been found acceptable as the institution of Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety fulfills the purpose.

**Under utilization of running capacity of new fast
trains due to old tracks**

1595. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are finding it difficult to utilize the full running capacity of the newly introduced trains like Tejas Express, Mahamana Express and Gatiman Express due to old tracks and are forced to run these trains under a maximum speed limit of 130 Kilometre per hour; and

(b) if so, the steps Railways are taking to lay new tracks to utilize full capacity of these high speed trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On Indian Railways, the limit of speed of trains is regulated in accordance with the classification of routes having particular type of track structure. The broad gauge (BG) lines on Indian Railways have been classified into six groups 'A' to 'E' on the basis of the future maximum permissible speed:-

(i) Group 'A'-Speed upto 160 Kilometer per hour (kmph)

(ii) Group 'B'-Speeds upto 130 kmph

- (iii) Group 'C'-Suburban section of Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi and Kolkata
- (iv) Group 'D'-Special and 'D'-Speeds upto 110 kmph
- (v) Group 'E'-Speeds upto 100 kmph

Upgradation of track structure is an ongoing process which is taken up during track renewals. Track structure is upgraded depending on the traffic demands. Improvement of track is planned by providing better track structure which includes Pre-stressed Concrete (PSC) Sleepers, higher Ultimate Tensile Strength (UTS) rails, fan-shaped layout on Pre-stressed Concrete (PSC) Sleepers and Steel Channel Sleepers on girder bridges. Further, improvement in track structure by use of 60 Kg rails, Thick Web Switches etc. is progressively adopted during primary track renewals.

However, to run trains above 130 Kmph and upto 160 Kmph, following requirements are to be met from Track Consideration:

- (i) Thorough fencing of Track
- (ii) 60 Kg Rails on PSC Sleepers with M+8 density on 300mm ballast cushion.
- (iii) Improved SEJ
- (iv) Thickweb Switches
- (v) Minimisation of Level crossings by construction of ROB/RUBs or closure.

Bailing out knitwear sector from financial stress

1596. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to announce a scheme to bail out the knitwear sector which is struggling under financial stress, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is also launching projects to encourage traditional Indian handloom and handicraft, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is trying to rejuvenate the textile value chain which has lost out to China and neighboring countries as a result of lack of automation leading to lower productivity; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard so that exports could be enhanced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) The feasibility of formulating a Comprehensive Scheme for Development and support of knitwear clusters is under examination.

(b) In order to encourage traditional Indian handloom and handicraft, the government has been implementing various policy initiatives. In the Handloom sector, Block Level Clusters is one of the components of the National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) and the Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS), by providing financial assistance upto ₹ 2 crores for setting up of Common Facility Centres (CFCs) including Common Service Centres (CSCs), engagement of textile designer-cum-marketing executives, construction of worksheds, appointment of Cluster Development Executives(CDEs), technological up-gradation, skill up-gradation, etc. Financial assistance upto ₹ 50 lakhs is also provided for setting up of dye-houses of district level.

For encouraging Handicrafts Sector, Dastkar Shashaktikaran Yojana under Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojna (AHVY), Design and Technology Upgradation (DTU), Human Resource Development (HRD), Direct Benefit to Artisans (DBT), Infrastructure and Technology Support (ITS), Research and Development (R&D), Marketing Support and Services (MSS) schemes are implemented under National Handicraft Development Programme (NHDP). Under the Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS), Mega Cluster and special projects for Integrated Development and Promotion of Handicrafts are implemented.

(c) and (d) In order to achieve growth, modernization, value addition, increase in exports and for the overall development of the textile sector in the country, the Government has been implementing various policy initiatives and schemes such as the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (A-TUFS), Schemes for the development of the Powerloom Sector, Schemes for Technical Textiles, Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS), Integrated Processing Development Scheme (IPDS), National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS), North East Region Textiles Promotion Scheme (NERTPS), etc. Further, the Government had approved a special package for textile sector with an outlay of ₹ 6000 crores to boost employment generation and exports particularly in Garmenting and Made-ups.

Recommendations of the CMs panel on digital payments

1597. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CMs Panel on Digital Payments has submitted its report to the Government, if so the details thereof;

(b) whether the CMs Panel has recommended for continuation of service tax exemptions beyond 31st March, 2017 to make digital currency comparable with the physical currency; and

(c) whether incentives to smart phone users and subsidies for such phones were proposed in the report and if so, the response of the Government thereto, the details there of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Committee of Chief Ministers on Digital Payments submitted the Interim Report on 24th January, 2017.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Committee recommended that a subsidy of ₹ 1,000 to be provided for smart phones for non-income tax assesses and small merchants. No decision has been taken by Government in this regard.

