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Friday,

5 January, 2018

15 Pausha, 1939 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

**RAJYA SABHA**

OFFICIAL REPORT

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[P.T.O.]

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## **RAJYA SABHA**

*Friday, the 5th January, 2018/15th Pausha, 1939 (Saka)*

*The House met at eleven of the clock,*

*MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, Papers to be laid on the Table.

### **PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

#### **I. Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**

#### **II. Report and Accounts (2016-17) of RLBCAU, Jhansi and related papers**

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (श्री राधा मोहन सिंह): 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 Agricultural Research and Education), under sub-section (2) of Section 46 of the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University Act, 2016:—
  - (1) No. 74/DRPCAU (VC), Pusa, dated the 23rd October, 2017, publishing Ordinance No. 1 of the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa.
  - (2) No. 75/DRPCAU (VC), Pusa, dated the 23rd October, 2017, publishing Ordinance No. 2 of the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa.
  - (3) No. 76/DRPCAU (VC), Pusa, dated the 23rd October, 2017, publishing Ordinance No. 3 of the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa.
  - (4) No. 77/DRPCAU (VC), Pusa, dated the 23rd October, 2017, publishing Ordinance No. 4 of the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa.
  - (5) No. 78/DRPCAU (VC), Pusa, dated the 23rd October, 2017, publishing Ordinance No. 5 of the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa.

- (6) No. 79/DRPCAU (VC), Pusa, dated the 23rd October, 2017, publishing Ordinance No. 6 of the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa.
- (7) No. 80/DRPCAU (VC), Pusa, dated the 23rd October, 2017, publishing Ordinance No. 7 of the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa.
- (8) No. 81/DRPCAU (VC), Pusa, dated the 23rd October, 2017, publishing the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa Service and Recruitment Rules (Teaching Employees), 2017.
- (9) No. 82/DRPCAU (VC), Pusa, dated the 23rd October, 2017, publishing the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa Service and Recruitment Rules (Non-Teaching Employees), 2017.
- (10) No. 83/DRPCAU (VC), Pusa, dated the 23rd October, 2017, publishing Ordinance No. 10 of the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (10) See No. L.T. 8673/16/18]

II. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 30 of the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University Act, 2014:—

- (a) Annual Report of the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, Madhya Pradesh, for the year 2016-17.
  - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8245/16/18]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri P.P. Chaudhary. Though Mr. P.P. Chaudhary's name is at Sl. No. 17 on the List, I am allowing him to lay the Papers now as he has to go to the Lok Sabha for a question.

**13th Annual Statement on Pending Law Commission Reports (December, 2017)**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE;  
AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

(SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Thirteenth Annual Statement on Pending Law Commission Reports (December, 2017).

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8369/16/18]

**Reports and Accounts (2016-17) of various Institutes and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, I lay on the Table:—

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

(a) Thirty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, (IMPCL), Almora, Uttarakhand, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8432/16/18]

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

(i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bengaluru, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8434/16/18]

(ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8430/16/18]

(iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Siddha, Chennai, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8431/16/18]

**I. Notifications of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change****II. Reports and Accounts (2016-17) of various Akademies and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, under Section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:—

(1) S.O. 2836 (E), dated the 31st August, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 1174 (E), dated the 18th July, 2007, inserting certain entries in the original Notification. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8208/16/17]

(2) G.S.R. 1203 (E), dated the 26th September, 2017, publishing the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8209/16/17]

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

(i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Akademi.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8441/16/18]

(ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Akademi.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8442/16/18]

**Reports and Accounts (2016-17) of ITI Ltd., Bengaluru and C-DOT, New Delhi and related papers**

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



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

(a) Sixty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the ITI Limited, Bengaluru, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Performance Review of the above Company, for the year 2016-17.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7773/16/17]

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

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), New Delhi, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8364/16/18]

**I. Reports and Accounts (2016-17) of BRLF, New Delhi and IRMA, Gujarat and related papers**

**II. Annual Report on MGNREG Act, 2005 for 2016-17**

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री; तथा पंचायती राज मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री परषोत्तम रुपाला): महोदय, मैं श्री राम कृपाल यादव की ओर से निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:—

I. (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF), New Delhi, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8171/16/17]

(ii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), Gujarat, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8391/16/18]

- II. Annual Report on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005, New Delhi, for the year 2016-17.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8390A/16/18]

**Report and Accounts (2016-17) of RLDA, New Delhi and related papers**

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Sir, on behalf of Shri Rajen Gohain, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), New Delhi, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government of the Annual Accounts of the above Authority.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8365/16/18]

**Reports and Accounts (2002-03 and 2003-04) of JKSAIDCL, Srinagar and related papers**

श्री परषोत्तम रुपाला: महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:—

- (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) Thirty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Srinagar, Kashmir, for the year 2002-03, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8293/16/18]

- (ii) (a) Thirty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Srinagar, Kashmir, for the year 2003-04, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

- (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. 8293/16/18]

**I. Notifications of the Ministry of Finance**

**II. Consolidated Review of the Performance of RRBs for the year ending March, 2017**

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शिव प्रताप शुक्ला): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

- I. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services), under Section 53 of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 2013:-

- (1) No. PFRDA/12/RGL/139/8, dated the 10th August, 2017, publishing the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (Exits and Withdrawals under the National Pension System) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2017.
- (2) No. PFRDA/12/RGL/139/10, dated the 11th September, 2017, publishing the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (Retirement Adviser) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2017.

[Placed in Library. For (1) and (2) See No. L.T. 8469/16/18]

- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services) Notification No. F. No. 666/3/P38, dated the 4th October, 2017, publishing the Andhra Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2017, under sub-section (4) of Section 19 of Banking Companies (Acquisition and transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8468/16/18]

- II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Consolidated Review of the Performance of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), for the year ended 31st March, 2017.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8466/16/18]

**I. Notifications of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

**II. Reports and Accounts (2016-17) of various Companies, Society, Institute and Commission and related papers**

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Sir, I lay on the Table:—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, under Section 93 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, along with extracts of the Regulations amended:—

- (1) F. No. 2/Std/CPL & CP/ Notification/FSSAI-2016 (part), dated the 31st October, 2017, publishing the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) fifteenth Amendment Regulations, 2017.
- (2) F. No. A-1 (1)/Standards/MMP/2012, dated the 13th October, 2017, publishing the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on sales) First Amendment Regulations, 2017.
- (3) F. No. A-1/Standards/Agmark/2012-FSSAI (pt.1), dated the 21st November, 2017, publishing the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Sixteenth Amendment Regulations, 2017.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (3) See No. L.T. 8481/16/18]

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

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the HLL Lifecare Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and the Auditor General of India thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8471/16/18]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the HLL Biotech Limited (HBL), Changalpattu, Tamil Nadu, a subsidiary of HLL Lifecare Limited, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and the Auditor General of India thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8473/16/18]

- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the HLL Infra Tech Services Limited (ITUES), NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh, a subsidiary of HLL Lifecare Limited, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and the Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8474/16/18]
- (iv) (a) Thirty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Goa Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited (GAPL), Goa, a subsidiary of HLL Lifecare Limited, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8475/16/18]
- (v) (a) Thirty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the HSCC (India) Limited, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8472/16/18]
- (2) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 18 and Section 19 of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical, Education and Research Chandigarh, Act, 1966:—
  - (a) Fiftieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
  - (b) Review by the Government on the working of the above Institute.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8477/16/18]
- (3) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—
  - (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Medical Services Society (CMSS), New Delhi, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Society.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8478/16/18]
- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health (LGBRIMH), Sonitpur, Assam, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.  
  
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8507/16/18]
- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.  
  
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Commission.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8476/16/18]

**Notifications of the Ministry of Home Affairs**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Kiren Rijiju, I lay on the Table:—

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Home Affairs Notification No. G.S.R. 429 (E), dated the 9th December, 2017, publishing the Ministry of Home Affairs, National Fire Service College, Fire and Rescue Operator (Group 'C' post) Recruitment Rules, 2017, framed under Article 309 of the Constitution.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8501/16/18]
- II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Notification No. G.S.R. 286, dated the September 10 - September 16, 2017 (Weekly Gazette), publishing the National Fire Service College, Nagpur, Director (Group 'A' Post) Recruitment Rules, 2017, under Article 309 of the Constitution.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8503/16/18]

**Report and Accounts (2016-17) of NIPCCD, New Delhi and related papers**

महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री; तथा अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. वीरेन्द्र कुमार): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:—

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), New Delhi, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7879/16/17]

**Report and Accounts (2015-16 and 2016-17) of NPCC, New Delhi and various Authorities and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

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

- (a) Sixtieth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC), New Delhi, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7879/16/17]

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

- (i) (a) Thirty-Seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Narmada Control Authority (NCA), Indore, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by the Government on the working of the above Authority. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8396/16/18]
- (ii) (a) Annual Report of the Polavaram Project Authority, Hyderabad, for the year 2015-16.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Authority.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for delay in laying the paper mentioned at (ii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8178/16/17]

**I. Notifications of the Ministry of Textiles****II. Reports and Accounts (2015-16 and 2016-17) of various Companies, Boards, Councils and Associations and related papers****III. MoUs (2017-18) between Government of India (Ministry of Textiles) and various Companies**

वस्त्र मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजय टम्टा): 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 Textiles, under Section 13B of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948:-
  - (1) S.O. 890 (E), dated the 20th March, 2017, nominating Shri Mohammad Sohrab to serve as a member of the Central Silk Board for a period of three years from the date of the Notification.
  - (2) S.O. 2823 (E), dated the 29th August, 2017, regarding appointment of some Members of Lok Sabha, duly elected by the House on 10th August, 2017 to serve as Members of the Central Silk Board for a period of three years w.e.f. 10th August, 2017.
  - (3) S.O. 3454 (E), dated the 27th October, 2017, notifying the nomination of some persons to serve as Members of the Central Silk Board for a period of three years from the date of notification.
  - (4) S.O. 3859 (E), dated the 8th December, 2017, notifying the nomination of some persons to serve as Members of the Central Silk Board for a period of three years from the date of the notification.
  - (5) S.O. 3945 (E), dated the 20th December, 2017, notifying the cessation of membership of Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, M.P. (Lok Sabha), in the Central Silk Board consequent upon his appointment as Minister of State for Health and Family w.e.f. 3rd September, 2017.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (5) See No. L.T. 8402/16/18]



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

- (i) (a) Forty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Textile Corporation Limited (NTC), New Delhi, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.  
  
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8399/16/18]
- (ii) (a) Fifty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited (HHEC), New Delhi, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.  
  
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8398/16/18]
- (iii) (a) Forty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited (CCI), Navi Mumbai, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.  
  
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8397/16/18]
- (iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited (CCIC), New Delhi, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.  
  
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8194/16/17]

- (v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Birds Jute and Exports Limited (BJEL), Kolkata, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8191/16/17]
- (vi) (a) Forty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, (JCI), Kolkata, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and comments of Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8192/16/17]
- (vii) (a) Ninety-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the British India Corporation Limited (BIC), Kanpur, and its subsidiary Companies, the Elgin Mills Co. Ltd., the Cawnpore Textile Ltd., and M/s Brushware Ltd., for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company and its subsidiary companies.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) (vii) above.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8193/16/17]
- B. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 12 and Section 12A of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948:—
  - (a) Annual Report of the Central Silk Board, Bengaluru, for the year 2016-17.
  - (b) Annual Accounts of the Central Silk Board, Bengaluru, for the year 2016-17, and the Audit Report thereon.
  - (c) Review by Government on the working of the above  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8401/16/18]

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

- (i) (a) Twenty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL), Mumbai, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.  
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8180/16/17]
- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Jute Industries Research Association (IJIRA), Kolkata, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.  
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Association.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8179/16/17]
- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Wool Development Board (CWDB), Jodhpur, Rajasthan, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.  
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8400/16/18]
- (iv) (a) Sixty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC), Mumbai, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.  
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8190/16/17]
- (v) (a) Sixty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL), Mumbai, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.  
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8189/16/17]
- (vi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association (ATIRA), Ahmedabad, Gujarat, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Association.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8182/16/17]
- (vii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Bombay Textile Research Association (BTRA), Mumbai, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.  
  
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Association.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8184/16/17]
- (viii) (a) Thirty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Man-Made Textiles Research Association (MANTRA), Surat, Gujarat, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.  
  
(b) Review by the Government on the working of the above Association. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8185/16/17]
- (ix) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA), Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.  
  
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Association.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8183/16/17]
- (x) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the South India Textile Research Association (SITRA), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.  
  
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Association.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8186/16/17]
- (xi) (a) Sixty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Synthetic and Art Silk Mills' Research Association (SASMIRA), Mumbai, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.  
  
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Association.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8187/16/17]
- (xii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), New Delhi, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8181/16/17]

- III. (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Textiles) and the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) Limited, for the year 2017-18. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8188/16/17]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Textiles) and the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, for the year 2017-18. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7885/16/17]

**I. Notifications of the Ministry of Shipping; and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**

**II. Reports and Accounts (2014-15 to 2016-17) of various Institutes, Companies, Port Trusts, Organization, Academy**

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

- I. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Shipping, under sub-section (2) of Section 18 of the Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Act, 2017:—

- (1) S.O. 3349 (E), dated the 17th October, 2017, publishing the Admiralty Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2017.

- (2) S.O. 3562 (E), dated the 9th November, 2017, publishing corrigendum to the Notification No. 3349 (E), dated the 17th October, 2017.

[Placed in Library. For (1) and (2) See No. L.T. 7860/16/17]

- (ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Shipping, under sub-section (4) of Section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:—

- (1) No. G.S.R. 1240 (E), dated the 11th October, 2017, publishing the Mumbai Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2017.

(2) G.S.R. 1434 (E), dated the 20th November, 2017, publishing the Mumbai Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2017.

(3) G.S.R. 1435 (E), dated the 20th November, 2017, publishing the Cochin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2017.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (3) *See* No. L.T. 7863/16/17]

(4) G.S.R. 1502 (E), dated the 11th December, 2017 publishing the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2017.

(5) G.S.R. 1503 (E), dated the 11th December, 2017, publishing corrigendum to the English version of the Schedule to the Notification G.S.R. No. 153 (E), dated the 8th February, 2016.

[Placed in Library. For (4) to (5) *See* No. L.T. 8170/16/17]

(iii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Shipping Notification No. IMU/HQ/ADM/Notification/2017, dated the 13th October, 2017, publishing Statutes 2(4), 4(2), 5A and 6A of the Schedule to the Indian Maritime University Act, 2008, under subsection (2) of Section 47 of the Indian Maritime University Act, 2008.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7864/16/17]

(iv) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Shipping Notification No. G.S.R. 1471 (E), dated the 1st December, 2017, publishing the Major Port Trusts (Payment of Fees and Allowances to Trustees) (Amendment) Rules, 2017, under sub-section (3) of Section 122 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8674/16/17]

(v) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, under Section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:—

(1) S.O. 1192 (E), dated the 17th April, 2017, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from K.M. 0.000 to K.M. 17.230 (Lalsot - Karauli Section) on National Highway No. 11B in Dausa District in the State of Rajasthan, along with delay statement.

- (2) S.O. 1193 (E), dated the 17th April, 2017, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from K.M. 17.230 to K.M. 33.280 (Lalsot–Karauli Section) on National Highway No. 11B in Sawai Madhopur District in the State of Rajasthan, along with delay statement.
- (3) S.O. 1194 (E), dated the 17th April, 2017, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from K.M. 33.280 to K.M. 58.750 (Lalsot - Karauli Section) on National Highway No. 11B in Sawai Madhopur District in the State of Rajasthan, along with delay statement.
- (4) S.O. 1195 (E), dated the 17th April, 2017, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from K.M. 58.750 to K.M. 65.130 (Lalsot – Karauli Section) on National Highway No. 11B in Karauli District in the State of Rajasthan, along with delay statement.
- (5) S.O. 1196 (E), dated the 17th April, 2017, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from K.M. 65.130 to K.M. 84.000 (Lalsot - Karauli Section) on National Highway No. 11B in Karauli District in the State of Rajasthan, along with delay statement.
- (6) S.O. 2162 (E), dated the 7th July, 2017, regarding rate of fee to be collected from users of the stretch from K.M. 90.000 to K.M. 214.870 (Kishangarh – Udaipur – Ahmedabad Section) on National Highway No. 79 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (7) S.O. 2219 (E), dated the 14th July, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E), dated the 4th August, 2005, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (8) S.O. 2221 (E), dated the 14th July, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E), dated the 4th August, 2005, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (9) S.O. 2224 (E), dated the 14th July, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E), dated the 4th August, 2005, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (10) S.O. 2271 (E), dated the 20th July, 2017, regarding rate of fee to be collected from users of the stretch from K.M. 1184.322 to K.M. 1380.387

on new National Highway No. 27 (Baran – Shivpuri – Jhansi Section) in the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

- (11) S.O. 2272 (E), dated the 20th July, 2017, regarding rate of fee to be collected from users of the stretch from K.M. 0.000 to K.M. 90.000 (Kishangarh – Gulabpura Section) on National Highway Nos. 79A and 79 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (12) S.O. 2290 (E), dated the 21st July, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E), dated the 4th August, 2005, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (13) S.O. 2291 (E), dated the 21st July, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 689 (E), dated the 4th April, 2011, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (14) S.O. 2341 (E), dated the 26th July, 2017, regarding rate of fee to be collected from users of the stretch from K.M. 0.000 to K.M. 52.080 (Kolaghat – Haldia Section) of National Highway No. 41 in the State of West Bengal.
- (15) S.O. 2342 (E), dated the 26th July, 2017, regarding rate of fee to be collected from users of the stretch taking off from K.M. 29.151 of National Highway No. 45 and merging at K.M. 13.800 of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai Bypass Phase I) and taking off from K.M. 13.800 of National Highway No. 4 and merging at K.M. 12.600 of National Highway No. 5 (Chennai Bypass Phase II) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (16) S.O. 2358 (E), dated the 27th July, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 3248 (E), dated the 25th October, 2013 amending certain entries in the original Notification.
- (17) S.O. 2428 (E), dated the 1st August, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E), dated the 4th August, 2005, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (18) S.O. 2463 (E), dated the 3rd August, 2017, regarding rate of fee to be collected from users of the stretch from K.M. 227.000 to K.M. 314.660 (Hisar - Dabwali Section) on National Highway No. 9 in the State of Haryana.



- (19) S.O. 2464 (E), dated the 3rd August, 2017, regarding rate of fee to be collected from users of the stretch from K.M. 198.694 to K.M. 294.000 (Markapuram - Vaggampalle Section) on National Highway No. 565 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (20) S.O. 2481 (E), dated the 4th August, 2017, directing National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited to exercise the function relating to the development and maintenance of the stretch from K.M. 368.000 to K.M. 468.000 (Rudraprayag- Joshimath Section) of National Highway No. 58 in the State of Uttarakhand.
- (21) S.O. 2482 (E), dated the 4th August, 2017, directing Border Road Organization to exercise the function relating to the development and maintenance of the stretch from K.M. 468.000 to K.M. 528.000 (Joshimath including Joshimath bypass-Mana Village Section) of National Highway No. 58 in the State of Uttarakhand.
- (22) S.O. 2531 (E), dated the 9th August, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E), dated the 4th August, 2005, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (23) S.O. 2563 (E), dated the 10th August, 2017, regarding rate of fee to be collected from users of the stretch from K.M. 0.000 to K.M. 127.600 (Jetpur – Somnath Section) on National Highway No. 8D in the State of Gujarat.
- (24) S.O. 2564 (E), dated the 10th August, 2017, regarding rate of fee to be collected from users of the stretch from K.M. 170.000 to K.M. 227.000 (Hisar - Dabwali Section) on National Highway No. 9 in the State of Haryana.
- (25) S.O. 2565 (E), dated the 10th August, 2017, regarding rate of fee to be collected from users of the stretch from K.M. 192.000 to K.M. 198.000 including four lane Extra Dosed Bridge across river Narmada (Vadodara – Surat Section) on National Highway No. 8 in the State of Gujarat.
- (26) S.O. 2572 (E), dated the 11th August, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E), dated the 4th August, 2005, to add certain entries in the original Notification.

- (27) S.O. 2574 (E), dated the 11th August, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E), dated the 4th August, 2005, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (28) S.O. 2786 (E), dated the 25th August, 2017, regarding rate of fee to be collected from users of the stretch from K.M. 11.000 to K.M. 175.433 (Jodhpur – Pokaran Section) on National Highway No. 114 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (29) S.O. 2787 (E), dated the 25th August, 2017, regarding rate of fee to be collected from users of the stretch from K.M. 0.000 to K.M. 55.228 (Thanjavur – Pudukkottai Section) on National Highway No. 226 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (30) S.O. 2861 (E), dated the 1st September, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E), dated the 4th August, 2005, to insert certain entries in the original Notification.
- (31) S.O. 2864 (E), dated the 1st September, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E), dated the 4th August, 2005, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (32) S.O. 2865 (E), dated the 1st September, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E), dated the 4th August, 2005, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (33) S.O. 2867 (E), dated the 1st September, 2017 amending Notification No. S.O. 689 (E), dated the 4th April, 2011, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (34) S.O. 2925 (E), dated the 5th September, 2017, regarding rate of fee to be collected from users of the stretch from K.M. 33.250 to K.M. 241.580 (Kaithal - Rajasthan Border Section) on National Highway No. 65 (New NH No.152) in the State of Haryana.
- (35) S.O. 3015 (E), dated the 13th September, 2017, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from K.M. 0.000 to K.M. 69.000 (Fatuha - Harnaut - Barh Section) on National Highway No. 30A in Nalanda District in the State of Bihar.

- (36) S.O. 3016 (E), dated the 13th September, 2017, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from K.M. 0.000 to K.M. 69.000 (Fatuha - Harnaut - Barh Section) on National Highway No. 30A in Patna District in the State of Bihar.
- (37) S.O. 3097 (E), dated the 22nd September, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E), dated the 4th August, 2005, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (38) S.O. 3128 (E), dated the 26th September, 2017, regarding rate of fee to be collected from users of the stretch from K.M. 21.600 to K.M. 78.192 (Chas - Ramgarh Section) on National Highway No. 23 in the State of Jharkhand.
- (39) S.O. 3200 (E), dated the 29th September, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E), dated the 4th August, 2005, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (40) S.O. 3201 (E), dated the 29th September, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E), dated the 4th August, 2005, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (41) S.O. 3202 (E), dated the 29th September, 2017 directing the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited to exercise the function relating to the development and maintenance of the stretch from K.M. 140.000 to K.M. 402.000 (ChurchaandpurTipaimukh Section) and from K.M. 659.000 to K.M. 671.000 (Jessami-Nagaland/ Manipur border Section) of National Highway No. 150 (New NH No. 202) in the State of Manipur.
- (42) S.O. 3203 (E), dated the 29th September, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 450 (E), dated the 15th February, 2007, to omit certain entries in the original Notification.
- (43) S.O. 3204 (E), dated the 29th September, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 689 (E), dated the 4th April, 2011, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (44) S.O. 3277 (E), dated the 10th October, 2017, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from K.M. 0.000 to K.M. 92.935 (Gaya

- Hisua - Rajgir - Biharsharif Section) on National Highway No. 82 in Gaya and Nalanda Districts in the State of Bihar.

- (45) S.O. 3306 (E), dated the 13th October, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 719 (E), dated the 7th March, 2014, substituting certain entries in the original Notification.
- (46) S.O. 3318 (E), dated the 13th October, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E), dated the 4th August, 2005, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (47) S.O. 3493 (E), dated the 31st October, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E), dated the 4th August, 2005, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (48) S.O. 3549 (E), dated the 8th November, 2017, regarding rate of fee to be collected from users of the stretch from K.M. 426.100 to K.M. 566.450 (Biaora — Dewas Section) on National Highway No. 3 in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (49) S.O. 3558 (E), dated the 8th November, 2017 amending Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E), dated the 4th August, 2005, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (50) F. NO. H-25011/04/2010-P&P(Toll)Vol.VI, dated the 8th November, 2017, publishing the Resolution regarding specification for FASTags.
- (51) S.O. 3700 (E), dated the 21st November, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 3158 (E), dated the 24th November, 2015, substituting certain entries in the original Notification.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (51) *See* No. L.T. 8197/16/17]

- (vi) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, under Section 37 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988:—

- (1) S.O. 2222 (E), dated the 14th July, 2017, entrusting the stretch from K.M. 539.500 to K.M. 563.000 of National Highway No. 848 (old NH No. 3) (Vadpe-Majiwade Section) in the State of Maharashtra to the National Highways Authority of India.

- (2) S.O. 2223 (E), dated the 14th July, 2017, entrusting the stretch from K.M. 263.200 to K.M. 473.000 of National Highway No. 8E (Gadu-Porbandar - Dwarka Section) in the State of Gujarat to the National Highways Authority of India.
- (3) S.O. 2289 (E), dated the 21st July, 2017, entrusting the stretch from K.M. 259.300 to K.M. 297.200 of National Highway No. 15 (new NH No. 68) (Jaisalmer-Barmer-Sanchorup to Gujarat Border Section) in the State of Rajasthan to the National Highways Authority of India.
- (4) S.O. 2429 (E), dated the 1st August, 2017, entrusting of the entire stretch of National Highway Nos. 7, 97, and 232A in the State of Uttar Pradesh to the National Highways Authority of India.
- (5) S.O. 2530 (E), dated the 9th August, 2017, entrusting the entire stretch of National Highway Nos. 28, 31, 77, 83, 84, 85, 133B, 333B and from K.M. 95.000 to K.M. 149.020 (Biharsharif - Barbigaha- Mokama Section) on National Highway No. 82 in the State of Bihar to the National Highways Authority of India.
- (6) S.O. 2573 (E), dated the 11th August, 2017, entrusting certain stretches of National Highway Nos. 222 (New NH No. 61) 365,765 and 221 (New NH No. 30) in the State of Telangana to the National Highways Authority of India.
- (7) S.O. 2575 (E), dated the 11th August, 2017, entrusting the stretch from K.M. 000.000 to K.M. 154.854 of National Highway No. 31D (new NH No. 27) (Ghospukur Goaltulh Fulbari-Jalpaiguri-Mainaguri-Dhupguri-Falkata-Sonapur-Salsalabari Section) in the State of West Bengal to the National Highways Authority of India.
- (8) S.O. 2862 (E), dated the 1st September, 2017, entrusting National Highways No. 161AA (near Sangareddy and connecting Narsapur, Tooprtan, Gajwel, Pragnapur, Jagdevpur, Bhongir and terminating at its junction with NH- 65 near Choutuppal in the State of Telangana) to the National Highways Authority of India.
- (9) S.O. 2863 (E), dated the 1st September, 2017, entrusting the stretch from K.M. 4.900 to K.M. 94.600 (Rajasthan/Haryana border-Bhiwani

Section) of National Highway No. 148B (new) in the State of Haryana to the National Highways Authority of India.

- (10) S.O. 2866 (E), dated the 1st September, 2017, amending Notification No. S.O. 581 (E), dated the 21st June, 2001, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (11) S.O. 3096 (E), dated the 22nd September, 2017, entrusting the stretch from K.M. 101.000 to K.M. 161.570, from K.M. 161.570 to K.M. 211.000 and from K.M. 284.000 to K.M. 337.000 of National Highway No. 222 in the State of Maharashtra to the National Highways Authority of India.
- (12) S.O. 3320 (E), dated the 13th October, 2017, entrusting new National Highway No. 136 (The highway starting from its junction with MH-36 near Thanjavur connecting Thiruvaiyaru, Kunnam, Pereli, Perambalur bypass Naduvalur, Thodavur, Krishnapuram, Veepanthattai and terminating its junction with NH No. 79 at Athoor bypass in the State of Tamil Nadu), NH No. 179A (The highway starting from its junction with NH No. 79 near Salem connecting Ayothiappattinam, Pappireddipatti, Harur, Uthangarai, Thirupathur and terminating its junction with NH-48 near Vaniyambadi in the State of Tamil Nadu) and National Highway No. 544H (The highway starting from its junction with NH-44 near Thoppur connecting Mechcheri, Mettur, Ammapettai, Nerinchipettai, Chittar Bhavani and terminating at Erode road in the State of Tamil Nadu) to the National Highways Authority of India.
- (13) S.O. 3492 (E), dated the 31st October, 2017, entrusting the Anakapalli-Pendurthi-Anandapuram Section and Gundugolanu-Devarapalli-Kovvuru Section of National Highway No. 16 in the State of Andhra Pradesh to the National Highways Authority of India.
- (14) S.O. 3559 (E), dated the 8th November, 2017, entrusting National Highways No. 361 (The highway starting from Tuljapur on NH-52 connecting Latur, Ahamadpur, Nanded, Yavatmal, Wardha and terminating at its junction with NH-44 near Buti Bori in the State of Maharashtra) to the National Highways Authority of India.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (14) See No. L.T. 8197/16/17]

(vii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, under sub-section (4) of Section 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, along with Explanatory Memorandum and delay statement:—

- (1) G.S.R. 1361 (E), dated the 2nd November, 2017, publishing the Central Motor Vehicles (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 2017.
- (2) G.S.R. 1433 (E), dated the 20th November, 2017, publishing the Central Motor Vehicles (Twelfth Amendment) Rules, 2017.
- (3) G.S.R. 1461 (E), dated the 28th November, 2017, publishing the Central Motor Vehicles (Sixteenth Amendment) Rules, 2017.
- (4) G.S.R. 1462 (E), dated the 28th November, 2017, publishing the Central Motor Vehicles (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 2017.
- (5) G.S.R. 1463 (E), dated the 28th November, 2017, publishing the Central Motor Vehicles (Fifteenth Amendment) Rules, 2017.
- (6) G.S.R. 1464 (E), dated the 28th November, 2017, publishing the Central Motor Vehicles (Fourteenth Amendment) Rules, 2017.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (6) See No. L.T. 7894/16/17]

(viii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Notification No. S.O. 3319(E), dated the 13th October, 2017, appointing the officers of the Public Works (Roads) Directorate, Government of West Bengal to exercise the powers and discharge the functions conferred on it under Sections 24,25,26,27 and 43 of the Act as per the Table given in the notification, under sub-section (3) of Section 50 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7893/16/17]

II. (i) (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), Balanagar, Hyderabad, for the year 2015-16, and the Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8350/16/18]

- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh, for the year 2016-17, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8350A/16/18]
- (ii) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) (b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:—
  - (i) (a) Fifty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL), Gurugram, Haryana, for the year 2014-15, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
  - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8348/16/17]
  - (ii) (a) Seventeenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL), (Erstwhile Ennore Port Limited), Chennai, for the year 2016-17, 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 Port.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7849/16/17]
  - (iii) (a) Twelfth Annual Report and Accounts of the Sethusamudram Corporation Limited (SCL), Chennai, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
  - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8390/16/18]
  - (iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), New Delhi, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.



- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) (i) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8196/16/17]

- (iii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (2) of Section 103 and Section 106 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:—

- (1) (a) Administration Report of the Cochin Port Trust (CoPT), Cochin, Kerala, for the year 2016-17.

- (b) Annual Accounts of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, Kerala, for the year 2016-17, and the Audit Report thereon.

- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Port Trust.

- (d) Review by Government of the Annual Accounts of the above Port Trust.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7848/16/17]

- (2) (a) Administration Report of the Paradip Port Trust (PPT), Odisha, for the year 2016-17.

- (b) Annual Accounts of the Paradip Port Trust (PPT), Odisha, for the year 2016-17, and the Audit Report thereon.

- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Port Trust.

- (d) Review by Government of the Annual Accounts of the above Port Trust.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7844/16/17]

- (3) (a) Administration Report of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT), Visakhapatnam, for the year 2016-17.

- (b) Annual Accounts of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT), Visakhapatnam, for the year 2016-17, and the Audit Report thereon.

- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Port Trust.

- (d) Review by Government of the Annual Accounts of the above Port Trust.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7846/16/17]

- (4) (a) Administration Report of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Navi Mumbai, for the year 2016-17.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Navi Mumbai, for the year 2016-17, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Port Trust.
- (d) Review by Government of the Annual Accounts of the above Port Trust. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7847/16/17]
- (5) (a) Annual Administration Report and Accounts of the Chennai Port Trust, Chennai, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Port Trust.
- (c) Review by Government of the Annual Accounts of the above Port Trust. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7857/16/17]
- (6) (a) Administration Report and Accounts of the Mumbai Port Trust-Pension Fund Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Pension Fund Trust. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7861/16/17]
- (7) (a) Administration Report of the Deendayal Port Trust (formerly Kandla Port Trust), Kutch, Gujarat, for the year 2016-17.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Deendayal Port Trust (formerly Kandla Port Trust), Kutch, Gujarat, for the year 2016-17, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Port Trust.
- (d) Review by Government of the Annual Accounts of the above Port Trust. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7854/16/17]
- (8) (a) Administrative Report of the Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata, for the year 2016-17.

- (b) Annual Accounts of the Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata, for the year 2016-17, and the Audit Report thereon.
  - (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Port Trust.
  - (d) Review by Government of the Annual Accounts of the above Port Trust. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7856/16/17]
- (9)
- (a) Thirty-eighth Administration Report and Accounts of the V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin, Chennai, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
  - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Port Trust. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7858/16/17]
- (10)
- (a) Administration Report of the Mormugao Port Trust (MPT), Goa, for the year 2016-17.
  - (b) Annual Accounts of the Mormugao Port Trust (MPT), Goa, for the year 2016-17, and the Audit Report thereon.
  - (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Port Trust.
  - (d) Review by Government of the Annual Accounts of the above Port Trust. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7843/16/17]
- (11)
- (a) Administration Report of the New Mangalore Port Trust, Mangalore, for the year 2016-17.
  - (b) Annual Accounts of the New Mangalore Port Trust, Mangalore, for the year 2016-17, and the Audit Report thereon.
  - (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Port Trust.
  - (d) Review by Government of the Annual Accounts of the above Port Trust. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7845/16/17]
- (12)
- (a) One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Administration Report of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2016-17.
  - (b) Annual Accounts of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2016-17, and the Audit Report thereon.

- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Port Trust.
- (d) Review by Government of the Annual Accounts of the above Port Trust. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7862/16/17]
- (13) (a) Annual Accounts of the Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP), Mumbai, for the year 2016-17, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (b) Review by Government of the Annual Accounts of the above Authority. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8169/16/17]
- (iv) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—
  - (1) (a) Fifty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation (SPFO), Mumbai, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
  - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Organisation. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7859/16/17]
  - (2) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE), NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
  - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Academy. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8195/16/17]

**Reports and Accounts (2016-17) of various Institutes and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8508/16/18]
- (ii) (a) Annual Report of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata (CNCI), for the year 2016-17.

- (b) Annual Accounts of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata (CNCI), for the year 2016-17, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8506/16/18]

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution):—

- (1) G.S.R. 1204 (E), dated the 27th September, 2017, fixing the fair and remunerative price of Sugarcane that shall be payable by the owners of the vacuum pan process sugar factories specified in the Schedule annexed therein or their agents, for the sugarcane delivered at the gate of the factory of any purchasing centre, for the sugar year 2015-2016 ending with the 30th September, 2016 subject to the rebates payable there for under clause (3A) of the said Order and other conditions mentioned therein.
- (2) G.S.R. 1205 (E), dated the 27th September, 2017, fixing the fair and remunerative price of Sugarcane that shall be payable by the owners of the vacuum pan process sugar factories specified in the Schedule annexed therein or their agents, for the sugarcane delivered at the gate of the factory of any purchasing centre, for the sugar year 2016-2017 ending with the 30th September, 2017 subject to the rebates payable there for under clause (3A) of the said Order and other conditions mentioned therein.
- (3) G.S.R. 3934 (E), dated the 19th December, 2017, rescinding the order notified *vide* notification No. S.O. 3348 (E), dated the 28th October, 2016 as per certain conditions mentioned therein.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (3) *See* No. L.T. 8353/16/18]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I want the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, other Ministers and Members to take note of one thing. Though as per the practice, one Minister

can represent another Minister and lay Papers on his behalf, they are supposed to write to the Chair beforehand, take permission and also give the reason for the same. They should follow that. Permission would surely be given, but they must specify the reason. When Parliament is in Session, priority must / be given to the Parliament. Please take note of the same. Now, Message from Lok Sabha; Secretary-General.

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### MESSAGES FROM LOK SABHA

**(I) The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2018.**

**(II) The Appropriation Bill, 2018.**

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

(I)

"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 High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2018, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th January, 2018."

(II)

"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 Appropriation Bill, 2018, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th January, 2018."

2. "The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India."

Sir, I lay a copy each of the Bills on the Table.

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### REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

**डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया** (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं विभाग संबंधित मानव संसाधन विकास संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के निम्नलिखित प्रतिवेदनों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:—

- (i) 294th Report on Action Taken by Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Two Hundred and Eighty third Report on "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-Day-Meal Scheme";
- (ii) 295th Report on Action Taken by Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Two Hundred and Eighty fourth Report on "Issues and Challenges before Higher Education Sector in India";
- (iii) 296th Report on Action Taken by Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Two Hundred and Eighty seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2017-2018) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports;
- (iv) 297th Report on Action Taken by Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Two Hundred and Eighty eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2017-2018) of the Department of Higher Education;
- (v) 298th Report on Action Taken by Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Two Hundred and Eighty ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2017-2018) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development; and
- (vi) 299th Report on the National Sports University Bill, 2017.

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**REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

DR. KARAN SINGH (NCT of Delhi): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs (2017-18):—

- (i) \*Seventeenth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs (2017-18) on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Recruitment, structure and capacity-building of IFS Cadre, including need for a separate UPSC examination for cadre, mid-career entry and in-service training and orientation'.

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\* The Report was presented to the Speaker on the 31st August, 2017 and to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha on the 28th August, 2017.

- (ii) Eighteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on the subject 'India's Soft power Diplomacy including role of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Indian Diaspora' pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs; and
- (iii) Nineteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report of the Committee on the subject 'indo-Pak Relations' pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs.

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#### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES**

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO (Punjab): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Eighteenth Report of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (2017-18) on the subject "Reservation for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Food Corporation of India (FCI)" pertaining to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution).

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#### **STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS\***

##### **India's stand in W.T.O.**

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): Sir, I am making this intervention in the House today in order to place before the Hon'ble Members the details of the position taken by India and the outcomes at the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 10 to 13 December 2017.

Let me say at the outset that India participated in the Ministerial Conference in good faith and in a spirit of constructive engagement. We worked closely with other WTO member countries in various formats. We were proponents in several areas of work, including public stockholding for food security purposes, an agricultural Special Safeguard Mechanism, agricultural domestic support and e-commerce. On Domestic

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\*Laid on the Table of the House.



Regulations in Services, India engaged by contributing textual suggestions to find a common way forward on the proposed text.

In the run-up to the Conference, decisions were expected on a permanent solution on the issue of public stockholding for food security purposes and other agriculture issues. Some WTO member countries were seeking outcomes on domestic regulations in services, disciplines on fisheries subsidies, e-commerce, Investment Facilitation and Micro, Medium and Small Enterprises (MSMEs).

### **Permanent solution on public stockholding for food security purposes**

The Public Stockholding ('PSH') for food security issue is being negotiated at the WTO by the G33 coalition of 47 developing countries, of which India is a key member, to provide flexibility to developing countries to use administered prices - such as India's Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme - to build food reserves without being at the risk of violating the existing limits imposed by WTO rules on trade-distorting agricultural subsidies. As per a Ministerial Decision adopted at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the WTO held in Bali in December, 2013, popularly termed as a 'peace clause', WTO Members agreed that as an interim solution, Members would exercise due restraint in raising disputes under the relevant provisions of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture in respect of public stockholding programmes for food security purposes instituted before 7th December, 2013, even if countries exceeded their permissible subsidy limits. They also agreed to negotiate a permanent solution by the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the WTO in 2017. Subsequently as a result of the firm stand taken by India, the validity of the interim solution was extended by a decision of the WTO General Council (GC) in November, 2014 till a permanent solution was agreed and adopted. The Ministerial Declaration at the Nairobi Ministerial in December, 2015 took note of and welcomed the Bali and subsequent GC decision on Public Stockholding.

In accordance with the obligation placed on member countries by the Ministerial decisions at the Bali and Nairobi Ministerial Conferences, India and the G-33, as the key proponents, sought a permanent solution at the Eleventh Ministerial Conference at Buenos Aires. Quite logically, in addition to fulfilling the obligation placed by the Bali/Nairobi mandate, India viewed this as an opportunity for achieving an outcome that would be an improvement over the existing interim solution through less onerous transparency/disclosure conditions, no additional safeguards in respect of programmes already covered by the interim solution and greater legal certainty. In this context it was made clear to

all that India would only accept an improved outcome, and would not pay any price for achieving it, given the stand-alone mandate from Bali/Nairobi and the peace clause already available to it.

Some developed countries sought explicit language on existing safeguards. The United States stated that they could not agree to a permanent solution, perhaps to foreclose the possibility of the arrangement getting extended to new programmes of countries not covered by the interim solution.

Our public stockholding programmes, however, continue to be protected due to the interim solution that the government negotiated in 2014, which is available in perpetuity.

### **Other Agriculture Issues**

The Agriculture agenda of the ongoing WTO negotiations covers, *inter alia*, other issues such as agricultural subsidies, an agricultural Special Safeguard Mechanism (allowing developing countries to raise tariffs to guard against import surges and price falls), customs duties on agricultural products and agricultural export restrictions/prohibitions. Many developed countries are against agricultural reform in these areas based on current WTO mandates and rules. There was an effort to put developing countries with agricultural subsidies as low as USD 260 per farmer per annum on the same minimally differentiated platform as developed countries with their agriculture subsidies as high as USD 60000 per farmer per annum.

The Minister Facilitator (Minister Amina Mohamed of Kenya) appointed to assist the MC11 Chairperson on agriculture issues, proposed a work programme for the next two years. However the United States rejected the proposal and as a consequence, there was no outcome on agriculture at MC11.

### **E-Commerce**

There is no negotiating mandate on E-commerce at the WTO. In 1998, the WTO General Council established a comprehensive work programme to examine all trade-related issues pertaining to global electronic commerce. This is being undertaken in various WTO Councils.

The work programme on E-commerce remained dormant for many years as the proponents did not take the necessary initiative. Over the last two years, however, with

many countries making submissions on the subject, the discussions gathered considerable momentum. There was a strong push in the run up to MC11 to, *inter alia*, prematurely obtain a mandate to initiate comprehensive negotiations on all aspects of E-commerce, covering goods, services and intellectual property rights, without adequate deliberation to reach common understanding even on the definition and scope of the subject. Since this was opposed by many countries, there was an effort to, at the very least, expedite the discussion process under the current work programme by centralizing it and moving it away from the relevant WTO committees. A narrative is sought to be created that negotiations on E-commerce would be beneficial for development and would be in the interest of MSMEs. Global E-commerce is dominated by very few countries and the current proposals on the table would freeze the existing non-level playing field permanently against the interests of the vast majority of countries. It was, therefore, felt appropriate to follow due process and reach a common understanding on the definition and scope before considering rule-making.

Through the efforts of various countries, it was decided to, *inter alia*, continue with the non-negotiating mandate of the existing Work Programme on E-commerce. An existing moratorium on imposing customs duties on electronic transmission was extended for two years in exchange for another moratorium on TRIPS<sup>1</sup> non-violation complaints, which, *inter alia*, prevents 'evergreening' of patents in the pharmaceuticals sector, thereby ensuring accessibility and affordability of generic medicines.

The above decisions are in line with India's position in the matter. This is a major achievement for India. In the negotiations, India, the African Group and several other developing countries had similar positions on these issues.

In response to the failure to obtain a mandate for rule-making in E-commerce, a Joint Statement was issued on behalf of around 70 of the 164 WTO Members, including the US, supporting rule-making on E-commerce. China, which favours a multilateral outcome on E-commerce, is not part of this Group. We will have to keep a close watch on the course of events as rules set by this small group may have an impact on any E-commerce related work by the WTO in the days ahead.

### **Disciplines on Fisheries Subsidies**

Arising from the global understanding reached with regard to Sustainable Development Goal No. 14.6 (relating to prohibition of certain forms of fisheries subsidies

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<sup>1</sup> Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and elimination of subsidies that contribute to illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing) negotiations are underway in the WTO. There was a strong push for a Ministerial Decision at the Conference prohibiting certain types of fisheries subsidies.

India is not a demandeur of disciplines on fisheries subsidies. In developing countries like India, where a large number of small, resource-poor fish workers depend on fishing activity as a source of livelihood, suitable special and differential (S&D) treatment provisions would need to be built in while framing disciplines.

At the Conference, there was no immediate outcome on, disciplines on fisheries subsidies. Members agreed on a Work Programme on disciplines on fisheries subsidies with a view to arriving at a decision by the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the WTO, in 2019. The decision clearly recognizes that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing country Members and least developed country Members should be an integral part of the negotiations, which is a key requirement of India.

#### **Other Issues**

Draft Ministerial decisions by proponents on domestic regulations in Services and on new issues like Investment Facilitation, MSMEs, gender and trade, which lacked a mandate or consensus, were not taken forward.