Introduction of traditional Kunbi sarees of Goa

1598. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce traditional Kunbi sarees which women in Goa use;

(b) if so, the status thereof;

(c) whether such sarees are proposed to be exported; and

(d) whether any assessment has been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India provides skill upgradation training in Design Development, weaving and dyeing for the weavers in the Weavers' Service Centres and Clusters. Department of Handicraft, Textile and Coir, Government of Goa has informed that they propose to provide training to 20 trainees in making of Kunbi saree under Central Scheme.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Power Tex India scheme

1599. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has introduced Power Tex India Scheme for the development of Powerloom Industry in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the incentives and assistance being offered under this scheme to the powerloom workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has launched PowerTex India, a Comprehensive scheme for Powerloom Sector Development, w.e.f. 01.04.2017. The details of the Scheme and the incentives and assistance provided to Powerloom sector under this scheme are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of the Power Tex India Scheme and incentives and assistance being offered under the scheme to the Powerloom sector:

Sl. No.	Name of the component	Incentives and Assistance																				
1	2	3																				
1.	In-situ Upgradation of Plain Powerloom	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To provide financial assistance to economically weaker low-end powerloom units, for upgrading existing plain looms to semi-automatic/shuttleless looms by way of fixing certain additional attachments/kits. ➤ Powerloom units having up to 8 looms are eligible. <p>Eligible subsidy is as under:-</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Type of Technology</th> <th colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">GOI Subsidy per loom (in ₹)</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">General</th> <th style="text-align: center;">SC (75%)</th> <th style="text-align: center;">ST (90%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Plain loom to semiautomatic shuttle loom</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">36,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Semi automatic shuttle loom to shuttleless Rapier loom</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">37,500</td> <td style="text-align: center;">45,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Plain loom to shuttleless Rapier loom</td> <td style="text-align: center;">45,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">67,500</td> <td style="text-align: center;">81,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of Technology	GOI Subsidy per loom (in ₹)				General	SC (75%)	ST (90%)	Plain loom to semiautomatic shuttle loom	20,000	30,000	36,000	Semi automatic shuttle loom to shuttleless Rapier loom	25,000	37,500	45,000	Plain loom to shuttleless Rapier loom	45,000	67,500	81,000
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1	2	3
2.	Group Workshed Scheme	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To facilitate the establishment of worksheds for shuttleless looms in an existing or new cluster, which will provide required scale of economy for business operations. ➤ At least 24 shuttleless looms of width upto 230 cms (or) ➤ 16 nos. of shuttleless looms of wider width <i>i.e.</i> 230 cms and above must be installed. ➤ Additional subsidy for construction of Dormitory: @ 125 Sq.ft per person. ➤ Government Subsidy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General (40%): ₹ 400 per Sq.ft SC (75%): ₹ 750 per Sq.ft ST (90%): ₹ 900 per Sq.ft
3.	Yarn Bank Scheme	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To provide interest free corpus fund to Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)/Consortium to enable them to purchase yarn at wholesale rate and give the yarn at reasonable price to the small weavers. ➤ To avoid middleman/local supplier's brokerage charge on sales of yarn. ➤ Minimum 11 members required to form SPV ➤ Max. GOI interest free corpus fund ₹ 2 crore ➤ SPV has to provide matching amount and also, a Bank Guarantee equal to an amount of 25% of Government of India share.
4.	Common Facility Center (CFC)	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>To provide financial assistance for setting-up of Common Facility Centres such as under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pre-weaving, post-weaving, design studio, testing facilities, training centre, information cum trade centre and common raw material/yarn/sales depot,