#### **Ministerial Declaration**

A few members did not support the acknowledgment or reiteration of key underlying principles guiding the WTO and various agreed mandates. As a result, Ministers could not arrive at an agreed Ministerial Declaration at the end of the Conference on the basis of a draft brought forward from Geneva, which could potentially, have met the aspirations of the larger membership. As the revised draft Ministerial Declaration subsequently proposed by the Chairperson excluded or failed to adequately include important issues such as multilateralism, the Doha Development Agenda and special and differential treatment of developing countries, India could not support it.

However, even in the absence of a Ministerial Declaration, the existing mandates and decisions would remain valid and be carried forward. This ensures that work will go forward and the WTO would continue to work on issues such as the permanent solution on public stockholding for food security purposes, agricultural subsidies and other issues.

**Bilateral Meetings**

On the sidelines of the Conference, I had bilateral meetings with several Ministers including the Argentinean Chairperson of the Ministerial Conference, the Argentinean Foreign Minister, the Trade Commissioner of the European Union, Ministers from Brazil, the Netherlands, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States Trade Representative. I also called on the President of Argentina and discussed issues of bilateral cooperation.

In order to share India's position and develop a common understanding I hosted an interaction which was attended by Ministers and Ambassadors of over 20 countries, including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, South Africa, Rwanda and China.

**Conclusion**

To reiterate, India participated in a positive spirit in the Ministerial Conference and worked proactively with other WTO member countries across issues to constructively find a way forward. Towards this end India was a proponent in nearly all agenda items under consideration, including public stockholding for food security purposes, an agricultural Special Safeguard Mechanism, agricultural domestic support and the way forward on E-commerce. On Domestic Regulations in Services, India engaged by contributing textual suggestions to find a common way forward on the proposed text.

India had created strong coalitions based on common interests in agriculture and other areas. Leading up to the Ministerial and at the Ministerial itself, India's coalition partners remained steadfast in their support not only for a permanent solution on public stockholding but also on other issues of interest to developing countries. The 53-member African Group as well as a large number of other developing countries supported India in opposing premature rule making on E-commerce and the attempts to bring new issues such as Investment Facilitation and MSMEs into the WTO's agenda.

India stood firm on its stand on the fundamental principles of the WTO including multilateralism, rule-based consensual decision making, an independent and credible dispute resolution and appellate process, the centrality of development and special and differential treatment for all developing countries. I wish to assure the House that India is committed to preserving and promoting the WTO and the multilateral trading system with a view to taking the agreed agenda of the WTO forward.

Thank you. I lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, there is no copy of the statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, you have made a very important statement. There should be a copy for the House.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, I have already placed it on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Make the copies available to all the hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is a very important thing.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, it is already ready. We will circulate it among all the Members in Hindi and English.

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल** (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, स्टेटमेंट की कॉपी नहीं मिली। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री सभापति**: अभी पढ़ने दीजिए, मैं बाद में बताऊंगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**... पढ़ने दीजिए, मैं आपको बाद में बताऊंगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: It is unfair, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल**: महोदय, इन्होंने स्टेटमेंट पढ़ी है, तो उसकी कॉपी मांगना हमारा राइट है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is about WTO and we should speak in one voice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल**: यह हमारा राइट है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I agree with you. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, it is a departure from the practice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not departing. ...*(Interruptions)*... The only thing is, we don't have the time. Otherwise, definitely, it is a matter to be discussed in the House and also a view has to be conveyed and clarifications also can be sought. But the question is of time. Please keep that in mind. I would request you all. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, definitely, it has to be. Definitely, in the next Session, we need to go in for a discussion on this very important issue. We appreciate the stand of the Government of India because it stood firm and did not budge to pressure from some of the countries. At the same time, the House should know the full details and also, the House must have an opportunity to seek clarifications.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, one minute please. Sir, it is already circulated. In fact, the staff is already circulating it. I had given notice to the House yesterday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's okay but copies have not been given. ...*(Interruptions)*... Okay.

**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Sixteenth  
Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing  
Committee on Water Resources**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Sir, on behalf of my senior colleague, Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources on Demands for Grants (2017-18) pertaining to the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are MoS in the same Ministry. I am aware of it, but, at the same time, the Minister should write to me beforehand. I have already made an observation on this.

**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirty-sixth Report  
of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on  
Information Technology**

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Sir, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirty-sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2017-18) pertaining to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirty-first Report  
of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on  
Social Justice and Empowerment**

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कृष्ण पाल): महोदय, मैं "राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग वित्त और विकास निगम (एन.बी.सी.एफ.डी.सी.) के कार्यकरण की समीक्षा" के संबंध में

विभाग संबंधित सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति (2015-16) के इकतीसवें प्रतिवेदन में अंतर्विष्ट सिफारिशों के कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति के संबंध में एक वक्तव्य सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Rao Inderjit Singh, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirty-third Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers on Demands for Grants (2017-18) pertaining to the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You lay the next one also.

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल:** माननीय सभापति जी, जैसा आपने अभी कहा, मंत्री लोग इस सदन को सीरियसली नहीं ले रहे हैं। अगर मंत्री लोग इसमें भी नहीं आएंगे तो ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**श्री सभापति:** मेरे ऑब्जर्वेशन के बाद अब आपको इसमें कुछ जोड़ने की जरूरत नहीं है। प्लीज, आप बैठ जाइए।

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल:** इसके लिए पहले से परमिशन लेनी होती है।

**श्री सभापति:** मैंने अभी परमिशन दे दी है, but they should take permission beforehand.

**संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री; और रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मनोज सिन्हा):** महोदय, लोक सभा के प्रश्न-काल में ही हमें उपस्थित रहना पड़ता है, इसलिए भी हमारी मजबूरी हो जाती है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

**Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the  
Two Hundred and First Report of the Department-related  
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Kiren Rijiju, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of



recommendations/observations contained in the Two Hundred and First Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Demands for Grants (2017-18) pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the  
Thirty-fifth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary  
Standing Committee on Information Technology**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS;  
AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ  
SINHA): Sir, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations/  
observations contained in the Thirty-fifth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary  
Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2017-18)  
pertaining to the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications.

**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirty-second  
Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on  
Chemicals and Fertilizers; Two Hundred and Forty-first, Two Hundred  
and Forty-second, Two Hundred and Forty-sixth and Two Hundred  
and Forty-seventh Reports of the Department-related  
Parliamentary Standing Committee on  
Transport, Tourism and Culture**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND  
HIGHWAYS; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING; AND  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS  
(SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): Sir, I make the following statements  
regarding:—

- (i) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirty-second Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers on Demands for Grants (2017-18) pertaining to the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers;
- (ii) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Two Hundred and Forty-first Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on the Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Two

Hundred and Thirty-fourth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2016-17) pertaining to the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways;

- (iii) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Two Hundred and Forty-second Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on the Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Two Hundred and Thirty-fifth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2016-17) pertaining to the Ministry of Shipping;
- (iv) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Two Hundred and Forty-sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2017-18) pertaining to the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways; and
- (v) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Two Hundred and Forty-seventh Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2017-18) pertaining to the Ministry of Shipping.

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**MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE  
RIGHT TO FAIR COMPENSATION AND TRANSPARENCY IN LAND  
ACQUISITION, REHABILITATION AND RESETTLEMENT  
(SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Sir, I move the following motion:—

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do appoint one Member to the Joint Committee on the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Second Bill, 2015 in the vacancy caused by the disqualification from the membership of Rajya Sabha of Shri Sharad Yadav and communicate to the Lok Sabha the name of the Member so appointed by the Rajya

Sabha to the Joint Committee and resolves that Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh be appointed to the said Joint Committee to fill the vacancy."

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

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### FAREWELL TO RETIRING MEMBERS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, three of our colleagues, that too seniors, Dr. Karan Singh, Shri Janardan Dwivedi and Shri Parvez Hashmi, representing the National Capital Territory of Delhi will be retiring on the 27th of January, 2018, on completion of their term of office. Since their retirement will be during the intervening period between the conclusion of this Session and the commencement of the next Session, I take this opportunity, on the last day of this Session, to bid them farewell.

The retiring Members have contributed significantly to the deliberations of this House and the Parliamentary Committees and, in the process, to nurturing and strengthening our parliamentary democracy and in enhancing the dignity and prestige of this august House. I place on record my heartfelt appreciation for the valuable contributions and services rendered by them to our democracy and to the society at large.

I wish the retiring Members, Dr. Karan Singh, Shri Janardan Dwivedi and Shri Parvez Hashmi, all the best and also, I wish them good health, happiness, a modicum of leisure, and many more years of service to the nation.

The Leader of the Opposition; would you like to say something?

**विपक्ष के नेता (श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद):** माननीय चेयरमैन साहब, सबसे पहले तो मैं डा. कर्ण सिंह जी के बारे में कहना चाहूंगा। यह हमारे भारत की वह हस्ती हैं, जो इधर से निकले, उधर डूबे, उधर डूबे, इधर निकले। शायद गिनीज़ बुक ऑफ़ वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड्स में डा. कर्ण सिंह जी का नाम रहेगा, क्योंकि स्वतंत्र भारत में ये पहले व्यक्ति हैं, जो 18 साल की उम्र में हेड ऑफ़ दि स्टेट बने। बने हुए बादशाह हो सकते हैं, लेकिन डेमोक्रेसी में 18 साल की उम्र में हेड ऑफ़ दि स्टेट बनना, यह अपने आपमें शायद दुनिया में पहली मिसाल है। हमारे बहुत से साथियों ने राजनीति में पचासवीं सालगिरह मनाई है, लेकिन शायद डा. साहब 2018 में 68वीं या 69वीं सालगिरह मना रहे हैं, मेरे ख्याल से यह हम सबके लिए गौरव की बात है। इस सदन में वे हमारे ऐसे साथी हैं, जिन्होंने महात्मा गांधी को भी देखा, जब अपने पिता के साथ मिलने वे कश्मीर आए थे। इन्हें भारत के पहले प्राइम मिनिस्टर ऑफ़ इंडिया से लेकर आज तक जितने भी प्राइम मिनिस्टर रहे, उनसे मिलने, बात करने और उनके साथ बैठने का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ है। कई प्राइम मिनिस्टर्स के अंडर काम करने का भी इन्हें अवसर मिला है। सभी

[श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद]

प्राइम मिनिस्टर्स के साथ आपको किसी न किसी तरह काम करने का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ है, जो अपने आप में बड़ी मिसाल है।

मैं अपने आपको बहुत सौभाग्यशाली मानता हूँ, क्योंकि मैं student life से ही इन्हें जानता हूँ और इनकी Parliamentary Constituency का ही रहने वाला हूँ। हम एक ही Parliamentary Constituency में रहते हैं तथा कॉलेज-यूनिवर्सिटी का स्टूडेंट होने के नाते मुझे इनके साथ काम करने का अवसर भी मिला। आज इस सदन में हम दोनों इकट्ठे हैं, यह भी बहुत खुशी की बात है।

आप पांच दफा लोक सभा के सदस्य रहे। जैसा मैंने पहले कहा आप regent रहे, 1952 में सदर-ए-रियासत रहे, जब शेख अब्दुल्ला साहब प्राइम मिनिस्टर थे। 18 साल की उम्र में Head of the State बनना बहुत बड़ी बात है। जब आप Head of the State बने, उसके फौरी बाद, कुछ महीने पहले ही, पाकिस्तान ने कश्मीर पर हमला कर दिया था और कश्मीर का कुछ हिस्सा, जिसे हम Pak occupied Kashmir कहते हैं, ऐसी स्टेट का Head of the State होना कितना कठिन और मुश्किल काम था। इनके नाजुक कंधों पर इतनी बड़ी जिम्मेदारी जिसे हम आज भी नहीं सम्भाल पाते, वह जिम्मेदारी इन्होंने 18 साल की उम्र में संभाली।

आप केन्द्रीय सरकार में कैबिनेट मंत्री रहे, लोक सभा में रहे, राज्य सभा में भी रहे। आप Cabinet rank के United States of America में Ambassador भी रहे और बहुत crucial time में रहे, जो बहुत बड़ी बात है। मेरे ख्याल में आप बहुत सफल Ambassadors में से एक थे। आप कई Universities के Chancellors भी रहे और स्वयं Doctorate प्राप्त हैं। आपको कई honorary डिग्रियाँ भी मिलीं। आप शायद पहले princely States के prince रहे हैं और उस समय prince होने के नाजे, आज़ादी के बाद जो उन्हें privy-purses मिलते थे, इन्होंने कानून बनने से पहले ही, voluntarily privy-purse छोड़ दिया था। जहाँ तक मुझे याद है, जब आप यूनियन मिनिस्टर रहे तो आप केन्द्रीय सरकार से कोई तनखाह नहीं लेते थे। इस तरह आपकी ज़िन्दगी की बहुत सी उपलब्धियाँ रही हैं। जम्मू-कश्मीर को हमेशा गौरव रहेगा, जहाँ बहुत से राजे-महाराजे और उनके बच्चे prince बनते ही, ज़ाहिर है उनकी आदतें भी खराब होती हैं, यह कोई बड़ी बात नहीं है, लेकिन शायद पहले आदमी हमने देखे, जिन्होंने अपनी life में कभी शराब, सिगरेट या पान तक नहीं छुआ है। जम्मू-कश्मीर में कोई यह नहीं कह सकता, किसी prince में ही नहीं, बल्कि politicians में भी, किसी के पास थोड़ा सा पैसा आ गया, तो उसका शराब पीना, घूमना-फिरना आम तौर पर देखा जाता है, लेकिन एक साधारण ज़िन्दगी इतनी generation तक हुकूमत करने के बाद भी और इतनी छोटी उम्र में Head of the State बनने के बाद भी इनके सिर में power नहीं गई, यह बहुत बड़ी बात है। मेरे ख्याल में हमारे आज के लीडरों के सामने और नई पीढ़ी के सामने सिर में power न जाना बहुत बड़ी मिसाल है। Power सिर में नहीं जानी चाहिए और पाँव हमेशा ज़मीन पर रहने चाहिए। डा. कर्ण सिंह जी के पाँव हमेशा ज़मीन पर रहे, जो हम सबके लिए बहुत बड़ी बात है। आपको National Integration का award भी मिला। आपको पद्म-विभूषण भी मिला और आपको Best Parliamentarian award भी मिला। आज आप रिटायर हो रहे हैं।

मुझे तो मालूम है कि जम्मू-कश्मीर के लोग तो आपको कभी रिटायर नहीं होने देंगे। मुझे पूरी उम्मीद है जैसा मैंने शुरू किया, इधर से उधर डूबे, उधर डूबे इधर निकले, अब हम अपेक्षा करेंगे कि आप किधर से निकलें फिर दोबारा, क्योंकि कुछ सितारे ऐसे होते हैं जो कभी डूबते नहीं, वे निकलते रहते हैं। अब चांद-सूरज इधर से निकलते उधर डूबते, लेकिन कुछ समय थोड़ा सा लगता है। हम कामना करते हैं कि आपकी सेहत के बारे में, भगवान, अल्लाह आपको अच्छी सेहत दे, स्वस्थ रखे और आपकी गाइडेंस हमें समय-समय पर मिलती रहे।

जहां तक हमारे दूसरे साथी हैं, जनार्दन द्विवेदी जी, यहां बैठे हैं, आप भी स्टूडेंट लाइफ से ही बहुत कर्मठ रहे हैं, सोशलिस्ट मूवमेंट में बहुत आगे रहे हैं, स्टूडेंट लीडर रहे हैं और 1968 से लेकर 1993 तक बहुत अच्छे टीचर रहे। आप दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी में लेक्चरर रहे, लीडर रहे, रीडर रहे, लेकिन पढ़ाने के साथ-साथ आप देश में, दुनिया में जो हो रहा है, उस पर भी बराबर काम करते रहे। आप पहले फाउंडर कन्वीनर और चेयरमैन रहे ऑल इंडिया कांग्रेस कमेटी विचार विभाग के 1979 से 1986 तक और उसके बाद आप कई अरसे तक ऑल इंडिया कांग्रेस कमेटी के ज्वॉइंट सेक्रेटरी, सेक्रेटरी और लम्बे अरसे से अभी कांग्रेस वर्किंग कमेटी के मेम्बर और ऑल इंडिया कांग्रेस कमेटी के जनरल सेक्रेटरी और तीन टर्म्स से आप राज्य सभा में हैं। आपने भी पार्टी के लिए, संगठन के लिए, पार्लियामेंट के लिए और जनता के लिए जो काम किया है, वह भी हमेशा सराहनीय रहेगा।

परवेज़ हाशमी साहब Aligarhian हैं, अलीगढ़ से पढ़े-लिखे हैं और अलीगढ़ यूनिवर्सिटी से जो निकल कर आते हैं तो बड़े ऑल-राउंडर होते हैं, वे बड़े कर्मठ स्टूडेंट रहे हैं। आप दिल्ली में दो दफा एम.एल.ए. रहे, मिनिस्टर रहे, कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर रहे दिल्ली गवर्नमेंट में और भी दो टर्म्स से राज्य सभा में मेम्बर रहे। उन्होंने एम.एल.ए. के रूप में, मिनिस्टर के रूप में और राज्य सभा के मेम्बर के रूप में लोगों की जो समस्याएं हैं, दिल्ली में भी उठाई और राज्य सभा में भी उठाई। मुझे पूरी उम्मीद है कि वे राजनीति में सक्रिय रहेंगे।

मैं यही दुआ करता हूं डा. कर्ण सिंह जी, द्विवेदी जी और हाशमी जी स्वस्थ रहें। नए साल के बिल्कुल शुरू में ही वे रिटायर हो रहे हैं। तो आगे नया साल उनके लिए बहुत अच्छा हो और आगे उनका जीवन और भी सफल रहे, धन्यवाद।

فائدہ حزب اختلاف (جناب غلام نبی آزاد): مائے جینرمین صاحب، سب سے پہلے

تو میں ڈاکٹر کرن سنگھ جی کے بارے میں کہنا چاہوں گا۔ یہ ہمارے بھارت کی وہ ہستی ہیں، جو ادھر سے نکلے، ادھر ڈوبے، ادھر ڈوبے، ادھر نکلے۔ شاید گنیز بک آف ورلڈ ریکارڈز میں ڈاکٹر کرن سنگھ جی کا نام رہے گا، کیوں کہ آزاد بھارت میں یہ پہلے شخص ہیں، جو اٹھارہ سال کی عمر میں بیڈ آف دی اسٹیٹ

†Transliteration in Urdu script.

[شری گولام نبی آجازاد]

بنے۔ بنے ہوئے بادشاہ ہو سکتے ہیں، لیکن ڈیموکریسی میں اٹھارہ سال کی عمر میں ہیڈ آف دی اسٹیٹ بننا، یہ اپنے آپ میں شاید دنیا میں پہلی مثال ہے۔

ہمارے بہت سے ساتھیوں نے راجنیتی میں پچاسویں سالگرہ منائی ہے، لیکن شاید ڈاکٹر صاحب 2018 نے 68ویں یا 69ویں سالگرہ منا رہے ہیں، میرے خیال میں یہ ہم سب کے لئے گورو کی بات ہے۔ اس سدن میں وہ ہمارے ایسے ساتھی ہیں، جنہوں نے مہاتما گاندھی کو بھی دیکھا، جب اپنے والد کے ساتھ ملنے وہ کشمیر آئے ہیں۔ انہیں بھارت کے پہلے پرائم منسٹر آف انڈیا سے لے کر آج تک جتنے بھی پرائم منسٹر رہے، ان سے ملنے، بات کرنے اور ان کے ساتھ بیٹھنے کا موقع حاصل ہوا ہے۔ کئی پرائم منسٹرس کے انڈر کام کرنے کا بھی انہیں موقع ملا ہے۔ سبھی پرائم منسٹرس کے ساتھ آپ کو کسی نہ کسی طرح کام کرنے کا موقع حاصل ہوا ہے، جو اپنے آپ میں بڑی مثال ہے۔

میں اپنے آپ کو بہت خوش نصیب مانتا ہوں، کیوں کہ میں اسٹوڈینٹ لائف سے ہی انہیں جانتا ہوں اور ان کی پارلیمنٹری کانسٹی ٹیوٹنسی کا ہی رہنے والا ہوں۔ ہم ایک پارلیمنٹری کانسٹی ٹیوٹنسی میں رہتے ہیں اور کالج یونیورسٹی کے اسٹوڈینٹ ہونے کے ناطے مجھے اس کے ساتھ کام کرنے کا موقع بھی ملا۔ آج اس سدن میں ہم دونوں اکٹھے ہیں، یہ بھی بہت خوشی کی بات ہے۔

آج پانچ دفعہ لوک کے سدسنے رہے۔ جیسا میں نے پہلے کہا آپ regent رہے، 1952 میں صدر ریاست رہے، جب شیخ عبداللہ صاحب پرائم منسٹر تھے۔ اٹھارہ سال کی عمر میں 'ہیڈ آف دی اسٹیٹ' بننا بہت بڑی بات ہے۔ جب آپ 'ہیڈ آف دی اسٹیٹ' بنے، اس کے فوری بعد، کچھ مہینے پہلے ہی، پاکستان نے کشمیر پر حملہ کر دیا تھا اور کشمیر کا کچھ حصہ، جسے ہم Pak occupied Kashmir

بنے۔ بنے ہوئے بادشاہ ہو سکتے ہیں، لیکن ڈیموکریسی میں اٹھارہ سال کی عمر میں ہیڈ آف دی اسٹیٹ بننا، یہ اپنے آپ میں شاید دنیا میں پہلی مثال ہے۔ ہمارے بہت سے ساتھیوں نے راجنیتی میں پچاسویں سالگرہ منائی ہے، لیکن شاید ڈاکٹر صاحب 2018 نے 68ویں یا 69ویں سالگرہ منا رہے ہیں، میرے خیال میں یہ ہم سب کے لئے گورو کی بات ہے۔ اس سدن میں وہ ہمارے ایسے ساتھی ہیں، جنہوں نے مہاتما گاندھی کو بھی دیکھا، جب اپنے والد کے ساتھ ملنے وہ کشمیر آئے ہیں۔ انہیں بھارت کے پہلے پرائم منسٹر آف انڈیا سے لے کر آج تک جتنے بھی پرائم منسٹر رہے، ان سے ملنے، بات کرنے اور ان کے ساتھ بیٹھنے کا موقع حاصل ہوا ہے۔ کئی پرائم منسٹرس کے انڈر کام کرنے کا بھی انہیں موقع ملا ہے۔ سبھی پرائم منسٹرس کے ساتھ آپ کو کسی نہ کسی طرح کام کرنے کا موقع حاصل ہوا ہے، جو اپنے آپ میں بڑی مثال ہے۔

میں اپنے آپ کو بہت خوش نصیب مانتا ہوں، کیوں کہ میں اسٹوڈینٹ لائف سے ہی انہیں جانتا ہوں اور ان کی پارلیمنٹری کانسٹی ٹیوٹنسی کا ہی رہنے والا ہوں۔ ہم ایک پارلیمنٹری کانسٹی ٹیوٹنسی میں رہتے ہیں اور کالج یونیورسٹی کے اسٹوڈینٹ ہونے کے ناطے مجھے اس کے ساتھ کام کرنے کا موقع بھی ملا۔ آج اس سدن میں ہم دونوں اکٹھے ہیں، یہ بھی بہت خوشی کی بات ہے۔

آج پانچ دفعہ لوک کے سدنے رہے۔ جیسا میں نے پہلے کہا آپ regent

رہے، 1952 میں صدر ریاست رہے، جب شیخ عبداللہ صاحب پرائم منسٹر تھے۔

اٹھارہ سال کی عمر میں 'ہیڈ آف دی اسٹیٹ' بننا بہت بڑی بات ہے۔ جب آپ 'ہیڈ

آف دی اسٹیٹ' بنے، اس کے فوری بعد، کچھ مہینے پہلے ہی، پاکستان نے کشمیر

پر حملہ کر دیا تھا اور کشمیر کا کچھ حصہ، جسے ہم Pak occupied Kashmir

[श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद]

کے بعد بھی سر میں پاور نہیں گئی، یہ بہت بڑی بات ہے۔ میرے خیال میں ہمارے آج کے لیڈروں کے سامنے اور نئی پیڑھی کے سامنے سر میں پاور نا جانا بہت بڑی مثال ہے۔ پاور سر میں نہیں جانی چاہئے اور پاؤں ہمیشہ زمین پر رہنا چاہئے۔ ڈاکٹر کرن سنگھ جی کے پاؤں ہمیشہ زمین پر رہے، جو ہم سب کے لئے بہت بڑی بات ہے۔ آپ کو نیشنل انٹیگریشن کا ایوارڈ بھی ملا۔ آپ کو پدم-وبھوشن بھی ملا اور آپ کو بیسٹ پارلیمنٹری ایوارڈ بھی ملا۔

آج آپ ریٹائر ہو رہے ہیں۔ مجھے تو معلوم ہے کہ جموں و کشمیر کے لوگ تو آپ کو کبھی ریٹائر نہیں ہونے دیں گے۔ مجھے پوری امید ہے جیسا میں نے شروع کیا، ادھر سے نکل ادھر ڈوبے، ادھر ڈوبے ادھر نکلے، اب ہم آپکشا کریں گے کہ آپ کدھر سے نکلیں پھر دوبارہ، کیوں کہ کچھ ستارے ایسے ہوتے ہیں جو کبھی ڈوبتے نہیں، وہ نکلتے رہتے ہیں۔ اب چاند سورج ادھر سے نکلتے ادھر ڈوبتے، لیکن کچھ سَمے تھوڑا سا لگتا ہے۔ ہم کامنا کرتے ہیں کہ آپ کی صحت کے بارے میں، بھگوان، اللہ آپ کو اچھی صحت دے، سوستہ رکھے اور آپ کی گائیڈنس ہمیں وقت پر ملتی رہے۔

جہاں تک ہمارے دوسرے ساتھی ہیں، جنار دن دویدی جی یہاں بیٹھے ہیں آپ بھی اسٹوڈینٹ لائف سے ہی بہت کمرٹھ رہے ہیں، سوشلسٹ موومنٹ میں بہت آگے رہے ہیں، اسٹوڈینٹ لیڈر رہے ہیں اور 1968 سے لیکر 1993 تک بہت اچھے ٹیچر رہے۔ آپ دہلی یونیورسٹی میں لیکچرر رہے، لیڈر رہے، ریڈر رہے، لیکن پڑھانے کے ساتھ ساتھ آپ دیش میں، دنیا میں جو ہورہا ہے، اس پر بھی برابر کام کرتے رہے۔ آپ پہلے فاؤنڈر کنونر اور چئیرمین رہے آل انڈیا کاتگریس کمیٹی وچار و بھاگ کے 1979 سے 1986 تک اور اس کے بعد آپ کئی عرصے



تک آل انڈیا کانگریس کمیٹی کے جو انینٹ سکرپٹری، سکرپٹری اور لمبے عرصے سے ابھی کانگریس ورکنگ کمیٹی کے ممبر اور آل انڈیا کانگریس کمیٹی کے جنرل سکرپٹری اور تین ٹرمس سے آپ راجیہ سبھا میں ہیں۔ آپ نے بھی پارٹی کے لئے، سنگٹھن کے لئے، پارلیمنٹ کے لئے اور جنتا کے لئے جو کام کیا ہے، وہ بھی ہمیشہ سراہنے رہیگا۔

پرویز ہاشمی صاحب Aligarian ہیں، علی گڑھ سے پڑھے لکھے ہیں اور علی گڑھ مسلم یونیورسٹی سے جو نکل کر آتے ہیں تو بڑے آل راؤنڈر ہوتے ہیں، وہ بڑے کرمتھ اسٹوڈنٹ رہے ہیں۔ آپ دہلی میں دو دفعہ ایم۔ایل۔اے۔ رہے، کیبنیٹ منسٹر رہے دہلی گورنمینٹ میں اور ابھی دو ٹرمس سے راجیہ سبھا کے ممبر رہے۔ انہوں نے ایم۔ایل۔اے کے روپ میں، منسٹر کے روپ میں اور راجیہ سبھا کے ممبر کے روپ میں لوگوں کی جو سمسبائیں ہیں، دہلی میں بھی اٹھائیں اور راجیہ سبھا میں بھی اٹھائیں۔ مجھے پوری امید ہے کہ وہ راجنیتی میں سکرے رہیں گے۔

میں یہی دعا کرتا ہوں ڈاکٹر کرن سنگھ جی، دیویدی جی اور ہاشمی جی سوستھہ رہیں۔ نئے سال کے بالکل شروع میں ہی یہ ریٹائر ہو رہے ہیں۔ تو آگے نیا سال ان کے لئے بہت اچھا ہو اور آگے ان کا جیون اور بھی کامیاب رہے،

[دھنیواد۔]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the House is having questions in the Lok Sabha. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad will speak on behalf of the Government.

विधि और न्याय मंत्री तथा इलेक्ट्रानिकी और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री (श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद): माननीय सभापति जी, आज के दिन हमारे तीन महत्वपूर्ण वरिष्ठ साथी रिटायर हो रहे हैं। डा. कर्ण

†Transliteration in Urdu script.

[श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद]

सिंह जी के बारे में अभी विपक्ष के नेता ने बहुत विस्तार से कहा। मेरा इनसे पहला परिचय तब हुआ जब मैं एम.ए. का स्टूडेंट था और मैंने Political Philosophy में Maharishi Aurobindo के बारे में जानने की कोशिश की। तो मेरे साथी शिष्यों ने बताया कि अगर Maharshi Aurobindo को जानना हो तो डा. कर्ण सिंह जी की किताब पढ़ें, जो उन्होंने Maharshi Aurobindo के बारे में लिखी है। मैंने वह पुस्तक पढ़ी और आपने इतने सरल तरीके से Maharishi Aurobindo का दर्शन बताया। जब मैं संसद में पहली बार आया था तब डा. साहब से मुलाकात हुई। उन्होंने बताया that was my Ph.D. thesis. उनकी सियासी विरासत के बारे में तो माननीय गुलाम नबी जी ने बड़े विस्तार से बताया। मैं थोड़ा उनके अलग पक्षों को रखने की कोशिश करूंगा। एक दिन दिल्ली में एक कार्यक्रम था, वहां डा. साहब उपस्थित थे। उनसे कहा गया, डा. साहब, आप शिव स्तोत्र को विस्तार से कहिए। उन्होंने 15 मिनट में जिस विस्तार से शिव स्तोत्र को कहा, तो हमें लगा कि यह तो कमाल की बात है। बिल्कुल सही, शुद्ध संस्कृत का उच्चारण था। एक दिन मैं एक सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम में था। डा. साहब से कहा गया कि आज आप गाना गाएं और डा. साहब ने उस दिन जो शास्त्रीय संगीत गाया, वह अपने आप में बहुत ही प्रभावी था। मैं ये बातें इसलिए कह रहा हूं कि एक ऐसा व्यक्तित्व, जो राजसी ठाठ में पैदा होता है - जिसकी विस्तार से गुलाम नबी आज़ाद जी ने चर्चा की - लेकिन जो पढ़ने में भी उतना ही तेज़ है, आध्यात्मिक परंपरा का संवाहक है, भारत की विरासत का संवाहक है और एक पूर्ण व्यक्तित्व है। माननीय सभापति जी, एरिस्टोटल ने, "philosopher king" की कल्पना की थी और डा. कर्ण सिंह में हम "philosopher king" का एक पूरा स्वरूप देखते रहे हैं, इसलिए हम आपका हार्दिक अभिनंदन करना चाहेंगे। जब भी डा. साहब प्रश्न करते थे या हस्तक्षेप करते थे, मैं बहुत ही शांति से उनके विचारों को सुनता था। उन्हें सुनना एक प्रकार से संसदीय परम्परा का बहुत ही उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण रहा है। उनके सारे हस्तक्षेपों को हम याद करेंगे। मेरी उन्हें व्यक्तिगत रूप से और सरकार की ओर से बहुत शुभकामनाएं हैं कि आप देश का इसी प्रकार से नेतृत्व करते रहें। लेकिन मेरी आपसे एक विनम्र प्रार्थना है कि आप और लिखें - आपने लिखना छोड़ दिया है। अगर आप लिखेंगे तो शायद भारत की संस्कृति, संस्कार और साहित्य का और भी योगदान होगा, यह मेरा आपसे आग्रह है।

माननीय जनार्दन द्विवेदी जी कांग्रेस पार्टी के वरिष्ठ नेता हैं। मेरा उनसे परिचय सदन में आने के बाद हुआ, लेकिन उनसे मेरी बहुत ही अंतरंगता हो गयी और अंतरंगता का कारण हिन्दी के प्रति प्रेम था। वे हिन्दी के प्रोफेसर हैं। सियासत की बात तो हम लोग करते रहते हैं, लेकिन सरल हिन्दी के प्रति उनका विशेष प्रेम रहा है, यह मेरा भी प्रेम रहा है। हिन्दी तभी लोकप्रिय होगी, जब वह सरल और सहज होगी। मैं देखता था कि उनकी सारी टिप्पणियों में हिन्दी की सहजता और सरलता के प्रति बहुत ही प्रेम रहा है। उनके संसदीय वक्तव्यों को भी मैंने सुना है। मैं आपसे एक ही आग्रह करूंगा कि आप अपने दल में हैं, आप आगे रहें, लेकिन हिन्दी की सेवा आप उसी प्रकार से करते रहें जो अगर आप करते रहेंगे। तो शायद हिन्दी का और कल्याण होगा - यही मेरा आपसे अनुरोध है। मेरी तरफ से आपको बहुत-बहुत शुभकामनाएं हैं।

माननीय हाशमी जी के बारे में गुलाम नबी आज़ाद जी ने सही कहा, अलीगढ़ के पानी में ही कुछ बात है, जो वहां से निकलते हैं, उनकी फितरत ही कुछ और होती है। हाशमी साहब ने भी अपने

संसदीय जीवन और राजनीति में उस परम्परा को आगे बनाए रखा है। वे दिल्ली के बड़े नेता बने, हमारे राज्य मंत्री और मित्रवर विजय गोयल के भी वे अंतरंग मित्र हैं, लेकिन सबसे बड़ी बात है कि देश की सियासत में कुछ प्रामाणिक लोगों का रहना बहुत जरूरी है। हाशमी साहब की सबसे बड़ी बात है कि अलीगढ़ युनिवर्सिटी से पढ़ाई के बाद जिस दल में वे गए, उसी दल में वे हैं और वे आगे भी रहें, आगे भी बढ़ें, यही मेरी शुभकामना है। मैं तीनों सदस्यों को बहुत विनम्र शुभकामनाएं देता हूं।

**श्री सभापति:** मित्रो, जो महानुभाव 27 जनवरी को रिटायर हो रहे हैं, उनसे मैं अनुरोध करूंगा कि वे अपना थोड़ा सा अनुभव बताएं। उससे पहले मैं एक व्याख्या करना चाहता हूं। डा. कर्ण सिंह राजा भी थे और मंत्री भी थे - राजा और मंत्री इसी प्रकार जनार्दन द्विवेदी जी लीडर भी थे और बाद में रीडर भी हो गए। इस प्रकार इन दोनों में टू-इन-वन के गुण थे। अब मैं डा. कर्ण सिंह जी से अनुरोध करूंगा कि वे अपने विचार सदन के समक्ष रखें।

DR. KARAN SINGH (NCT of Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you. As has been very kindly mentioned, half-a-century ago, 50 years ago, I came to Delhi. After having served my home State, I headed the State for 18 years, fifty years ago, at the age of 36, I came to Delhi and joined Mrs. Gandhi's Cabinet. Out of these 50 years, for 40 years, I have been a Member of Parliament, four times in the Lok Sabha and four times in the Rajya Sabha, both on the Treasury Benches and in the Opposition in both Houses. It has been fascinating to see the evolution of Parliament over all these years, and how our Constitution gives us the flexibility to adapt to changing economic, social and political compulsions. We have also witnessed an explosion in media. For example, when we started with two channels, now we have 500 channels. That has also changed the complexion of our politics.

Sir, Parliament has evolved over these 50 years but not all the changes have been positive I must say. I used to remember when I went to the Lok Sabha first there were brilliant debates by Hiren Mukherjee, Madhu Limaye, Nath Pai, Atalji and here Bhupesh Gupta. Those were the debates now seem to me becoming rare, and disruptions are becoming more frequent. All I would say is that, I think, we need to do a little introspection to see what we can do to ensure that the Parliamentary system functions according to the rules and positively.

Looking back at this vast panorama of half-a-century, I had the privilege of interacting with a huge spectrum of political colleagues from every region, every religion, every caste and every community. I was a witness to or participant in every single General Election since 1952. I had the privilege of interacting, as Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad said, with all the Prime Ministers; when I was in Jammu and Kashmir, my mentors were Pandit Jawaharlal

[Dr. Karan Singh]

Nehru and Lal Bahadur Shastriji. When I came here, I had the privilege of interacting, of course, with Smt. Indira Gandhi, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Dr. Manmohan Singh and now with Shri Narendrabhai Modi. This has been a great experience for me. Sir, I have noticed one thing. Despite sharp differences of opinion and of ideology, very often expressed in intemperate language, one thing is common in all these people. They were all, in their own way, working for what Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru called 'the exciting adventure of building a new India'. In their own way, every Prime Minister has resorted to do that.

Sir, ours is a unique and glorious country from the Himalayas, where I come from. You are aware of Kalidasa and he said:

"अस्त्युत्तरस्यां दिशि देवतात्मा हिमालयो नाम नगाधिराजः।  
पूर्वापरौ तोयनिधी वगाह्य स्थितः पृथिव्या इव मानदंडः॥

It is a Devatatma. It is a real spiritual presence. As Iqbal said,

"पर्वत वो सबसे ऊंचा, हमसाया आसमां का।  
वो संतरी हमारा, वो पासबां हमारा॥

The Himalayas have, in a way, really laid down the parameters of what India is all the way down to Kanyakumari, where three great Oceans meet at the feet of Mother India. What a unique country of so much diversity of religion, language, custom, food, dress and ideologies! But, we have coped with this diversity by basing ourselves on our Constitutional and civilizational values. I would submit, Sir, that if properly presented, there is no conflict among these. For example, we talk of secularism and one line of the Vedas:

"एकं सद्भिर्ब्रह्मा बहुधा वदन्ति।"

The truth is one and the wise called it by many names. 'सर्वधर्म समभाव' That is our way of secularism. It is not anti-religious. We can't be anti-religious in this country except perhaps some people, whose ideology may force them to be anti-religious. Otherwise, "ईश्वरः सवगभूतानां हृद्देशेऽर्जुन तिष्ठति।"

The Lord resides in the heart of all beings, not in any particular caste, creed or country. That is what the Geeta tells us.

And on Socialism, again, one line: बहुजन सुखाय बहुजन हिताय च। What better definition can there be! "सर्वेऽपि सुखीनः सन्तु, सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः।

सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु, मा कश्चित् दुःखमाप्नुयात्॥"

Even my good friend, D. Raja, will agree that there is no better definition of Socialism than this. And as far as freedoms are concerned, "आ नोः भराः क्रतवो यन्तु नवश्वतः" Let noble thoughts and ideas come to us. We are not a closed society. We have been on the crossroads of civilization. We have produced great ideas and we have received great ideas. And that is the genius of India. That is what has kept India going.

Sir, I came to Parliament fifty years ago as an idealistic young man of thirty-six. I now bid farewell as an idealistic old man, because I have implicit faith that India will overcome all its challenges as long as we remain faithful to our Constitution and civilizational values.

So, while expressing my deep gratitude for the unfailing courtesy and consideration I have always received from my Parliamentary colleagues and for the kind words said by my colleague, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad and Shri Ravi Shankar Prasadji, from the Secretariat, the staff and the Karmacharis of the Rajya Sabha, I would leave you with two verses from very different sources. The first is from Shakeel Badayuni:

"हर चीज़ नहीं हैं मरकज़ पर, इक जर्ज़ा इधर इक जर्ज़ा उधर।  
नफ़रत से न देखो दुश्मन को, शायद वो मोहब्बत कर बैठे।"

The second is from the Upanishad that has come down from the long and tortuous corridors of time from millennia. And that says let us work together, let us be nourished together, let us achieve together, let there be no hatred between us.

"सहनाववतु, सहनौभुनक्तु, सहवीर्यं करवावहे,  
तेजस्विनावधीतमस्तु, मा विद्विषावहे।"

MR. CHAIRMAN: Though it is the last speech for his term, but it was really a feast, everybody enjoyed it that way. Dr. Karan Singhji is retiring from Rajya Sabha but he is not tiring from public life. He will continue his service.

**श्री जनार्दन द्विवेदी (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली):** धन्यवाद, सभापति जी। आपने जो अंतिम वाक्य कहा, वह बहुत सार्थक है। हम पिछले वर्षों से देख रहे हैं कि आम तौर पर विदाई का दिन कुछ obituary reference जैसा हो जाता है। अच्छा हुआ कि आपने इसे उस से बाहर निकाल दिया।

[श्री जनार्दन द्विवेदी]

महोदय, सब से पहले तो मैं सदन के सभी पक्षों के सदस्यों को धन्यवाद देता हूँ क्योंकि मुझे याद नहीं पड़ता कि कोई भी ऐसा सदस्य हो, जिस से कि मुझे स्नेह और सद्भावना न मिली हो और मैं इस बात से बहुत संतुष्ट हूँ। दूसरी बात, डा. साहब की एक पृष्ठभूमि है और उनके बारे में आपने, गुलाम नबी आज़ाद साहब ने भी कहा और उन्होंने भी कुछ बातें कहीं, लेकिन मेरी पृष्ठभूमि कुछ दूसरी है। इसलिए मेरा दृष्टिकोण भी थोड़ा सा अलग है। हालांकि बात वही है, रास्ता अलग-अलग है।

वर्ष 1960 में इंटरमीडिएट करने के बाद 60-61 शिक्षा सत्र में जब मैंने इलाहाबाद विश्वविद्यालय में प्रवेश लिया, तब से यानी 57 साल से राजनीति में हूँ। उसमें मैंने विचारों से समझौता नहीं किया और जीवन में एक अंतर्विरोध रहा। जब आप संगठन में होते हैं, तो संगठन की मर्यादा का पालन करना होता है, लेकिन मन उस से बड़ी चीज़ है और आज की समस्या शायद यही है। मनुष्य का बाह्य विकास बहुत हो जाता है, लेकिन ज़रा आंतरिक विकास कम होता है और इसलिए बहुत सारी कठिनाइयाँ पैदा होती हैं। मैं उस में थोड़ा पक्षपातपूर्ण हो गया हूँ क्योंकि मैं जिस घर में पैदा हुआ, वह ईंट और पत्थर का न होकर मिट्टी का बना हुआ था। उसे गोबर और मिट्टी से लीपा-पोता जाता था, स्कूल नहीं था। अब आज किसी की चौपाल में स्कूल है और वह मास्टर जी से नाराज हो गया, तो वहां से स्कूल अलग हट गया। साढ़े आठ साल की उम्र में पांचवीं पास करने के बाद कीचड़ और धूल के रास्ते 8 किलोमीटर दूर बस्ता टांगकर पढ़ने जाते थे, तो मुझे लगा कि ये बहुत बड़ी चुनौतियाँ हैं। इनका निदान कैसे होगा? फिर मैं इलाहाबाद विश्वविद्यालय गया और मुझे लगा कि कुछ करना चाहिए।

पहली बार जब विनोबा जी हमारे स्कूल आए थे, मैं प्राइमरी स्कूल में पढ़ता था, तब उनको सुनकर लगा कि विनोबा जी से मन जुड़ना चाहता है। उनके अनुयायियों के साथ 6 महीने कपड़ा बांधकर घूमता रहा लेकिन 6 महीने बाद लगा कि यह रास्ता तो बड़ा लंबा है। इस से सामज और दुनिया नहीं बदलेगी और यह बात आगे जाकर पुष्ट हुई। फिर और ढूंढा तो देखा कि उस समय डा. लोहिया बहुत चर्चित थे। उनके मानने वालों के पास गया तो उन्होंने बड़ा स्वागत-सत्कार किया। फिर बहुत सालों तक उनके आंदोलनों में रहा, डा. लोहिया के संपर्क में रहा। उनके साथ जेल में भी रहा वगैरह-वगैरह। उस दौरान मेरे मन में दूसरी चीज़ें बस गयीं और मैं अपने मन की बात कह रहा हूँ। जो लोग संगठन में काम करते हैं, वे जानते हैं कि मेरे मन में उनके लिए बहुत आदर है, जो साधारण घरों से ऊपर उठकर आते हैं, मेरे मन में उनके लिए बहुत आदर है, जो साधारण कार्यकर्ता रहकर नेता बने हैं। मेरा शुरू से यह विश्वास रहा है कि हमारी सद्भावना बौद्धिक दृष्टि से गरीब के दुख-दर्द से हो सकती है, लेकिन अगर आपने उस दर्द को जिया नहीं है, भोगा नहीं है, तो न आप संपूर्ण नेता बन सकते हैं और न संपूर्ण रूप से बौद्धिक बन सकते हैं।

जहां तक संसद की सदस्यता का प्रश्न है या ऐसे और प्रश्न हैं, जैसे यहां हम बैठे हैं और असल में जिन की वजह से बैठे हैं वे बाहर हैं। इसलिए मैं नहीं मानता कि यहां से जाने के बाद क्षेत्र कम होता है, मुझे लगता है कि क्षेत्र बहुत बड़ा हो जाता है। मेरे सभी साथी जानते हैं कि कम से कम इन 57 वर्षों में मुझे समय की हमेशा कमी महसूस हुई है, कभी यह महसूस नहीं हुआ कि मैं क्या करूँ? मैं यहां से जाता हूँ, तो आपने काम में डूब जाता हूँ। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह एक बहुत बड़ा क्षेत्र है। मैं

तो यह भी चाहता हूँ कि जब लोगों को यह लगे कि हमें रिटायर होना चाहिए, तो दिलों की सीमा छोड़कर अगर कुछ लोग आएँ और समाज व देश की बातें ईमानदारी से कहें, तो देश और समाज का बड़ा भला हो जाएगा।

मैं एक बात और भी कहना चाहता हूँ। यदि मैं यह बात आपकी शैली में कहूँ, तो संसद की बाधाओं पर, मुझे भी थोड़ा कष्ट होता है, लेकिन आपकी शैली में कह रहा हूँ। जब विवेक-तंत्र की जगह स्वर-यंत्र अधिक प्रबल हो जाता है, तो कोई मर्यादा मंत्र काम नहीं आता। मैं इसको विस्तार से आगे नहीं कहना चाहता हूँ। जब भी मैं अपने साथियों से इस तरह की बात कहता हूँ, तो बहुत बार मुझे मेरे हितैषी बरसों से सलाह देते हैं कि आप क्यों बोला करते हैं? उनमें से कुछ साथी यहां भी बैठे हैं। आप क्यों कहते हैं? लेकिन अपनी आदत है कि रहा नहीं जाता और जो भीतर का सत्य है, वह बाहर आ ही जाता है। एक बात और। यह आज की बात नहीं है, क्योंकि यदि आज मैं कुछ पंक्तियां कहूंगा, तो यह लगेगा कि पता नहीं किसी तरफ लक्ष्य है। यदि 08 फरवरी 1996 का दिन जिनको याद होगा, उनको पता होगा कि उस समय क्या परिस्थितियां थीं और किस रूप में यह लिखा गया था। मैंने उस समय एक छोटी सी कविता लिखी थी, उस कविता को सुनाकर अपनी बात समाप्त करूंगा। यह कविता मित्रों को सम्बोधित है।

"मित्र मेरे!

बड़ी बेढब बात मेरी,

भला क्या औकात मेरी?

उपवनों के पारखी तुम,

जंगलों की जाति मेरी!

बन न पाएंगे तुम्हारी कल्पनाओं

के मुताबिक चित्र मेरे!

मित्र मेरे!

धैर्य धरती, मन पवन है,

अग्नि सा अंतर्दहन है,

सिन्धु जैसा है हृदय-तल,

दृष्टिपथ अपना गगन है।

क्या करूँ मैं, यदि हमेशा ही रहे हैं,

स्वप्न बहुत विचित्र मेरे!

मित्र मेरे!

कुछ लुटेरे, कुछ भिखारी,

मिट रही है ऊर्ध्वगामी वृत्ति की पहचान न्यारी।

प्रश्न उठता हर दिशा में, किस लिए संकल्प ढोएं?

[श्री जनार्दन द्विवेदी]

सब विकल्पों के पुजारी!  
इसलिए यह जानने से,  
अब न कोई फ़र्क पड़ता,  
कौन मित्र, अमित्र मेरे!  
मित्र मेरे!"  
धन्यवाद, सभापति जी।

**श्री सभापति:** मित्रो, आज हम लोग अपने तीन वरिष्ठ साथियों को इस सदन से विदाई दे रहे हैं। मुझे एक विषय का स्मरण हो रहा है कि मुझे अध्यक्ष बने 6 महीने हो गए हैं। इसी बीच कभी भी किसी विषय के बारे में इन दोनों महानुभावनां को बैठिए, सुनिए आदि कहने का कभी मौका नहीं मिला। You understand the message. मैं पहले राजनीति में था, तो हमें आडवाणी जी हमेशा बताते थे कि ideology is important, but ideal behaviour is more important. तो इन दोनों को देखकर ideal behaviour का कितना प्रभाव होता है, हम लोग समझ सकते हैं, बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। इन दोनों को और परवेज़ हाशमी जी अनुपस्थित हैं, उनको भी हमारी ओर से तथा सदन की ओर से शुभकामनाएं हैं। मित्रों, ज़ीरो ऑवर, श्री राम कुमार कश्यप।

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, I am on a point of order.

**श्री सभापति:** आपका नाम राम कुमार कश्यप नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I have a small clarification to seek.

**श्री सभापति:** प्लीज़, श्री तिरुची शिवा जी, मैंने उन्हें बुलाया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... प्लीज़ तिरुची शिवा जी, एक-दो जीरो ऑवर मेंशन होने दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Allow me to take up one or two Zero Hour submissions.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I have only a small clarification to seek.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will permit you.

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#### MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

##### **Need to make toll plazas on National Highways free due to problems being faced by travellers during fog**

**श्री राम कुमार कश्यप** (हरियाणा): सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार व सदन का ध्यान कोहरे के कारण यात्रियों/वाहन चालकों को होने वाली परेशानियों की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। कई दिनों से सारा हरियाणा कोहरे की चपेट में है। इसके कारण राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों व अन्य सड़कों पर यात्रा करना जोखिम भरा हो गया है, परंतु लोग अपने कामों के लिए यात्रा करने के लिए मजबूर हैं।



सड़कों पर वाहन धीमी गति से चल रहे हैं। कोहरे के कारण सड़क नज़र न आने के कारण एक्सिडेंट्स हो रहे हैं, जिनमें काफी नागरिकों की जानें भी जा रही हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री सभापति:** शांति रखिए प्लीज़ ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री राम कुमार कश्यप:** कोहरे के कारण राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों पर स्थित टोल नाकों पर तो स्थिति और भी भयानक हो गई है।

सभापति जी, मैं हरियाणा से संबंध रखता हूँ और कुरुक्षेत्र से दिल्ली अपनी गाड़ी से आता हूँ। इस बीच में तीन टोल नाके घाँसी, करनाल व मुरथल पड़ते हैं। कोहरे के कारण यहाँ पर जाम पर जाम लगे हुए हैं, जिनके कारण न केवल हमारा बहुमूल्य डीज़ल व पेट्रोल जल रहा है, बल्कि इससे हमारा पर्यावरण भी दूषित हो रहा है।

महोदय, देश का कोई भी कानून पैसे के लिए पर्यावरण को दूषित होने की व मौलिक अधिकारों के हनन की इजाजत नहीं देता है, इसलिए मेरा सरकार से निवेदन है कि जब तक कोहरा है और जहाँ भी कोहरा है, तब तक वहाँ पर इन टोल नाकों को निःशुल्क कर दिया जाए, ताकि वहाँ वाहन चालक व यात्री सुगमता से आवागमन कर सकें और पर्यावरण को दूषित होने से बचाया जा सके, जय हिंद।

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**REGARDING PRIVILEGE NOTICE GIVEN BY A MEMBER  
UNDER RULE 187**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Siva, what is your clarification?

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, my Private Member Resolution secured second place in the draw of lots and it was listed in the last List of Business (Resolutions) on 22nd December, 2017. But, today, it has not found place. So, I would like to know whether it would be carried forward to the next session.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Last time when I allowed it, I said that this is only an exception and we cannot continue this system. I will say something afterwards. Kindly bear with me.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: My Resolution secured second position in this Session. But, it is not listed today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have taken note of.

**श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव (राजस्थान):** सभापति जी, मेरा एक इश्यू है। मैंने रूल 187 में प्रिविलेज का एक नोटिस दिया था। मैं यहाँ यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि सदन में जो विषय रखा गया था, जिस पर हमारे बहुत संजीदा नेता प्रतिपक्ष और हमारे सदन के नेता, दोनों के माध्यम से, उनकी सहमति के आधार पर

इस सदन में बयान दिए गए थे। ये बयान सदन की आपसी सहमति के आधार पर, पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री जी और सदन के पूर्व चेयरमैन की जो गरिमा है, उसके आधार पर दिए गए थे। इस प्रकार के लिए दिए गए बयान को सदन के बाहर असत्य कहना और इस प्रकार के बयान पर सदन के ऊपर प्रश्न उठाना ...**(व्यवधान)**... ये नेता ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Sir, are we discussing the motion? ...**(Interruptions)**... It is Zero Hour time. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is it that you are asking? ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव: सभापति जी, मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर यह है ...**(व्यवधान)**... पूर्व में सदन के ...**(व्यवधान)**... इस प्रकार के तीन इंसिडेंट्स रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing to discuss the motion. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: He cannot speak like this. ...**(Interruptions)**... Are we discussing this? ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव: 1954 में एन.सी. चटर्जी का, श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी का और श्री रामेश्वर ठाकुर का। ...**(व्यवधान)**... जब दूसरे सदन के सदस्य थे तो ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, मेरा प्रिविलेज है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आज यह सदन समाप्त होने वाला है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, मेरा जो प्रिविलेज नोटिस है ...**(व्यवधान)**... उसके बारे में है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have received his motion. ...**(Interruptions)**... प्लीज बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव: सर, दस दिन से चल रहा है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मेरे प्रिविलेज नोटिस का ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप लेने ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: प्लीज बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव: सभापति जी, मैं ...**(व्यवधान)**... This is my right. ...**(Interruptions)**... यह मेरा राइट है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैंने प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर उठाया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मुझे रूलिंग चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have received his notice. ...**(Interruptions)**... He has only mentioned about his motion. ...**(Interruptions)**... प्लीज, आप बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव: सभापति जी, मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं तीन बार उठा चुका हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री मधुसूदन मिस्त्री (गुजरात): सर ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not like that. प्लीज बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव:** आपके नेता के ऊपर कहा है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... गुलाम नबी आज़ाद जी पर कहा है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has given a privilege notice and he has every right to ask me what has happened to that. ...**(Interruptions)**... I am not going into merits. ...**(Interruptions)**... I am not going into the merits. ...**(Interruptions)**... Mr. Yadav, please, sit down. Your notice is under my consideration. I have already told you. I will be taking action immediately. But, it is not within the purview of the Rajya Sabha alone and finally it has to go to the Lok Sabha. I will take necessary decision at the earliest. प्लीज, आप बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव:** सभापति जी, क्या आप वहाँ लोक सभा भेजेंगे? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री सभापति:** आप बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सुझाव है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... जीरो ऑवर, श्री संजीव कुमार।

**श्री मधुसूदन मिश्री:** सभापति जी ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री सभापति:** मधुसूदन जी ...**(व्यवधान)**... अभी-अभी जन्म हुआ है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह हो जाने दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उनका जन्म दिन भी है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

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## MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION — *Continued*

### Concern over killing of innocent people

**श्री संजीव कुमार (झारखंड):** सभापति महोदय, थाना सतनरवा, जिला पलामू, झारखंड में दिनांक 8 जून, 2015 को झारखंड पुलिस ने दावा किया कि उसने उस रात 12 खूंखार आतंकवादियों को मुठभेड़ में मार गिराया। उस दिन जब सीनियर पुलिस अधिकारी घटना-स्थल पर बड़े-बड़े दावे कर रहे थे, तो मीडिया एवं अन्य लोगों ने पाया कि सभी लार्शें एक पंक्ति में रखी हुई थीं, उनके पास जो रायफलें पड़ी थीं, वे ज्यादातर जंग लगी हुई थीं एवं उपयोग के काबिल नहीं थीं, मृतकों की वर्दियों में भी गोली का कोई निशान नहीं था एवं कहीं कोई खून का निशान नहीं था। उसी दिन वहीं यह बात जाहिर हो गई थी कि उस रात वहाँ कोई मुठभेड़ नहीं हुई थी एवं सभी को कहीं ओर से मार कर बकोरिया गांव, जो काफी वीरान जगह है, लाकर मुठभेड़ का नाटक किया गया था।

महोदय, चौबीस घंटे के अंदर साफ हो गया था कि बारह में से ग्यारह आम गरीब नागरिक थे, जिनमें कुछ नाबालिग थे। पुलिस ने नक्सल उन्मूलन के नाम पर बकोरिया में मुठभेड़ होने का असत्य नाटक किया था। उस घटना ने इतना तूल पकड़ा कि 16/06/2015 को मानवाधिकार आयोग ने स्वतः

[श्री संजीव कुमार]

संज्ञान लिया एवं डीजीपी, झारखंड को एक महीने के अंदर रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने का आदेश दिया, जो कि सरकार ने कभी नहीं किया। जांच के दौरान उस समय पलामू जिले के सदर थाने के तत्कालीन सदर थाना प्रभारी \* ने अपने 4/12/2017 के लिखित बयान में फर्जी मुठभेड़ में निर्दोष व्यक्तियों की हत्या का विवरण पुलिस अधीक्षक, अनुसंधान विभाग, झारखंड को भेजा, जिसे पढ़ कर किसी की भी रूह कांप उठेगी। उनको निलंबित किया जा चुका है। \* एडीजीपी, झारखंड ने उस जांच में कुछ तत्परता दिखाई, तो उसे तीन महीने में ट्रांसफर कर दिया गया।

**श्री सभापति:** नहीं, नाम मत लीजिए, प्लीज़। अधिकारियों के नाम मत लीजिए, वे लोग यहां नहीं हैं। वे नाम नहीं जाएंगे।

**श्री संजीव कुमार:** जी, एडीजीपी, झारखंड। महोदय, मैं इस सदन के संज्ञान में यह बात ला चुका हूँ कि झारखंड में भोले-भाले आदिवासियों एवं गरीबों को बहला कर नक्सल बना कर आत्म-समर्पण का धिनौना अपराध पुलिस कर रही थी, जिसे राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने सही पाया एवं अपनी 8 सितंबर, 2016 की रिपोर्ट में पुलिस को फटकार लगाई। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग बकोरिया फर्जी मुठभेड़ कांड की जांच में गड़बड़ी का आरोप लगा चुका है।

महोदय, बकोरिया मुठभेड़ कांड मानवता को शर्मसार करने वाली घटना है और जो भी लोग इस हत्याकांड में सम्मिलित हैं, उसे एक भी दिन बाहर नहीं रहना चाहिए। यह न्याय के साथ धोखा है। अतः, मैं आपके माध्यम से मांग करता हूँ कि इसमें सीबीआई जांच हो और जो अपराधी है, उनको सजा भी मिलनी चाहिए, बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

**श्री राम कुमार कश्यप** (हरियाणा): महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

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

**श्री महेन्द्र सिंह माहरा** (उत्तराखंड): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member, Shri Sanjiv Kumar, has said.

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member, Shri Sanjiv Kumar, has said.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member, Shri Sanjiv Kumar, has said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Pradeep Kumar Balmuchu to associate. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**डा. प्रदीप कुमार बालामुचू** (झारखंड): महोदय, मेरा नाम है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have only one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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\*Not recorded.

**डा. प्रदीप कुमार बालमुचू:** सर, दो मिनट लूंगा। झारखंड में दो चीजें हो रही हैं - फेक सरेंडर और फेक एन्काउंटर। विशेषकर के जो आदिवासी लोग हैं, उनका एक तरह से एक योजना के तहत फेक एन्काउंटर किया जा रहा है और साथ ही ऐसे लोगों को पैसे का लुभावन देकर, लाख रुपए या दो लाख रुपए सरेण्डर करने से मिलते हैं, वैसा लालच देकर उनको सरेण्डर कराया जा रहा है। वे उग्रवादी नहीं हैं, लेकिन सरेण्डर कराया जा रहा है। ये सिर्फ यहां पर दो घटनाएं हैं। एक दो घटना नया बाजार थाने की है, केस नंबर 406, 420, 120-बी/28/3/2014 की और एक घटना 9/6/2015 की है। सर, सिर्फ आपसे हम यह निवेदन करना चाहते हैं, मैं संजीव कुमार जी से संबद्ध करना चाहता हूं और ये जो दोनों घटनाएं हैं, इनकी सरकार सीबीआई जांच कराए।

**श्री सभापति:** धन्यवाद।

**डा. प्रदीप कुमार बालमुचू:** सर, पता नहीं, सीबीआई वाले ज्यादा वर्क-लोड से जांच न कर सके, लेकिन मैं आपके माध्यम से मांग करता हूं कि इन दोनों की सीबीआई जांच करा ली जाए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... पांच सौ से ज्यादा लड़के, बच्चे इसमें फंसे हुए हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why I have allowed him. Otherwise, second person is never allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*... But, I allowed him. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Mohd. Ali Khan ...*(Interruptions)*... He has associated himself. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Mohd. Ali Khan. ...*(Interruptions)*...

#### **Need to improve the public health and streamline the clinic establishments**

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, health is the fundamental right of the people and it is the responsibility of the Government to make the health care affordable to each citizen of the country. But, over the period of time, the Government has started allowing private clinical establishments into health care sector with a holistic View to make it accessible to all, but failed to make stringent and perfect laws to streamline them.

So, for these private clinical establishments, the health sector has become an investment destination and grand business opportunity as every human being wants to live at any cost.

**श्री सभापति:** खान साहब, Zero Hour का समय समाप्त हो गया, हमें Question Hour लेना है। मुझे बहुत लोगों से request आई है that these Zero Hours and Special Mentions can be placed on the Table so that they get replied. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am agreeing to it as one time exception. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: \*

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\*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Special Mentions may be taken as if they have been placed on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... There are a lot of Special Mentions. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please Khanji, it is not going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Q. No. 196. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: \*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 196. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please.

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**\*\*SPECIAL MENTIONS**

**Demand to withdraw the new formula proposed by UGC regarding reservation for teaching posts in universities**

SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY (Karnataka): The Constitution guarantees reservation for the SCs, the STs and the OBCs in education and employment. The UGC or any other institution/organisation would never tamper or tweak with it.

If the new formula for teaching posts in universities prepared and sent to the HRD Ministry by the UGC for approval and implementation is accepted, it will defeat the very objective of reservation.

According to the latest UGC formula, number of reserved faculty posts shall be calculated department-wise and not based on the aggregate posts in university. Now, there are 17,106 teaching positions in 41 Central Universities, of which 6,000 are vacant. If new reservation formula is adopted, it will impact all new recruitment drives and number of posts reserved for the SC/ST/OBC will come down, since 'department' is proposed to be taken as the unit and not 'university'. If new formula is accepted, reservation would be applied by treating 'each department' in university as the unit. It means, the posts of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor in a department are determined separately for each department. For example, if you take the post of Professor, there are fewer Professors in a department compared to the posts of Assistant Professor or Associate Professor. If there is only one post of Professor, there can be no reservation as reservation cannot be applied in case of a single / post. But if all the posts of Professor in a university are clubbed, then there is better chance of reserving the posts for SCs/STs/OBCs.

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\*Not recorded.

\*\*Laid on the Table of the House.

Hence, I demand the Government of India to reconsider new reservation formula of the UGC and maintain *status quo*.

**Demand to drop the move to privatise the Salem Steel Plant in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, it has been reported that privatisation of Salem Steel Plant (SSP) in Tamil Nadu is in full swing despite repeated pleas from the people and the Government of Tamil Nadu to drop that move. It is said that privatisation of SSP through global tender is underway. Salem Steel Plant, over the years, has acquired global reputation for its high quality steel and is an iconic symbol for the State and the people of Tamil Nadu. We have a deep sense of pride and attachment to this public sector plant. The Government of Tamil Nadu had acquired about 15.5 square kilometres of land in nine villages four decades ago in the foothills of Kanjamalai, Salem District. It was possible to undertake such extensive land acquisition mainly because of the public sector character of the plant and perhaps, to secure benefits that would accrue to the people of the State and the country as a whole. Reports indicate that the financial condition of the plant has improved in the financial year 2016-17 in comparison to the financial year 2015-16.

Further, the State Government has supported the expansion project costing Rs.2,005 crore of the SSP with a structured package of incentives in the form of soft loan, capital subsidy, electricity tax exemption and environmental protection subsidy.

In view of these facts, I appeal to the Government not to go ahead with privatisation of Salem Steel Plant and to provide a chance for it to transform once again into a profit-making PSU.

**Demand to constitute an All-party Committee for early creation of the State of Gorkhaland**

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, गोरखालैंड राज्य की स्थापना को लेकर कई बार वायदे किए गए थे, परन्तु सत्ता में आने के बाद सरकारों ने उसे भुला दिया। गोरखालैंड को लेकर कई संगठनों ने मिलकर गोरखालैंड संयुक्त संघर्ष समिति का गठन किया है और सरकार की ओर एक उम्मीद की नज़र से देख रहे हैं।

गोरखालैंड की मांग सिर्फ अलग राज्य की मांग नहीं है, बल्कि वहां रहने वाले लोगों की अस्मिता का सवाल है। भाषा, संस्कृति और रीति-रिवाजों में भिन्न होने के बावजूद उन्हें शक की नज़र से देखा जाता है। उन्हें पड़ोसी देश नेपाल का नागरिक होने का संदेह दिया जाता है।

[श्री नरेश अग्रवाल]

वर्ष 1947 में जब देश आज़ाद हुआ, तो भारत में कुल 17 राज्य थे। आज 29 राज्य और 7 केन्द्र शासित प्रदेश हैं। पहले भाषाई आधार पर राज्यों के गठन हुए। बाद में क्षेत्रीय अस्मिता व विकास को ध्यान में रखकर न प्रदेशों का गठन किया गया। यह समझ से परे है कि जो आंदोलन 100 साल से भी पुराना है। उसकी तरफ सरकारों का ध्यान क्यों नहीं गया?

मैं अपनी तरफ से गोरखालैंड क्षेत्र में रहने वाले लोगों की भावनाओं का सम्मान करते हुए सरकार से इस संबंध में एक सर्वदलीय कमेटी बनाने और अतिशीघ्र 30वें राज्य के गठन हेतु पहल करने की मांग करता हूँ।

**Demand to make public studies conducted on land subsidence in  
Krishna-Godavari Basin**

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Several surveys by experts have revealed that there has been land subsidence in the Krishna-Godavari Basin (K.G. Basin) ranging from 1.5ft to 5.4ft over a 30-year period. This land subsidence has led to the ingress of seawater, and thereby resulted in a massive increase in soil salinity. This has severely impacted the farms in the area. The increased soil erosion has also damaged structures. Independent studies have blamed the land-sinking on the oil and natural gas extraction activities in the K.G. Basin.

As per Unstarred Question No. 2055, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change had constituted a special committee to examine these allegations. Additionally, O.N.G.C. also carried out a geo-technical study through the Delta Studies Institute. Both of these concluded that the oil and natural gas extraction activities were not to blame for the land subsidence. However, a portion of these interim reports, submitted to the court, admits that "Among three zones it was noticed that one particular zone indicates pronounced changes." Also that, "some areas are close to the oil field areas where drilling must have been carried out"

Therefore, there is *prima facie* evidence that the natural gas and oil extraction activities are contributing to the land subsidence. I urge the Government to make the studies public so that they are open to scrutiny by researchers and, subsequently, constitute an independent task force to re-examine the effect of the extraction activities in the area. If the current situation continues, about 35 lakh hectares of fertile paddy fields in East and West Godavari, Krishna and Guntur districts are in extreme danger.

**Demand to include the language 'Ho' spoken in Jharkhand, in the Eighth Schedule  
to the Constitution**

DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU (Jharkhand): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the matter of Ho language, which is widely spoken



in Kholan district of Jharkhand. This language also has a script called Warang script. The largest concentration of Ho speakers are in West Singhbhum and East Singhbhum districts of southern Jharkhand and in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Jaipur, Sundergarh, Balasore, Dhenkanal, Sambalpur, Cuttack, Angul, Bhadrak districts of Odisha. As well, U.N.E.S.C.O. has declared Ho language as one of the endangered languages of the world. If it is included in the Eighth Schedule, it would be a mother tongue subject for school-going children. Keeping in view of its importance, I sincerely urge upon the Government of India, through the Winter Session, for inclusion of Ho language in Eighth Schedule.

**Demand to release funds for flood relief under the Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund to the State of West Bengal affected by the recent floods**

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (West Bengal): I would like to bring to the notice of this House, the recent floods and their impact across 11 districts of West Bengal. Because 'of the floods', around 1.5 crore people were affected and 152 were killed. The State Government of West Bengal has sent a report to the Centre estimating the total damages from floods at Rs. 14, 000 crore. As the Government has announced special packages to the flood affected regions in other States like Bihar, I urge the Centre for equal treatment of all States in terms of relief distribution. The above estimate of total damages from floods is a conservative estimate and the actual loss is projected to be much more. This is because, under the present rules of calculating flood related damages, the destruction to property and people displaced because of the river changing its course during the flooding, is not considered. They are not liable to any relief or compensation under the present rules. I urge the Government to include them in the list of relief beneficiaries and provide compensation to the property and crop related damages. Delay in the dredging and de-silting works at the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) reduced its storage capacity, necessitating release of water. To reduce the suffering of the people affected by this disaster, I request you to release the flood relief to the State of West Bengal under the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund and undertake dredging near dams.

**Demand to consider geological factors before starting construction on the Pancheshwar dam in Uttarakhand**

श्री महेन्द्र सिंह माहरा (उत्तराखंड): महोदय, भारत नेपाल के सहयोग से पंचेश्वर (चम्पावत, उत्तराखंड) में बाँध बनाने को अग्रसर है, लेकिन सरकार का निम्न पहलुओं पर विचार आवश्यक है, क्योंकि यह क्षेत्र भूगर्भीय सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार अति सवेदनशील क्षेत्र है और भूकम्पीय जोन 4 में है। 1992 से यहाँ 5 मैग्नीट्यूड के बारह भूकम्प आए हैं। यह टिहरी बांध से अधिक खतरे में है, साथ ही सीमा के कारण राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा की विवेचना आवश्यक है।

[श्री महेन्द्र सिंह माहरा]

विश्व बाँध आयोग की स्ट्रेटेजिक प्राइोरिटी इसमें शामिल नहीं है। केवल तकनीकी पक्ष के आधार पर प्रोजेक्ट बनाया गया है, परन्तु इसके दूरगामी प्रभाव सम्मिलित नहीं हैं। बाँधों के सन्दर्भ में भू-वैज्ञानिकों के साथ-साथ अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रोटोकॉल सम्मेलन के मशविरे की भी अनदेखी हुई है।

वर्ष 1960 में पिथौरागढ़ जिले का सृजन नेपाल व तिब्बत (चीन) से सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से किया गया था। 1962 में चीनी आक्रमण के बाद सरकार ने लोगों की भूमि व मकानों का अधिग्रहण कर सेना का डिवीजनल हेडक्वार्टर स्थापित किया और आज 150 किलोमीटर दूर रेलहेड से जनता व सेना का आवागमन मोटर मार्गों से है, जिसकी connectivity बाँध बनने के बाद टूट जायेगी।

काली नदी का उद्गम कालापानी से लगे स्थान की सीमा के पास चीन, तिब्बत में है, जो मारक क्षमता में है। नेपाल पर चीन के बढ़ते प्रभाव को नजरअंराज न करें। चीन ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी पर बाँध बना रहा है, जिसका दुष्प्रभाव सामने है। इससे पर्यावरण पर बुरा प्रभाव पड़ेगा। नेपाल की Environmental Impact Report का अध्ययन आवश्यक होगा।

सरकार उपरोक्त परिस्थितियों को ध्यान में रखते हुए वहाँ पंचेश्वर बाँध का विकल्प खोजे, जो देश हित में होगा।

**Demand to give data on religion-wise number of cases of divorce lodged in different family courts in the country**

**चौधरी मुनव्वर सलीम** (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, आज जब देश में तीन तलाक़ को लेकर धर्म के आधार पर एक सख्त कानून बनने जा रहा है, तब इस सदन को यह बताना लाज़मी हो जाता है कि एक ऐसा मज़हब जिसने महिला के सम्मान के रूप में दुनिया में सबसे पहले बाप की जायदाद का बेटी को हकदार बनाया, जिस धर्म की मान्यता यह है कि जब अल्लाह-ताला खुश होता है, तो आसमान से बारिश और घर में बेटी देता है।

लेकिन आंकड़ों के आईने में मैं कुछ जानकारी इस सदन को देते हुए भारत सरकार से कुछ जानकारी चाहता हूँ। एक आर.टी.आई. एक्टिविस्ट ने देश के अलग-अलग राज्यों के 8 मुस्लिम जिलों की फैमिली कोर्ट्स से तलाक़ संबंधी मामलों की जानकारी जब इकट्ठा की, तो आधिकारिक रूप से केरल के जिला कैमूर, मल्लपुरम, एर्नाकुलम और पलक्कड़, महाराष्ट्र राज्य के जिला नासिक, तेलंगाना के जिला करीमनगर, आन्ध्र प्रदेश के गुंटूर और सिकंदराबाद की 16 फैमिली कोर्ट्स ने जो आंकड़े दिए, वे इस प्रकार हैं - मुसलमानों में तलाक़ संबंधी प्रकरण 1,307, हिन्दुओं में 16,505 तथा ईसाइयों में 4,827 पाए गए हैं।

मान्यवर, मैं पूरे देश की फैमिली कोर्ट्स से इसी तरह की तलाक़ संबंधी जानकारी चाहता हूँ, जिससे सिर्फ मुस्लिम महिलाओं को नहीं, अगर सरकार की मंशा इंसॉफ देने की है, तो सभी धर्म के लोगों को तलाक़ संबंधी क्रिमिनल क़ानून के तहत शामिल कर इंसॉफ दिलाया जाए।

1] چوہری منور سلیم (اترپردیش) : مہودے، آج جب دیش میں تین طلاق کو لیکر

دھرم کے آدھار پر ایک سخت قانون بننے جارہا ہے، تب اس سدن کو یہ بتانا لازمی ہو جاتا ہے کہ ایک مذہب جس نے مہیلا کے سمان کے روپ میں دنیا میں سب سے پہلے باپ کی جائیداد کا بیٹی کو خقدار بنایا، جس دھرم کی مانیتا یہ ہے کہ جب اللہ تعالیٰ خوش ہوتا ہے، تو آسمان سے بارش اور گھر میں بیٹی دیتا ہے۔

لیکن آنکڑوں کے آنینے میں، میں کچھ جانکاری اس سدن کو دیتے ہوئے بھارت سرکار سے کچھ جانکاری چاہتا ہوں۔ ایک آر ٹی آئی ایکٹیویسٹ نے دیش کے الگ الگ راجیوں کے آٹھ مسلم ضلعوں کی فیملی کورٹس سے طلاق سمبندھی معاملوں کی جانکاری جب اکٹھا کی، تو ادھیکارک روپ سے کیرل کے ضلع کیمور، ملپورم، اینارکلم اور پلگڑ، مہاراشٹر راجیہ کے ضلع کیمو ناسک، تلنگانہ کے ضلع کریم نگر، آندھراپردیش کے گنتور اور سکندرآباد کی 16 فیملی کورٹس نے جو آنکڑے دیئے، وہ اس پرکار ہیں۔ مسلمانوں میں طلاق سمبندھی پرکرن 1,307، ہندوؤں میں 16,505 نتھا عیسائیوں میں 4,827 پائے گئے ہیں۔

مانیور، میں پورے دیش کی فیملی کورٹس سے اسی طرح کی طلاق سمبندھی جانکاری چاہتا ہوں، جس سے صرف مسلم مہیلاؤں کو نہیں، اگر سرکار کی منشا انصاف دینے کی ہے، تو سبھی دھرم کے لوگوں کو طلاق سمبندھی کریمنل قانون کے تحت شامل کر انصاف دلایا جائے۔

#### **Demand to address the adverse effects of GST on the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country**

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, with over six months into the regime of the Goods and Services Tax in the country, the handicraft sector comprising primarily of the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises in the country, are yet to see or experience ease, as the sector continues to struggle. A large number of these enterprises were previously exempted from paying taxes and have now been placed in the various

\*Transliteration in Urdu script.

[Shri Md. Nadimul Haque]

tax slabs. Though there has been a recent revision of taxes in the sector to relieve a part of this pressure, the adversity of this tax and its speedy unplanned roll out has been most-felt by MSMEs.

Enterprises in the textile industry, leather industry, diary, handicrafts have been hit across States of the country. Another issue encountered is the unpreparedness of the Government in the roll out and the setting up of the digital portal for filing. A vast number of these businesses are not technology adept, and no time was given for adaptation.

In the context of this arbitrary setting up of the GST, and the fixing of its rates without consulting stakeholders, it becomes important to address both the haste as well as the inefficiency in the implementation of GST.

**Demand to introduce flights for Delhi, Kullu and Srinagar from Pathankot Airport in Punjab to develop the region as an economic and tourist hub**

SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA (Punjab): Sir, Pathankot is the y gateway to Jammu and Kashmir, lower Himachal Pradesh and for those people visiting Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and His Holiness, the Dalai Lama in Dharamshala. From tourism point of view, those visiting Kangra, Chamba and Palampur hill stations also go *via* Pathankot. Thus, Pathankot serves as an important focal point from both economic and tourism perspective.

The Pathankot Airport was constructed in 2006 at Rs.40 crore. However, the airport does not serve any flights now and the entire infrastructure is lying waste. It is a sheer waste of taxpayers' money. A lot of expenditure has already been incurred on the staff and maintenance of runways.

I would like to raise this matter before the august House to request the Government to introduce flights to destinations like Delhi, Kullu, Srinagar from Pathankot Airport so that the region may develop as an economic and tourism hub and the people of Punjab can get access to hassle-free and convenient travel opportunities. I would like to request the Government to intervene in this matter and bring Pathankot under UDAN Scheme of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

**Demand to offer one more pension option and updation/revision of pension to employees working in General Insurance Industry, LIC and RBI**

SHRI ANIL DESAI (Maharashtra): It has been a long pending legitimate demand of General Insurance industry, LIC and RBI employees with the Finance Ministry for granting

them one more option for pension. Several meetings with the Secretary of Department of Financial Services at the instance of Finance Minister have taken place to pursue the demand for one more option for pension, but nothing fruitful has emerged till date. In fact, nationalized banks and insurance industry both were offered first pension option in the late 90s, a sizeable number of employees remained without pension before they could decide on the pension option. After great persuasion by employees, Government offered one more pension option only to the bank employees in the year 2010. Since then, insurance and RBI employees have been pursuing the demand for one more option for pension, which the Government should accede to as these insurance companies and RBI as well, are capable to take care of enhanced expenditure on this count as it is well within their financial capacity. Hence, no liability on the Government and no extra burden on central exchequer. Also RBI employees who opted for the pension as per RBI Pension Regulation 1990 have been deprived of updation in pension for last 15 years covering three wage settlements in RBI. Thus, RBI pensioners are also in pathetic condition. Therefore, I would urge the hon. Finance Minister to intervene in this burning issue and offer one more pension option and updation/revision of pension to RBI and insurance industry employees.

**Demand to give wages as ascertained under labour laws and other social security benefits to people employed on ad-hoc and contract basis in organized and unorganized sector of the country.**

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद** (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, देश में संविदा, कॉन्ट्रैक्ट, असंगठित क्षेत्र से लेकर फाइव-स्टार होटलों एवं फैक्ट्रियों में भारत सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित न्यूनतम मजदूरी कामगारों को नहीं मिल रही है। सामाजिक सुरक्षा योजनाओं का लाभ भी कामगारों को नहीं मिल रहा है। दुर्घटना होने पर फैक्ट्री कामगारों की सुध लेने वाला कोई नहीं होता। उन्हें अपने हाल पर छोड़ दिया जाता है। ठेकेदारों द्वारा श्रमिकों से बंधुआ मजदूरों जैसा काम लिया जाता है। श्रम कानूनों का लगातार उल्लंघन हो रहा है। जिन विभागों पर श्रम कानूनों के पालन का दायित्व है, वे सांठ-गांठ करके श्रमिकों के हितों की उपेक्षा करते रहे हैं।

दिल्ली, गुजरात के वापी, अहमदाबाद, सूरत, अंकलेश्वर तथा महाराष्ट्र, कर्णाटक के कई औद्योगिक शहरों में श्रमिकों से 8 घंटे के स्थान पर 12 से 16 घंटे काम लिया जाता है, पर इसकी एवज में उन्हें 8 घंटे की दर से भुगतान किया जाता है। महिलाओं से भी 10 से 12 घंटे काम लिया जाता है। उनके शिशुओं की देखभाल हेतु एवं चिकित्सा के लिए कोई व्यवस्था नहीं रहती।

सदन के माध्यम से मेरी मांग है कि श्रम कानूनों के तहत न्यूनतम निर्धारित मजदूरी दिलाई जाए, 8 घंटे से अधिक काम नहीं लिया जाना सुनिश्चित किया जाए और यदि 8 घंटे से अधिक कामगारों से काम लिया जाए तो उसकी दर दुगनी की जाए। सामाजिक सुरक्षा योजनाओं का लाभ दिया जाए और

[श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद ]

कामगारों को दुर्घटना बीमा कवर दिलाया जाए। उनके बच्चों के अध्ययन हेतु सुविधाएं दी जानी चाहिए। कामगार महिलाओं के बच्चों की देखरेख हेतु क्रेच जैसी व्यवस्थाएं सुनिश्चित की जाएं, धन्यवाद।

**Demand to expedite the verification of the remaining applicants for early updation and publication of the National Register for Citizens in Assam**

SHRI RIPUN BORA (Assam): Sir, in pursuance of Assam Accord signed at the initiative of late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, it was decided to update the NRC in Assam in a tripartite talk held on May 5th, 2005 between the then Prime Minister, Chief Minister of Assam and representatives of All Assam Students Union. Accordingly, process started under monitoring of Supreme Court and 3.29 crore persons filed applications to enter names in NRC. After verification, in the midnight of December 31st 2017, a part of the draft NRC was published with the names of 1.90 crore people only. My demand before the Home Ministry is that the verification of the remaining 1.39 crore applicants may be completed soon and to publish second part of the draft NRC. The printing mistakes of lakhs of names, addresses may be corrected soon. In the first part of the draft, names of family members of thousands and thousands appeared partly. These are to be corrected soon by entering all the names of such families. It is to be ensured that not a single name of any Indian citizen shall be left out. After completing all these processes, full draft to be published soon and thereafter, the final NRC to be published.

**Demand to create an institution named 'Sanskriti Sansad' to address the issues pertaining to arts and culture**

SHRI LA. GANESAN (Madhya Pradesh): Culture determines the values of individual, society and country. India is a blessed nation as it has a rich and vibrant cultural legacy, in spite of its diversity. But, unfortunately, this oneness is vitiated by certain elements for personal gains, including political gains. It is unfortunate that such forces have infiltrated into the cultural field also.

The hon. Prime Minister repeatedly insists to underscore the commonness among various languages and arts. Arts are the visible face of culture. The Government is already supporting: (a) Lalit Kala Academy for visual arts; (b) Sahitya Academy for Verbal Arts and Literature; and (c) Sangeet Natak Academy for Performing Arts. Though all three arts are interconnected and has a complimentary relationship, yet these academies hardly work in tandem. To address this lacuna, I suggest that a new body, which can be called Sanskriti Sansad, implying it as a body of culture, be created. This new body can work

with more dynamism as existing bodies are loaded with internal politics, ideological and personality conflict.

Instead of dismantling existing bodies, to begin with, a new body may be created. Later on, all cultural bodies may be brought under this umbrella.

This new body shall promote all arts through: Events on integration of arts; inter-disciplinary dialogues,- inter-State exchange; residential programmes; and, fellowship and archiving documentation.

Directions to achieve the objective and the affairs may be handled by a Central Council, with representation for all arts and all States. If necessary, Regional Advisory Committees may be constituted.

**Demand to give directions to BPCL to comply with prevailing norms for transfer of LPG customers to the newly appointed dealers**

SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ (Tamil Nadu): In 2013, Oil Marketing Companies, according to the marketing plan, appointed new distributors in Tamil Nadu under various quotas. The IOCL and the HPCL are complying with the prevailing norms for transfer of LPG customers from existing distributors to newly-appointed distributors in the market. But, it is not the case with the BPCL.

Under Coimbatore territory, 15 new distributors have been appointed during 2016-17, but they are having customers in two to three digits. As per guidelines, newly-appointed distributors would be given such number of customers as to reach 50 per cent of the refill ceiling limit in the market, that is, 4,400 refills per month within a year of appointment.

The stipulated norms have not been followed as far as the newly-appointed distributors are concerned in Coimbatore territory region. Due to this discrimination on the part of the BPCL, some of the distributors had filed a suit in the High Court at Chennai/Madurai against the BPCL and final verdict went in favour of new distributors, asking to transfer LPG customers, according to the prevailing norms. The most affected is the Coimbatore Territory region. The newly-appointed distributors are facing a lot of difficulties to run distributorship as they had taken a loan from banks to set up godown, office and vehicles.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to direct the BPCL to transfer the LPG customers from the existing old distributors to the newly-appointed distributors in 2016-17 as per marketing plan 2013 as well as to honor the said judgment.

**Demand to rescind the proposal of merger of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) in Chennai with the Central University at Tiruvarur in Tamil Nadu**

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): It has been reported in a section of the media that the Government has a proposal to merge the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) in Chennai with the Central University at Tiruvarur in Tamil Nadu. This proposal is said to have been sent by Niti Aayog to the Union Ministry of Human Resources Development. This is an ill-conceived move which needs to be nipped in the bud. As one of the most ancient languages of the world, Tamil was the first to be declared a classical language in the year 2004 by the Union Government. Tamil with its high antiquity of its early texts and recorded history of over three thousand years has a body of ancient literature which has been a valuable heritage to generations of speakers. With its original literary tradition, Tamil stands heads and shoulders above as a classical language. Central Institute of Classical Tamil was set up to promote and propagate the treasure of Tamil language. Any move to merge the Central Institute of Classical Tamil with the Central University will reduce the autonomous institute of higher research functioning under the Ministry of Human Resources Development into a department with limited functional flexibility. Such a step will be an attempt to depreciate the heritage and legacy of Tamil people. I appeal to the Government to maintain the *status quo* in respect of Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chennai and rescind the proposal of its merger with any Central University as mooted by Niti Aayog.

**Need to address the demands of pensioners covered under EPF in the country**

**श्री संजय राउत:** महोदय, मेरा सवाल देश भर के 60 लाख से ज्यादा ई.पी.एफ. 95 पेंशनधारकों को लेकर है। ये पेंशनर्स जिंदगी भर अपनी सेलेरी से पैसे काट-काट कर भविष्य के लिए जमा करते हैं, परन्तु बदले में उन्हें सिर्फ 1,000 रुपए से लेकर 7,500 रुपए तक की ही पेंशन मिल पाती है। इतने कम पैसों में आज की महंगाई में कोई व्यक्ति कैसे गुजारा कर सकते हैं? इस सवाल पर इस सरकार को गंभीरता से विचार करना होगा। ऐसी दयनीय व चिंताजनक स्थिति से वरिष्ठ नागरिक अपने ही घर और समाज में सम्मान से नहीं जी पाते हैं। वे हर मौके पर खुद को हताश और अपमानित महसूस करते हैं। उनके सेवाकाल में उन्हें सुरक्षित भविष्य का भरोसा देकर उनके साथ एक तरह का क्रूर मज़ाक किया जाता है। पेंशनधारक अपनी मांगों को लेकर लम्बे समय से आंदोलन कर रहे हैं। समाज के इस वरिष्ठ वर्ग पर सरकार को ध्यान देना होगा। उनकी मांगें भी कोई बड़ी नहीं हैं। वे सिर्फ ई.पी.एफ.ओ. के 31 मई, 2017 के इंटेरिम ऑर्डर को रद्द करके सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेशानुसार पेंशन सुविधा मांग रहे हैं। यह उनका कानूनी हक है। सरकार को इस पर फैसला लेना चाहिए।



मेरा मानना है कि जब देश की सीनियर सोसायटी खुशहाल होगी, तभी देश भी खुशहाल बन सकेगा। इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि सीनियर सोसायटी को तो कम से कम उनका हक बिना मांगे दिया जाए। उन्हें तो अपने हक के लिए सड़कों पर उतरने को मजबूर न होना पड़े, धन्यवाद।

**Demand to appoint a Judicial Commission to examine deaths due to starvation in Jharkhand and give compensation and employment to the affected families**

SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA (Tripura): Sir, I would draw the attention of this House about the recent hunger deaths in Jharkhand. Santhoshi Kumari, aged 11 years, died due to starvation on 28th September, 2017. So far, five starvation deaths were reported from Jharkhand. Among the five, three are Adivasis. The family gets daily labour only 10-20 days in a month at a wage of Rs. 100 for females and Rs. 150 for a male.

The family members have confirmed that the death happened due to chronic hunger. The Ration Card No: 202006991124 in the name of Koyili Devi gives ample evidence that the family did not get ration since April, 2017 and, only after the death of the girl, the family got ration of 21 kg rice, 14 kg wheat and 2 liters of kerosene oil on 23rd October, 2017 from the dealer.

As per official data, 11.30 lakh names of card holders were removed from the list of beneficiaries citing the reason that there was no linkage to Aadhaar. Around 385 from poor families belonging to the tribal, *dalit* and minority sections were denied ration cards through cancellation or non-renewal of cards.