1	2	3																																				
		<p>water treatment plant for industrial use, dormitory and workers' residential space etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minimum 11 members required to form SPV ➤ Max. GOI subsidy ₹ 2 crore 																																				
5.	Solar Energy Scheme	<p>Objectives: To provide financial assistance/capital subsidy for installation of On Grid Solar Power Plant (without Battery back up) and Off Grid Solar Power Plant (with Battery back-up) by small Powerloom units to attain sustainable development goal of Government and to give thrust to renewable energy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Powerloom units having upto 8 looms are eligible. ➤ On Grid Solar Power Plant (without Battery backup) and Off Grid Solar Power Plant (with Battery back-up). <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">No. of Looms (Solar capacity)</th> <th style="text-align: center;">General (50%)</th> <th style="text-align: center;">SC (75%)</th> <th style="text-align: center;">ST (90%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="4">A) On Grid Solar Power Plant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 Looms (4 KW)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 2,25,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 3,37,500</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 4,05,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 Looms (6 KW)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 3,00,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 4,50,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 5,40,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 Looms (8 KW)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 3,75,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 5,62,500</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 6,75,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">B) Off Grid Solar Power Plant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 Looms (4 KW)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 2,75,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 4,12,500</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 4,95,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 Looms (6 KW)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 3,75,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 5,62,500</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 6,75,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 Looms (8 KW)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 4,75,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 7,12,500</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 8,55,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No. of Looms (Solar capacity)	General (50%)	SC (75%)	ST (90%)	A) On Grid Solar Power Plant				4 Looms (4 KW)	₹ 2,25,000	₹ 3,37,500	₹ 4,05,000	6 Looms (6 KW)	₹ 3,00,000	₹ 4,50,000	₹ 5,40,000	8 Looms (8 KW)	₹ 3,75,000	₹ 5,62,500	₹ 6,75,000	B) Off Grid Solar Power Plant				4 Looms (4 KW)	₹ 2,75,000	₹ 4,12,500	₹ 4,95,000	6 Looms (6 KW)	₹ 3,75,000	₹ 5,62,500	₹ 6,75,000	8 Looms (8 KW)	₹ 4,75,000	₹ 7,12,500	₹ 8,55,000
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6.	Pradhan Mantri Credit Scheme for Powerloom Weavers	<p>Objectives: To provide financial assistance to the decentralised Powerloom units/weavers for their investment in machineries and working capital.</p> <p>(i) Under PowerTex MUDRA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Existing individual powerloom units (or) New individual/group enterprises involved in weaving activity are eligible for a loan of maximum upto ₹ 10 lakhs. 																																				

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		<p>Financial Assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Margin money @20% of machinery cost with a ceiling of ₹ 1 lakh and ● Interest Subvention @ 6% per year for 5 years <p>(ii) Under PowerTex Stand-up India (SC/ST/Woman who are new entrepreneurs)</p> <p>Eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Powerloom units established by a person who belongs to SC/ST/Woman Entrepreneur, for a loan above ₹ 10 lakhs and upto ₹ 1 crore. ● In case of non-individual units at least 51 % of the share holding and controlling stake should be held by either an SC/ST (or) Woman entrepreneur. <p>Financial Assistance: 25% Margin Money (Max. ₹ 25 lakh) on the machinery cost, the borrower is required to bring in 10% of the Project Cost as his/her own contribution.</p>
7.	Tex-Venture Capital Fund	<p>Objective</p> <p>SIDBI Venture Capital Fund Ltd.,(SVCL) invests on behalf of Ministry of Textiles in the form of equity in MSMEs to kick start on enterprises/expansion.</p> <p>Investment will typically be in innovative private Powerloom MSME companies.</p>
8.	Guidelines for Facilitation, IT, Awareness, Market Development and Publicity for Powerloom Schemes	<p>Awareness, Market Development and Exposure visit Programmes:</p> <p>(i) Seminars/Workshops: To create awareness about schemes, disseminate the information about technology, products for the benefits of Powerloom weavers/workers.</p> <p>(ii) Buyer Seller Meets: The market development activities like Exhibition/Fair and Buyer-Sellers Meet under the scheme is serving the needs of the Powerloom</p>

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weavers for marketing their products in national and international level.

(iii) **Exposure visit of Weavers:** The exposure visits of Powerloom weavers/entrepreneurs are organized as weavers/entrepreneurs from low level of technology are required to be exposed to the developed area of technology/manufacturing in order to motivate them to adopt technology and diversify the products.

(iv) **Setting up of On line portal** for the On-line application to the Powerloom units for availing the schemes under PowerTex India.

➤ Facilitation services to Powerloom weavers like Help line, Registration services, SMS Alert, Bank services etc.

➤ Publicity of Powerloom schemes in Electronic and Print Media

9. Grant-in-Aid for 32 Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs)

- Textile Research Associations(TRAs)/State Govt. agencies are running 32 no. of PSCs located across the country and offering various services like training, sample testing, design development, consultancy, conducting seminar/workshop, Buyer Seller Meet etc. to the powerloom sector.

- Grant-in-Aid (GIA) provided to the PSCs of TRAs/State Government agencies is mainly for the recurring expenses for running the PSCs for providing the services to powerloom sector.

10. Modernization of all PSCs

Government assistance is provided for modernization and upgradation of the Powerloom Service Centres with the facilities which are required in the cluster. This would include improving testing facilities, installing modern looms, Preparatory machines, Testing instruments, Sewing machines for Garment and Apparel, Embroidery Machines, Design Development facilities etc.

Negative effect of GST on textile sector

1600. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Textile sector is going to be negatively affected because of the 18 per cent GST levied on fiber and yarn;

(b) whether this sector is also going to be negatively affected because it would be difficult to get input tax credit as the raw material is mostly sourced from unorganized sector;

(c) whether cotton will also become more expensive as tax incidence on cotton value chain under GST will be higher; and

(d) whether the Ministry has consulted the Ministry of Finance or GST Council to consider grievances of Textile sector, if so, details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) Under the GST regime the tax on Man made fibre/filament and yarn is 18% while that on fabric is 5%. With an inverted duty structure at the fabric stage and no refund of unutilized input tax, the manufacturer will have to bear the stranded tax. Further, the effective duty on import of Manmade fabric under the GST regime has reduced substantially thereby reducing the market competitiveness of the domestically produced Manmade fabric *viz-a-viz* the imported one.

(c) During the pre GST regime, though central excise duty on cotton was zero, State level duties varied in the range of 0-5%. Accordingly, with the levy of 5% GST, the effect on price for cotton would vary from State to State depending upon the tax structure that prevailed at the state level in the pre GST regime.

(d) The industry made several representations relating to tax rate, procedures and clarifications which have been referred to the Ministry of Finance. Ministry of Finance have also since issued a sectoral guidance on Textiles on 18.7.2017 addressing some of the procedural and clarificatory concerns.

The House then adjourned at twenty minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled at thirty minutes past two of the clock.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