The Central Government controls social development programmes like MGNREGA and ICDS, but has no commitment towards them, and is curtailing budgetary allocation. Had the Mid-day Meal Scheme been properly implemented, Santhoshi's life would have been saved.

We demand that the Government should appoint a judicial commission to examine hunger deaths in Jharkhand, provide a compensation of Rs. 10 lakh and ensure permanent employment and family pension to the affected families.

**Demand to remove the mandatory requirement of knowledge of Hindi in recruitment for teaching posts in Kendriya Vidyalayas**

SHRI T. RATHINAVEL (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the Central Schools, known as Kendriya Vidyalayas, were established in the country in 1963 to pursue excellence, set the pace in the field of school education and to develop the spirit of national integration and create a

[Shri T. Rathinavel]

sense of 'Indianness' among children. Today, there are about 1,125 Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country, of which there are 41 in Tamil Nadu. For over twelve lakh students studying in these schools, Kendriya Vidyalayas have a sanctioned strength of over 15,800 teachers. Each year, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan recruits teachers for these schools. A number of educated, trained youth from Tamil Nadu used to compete in the recruitment and join Kendriya Vidyalayas as teachers every year. But, unfortunately, the scenario changed in 1986 when Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan made Hindi compulsory for all the teaching posts, including Post-Graduate Teachers. As Hindi is not taught in the schools in Tamil Nadu for socio-cultural reasons, well-educated candidates from the State are unable to apply for the posts of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas. This has been going on for over 30 years and now, to make the matters worse, Hindi paper has been introduced in the recruitment examination. This is like debarring all the educated and trained candidates from Tamil Nadu, which is against the very spirit of the Constitution. Thousands of teaching posts in Kendriya Vidyalayas have been denied to candidates belonging to Tamil Nadu year after year. I appeal to the Government to remove the requirement of knowledge of Hindi for teaching posts in Kendriya Vidyalayas and restore the right of educated youth of Tamil Nadu.

**Demand for realignment of Railway Crossing No.119-C located in Lucknow-  
Mailani Rail Sector of North-Eastern Railway to get rid of the  
traffic congestion in the area**

**श्री रवि प्रकाश वर्मा** (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के लखनऊ-मैलानी रेल प्रखंड पर गेज परिवर्तन का काम पिछले कई वर्षों से चल रहा है, जिसे दिसम्बर, 2017 तक पूरा किया जाना था। इसी प्रखंड पर रेलवे क्रॉसिंग नं. 119-C पर लखीमपुर-खीरी का बायपास बनाया गया है, ताकि शहर की traffic congestion की समस्या का समाधान किया जा सके। इस क्रॉसिंग पर भारी यातायात निकल रहा है, इसलिए इस रेलवे क्रॉसिंग के realignment की आवश्यकता पड़ गयी है। मैंने इस संबंध में कई बार संबंधित अधिकारियों को लिखा है परन्तु इस संबंध में कोई संज्ञान नहीं लिया गया है। इस लोक महत्व के मामले में मेरा सरकार से आग्रह है कि सरकार इस संबंध में संज्ञान लेकर शीघ्र कार्यवाही करे।

**Concern over the problems being faced to access various social security and  
welfare schemes due to linking of Aadhaar being made mandatory**

**SHRI AHAMED HASSAN** (West Bengal): Sir, mandatory linking of Aadhaar has failed the welfare test by further disabling the already disabled. Despite the UIDAI's prescribed measures for capturing the biometrics of the differently-abled people, many centres and operators are still unaware as well as inadequately trained for it. According to

the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies, 39 per cent of all the ration shops in the country have started using biometric devices for fingerprint verification for distribution of ration. Those without hands have gone hungry.

In Tamil Nadu's Tiruvallur District, Mr. Dayalan, who is visually impaired, has not been receiving his monthly pension. The reason being his bank account was not linked to Aadhaar, despite two failed attempts to get an Aadhaar Card. Another man with an amputated right hand had his application rejected for not having all ten fingerprints. Sixty-five-year old Sajida Begum, a leprosy patient in Bengaluru, has been struggling to afford treatment without pension as she does not have an Aadhaar Card. Having lost her fingers and her eyesight to leprosy, Ms. Begum does not have those biometrics.

According to the Schizophrenia Research Foundation, several mentally-disabled simply cannot cope with the harrowing process of Aadhaar registrations. Children with autism and neurological disabilities, patients with cerebral palsy were unable to proceed with biometrics.

The relentless push of Aadhaar has made social security and welfare schemes inaccessible for several disabled citizens. Rejection of Aadhaar applications at inadequately equipped centres and lack of awareness generation cannot persist.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to address the problem on priority and issue necessary directions.

**Demand to take steps to create awareness among farmers for  
reasonable use of pesticides and insecticides**

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO (Telangana): Sir, irrational use of chemical pesticides and insecticides has become a threat to our environment causing enormous harm to human health and becoming a threat to flora and fauna. There is no doubt that the invention of pesticides has tremendous benefit in forestry and agriculture sector by improving the productivity of crops, protection of crops, vector disease control, etc. However, there is no awareness among the farming community about the effective and correct use of pesticides and the necessity to use these pesticides. The Government is also promoting the use of chemical fertilizers for higher yield and commercial purposes. The reasonable use of pesticides is understandable but their rampant use is contaminating soil, water and air apart from causing harm to non-target organisms. The use of pesticides should be based on scientific judgment and not on commercial considerations. Therefore,

[Dr. K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao]

**12.00 NOON**

the Government shall take steps to ensure that these chemical pesticides and insecticides are not made available to people as over-the-counter drugs and are available as prescription drug and whoever buys this drug shall be explained how to use it in a safe way. These shall be made available to the people only on a prescription from qualified Agricultural Officers and it shall be used as medicine as and when required. The Government shall recognize the importance of education and training for safe use of pesticides.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to immediately take steps to create awareness about the reasonable and rational use of pesticides and insecticides.

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**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**Promoting gherkins for export**

\* 196. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to promote the growth and supply of gherkins after incessant rains and decline in exports, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken to ensure strict compliance of certification requirements in case of gherkins meant for export, along with the details thereof?

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

***Statement***

(a) and (b) Gherkins is an export oriented vegetable crop cultivated in southern States of India. Cultivation of Gherkins, processing and export started in India during early 1990's with modest beginning in Karnataka and later extended to neighboring states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

There has been no report from Gherkin growing states about the effects of incessant rains on Gherkin production and export.

This Ministry has provided assistance for Gherkin projects under the programs of NHB & also processing units under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Gherkins are cultivated on contract farming model and entire gamut of cultivation practices and processing standards are adhered to by the Indian Gherkin manufacturers to produce Gherkin for the world market with quality control on the final produce as per the requirements of International market. There is provision of capacity building for fruits and vegetables cultivation including cultivation of Gherkins on package of practices, quality improvement and regulating use of pesticides for improving production and exports.

There is no mandatory requirement for quality certification for export of Gherkins. However, on the basis of country specific requirements, Export Inspection Council (EIC) India is the regulatory authority for issuance of quality certification. India exported 180820.87 MT of Cucumber and Gherkins, worth ₹ 942.72 crores during 2016-17, with major destinations being USA, Belgium, Russia, France and Spain.

As per the report of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), export of Gherkins during 2017-18 (April - September) has shown 27% growth over previous year (2016-17) during the same period.

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Sir, the agricultural exports are falling. Indian trade surplus in agricultural items fell from US \$ 27174.2 in 2013-14 to about US \$ 7833.8 in 2016-17. So, my question to the Minister is whether the Government has taken any step to bring out a policy framework for increasing exports of agricultural commodities, especially, when the GST is being applied. And, what is happening in refund of GST to the exporters?

**कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत):** माननीय सभापति जी, मैं पहली बार प्रश्न का उत्तर देने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। माननीय सदस्य का जो मूल प्रश्न था, वह एक commodity विशेष को लेकर था। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Sir, my question is about agricultural exports.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please.

**श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत:** गर्किन नामक एक छोटा खीरा होता है, जिसके export को लेकर उनका प्रश्न था। इस सम्बन्ध में इन्होंने कहा था कि गर्किन का उत्पादन कम हुआ है और बरसात अधिक होने के कारण कम हुआ है। हमने इसका उत्तर दिया है कि उसका उत्पादन बरसात की अधिकता के कारण नहीं, अपितु बरसात कम होने के कारण हुआ है।

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Sir, I seek your protection. He is not answering my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have supplementary also. ...*(Interruptions)*... He is asking about exports.

**श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत:** उस particular commodity के export के बारे में भी इन्होंने चिंता व्यक्त की थी, लेकिन 2016-17 के reference में 2017-18 में उसका export निश्चित रूप से बढ़ा है। 2016-17 में उसका जो export था, उसके comparison में production और export दोनों बढ़े हैं। सरकार उसके प्रोत्साहन के लिए अनेक योजनाओं के माध्यम से National Horticulture Board के माध्यम से ऐसी फसलों का प्रोत्साहन करती है। इसके अतिरिक्त जो लचीली सहायता योजना, राष्ट्रीय कृषि विकास योजना (RKVY) है, उसके माध्यम से भी सरकार ऐसी फसलों के export को बढ़ाने के लिए और export oriented crops के लिए सहायता प्रदान करती है।

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Sir, my question has not been answered. So, I seek your protection.

Sir, in the last few years we have seen that Indian agricultural exports are often banned in European Union and other countries. Indian mangoes were banned in EU and Indian rice was banned in Iran. Obviously, the schemes of the Government and the standards that they are implementing are not working. So my question is whether the Government is taking any step to make sure that when the crops are grown, these standards are met and they are not banned in foreign countries.

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** महोदय, माननीय सदस्य का जो सवाल मुख्य रूप से निर्यात की दृष्टि से है। मेरी जानकारी में मेरे मंत्रालय के द्वारा इसमें जो प्रयत्न होते हैं, मैं उनका एक उदाहरण देना चाहूंगा। मुख्य रूप से निर्यात मंत्रालय इसकी monitoring करता है। जब हम सरकार में आए थे, तो European countries ने mango पर प्रतिबंध लगाया था। फिर हमने वहाँ की सरकार से बात करके उसके कारण पता लगाए और उसके तहत उनकी टीम के वैज्ञानिकों को हमने यह जानने के लिए बुलाया कि quality में क्या कमी है और हमारी जो testing labs हैं, उनमें क्या कमी है। वहाँ की टीम आई और 3 महीने तक अध्ययन करने के बाद उसने जो सुझाव दिया, हमने 3 महीने के अन्दर उसको पूरा किया। 6 महीने लगते-लगते आम का निर्यात फिर चालू हो गया। इसलिए quality की दृष्टि से जब कभी किसी देश के द्वारा प्रतिबंध लगता है, तो हम उससे तुरंत संपर्क करते हैं और अपने मानकों में सुधार करते हैं।

**श्री पी.एल. पुनिया:** सभापति महोदय, Gherkin खीरे की एक प्रजाति है, जिसकी खेती लघु और सीमांत कृषक करते हैं और यह अनुबद्ध कृषि के आधार पर होती है और इसका एक्सपोर्ट होता है। इसमें सिरका और एसिटिक अम्ल डाला जाता है, लेकिन सिरके और एसिटिक अम्ल पर GST 18 परसेंट लगाया गया है। इसकी सबसे ज्यादा खेती कर्णाटक, तमिलनाडु और आन्ध्र प्रदेश में होती है, जिसमें करीब एक लाख से अधिक लघु और सीमांत कृषक लगते हैं, लेकिन सारा मुनाफा बिचौलिये और एक्सपोर्टर्स ले जाते हैं।

महोदय, मेरा सवाल यह है कि क्या सरकार यह बताने का कष्ट करेगी कि कर्णाटक, तमिलनाडु और आन्ध्र प्रदेश के कितने लघु और सीमांत किसान Gherkin खीरे के उत्पादन को सीधे-सीधे एक्सपोर्ट भी करते हैं?

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** सभापति महोदय, इसकी खेती मुख्य रूप से तीन राज्यों में, संविदा कृषि मॉडल के आधार पर की जाती है। संविदा कृषि मॉडल के आधार पर उसके जो एक्सपोर्ट के मानक हैं, उसके तहत प्रोसेसिंग यूनिट्स की स्थापना के लिए हम मदद करते हैं। इसके लिए राज्य के पास भी एक RKY योजना है, जिसके माध्यम से वह भी मदद करता है, लेकिन इसका उत्पादन संविदा कृषि मॉडल पर मुख्य रूप से इन्हीं तीन राज्यों में होता है। हालांकि अन्य राज्यों में भी इसका उत्पादन होता है, लेकिन जहां छोटे स्तर पर किसान इसका उत्पादन करते हैं, वह इन तीनों राज्यों में ही होता है, जिसका एक्सपोर्ट होता है।

**श्री पी.एल. पुनिया:** सर, मेरा सवाल, जो मार्जिनल फार्मर्स इसका एक्सपोर्ट करते हैं, उनके बारे में था।

**श्री सभापति:** वे मार्जिनल फार्मर्स के बारे में पूछ रहे हैं।

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** एक्सपोर्टर्स संविदा कृषि मॉडल के आधार पर ही खेती करवाते हैं, जिसका वे एक्सपोर्ट करते हैं।

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, the question has not been answered.  
...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No.197. Shri Anand Bhaskar Rapolu.

### Dealing with cyber crimes

\*197.DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are growing incidents of cyber crimes, including financial frauds, using bank cards and e-wallets;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto;

(c) the measures taken to strengthen surveillance and legal framework to deal with cyber crimes; and

(d) whether police force has been adequately trained to deal with cyber crimes, if so, the details thereof?

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

***Statement***

(a) As per the data maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 9622, 11592 and 12,317 cyber crime cases were registered during the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. This includes cases registered under the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and related sections of Indian Penal Code and Special & Local Laws involving computer as medium/target. As per incidents reported to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), 79 phishing incidents affecting 22 financial organisations and 13 incidents affecting ATMs, Point of Sales (POS) systems and Unified Payment Interface (UPI) have been reported during November 2016 to November 2017. Further, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has registered a total of 13,083, 16,468, 13,653 and 12,520 cases of frauds involving credit cards, ATM / debit cards and internet banking during the year 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and quarter April-September 2017 respectively.

(b) and (c) Government has taken a number of legal, technical and administrative measures to prevent incidents of cyber crimes, including financial frauds, using bank cards and e-wallets. These inter alia, include:—

- (i) Enactment of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 which has adequate provisions for dealing with prevalent cyber crimes.
- (ii) Government has established National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) as per the provisions of Section 70A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 for protection of critical information infrastructure in the country.
- (iii) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats and countermeasures on regular basis. CERT-In has issued 27 advisories since Nov. 27, 2016 for security safeguards covering Point of Sale (POS), Micro ATMs, electronic Wallets, online banking, smart phones, unified payment interface, Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), RuPay, SIM cards, wireless access points/routers, mobile banking, cloud and Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS). Advisory has also been sent by CERT-In to RBI, National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) and Payment Card Industry Organizations covering precautions to be taken to avoid similar attacks as those that occurred recently with credit/debit cards. CERT-In has published guidelines for securing IT infrastructure, which are available on its website ([www.certin.org.in](http://www.certin.org.in)).



- (iv) Government has initiated setting up of National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) in CERT-In to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive and protective actions by individual entities. Phase-I of NCCC has been made operational.
- (v) 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.
- (vi) 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 Union Territories and critical organizations to sensitize them about the cyber security threat landscape and enabling them to prepare and implement the Cyber Crisis Management Plan.
- (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 have participated.
- (viii) Law and Order being a State subject, the implementation is with the State Government.
- (ix) 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.
- (x) With respect to the banking sector, RBI reviews the cyber security developments and threats on an ongoing basis and necessary measures are taken to strengthen the cyber resilience of banks. In order to focus more attention on IT related matters, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken various action which includes:—
  - (a) RBI has set up a Cyber Security and IT Examination (CSITE) cell within its Department of Banking Supervision in 2015.

- (b) The Bank has issued a comprehensive circular on Cyber Security Framework in Banks on June 2, 2016 covering best practices pertaining to various aspects of cyber security.
- (c) RBI carries out IT Examination of banks separately from the regular financial examination of banks from last year. This report has a special focus on cyber security. The reports have been issued to the banks for remedial action.
- (d) RBI has also set up Cyber Crisis Management Group to address any major incidents reported including suggesting ways to respond and recover to/ from the incidents.
- (e) Department of Banking Supervision under RBI also conducts cyber security preparedness testing among banks on the basis of hypothetical scenarios with the help of CERT-In.
- (f) An inter-disciplinary Standing Committee on Cyber Security has been constituted which, *inter alia*, reviews the threats inherent in the existing/ emerging technology and suggests appropriate policy interventions to strengthen cyber security and resilience.
- (g) RBI has set up an IT Subsidiary, which, *inter alia* focuses on cyber security within RBI as well as in regulated entities.
- (h) On October 11, 2017 Master Directions on Issuance and Operation of Prepaid Payment Instruments were issued by RBI.
- (i) RBI has issued circular on 09th December 2016 in Security and Risk mitigation measure for all authorised entities/banks issuing Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) in the country.
- (j) In addition, RBI issues Circulars/advisories to all Commercial Banks on phishing attacks and preventive/detective measures to tackle phishing attacks,
- (k) To Secure Card Present Transactions (both at ATM and POS delivery channels), RBI has taken a number of measures including migration of debit/credit card from magnetic strip to EMV chips and PIN based cards.
- (l) RBI has mandated additional factor of authentication for all card not present (CNP) transactions.

(d) Government has taken a series of steps to train and develop Cyber Crime investigators. The steps include:—

- (i) Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an Advisory to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to build adequate technical capacity in handling cyber crime including trained manpower for detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of cyber crimes. Also, under the Cyber Crime Investigation programme, Ministry of Home Affairs is supporting the establishment of Cyber Crime Police Stations (CCPS) and Cyber Crime Investigations and Forensic Training Facilities (CCIFTF) in each State / Union Territory of India under Police Modernization Scheme. Action also has been taken to set up a National Centre of Excellence exclusively devoted to render Cyber Forensic services and to act as National Research and Training Centre on Cyber Forensics.
- (ii) Ministry of Home Affairs is implementing the 'Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC)' Scheme from NIRBHAYA funds of the Ministry of Women and Child Development in the period 2017-2020, which inter alia, aims at setting up an online cyber-crime reporting platform, cyber forensic training cum laboratories in States/UTs, R&D facilities and capacity building in law enforcement against cyber-crime. The main objective of the scheme is to facilitate handling of issues related to cyber-crime against women and children.
- (iii) A major programme has been undertaken on development of cyber forensics tools, setting up of infrastructure for investigation and training of the users, particularly police and judicial officers in use of this tool to collect and analyze the digital evidence and present them in Courts.
- (iv) Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) are involved in providing basic and advanced training to Law Enforcement Agencies, Forensic labs and judiciary on the procedures and methodology of collecting, analyzing and presenting digital evidence.
- (v) MeitY has setup Cyber Forensics Training Lab at CBI Academy Ghaziabad. Also In collaboration with Data Security Council of India (DSCI), Cyber Forensic Labs have been set up at Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune and Kolkata for

awareness creation and training programmes on Cyber Crime investigation. 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. Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore and Kolkata and in north-eastern States at respective Police headquarters to train LEA officials (Police) in cyber crime detection, seizing and imaging of digital evidence. Using these facilities, more than 28000 Police /LEA personnel have been trained.

- (vi) Government has formulated a set of investigation manuals with procedures for Search, Seizure Analysis and Presentation of digital evidence in courts. The manuals have been circulated to Law Enforcement Agencies in all States.
- (vii) Government organised Cyber Crime Awareness workshops in 17 cities (Ahmadabad, Chandigarh, Bhopal, Lucknow, Jaipur, Patna, Shimla, Shillong, Dehradun, Thrissur, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi, Nagpur, Srinagar, Raipur, Goa and Mangalore.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Respected Chairman, Sir, I appreciate the Minister for his elaborate answer on the preparedness of the Ministry to handle cyber crisis and protect cyber information. He has also mentioned about creation of the Cyber Crime Investigation facilities. We don't have Cyber Crime Investigators in the States and there is no coordination between the Central agencies and those in the State Governments. They are yet to evolve coordination between State Governments and the Central Government in the case of forensic laboratories.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question, please.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Keeping this factor in view, I would like to put the specific question whether the Central Government's latest App, BHIM, has ever been crashed or hacked and what measures have been taken to handle such crisis within the Government agencies.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, as the hon. Member would have seen, I have given a very elaborate reply. The Government is fully aware of the challenges of cyber security threat. The Prime Minister himself has stated that cyber war is akin to a bloodless war. From cyber drills to cyber training, all these things are there. He asked about cyber forensic training. Sir, I wish to convey to the House that labs have

been established in Kerala, Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Meghalaya, and 1,250 police officers have been trained in the North East and other parts of India, including judicial officers. With specific in regard to the BHIM App, we don't have any report till now of any kind of a fraud, but we are quite keeping our whole clients intact. In this connection, I would like to convey to the House that it is because of our preparedness that when I see it in terms of RBI feedback given to us, the cases of credit card, ATM and debit card I frauds in 2014-15 was 0.000153 per cent, in 2015-16, 0.000164 per cent and in 2016-17, 0.00012 per cent in comparison to the transaction. So, we are taking steps and we would continue to take steps.

**श्री अजय संचेती:** सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय सदन के माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि अभी कुछ दिनों से Credit Cards और E-wallets का चलन बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ गया है और उसके मुकाबले में पुलिस विभाग की ट्रेनिंग बहुत कम पड़ती है। अतः मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारत सरकार की Electronics Ministry की ओर से क्या कोई ऐसी योजना है, जिसके अंतर्गत specially पुलिस विभाग को भी training impart की जाए, ताकि भविष्य में ये चीजें कम हो सकें?

**श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:** सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने बिल्कुल सही कहा, भारत सरकार का हमारा गृह विभाग है, उसके अन्तर्गत इस बारे में बहुत ही विस्तारित योजना चल रही है। चूंकि लॉ एंड ऑर्डर प्रदेशों का विषय है, इसलिए वहां की Cyber पुलिस की पूरी ट्रेनिंग हो, Cyber Laboratory हो और investigation हो, इस बारे में बहुत ही सार्थक प्रयास चल रहा है।

महोदय, चूंकि माननीय सदस्य ने ATM, Credit Cards और Debit Cards की बात कही, तो मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि भारत कुछ उन देशों में है, जहां डबल चैकअप की व्यवस्था की है कि EMV भी होना चाहिए और PIN नंबर भी होना चाहिए। जब तक दोनों काम नहीं करेंगे, तब तक कार्यवाही नहीं होगी। जुलाई के बाद से इंश्योरेंस की व्यवस्था भी की है।

**SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:** Sir, I will put a very short and pointed question to the hon. Minister. An inter-Ministerial high level committee was formed to look into the cyber crimes and make a report. My question to the hon. Minister is, because Electronics and Information Technology Ministry was also a part of that Committee, whether the Committee has given its report. If it has already given its report, what action has been taken?

Secondly, what action has been taken by the Electronics and Information Technology Ministry to prevent child pornography?

**SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:** Sir, as regards the inter-Ministerial consultation, the Ministry of IT and Electronics, the Ministry of Home, the Financial Services

Department and the RBI repeatedly meet, come with the whole ecosystem and structure to take proactive measures. It is a continuous process which we are doing, and wherever we feel the need to fill gap areas, we reinforce that. As regards the child pornography, the hon. Member is very right, Sir. We are working with the Interpol and the CBI to identify those sites which are promoting pornographic materials for children, which is completely condemnable, and a large number of sites have been prohibited by us. I will furnish you the details separately.

**\*198. [The Questioner was absent.]**

**Self-reliance in godown capacity**

**\*198.SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA:** Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is paying lakhs of rupees as rent to private godown owners across the country, including in the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has formulated, any comprehensive policy for attaining self-reliance in godown capacity; and;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, 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) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The state-wise details of rent paid by Food Corporation of India (FCI) to private godown owners in various states including Tamil Nadu are given in the Annexure (*See below*).

(c) and (d) On the basis of peak stock requirement during procurement season, the overall storage capacity required in the country is about 600 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT). Against this, the total storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and the State Agencies along with the hired capacity was 726.18 LMT as on 30.11.2017. As such, there is sufficient capacity for storage of food grains at the national level.

However, to augment capacities in specific areas and to modernize the storage facilities, the Government has been implementing the following schemes:—

- (i) **Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme:** Under this Scheme, which was formulated in 2008, storage capacity is created by private parties, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Government Agencies for guaranteed hiring by FCI. A capacity of 139.92 lakh MT has already been since completed as on 30.11.2017.
- (ii) **Central Sector Scheme:** This scheme is meant for the North Eastern States along with Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Kerala. Funds are released by the Government to FCI and also directly to the State Governments for construction of godowns. During 12th 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. This scheme is being continued for next 3 years i.e. upto 2020. A capacity of 4,590 MT has been completed by FCI and 4,500 MT by State Governments upto 30.11.2017 in the current financial year.
- (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, for modernizing the storage infrastructure and improving shelf life of stored food grains. As on 30.11.2017, tenders have been awarded for a capacity of 38.50 LMT and a capacity of 6.25 LMT silos has already been added under the above action plan.

#### *Annexure*

*The State-wise details of rent paid by Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the year 2016-17 to private godown owners*

		(Amount in ₹ lakh)
Sl. No.	State	Amount
1.	Bihar	79.53
2.	Jharkhand	1,085.99
3.	Odisha	0.00
4.	West Bengal (includes Sikkim)	463.41

Sl. No.	State	Amount
5.	Assam	190.45
6.	Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura	36.12
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.63
8.	Haryana	23,590.43
9.	Himachal Pradesh	235.62
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1518.93
11.	Punjab (includes Chandigarh)	42,407.73
12.	Rajasthan	1178.14
13.	Uttar Pradesh	5,032.78
14.	Uttarakhand	2.16
15.	Andhra Pradesh (includes Telangana, Andaman and Nicobar)	654.59
16.	Kerala (includes Lakshadweep)	0
17.	Karnataka	784.79
18.	Tamil Nadu (includes Pondicherry)	889.17
19.	Gujarat (includes Daman & Diu)	77.93
20.	Maharashtra (includes Goa)	5,037.33
21.	Madhya Pradesh	132.26
22.	Chhattisgarh	6.75
TOTAL		83,410.74

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 198, the questioner is absent. Any supplementaries, please?

**डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया:** माननीय सभापति जी, यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है, जिसमें किसानों के कृषि उत्पादों को संरक्षित करने के और उपाय सुझाए गए हैं। हमारी जो भंडारण सुविधा है, उसके आधुनिकीकरण की भी आवश्यकता है। आधुनिकीकरण के बिना, हमारा अनाज और अन्य खाद्य पदार्थ जो स्टोर किए जाते हैं, उनका बहुत सारा भाग बिखरने में, सड़ने में और गलन में खराब हो जाता है। हमने इसमें कोल्ड स्टोरेज के बारे में भी कहा है। अतः मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि कोल्ड स्टोरेज की क्षमता को अर्जित करने के लिए हम क्या उपाय कर रहे हैं और उसके लिए जो सरकारी सहायता मिलनी चाहिए, वह सरलता से मिले तथा 100 लाख टन क्षमता के हम जो स्टिल साइलोज़ बनाने वाले हैं, उस क्षमता को हम कब तक अर्जित करेंगे?



**श्री सी.आर. चौधरी:** ऑनरेबल चेयरमैन सर, माननीय सदस्य ने बहुत वाजिब चिन्ता जताई है। देश के अंदर अभी 1 जून तक, जब मैक्सिमम प्रक्योरमेंट होता है, उस समय जो क्षमता चाहिए, वह 600 लाख मीट्रिक टन है, लेकिन हमारे पास अभी भी 726 लाख मीट्रिक टन की क्षमता 30 नवम्बर को उपलब्ध थी। इसलिए जहां तक foodgrains का सवाल है, उसमें कहीं कोई दिक्कत नहीं है, क्योंकि अब modernization किया जा रहा है। हमारे प्रधान मंत्री, नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के कार्य ग्रहण करने के पश्चात् सबसे पहले food और food storages के बारे में चिन्ता की गई। इसी कारण से सबसे पहले साइलोज पर विचार किया गया। माननीय शांता कुमार जी की अध्यक्षता में एक हाई लेवल कमेटी गठित की गई थी। And that Committee has recommended that we should go for silos instead of these old stores. इस प्रकार 100 लाख मीट्रिक टन स्टोरेज बनाने के साइलोज का काम चार फेज़ में चल रहा है और ये वर्ष 2022 तक बनाने हैं। अभी तक हमने 11 लाख 75 हजार टन के साइलोज बना लिए हैं और 38 लाख 5 टन के साइलोज के टेंडर वगैरह हो गए हैं।

**SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:** Sir, I would like to ask a question specifically about Tamil Nadu. I just want to put this question to the hon. Minister because when there is peak season of harvest, people want to store foodgrains in a very secured place. Everybody wants to store it at that time because everybody will be having their harvest and the price will not be that much.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Question.

**SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:** I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. Can the Food Corporation of India and the Central Warehousing Corporation have their own warehouses, so that our people, especially the people of Tamil Nadu, are able to store their food grain during harvest season? We need storage units in all the District Headquarters. Will it be done?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Simply because he is sitting by your side, don't look at him. Look at me.

**श्री सी.आर. चौधरी:** आपने तमिलनाडु के बारे में पूछा है। She is worried about the storage capacity of Tamil Nadu. She wants storage capacity of the FCI and the CWC to be enhanced. मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगा कि इंडिया के अन्दर टोटल 154 लाख टन का जो storage है, that is done by FCI. ये hiring basis पर भी लिए जाते हैं। किराये पर जो लिये जा रहे हैं, तो CWC and State Warehousing Agencies के जो हैं, उनको लेते हैं। Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee Scheme के तहत जो बने हुए हैं, we take them for ten years on hiring basis. इस कारण से we have sufficient storage capacity. जहाँ तक storage facility at the time of harvest is concerned, यह निश्चित रूप से है कि उनका अनाज खराब नहीं हो, अनाज को रखने के लिए सुविधा

हो। आपके यहाँ पर प्रोक्योरमेंट बहुत कम हो रहा है। तमिलनाडु के अन्दर प्रोक्योरमेंट बिल्कुल कम हो रहा है, चावल का थोड़ा सा हो रहा है, otherwise, there is no procurement. वहाँ पर wheat वगैरह बेचते हैं। We have our central storage capacity there.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: We have the largest production.  
...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please.

SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY: I agree with you. लेकिन प्रोक्योरमेंट जो होता है  
...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री सभापति:** मंत्री जी, अगर उनका कुछ संशय है, तो आप बाद में उनको बुलाकर, आपस में बैठ कर, उसे दूर कीजिए। Shri Ragesh. The question is about Tamil Nadu.

SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Sir, the question is about warehousing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be specific.

SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Sir, six months back we had seen tomato farmers going for distress sale. And after two months, when we went to the market, we purchased the same tomato for the price of more than ₹ 100 per kg. Sir, why did it happen? Because we are not in a position to provide sufficient storage facilities to the farmers. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Food Corporation of India will provide cold storage facilities to the farmers for tomato and other perishable crops.

**श्री सभापति:** मंत्री जी, इन्होंने perishable products के बारे में पूछा है।

SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY: Hon. Chairman, Sir, एफसीआई जो है, वह mainly तीन प्रकार के foodgrains, चावल, गेहूँ और coarse grains का स्टोरेज करती है। जहाँ तक vegetables and fruits का मामला है, यह एग्रीकल्चर डिपार्टमेंट के द्वारा एक नयी स्कीम बनायी गयी है, जिसके तहत कोल्ड स्टोरेज चेन के ऊपर कार्य होता है। ... (व्यवधान) ...

**श्री सभापति:** ठीक है। Thank you.

#### **Redevelopment of railway stations under PPP mode**

\*199. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes redevelopment of railway stations across the country in phased manner under the PPP mode;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the names of railway stations identified for redevelopment;
- (c) the response received from private players in this regard, so far; and
- (d) the timeline finalized for the purpose?

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

***Statement***

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Union Cabinet approved Railways' 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.

Accordingly, station redevelopment program by Zonal Railways was launched on 08.02.2017. 23 stations were identified to be taken up for bidding in first phase. The list is given in Annexure (*See below*).

A dedicated organization viz. Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd. (IRSDC) was set up in the year 2012 for the purpose of station redevelopment on Indian Railways. Six stations viz., Anand Vihar, Bijwasan, Chandigarh, Habibganj (Bhopal), Shivaji Nagar (Pune) and Surat have been entrusted to Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd. (IRSDC) for redevelopment.

An MOU has been signed by Ministry of Railways with Ministry of Urban Development for integrated planning for station redevelopment projects in cities identified as SMART cities in association with Smart City authorities. The following ten (10) stations have been taken up for redevelopment under this scheme, jointly by Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) and National Building Construction Company (NBCC):

Tirupati, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Nellore, Madgaon, Lucknow, Gomtinagar, Kota, Thane New, Ernakulam Jn. and Puducherry.

Rail Land Development Authority has been entrusted to redevelop Safdarjung Station in New Delhi along with IRCON.

- (c) For the first stage of bidding by the Zonal Railways for 23 stations, single bid each for only two stations (Jammu Tawi and Kozhikode) were received and it is

being evaluated on merit, by the Tender Committees of the concerned Zonal Railways. For other tendered stations, there were lack of bidders interest and due to no substantial groundwork by prospective bidders, the openings of tenders were repeatedly postponed. However, no bids were obtained for stations where tenders were open, except for Jammu and Kozhikode stations.

Out of the six stations entrusted to Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC), offers have been finalized for Habibganj and Letter of Award has been issued on 07.06.2016 and works are in progress. Redevelopment of Surat station has been taken up as a joint venture of Ministry of Railways with Government of Gujarat and Surat Municipal Corporation and a JV company has been registered on 17.10.2017. Request for financial proposal after request for qualification were invited for Anand Vihar and Bijwasan stations but had to be cancelled because of restrictive conditions of lease in the land allotment letter by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and could not be resolved with DDA within the reasonable time-frame.

Out of 10 stations entrusted to NBCC and RLDA, concept plan has been prepared for seven (7) stations and Architectural cum Technical consultant has been appointed for Kota and Pudduchery stations. For Thane New, land parcel is under identification process.

(d) Station redevelopment projects are complex in nature and require detailed techno-economic feasibility studies and statutory clearances from local bodies. Therefore, no timeline can be indicated at this stage. Letter of Award (LoA) has been issued for Habibganj station on 07.06.2016 and the station has been handed over to the Developer on 01.03.2017. The targeted date of completion is fixed as June, 2019.

#### *Annexure*

##### *List of 23 stations identified to be taken up for bidding in first phase*

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

Sl. No.	Name of Station	State
6.	Borivali	Maharashtra
7.	Howrah	West Bengal
8.	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
9.	Kanpur Central	Uttar Pradesh
10.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
11.	Kamakhya	Assam
12.	Udaipur City	Rajasthan
13.	Faridabad	Haryana
14.	Jammu Tawi	Jammu and Kashmir
15.	Secunderabad	Andhra Pradesh
16.	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh
17.	Ranchi	Jharkhand
18.	Chennai Central	Tamil Nadu
19.	Kozhikode	Kerala
20.	Yashwantpur	Karnataka
21.	Bangalore Cantt.	Karnataka
22.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
23.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh

SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Sir, through you, I want to know this from the hon. Minister. The PPP model for railway stations has been answered by the hon. Minister. He has given 23 cities where the PPP model is going to take place. I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. Has the Government got any plans to develop medium and small railway stations under the scheme? All the 23 cities which have been given are big cities.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, 23 stations are only in the initial phase which has already been started and work is progressing. We have already re-categorised all the stations in the country based on three criteria. Earlier it was only revenue. Now it is revenue, passenger footfall and strategic importance. Based on this re-classification,

we have identified many more stations. Currently, we are examining about 400 stations in the country, 41 of which are in Maharashtra itself where station redevelopment work will go on.

SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Sir, I come from a place called Kolhapur which has the oldest station in India. It is almost 125 years old. Can Kolhapur be included in the next PPP model? This is what I would like to know from the hon. Minister.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: I am happy to inform the hon. Member, through you, Sir, that Kolhapur is already included in the 400 stations that we have started examining.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Sir, it appears from the list attached to the reply that out of 23 stations identified to be taken for bidding regarding redevelopment of railway stations under PPP mode, Howrah station is included. Howrah was opened in 1854 and electrified in 1954. It is one of the busiest stations and it has the highest train landing capacity in the country. My pointed question to the hon. Minister is: Before deciding on this, did any consultation with the State Government take place seeking its suggestions, if any?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Chairman, the State Governments, at different levels, had been talking to the Zonal Railways to see which stations are of strategic importance. Many hon. Members of Parliament have also given us ideas about passenger footfall in stations in their constituencies which are of importance. I will examine the Howrah station's entire story, whether it justifies, and what level of investment is justified. But, State Governments are happy to give us support. For example, we have a scheme where if the State Government gives extra FSI under TOD Policy — Transit Oriented Development Policy — then we can certainly look at more development in the States.

**श्री रेवती रमन सिंह:** माननीय चेयरमैन साहब, रेल देश का सबसे बड़ा पब्लिक सेक्टर यूनिट है। इसमें देश के लाखों लोगों को नौकरी मिलती है, लेकिन आपने अभी रेलवे में जो तमाम काम प्राइवेट सेक्टर को दिया है, उसका बहुत सुखद अनुभव नहीं रहा है। मान्यवर, इन्होंने सफाई का कार्य प्राइवेट सेक्टर को दिया है। मैं उसका एक उदाहरण आपको बताता हूँ।

**श्री सभापति:** रेवती रमन सिंह जी, समय सीमित है, इसलिए कृपया आप अपना सवाल पूछिए।

**श्री रेवती रमन सिंह:** सर, मैं स्पेसिफिक सवाल ही पूछ रहा हूँ। वे लोग चार दिन पहले इलाहाबाद से फर्स्ट एसी में आ रहे थे और इलाहाबाद से जैसे ही ट्रेन शुरू हुई, वह बाथरूम में गया, तो उसमें से दुर्गंध आ रही थी। मान्यवर, मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि चूंकि रेलवे पब्लिक सेक्टर अंडरटेकिंग है, इसलिए इसमें जो सरकारी कर्मचारी हैं, उनकी जिम्मेवारी तो फिक्स होती है, लेकिन जो काम आप प्राइवेट सेक्टर को देते हैं, वे अपनी जिम्मेवारी नहीं निभाते, उसके लिए आप क्या कर रहे हैं?

**श्री पीयूष गोयल:** सर, प्राइवेट सेक्टर में भी जो काम करते हैं, उनको नौकरी मिलती है और जो व्यक्ति प्राइवेट सेक्टर में काम करते हैं, उस पर कार्रवाई करना सुविधाजनक होता है। उस पर जिम्मेवारी ठहरा कर, we can really monitor the work, उसको उस काम के लिए accountable ठहरा सकते हैं। माननीय सदस्य ने जो स्पेसिफिक सूचना दी है, मैं आपके माध्यम से सभी माननीय सदस्यों से यह दरखास्त करूंगा कि ऐसी जो-जो खबरें आपके पास आती हैं, अगर वह डिपार्टमेंट तक पहुंच सके, जिसके लिए मोबाइल ऐप है, मिस्ड कॉल है, अलग-अलग साधन हैं, आप इसके लिए चिट्ठी भेज सकते हैं, तो उस पर हम कार्रवाई भी कर सकते हैं और उससे हमारे काम में भी सुविधा होगी।

**श्रीमती रजनी पाटिल:** सर, माननीय मंत्री जी इस बात से अवगत होंगे कि मुम्बई में हाल ही में Elphinstone Bridge की जो घटना हुई थी, उसमें काफी लोग मर गए थे। जहां पर मांग नहीं है, जहां पर ब्रिटिशों के जमाने के रेलवे स्टेशन हैं, वहां पर सुरक्षा को लेकर बहुत खतरा हो सकता है, इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहती हूँ कि क्या वहां *suo-motu* रेल मंत्रालय ने कुछ डेवलपमेंट का प्रयास किया है या ऐसा करने के लिए तय किया है?

**श्री पीयूष गोयल:** सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से रजनी बहन को बताना चाहूंगा कि Elphinstone Bridge की घटना रेलवे की वजह से नहीं हुई थी, क्योंकि फुट ओवर ब्रिज कोई टूटा नहीं, बल्कि वह वहां का वहां है। दुर्भाग्य से बारिश आई और चार गाड़ियां एक साथ आईं, साथ ही साथ किसी व्यक्ति के सिर पर फूल का जो बोझ था, वह अचानक गिरा और उसने मराठी में कहा, माझे फूल पडले और मराठी में फूल का मतलब flower और पुल का मतलब ब्रिज होता है, उसके कारण बड़ी दुखद दुर्घटना हुई।...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री हुसैन दलवाई:** सर...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री सभापति:** क्वेश्चन ऑवर में प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर नहीं होता है।

**श्री पीयूष गोयल:** सर, उसी को देखते हुए हमने सभी स्टेशन्स को reclassify किया, जो मैंने पहले बताया और अब पैसेंजर फुटफॉल को भी अहम भूमिका देते हुए पैसेंजर फुटफॉल के हिसाब से, Elphinstone road में स्वाभाविक है और उसमें पैसेंजर फुटफॉल बहुत ज्यादा है, उसमें तेज गति से काम हो, उसके लिए नया फुट ओवर ब्रिज बने, इसके लिए एक आर्मी को दिया है और एक प्राइवेट कांट्रैक्ट दिया है। इसके साथ ही साथ पूरे स्टेशन के दुरुस्तीकरण की भी योजना तैयार की जा रही है।

#### Schemes to help farmers

\*200. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the demands of the farmers for enhanced Minimum Support Price (MSP) and loan waiver throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government has introduced any schemes that would help farmers in the long-term?

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

***Statement***

(a) and (b) Some farmers and farmers' organisations/unions have demanded along with other demands the enhancement in Minimum Support Price (MSP) for agricultural produce and agricultural loan waiver from time to time.

Government fixes MSPs for 22 major agricultural crops *viz.* Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Arhar, Moong, Urad, Groundnut-in-shell, Soyabean, Sunflower, Sesamum, Nigerseed, Cotton, Wheat, Barley, Gram, Masur (Lentil), Rapeseed/Mustard, Safflower, Jute and Copra and Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for Sugarcane on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned and other relevant factors. The details of MSPs for three years and their increase are given in Annexure (*See below*).

The return over A2+FL cost for MSPs fixed by Government for 2017-18 has been in excess of 50% with return of 112.4% for wheat, 88.4% for rapeseed/mustard, 79.6% for masur, 78.8% for gram, 66.9% for barley, 65.4% for urad, 64.3% for tur and 50.2% for bajra.

The Government has taken many policy initiatives for strengthening of farm credit delivery system for providing credit at lower rates of interest to support the resource requirements of the agricultural sector. Agricultural credit flow has increased consistently over the years. The target of agricultural credit has been set at ₹ 10,00,000 crore for 2017-18.

In addition, Government has taken several initiatives to reduce the debt burden of farmers and increase the supply of institutional credit to farmers which include Interest Subvention Scheme, Kisan Credit Card Scheme and promotion of Joint Liability Groups.



(c) Government has taken several initiatives that would help farmers in enhancing production and productivity of agricultural crops and in increasing income of farmers in the long-term which include National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Soil Health Cards (SHCs), Neem Coated Urea, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).

In addition, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is conducting basic and strategic research related to crop improvement, production and protection technologies in crops towards profitable cropping systems suitable to different situations including development of location specific varieties and technologies as per the agro-ecological zones, development of varieties/hybrids and related production and protection technologies suitable for non-traditional areas and seasons.

Further, a Committee of the Government has been set up to frame policies for doubling the farmer's income by 2022. To achieve this target Hon'ble Prime Minister has advocated seven point strategy. These are:

- Special focus on irrigation with sufficient budget, with the aim of "Per Drop More Crop".
- Provision of quality seeds and nutrients based on soil health of each field.
- Large investments in warehousing and cold chains to prevent post-harvest crop losses.
- Promotion of value addition through food processing.
- Creation of a national farm market, removing distortions and e-platform across 585 Stations.
- Introduction of a new crop insurance scheme to mitigate risks at affordable cost.
- Promotion of ancillary activities like horticulture, agro-forestry, animal husbandry, dairying, beekeeping and fisheries.