**REGARDING POINT OF ORDER UNDER ARTICLES 80 AND 324
OF CONSTITUTION — *Contd.***

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी): सर, आज मॉर्निंग में जब जीरो ऑवर था और उसके बाद क्वेश्चन ऑवर में, ऑनरेबल लीडर ऑफ दि अपोजिशन और ऑनरेबल आनन्द शर्मा जी ने तथा कुछ और माननीय सदस्यों ने गुजरात को एक बार फिर से बदनाम करने के उद्देश्य से कुछ बहुत ही आपत्तिजनक बातें कही हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि गुजरात पहले फेक एनकाउंटर का एक सबसे सुरक्षित स्थान बना हुआ था, गढ़ बना हुआ था और अब वोटों की चोरी की जा रही है और एमएलएज का अपहरण किया जा रहा है। सर, इनके लीडर ऑफ दि अपोजिशन पार्टी छोड़ करके जाते हैं, इनके चीफ व्हीप पार्टी छोड़ कर के जाते हैं, इनके एमएलएज पार्टी छोड़ कर जाते हैं। इनसे घर संभल नहीं रहा है और मोहल्ले में शोर मचा रहे हैं, संसद की कार्यवाही चलने नहीं दे रहे हैं और जो कुछ भी इनको आत्मचिन्तन करना चाहिए कि कौन सी ऐसी नीतियां हैं जिनसे कांग्रेस सिकुड़ती जा रही है, सिमटती जा रही है। कांग्रेस की विदाई का बैंड-बाजा बजने के बाद भी इन्हें इस बात का एहसास नहीं हो रहा है कि यह एक के बाद एक इस तरह की चीजें जो कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि ये पूरी तरह से बदनाम करने की जो कोशिश है, बदनाम करने का जो षड्यंत्र है ...**(व्यवधान)**... गुजरात में निष्पक्ष ढंग से भयमुक्त माहौल में चुनाव हो रहा है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... चुनाव में आपका सूपड़ा बार-बार साफ हुआ है, और भी साफ होगा। हमारा आपसे अनुरोध है कि कांग्रेस पार्टी के नेता यहां पर हैं, वे माफी मांगें इस बात के लिए, गुजरात के लोगों से माफी मांगें और गुजरात के लोगों को जो बदनाम करने का इस पार्टी ने षड्यंत्र किया है उसके लिए माफी मांगें और सारा का सारा जो कुछ भी इन्होंने कहा है, एक्सपंज किया जाए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उससे भी महत्वपूर्ण है, हम चाहेंगे माफी मांगें, क्योंकि यह बहुत गंभीर बात है। गुजरात के लोग दुखी हैं, गुजरात के लोग इसको लेकर के दुखी हैं, गुजरात के लोगों में चिंता है कि यह क्या हो रहा है। संसद के अंदर से गुजरात को बदनाम करने की आवाज उठे तो यह अनएक्सेप्टेबल है, यह स्वीकार्य ही नहीं है। इसलिए इन्हें अपना घर संभालते नहीं बन रहा है, संसद में हंगामा कर रहे हैं, पूरे देश में शोर मचा रहे हैं और घर संभल नहीं रहा है। इनके अपने एमएलए खुद इनकी नीतियों से दुखी हैं। इसलिए इनको माफी मांगनी पड़ेगी। माफी मांगें। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not able to hear. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Sir, they should explain it to the country. ...**(Interruptions)**... The Superintendent of Police has kidnapped the MLA before filing the nomination. ...**(Interruptions)**... And even today, they got two of our MLAs resign from the Assembly. ...**(Interruptions)**... They have made him a candidate. ...**(Interruptions)**... * ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: सर, एक्सपंज नहीं किया जाएगा, हम माफी मांगने की बात कर रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... अब एक्सपंज का सवाल ही नहीं पैदा होता। इन्हें माफी मांगनी पड़ेगी। आप प्रधान मंत्री पर आरोप लगा रहे हैं, आप प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय पर आरोप लगा रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आपको माफी मांगनी पड़ेगी। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: They want you to apologise. ...*(Interruptions)*... You want them to apologise. ...*(Interruptions)*... They want the Opposition to apologise for what has been said in the morning and the Opposition wants the Government to apologise. ...*(Interruptions)*... What can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*... Apology? ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Jairam Ramesh, the Treasury Benches want you to apologise for what you said in the morning. ...*(Interruptions)*... Are you ready? ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, if you are all not cooperating, I will have to adjourn. ...*(Interruptions)*... If both sides are not cooperating, both sides are shouting, I will have to adjourn. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is no other way. ...*(Interruptions)*... If it is one side, I can understand. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why the Treasury Benches? ...*(Interruptions)*... No. ...*(Interruptions)*... They are creating problem. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, we are not creating problems, they are creating problems. ...*(Interruptions)*... They have abused Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)*... They have abused the Gujaratis. ...*(Interruptions)*... उन्होंने गुजरात को गाली दी है, गुजरातियों को गाली दी है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उन्होंने आरोप लगाया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Can you apologise? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, the Treasury Benches are disrupting. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: सर, इन्होंने आरोप लगाया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री नीरज शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, प्राइवेट मेंबर्स बिल है, ये लोग क्या कर रहे हैं? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is Private Members Business'. ...*(Interruptions)*... If Members are not cooperating, if there is shouting from both sides, I will be forced to adjourn the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... If it is one side, I can understand. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why both sides, I do not know. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, the Treasury Benches. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why both sides, I do not know. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Mr. Rajeev Chandrasekhar, what can I do? I am helpless. ...(*Interruptions*)... I am helpless. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री नीरज शेखर: सर, राजीव जी का प्राइवेट मेंबर्स बिल है। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rajeev Chandrasekhar, you should ensure that your Members keep quiet. ...(*Interruptions*)... Even you are not able to control your Members; what can I do? ...(*Interruptions*)... I am helpless. ...(*Interruptions*)... There are some occasions when the Chair becomes helpless when both sides are asking for apology from the other side. ...(*Interruptions*)... The Treasury Benches want apology from the Opposition, the Opposition wants apology from the Treasury Benches. ...(*Interruptions*)... How can it happen? ...(*Interruptions*)... What do I do? ...(*Interruptions*)... Why should the Treasury Benches create problem? ...(*Interruptions*)... Why should they create problem? ...(*Interruptions*)... I will be forced to adjourn. ...(*Interruptions*)... I am informing the House. ...(*Interruptions*)... I will be forced to adjourn unless you cooperate. ...(*Interruptions*)... Unless you stop the slogan shouting, I cannot the House. ...(*Interruptions*)... What do I do? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir,... ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): There is no order in the House. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You ask them as to why they are doing it. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI D. RAJA: There is no order in the House and the Treasury Benches are shouting. ...(*Interruptions*)... And, still, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is sitting. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: They are not allowing me and you are not allowing me. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI D. RAJA: There is no order in the House. ...(*Interruptions*)... The Treasury Benches are shouting. ...(*Interruptions*)... For how long we can... ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Both the Treasury Benches and the Opposition Benches are shouting slogans and not allowing the House to function. ...(*Interruptions*)... They are not allowing the House to function. ...(*Interruptions*)... The Chair is helpless. ...(*Interruptions*)... I have no other go than adjourning the House. ...(*Interruptions*)... Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, I am sorry; I am going to adjourn the House. ...(*Interruptions*)... Otherwise you ensure that they are all... ...(*Interruptions*)... If you can ensure... ...(*Interruptions*)... Your own Members... ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: सर, हालात तो देखिए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. on Monday, the 31st July, 2017.

The House then adjourned at forty-one minutes past two of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 31st July, 2017.