**Annexure****Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) and increase in MSP**

(₹ per quintal)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2014-15	2015-16	(#) increase in MSP 2015-16 over 2014-15	2016-17	(#) increase in MSP 2016-17 over 2015-16	2017-18	(#) increase in MSP 2017-18 over 2016-17
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Kharif Crops</b>									
1.	Paddy	Common	1360	1410	50(3.7)	1470	60(4.3)	1550	80(5.4)
		Grade 'A'	1400	1450	50(3.6)	1510	60(4.1)	1590	80(5.3)
2.	Jowar	Hybrid	1530	1570	40(2.6)	1625	55(3.5)	1700	75(4.6)
		Maldandi	1550	1590	40(2.6)	1650	60(3.8)	1725	75(4.5)
3.	Bajra		1250	1275	25(2.0)	1330	55(4.3)	1425	95(7.1)
4.	Maize		1310	1325	15(1.1)	1365	40(3.0)	1425	60(4.3)
5.	Ragi		1550	1650	100(6.5)	1725	75(4.5)	1900	175(10.1)
6.	Arhar (Tur)		4350	4625^	275(6.3)	5050^^	425(9.2)	5450^	400(7.9)
7.	Moong		4600	4850^	250(5.4)	5225^^	375(7.7)	5575^	350(6.7)
8.	Urad		4350	4625^	275(6.3)	5000^^	375(8.1)	5400^	400(8)
9.	Cotton	Medium	3750	3800	50(1.3)	3860	60(1.6)	4020	160(4.1)
		Staple							
		Long Staple	4050	4100	50(1.2)	4160	60(1.5)	4320	160(3.8)
10.	Groundnut in Shell		4000	4030	30(0.8)	4220*	190(4.7)	4450^	230(5.5)
11.	Sunflower Seed		3750	3800	50(1.3)	3950*	150(3.9)	4100*	150(3.8)
12.	Soyabean		2560	2600	40(1.6)	2775*	175(6.7)	3050^	275(9.9)
13.	Sesamum		4600	4700	100(2.2)	5000^	300(6.4)	5300*	300(6)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.	Nigerseed		3600	3650	50(1.4)	3825*	175(4.8)	4050*	225(5.9)
<b>Rabi Crops</b>									
15.	Wheat		1450	1525	75(5.2)	1625	100(6.6)	1735	110(6.8)
16.	Barley		1150	1225	75(6.5)	1325	100(8.2)	1410	85(6.4)
17.	Gram		3175	3500**	325(10.2)	4000^	500(14.3)	4400@	400(10.0)
18.	Masur (Lentil)		3075	3400**	325(10.6)	3950@	550(16.2)	4250*	300(7.6)
19.	Rapeseed/ Mustard		3100	3350	250(8.0)	3700*	350(10.4)	4000*	300(8.1)
20.	Safflower		3050	3300	250(8.2)	3700*	400(12.1)	4100*	400(10.8)
21.	Toria		3020	3290	270(8.9)	3560	270(8.2)	3900	340(9.6)
<b>Other Crops</b>									
22.	Copra	Milling	5250	5550	300(5.7)	5950	400(7.2)	6500	550(9.2)
	(Calender Year)	Ball	5500	5830	330(6.0)	6240	410(7.0)	6785	545(8.7)
23.	De-Husked Coconut (Calender Year)		1425	1500	75(5.3)	1600	100(6.7)	1760	160(10)
24.	Jute		2400	2700	300(12.5)	3200	500(18.5)	3500	300(9.3)
25.	Sugarcane \$		220.00	230.00	10(4.5)	230.00	0	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

**श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर:** सभापति जी, अपने उत्तर में माननीय मंत्री जी ने MSP के संबंध में बहुत लम्बी-चौड़ी लिस्ट दी है। मैं मंत्री जी से सिर्फ यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि प्रधान मंत्री जी ने चुनावों से पहले कहा था कि देश में किसान को production cost से 50 परसेंट अधिक समर्थन मूल्य दिया जाएगा, क्या उतना समर्थन मूल्य आज किसान को मिल रहा है? यदि किसान को उतना समर्थन मूल्य दिया जा रहा है तो कौन-कौन सी जिन्स के समर्थन मूल्य 50 परसेंट बढ़ाकर दिए जा रहे हैं। मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में जो लम्बी लिस्ट दी है, अगर वह सही है तो आज किसान क्यों आत्महत्या करते, मैं यही जानना चाहती हूँ।

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** मैंने जो स्टेटमेंट सदन के पटल पर रखा है, उसमें बहुत लम्बी लिस्ट दी है। उसमें बहुत स्पष्ट कहा है कि 2017-18 के निर्धारित एम.एस.पी. में ए2+एफएल लागत पर 50 परसेंट से अधिक था - जो गेहूं के लिए 112.4 परसेंट, रेपसीड/सरसों पर 88 परसेंट, मसूर पर 79.6 परसेंट, चने पर 78.8 परसेंट, जौ पर 66.0 परसेंट, उड़द पर 64.3 परसेंट और बाजरे पर 50.2 परसेंट था। इसके अलावा मैंने एक Annexure भी दिया है, जिसमें बताया है कि वर्ष 2014-15 की तुलना में वर्ष 2015-16 में कितना एम.एस.पी. बढ़ा, वर्ष 2015-16 की तुलना में वर्ष 2016-17 में कितना एम.एस.पी. बढ़ा और वर्ष 2017-18 में क्या एम.एस.पी. रहा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर:** माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी ने परसेंटेज तो बताया, क्या इन्होंने किसान की फसल पर जितनी लागत आती है, उसका भी कोई ब्यौरा लिया या नहीं कि कितना केश उन्हें मिल रहा है। इसमें परसेंटेज की बात नहीं है, क्योंकि किसानों को आज एम.एस.पी. के नाम पर कुछ मिल ही नहीं रहा है। आज हमारा किसान आढ़तियों के पास जाने को मजबूर है। उन्हें वहां harass किया जाता है। यदि सरकार ने किसानों के लिए इतनी स्कीमें बनाई हैं, तो मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि grass-root पर आज किसानों को क्या रेट मिल रहा है?

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** माननीय सदस्य ने ठीक ही पूछा है कि आज किसान को समर्थन मूल्य नहीं मिलता। किसान को एम.एस.पी. कैसे मिले, यह प्रश्न बहुत ही सामयिक है। धान और गेहूं की खरीद समर्थन मूल्य पर Food and Civil Supplies Ministry द्वारा होती है। हम सब इससे सहमत होंगे कि जो कई ज़िंस का समर्थन मूल्य है, मेरा ज्यादा अनुभव दिल्ली से कोलकाता तक और दोनों के दायें-बायें 100 किलोमीटर तक है, वहां कहीं भी आज की तारीख में धान का समर्थन मूल्य किसान को नहीं मिल रहा है। राज्यों में इसकी खरीद की जो प्रक्रिया है, Food and Civil Supplies Ministry उसकी Monitoring कर रही है। इस देश में बहुत पहले से एक योजना चल रही है जिसके अंतर्गत धान और गेहूं के अलावा दलहन-तिलहन और कपास के समर्थन मूल्य भी दिए जाते हैं। जब भी समर्थन मूल्य से दाम नीचे जाते हैं, तो PSS Scheme यानी प्राइस सपोर्ट स्कीम के तहत ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, please. ...**(Interruptions)**... No commentary while sitting. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:** Sir, Price Support Scheme (PSS) के तहत ज्यों ही दलहन-तिलहन और कपास का समर्थन मूल्य नीचे आता है, सरकार उसकी खरीद करती है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उसकी एक व्यवस्था है।

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

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** इसके कारण, ...**(व्यवधान)**... माननीय सदस्य ने सदन में जो सवाल पूछा है, ...**(व्यवधान)**... हम सबको सुनना चाहिए ताकि पता चले कि हम क्या कर रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री सभापति:** धन्यवाद, मंत्री जी। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** जब राज्य से हमारे पास प्रस्ताव आता है, भारत सरकार इन ज़िंसों की खरीद के लिए पूरी राशि देती है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह हमारी योजना है। मैं माननीय सदस्य को बताना

चाहूंगा कि दलहन-तिलहन और कपास की वर्ष 2011 से 2014 तक 8,40,000 मीट्रिक टन की खरीदारी की गई। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं समर्थन मूल्य की बात कर रहा हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**... जब भी राज्य से प्रस्ताव आता है, ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No please. ठीक है। ...**(Interruptions)**... No argument. ...**(Interruptions)**... Next is Shri Veer Singh.

**श्री वीर सिंह:** सभापति महोदय, मैं उत्तर प्रदेश से आता हूँ। उत्तर प्रदेश में जौ, गन्ना और धान की खेती बड़े पैमाने पर होती है। आपने वादा किया था कि हम किसान को उसकी उपज लागत का डेढ़ गुना समर्थन मूल्य देंगे। आज आप धान का समर्थन मूल्य लगभग 1500 या 1600 रुपए दे रहे हैं, जबकि किसान की लागत लगभग 2,000 रुपए आती है।

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

**श्री वीर सिंह:** तो आपको तीन हजार देना चाहिए। क्या आप लागत के हिसाब से समर्थन मूल्य बढ़ाएंगे, यह मैं आपसे जानकारी चाहता हूँ।

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** जहां तक लागत मूल्य का सवाल है, CACP 15 राज्यों के कृषि विश्वविद्यालयों के माध्यम से लागत के आंकड़े इकट्ठे करती है, फिर राज्य सरकार से और फिर भारत सरकार के विभिन्न मंत्रालयों से बात करके लाभकारी मूल्य निश्चित करता है और उसके बाद कृषि मंत्रालय और केबिनेट भी जो सिफारिश करता है लाभकारी मूल्य का, उसको भी हम बढ़ाते हैं और बोनस भी देते हैं। धान के मूल्य में भी वृद्धि हुई है और दलहन, तिलहन में भी काफी बोनस देने का काम भारत सरकार ने किया है।

**श्री महेश पोद्दार:** महोदय, किसानों की दीर्घकालीन सहायता के तहत किसानों की आमदनी दोगुनी करने का महत्वाकांक्षी लक्ष्य इस सरकार का है और इस दिशा में मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइस के माध्यम से अनाज लिया जाता है, विशेषकर धान के केस में क्या मंत्री जी अवगत हैं कि भंडारण के कारण प्रोक्योरमेंट का लक्ष्य अनेक राज्यों में पूरा नहीं होता है? तो इस समस्या को दूर करने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठाएगी और कब तक उठाएगी?

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** महोदय, जहां तक धान खरीद का सवाल है, यह Food and Civil Supplies Ministry राज्यों के माध्यम से खरीदती है। वह खरीदारी मेरे मंत्रालय के माध्यम से नहीं होती। धान और गेहूं की खरीदारी एफ.सी.आई. और Food and Civil Supplies Ministry के माध्यम से होती है।

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, this question arises in every Session of Rajya Sabha, and last time, when this came up, I had raised a supplementary, and I would like the hon. Minister to respond to that. When I had said that the crux of the MSP is how you fix the cost of production and the hon. Minister replied that a Committee has been constituted to review alternative methods of fixing cost of production and he would soon

come back to the House with the decision of the Government. I want to ask the hon. Minister: Has the Committee submitted its report? If it has submitted its report, has the Government considered the recommendations and what is the new system for fixing the cost of production?

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** महोदय, यह जो लागत मूल्य तय करने का काम CACP करती है, लेकिन मैंने आपको बताया था कि समर्थन मूल्य पर जो खरीदारी होती है, जैसे अभी धान के विषय में सवाल आया या बाकी भी ऐसे 22 उत्पाद हैं, जिनका समर्थन मूल्य तय है, यह ठीक से खरीदा जाए और राज्यों के माध्यम से भी हम खरीदते हैं। इसके लिए सभी राज्य सरकारों को हमने कुछ सुझाव दिए हैं। राज्य सरकारों से...(व्यवधान)...

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

**श्री जयराम रमेश:** यह बताया जाए कि जो समिति का गठन किया गया था, क्या उस समिति की रिपोर्ट पेश कर दी गई है?

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

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** महोदय, मैं फिर बतला रहा हूँ कि CACP की, जो मूल्य लागत आयोग है, वह दाम तय करती है। हमने राज्य सरकारों से बात की, जिस कमेटी की हमने बात की कि कमेटी बनाई और राज्यों को पत्र दिया है कि कैसे यह व्यवस्था हो जिसका समर्थन मूल्य है, सब की खरीददारी हो सके। इस संबंध में राज्यों के साथ भी हमारी बात चल रही है, नीति आयोग के साथ बात चल रही है और दो दिनों की कार्यशाला, देश के तमाम कृषि अधिकारियों और जो बाकी stakeholders हैं, उनके साथ बैठकर हम करने वाले हैं।

#### **Loss to Government in purchasing foodgrains**

\*201. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the present actual purchase cost of foodgrains;
- (b) the present selling price of foodgrains; and
- (c) the amount of total annual loss to Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) Purchase cost of foodgrains is acquisition cost which comprises of Minimum Support Price (MSP), to be paid to farmers and incidental expenses on its procurement. The incidental expense varies across the States for each food grains and season of procurement. MSP operation is currently undertaken for procurement of wheat, rice and coarse grains. Details of current MSP for various foodgrains are given in Annexure (*See below*).

(b) Under National Food Security Act (NFSA) provisions, the foodgrains are allocated to the State Governments by GoI for its distribution to eligible beneficiaries at Central Issue Price (CIP) of ₹ 300 per quintal for Rice, ₹ 200 per quintal for Wheat and Rs.100 per quintal for coarse grains. In addition to NFSA, food grains are also distributed under various schemes of other Central Ministries.

(c) GoI reimburses difference between expenses incurred by States and FCI on procurement and distribution and CIP as food subsidy. Total food subsidy disbursed during financial year 2016-17 was ₹ 130672.96 crore and during financial year 2017-18 (upto 1.1.2018) ₹ 136901.15 crore.

**Annexure**

*Details of current MSP for various foodgrains (Marketing years 2017-18 and 2018-19)*

Sl. No.	Foodgrain	MSP (₹ /quintal)
<b>2017-18</b>		
1.	Paddy- Common	1550
2.	Paddy- Grade'A'	1590
3.	Wheat	1625
4.	Jowar (Maldani)	1725
5.	Jowar (Hybrid)	1700
6.	Bajra	1425
7.	Ragi	1900
8.	Maize	1425
9.	Barley	1325

Sl. No.	Foodgrain	MSP (Rs./quintal)
<b>2018-19</b>		
1.	Wheat	1735
2.	Barley	1410

**श्री बसावाराज पाटिल:** माननीय सभापति जी, सरकार ने इस साल 2017-18 के लिए लगभग 1 लाख 36 हजार 901 करोड़ रुपए माल खरीद तथा वितरण व्यवस्था में खर्च किया है। सरकार लगभग कितना माल हर साल खरीदती है और खरीदा हुआ जो माल है, वह वितरण प्रणाली में कितना जाता है और ओपन मार्केट में कितना जाता है, कृपया यह माननीय मंत्री जी बताने की कृपा करें।

**श्री सी.आर. चौधरी:** सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो जानना चाहा है, मैं आपके मार्फत बताना चाहूंगा कि जो rice का हमारा सालाना प्रोडक्शन है, that is around 1,000 lakh metric tons. जो प्रोडक्शन है, उसका करीब-करीब one-third हम procure करते हैं। इसके सालाना figures दिए जा चुके हैं, मैं आपको और डिटेल में बता दूंगा। उसका one-third के करीब हम procure करते हैं। इसमें से rice का अधिकतर भाग public distribution के मार्फत जाता है। सारे देश के अंदर सालाना 500 लाख टन के करीब public distribution से गेहूं और चावल जा रहा है। सर, गेहूं का on an average 975-980 लाख टन के करीब हमारा प्रोडक्शन है और इसका भी one-third procure होता है। अभी last year, 2016-17 के अंदर हमने 308 लाख टन गेहूं procure किया था। Open market में गेहूं ज्यादा जाता है, सालाना open market में 55 से 60 लाख टन के करीब गेहूं Open Market Sale Scheme, (OMSS) के ज़रिए जाता है।

**श्री बसावाराज पाटिल:** सर, यह जो माल सरकारी वितरण प्रणाली में जाता है, उसके लिए सरकार को कितना पैसा देना पड़ता है?

**श्री सी.आर. चौधरी:** मान्यवर, आपने प्रश्न ही यही पूछा था कि हमारी actual purchase cost और वितरण की cost क्या है। हमारा जो acquisition है, जो हम प्राप्त कर रहे हैं, उसमें MSP plus incidental charges होते हैं। जो मार्केट में economic price है, उसमें storing capacity and transportation charges और लगा देते हैं, that is our economic price. Sale price जो है - National Food Security Act 2013 के अंदर लाया गया था, तब जो कीमत रखी गयी थी, that was only for 3 years, 3 रुपए, 2 रुपए और 1 रुपया price रखा गया था, तीन रुपए किलो चावल, दो रुपए किलो गेहूं और एक रुपए किलो मोटा अनाज - मैं माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी को हृदय से धन्यवाद दूंगा कि उन्होंने तीन साल के बाद लगातार सेम रेट रखा, किसी प्रकार से prices में कोई बढ़ोत्तरी नहीं की है। जहां तक अंतर का प्रश्न है, इसमें कोई हानि नहीं है। आपने प्रश्न में इस बारे में पूछा है। That is a subsidy. We should call it as a subsidy. भारत सरकार हर साल सब्सिडी देती है। इस साल 1 लाख 36 हजार करोड़ रुपए की सब्सिडी रिलीज की गयी है। यह दो प्रकार से दी जाती है। इसमें decentralized procurement States करती हैं और FCI centralized procurement करता है।



\* 202 [The Questioner was absent.]

**Diversification of CIL into Coal to Chemical business**

\*202.SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited (CIL) will diversify into 'Coal to Chemical business';

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Coal India Limited is planning to set up a coal-based methanol plant; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) to (c) As per the decision taken by Government of India, revival of the Talcher unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) was awarded to a consortium of Coal India Limited (CIL), Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), Rastriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) and FCIL on nomination basis. In line with the directives of Government of India, CIL, through a Joint Venture (JV) named Talcher Fertilizer Limited (TFL), with GAIL, RCF and FCIL, has taken initiatives to set-up a coal based fertilizer plant at the site of the defunct Talcher unit of FCIL to produce 2200 MT/Day ammonia and 3850 MT/Day Urea through coal gasification route.

CIL is also exploring the techno-commercial feasibility of coal to other chemical business from Indian high calorific value (CV) coal at the existing premises of Dankuni Coal Complex of South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL) for production of Methanol from Coal and at North Karanpura coalfield area of Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL) for production of Methanol/ Ammonia/ Ammonium Nitrate from coal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No. 202, Shri R. Vaithilingam, absent. Any supplementary. Shri Harivanshji.

**श्री आनन्द भास्कर रापोलू:** सर ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री सभापति:** देखिए, अगर एक ही सदस्य को दो-तीन प्रश्नों में मैं सप्लीमेंटरी सवाल पूछने का मौका दूंगा तो बाकी सदस्यों का क्या होगा? कृपया इस बात का ध्यान रखिए।

**श्री हरिवंश:** सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि future में environment की दृष्टि से कोयले की जगह एनर्जी के रूप में नयी चीजों के प्रयोग की बात हो रही है। उस संदर्भ में क्या आपकी कोई योजना है?

**श्री पीयूष गोयल:** सर, जलवायु में लगातार कैसे परिवर्तन हो रहे हैं, उसके ऊपर देश और विदेश में सबको बहुत चिंता है, लेकिन देश में सस्ता बिजली उत्पादन होता रहे, उसके लिए कोयले की जरूरत है और आगे भी रहेगी। इसके साथ ही साथ सरकार यह कोशिश कर रही है कि कोयले के इस्तेमाल को हम gasification में कैसे यूज करें, methane बनाने में कैसे यूज करें। Coal to gas कन्वर्ट करने में कोयले का भी इस्तेमाल हो जाएगा और जो गैस हमें विदेश से लानी पड़ती है, उस पर खर्च होने वाला foreign exchange भी बचेगा तथा साथ ही साथ एक clean source of energy बनेगा। विश्व में आज climate change और terrorism, इन दो बड़ी समस्याओं की चर्चा बार-बार होती है। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री की लगातार यह चिंता रहती है कि climate change में कैसे कोयले का इस्तेमाल करने के साथ-साथ हम environment के concern को भी पूरी तरह से ध्यान में रखें। सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से एक और चीज के बारे में बताना चाहूंगा कि कोयला इस्तेमाल करते समय जो कार्बन निकलता है, उसको capture करके किसी alternate यूज में डाला जाए, उसके लिए भी सरकार ने रिसर्च पर काफी बल दिया है। जब उस समस्या का हल निकल आएगा, carbon capture and utilization, मैं समझता हूँ कि तब जलवायु परिवर्तन पर इसका बहुत अच्छा परिणाम निकलेगा।

**श्रीमती छाया वर्मा:** सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या कोल इंडिया या उससे संबंधित कंपनियों में भूतपूर्व सैनिकों के कल्याण हेतु कोई स्कीम है? क्या कोल ट्रांसपोर्टिंग में काम ठेके पर दिए जाते हैं?

**श्री पीयूष गोयल:** सभापति महोदय, हां, एक स्कीम कोल इंडिया की है जिसमें ट्रांसपोर्टेशन के काम में जो भी भूतपूर्व सैनिक हैं, उनको priority दी जाती है। उस स्कीम के तहत कई इलाकों में भूतपूर्व सैनिकों ने छोटे कोआपरेटिव्स बनाये हैं, कुछ लोगों ने मिलकर ट्रांसपोर्टेशन का काम शुरू किया है।

#### **Early resolution of inter-Departmental cases**

\*203. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of pending cases in various courts of the country;
- (b) whether Government is the largest litigant in the country and about half of the pending cases in courts are related to inter-Departmental litigation, one department suing another;
- (c) if so, the factual details in this regard;
- (d) whether Government has prepared any strategy for disposal of pending cases in various courts, particularly the inter-Departmental cases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for not paying special attention to such cases for their early resolution?

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

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) Data on pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and High Courts. As per the information made available by the Supreme Court of India, the total number of pending cases in the Supreme Court as on date is 55,459. As per information available on the web-portal of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), 34.27 lakh cases are pending in High Courts (excluding High Courts of Allahabad and Jammu and Kashmir), and 2.61 crore cases are pending in various District and Subordinate Courts of the country (excluding District and Subordinate Courts in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry) as on date.

(b) and (c) The 100 report of the Law Commission of India observed that bulk of litigation in the courts, including, in particular, writ petitions in the Supreme Court and the High Courts, consists of cases in which the Government is a party.

(d) and (e) Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS) is a comprehensive and integrated system for effective monitoring of court cases which uses a single database where updated information about the status and various stages of court cases is available. LIMBS is a web-based monitoring tool where various stakeholders viz. Ministry's users, higher officials, nodal officers, advocates, claimants, arbitrators etc. in a court case can update/share information on-line related to court cases being dealt with by them. In addition, the legislations are so drafted and designed so as to minimize inter-departmental disputes. Since 2014, the Government of India has repealed 1200 laws that were obsolete and outdated in order to reduce unnecessary legislation.

The Government is keen to explore options for Government Departments and Organisations and other related bodies for settlement of their disputes through alternate methods, like mediation, arbitration, conciliation, etc. either online or otherwise. For the purpose, the Government has gathered information about some Agencies/Institutions/Organisations working in the field of such alternate methods of dispute resolution and made their links available on the website of the Department of Justice to provide information about them to the users. The relevant Government Ministries were requested in April, 2017 to take necessary action for reducing number of court cases in which

Government is a party. It was followed by a series of meetings held with various Ministries and Departments in the months of June and August, 2017 requesting them to review their pending cases with a view to reduce number of litigation and to consider contempt cases in particular so as to weed out vexatious and unnecessary litigation pending in courts.

It may be mentioned that the Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution. It has undertaken many steps towards achieving this objective. One of these steps is, strengthening of judicial infrastructure in districts through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary a total of ₹ 6009 crore has been released since 1993-94, out of which ₹ 2,565 crore (42.66%) has been released since April, 2014. 17,848 Court Halls and 14,085 Residential Accommodations have been made available for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts under this scheme as on date. Out of this 2,429 Court Halls and 4,172 Residential Accommodations were constructed since 2014 to till date. In addition, 3,143 Court Halls and 1,682 Residential Accommodations are under construction. The Central Government has approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary beyond the 12th Five Year Plan period *i.e.* from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020 with an estimated outlay of ₹ 3,320 crore.

Under the Phase-I of the eCourts Mission Mode Project undertaken by the Central Government from 2010 to 2015, against a total target of computerisation of 14,249 courts, the computerisation of 13,672 district and subordinate courts was achieved. This includes the installation of hardware, the LAN and software. This has enabled the courts to upload the case status and orders online. Status of cases and copies of judgments have also been made available on the websites of the respective District and Subordinate Court Complexes which have been computerised. ₹ 935.00 crore were allocated for Phase - I out of which ₹ 639.41 crore were utilized.

In the Phase II of the eCourts Mission Mode Project (July, 2015 upto 31 March 2019) an outlay of ₹ 1,670 crores has been approved and ₹ 921.75 crore has been released so far. The facilities of e-services such as cause lists, case status, daily orders, judgments etc. are being provided under the supervision of e-Committee of the Supreme Court and Computer Committees of respective High Courts. A total of 16,089 Courts have been computerised under the eCourts Project till date. Video Conferencing facility has also been operationalised between 488 court complexes and 342 corresponding prisons during the period 2015-17. The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) developed under this project

provides updated information on civil and criminal cases, including pending cases, for the computerised district/subordinate courts in the country.

Another initiative that has been undertaken with a focus to improve access to justice is the Tele Law Scheme launched on 20th April, 2017, which is an effort to provide legal advice pro-actively to the marginalised sections of society through Common Service Centres (CSCs). This initiative facilitates delivery of legal advice through an expert panel of lawyers stationed at the State Legal Service Authorities (SLSA). Under this Scheme, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) connect potential litigants with lawyers through video conferencing facilities at CSCs which are, operated by Village Level Entrepreneurs. The Scheme has been launched in 1800 Gram Panchayats in 11 States (U.P., Bihar, J&K, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Sikkim). A total of 11326 cases have been registered by PLVs under the scheme and legal advice has been provided in 8064 cases. The Government has also launched a scheme for *Pro Bono* Legal Services in April, 2017 in which interested lawyers and litigants can register on the website ([www.doj.gov.in](http://www.doj.gov.in)) to provide and avail *pro-bono* legal services as may be required. So far 195 lawyers have registered on the portal and more than 280 cases have been assigned for *pro bono* assistance.

**श्री राम कुमार कश्यप:** सर, मंत्री महोदय ने मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर बहुत ही संतोषजनक दिया है, इसलिए मैं पहला सप्लीमेंटरी प्रश्न पूछने जा रहा हूँ। मंत्री जी, जैसा कि आपने प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया है कि आज तक उच्चतम न्यायालय में 55,459, उच्च न्यायालयों में 34.27 लाख और देश के विभिन्न जिला और अधीनस्थ न्यायालयों में 2.61 करोड़ मामले लंबित हैं। इन मामलों के निपटारे के लिए सरकार द्वारा कई कार्य नीतियां बनाई गई हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन लंबित मामलों के निपटारे के लिए जो कार्य नीतियां आपके द्वारा बनायी गयी हैं, उनके कारण पिछले तीन सालों में कितने मामले निपटाये गये हैं?

**श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:** सर, जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य को मालूम होगा कि नीतियां बना सकते हैं, सहयोग कर सकते हैं, लेकिन न्यायालयों में मामलों का निष्पादन माननीय न्यायमूर्ति के ऊपर निर्भर करता है। वर्ष 1993-94 से लगभग छह हजार करोड़ रुपये सेंट्रल स्पॉन्सर्ड स्कीम में दिए गए और पिछले तीन साल में 2000 करोड़ से अधिक हमारी सरकार के दौरान दिए गए हैं। उनके लिए फ्लैट बन रहे हैं, मकान बन रहे हैं कोर्ट हॉल बन रहे हैं। हमारी ओर से अधिक प्रयास यह हो रहा है कि 10 साल से पुराने मामले प्राथमिकता में निपटाए जायें। लोअर कोर्ट के बारे में, मैं आपको यह कह सकता हूँ कि अभी जो आपको 2.61 करोड़ की संख्या सदन के अंदर दी गयी, यह पहले जून में 2.80 करोड़ थी और अब यह घटकर 2.61 करोड़ हुई है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट में भी लंबित मामलों की संख्या कम हुई है।

हमेशा इस देश में एक बात को ध्यान में रखना पड़ेगा कि कोर्ट में लोग केस फाइल भी करते हैं, तो कई जगह निष्पादन और नये केसों का अंकीकरण दोनों साथ-साथ चलता है, तो हमारा देश अब अपने अधिकारों के बारे में जागृत हो रहा है। यह एक सतत् लड़ाई है।

माननीय सभापति जी, मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगा कि भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने और प्रधान मंत्री जी ने आग्रह किया था कि क्या न्यायमूर्तिगण शनिवार के दिन कोर्ट कर सकते हैं, छुट्टियों में कोर्ट कर सकते हैं और सुप्रीम कोर्ट से लेकर पूरे देश में आज न्यायमूर्तिगण बैठ रहे हैं और मामलों को निपटा रहे हैं, तो हमारी कोशिश यह है कि हम इसको जल्द से जल्द आगे बढ़ायें।

**श्री सभापति:** मंत्री जी, मेरे गांव में एक कहावत है। छोटा सा काम हो गया, उसको अल्प संतोषी कहते हैं। दो करोड़ से ज्यादा केसेज पेंडिंग हैं। अच्छा है ...**(व्यवधान)**... आपने कहा ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह सरकार, वह सरकार, लेकिन आप इसको पोलिटिकल मत करिए। बहुत दिन से केसेज पेंडिंग हैं। इसको गंभीरता से लेना चाहिए और सरकार इसको गंभीरता से ले रही है और सुप्रीम कोर्ट भी, जो main मामला है, जो issues pending हैं, उन पर ज्यादा ध्यान दे और नये विषयों के बारे में बाद में सोचे, तो अच्छा होगा।

**श्री सतीश चन्द्र मिश्रा:** सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय और माननीय उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीशों की सैलेरी बढ़ाने का बिल लोक सभा से पास करा लिया है। यह अच्छी बात है कि आप उनकी ढाई गुना सैलेरी बढ़ा रहे हैं, लेकिन वे लोग तो अभी सोच रहे हैं कि वे शनिवार को कोर्ट में बैठें या न बैठें। जो लोअर कोर्ट्स हैं, जहां पर दो करोड़ 17 लाख केसेज पेंडिंग हैं, जैसा कि अभी आपने अपने जवाब में भी कहा है, वे तो शुरू से ही शनिवार को कोर्ट चलाते हैं और वे शाम को 6.00 बजे या 7.00 बजे से पहले कभी कोर्ट छोड़ नहीं पाते हैं, क्योंकि उनके पास इतने ज्यादा केस लदे होते हैं, जिनके कारण वे निकल नहीं पाते हैं। आप उनकी फैसिलिटीज को क्यों नहीं बढ़ाते हैं? आप कोर्ट रुम्स को बढ़ा रहे हैं, यह अच्छी बात है, लेकिन आप पहले उनकी सैलेरी, उनकी अलाउंसेज, उनकी फैसिलिटीज बढ़ाइए। आप थोड़ा लोअर कोर्ट्स के न्यायाधीशों के बारे में ध्यान देंगे, तो हमारे ख्याल से Sunday को भी काम करने लगेंगे। अभी तो वे शनिवार को भी काम कर रहे हैं। ऐसा करने से केसों का डिस्पोजल और अच्छा हो सकता है।

**श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:** सर, माननीय सतीश मिश्रा जी सिर्फ एक अनुभवी सांसद ही नहीं, बल्कि बहुत ही अनुभवी और वरिष्ठ वकील भी हैं। आपको मालूम है कि जहां तक माननीय उच्चतम न्यायालय और उच्च न्यायालय के माननीय न्यायमूर्तियों के वेतन के पुनरीक्षण का सवाल है, उसके लिए कानून है, The Supreme Court (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act and The High Court (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act. लेकिन जो subordinate judiciary है, उसके लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णय के अनुपालन में एक जज का कमीशन बनता है। वह उनकी पूरी सैलेरी के पुनरीक्षण पर विचार करता है। जस्टिस रेड्डी का कमीशन बना गया है और उसने अपना काम शुरू कर दिया है। उसे हम पूरा सहयोग करेंगे। आप की बात बहुत सही है कि जिला न्यायालयों के न्यायमूर्तियों का भी पूरा सम्मान होना चाहिए। इस के लिए हमारी पूरी कोशिश है और आपने देखा होगा कि हमने 16,000 कोर्ट्स से अधिक को "ई कोर्ट्स" किया है और National Commission Data Grid बनाया है।

सर, मैं दो स्कीम्स के बारे में जरूर कहना चाहूंगा। Tele-Law के अंतर्गत Common Service Centres के माध्यम से हम गांव के गरीबों को pre litigation advice दे रहे हैं। बिहार, यू.पी. कश्मीर और नॉर्थ ईस्ट में यह शुरू किया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री सतीश चन्द्र मिश्रा:** आप यह बताइए कि क्या उनकी salary और allowances के बारे में विचार कर रहे हैं?

**श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:** सर, मैंने अभी विस्तार से बताया कि रेड्डी कमीशन बन गया है, वह काम कर रहा है। मेरे ख्याल से माननीय मिश्रा जी इस बात को मानेंगे कि अगर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने जजमेंट में उसके लिए एक mechanism बनाया है, तो सरकार अपने से अलग mechanism नहीं बना सकती। हम उसके तहत कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं।

SHRI RIPUN BORA: Sir, though there are more than two-crore cases pending in the lower courts as well as in the High Courts and Supreme Court, apart from the reasons of shortage of Judges and infrastructure, the other reason is slow disposal of cases. I would like to ask the hon. Minister if the Government could put in place a mechanism for the speedy disposal of cases. There are many small cases that are pending in courts for years. We should have cases heard regularly and frequently in Lok Adalats in the rural areas so that these cases could be disposed of.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, the hon. Member is absolutely right. We are promoting alternative dispute resolution mechanism in a very effective manner. In the last three years, crores of cases have been disposed of by the Lok Adalats. We hold them frequently. We propose to do that in consultation with the High Court. We are taking other significant steps to dispose of traffic-related cases on a fast-track basis through alternative methods. We are working it out. All this would happen and cases pending in the lower and district courts would come down.

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल:** माननीय कानून मंत्री जी, देश में इस समय करीब 2 करोड़ मुकदमे pending हैं और हम जानते हैं कि lower courts में भी हमारे पास जजेज की बहुत कमी है, हाई कोर्ट्स और यहां तक कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट में भी जजेज की कमी है।

मंत्री जी, आपको इस बात की सूचना है कि पी.आई.एल. और मुकदमों की तारीख - ये दो बहुत बड़ी वजह हैं क्योंकि जजों के ऊपर कोई restriction नहीं है कि वे किस मुकदमे में कितनी तारीख देते हैं। महोदय, पी.आई.एल. सुनने में इतना समय लग जाता है कि बाकी मुकदमों के निपटारे के लिए समय ही नहीं बचता। आप इन दोनों provisions को कैसे routine में लाएंगे और क्या पी.आई.एल. ban करने का आपका कोई इरादा है?

**श्री सभापति:** नहीं, यह लोकतंत्र में ठीक नहीं है।

**श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:** महोदय, माननीय नरेश अग्रवाल जी एक वरिष्ठ सांसद हैं, उन्हें यह अनुभव होगा कि हम न्यायालय की स्वायत्तता और आज़ादी का पूरा सम्मान करते हैं। यह न्यायालय का विषय है कि कौन केस कैसे फाइल होगा, लेकिन हम आपकी चिंता को समझते हैं और कानून मंत्री के दायित्व के रूप में मैं इतना ही बताना चाहूंगा कि जन हित याचिका मूल रूप से गरीबों व मजदूरों के अधिकार के लिए लायी गयी थी। अगर public interest litigation को governance को monitoring करने के विकल्प के रूप में देखा जाता है, पॉलिसी के रूप में देखा जाता है, तो इस के बारे में चर्चा हो सकती है। मैंने उस सदन में भी बताया और यहां भी कहना चाहूंगा कि भारत के संविधान निर्माताओं ने स्पष्ट कहा था कि शासन वही चलाए, जिन को जनता शासन चलाने के लिए चुनती है और वे accountable हों और कानून वही बनाए, जिन्हें देश की जनता कानून बनाने के लिए चुनती है और वे सदन के प्रति accountable होते हैं। तो हमें यह समझना चाहिए कि governance और accountability साथ-साथ चलती है।

#### **Increase in cases of crime in long distance trains**

\*204. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increase in the number of cases of burglary, looting and other crimes against passengers in various long distance trains;

(b) if so, the number of such instances reported during the last one year, Zone-wise; and

(c) the efforts made by Railways to check such incidents and ensure passengers' fear-free journey in trains?

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

#### ***Statement***

(a) and (b) No, Sir. Except small increase in the cases of theft of passengers' belongings, incidents of dacoity, robbery and drugging reported in long distance trains over Indian Railways have decreased during the year 2016 as compared to the year 2015. No incident of burglary has been reported in long distance trains during the years 2015 and 2016. The number of cases of burglary, dacoity, robbery, theft of passengers' belongings and drugging reported in long distance trains over Indian Railways during the year 2016 is given in Annexure (*See below*). Policing, including registration of First Information Report (FIR) and its investigation being State subject, Railways does not maintain any data on Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes. The figures appended are based on the data received from Government Railway Police Stations.



(c) Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP to provide better protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith.

Besides, the following steps are also being taken by the Railways to check such incidents and to ensure fear-free journey of 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. Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras, provided at about 394 stations over Indian Railways, to ensure safety and security of passengers.
3. Security Help Line number 182 is made operational over Indian Railways for security related assistance to passengers in distress.
4. An Integrated Security System (ISS) consisting of surveillance of vulnerable stations through Close Circuit Television Camera Network, Access Control etc. has been sanctioned to improve surveillance mechanism over 202 railway stations.
5. Frequent announcements are made through Public Address System to educate passengers to take precautions against theft, snatching, drugging etc.
6. Through various social media platforms viz. Twitter, Facebook etc., Railways are in regular touch with passengers including women passengers to enhance security of passengers and to address their security concern.
7. Drives are conducted from time to time against the entry of unauthorized persons in trains and railway premises.
8. Regular coordination is made with the State Police/GRP authorities at all levels for prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains.

**Annexure**

*The number of cases of burglary, dacoity, robbery, theft of passengers' belongings and drugging reported in long distance trains over Indian Railways during the year 2016*

Zonal Railway	Burglary	Dacoity	Robbery	Theft of Passengers' Belongings	Drugging
Central	0	10	83	2354	40
Eastern	0	1	3	196	16
East Central	0	2	1	1094	20
East Coast	0	1	2	489	2
Northern	0	7	93	2746	19
North Central	0	2	42	802	10
North Eastern	0	5	39	398	23
Northeast Frontier	0	0	1	191	10
North Western	0	1	4	419	6
Southern	0	0	11	154	10
South Central	0	0	47	1521	10
South Eastern	0	0	1	362	8
South East Central	0	0	4	362	7
South Western	0	1	8	149	2
Western	0	2	24	937	9
West Central	0	3	50	2760	27

**श्रीमती झरना दास बैद्य:** सर, माननीय रेल मंत्री जी ने मेरे question का जवाब दिया है और उन्होंने बताया है कि रेलवे सुरक्षा की जिम्मेदारी राज्य सरकार की है, लेकिन उनकी आर.पी.एफ. की क्या जिम्मेदारी है? मैं रेलवे में सफर करती हूँ, लेकिन मुझे मालूम नहीं कि मंत्री जी सफर करते हैं या नहीं? वहां पर ज्यादा पुलिस तो होती नहीं है। दो पुलिस के आदमी होते हैं और वे कहीं जाकर सो जाते हैं। सुरक्षा के लिए ज्यादा पुलिस नहीं होती है और कॉक्रोच और चूहे ज्यादा होते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री सभापति:** आप सवाल पूछिए।

**श्रीमती झरना दास बैद्य:** वे सुरक्षा के लिए छोड़ दिए हैं।

**श्री पीयूष गोयल:** सभापति महोदय, यह विषय इस हाउस में पहले भी आ चुका है, मुझे लगा था कि शायद खत्म हो गया है, लेकिन शायद माननीय सांसद तब सदन में नहीं थीं। मैं बचपन से ट्रेन में सफर करता आ रहा हूँ। मैं आज भी ट्रेन में सफर करता हूँ और अलग-अलग कारणों से ट्रेन में जाता हूँ। मैं एक स्टूडेंट की हैसियत से आठ साल सोमवार से शनिवार तक सेंट्रल रेलवे और वेस्टर्न रेलवे, दोनों में ट्रेवल करता था। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल:** टिकट लेकर ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No comments, please.

**श्री पीयूष गोयल:** मैं तब first class season pass लेता था। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मुझे यह कहने में कोई शर्मिन्दगी नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... एक बात तो तय है कि मुझे ट्रेन की सब जानकारी है और आज भी मिलती रहती है। हो सके तो मैं सभी माननीय सांसदों को इन्वाइट करूंगा, वे मेरे साथ ट्रेन में सफर करें और मुझे इस बात से अवगत कराएं कि इसमें और क्या कुछ सुधार की आवश्यकता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... जहां तक GRP और RPF का सवाल है और जो रेल सुरक्षा और पैसेन्जर्स की सुरक्षा की prime responsibility है और जो GRP के अधिकारी हैं, crime prevention, detection and investigation वह स्टेट की GRP करती है। RPF के पास अधिकार नहीं हैं कि वह यात्री अपराध के मामले दर्ज कर सके और उसका investigation करके अंत तक दोषियों को सजा दिलवा सके।

इसके साथ ही मैं आपको यह भी बताना चाहूंगा कि RPF लगातार GRP के साथ मिलकर काम में लगी रहती है। यह *prima facie* स्टेट सब्जेक्ट होने के बावजूद RFP उनको सपोर्ट करती है कि किस प्रकार से ticketless travel को रोकना है और अगर कहीं कोई चोरी होती है, तो GRP को सहयोग करके लोगों को पकड़ना होता है, तो हम पकड़ने में हर प्रकार की मदद करते हैं। केस रजिस्टर करना और एक्शन लेना, यह सिर्फ स्टेट के पास है। हमारे पास इसका कोई अधिकार नहीं है।

**श्री सभापति:** सेकन्ड सप्लीमेंटरी प्लीज। कृपया समय को ध्यान में रखिए।

**श्रीमती झरना दास बैद्य:** सर, मेरा पूरा सामान भी रास्ते में चोरी हो गया। मैं कहना चाहती हूँ कि एक एम.पी. का सामान भी first class में चोरी हो जाता है। मैंने इसकी FIR भी दर्ज करवाई थी और टी.टी.ई. ने भी बहुत कोशिश की, लेकिन मुझे आज तक भी वह सामान नहीं मिला है। मुझे कोलकाता जाकर सारा नया सामान खरीदना पड़ा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put a specific question.

**श्रीमती झरना दास बैद्य:** इसके बाद ही मैं त्रिपुरा गई। ऐसे बहुत से लोग हैं, जिनका कोई भी सामान चोरी हो जाता है, लेकिन बाद में मिलता नहीं है। आप सामान की चोरी से सुरक्षा के बारे में क्या कर रहे हैं?

**श्री पीयूष गोयल:** माननीय सांसद जिस त्रिपुरा राज्य से आती हैं, तो आपने यहां पश्चिमी बंगाल की बात भी की है, तो आपको कोलकाता में तकलीफ हुई, तो शायद यह दर्शाता है कि वहां पर कानून-व्यवस्था कैसी है, तो इसको भी सुधारने की आवश्यकता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... चाहे वह राज्य में ही है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री सभापति:** आप इसको सामान्य लीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री पीयूष गोयल:** जहां तक माननीय सदस्य के सामान चोरी होने का सवाल है, तो मैं उसको एक बार जरूर दिखवाऊंगा ...**(व्यवधान)**... जहां पर आपने पश्चिमी बंगाल में इस केस को रजिस्टर किया है ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं उस राज्य सरकार से कहूंगा कि इस पर तुरंत कार्रवाई की जाए तथा दोषी को पकड़ा जाए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... जहां तक यह सवाल है कि एक व्यक्ति का सामान चोरी हुआ है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY:** Sir, the hon. Minister is misleading. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री सभापति:** प्लीज़, प्लीज़, आप बैठिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN:** That is wrong. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. T.K. Rangarajan, please sit down. ...**(Interruptions)**... आप बैठिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY:** The Minister is misleading the House. ...**(Interruptions)**... The hon. Member is saying that her belongings were stolen in Delhi. But, the hon. Minister is saying, in Kolkata. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री पीयूष गोयल:** हमने इस सरकार में VIP कल्चर को समाप्त कर दिया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... हमारे लिए सभी इम्पोर्टेंट हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**... चाहे सामान्य नागरिक हो या सांसद हो। ...**(व्यवधान)**... हम सबके साथ एक जैसी कार्रवाई करते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY:** Why is he saying so? ...**(Interruptions)**... Why?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Anything happening anywhere, it has to be taken seriously. आप बैठिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... श्रीमती सरोजिनी हेम्ब्रम। ...**(व्यवधान)**... झरना दास बैद्य जी, आप बैठ जाइए। आप दूसरी महिला को भी सवाल पूछने का मौका दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... No, it will not go on record. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्रीमती सरोजिनी हेम्ब्रम:** सभापति जी, मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहती हूँ ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्रीमती झरना दास बैद्य:** सभापति जी ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Now it will not go on record, please ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्रीमती झरना दास बैद्य:** सभापति जी... \*

**श्री सभापति:** झरना जी, आपको थोड़ा ध्यान देना चाहिए कि सदन सभापति के द्वारा चलता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... श्रीमती सरोजिनी हेम्ब्रम जी, बोलिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

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\*Not recorded.

**श्रीमती सरोजिनी हेम्वरम:** सभापति जी, रेल में सफर करने वाले यात्रियों की सुरक्षा के लिए मंत्री जी ने बहुत सारे कदम उठाए हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि जो रेल हेल्पलाइन नं. 182 है, उस नंबर पर एक साल में कुल कितनी शिकायतें दर्ज की गई हैं और अभी तक उन पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है? सर, मैं आपको बतलाऊँ कि मैं शिरडी से भुवनेश्वर आ रही थी, मेरा भी सामान फर्स्ट क्लास कंपार्टमेंट से चोरी हो गया था। अभी तक ...(व्यवधान)... मैंने भी शिकायत दर्ज की है ...(व्यवधान)... लेकिन अभी तक ...(व्यवधान)... मुझे भी नहीं मिला है। ...(व्यवधान)... मुझे भी नहीं मिला है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put questions only. ...(Interruptions)... You should put question, please. You can't give a speech. यह कितना गंभीर मामला है। एम.पी. के सामान की चोरी हो रही है। यह बहुत गंभीर मामला है। आप लोग ही उसे ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्रीमती सरोजिनी हेम्वरम:** सभापति महोदय, हम लोग फर्स्ट क्लास में सफर कर रहे हैं, यदि हम लोगों का सामान चोरी हो रहा है ...(व्यवधान)... आम आदमी का क्या होगा? ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister to respond. आप बैठ जाइए। ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्रीमती सरोजिनी हेम्वरम:** हम लोगों का सामान चोरी हो रहा है। ...(व्यवधान)... 182 जो हेल्प लाइन नंबर है। ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री सभापति:** आप बैठ जाइए। ...(व्यवधान)... वह रिकॉर्ड में नहीं जाएगा।

**श्रीमती सरोजिनी हेम्वरम: \***

**श्री सभापति:** मैं दूसरे प्रश्न के लिए जा रहा हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)... दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी, प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव। ...(व्यवधान)... सिम्पल बात है कि जो चेयर की बात नहीं सुनते हैं, उनका मौका वहीं समाप्त हो जाता है।

**प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव:** सभापति जी, यह बहुत गंभीर क्राइम हो रहा है। जब दिल्ली से कानपुर के बीच में ट्रेन चलती है, तो ऑर्गनाइज्ड गैंग्स हैं, जो जहरखुरानी का काम करते हैं। वे एक तरह से दिल्ली स्टेशन पर रेकी कर लेते हैं कि नौकरी वाला कौन-सा व्यक्ति छुट्टी पर जा रहा है। जैसे आर्मी का व्यक्ति है या और कोई व्यक्ति है, उसके पास पैसा होता है। वे किसी न किसी तरीके से उससे घुल-मिलकर या तो अनऑथराइज्ड वेंडर्स चल रहे हैं, जिन पर आप रोक नहीं लगा पा रहे हैं, वे उनसे सामान लेकर, उसमें कुछ लगा देते हैं। वह चाहे बिस्कुट हो, या कुछ और चीज़ हो, जिसको वह व्यक्ति खा लेता और बेहोश हो जाता है। जब वह बेहोश हो जाता है, तो वे उसका सारा सामान उठाकर ले जाते हैं। इस पर कोई प्रभावी कार्यवाही करने का - आप यह मत कहिए कि यह राज्य सरकार का मामला है, यह उत्तर प्रदेश का मामला है, दिल्ली का मामला है या यहाँ का मामला है। आपने अभी जो बहुत लाइटली जवाब दिए ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री सभापति:** बहुत गंभीर विषय है। ...(व्यवधान)...

1.00 P.M.

**प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव:** यह बहुत गंभीर मामला है। आर्मी से लोग छुट्टी पर जाते हैं, उन लोगों की सारी कमाई चली जाती है, मगर जहरखुरानी पर रोक नहीं लग पा रही है। सबसे बड़ा दिल्ली से लेकर कानपुर ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री सभापति:** रेल मंत्री जी ...**(व्यवधान)**... समय का ध्यान ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री पीयूष गोयल:** सभापति जी, मैं माननीय सदस्य को आपके माध्यम से बताना चाहूंगा कि मैं इसे ज़रा-सा भी लाइटली नहीं लेता हूँ। हरेक क्राइम पर पूरी रेल व्यवस्था लगती है। स्टेट की जिम्मेदारी होने के बावजूद आरपीफ पूरे जोर से इस काम पर लगती है। आपने जो ड्रिंग के बारे में कहा, ड्रग्स खिलाने का जो कहा है, इसकी जानकारी की जो रिपोर्ट हुई है, इसके जवाब में भी बता दिया गया है कि साल में, नॉर्दन रेलवे में 19 ऐसे ड्रिंग के इंसिडेंट्स हुए हैं, नार्थ-सेंट्रल में 10 और नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न में 23 इंसिडेंट्स हुए हैं, जो दिल्ली से कनेक्टेड हैं। साल में इतने इंसिडेंट्स हुए हैं। यह तो आप भी समझते हैं कि इसके लिए कोई प्रिवेंटिव मेज़र्स हो नहीं सकते हैं। आजकल एक नया ट्रेंड आया है लोग टिकट खरीदकर, एज ए पैसेंजर ट्रेन में बोर्ड करते हैं। उसके बाद हम एक-एक यात्री की चेकिंग नहीं कर सकते हैं कि रात को क्या हो रहा है, क्या नहीं हो रहा है। स्वाभाविक है कि देश में बहुत सारे कानून हैं, बहुत सारी कानूनी व्यवस्था भी है, लेकिन इसके बावजूद भी कुछ केसेज़ होंगे। हमारा यह लगातार प्रयास रहता है कि इस प्रकार के ऑर्गनाइज्ड गैंग्स की जानकारी लेकर उन पर तुरंत एक्शन हो। यदि किसी माननीय सांसद के पास कोई जानकारी हो कि इस प्रकार के गैंग्स कहाँ ऑपरेट होते हैं, तो कृपया हमें उससे अवश्य अवगत कराएं।

**SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:** Sir, the theft on trains is an organized crime. Certain loots are bartered. There is no disclaimer on the trains to say that when the train enters a particular State, the Centre is not going to be responsible. It is the reputation of the Indian Railways. There are modern technologies; the police network knows exactly where the stolen goods go. Does the Minister interact with the State Governments, talk to them, incentivize crime-free routes and ensure that railway stations have a quick response system to the crimes committed?

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Sir, a very good point is raised by the hon. Member. While, of course, there is a continuous interaction, GRP is the State police. Having said that, what we are now planning to do is to set up nearly two million CCTV cameras which will cover passenger trains, all railway stations, all railway offices, colonies; we are trying to bring the entire rail network into a CCTV surveillance network. The feed of that will be given to the local police station. ...**(Interruptions)**...

On trains we are planning CCTV cameras stream which will go to guard and. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Question Hour is over and the train has already moved.

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**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS****Allegations regarding tampering of EVMs**

\*205. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the allegations about the possibility of tampering of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether Government has received such complaints about the possibility of tampering of EVMs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government to address such complaints?

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

(a) to (d) The Election Commission has informed that around 120 petitions/representations/suggestions regarding Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were received in March-April, 2017. In 24 cases, petitioners had alleged tampering of EVMs. They were requested to submit credible evidence or any relevant material information in support of their claims to the Commission. So far no one has provided any verifiable information about any specific instance of EVM tampering or any credible evidence to substantiate their allegations.

**Actuarial premium rates under PMFBY**

\*206. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the actuarial premium rates charged by the insurance companies under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), State-wise; and
- (b) whether actuarial premium rates, higher than the all-India rate, are being charged by insurance companies in some States, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no all India fixed actuarial premium rate under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and it varies from district to district and even crop to crop. As per provisions of PMFBY, it is the State Governments that select the crops and areas based on the risk associated with them and make clusters with a mix of high, medium and low risk districts and provide the requisite information

including yield data of past 10 years, indemnity level and other terms and conditions to the insurance companies for conduct of a transparent bidding process. On the basis of this data insurance companies, after risk analyses based on historical claim payout/experience, variability in yield, administrative cost etc., bid for each cluster by quoting crop-wise competitive actuarial premium rates for each district within the cluster separately. The State thereafter awards the lowest bidder based on the weighted average of premium quoted for the cluster. The bidded actuarial premium rate is thereafter shared by the farmers at the fixed rates of maximum 1.5% for Rabi, 2% for Kharif and 5% for annual commercial/horticultural crops and the remaining by the Government, both Central and State on 50:50 basis.

Therefore, cluster-wise premium rates in some States like Haryana, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh etc. where yield variability is relatively less, are comparatively very low, say 1.5% or 2%, but, in States like Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan etc. where yield variability is more the cluster-wise premium rates are high. However, State-wise and season-wise details of average bidded actuarial premium rate as against sum insured charged by insurance companies under PMFBY and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) in 2016-17 are given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*State-wise details of Average Premium as against sum insured charged by insurance companies during 2016-17 under PMFBY and RWBCIS*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Kh 16	Rb 16-17	2016-17
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.57%	13.25%	8.99%
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	3.46%	-
3.	Assam	3.37%	5.75%	3.67%
4.	Bihar	17.19%	5.75%	12.12%
5.	Chhattisgarh	4.07%	9.58%	4.51%
6.	Goa	1.27%	2.85%	1.28%
7.	Gujarat	20.49%	5.15%	19.16%
8.	Haryana	3.65%	2.25%	3.08%
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2.16%	10.83%	7.97%
10.	Jharkhand	14.03%	5.58%	13.53%
11.	Karnataka	13.90%	15.16%	14.40%



Sl. No.	State/UT	Kh 16	Rb 16-17	2016-17
12.	Kerala	7.84%	11.03%	9.98%
13.	Madhya Pradesh	14.36%	4.71%	9.75%
14.	Maharashtra	19.14%	20.01%	19.25%
15.	Manipur	9.72%	-	9.72%
16.	Meghalaya	10.45%	5.58%	8.59%
17.	Odisha	7.73%	1.70%	7.42%
18.	Puducherry	-	9.11%	-
19.	Rajasthan	20.05%	6.97%	14.66%
20.	Sikkim	-	2.22%	-
21.	Tamil Nadu	4.71%	20.33%	19.81%
22.	Telangana	6.39%	4.33%	5.70%
23.	Tripura	1.42%	1.30%	1.31%
24.	Uttar Pradesh	4.70%	3.63%	4.21%
25.	Uttarakhand	3.65%	7.22%	4.51%
26.	West Bengal	3.33%	10.36%	5.91%
TOTAL (ALL INDIA AVERAGE)		12.40%	7.98%	10.89%

#### MSP for paddy

\*207. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note that paddy growers in Odisha are in great distress due to low support price and huge difference between MSP and the cost of inputs;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken into consideration the demands of Government of Odisha to raise the MSP for paddy to ₹2930 per quintal to ensure adequate and fair returns to farmers;

(c) if so, the extent by which MSP for paddy is likely to be increased; and

(d) whether Government has worked out any plan to increase assistance to farmers hit by drought, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government fixes minimum support prices (MSPs) based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). While recommending MSPs for 22 commodities (including paddy), CACP takes into account the cost of production, overall demand-supply, domestic and international prices, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, the likely effect on the rest of the economy, besides ensuring rational utilization of production resources like land and water. CACP also holds consultations with various stakeholders including State Governments and farmers' representatives before finalizing its recommendations. The CACP has considered the view of the State Government of Odisha while making its recommendations on the MSP of paddy for 2017-18.

Government fixes the MSPs for two varieties of paddy *i.e.* Common and Grade 'A'. Government has increased the MSP of paddy (common) and paddy (Grade 'A') to ₹ 1550/- per quintal and ₹ 1590/- per quintal respectively for 2017-18 season from ₹ 1470/- per quintal and ₹ 1510/- per quintal respectively of 2016-17 season. The MSP fixed by the Government for 2017-18 for paddy provides adequate returns over all India weighted average cost of production including family labour (A2+FL) of ₹ 1117/- per quintal as projected by CACP. The MSP of paddy was announced on 7th June 2017 before the sowing season.

Cost of production varies in different States on account of difference in levels of irrigation, resource endowment, farm mechanisation, land holding size, yield of crops etc. CACP uses all India weighted average cost of production while making its recommendations on MSP and recommends uniform MSP which is applicable for all States. Even though there is variation in cost of production among States, the MSP fixed by Central Government for 2017-18 season provides adequate returns over weighted average cost of production (A2+FL) of ₹ 1327/- per quintal for Odisha as estimated by CACP on the basis of cost data collected under Comprehensive Scheme for Studying the Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops through Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT). The higher cost of production of Paddy in Odisha is due to lower yield and higher cost of human, bullock and machine labour and expenditure on fertilizer and manure.

(d) To mitigate the adverse impact of natural calamities including drought Central Government provided assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). State Governments are empowered to initiate immediate relief measure to address the situation arising out of drought from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) which is

readily available with them. Central Government contributes 75% towards the SDRF and 25% is contributed by the State Government for general category States (18 out of 29 namely, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal). For special category States (11 out of 29 i.e. 8 North East States namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura Sikkim and 3 hilly States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand) Central Government contributes 90% of SDRF and 10% is contributed by State Government. Allocation under SDRF has been made on the basis of recommendations of the Finance Commission for a period of 5 years. Allocation of funds under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) almost doubled from ₹33580.93 cores during 2010-15 to ₹ 61,220 cores during 2015-2020. Besides, *ex-gratia* payment has been revised to ₹ 4.00 lakh to family of the deceased person including those involved in relief operations or associated in preparedness activities subject to certification regarding cause of death from appropriate authority.

Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature and is approved on the basis of Memorandum received from State Government in accordance with established procedure, keeping in view items and norms in vogue for assistance.

As per the revised norms under SDRF/NDRF on 8th April, 2015 (applicable from 2015-16 to 2019-20) farmers affected by natural calamities including drought are entitled for input subsidy for crop loss of 33% and above @ ₹ 6800/- per ha. for rainfed areas, ₹ 13500/- per ha. for areas with assured irrigation and ₹ 18000/- per ha. for all types of perennial crops.

In addition to the SDRF and NDRF, the Central and State Governments can take advantage of centrally sponsored schemes etc., which permit use of 25% of the allocation as flexi funds to be used for drought mitigation.

Government has also taken several initiatives that would help farmers in enhancing production and productivity of agricultural crops and in increasing the income of farmers which include National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Soil Health Cards (SHC), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).

**Bengaluru Suburban Rail System**

\*208. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps/measures to sort out the issues which are keeping the Suburban Rail System for the Bengaluru city pending;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the Suburban Rail System for Bengaluru would be finalised for the benefit of the people of the city?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(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 through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in accordance with Indian Railways' policy on Suburban Rail System. Accordingly, two works have been identified by State Government *i.e.* (i) Conversion of 15 existing short distance passenger trains to 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.

The following two works have also been identified by Ministry of Railways to be taken up to create capacity to provide suburban services:—

- (i) Doubling between Baiyappanahalli-Hosur (48 km) with automatic signaling
- (ii) Doubling of Yeshwantpur - Lottegollahalli - Hebbal - Banaswadi - Baiyyappanahalli - Chennasandara with electrification (21.7 km). Also, technical Feasibility Study for providing dedicated suburban services in and around Bengaluru has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Railways.
- (c) Does not arise.

**Debt of mobile companies**

\*209. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any communication from the State Bank of India about the unusual unsustainable levels of debt of mobile companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the mobile industry has sought deferred payment for the purchase of spectrum with a moratorium of five years instead of current payback plan of ten years after a two year moratorium; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Government of India, Department of Telecom, received a letter from Chairman, State Bank of India on 22nd May, 2017. The copy of the letter is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Department of Telecom received a letter from Director General, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on 29th June, 2017. This letter contained many issues including requests for increase of payment schedule for spectrum deferred payment liability to 20 years (5-year moratorium plus 15-year payment period). Further, during the submissions to Inter Ministerial Group (IMG), few TSP's (Telecom Service Providers), including Airtel and Vodafone, had sought the same.

(d) An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) was constituted on 16/05/2017 with following terms of reference:

- To examine systemic issues affecting viability and repayment capacity in telecom sector and furnish recommendations for resolution of stressed assets,
- Policy reforms and strategic interventions for Telecom sector.

The IMG submitted its report on 31/08/2017. The IMG *inter-alia* recommended that regarding the tenure of deferred Payment Liability on Spectrum, the Telecom Service Providers may be given a one-time opportunity to opt for higher number of instalments (16) instead of the currently permitted 10 instalments. The IMG did not recommend any change in the moratorium period of two years. The recommendation has been concurred by Telecom commission and is under process for final approval by Cabinet.

*Statement*

अरुंधति भट्टाचार्य

अध्यक्ष

ARUNDHATI BHATTACHARYA

Chairman

भारतीय स्टेट बैंक

State Bank of India

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CHSECTT/5

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017

Dear Ms. Sundararajan,

We understand that Government of India has formed an inter-ministerial panel to suggest policy reforms for the telecom sector, which is reeling under severe financial stress. As Lenders, we are highly exposed to Telecom Sector with total lending of more than ₹ 4 lakh crore. We would therefore like to represent some of our observations and recommendations to help this sector tide over this current crisis.

Indian telecom market is one of the fastest and largest telecom markets in the world. This industry has seen a high growth phase of 15 years till year 2016. Telecom sector contributed 6.5% to GDP during FY16. The sector went through its first crisis in the wake of sweeping cancellation of licenses by the courts. However since then the sector has forged ahead and increased mobile penetration in the country hugely. Given this scenario, Banks also lent large amounts to the sector for expansion as well as purchase of spectrum through auctions. The number of players in the sector was more than 11/12 which was unsustainable and it was necessary for some of them to get consolidated with the larger players. This has been happening at a fast pace in the last couple of years. Some of the transactions have led to foreign players exiting the market altogether (eg. Telenor, DoCoMo), or becoming a minority shareholder by merging their business in existing players (eg. MTS, Vodafone and IDEA also merging to form 50:50 JV). It is a question as to how this reflects on the future prospects of the sector going ahead.

The stress in the sector has reached highly unsustainable levels after the entry of new players and launch of free services which led to erosion of topline and EBITDA of the telecom service providers. The data with us suggests that the total EBITDA of

the sector on annualized basis is ₹ 65,000 crore which is clearly unsustainable for debt of more than ₹ 4 lakh crore.

We request for immediate intervention to stem the slide. Detailed recommendations are given in the presentation attached. Some of the key recommendations are given below;

- Deferred payment liability (DPL) for spectrum needs to be aligned to the life of the spectrum *i.e.* 20 years with a moratorium of 5 years and repayment of 15 years as against the current policy 2 years plus 10 years
- Rationalization of regulatory charges given there is heavy burden of industry specific levy for telecom sector, (proposed 18% GST, 8% License Fees, 2-6% Spectrum Usage Charges).
  - 5% of License Fee taken for USO should be dispensed with, given the penetration and coverage being pan-India. Also, currently accumulated USO Fund has already reached more than ₹ 45,000 crore.
  - Also, GST rates should be reduced to lowest bracket of 5% given the criticality of the sector to Indian Economy and cellular service becoming a necessity today.
- Resolution of definition of Adjusted Gross Revenues. All litigations with regards to same should be resolved through negotiations and one-time settlements thereby reducing the cost burden and freeing of NFB limits for other purpose.
- Inclusion of private players for utilization of USO Fund accumulated for increasing the mobile penetration in remote areas. Eg. Private players could be able to put a tower in remote location at competitive rate and hence such work should be based on L1 tender basis.
- M&A regulations to be eased to ensure quick mergers with minimum time required for approvals as well as minimum overhead costs for the same.
- Income from Spectrum Trading not to be counted for the purpose of calculation of AGR given that any premium received is taxable as capital gains. This will also lead to efficient use of spectrum.

Given the importance of the sector to the economy and government's push towards a digital economy, there is a need for large scale intervention and policy impetus for the sector to revive.

We look forward to engaging extensively with you for early resolution of the above issues.

With Warm Regards

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Arundhati Bhattacharya)

Ms Aruna Sundararajan

Chairman (Telecom Commission) & Secy. (DoT)

Department of Telecommunications

Ministry of Communications

Sanchar Bhawan 20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi 110001.

#### **Interest rate on agricultural activities**

†\*210. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions made and programmes formulated to enhance the income of farmers and making it double within a specified time period; and

(b) the details of the policy, scheme and implementation thereof with regard to interest on agricultural loan and bringing the interest rate to the level of 'zero' per cent on the occupations allied to agriculture like dairy, medicinal plant products, preservation of agricultural products and cold storage, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) The Central Government is working expeditiously to achieve the target of doubling the income of farmers by 2022. For this purpose, the Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee on 13.04.2016 under the Chairmanship of Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare to examine issues relating to doubling of farmers' income and recommend a strategy to achieve the same by the year 2022. Alongside working on a comprehensive strategy, the Committee has been parallelly suggesting various intervention for consideration. In order to involve the stakeholders across the country in finalizing the strategy, the Committee has been placing its reports in installments. As of now, seven Volumes of the draft Report prepared by the Committee

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



have been uploaded on the website of this Department (<http://agricoop.nic.in/doubling-farmers>) for seeking public opinion. Some of the recommendations of the Committee for consideration of the Government include:—

- (i) A comprehensive State Market Act to introduce reforms and competition for creating a competitive price discovery environment. Following this A Model State/UT Agricultural Produce, and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017 has been drafted, approved and shared with the States.
- (ii) A Model Contract Farming Act is now under drafting to bring greater focus on monitoring of price across the country.
- (iii) Restructuring of Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI).
- (iv) A five year Roadmap for Pulses Production and achieve a production status of 24 million MTs.
- (v) A comprehensive roadmap for increasing the production of oilseeds in the country.
- (vi) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) scheme has been approved for continuation for three years as Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture & Allied Sector Rejuvenation i.e. (RKVY-RAFTAAR) which aims at making the farming as a remunerative economic activity through multi pronged approach along with holistic development of agriculture and allied sector. The new Guidelines provide for major allocation for creation of production and post-production infrastructure, beside promoting agri-enterprises and incubation facilities.
- (vii) An institutional mechanism at State and District levels to undertake integrated and comprehensive review of agriculture and allied activities and farmers welfare.
- (viii) Computerization of Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACsSs)- A budgeting provision has been made to computerize all the PACsSs in a period of 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20).
- (ix) Accelerate the pace of coverage under micro-irrigation- In order to supplement the micro-irrigation coverage under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), creation of a corpus fund of the size of ₹ 5000 crore has been approved during the year 2017-18.

The Government is aiming to reorient the agriculture sector by making it income-centric rather than purely a production-centric activity. A farmer's income is a basket of earnings from agriculture (including horticulture), allied activities like dairy, livestock, poultry, fishery etc. and ancillary activities like beekeeping etc. Apart from these farm incomes, he also earns from other activities like wage labour, off-farm activities etc. Earnings from agriculture constitute the principal source of income of a farmer.

At present, the Government is implementing various schemes to synchronise with higher gains for the farmers. Details are as follows:—

- For higher production through productivity gains
  - National Food Security Mission (NFSM)- cereals, pulses, oilseeds, nutri-rich cereals, commercial crops
  - Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)- high growth rate of horticulture crops.
- For reduction in cost of cultivation
  - Soil Health Card (SHC) (2 year cycle)- ensure judicious use of fertilizer application and thus save money of farmers,
  - Neem Coated Urea (NCU) (universal)- is being promoted to regulate use of urea, enhance availability of nitrogen to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer application
  - The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) - micro irrigation component (1.2 million ha/yr target)- 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.
- To ensure remunerative returns
  - National Agriculture Market Scheme (E-NAM) is an innovative market process to revolutionize 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'
  - A new model "The Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017" has been released on 24th April, 2017 for its adoption by States/UTs. This has been derived after many deliberations over the earlier model APMC Act 2003 and the need for

inclusion of progressive reforms required in the agriculture marketing sector. In the Model APLM Act, 2017, provisions includes setting up of private markets, direct marketing, farmer-consumer markets, special commodity markets, declaring warehouses/silos/cold storages or such structures as market sub yards. The model Act is in different stages of adoption by various States.

- Warehousing and post-harvest loans at concessional rate of interest so as to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against negotiable receipts.
- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is notified by the Government for certain crops. The objective of the Government's price policy is to ensure remunerative prices to farmers by offering to procure their produce at MSP.
- Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) – Procurement of oilseeds, pulses and cotton are undertaken by central agencies at MSP under Price Support Scheme (PSS) at the request of the concerned State Government. Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agriculture and horticulture products, which are perishable in nature and are not covered under PSS.
- For risk management and sustainable practices
  - Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) & Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWCIS) (cover 50% GCA by 2018-19)– provides insurance cover at all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances and available to the farmers at very low rates of premium.
  - 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
  - Mission organic Farming in North-East- Mo VCD (NE)– Realizing the potential of organic farming in the North Eastern Region of the country.
  - Allied activities as follows:–

"Har Medh Par Ped" launched during 2016-17 to encourage tree plantation on farm land "Har Medh Par Ped", along with crops/cropping

system. The scheme is being implemented in the States those have notified liberalized transit regulations for transport of timber. Implementation of the scheme has been started in 8 States and during 2016-17 and in 12 more States during 2017-18 after notifying liberalized transit regulations. Other States are also being motivated to notify liberalized transit regulations. Agroforestry will not only help in increasing soil organic carbon but also in creating additional source of income to farmers. Bee-Keeping: During the last 3 year (2014-15 and 2016-17) the number of honey bee colonies that were 20 lacs in 2014-15 have increased to 30 lacs during 2016-17, registering an increase of 10 lacs. Honey production in 2011-14 was 2,18,950 metric tons which has increased to 2,63,930 metric tons during 2014-17 *i.e.* an increase of 20.54%.

Dairying: Dairy sector is being promoted through schemes like Rashtriya Gokul Mission, National Bovine Productivity Mission and various dairy development related projects are being implemented.

Fisheries: Foreseeing high potential in fisheries sector, a Blue Revolution with multi-dimensional activities mainly focusing on fisheries production, both inland and marine is being implemented.

(b) With a view to make concessional credit available to farmers for crop production, the Government implements the Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS) under which, in the case of prompt repayment, an interest subvention of 5% is provided to the farmers for short term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh, thereby reducing the effective rate of interest to 4% p.a. for such farmers. Some State Governments also provide additional interest subvention, reducing the effective interest burden on short term crop loans to zero.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

### Settlement of farmers' claims under PMFBY

2081. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers with large land holdings majorly opt for crop insurance under PMFBY and not the small land holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that settlement of farmers' claims takes unusually long time and the financial institutions do not make a reasonable assessment of the damage to farm produces in the true spirit of PMFBY; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) No Sir. As is evident from coverage during Kharif, 2017, out of the total farmer applicants under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), more than 80% are small and marginal farmers.

(c) and (d) The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) stipulates that claims may be settled by the concerned insurance company within 21 days of receipt of yield data from the concerned State Government subject to payment of full premium subsidy by the Government, both Central and State. During 2016-17, which was also the first year of scheme implementation, claims were mostly settled within two months after receipt of yield data. In some exceptional circumstances there was delay in settlement of claims on account of delay in receipt of State share of subsidy, discrepancy in yield data, verification of applicants/coverage, non-availability of farmer account details etc. Further, the claims are worked out and settled by the insurance companies based on the assessment of crop yield/crop loss by State Government. To further streamline the loss assessment and claim settlement process, the Government has already adopted several remedial measures including mandatory use of smartphone/CCE Agri App for realtime reporting of yield data on the crop insurance portal, preparation of modules for auto calculation of claims, initiation of direct transfer of claims to farmers' bank account, rigorous monitoring etc.

#### **Pre and post harvest losses**

†2082. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to check pre and post harvesting crop losses in the country, including Maharashtra;

(b) whether any study regarding the volume of pre and post harvest losses of crops in the country has been conducted by Government, if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the number of crops covered under this study and the annual value of pre and post harvest losses of major produces on national level along with the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) The Government has taken number of measures to develop agriculture infrastructures including that for cleaning, grading, storage, cold chain logistics, etc. with the objectives to check and reduce pre and post-harvest losses in the country including Maharashtra. Various Schemes of the Government such as Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), sub-schemes of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) and Venture Capital Assistance (VCA) under Integrated Scheme of Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) as well as Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) aims at promoting infrastructure in agriculture and horticulture including that of post-harvest and marketing infrastructures in the country. Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017 promoted by Government of India for adoption by the States also aims at promoting investment in post-harvest infrastructure and encouraging integration of farmers directly with end buyers which will help in reducing number of intermediations and thereby reducing post-harvest losses.

Programmes/activities relating to capacity building in value chain and development in post-harvest engineering and technology is conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) as well as by CCS National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (CCS NIAM), Jaipur which aims at reducing the post-harvest losses.

(b) and (c) ICAR-Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana has conducted two studies on 'Assessment of Quantitative Harvest and Post-Harvest Losses of Major Crops and Commodities in India' through All India Coordinated Research Project on Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology to determine the level of losses during the year 2005-07 and 2012-13. Study report gives harvest and post harvest losses commodity-wise only. The economic value of quantitative loss of 45 crops/commodities was found to be to the tune of ₹92651 crore at average annual price of 2014. Details are given in the Statement.

**Statement***Table 1: Estimated Monetary Loss*

(₹ in crore)		
Sl. No.	Crop/ Commodity	Monitory Value of the losses
1	2	3
1.	Paddy	10344
2.	Wheat	7882
3.	Maize	1309
4.	Bajra	579
5.	Sorghum	584
6.	Pigeon Pea	958
7.	Chick Pea	2453
8.	Black Gram	282
9.	Green Gram	184
10.	Mustard	1508
11.	Cottonseed	347
12.	Soybean	5405
13.	Safflower	8
14.	Sunflower	99
15.	Goundnut	911
16.	Apple	1341
17.	Banana	3903
18.	Citrus	1557
19.	Grapes	969
20.	Guava	858
21.	Mango	7186
22.	Papaya	557
23.	Sapota	273
24.	Cabbage	874

1	2	3
25.	Cauliflower	1214
26.	Green Pea	971
27.	Mushroom	46
28.	Onion	2312
29.	Potato	5008
30.	Tomato	3666
31.	Tapioca	751
32.	Arecanut	475
33.	Black pepper	35
34.	Cashew	239
35.	Chilli	547
36.	Coconut	2058
37.	Coriander	249
38.	Sugarcane	5614
39.	Turmeric	108
40.	Egg	1320
41.	Inland Fish	3766
42.	Marine Fish	4315
43.	Meat	1235
44.	Poultry meat	3942
45.	Milk	4409
GRAND TOTAL		92651

**Age old practice of agriculture**

†2083. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture is the main source of livelihood for rural people;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



(b) whether most of the farmers are still following the age old agriculture methodology;

(c) if so, the measures taken for educating the farmers to adopt modern techniques for better yield at less expenditure;

(d) whether 15 per cent of rural households are landless; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to allot the non-cultivable land to such people so that these people may be in a position to transform such land into cultivable land to earn their livelihood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) As per the Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in its 70th round (January-December, 2013) some related information is available which may be relevant. As per the results of this survey, rural India had an estimated total of 90.2 million agricultural households. These agricultural households are about 57.8 per cent of the total estimated rural households of the country during this period. Further, SAS 2013 also collected information on the principal source of income for the agricultural households during the 365 days prior to the date of survey. As per the estimates obtained from the survey, 68.3% of the agricultural households reported cultivation as their principal source of income.

(c) Government has been laying special emphasis on dissemination of information and knowledge transfer to the farmers through a series of initiative like Extension Reforms, Mass Media Support to Agricultural Extension, Kisan Call Centres, Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres, Exhibitions/Fairs etc. Further, a network of 681 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) has been established by Indian Council of Agricultural Research to facilitate farmer's access to knowledge and information generated by Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes of the country.

(d) The NSSO conducted last survey on 'Land and Livestock Holdings' in its 70th round (January-December, 2013). From this survey, about 7.41% of rural households in India were landless. Households owning land less than or equal to 0.002 hectares were classified under the category 'landless' in this survey.

(e) As per Entry 18 and Entry 45 of List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, the subject of 'Land' and its management falls in the jurisdiction of the States. Each State has its own Laws to deal with 'Land' and matters related thereto.

**Dairy development projects of Ujjain and Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh**

†2084. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two projects namely National Programme for Dairy Development, Ujjain and Ratlam costing ₹513.13 lakh and ₹251.54 lakh respectively, sent by Government of Madhya Pradesh are pending for approval, if so, the latest status of both the projects and details with regard to approval and release of amount therefor; and

(b) whether Government proposes to provide loan for buying cattle at zero percent interest rate on the lines of agriculture loan as the dairy occupation is associated with agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India has received two projects under National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) for Ujjain and Ratlam districts at a total proposed cost of ₹513.13 lakh and ₹251.54 lakh respectively from the Government of Madhya Pradesh during 2017-18. This Department *vide* letter dated 23.10.2017, has requested the State Government and Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Dairy Federation Ltd. to submit project proposal giving priority to Village Level Milk Procurement System (VBMPS) components.

(b) No Sir.

**Conservation of seeds of traditional varieties of crops**

2085. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of traditional varieties of various crops in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps for conservation and multiplication of seeds of all the traditional varieties of various crops; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) ICAR-National Bureau of

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi has collected and conserved 76799 accessions of traditional varieties/landraces of various agri- horticultural crops. State-wise details are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi is the nodal institute at national level for collection, characterization, evaluation, conservation and exchange of plant genetic resources. The details of traditional varieties/ landraces of various crops collected from different States of the country and conserved in the National Gene bank are given in the Statement-I mentioned above.

The conserved traditional varieties at NBPGR, New Delhi are multiplied as per the viability aspects of the seeds and seeds of these varieties are shared with scientists on request. Details of seed multiplication of different crops are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

In addition, under PPV&FR Act, 2001, the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority grants IPR to farmers' varieties which are traditionally cultivated and evolved by the farmers in the fields which also includes wild relatives, land races of crops about which farmers possess common knowledge. So far 1260 registration certificates have been issued to farmers' varieties. The PPV&FR Authority annually confers Plant Genome Saviour Awards (₹ 10 Lakhs to each of the five farming communities), Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Rewards (₹ 1.5 Lakhs to each of the 10 farmers) and Plant Genome Saviour Farmers Recognition (₹ 1 Lakhs to each of the 20 farmers). So every year 35 awards amounting to ₹ 85 Lakhs are awarded to Farmer(s)/ Farming Communities for encouraging them. So far total 124 awards have been conferred to Farmer(s)/Farming Community.

*Statement-1**State-wise details of the landraces/traditional varieties of major crops collected and conserved at ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi*

State	Cereals	Millet	Oilseeds	Grain	Forages	Fibre	Vegeta	Fruits	Pseudo-	Spices	Medicinal	Oma-	Agro-	Total
				Legumes		crops	bles	&Nuts	cereals		& aromatic	mentals	forestry	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	134	3	14	44	2	3	19	0	15	0	9	1	1	245
Andhra Pradesh	585	1997	1140	2388	214	60	673	3	12	29	560	3	24	7688
Arunachal Pradesh	700	238	193	74	1	0	80	1	114	2	8	0	0	1411
Assam	1105	34	159	60	5	8	89	0	10	14	10	0	1	1495
Bihar	218	462	260	448	1	0	242	0	5	31	1	0	30	1698
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	2033	16	48	980	2	5	54	0	1	24	0	0	0	3163
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Delhi	381	14	320	297	4	0	554	0	0	330	0	0	2	1902
Goa	19	0	0	32	0	0	10	0	5	0	0	0	0	66

Gujarat	50	544	711	171	167	4	160	0	37	18	34	0	1	1897
Haryana	127	48	769	37	5	0	44	0	0	6	1	0	24	1061
Himachal Pradesh	593	147	361	155	2	0	135	0	448	39	4	0	5	1889
Jammu and Kashmir	155	44	39	25	6	0	206	2	11	11	14	0	04	513
Jharkhand	514	127	358	221	5	20	125	0	15	5	3	0	2	1395
Karnataka	256	1251	446	234	11	26	159	0	54	15	125	0	0	2577
Kerala	499	101	60	220	0	1	267	0	126	10	7	0	0	1291
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	9
Madhya Pradesh	484	1116	1503	730	82	5	216	0	3	40	4	0	0	4183
Maharashtra	101	2131	2566	280	160	7	161	0	84	9	0	0	0	5499
Manipur	74	5	48	66	0	0	7	0	1	0	1	1	1	204
Meghalaya	444	2	50	33	0	2	30	0	12	3	2	0	0	578
Mizoram	534	1	90	57	0	9	53	0	2	0	1	8	0	755
Nagaland	348	46	92	42	1	0	57	0	36	0	0	0	0	622
Odisha	1384	267	572	137	5	21	193	0	91	8	3	0	0	2681
Puducherry	0	0	3	15	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Punjab	459	179	166	41	57	0	8	0	0	6	0	0	24	940
Rajasthan	152	524	766	212	181	3	247	0	8	127	0	1	0	2221
Sikkim	216	22	49	33	0	0	28	0	1	1	0	0	0	350
Tamil Nadu	141	895	192	389	130	21	242	2	37	6	18	0	46	2119
Telangana	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	9
Tripura	71	10	11	32	0	3	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	158
Uttar Pradesh	489	500	1133	560	314	16	622	0	5	74	7	0	175	3895
Uttarakhand	1386	224	684	393	0	0	302	0	330	133	18	0	2	3472
West Bengal	339	97	114	136	0	3	195	0	11	1	25	3	5	929
Others	3936	4931	8332	1729	58	41	820	0	1	4	7	0	0	19859
TOTAL	17927	15976	21250	10272	1413	258	6032	8	1475	946	882	17	343	76799

**Statement-II***Traditional varieties and landraces accessions regenerated/multiplied at NBPGR*

Crop group	Traditional varieties	Landraces	Total
Agroforestry	-	2	2
Cereals	687	2601	3288
Fibre	52	32	84
Forages	1	12	13
Fruits & Nuts	-	2	2
Grain legumes	40	2384	2424
Medicinal & Aromatic plants	7	72	79
Millet	34	3967	4001
Oilseeds	7	4414	4421
Pseudocereals	9	56	65
Spices, condiments and flavour	92	412	504
Vegetables	50	1119	1169
GRAND TOTAL	979	15073	16052

**Subsidy on happy seeder machine**

2086. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to curb stubble burning, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to procure Happy Seeder machines which can help to curb this problem;

(c) if so, whether Government has taken or is planning to take any policy steps to provide Governmental subsidies on Happy Seeder machines; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (d) The Government has prepared and circulated National Policy for Management of Crop Residues (NPMCR)–

2014 to all the States/Union Territories and advised the State Governments from time to time to reduce the burning of crop residues. Government is also providing financial assistance to State Governments of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan for providing assistance to farmers to purchase identified machineries *i.e.* happy seeder, rotavator, zero till seed drill, straw reaper, rake, paddy straw chopper, shredder, mulcher, loose straw chopper, baler at subsidized rates under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) for reducing crop burning. Besides, States can support farmers for farm machineries including happy seeder under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary of the State. In addition, State Governments can take suitable measures for creation of capacity building, organisation of Kisan Goshthies and spreading awareness through electronic & print media among the farmers for reducing crop burning.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has recommended various technological interventions like *in-situ* incorporation of crop residue through conservation agriculture practices, rapid composting of crop residue using microbial consortia, production of bio gas, mushroom cultivation, preparation of feed for livestock, production of bio-fuel and biochar for scientific crop residue management in the country.

#### **Securing production and investment credit of farmers**

2087. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of Government's claim that the achievements under annual agricultural credit flow surpassed targets during the last three years, several farmers across the country are unable to secure short term crop loans, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether there is any priority for the small and marginal farmers in securing their production and investment credit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Not only has annual agricultural credit flow surpassed targets during the last three years, even the short term crop loan targets have been exceeded. In fact, to facilitate absorption of short term crop loans, under the Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS), the Government provides an interest subvention of 5 per cent per annum on such loans upto ₹3.00 lakhs on its prompt repayment. Thus the effective rate of interest for farmers on short term crop loans gets reduced to 4



per cent per annum. The details (Target and Achievement) of Annual Agriculture Credit flow and short term crop loans during the last three years are given in the Statement (*See below*). From the crop loan accounts financed during each year and amount of crop loan outstanding, it is evident that more and more farmers have been brought into the fold of institutional credit. However, despite such measures, several farmers across the country are unable to secure short term crop loans as regional imbalances in the distribution of agriculture credit / short term crop loans continues to persist. In 2016-17, the region-wise percentage off-take of short term crop loan was 24.86 per cent in Northern Region, 0.83 per cent in North Eastern Region, 12 per cent in Eastern Region, 19.35 per cent in Central Region, 12.43 per cent in Western Region and 30.51 per cent in Southern Region. The agriculture credit disbursed is not in proportion with the gross cropped area in these regions.

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued Priority Sector Lending (PSL) Guidelines, which mandate all Domestic Scheduled Commercial Banks to earmark 18 per cent of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) or Credit Equivalent amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure (OBE), whichever is higher, as on the corresponding date of the previous year, for lending to Agriculture. Within the 18% target for agriculture, a target of 8 per cent of ANBC or OBE, whichever is higher is prescribed for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs). Besides many other modes have been made available specially to facilitate SMFs for securing their production and investment credit *viz.*

- (i) As per PSL guidelines loans to distressed farmers to repay non-institutional lenders are also eligible under priority sector.
- (ii) Besides availing subvented crop loans, to not to have to resort to distress sale, Kisan Credit Card holding small and marginal farmers are also provided post harvest loans upto six months at the same rate as crop loans for storing their produce in warehouses accredited with Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) against Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs).
- (iii) To bring small, marginal, tenant farmers, oral lessees, etc. into the fold of institutional credit and to purvey collateral free micro-finance, Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) have been promoted by Banks.
- (iv) Banks have been advised by RBI to waive margin/security requirements of agricultural loans upto ₹ 1,00,000/-, *vide* RBI's circular dated 18th June, 2010.

- (v) For greater coverage of Small Farmers /Marginal Farmers in institutional credit the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has taken further initiatives including formation of Producer Organisations Development Fund (PODF), Producers Organisation Development and Upliftment Corpus Fund (PRODUCE) to support Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Tribal Development Fund (TDF), Watershed Development Fund (WDF), all of which have considerably impacted the credit absorption capacity of the farmers and also facilitated reach of the farmers to Bank credit.

***Statement***

*Details of target and achievement under Annual Agriculture credit flow during the last three years along with number of crop loan accounts financed and amount of crop loan outstanding*

Year	Ground level Credit (GLC) Target (in ₹ crore)	GLC achievement (in ₹ crore)	Short Term Crop Loan Target (in ₹ crore)	Short term crop loan achievement (in ₹ crore)	Crop Loan Accounts Financed during the year (No. of Accounts in lakh)	Crop Loan Outstanding Accounts at year-end (No. of Accounts in lakh)
2014-15	8,00,000	8,45,328	5,75,000	6,35,412	7,41.39	875.52
2015-16	8,50,000	9,15,510	5,95,000	6,65,313	7,61.66	908.30
2016-17	9,00,000	10,65,755	6,15,000	6,89,457	8,60.60	914.34

**Unlawful crediting of consumer LPG subsidy**

2088. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharti Airtel opened accounts of its mobile phone subscribers without their consent and allegedly credited consumers LPG subsidy to their Airtel Payments Bank accounts instead of their regular bank accounts unlawfully;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating officials responsible for such misappropriation; and

(c) the details of stringent steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for such violation of rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Oil Marketing Companies have received number of complaints from Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) Consumers regarding non-receipt of LPG subsidy amounts into their linked bank accounts in the recent past months. On verification of the same, it has been found that M/s Bharti Airtel Limited opened Airtel Payments Bank accounts of its mobile subscribers without their informed consent/explicit understanding during re-verification of their mobile connections through Aadhaar/based Electronic-Know Your Customers (E-KYC) process.

It has been informed by M/s Bharti Airtel Limited that as per the Aadhaar Payments Bridge (APB)'s Standard Operating Procedure issued by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), if two different banks seed the same Aadhaar number to the account of the customer in their respective banks and NPCI, then the bank seeding with the latest mandate date will be mapped in the NPCI mapper and all the subsidies/ Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) money will be automatically routed to that bank only. However, the banks are required to take written mandate of the customer for seeding Aadhaar number with bank account for DBT subsidy. It has been reported that under the PAHAL scheme (Pratyaksha Hastaantarit Laabh), the LPG subsidy of approximately 41.22 lakh consumers amounting to approx. ₹ 194.44 Crore got deposited into Airtel payment bank accounts. In addition to this, approximately ₹ 56.72 Crore against 3.47 Lakh transactions of various Government schemes also got deposited into Airtel payment bank accounts through Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

In this regard, UIDAI has issued notices to Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd. and M/s, Airtel Payments Bank Ltd. UIDAI has also imposed financial disincentives of ₹ 1.27 Crore each on M/s Bharti Airtel Limited and M/s Airtel Payments Bank Limited. Further, E-KYC license keys of these two entities were suspended by UIDAI. However, due to the said suspension of E-KYC license key of M/s Bharti Airtel Limited, some hardships may be faced by the Airtel mobile subscribers for re-verification of their mobile connections through Aadhaar based E-KYC process so as to comply with the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court issued in W.P. (C) 607/2016 filed by Lokniti Foundation V/s Union of India. Keeping this in view, the E-KYC license key of M/s Bharti Airtel Limited has been temporarily activated on 21.12.2017 but the E-KYC license key of M/s Airtel Payments Bank Limited remains suspended as on date.

In addition to above, M/s Airtel Payments Bank Ltd. and NPCI have been directed by DBT Mission to take following corrective actions:—

- (i) to revert amount (along with 7.25% per annum interest rate) of PAHAL subsidy in consumer's previously mapped accounts in all such cases where no further transactions were made. For remaining cases, convenience of consumers would be sought.
- (ii) to undertake similar action for all such non PAHAL benefits which got transferred into Airtel Payment Bank accounts through PFMS.
- (iii) to update the NPCI mapper in all such cases where benefits have been redeposited from Airtel Payment Bank to the beneficiaries' earlier mapped bank account.
- (iv) that all cases where Airtel payment bank account has been mapped for the first time *i.e.*, hitherto non-DBT beneficiaries who received DBT payments for the first time, may be continued on the mapper after ascertaining the consent of the beneficiaries.

**Average income of agricultural households**

2089. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether data regarding average monthly income per agricultural household has been collected for different size of landholdings;
- (b) if so, under which size the maximum households fall;
- (c) the average income of that class;
- (d) whether the average income of farmers is also available; and
- (e) if not, by when it would be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (e) The average monthly income of agricultural household for different size of landholding is estimated by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) through the 'Situation Assessment Survey' conducted from time to time. The first "Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers" was conducted in rural areas of the country during NSS 59th round (January, 2003- December, 2003). Thereafter, during the 70th round, a repeat survey "Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households" was conducted for the reference period of the agricultural year July, 2012 to June, 2013.

As per the results of the latest 2013 Survey, the average income per agricultural household from various sources is estimated at ₹ 6,426/- per month. Moreover, 0.41 - 1.00 hectare size class of land was estimated to have the maximum number of agricultural households (34.9 per cent) and the average monthly income per agricultural household for this size class was ₹ 5,247/-.

Since the latest 2013 Survey, NSSO has started collecting information with respect to average income per 'agricultural household' and discontinued estimating average income of 'farmers'.

### **Increase in MSP of various crops**

2090. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:

SHRI VEER SINGH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has recently announced an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of oilseeds, sugarcane, pulses and wheat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the increase in MSP of various agricultural produces during the last three years, crop-wise;
- (d) the criteria adopted in increasing the MSP of various agricultural produces;
- (e) whether Government has any proposal to review the increase in MSP of various agricultural produces; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (c) Government on 24th October, 2017 has increased the minimum support prices (MSPs) of Rabi crops including oilseeds, pulses and wheat for 2017-18 season on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments, Central Ministries/Departments concerned and other relevant factors. Government on 24th May, 2017 had increased the fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane and the MSP of Kharif pulses and oilseeds on 7th June, 2017. Government announces the MSP/FRP ahead of the sowing season. Details of MSPs fixed by the Government for agricultural crops including oilseeds, pulses and wheat and

FRP for sugarcane and increase in MSPs/FRP for the last three years and current year *i.e.* from 2014-15 to 2017-18 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) The decision to increase MSPs is based on the recommendations of CACP. While recommending MSPs, CACP takes into account the cost of production, overall demand-supply, domestic and international prices, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, the likely effect on the rest of the economy, besides ensuring rational utilization of production resources like land and water. CACP also holds consultations with various stakeholders including State Governments and farmers' representatives before finalizing its recommendations.

(e) and (f) Suggestions from State Governments including various farmer organisations and farmers are received from time to time for increasing the MSPs of crops and these are considered by CACP while formulating its recommendation of MSPs. Government on its part announces bonus for pulses and oilseeds to incentivize farmers to cultivate pulses and oilseeds. Government has increased the MSPs of all mandated crops for 2017-18 season ahead of sowing and there is no further proposal under consideration for this year.

### **Statement**

#### **Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) and increase in MSP**

(₹ per quintal)									
Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2014-15	2015-16	(#) increase in MSP 2015-16 over 2014-15	2016-17	(#) increase in MSP 2016-17 over 2015-16	2017-18	(#) increase in MSP 2017-18 over 2016-17
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Kharif Crops</b>									
1.	Paddy	Common	1360	1410	50(3.7)	1470	60(4.3)	1550	80(5.4)
		Grade 'A'	1400	1450	50(3.6)	1510	60(4.1)	1590	80(5.3)
2.	Jowar	Hybrid	1530	1570	40(2.6)	1625	55(3.5)	1700	75(4.6)
		Maldandi	1550	1590	40(2.6)	1650	60(3.8)	1725	75(4.5)
3.	Bajra		1250	1275	25(2.0)	1330	55(4.3)	1425	95(7.1)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	Maize		1310	1325	15(1.1)	1365	40(3.0)	1425	60(4.3)
5.	Ragi		1550	1650	100(6.5)	1725	75(4.5)	1900	175(10.1)
6.	Arhar(Tur)		4350	4625^	275(6.3)	5050^^	425(9.2)	5450^	400(7.9)
7.	Moong		4600	4850^	250(5.4)	5225^^	375(7.7)	5575^	350(6.7)
8.	Urad		4350	4625^	275(6.3)	5000^^	375(8.1)	5400^	400(8)
9.	Cotton	Medium Staple	3750	3800	50(1.3)	3860	60(1.6)	4020	160(4.1)
		Long Staple	4050	4100	50(1.2)	4160	60(1.5)	4320	160(3.8)
10.	Groundnut In Shell		4000	4030	30(0.8)	4220*	190(4.7)	4450^	230(5.5)
11.	Sunflower Seed		3750	3800	50(1.3)	3950*	150(3.9)	4100*	150(3.8)
12.	Soyabean		2560	2600	40(1.6)	2775*	175(6.7)	3050^	275(9.9)
13.	Sesamum		4600	4700	100(2.2)	5000^	300(6.4)	5300*	300(6)
14.	Nigerseed		3600	3650	50(1.4)	3825*	175(4.8)	4050*	225(5.9)
<b>Rabi Crops</b>									
15.	Wheat		1450	1525	75(5.2)	1625	100(6.6)	1735	110(6.8)
16.	Barley		1150	1225	75(6.5)	1325	100(8.2)	1410	85(6.4)
17.	Gram		3175	3500**	325 (10.2)	4000^	500 (14.3)	4400@	400 (10.0)
18.	Masur (Lentil)		3075	3400**	325 (10.6)	3950@	550 (16.2)	4250*	300 (7.6)
19.	Rapeseed/ Mustard		3100	3350	250(8.0)	3700*	350(10.4)	4000*	300(8.1)
20.	Safflower		3050	3300	250(8.2)	3700*	400(12.1)	4100*	400(10.8)
21.	Toria &		3020	3290	270(8.9)	3560	270(8.2)	3900	340(9.6)
<b>Other Crops</b>									
22.	Copra	Milling	5250	5550	300(5.7)	5950	400(7.2)	6500	550(9.2)
	(Calender Year)	Ball	5500	5830	330(6.0)	6240	410(7.0)	6785	545(8.7)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
23.	De-Husked Coconut (Calender Year)*		1425	1500	75(5.3)	1600	100(6.7)	1760	160(10)
24.	Jute		2400	2700	300(12.5)	3200	500(18.5)	3500	300(9.3)
25.	Sugarcane <sup>s</sup>		220	230	10(4.5)	230	0	255	25(10.9)

# Figures in brackets indicate percentage increase.

^ Including Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal.

^^ Including Bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal.

\* Including Bonus of ₹ 100 per quintal.

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

@ Including Bonus of ₹ 150 per quintal

& MSPs for Toria and De-husked coconut are derived from the MSPs of Rapeseed/Mustard and Copra respectively.

\$ Fair and remunerative price.

### **Protecting sea horse and sea cucumbers in the coastal areas**

2091. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards media reports regarding endangered sea horse and sea cucumbers ending up as poultry feed, when caught into trawlers in coastal areas in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government has taken or proposes to take to protect the sea horse and sea cucumbers in the coastal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) No, Sir. No such report regarding endangered sea horse and sea cucumbers ending up as poultry feed has been received in this Department.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Notifications have been issued under the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 (IWPLA, 1972) by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, to protect endangered species. Sea horse and sea cucumbers are protected under Schedule I of IWPLA, 1972. Authorized officers under the IWPLA, 1972 including Coast Guard take necessary action to protect the sea horse and sea cucumbers in the coastal areas.



**Implementation of schemes for fishermen**

†2092. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes implemented by Government for those poor fishermen who do not have their own fishing boats;
- (b) the details of other schemes being implemented by Government to provide regular livelihood to poor fishermen in the country; and
- (c) the details of the financial help provided by Government to fishermen in the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries' with 'National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen' as one of the components. The National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen provides financial assistance to fishers during the lean fishing season/fishing ban period especially for fishermen who do not have their own fishing boats. In addition, financial assistance is also provided for construction of houses for fishers and creation of other basic amenities such as drinking water facility & community halls. Besides, insurance coverage for fishers is also provided under the scheme.

(b) The scheme also aims for an integrated development and management of the fisheries sector covering inland fisheries, aquaculture, marine fisheries, mariculture, cage/pen culture and creation of fisheries infrastructure through central financial assistance to provide regular livelihood to fishermen. The scheme has various broad components namely, (i) Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, (ii) Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations, (iii) National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and its activities, (iv) National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen, (v) Strengthening of Database and Geographical Information System of the Fisheries Sector and (vi) Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and other need based interventions.

(c) The central financial assistance is provided to the State Governments/UTs for onward transfer to the eligible fishermen as per the provisions of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Statement showing the State-wise details of financial assistance

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

provided by the Department during last three years and current year under various components of the scheme which have direct bearing on the livelihood activities of fishermen are given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*State-wise details of funds released by DADF under various components of the scheme to fishermen during the last three years and current year*

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Organisation	Financial year			
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (as on 3.01.2018)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.00	487.50	0.00	544.29
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	52.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	81.20	180.32
4.	Bihar	153.15	90.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	137.58	228.24	100.00	0.00
6.	Daman and Diu	7.50	21.77	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	249.65	45.82	337.87	0.00
8.	Gujarat	110.58	164.38	120.00	0.00
9.	Haryana	5.71	12.50	0.00	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	25.34	77.73	81.47	0.00
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	49.88	0.00	210.60
12.	Jharkhand	181.79	375.00	250.20	0.00
13.	Karnataka	277.88	448.45	730.80	0.00
14.	Kerala	348.95	1266.71	100.20	0.00
15.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	53.57
16.	Maharashtra	0.00	38.72	362.50	0.00
17.	Madhya Pradesh	156.49	195.35	200.00	135.00
18.	Manipur	70.15	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Mizoram	101.72	121.00	120.50	50.03
20.	Nagaland	485.00	187.46	0.00	0.00
21.	Odisha	259.40	226.23	447.57	0.00
22.	Puducherry	100.00	332.29	461.20	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	18.40	14.21	30.12	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	1996.13	847.07	212.50	10000.00
25.	Telangana	283.47	9.69	0.00	0.00
26.	Tripura	43.13	139.54	0.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	120.60	122.63	399.60	0.00
28.	Uttarakhand	31.35	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	West Bengal	180.88	161.69	0.00	82.21
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	21.40	249.00	27.50	82.59
31.	FISHCOPFED*	786.57	694.75	495.57	63.64
TOTAL		6153.81	6659.61	4558.80	11402.25

\* FISHCOPFED: National Federation of Fishermens Cooperatives Limited. Funds are released to FISHCOPFED for providing insurance cover to fishers of various States (except Kerala & West Bengal) and Union Territories

### Burning of agricultural residues

2093. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a financial incentive package of ₹3000 crore was recommended by a Task-Force set up under the CII-NITI Aayog Cleaner Air initiative to dissuade farmers from burning crops;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any action to implement these recommendations, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government has proposed other ways of treating agricultural residue like making organic manure or investing in biomass energy plants so that environment is not harmed and farmers also do not suffer, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) NITI Aayog had constituted four Task Forces under the 'Cleaner Air Better Life Initiative. Task Force on biomass management is one of it. However, the report of the Task Force is yet to be finalized.

(c) The Government has prepared and circulated National Policy for Management of Crop Residues (NPMCR) - 2014 to all the States/Union Territories and advised the State Governments from time to time to reduce the burning of crop residues. Government is also providing financial assistance to State Governments of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan for providing assistance to farmers to purchase identified machineries *i.e.* happy seeder, rotavator, zero till seed drill, straw reaper, rake, paddy straw chopper, shredder, mulcher, loose straw chopper, baler at subsidized rates under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) for reducing crop burning. Besides, States can support farmers for farm machineries including happy seeder under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary of the State. In addition, State Governments can take suitable measures for creation of capacity building, organisation of Kisan Goshthies and spreading awareness through electronic & print media among the farmers for reducing crop burning.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has recommended various technological interventions like *in-situ* incorporation of crop residue through conservation agriculture practices, rapid composting of crop residue using microbial consortia, production of bio gas, mushroom cultivation, preparation of feed for livestock, production of bio-fuel and biochar for scientific crop residue management in the country.

#### **Development of technologies for agricultural growth**

†2094. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new technologies being developed in the country for growth of agriculture and to double the income of farmers;

(b) whether Government has received suggestions from different States in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has fixed any target in this regard so far, if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) The new technologies developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for growth of agriculture and to double the income of farmers during recent years are enumerated under:—

- The ICAR has played a pioneering role in ushering Green Revolution and subsequent developments in agriculture in India through its research and technology development that has enabled the country to increase the production of food grains by 5 times, horticultural crops by 9.5 times, fish by 12.5 times, milk 7.8 times and eggs 39 times since 1951, thus making a visible impact on the national food and nutritional security. The research efforts of the institutes/Centres/AICRPs have led to development and release of 672 high yielding, stresses (biotic & abiotic) tolerant varieties/hybrids in different field crops for cultivation under different agro-climatic conditions during 2014-2017. Approximately, 350514 quintals of breeder seeds of improved varieties of field crops and 18.5 lakh grafted plants, 12 lakh rooted cuttings and tuber crops, 90 tonnes of breeder/truthfully labelled seeds of vegetable crops, 5500 tonnes of breeders seed of potato and tropical tuber crops were produced and distributed during 2014-15 to 2016-17 for sustaining the effective seed chain in the States. These varieties and improved management practices are contributing significantly towards increasing production and productivity of field crops. The production of total food grains for example increased from 252.02 million tons in 2014-15 to 275.68 million tons in 2016-17. Commodity wise, production of rice increased from 105.48 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 110.15 million tonnes in 2016-17, wheat production increased from 86.52 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 98.38 million tonnes in 2016-17. Similarly, the improved varieties and technologies in pulse production developed by ICAR contributed towards record production of pulses which increased from 17.15 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 22.95 million tonnes in 2016-17. In Horticulture, the vegetable production increased from 166.6 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 176.2 million tonnes in 2016-2017 and the production of fruits recorded increase from 89.5 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 93.7 million tonnes in 2016-2017.
- During the last 3.5 years ICAR developed 13 improved poultry and pig varieties/breeds including 4 varieties of backyard poultry; Kamrupa in Assam, Narmadanidhi in MP, Jharsim in Chhattisgarh and Himsamridhi in HP; 8 pig varieties: HD-K75, Rani and Asha in Assam; Jharsuk in Jharkhand; Mannuthy

White in Kerala; Lumsniang in Meghalaya; TANUVAS KTM Gold Crossbred Pig (Large White Yorkshire x Desi) in Tamil Nadu and "SVVU-T 17 Crossbred Pig", (Large White Yorkshire x Desi) in Telangana, besides one prolific and high yielding sheep breed 'Avishan' in Rajasthan were developed by ICAR.

- To increase productivity, reduce cost of cultivation, reduce drudgery, improve value addition, conserve resources and provide alternate means for energy generation through improved farm mechanisation during the last 3 years, ICAR developed 72 new farm equipment/machines/gadgets and 34 new products/process protocols and supplied over 16500 prototypes of agricultural machinery to farmers/entrepreneurs. Due to these efforts steady growth has occurred in adoption of efficient manually operated tools, animal operated implements, and equipment operated by mechanical and electrical power sources in the country. ICAR trained 710 rural youth for establishing Custom Hiring Centres in different parts of the country out of which 652 entrepreneurs established Custom Hiring Centres. ICAR equipped 194 start-up companies and agri-entrepreneurs by providing necessary training and skills to start their new agri-ventures.
- ICAR has developed and validated 623 district contingency plans and conducted skill development programs for 40.9 lakh farmers. Mridaprarikshak a minilab for soil analysis developed to support Government initiative on Soil Health Card. ICAR has also developed 45 Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) models in 23 States and 1 Union Territory covering all the 15 agro-climatic regions of the country. These models were also tested and further validated in the fields of 1250 farmers each under various different agro ecologies covering 23 States of the country.
- The breeding and seed production technologies were developed for 9 food fish species, developed technology of marine cage farming and its dissemination through over 1050 cages principally in Gujrat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh Technology were developed and commercialized four feeds for different life stages of important fish and shrimp species of the country. Technology for breeding and seed production of 9 ornamental fishes and 5 high-value compounds and nutraceuticals for human health were developed.
- To achieve the target of doubling farmers income by 2022, the Government of India is focusing on a seven point strategy which include; giving special

focus on irrigation with sufficient budget, with the aim of "Per Drop More Crop", provision of quality seeds and nutrients based on soil health of each field, large investments in Warehousing and Cold Chains to prevent post-harvest crop losses, promotion of value addition through food processing, creation of a National Farm Market, removing distortions and e-platform across 585 Stations, introduction of a New Crop Insurance Scheme to mitigate risks at affordable cost and promotion of ancillary activities like poultry, beekeeping and fisheries. A committee has been constituted by the Government to examine issues relating to doubling of farmers' income by year 2021-22. As a result of deliberations in DFI committee, various steps have been taken by the Government which focus on the creation of institutional framework mechanism, introduction of market reforms, APLM act, promotion of contract farming and the development of the road-map for pulses production besides creation of dedicated micro-irrigation fund with initial corpus of ₹5000 crores through NABARD, computerization and integration of all 63,000 functional PACS with core banking system to be supported through NABARD and creation of a corpus fund of ₹ 8000 crores for dairy processing and infrastructure development over the next 3 years. Sufficient focus has also been given on dairy and fisheries sector. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare with support from NITI Aayog is focusing on two other important reforms. These are: Adoption of Model Land Leasing Law by the States/UTs. A draft law has been shared by NITI Aayog and Liberalise current regulatory regime for felling and transit of trees grown on non-forest as well as private land. This will promote agro-forestry and diversify farmers' income basket, besides providing income security against vagaries of monsoon. After series of deliberations, considering the various factors such as lower-return, Gross Value Added (GVA), fluctuation in market, growth rate etc., the first four Volumes of the draft Reports "Strategy for Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022" prepared by the Committee have been uploaded on the website of the Department (<http://agricoop.nic.in/doubling-farmers>) for seeking suggestions from public. To complement these efforts, ICAR has also constituted state specific coordination committees to develop strategy documents for doubling farmers' incomes by 2022.

(b) and (c) Based on the suggestions and requests received from various State Governments, ICAR has strengthened the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and created a strong network of 681 KVKs at district level for delivering the benefits of research

to the farmers. During the last three and half years (2014-17), the KVKs conducted 97188 On Farm Trials and 3.21 lakh Front Line Demonstrations at farmers' fields; trained 40.90 lakh farmers and 4.48 lakh extension personnel; produced 8.79 lakh quintals quality seeds of different field crops, produced and distributed 12.52 crore planting materials of different horticultural crops and facilitated participation of over 3.93 crore farmers in various extension activities.

The KVKs tested 13.36 lakh soil samples, distributed 10.6 lakh soil health cards and provided agro-advisories on plant protection, weather information, market related information, animal husbandry, fisheries, etc. on the mobile phones of 3.95 crore farmers. Efforts are being made to reach out to still higher number of farmers and for this purpose, technical collaboration with IT companies like TCS is being established by the council. Similarly centres of AICR Projects located at various locations *viz.* SAUs/SVUs/NGOs etc. include the local problems for the development of new varieties, agricultural implements and new technologies. These programmes have also benefited the farmers in terms of increased crop production and improved farm income.

#### **Economic condition of farmers**

†2095. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the economic condition of farmers is not improving due to non-payment of fair price for their produces apart from lack of rain and good quality seeds, etc.;

(b) whether the farmers could not get even the cost price of their potato crops last time around and they got wasted;

(c) whether owing to this reason, the sowing of potatoes during current season has been quite less; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check exploitation of farmers by the traders, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) Government has increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of mandated agricultural crops for 2017-18 season on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments, Central Ministries/

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



Departments concerned and other relevant factors to provide remunerative prices to farmers.

According to "Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households" conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), the estimated average monthly income per agricultural household rose from ₹ 2115 in 2003 to ₹ 6426 in 2013. This low level of income owes *inter alia* to non-use of quality seeds, poor soil health, low irrigation facilities, inadequate marketing facilities and post-harvest support services and inadequate focus on the allied sectors of agriculture in the country. In view of this, Government set up a Committee in 2016-17 to frame policies and strategies for doubling farmers' income by 2022 through various initiatives which include Soil Health Cards (SHC), production and availability of quality seeds, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) and promotion of allied activities like dairying, poultry, beekeeping and fisheries.

(b) Horticulture produce including potato is perishable in nature and cannot be stored at ambient temperature for longer period. Therefore, arrival of the crops in very high volumes in a lumpy manner during the peak harvesting season sometimes depresses prices of agricultural/horticultural crops as they are determined by supply and demand conditions in the market.

However, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural crops which are not covered under the MSP on the request of State/UT Governments concerned. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production.

(c) As per the information received from major potato producing States, the area sown under potato in 2017-18 is estimated at same level as that of last year *i.e.* 2.18 million hectares.

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

In addition, Government has formulated a new Model Agricultural produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017 to provide farmers market options beyond the existing APMC regulated market yards. The provisions include private markets, direct marketing, farmer-consumer markets, special commodity market yards, declaring warehouses/silos/cold storages or such structures as market sub yards so as to reduce the number of intermediaries between producer and buyer and increase the share of the farmer in consumer's rupee.

**Linking of Krishi Upaj Mandis of Bihar with e-portal**

†2096. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress made towards the establishment of e-mandis (market);
- (b) the number of Krishi Upaj Mandis linked with the e-portal in Bihar, so far;
- (c) whether Government is bringing any concrete proposal for the procurement of produces of farmers, so that they could be protected from exploitation by profiteers/middlemen; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) scheme for transparent price discovery for the farmers for their produce through competitive online bidding system. Under the scheme, an electronic trading portal with pan India trading facility has been deployed in 470 regulated wholesale markets across 14 States in the country so far. The scheme is being implementing through State Governments. The Government of Bihar has not sent any proposal for integrating their mandis with e-NAM. Hence, no mandi of Bihar have been integrated with e-NAM.

(c) and (d) Government procures oilseeds and pulses at Minimum Support Price (MSP) directly from the farmers through central/state agencies under Price Support Scheme to eliminate possibility of middlemen taking advantage of the scheme. Further, the Government procures paddy and wheat through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government agencies across the country. Under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), procurements of agricultural and horticultural commodities, which are perishable in nature and are not covered under PSS Scheme, is done. Under MIS also,

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

procurements are made by State Nodal Agencies directly from the farmers at Market Intervention Price (MIP), which is fixed based on cost of production. Procurements of selected commodities, namely, onion, potato and pulses are made under the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) Scheme directly from the farmers or the farmers associations at farm gate/randi to protect the farmers from exploitation by profiteers/middlemen.

**Placing agricultural marketing in concurrent list**

2097. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Government appointed high-level committee has called for placing agricultural marketing in the Concurrent List and for greater private sector participation in agri-marketing and logistics;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the other recommendations made by the said high-level committee; and
- (c) the reaction of Central Government on the recommendations made by the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted a high level Inter-Ministerial Committee under the chairmanship of Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare to examine issues relating to doubling of farmers' income and recommend a strategy to achieve the same by the year 2022. In order to involve the stakeholders across the country in finalizing the strategy, the Committee has been placing its reports in instalments. As of now, seven volumes of the draft report including a volume on Agricultural marketing, have been uploaded on the website of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare inviting public opinion.

- (c) The committee has not submitted its final report to the Government. Hence, the reaction of the Government does not arise.

**Compensation for families of farmers who committed suicide**

2098. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of farmers' suicide in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

- (b) the compensation given to their families, State-wise?

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 are available upto 2015 on its website. The Reports for the year 2016 onwards have not been published yet. As per the ADSI Reports for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015, the total number of suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers in the country State-wise is given in the Statement (See below).

State Governments provide relief to families of farmers who commit suicide. As per information available from the States, the details of relief etc. being provided are as follows:—

- State Government of Maharashtra gives *ex-gratia* relief of ₹ 1.00 lakh to the heirs of the deceased farmer. The three norms of eligibility for *ex-gratia* are crop failure, indebtedness and harassment due to inability to pay agriculture related loans.
- The Punjab Government provides ₹ 3.00 lakh compensation to victims' family w.e.f 23.07.2015.
- Government of Andhra Pradesh provides ₹ 5.00 lakh compensation to the family members of the deceased farmers. Of this ₹ 1.50 lakh is one time settlement to wipe off loans/ liabilities and ₹ 3.50 lakh towards rehabilitation of the family members.
- The Government of Telangana provides *ex-gratia* relief of ₹ 5.00 lakh to the family of the deceased farmer towards rehabilitation and ₹ 1.00 lakh as a onetime settlement to wipe off all the liabilities of the family.
- In Karnataka an amount of ₹ 5.00 lakh relief is provided to the family w.e.f. 1.4.2015. The children of the deceased get free education up to post graduation including hostel facility.

**Statement**

*State-wise details of suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers in the country*

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Tamil Nadu	105	68	827	895	2	604	606
Telangana	NA	898	449	1347	1358	42	1400
Tripura	56	0	32	32	1	48	49
Uttar Pradesh	750	63	129	192	145	179	324
Uttarakhand	15	0	0	0	0	2	2
West Bengal	0	0	230	230	0	0	0
TOTAL (STATES)	11744	5642	6694	12336	8007	4583	12590
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5	8	0	8	0	0	0
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi (UT)	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puducherry	0	0	16	16	0	12	12
TOTAL (UTs)	28	8	16	24	0	12	12
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	11772	5650	6710	12360	8007	4595	12602

\*Suicide by farmers and agricultural labourers due to various reasons.

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

### III effects of chemical fertilizers on farming

2099. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any study to ascertain the ill effects of use of chemical fertilizers in farming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether chemical fertilizers contaminate ground water and environment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of steps taken to protect ground water and environment from chemical fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) There is no harmful effect of chemical fertilizers with recommended doses and its judicious Use. The study conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research under All India Coordinated Research Project on 'Long-Term Fertilizer Experiments' in different soil types (fixed locations) under dominant cropping systems has revealed that even in plots receiving NPK fertilizers, the deficiency of micro and secondary nutrients surfaced after few years affecting soil health and crop productivity. The limiting nutrients do not allow the full expression of other nutrients, thereby, lowering the fertilizer responses and crop productivity. Highest decline in crop yield was observed in plot receiving only Urea.

(c) and (d) There is possibility of nitrate contamination in ground water above the permissible limit of 10 mg NO<sub>3</sub>-N /L due to excessive use of nitrogenous fertilizers including urea particularly in light textured soils. There is also possibility of release of N<sub>2</sub>O in the atmosphere through the process of denitrification of nitrogenous fertilizers.

(e) Soil Health Card Scheme is being implemented to assist all State Governments to evaluate fertility in all farm holdings across the country and issue soil health cards to farmers regularly in a cycle of 2 years. Soil health cards provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is recommending soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources (manure, biofertilizers etc.) of plant nutrients to ensure judicious use of chemical fertilizers preventing deterioration of soil health, contamination of groundwater and environment. In addition, split application and placement of fertilizers, use of slow releasing N-fertilizers and nitrification inhibitors, growing leguminous crops and use of Resource Conservation Technologies (RCTs) are also advocated. The ICAR also imparts training, organises Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) etc. to educate farmers on all these aspects.

#### **Area under pulses cultivation**

2100. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that net sown area of pulses in this Kharif season came down by nearly 5 per cent to 130 lakh hectares;

(b) if so, whether country will be having scarcity of pulses and would be scouting for pulses in other countries as was done in 2015-16;

(c) the area in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana where pulses have been sown this Kharif season, State-wise, and how this can be compared with previous two years; and

(d) whether Government has made any arrangements to meet the shortage, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) The Kharif area coverage under pulses has reduced from the record level of 143.44 lakh hectare in 2016-17 (4th Advance estimates) to 132.84 lakh hectares in 2017-18 (1st Advance estimates). However, the area coverage of pulses during 2017-18 Kharif season is significantly more than the average area of five years ending 2015-16.

The total production of Kharif pulses 2017-18 is estimated at 8.71 million tonnes which is lower by 0.72 million tonnes than the last year's record production of 9.42 million tonnes. However, kharif pulses estimated production is 2.86 million tonnes more than the average production of five years ending 2015-16. It is also significantly more than the production of Kharif Pulses in 2015-16 which stood at 5.53 million tonnes.

Further, the production and availability of pulses have considerably improved in 2016-17 and wholesale prices of pulses have significantly moderated.

(c) The details of area coverage under pulses in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana during the last two years and 2017-18 Kharif season are as under:

('000 hectares)			
States	2015-16	2016-17*	2017-18**
Andhra Pradesh	366.0	451.0	393.0
Telangana	373.0	563.0	364.0
ALL INDIA	11314.2	14344.4	13284.0

\* As per 4th Advance Estimate 2016-17.

\*\* As per 1st Advance Estimate 2017-18.

(d) The Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) operated by Department of Consumer Affairs has provision for a dynamic buffer stock of upto 20 lakh tonnes of pulses for effective market intervention to stabilize prices.



**Study on use of neem coated urea as fertilizer**

2101. DR. C.P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any study on the use of neem coated urea as fertilizers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the status of demand and supply of neem coated urea in the State of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) A study titled 'Impact of Neem Coated Urea (NCU) on production, Productivity and Soil Health in India' has been conducted in the year 2017 by Government on the use of NCU as fertilizer. The study was conducted by Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru in 6 States namely, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Assam and Punjab on the instance of Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers. The reference period of the study was Kharif, 2015. The objectives of the study were to (i) analyze the trends in usage and prices of urea and NCU, (ii) analyze the adoption behaviour of NCU farmers in irrigated and rainfed conditions, (iii) analyze the impact of NCU on yield and income, and; (iv) document the status and implementation of Soil Health Card Scheme.

(c) Since Kharif 2016 all the urea available in the country is in the Necm coated form. The Cumulative Requirement, Availability and Sales of Neem Coated Urea in the State of Bihar in the current year 2017-18 (upto November, 2017) are 13.90 LMT, 12.77 LMT and 11.95 LMT respectively.

**Relief package for families of farmers who committed suicide**

2102. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government intends to reinstitute a relief package for families of farmers who commit suicide in the most suicide-prone districts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of any relief measures being undertaken for families of farmers who have committed suicide since 2014?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (d) No Sir. However, the State Governments provide relief to families that face farmer suicides. As per information available from the States, the details of relief etc. being provided are as follows:

- State Government of Maharashtra gives *ex-gratia* relief of ₹ 1.00 lakh to the heirs of the deceased farmer. The three norms of eligibility for *ex-gratia* are crop failure, indebtedness and harassment due to inability to pay agriculture related loans.
- The Punjab Government provides ₹ 3.00 lakh compensation to victims' family.
- Government of Andhra Pradesh provides ₹ 5.00 lakh compensation to the family members of the deceased farmer. Out of which ₹ 1.50 lakh is one time settlement to wipe off loans/liabilities and ₹ 3.50 lakh towards rehabilitation of the family.
- The Government of Telangana makes *ex-gratia* payment of ₹ 5.00 lakh to the family of the deceased farmer for rehabilitation of the family and ₹ 1.00 lakh as a onetime settlement to wipe off all liabilities of the families of the deceased farmers.
- In Karnataka an amount of ₹ 5.00 lakh relief is given to the deceased family and the children of the deceased get free education up to post graduation including hostel facilities.

**Research on growing paddy with less water**

2103. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of rice varieties available in the country;
- (b) whether any research has been conducted to grow paddy with less water; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) Sir, the research efforts of National Agricultural Research System (NARS) comprising Indian Council of Agricultural

Research (ICAR), Central Agricultural Universities (CAUs) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) have led to release of 1188 rice varieties including 91 hybrids for cultivation in different agro-ecologies of the country since 1960 to till date.

(b) and (c) The NARS has developed several aerobic rice varieties like, CR Dhan 200, CR Dhan 205, CR Dhan 207, CR Dhan 209, etc. which require less water in comparison to conventional low land varieties.

Drought tolerant rice varieties have been developed and released which can be grown under water deficit conditions. Some of these are, Vandana, DRR Dhan 42, CR Dhan 305, Birsas Vikas Dhan 211, Rajendra Bhagwati, Sahbhagi Dhan, etc.

Besides, cultivation practices like, direct seeding and System of Rice Intensification (SRI), which require less water to grow paddy, are also promoted.

#### **Steps to check farmers' suicide**

2104. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are no farm deaths in China in spite of having small pieces of farm land;

(b) whether it has ever tried to find out the reasons why there are no farm suicides in China and tried to replicate the same here; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has no access to such information.

#### **Steps to assuage the concerns of the farmers**

2105. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers from Maharashtra and other States have raised demands like purchase of some crops by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd., assessment of loss and compensation to farmers for bollworm attack on their crops and action against MNCs for supplying defective seeds, which are agitating them a lot; and

(b) if so, the urgent steps Government is taking to assuage their concerns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No specific demands have been received from the farmers of various States including Maharashtra, only Karnataka State has reported such demand for Pulses, Oilseeds & Millets.

The Pink Bollworm attack on the crops has not been recorded and assessed the losses and compensation to the farmers, except Maharashtra, where the State Government has announced relief and financial assistance through Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme and National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF). Besides, farmers of Maharashtra will also receive compensation from MNCs.

#### **Agrarian crisis in the country**

2106. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government has identified several regions in various States/ UTs facing agrarian crisis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has deputed Central teams to assess the agrarian crisis in Vidarbha, Saurashtra, Bundelkhand and other areas of the country;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken/ proposed to be taken by Government to resolve the agrarian crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (e) During 2017-18, till date, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan have submitted memorandum for central assistance from NDRF in the wake of drought during Kharif 2017. After visit of Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) to Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the Sub Committee of National Executive Committee (SC-NEC) has considered the reports and recommendations of the SC-NEC have been forwarded to Ministry of Home Affairs for consideration of the HLC. In so far as Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra are concerned, these States have not submitted any memoranda during this year.

Further, several other measures are being taken by the Government to resolve agrarian crisis which are as follows: 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 make crop insurance simpler, understandable and affordable for the farmers and to provide them with better insurance services, the Government has approved a crop Insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to replace National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified NAIS (MNAIS) from Kharif 2016 season. PMFBY has addressed all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and would be available to farmers at very low rates of premium. This scheme would provide insurance cover for comprehensive risks associated with the entire crop cycle including sowing to post-harvest risks in specified instances.

This Department has prepared a comprehensive media plan for publicity & awareness for crop insurance schemes amongst stakeholders including farmers and is regularly monitoring the implementation of schemes with State Governments, Insurance Companies and Banks to provide time bound benefit to the farmers.

#### **Sale of unapproved and fake cotton seeds in Maharashtra**

2107. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sale of unapproved and fake cotton seeds has been reported from Maharashtra and other parts of the country, which has adversely affected the cotton producers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government has taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. None of the State Government has reported about the sale of unapproved and fake cotton seeds including Maharashtra. Only States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana & Maharashtra have reported traces of unapproved Herbicide Tolerant (HT) cotton in some of the farmers field during 2017-18.

(c) Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) has issued advisory to all cotton growing States to take all possible measures as per law to curb and control the sale of unapproved and fake cotton seeds.

**Social security for women farmers**

2108. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the initiatives launched by Government for the welfare of women farmers in the country, in the last three years; and

(b) whether Government is planning to ensure better social security for women farmers for their health and well being, if so, the measures taken by Government for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Women are encouraged to participate in all the schemes and programs. October 15th every year is declared as Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas and it was celebrated at 493 locations across the country on October 15, 2017 first time with the participation of 36326 innovative and progressive farm women. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, as a part of its mainstreaming efforts, has been ensuring flow of funds to the tune of 30% for the benefit and welfare of women farmers under all its beneficiary oriented schemes through State Governments. The Scheme Guidelines under which at least 30% of the beneficiaries and/or 30% of the budget is utilised for the benefit of women include (1) 'Support to States Extension programmes for Extension Reforms', (2) 'National Food Security Mission', (3) 'National Mission on Oilseed & Oil Palm', (4) 'National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture', (5) 'Sub-Mission for Seed and Planting Material', (6) 'Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization' and (7) 'Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture'.

The Department of Rural Development is also implementing 'Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran / Pariyojana (MKSP), which is a sub-component of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) to meet / the specific needs of women farmers and help achieve their socio economic and technical empowerment, predominantly of small and marginal farmers. MKSP focuses on organization and mobilization of Mahila Kisan and their training, in order to enable them to manage and sustain their activities.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a network of 681 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country mandated with Technology Assessment and Demonstration for its Application and Capacity Development (TADA-CD). KVKs organize demonstrations, training programs and skill development programs for the benefit of farmers and farm women, rural youth and in-service extension personnel.

(b) The National Policy for Farmers 2007 supports provision of appropriate support services like nutrition, and health; creches, childcare centres, etc. to women farmers. Further, under the Scheme 'Support to States Extension programmes for Extension Reforms' women's involvement in various decision making bodies is ensured at block, district and State level, which inter alia provides them with better social security.

#### **FMD in animals**

2109. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how successful is the Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme (EMDCP) initiated by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) in the prevention and providing vaccination to the affected animals along with the details thereof; and

(b) the amount of funds allocated by the Ministry for the FMDCP during the last three years, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing the Foot and Mouth Disease Control (FMDCP) Programme as one of the components of Livestock Health and Disease Control scheme. The FMDCP was initiated since 10th Five Year Plan initially in 54 districts and further expanded during 11th & 12th Five Year Plan. Now entire country is covered under FMD-CP. Six monthly vaccination for all eligible cattle and buffaloes are being carried out under this programme.

Due to effective implementation of FMD Control Programme in the country, there is a significant reduction in the outbreaks of FMD in the States under FMD Control Programme. Total number of reported outbreaks, which were 2270 in the year 2005 was reduced to 158 in 2016. During the year 2016-17, a total of 284 millions vaccinations of eligible cattle and buffaloes have been carried out.

(b) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India allocated funds for vaccination of all eligible cattle and buffaloes. Funds have been allocated for vaccination of all eligible cattle and buffaloes to the tune ₹151.39 crore in 2015-16, ₹175.25 crore in 2016-17 and ₹ 262.02 crore during 2017-18.

**Death of farmers due to poisonous pesticides**

2110. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who have died due to fertilizer use in the last three years, State-wise, including the current year, especially in the months of September-October in 2017 in Maharashtra;

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to educate and train farmers to use pesticides safely; and

(c) whether Government is aware that the Vasantrao Naik Shetkari Swavalamban Mission (VNSSM) has publicly demanded the Centres intervention in this matter so as to identify and take action against the officers whose negligence contributed to these deaths, if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) There are no casualties reported due to use of fertilizer from any parts of the country including Maharashtra.

(b) Under 'Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach' (SMPMA) scheme, Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) are organized to sensitize farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach and to use chemical pesticides as a last resort as per approved labels claims.

(c) Government of Maharashtra has appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe pesticides poisoning cases and to propose proactive policies and strategies to prevent incidences in future. SIT has submitted its report to Government of Maharashtra.

**Damage to crops due to drought**

†2111. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) the quantum of crops damaged due to drought in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh in last three years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



(b) whether any assessment has been carried out this year regarding losses accrued to paddy crops due to drought in various districts of Chhattisgarh;

(c) the States in which paddy crops have been damaged due to scanty rain causing drought and steps taken to compensate it;

(d) whether Government is considering to declare such areas as draught hit where there was scanty rain, so that farmers could get immediate relief; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) Details of damage to crops, in the wake of drought during 2014-15 and 2015-16, in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh, as reported by the State Government, are indicated below:

		in lakh hectares (ha.)
Year	Damage to crops in the wake of drought	
2014-15	10.05	
2015-16	8.04	

No report on damage to crops in the wake of drought during 2016-17 and 2017-18 (so far) in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh has been received from the State Government.

(b) Yes, Sir. In response to the Memorandum for Central assistance in the wake of drought of Kharif 2017 submitted by the Government of Chhattisgarh, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) visited the State from 21st to 23rd November, 2017 for assessment of the drought situation, including damage to paddy crops also.

(c) During Kharif 2017, the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan also submitted Memorandum for Central assistance in the wake of drought. In the Memorandum, while the Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported that bulk of Kharif crop comprises pulses, no damage to paddy crop in the wake of drought has been reported. The IMCT to Madhya Pradesh submitted its final report on 13.12.2017. The report of the IMCT was considered by the Sub-Committee of National Executive Committee (SC-NEC) in the meeting held on 27.12.2017. The recommendation of the SC-NEC has been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs for placing it before the High Level Committee for approval. In the Memorandum, the Government of Rajasthan has reported

damage to paddy in 1450 hectares area due to drought. The Memorandum submitted by the Government of Rajasthan is under consideration.

(d) and (e) Declaration of drought is made by the respective State Governments taking into account various factors.

#### **Use of toxic pesticides in the country**

2112. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seven deadly pesticides, banned or restricted elsewhere in the world due to their high toxicity, are used in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Centre for Science and Environment has released a list of seven extremely hazardous pesticides which continue to be used in India despite being banned in many countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) There are 66 pesticides that are banned, restricted, withdrawn in one or more countries but continued to be registered in India. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) has constituted an expert committee in July 2013, to review them. 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 & 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.

(c) and (d) There is no such report available with the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.

**Statement-I***Recommendation of the Expert Committee with respect to 66 pesticides*

Sl. No.	Category	No. of Pesticides	Name of the Pesticides
1.	I- to be continued	18	Aluminium phosphide, Bifenthrin, Carbosulfan, Chlorfenapyr, Chlorothalonil, 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, Car bendazim, Carbofuran, Chlorpyrifos, Deltamethrin, Dico fol, 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"> <li>• No new certificate of registration to manufacture shall be issued after December 2017</li> <li>• No person shall import, manufacture or formulate w.e.f. 1st January 2019</li> <li>• The use shall be completely banned w.e.f. 31st December 2020</li> </ul>
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

***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

**National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development**

†2113. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been running National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development since 2014 to promote animal husbandry and dairy, if so, the total budget allocated and expenditure incurred on these two schemes along with the steps taken by Government to connect small and marginal farmers with this scheme; and

(b) whether the evaluation of social and economic impact on farmers and cattlemen has been done with the implementation of this scheme having completed three years, if so, details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has been implementing National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development since 2014-15 in order to enhance milk production and productivity of bovine and dairy development in the country. The budget allocated and expenditure incurred during the last three years and current year is as under:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development**

₹ in crore

Scheme/ Component of the scheme	2014-15			2015-16			2016-17			2017-18			
	BE	RE	Act. Exp.	BE	RE	Act. Exp	BE	RE	Act. Exp	BE	RE	Act.	Exp
													As on 31.12. 2017
(a) National programme for Bovine Breeding	204	159.04	159.04	76	81.77	81.77	100	105	104.46	190	190	144.00	
(b) National Programme for Dairy Development	105	85	89.97	74	73.99	73.99	110	120	119.71	170	170.49	162.01	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>244.04</b>	<b>249.01</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>155.76</b>	<b>155.76</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>224.17</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>360.49</b>	<b>306.01</b>	

In order to connect the scheme with the farmers, funds are being released to the States/Implementing Agencies for extension activities like organization of farmers' orientation programmes, fertility camps etc. Awards for farmers and organizations have also been instituted under these schemes.

(b) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has initiated social and economic impact analysis of the schemes through an independent agency. However, Department is undertaking monitoring of the schemes through organization of State review meetings, weekly video conferencing sessions, regional review meetings etc.

**Relief for fishermen**

2114. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of boats owned by Indian fishermen seized by neighbouring countries since 2014;

(b) whether Government is providing relief to those fishermen whose boats have been seized;

(c) if so, the details thereof, including the quantum of funds allocated and released since 2014; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) A total number of 671 boats owned by Indian fishermen were seized by neighbouring countries since 2014.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. In order to provide relief to such fishermen, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare had formulated a scheme of Soft Loan Package for replacement of fishing vessels held captive in Pakistan. The total cost of the scheme is ₹ 19.56 crore and it envisages one time replacement of a total of 326 Indian fishing vessels held captive in Pakistan with a capital subsidy to the tune of 30% of the cost of each vessel subject to a ceiling of ₹ 6 lakh. An amount of ₹ 2.00 crore has been released under this scheme since 2014.

Besides, DADF has introduced a sub-component 'Assistance to Deep Sea Fishing' under the umbrella scheme Blue Revolution for providing financial assistance to fishermen to enable them to take up deep-sea fishing. The Central Government has already released an amount of ₹ 200 crore to the Government of Tamil Nadu towards subsidy for procurement of 500 deep sea fishing vessels under this scheme. The State Government of Tamil Nadu has been advised to give priority to fishermen whose boats are under captivity of Sri Lankan authorities.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Import of Chinese sprayers**

2115. 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 imported Chinese sprayers, with the help of which pesticides and chemicals are sprayed on crops have taken the toll of 20 farmers, 25 farmers suffered with blindness and caused other health hazards in Maharashtra, etc.;

(b) whether Ministry is also aware that Maharashtra Government has instituted an inquiry into this entire incident; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof and steps going to be taken by the Ministry to stop import of such sprayers and also take action against fertilizer and chemical companies which are using excessive chemicals in their pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) As per the information received from the Maharashtra Government, death of 63 farm labours/farmers have been reported due to poisoning while spraying pesticide on the crops.

(b) and (c) Government of Maharashtra has appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe pesticides poisoning cases and to propose proactive policies and strategies to prevent incidences in future. SIT has submitted its report to Government of Maharashtra.

The Government of Maharashtra has undertaken adequate awareness extension activities for safe handling of pesticides and spraying activities. Further, action under Insecticide Act, 1968 are being taken by the Government of Maharashtra against the violation of the Act and Rules.

To provide the subsidy to the sprayers under the various assistance programmes of Government, it is mandatory to test these sprayers as per the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) from the authorized testing centres of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Government of India.

#### **Use of hazardous pesticides**

2116. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of hazardous pesticides, which are banned worldwide, are still in use in our country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by Government to have an exclusive legislation on pesticides management to address the issues related to unsafe use of pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) There are 66 pesticides that are banned, restricted, withdrawn in one or more countries, but continued to be registered in India. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) has constituted an Expert Committee in July 2013, to review them. 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 in the Statement-I. [Refer to

the Statement-I appended to answer to USQ No. 2112 (Part (a) and (b))]. Considering the recommendation of Expert Committee as accorded by the Registration Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture & 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. [Refer to the Statement-II appended to answer to USQ No. 2112 (Part (a) and (b))]. 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.

(c) The Registration Committee, constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers insecticides after considering its efficacy and safety to human beings, animals and environment. Furthermore, the Registration Committee while granting Certificate of Registration to the applicant also approves labels and leaflets. These labels and leaflets, *inter alia*, provides information on safe usage of the insecticide. It is mandatory for every manufacturer to place these labels and leaflets in the packages of insecticide for sell. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing 'Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach' (SMPMA) Scheme, wherein, *inter alia*, Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) are organized to sensitize farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach and to use chemical pesticides as a last resort as per approved labels and leaflets. In addition, Package of practices for control of pests and diseases in 87 crops have been revised to include techniques to reduce dependence on chemical pesticides and encourage use of bio-pesticides and other alternative plant protection measures.

#### **Assessment of crop loss in different parts of the country**

2117. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been assessment of crop loss in different parts of the country, particularly in Odisha, due to shortfall of rain/untimely rain/drought/pest attack, etc., if so, the details thereof;

(b) the financial assistance sought by the concerned State Governments to cope up with the situations like above during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 for the crop losses; and



(c) the amount of financial assistance provided to the different State Governments, including Odisha, as requested and the percentage of utilisation of such funds by the concerned State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) So far, during 2017-18, the State Governments of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have declared drought and submitted Memorandum in the wake of Kharif 2017, intimating crop loss of 1654933 hectares, 2893379.46 hectares and 2374277 hectares, respectively. The State Government of Odisha has not submitted any Memorandum in the wake of drought so far. However, the Government of Odisha has intimated that there has been damage to 3.196 lakh hectares of cropped area due to drought, 1.297 lakh hectares area affected due to pest attack and 4.179 lakh hectares area due to unseasonal cyclonic rain. The Government of Maharashtra has submitted a Memorandum in the wake of pest attack on cotton and paddy crops and ockhi cyclone during 2017. As per the Memorandum, 2.12 lakh hectares of paddy crops and 34.57 lakh hectares of cotton crop has been severely affected due to pest attack. Further, 10554 hectares of fruit crops and 2641 hectares of vegetables have been affected due to the ockhi cyclone. Besides, some pest situation prevailed during Kharif 2017 season in Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(b) and (c) Details of the financial assistance sought by the States affected by drought/hailstorm and assistance approved from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

The State Governments are primarily responsible for taking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities and are to take utmost care in distribution of assistance in the wake of natural calamities. Data on utilization of funds by the State Governments is not maintained by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

**Statement**

*State-wise details of assistance sought and assistance approved from National Disaster Response Fund in the wake of drought/hailstorm*

State	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
	Assistance		Assistance		Assistance	
	Sought	Approved	Sought	Approved	Sought	Approved
Haryana	4829.25 (D) 1925.97 (H)	168.87 (D) 369.09 (H)	-	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	4819.49(D) 7573.70 (H)	777.34 (D) 2801.59 (H)	2057.79(K) 1888.35(R)	1304.52(K) 622.76(R)	-	-
Karnataka	779.20 (D) 151.28 (H)	200.85 (D) 105.33 (H)	3830.84(K) 1417.14(R)	1540.20(K) 723.23(R)	4702.54(K) 3310.83(R)	1782.44(K) 795.544(R)
Maharashtra	6013.28 (D)	1962.99 (D)	6020.36(K) 2251.66(R)	3638.83(K) 679.54(R)	-	-
Andhra Pradesh	1532.00(D)	237.51 (D)	2000.56(K)	433.77(K)	2513.97(K)	518.93(K)
Rajasthan	11886.00 (H)	1447.73 (H)	10537.02(K) 4372.27 (H)	1193.41(K) 79.18(H)	3660.97(K)	588.34(K)
Bihar	2041.10(H)	791.42(H)	-	-	-	-
Himachal Pradesh	353.395 (H)	71.534 (H)	-	-	-	-

(₹ in Crore)

Telangana	117.59(H)	83.744 (H)	2601.17(D)	791.21 (D)	-	-
Chhattisgarh	-	-	6093.79 (D)	1276.25 (D)	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	-	-	5114.53(D)	2032.68 (D)	-	-
Odisha	-	-	2344.99 (D)	815.00(D)	-	-
Jharkhand	-	-	2142.78(D)	336.94 (D)	-	-
Uttarakhand	-	-	91.97(R)	70.22(R)	-	-
Kerala	-	-	-	-	1019.90 (D)	112.05 (D)
Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	39565.00 (K)	1748.28 (K)

D - Drought  
H - Hailstorm  
K-Kharif (Drought)  
R -Rabi (Drought)

**Instant payment to farmers for produce procured**

2118. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the poor farmers have still not come out from the clutches of moneylenders, traders and middlemen as they continue to sell their produce at a price below the MSP because Government agencies make payment to the farmers against the produce procured after a considerable time;

(b) if so, whether there is any plan under consideration of Government to make payment to the farmers instantly against the produce procured; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Under the procurement mechanism, Government agencies procure the produce of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) at Minimum Support Price (MSP) directly from farmers as and when prices fall below the MSP and proposals received from State Governments/Union Territories. The payments to the farmers are made strictly through Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)/National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) and account payee cheque by the procuring agencies within three days of purchase of their produce. However, if farmers gets better price in comparison to MSP, they are free to sell their produce in open market.

**Strengthening of animal husbandry, horticulture, fisheries etc.**

†2119. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously contemplating to strengthen the animal husbandry, horticulture, fisheries, apiculture, agriculture education and research and expansion system;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps so far in this regard; 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 (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) is implementing an umbrella scheme, White Revolution: Rasthtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojana to conserve and develop indigenous

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

breeds in a holistic and scientific manner as well as genetic up gradation to enhance the milk production through animal productivity. A key objective of the Scheme is sustainable development of livestock sector keeping view of livestock health, focusing on improving availability of quality feed and fodder, risk coverage, effective extension, improve flow of credit and organization of Livestock farmers/ rearers and creating/ strengthen of infrastructure for production of quality milk, procurement, processing and marketing of milk and milk products by the state implementing agencies. The scheme has the following components:

- (I) National Programme for Dairy Development
- (II) National Dairy Plan-I
- (III) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (TV) Supporting State Cooperative Dairy Federation
- (V) Rashtriya Gokul Mission
- (VI) Breed Improvement Institutes
- (VII) Livestock Health and Disease Control
- (VIII) Assistance to Animal Health Institute
- (IX) National Livestock Mission
- (X) Livestock Census
- (XI) Integrated Sample Survey

In addition to above, Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) scheme with an outlay of ₹ 10,881 crore is being implemented in collaboration with National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Cooperative Development Cooperation (NCDC), NABARD. The scheme focus on efficient milk procurement system by setting up of chilling infrastructure and installation of electronic milk adulteration testing equipment, creation/modernization/expansion of processing infrastructure and manufacturing facilities for Value Added Products for the Milk Union/ Milk Producer Companies. The scheme envisages granting loans to State Dairy Federations, Districts Milk Unions, Multi State Co-operatives Societies, NDDB services, Milk Producers Companies.

Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries is also implementing Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries- for development

and management /to strengthen of fisheries, covering inland fisheries, pisciculture, marine fisheries including deep sea fishing and mariculture etc.

To strengthen the Horticulture sector including apiculture, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing "Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture" (MIDH) for holistic growth of this sector, covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo to increase productivity, diversification to high value horticulture crops, promoting primary, minimal processing and post harvest management, development of market infrastructure and skill development and pollination support through bee-keeping in the country.

Further, Horticulture Institute under Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) / Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) carry out research related to problems and requirements of different states, develop research projects and eventually develop appropriate technologies/varieties in the areas including research related to post harvest loss and value addition.

In order to expand the Higher Agricultural Education in the country, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)/ Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) annually conducts the All India Entrance Examination for admission to 15% seats in Bachelor degree programmes and 25% seats each in Master's and Doctoral degree programmes in Agricultural Universities (AUs) under the ICAR-AU system. ICAR also awards National Talent Scholarship (NTS) for pursuing Bachelor's degree programme, ICAR-PG Scholarships for pursuing Masters degree programme and Junior/Senior Research Fellowship {JRF/SRF(PGS)}, for pursuing doctoral degree programme in Agriculture and Allied Sciences. Non-PG scholarship candidates are also eligible to get NTS (PGS) for pursuing Master's degree programmes. In addition, Merit-cum-Means and Post-Matric Scholarships are also provided to attract meritorious undergraduate students belonging to below poverty line and from the weaker sections of the society.

#### **Training to farmers about PCC technology**

2120. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Horticulture Board (NHB) has made any efforts to have agricultural engineers, specialized in Protected Crop Cultivation (PCC) technology, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps taken by NHB to impart training to farmers about PCC technology; and

(c) whether any subsidy is granted by Government to install infrastructure in order to use PCC technology effectively, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The Protected Crop Cultivation is being looked after by the technical staff of the National Horticulture Board (NHB) with Horticulture /Agriculture background and having sufficient exposure, training, experience in the field. Further, technical standards of Protected Cultivation have been formulated in consultation with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), National Committee on Plastics Applications in Horticulture (NCPAH), who have professional engineers specialized in the field.

(b) NHB has been imparting training to farmers about PCC technology through specialized institutions such as Horticulture Training Centre, Pune and Centers of Excellence set-up under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme. Further, technical assistance and support are also provided to farmers by offices of NHB and State Horticulture Missions. In addition, exposure visits of farmers at established farms for on farm experience are also arranged by NHB.

(c) Yes, Sir. The same is available under MIDH scheme.

#### **Assistance to fishermen of Tamil Nadu**

2121. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with the Government to extend financial assistance to fishermen in Tamil Nadu to purchase high-end deep sea fishing vessels so that they can compete with Taiwan and Thailand which are using much advanced vessels for deep sea fishing; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has introduced a new Sub-component namely "Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing" under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme

(CSS) on 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries'. The DADF has received a proposal on Subsidy assistance for Deep Sea Fishing to Traditional fishermen for procurement of New Tuna Long Liner cum Gill Netter from Government of Tamil Nadu. Government of India has sanctioned and released ₹200.00 crores to Government of Tamil Nadu during the financial Year 2017-18 for implementation of the sub-component on 'Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing' under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries'.

**Awareness campaign about new farming techniques**

2122. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to create awareness among the farmers of the country about the new farming techniques, developments, etc;
- (b) whether the said awareness meetings/seminars/camps are held frequently in each and every rural area of the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including Madurai in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The main extension system for dissemination of farming techniques to farmers is operated by State Governments. However, the steps taken by the Union Government to create awareness among the farmers about new farming techniques, etc. are as follows:

- The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare is providing support to State Extension Programmes for extension reforms through setting up of Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) in 676 districts of 29 States and 3 Union Territories of the country. The ATMAs conduct various farmer oriented activities including farmers' training and demonstrations, exposure visits, farmers' fairs, mobilization of farmers' groups and organizing farm schools, etc. The State wise number of farmers participated in various activities of ATMA scheme during the current year is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).
- Besides, existing infrastructure of All India Radio and Doordarshan is also being utilised to create awareness on best agricultural practices. Also, Prasar Bharati owned DD Kisan is 24 hours' channel which telecast agriculture based programmes for the benefit of farming community.



- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has created a network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country for technology assessment and demonstration for its application and capacity development. The KVKs also create awareness among the farmers on improved technologies through large number of extension programmes including meetings/seminars/camps, etc. The state wise details of number of extension programmes organized by KVKs and farmers benefitted including Madurai in Tamil Nadu during the current year are given in the Statement-II (*See* below).
- As far as Madurai district of Tamil Nadu is concerned, 522 various extension programmes have been organized during the current year for creating awareness on new farming techniques with the participation of 9106 farmers.

**Statement-I**

*Number of participants in farmers oriented extension activities by  
ATMA during 2017-18*

Name of State	No. of participants in farmers oriented extension activities	No. of Farmers Interest Groups mobilized	No. of farmers' schools organized
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	43150	75	40
Bihar	367501	1990	1868
Chhatisgarh	120487	138	218
Goa	0		
Gujarat	167633	571	385
Haryana	17425	0	12
Himachal Pradesh	21464	141	75
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0
Jharkhand	8498	0	57
Karnataka	83687	294	623
Kerala	27858	824	355
Maharashtra	465512	1944	558
Madhya Pradesh	93542	1400	547

1	2	3	4
Odisha	0	1256	0
Punjab	47113	0	49
Rajasthan	128309	556	576
Telangana	84822	90	10
Tamil Nadu	186798	0	101
Uttar Pradesh	302033	1107	2963
Uttarakhand	0	0	0
West Bengal	151936	900	670
Assam	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	75	0	0
Manipur	0	0	0
Meghalaya	4378	22	70
Mizoram	5200	78	39
Nagaland	25556	148	0
Tripura	0	0	26
Sikkim	0	0	0
Delhi	0	0	0
Puducherry	1541	1	3
Aandman and Nicobar	6993	0	2
TOTAL	2361511	11535	9247

***Statement-II***

*State-wise number of extension programmes organised by KVKs and farmers benefited during 2017-18*

Name of the State	No. of extension programmes	No. of farmers benefited
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3072	19070
Andhra Pradesh	7526	595011

1	2	3
Arunachal Pradesh	9058	149249
Assam	21948	177877
Bihar	101510	793433
Chhattisgarh	20864	365459
Delhi	55	1962
Goa	306	19085
Gujarat	417	18336
Haryana	683	44226
Himachal Pradesh	219	18927
Jammu and Kashmir	831	27563
Jharkhand	30318	294851
Karnataka	2812	978742
Kerala	1141	210632
Madhya Pradesh	81656	1262649
Maharashtra	12972	5031955
Manipur	1066	27185
Meghalaya	877	21589
Mizoram	871	27535
Nagaland	836	25224
Odisha	38038	275866
Puducherry	542	11218
Punjab	1891	162102
Rajasthan	343	17174
Sikkim	3042	19567
Tamil Nadu	2183	238671
Telangana	5073	203479
Tripura	500	18538

1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh	49114	904230
Uttarakhand	5640	188535
West Bengal	32366	432687
TOTAL	437770	12582627

#### **Loan burden on farmers**

2123. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers have borrowed or continue to borrow money from private money lenders in the country to meet their agricultural expenses; and

(b) if so, the total number, in figures and percentage, of such farmers who have borrowed money from the private moneylenders, State-wise, in the last three years along with the total amount borrowed and rate of interest charged by such moneylenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) "Situation Assessment Survey" (SAS), 2013 of Agricultural Households (70th Round) - it is estimated that of the agricultural households in the country that have taken loans for all kind of purposes, 52 percent are indebted. The average amount of outstanding loans per agricultural households is ₹47,000 (approximately). The survey revealed that at all India level, about 60 percent of the outstanding loans were taken from institutional sources which included Government (2.1 percent), Cooperative Societies (14.8 percent) and Banks (42.9 percent). Among non-institutional sources, agricultural/ professional money lenders (25.8 percent) had the major share in terms of outstanding loans.

The details of farmers who have borrowed money from the private money lenders during the last 3 years are not available with NSSO. However, State-wise figures of average amount of outstanding loans per agricultural household, percentage of outstanding loan amount taken from agricultural/ professional money lender, number and percentage of agricultural households having outstanding loans from agricultural/ professional money lender as obtained from SAS 2013 are given in the Statement.

**Statement**

*Average amount of outstanding loan per agricultural household, percentage of outstanding loans from 'agricultural/ professional money lender; number and percentage of agricultural households having outstanding loans as per the results of Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural households of NSS 70th round (January -December 2013)*

State/ Group of UTs	average amount of outstanding loan per agricultural household (₹ '00)	percentage of outstanding loan amount taken from		estimated number ('00) of agricultural households having outstanding loans from		estimated number ('00) of agricultural households	percentage of agricultural households with outstanding loan from	
		agricultural/ professional money lender (%)	agricultural/ professional money lender (%)	agricultural/ professional money lender	any source		agricultural/ professional money lender (col.4/col.6)	any source (col.5/col.6)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Andhra Pradesh	1234	49.4	12292	33421	35968	34.2	92.9	
Arunachal Pradesh	54	5.6	19	206	1080	1.8	19.1	
Assam	34	3.7	409	5995	34230	1.2	17.5	
Bihar	163	51.2	13492	30156	70943	19.0	42.5	
Chhattisgarh	102	23.2	686	9538	25608	2.7	37.2	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gujarat	381	6.6	1619	16743	39305	4.1	42.6
Haryana	790	21.3	1159	6645	15693	7.4	42.3
Himachal Pradesh	280	1.5	56	2457	8811	0.6	27.9
Jammu and Kashmir	122	3.2	80	3463	11283	0.7	30.7
Jharkhand	57	26.1	1747	6464	22336	7.8	28.9
Karnataka	972	20.7	8000	32775	42421	18.9	77.3
Kerala	2136	2.2	395	10908	14043	2.8	77.7
Madhya Pradesh	321	24.2	6643	27414	59950	11.1	45.7
Maharashtra	547	5.0	2498	40672	70970	3.5	57.3
Manipur	61	19.9	97	421	1762	5.5	23.9
Meghalaya	14	2.3	11	84	3544	0.3	2.4
Mizoram	29	0.0	0	47	758	0.0	6.2
Nagaland	6	0.0	0	65	2621	0.0	2.5
Odisha	282	9.5	4785	25830	44935	10.6	57.5
Punjab	1195	15.0	1223	7499	14083	8.7	53.2
Rajasthan	705	43.9	15784	40055	64835	24.3	61.8

Sikkim	99	0.0	0	97	674	0.0	14.4
Tamil Nadu	1159	25.5	6943	26780	32443	21.4	82.5
Telangana	935	60.3	8280	22628	25389	32.6	89.1
Tripura	50	2.3	19	559	2445	0.8	22.9
Uttarakhand	356	6.5	532	5387	10608	5.0	50.8
Uttar Pradesh	273	22.4	13107	79081	180486	7.3	43.8
West Bengal	178	17.7	5062	32787	63624	8.0	51.5
Group of UTs	477	7.0	43	267	717	6.0	37.2
ALL-INDIA	470	25.8	104948	468481	902011	11.6	51.9

*Note:* Definition of Agricultural household used in Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households, NSS 70th round: For the purpose of Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of NSS 70th round, an agricultural household was defined as a household receiving some value of produce from agriculture activities (e.g. cultivation of field crops, horticultural crops, fodder crops, plantation, animal husbandry, poultry, fishery, piggy, bee-keeping, vermiculture, sericulture, etc.) during last 365 days. However households which were entirely agricultural labour households, households receiving income entirely from coastal fishing, activity of rural artisans and agricultural services were not considered as agricultural household and they were kept out of the scope of the survey. Further, to eliminate households pursuing agricultural activities of insignificant nature, households with at least one member self-employed in agriculture either in the principal status or in subsidiary status and having total value of produce more than ₹3000/- during the last 365 days were only considered for being selected for this survey.

*Source:* Table 14 and 15 of Appendix A, NSS Report No. 576: Income, Expenditure, Productive Assets and Indebtedness of Agricultural Households in India. The outstanding amount is pertaining to all kind of loans taken by the agricultural household irrespective of the purpose for which it was taken. The figures correspond to the amount of outstanding loan at the time of the survey

**Indiscriminate use of Oxytocin**

2124. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that one-fourth of India's dairies had no shelter for animals and all of these institutions house sick and injured animals;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that nearly 55 per cent of dairy owners are allowed their sick animals to be milked;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that there was also minimal veterinary care and discriminate use of Oxytocin across the country; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) and (b) As informed by Animal Welfare Board of India under Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change, "regulation of cattle dairies are done by the State Government as per the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Registration of Cattle Premises) Rules, 1978 and no information is available with Board on the issue". However, Indian dairy is characterised by small holder dairy system where herd size is ranging from 1-2 milch animals to supplement the rural household income.

(c) and (d) In order to complement and supplement the efforts made by the States to deliver veterinary services and veterinary care, the Government of India is implementing Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme. The Drug Controller of India had informed misuse of Oxytocin by dairy owners reported in various forum including in print and electronic media. The Department also received some reports from various sources. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries had issued advisories to all State Governments/Union Territories to build close liaison with State Drug Controller to check the clandestine use of Oxytocin by the dairy owners. Further, all the State Animal Husbandry Departments had been requested to utilize extension services/facilities to undertake information, education and communication campaign for educating farmers about harmful effects of misuse of Oxytocin on milch animals which also amounts to cruelty to animals. The Department of Animal Husbandry had also written a letter Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to review their notification and consider appropriate action on marketing of Oxytocin for veterinary purposes.

The Drug Controller General of India reported that following measures had been taken under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder to prevent misuse of Oxytocin:



1. Oxytocin formulation is permitted to be manufactured and sold in single unit blister pack only;
2. Under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 (23 of 1940), a notification has been issued *vide* GSR no. 29 (E) dated 17/01/2014, to regulate and restrict the manufacture, sale and distribution of the Oxytocin in the country and to prevent its misuse, directing that the drug Oxytocin shall be manufactured for sale or for distribution or sold in the following manner:
  - I. The manufacturers of bulk oxytocin drug shall supply the active pharmaceutical drug only to the manufacturers licensed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 for manufacture of formulations of the said drug; and
  - II. The formulations meant for veterinary use shall be sold to the veterinary hospitals only.

#### **Implementation of RKVY**

2125. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

- (a) the status of implementation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) in various States of the country;
- (b) the details of the programmes being undertaken under the said Yojana and achievements made therefrom during the last two years; and
- (c) the details of the funds released by Government and utilized under the said Yojana by the State Governments during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) launched in the year 2007-08 is being implemented in all States. The projects for implementation under RKVY are implemented by the concerned State Governments as per their needs and regional priorities from a shelf of projects approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) headed by the Chief Secretary of the concerned State Government. The year-wise and State-wise details of projects approved by the States under the scheme are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

- (c) The State-wise status of funds released and utilization reported by the State Governments under the scheme during 2015-16 to 2016-17 as on 01.01.2018 is given in the Statement-II.

## Statement-I

(A) State-wise / Sector-wise Number of Projects 2015-16 as on 01.01.2018

Sl. No.	State	CROP	HORT	SERI	AN	OTHR	FISH	COOP	IP	SEED	FI	AM	EX	MR	NO	IT	AG	NRM	IR	OR	DD	Total
					HB				MT		NM	EC	TN	KT	NF	EC	RE		RI	FM	EV	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	25	8	4	13	7	0	4	5	3	10	0	7	2	0	24	2	0	8	9	136
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
3.	Assam	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	14	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	18
4.	Bihar	14	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	22
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	19
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
7.	Gujarat	0	0	0	5	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	2	19
8.	Haryana	4	6	0	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	25	1	1	0	2	50
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	5	0	9	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	24
10.	Jharkhand	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	12
11.	Karnataka	4	16	6	11	2	6	0	0	2	0	3	1	6	0	0	7	0	1	1	0	66
12.	Kerala	6	7	0	7	1	10	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	10	15	0	7	70

13.	Madhya Pradesh	1	9	1	12	3	6	0	0	0	6	2	12	8	3	0	0	0	2	4	2	4	75
14.	Maharashtra	16	12	2	3	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	6	2	0	0	5	4	4	1	2	61	
15.	Meghalaya	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
16.	Mizoram	8	4	7	18	7	10	0	7	2	0	2	4	5	0	0	2	27	6	0	0	109	
17.	Nagaland	4	6	2	5	25	5	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	57	
18.	Odisha	8	25	0	10	0	13	3	1	6	0	1	8	1	0	4	10	0	1	0	8	99	
19.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	
20.	Rajasthan	0	0	0	2	11	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	9	0	0	1	1	28	
21.	Tamil Nadu	11	4	0	8	0	9	0	0	2	2	7	3	3	0	0	9	1	0	0	4	63	
22.	Telangana	0	3	5	8	0	3	0	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	0	20	0	0	2	4	58	
23.	Tripura	6	0	0	4	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	18	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	12	6	4	13	7	9	0	0	8	4	4	2	3	0	2	2	3	5	2	3	89	
25.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
26.	West Bengal	1	1	0	3	2	9	7	2	8	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	42	
TOTAL		108	144	35	127	79	97	12	20	72	16	53	43	34	11	7	121	58	42	20	53	1152	

## Total No. of Projects: 1152

Crop - Crop Development; Hort - Horticulture; SERI - Sericulture; ANHB - Animal Husbandry; OTHER - Innovative Programmes / Others; FISH - Fisheries; Coop - Cooperatives/Cooperation; IPMT - Integrated Pest Management; SEED - Seed; FINM - Fertilisers and INM; AMEC - Agriculture Mechanisation; EXTN - Extension; MRKT - Marketing and Post Harvest Management; NONF - Non Farm Activities; ITEC - Information Technology; AGRE - Research (Agri/Horti/Animal Husbandry etc.); NRM - Natural Resource Management; IRRI -Micro/Minor Irrigation; ORFM- Organic Farming / Bio Fertiliser; DDEV - Dairy Development

## B. State-wise / Sector-wise Number of Projects 2016-17 as on 01.01.2018

Sl. No.	State	CROP	HORT	SERI	AN	OTHR	FISH	COOP	IP	SEED	FI	FI	EX	MR	NO	IT	AG	NRM	IR	OR	DD	Total
					HB				MT		NM	NM	TN	KT	NF	EC	RE		RI	FM	EV	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	26	10	7	4	10	0	5	4	2	6	0	1	0	0	27	0	0	3	6	119
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	16
3.	Assam	4	21	0	6	8	5	0	0	6	0	1	3	1	7	0	0	0	2	1	5	70
4.	Chhattisgarh	1	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	26
5.	Goa	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
6.	Gujarat	3	4	0	1	2	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	1	23
7.	Haryana	4	5	0	9	4	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	2	40
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8
9.	Karnataka	7	18	9	13	3	8	0	2	3	0	1	1	3	1	0	12	0	1	1	0	83
10.	Kerala	2	5	0	6	0	5	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	26
11.	Madhya Pradesh	0	7	0	12	1	5	0	2	11	2	8	7	0	0	0	6	1	2	1	0	65
12.	Maharashtra	1	4	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	20

**Total No. of Projects: 1085**

CROP - Crop Development; HORT - Horticulture; SERI - Sericulture; ANHB - Animal Husbandry; OTHR - Innovative Programmes / Others; FISH - Fisheries; COOP-Cooperatives/Cooperation; IPMT - Integrated Pest Management; SEED - Seed; Finm - Fertilisers and INM; AMEC - Agriculture Mechanisation; EXTN - Extension; MRKT - Marketing and Post Harvest Management; NONF - Non Farm Activities; ITEC - Information Technology; AGRE - Research (Agri/Horti/Animal Husbandry etc.); NRM - Natural Resource Management; IRR1 -Micro/Minor Irrigation; ORFM - Organic Farming / Bio Fertiliser; DDEV - Dairy Development

***Statement-II***

*The Details of Release and UC recvd of the States under RKVY during  
2015-16 to 2016-2017 as on 01.01.2018 (₹ in crore)*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2015-16		2016-17	
		Release	Utilization	Release	Utilization
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	192.66	192.66	222.59	222.59
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	31.55	31.55	11.92	9.00
3.	Assam	94.10	93.49	210.45	174.61
4.	Bihar	111.20	103.20	90.61	75.64
5.	Chhattisgarh	145.07	145.07	193.04	175.81
6.	Goa	21.70	21.70	10.35	
7.	Gujarat	174.55	174.55	155.31	89.39
8.	Haryana	141.55	124.86	126.85	59.32
9.	Himachal Pradesh	28.30	28.30	52.76	51.39
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	37.36	35.55	38.49	37.73
11.	Jharkhand	78.32	61.22	72.72	40.74
12.	Karnataka	346.93	346.93	242.31	240.27
13.	Kerala	90.48	90.48	92.76	92.76
14.	Madhya Pradesh	264.09	263.60	293.49	237.40
15.	Maharashtra	438.00	438.00	250.91	128.40
16.	Manipur	20.46	20.46	12.83	11.86
17.	Meghalaya	8.26	8.26	10.63	10.63
18.	Mizoram	19.39	19.39	20.58	7.88
19.	Nagaland	25.25	25.25	34.94	34.94
20.	Odisha	292.36	286.97	334.91	263.16
21.	Punjab	107.97	74.82	95.81	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	325.97	325.97	261.98	261.68
23.	Sikkim	4.07	4.07	14.40	7.43

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Tamil Nadu	259.74	259.74	204.87	204.38
25.	Telangana	135.91	135.91	256.99	171.74
26.	Tripura	21.54	21.54	34.41	34.41
27.	Uttar Pradesh	177.41	177.41	201.89	149.92
28.	Uttarakhand	36.20	36.20	46.57	36.08
29.	West Bengal	284.56	284.56	280.78	204.71
	TOTAL STATES	3914.95	3831.71	3876.15	3033.87
30.	Delhi	0.00			
31.	Puducherry	0.76			
32.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2.35		2.35	2.33
33.	Chandigarh	0.00			
34.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00			
35.	Daman and Diu	0.00			
36.	Lakshadweep	0.00			
	CRRI, Cuttack BGREI Cell, Centres of Excellence, Monitoring and other administrative expenditure	24.34	24.34	13.57	
	GRAND TOTAL	3942.40	3856.05	3892.04	3036.20

(2015-16): Note: Including total allocation for UT's ₹15.02 and ₹30.33 crore including sub-head 2401 under RKVY, ₹ 10.04 crore for Bee Keeping sub-scheme) ₹ 2.35 crore for Andaman and Nicobar fund could not be utilized, fund may be treated as surrendered by the UT

#### Assistance from NDRF for cattle conservation

2126. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from Government of Rajasthan for assistance of ₹ 1043.69 crore regarding cattle conservation activities from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF);

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) to (c) As informed by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare in view of deficit rainfall during South West Monsoon 2017 (June- September), deficit ground water, poor crop status, etc., the Government of Rajasthan had declared drought in 41 tehsils (4151 villages) in 13 districts in the State and submitted a Memorandum seeking assistance of ₹ 3078.26 crore from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for drought relief. The amount of ₹ 3078.26 crore, *inter-alia* includes ₹ 938.47 crore from NDRF for cattle conservation activities. The memorandum submitted by the State Government is under consideration in connection with the deputation of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) for assessment of the drought situation and requirement of financial assistance.

**Doubling the income of farmers**

2127. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP:

SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Committee appointed by Government in April, 2016 to prepare the report on doubling farmers' income has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations of the Committee; and
- (c) how much expenditure is likely to be incurred on the implementation of such recommendations to achieve the target of doubling farmers' income by 2022?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare to examine issues relating to doubling of farmers' income by the year 2022. As of now, seven volumes, out of the fourteen volumes of the draft Report/s have been uploaded on the website of this Department (<http://agricoop.nic.in/doubling-farmers>) for seeking public opinion.

**Suicide by farmers in Jharkhand**

2128. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that farmer suicides have now become a frequent phenomenon in Jharkhand;



- (b) if so, whether Government has taken cognizance of the matter;
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to address the matter; and
- (d) the number of such cases have been reported in the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (d) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides are available upto 2015 on its website. This data is available year-wise & State-wise. The Reports for the year 2016 onwards have not been published yet. As per the ADSI Reports for the year 2014 and 2015, the total number of suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers in respect of Jharkhand is as under:

Year	Farmers	Labourers
2014	0	4
2015	0	21

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

#### **Revamping of NPPA**

2129. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on revamping the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and to set up an advisory body above it;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Drugs (Prices Control) Order is being delinked from NPPA, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of reply to (a) above, does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

#### **Upgradation of NIPER**

2130. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering proposals for improvement/upgradation of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) in various cities of the country;

(b) whether Government is planning to upgrade the equipment and machinery in NIPER, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of various upgradations that have taken place and funds allocated by Government during the last two years for development of NIPER as a model pharmaceutical research organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has set up seven National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs) at Mohali (Punjab), Gandhinagar (Gujarat), Guwahati (Assam), Hyderabad (Telangana), Hajipur (Bihar), Kolkata (West Bengal) and Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh). The Government has approved proposal for upgradation of equipment and machinery of NIPER, Mohali for ₹ 249.45 cr. and released ₹ 9.79 crore for the purpose during the financial year 2015-16. Further, a common proposal for establishing and equipping the other six existing NIPERs and four new NIPERs at Madurai (Tamil Nadu), Jhalawar (Rajasthan), New Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and Nagpur (Maharashtra) is under consideration.

(c) The details of funds allocated/ released for development of seven existing NIPERs during the last two years, i.e., 2015-16 and 2016-17 are as under:

	(₹ in Cr.)	
NIPER	2015-16	2016-17
Mohali	37.27	27.48
Gandhinagar	19.76	19.48

NIPER	2015-16	2016-17
Guwahati	21.00	26.27
Hyderabad	35.00	35.00
Hajipur	6.00	5.00
Kolkata	6.30	8.00
Raebareli	5.50	6.25
TOTAL	130.83	127.48

**Savings with usage of reduced quantity in urea bags**

2131. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Ministry has decided to have urea bag of 45 Kgs. in place of 50 Kgs.;
- (b) if so, the reasons for reducing the quantity;
- (c) the normal quantity of urea used for one acre of land;
- (d) whether Ministry is aware that farmers calculate number of bags to be used per acre rather than judiciously using only the required quantity of urea;
- (e) how the Ministry is coordinating with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare to bring awareness among the farmers in this regard; and
- (f) the percentage the Ministry thinks of saving in usage of urea with the reduced quantity in bags?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With the objective of encouraging balanced use of fertilizers, Department of Fertilizers has made it mandatory for all the domestic producers of urea to produce 100% as Neem Coated Urea (NCU). Entire quantity of both indigenously produced urea and imported urea is being neem coated *w.e.f.* 1st September, 2015 and 1st December, 2015 respectively. One of the primary benefits of Neem coating is slow release of urea which results in increased Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) leading to less consumption of NCU as compared to Normal Urea.

In the light of above, Government of India *vide* notification dated 4th September, 2017, has decided to introduce 45 Kg. bag of urea in place of existing 50 Kg. bag and a period of six months have been given to urea units as lead time to ensure smooth implementation of the policy.

(c) The quantity of urea to be applied per acre is location specific and depends on soil type and crop/cultivar to be grown.

(d) and (f) Since farmers mostly assess the requirement of urea in terms of bags for agriculture purpose, it is estimated that the availability of urea in 45 Kg bags instead of 50 Kg bag may bring down consumption of Urea by 10%.

(e) Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare is promoting the judicious and balanced use of fertilizers. The Government of India is implementing a Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme which not only provides information to the farmers regarding soil fertility but also mentions about the doses of fertilizers to be applied for a particular crop.

#### **Shortage of fertilizers**

2132. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any reports from some State Governments about shortage of fertilizers in their respective States, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps being taken to ensure sufficient supply of fertilizers to these States so that farmers do not suffer any losses on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Before the commencement of each cropping season, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), in consultation with all the State Governments, assesses the requirement of fertilizers. After assessment of requirement, DAC&FW projects month-wise requirement of fertilizers.

On the basis of month-wise & State-wise projections given by DAC&FW, Department of Fertilizers allocates sufficient/ adequate quantities of fertilizers to States

by issuing monthly supply plan and continuously monitors the availability through following system:

- (i) The movement of all major subsidized fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system called Integrated Fertilizer Monitoring System (IFMS);
- (ii) The State Governments are regularly advised to coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies through timely placement of indents for railway rakes through their state institutional agencies like Markfed, etc.
- (iii) Regular Weekly Video Conference is conducted jointly by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Department of Fertilizers (DoF), and Ministry of Railways with State Agriculture Officials and corrective actions are taken to dispatch fertilizer as indicated by the State Governments.
- (iv) The gap between demand (requirement) and production is met through imports. The import for the season is also finalised well in advance to ensure timely availability.

Thus, Department of Fertilizers ensures adequate availability of fertilizers to the farmers. However, distribution within the State is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The availability of fertilizers is adequate in the country.

#### **Production of urea**

†2133. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the production of urea in the country in the current financial year is estimated to be 2.41 crore tonne falling down 3 lakh tonnes thereof;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to meet the shortage of urea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The production of urea in the country in the current financial year is estimated to be 2.41 crore tonne, which is one lakh metric tonne less as compared to the year 2016-17.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) The shortfall between demand and supply of urea is met by imports.

**Transparency in role of Co-operative Societies**

†2134. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether due to lack of transparency, tenant farmers are not getting fertilizers and seeds provided by co-operative societies and it goes to black-market;
- (b) if so, the measures taken by Government to make the role of cooperative societies more transparent; and
- (c) whether any scheme is being considered upon by Government for using accounts of farmers opened under Jan Dhan Yojana for providing fertilizers' subsidy to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Sir, there is no report of black-marketing of subsidized fertilizers and seeds from any State Government/ UT.

- (b) Question doesn't arise.

(c) No, Sir. As of now, no scheme is being considered by the Government for using accounts of farmers opened under Jan Dhan Yojana for providing fertilizers subsidy to farmers.

**Establishment of NIPER at Jhalawar in Rajasthan**

2135. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal for establishment of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) in Jhalawar, Rajasthan, is under consideration of Government, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has ordered evaluation of the proposal by a team of experts;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken to expedite the establishment of NIPER in Jhalawar, Rajasthan?

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†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. During 2015-16, the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech announced establishment of a National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) in the State of Rajasthan. Subsequently, the Government of Rajasthan had provided 100 acres of land at Jhalawar, Rajasthan for setting up the Institute.

(b) and (c) A team headed by Director, NIPER, Raebareli visited Jhalawar Medical College, Jhalawar, Rajasthan on September 11, 2017 to review the available facilities to explore the feasibility of starting NIPER. The report of the Committee was considered in the meeting of the Steering Committee of NIPERs on 13.12.2017.

(d) The proposal for establishment of NIPER, Jhalawar, Rajasthan along with other NIPERs, has been sent to Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure on 29.12.2017 for consideration of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC).

#### **Overcharging from patients for angioplasty**

2136. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that private hospitals still continue to overcharge from patients for angioplasty despite the fact that Government has slashed the prices of cardiac stents to the tune of 75 per cent;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority in this regard against such hospitals; and

(c) the action taken by Government against them and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), *vide* its notification no. S.O. 412(E), dated 13th February, 2017, fixed the ceiling price of the coronary stents. Institutions such as hospitals/nursing homes/clinics utilizing Coronary Stents for angioplasty are bound to abide by the ceiling prices fixed by the Government for coronary stents. Perusal of the itemised hospital bills and related documents which have been received from the hospitals/nursing homes/clinics in connection with the complaints received for overcharging of stents reveal that there is usually no overcharging on coronary stents. So far, only in two cases, one hospital has / marginally overcharged two patients and subsequently the overcharged amount has been refunded to the patients by the hospital.

(b) and (c) A total of 40 complaints have been received in NPPA alleging overpricing by hospitals for coronary stents. The Government is effectively monitoring the implementation of ceiling prices fixed for coronary stents. As and when such incidents of overpricing by hospitals for coronary stents are reported to NPPA, appropriate actions are taken under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013).

#### **Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices**

2137. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has finalized draft Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices; and

(b) if so, by when the code will be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) The Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices is already in effect from 01.01.2015.

#### **Establishment of a Sports University by CCL in Jharkhand**

2138. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an MoU has been signed between the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and Government of Jharkhand for the establishment of a Sports University in the sports stadium located at Hotwar in Jharkhand; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including target set and the budget allocated for the same?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) An MoU has been signed between Central Coalfields Ltd. and Government of Jharkhand on 17th June, 2015 for establishment of a Sports University within 36 Months from the date of signing the MoU.

(b) The University Act has been passed by Jharkhand State Assembly on 14th December, 2017 and is presently pending for the assent of Hon'ble Governor of Jharkhand. Post approval, the related activities in consonance with the Act and Statute shall be undertaken for the Academic year commencing 1st April, 2018. At present, the budgetary allocation for Sports University has not been earmarked.



**Production and consumption of coal**

2139. SHRI C.P.NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the present quantum of coal production in the country;
- (b) whether granting of new coal blocks has increased the production substantially;
- (c) if so, by how much;
- (d) the annual consumption now;
- (e) whether the country is committed to reduce coal usage as part of Paris Agreement; and
- (f) if so, by how much?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) All India coal production during 2016-17 was 659.27 MT.

(b) and (c) Year-wise coal production from the operational coal mines allocated under Coal Mines (Special Provision) Act, 2015 is as under:

Year	Production (MT)
2015-16	11.80
2016-17	15.32
2017-18 till October, 2017	9.14

(d) Annual coal consumption during 2016-17 was 838.32 MT which includes 647.37 MT of domestic supply and 190.95 MT of import.

(e) and (f) India submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions under Paris Agreement on 2nd October, 2015. These are economy wide goals and no specific commitment relating to coal usage has been made under Paris Agreement.

**Dousing fires in Jharia Coalfields**

2140. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that coal fires in and around Jharia Coalfields have been raging for over a hundred years;

(b) whether Government has conducted a study on the effects of these coal fires on environment and health and if so, the summary of the main findings;

(c) whether sand and other inflammable materials can be used to douse these fires; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The coal mining operations in the Jharia Coalfields by the erstwhile Private Owners dates back to early 19th Century. Due to unscientific mining methods adopted by them, the coal mines were subjected to mine fires and subsidence.

(b) As informed by Coal India Limited, it has not conducted any specific study on the effects of these coal fires on health. However, Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) is operating mines after conducting Environment Impact Assessment and as per approved Environment Management Plan, which is a mandatory requirement of Environmental Clearance granted by Ministry of Environment and Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

(c) and (d) As informed by Coal India Limited, sand and other non inflammable materials like liquid nitrogen etc. can be used for fire control but not for extinguishing/mitigation of fire. As per the Strategic plan in 2008, in BCCL, it was decided to liquidate the fires by digging out material (*i.e.* coal, carbonaceous shale etc.) containing fire through excavation. For dealing with fire, excavation methods have been resorted by deploying hired Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM) in various mines of BCCL. This Strategy of digging out incendiary coal has been implemented with substantial success.

#### **Ramping up production of coal to meet demand**

2141. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked Coal India Limited to ramp up its coal production and dispatch 2 million tonnes per day against around 1.6 million tonnes at present, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that this has been decided in view of robust demand for coal from all segments, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Coal India Limited (CIL) has envisaged to enhance its coal production to the level of 1 Billion Tonne (BT)

by 2019-20 from current level production of 554.14 MT in 2016-17. CIL has identified mines with production capacity of 908 MT so far. In the Annual Plan of CIL for 2017-18, the production target has been pegged at 600.00 MT. In 2017-18, CIL has produced 385.61 MT till 01.01.2018, thus achieving 94% of the target of 408.62 MT, with a growth of 1.7% over production of the corresponding period of last year. As per Annual Plan proposal for 2018-19, the production target of CIL has been kept at 630 MT with 5% growth over the target of 2017-18.

Considering the demand of coal from various segments/sectors, while finalizing the Annual Plan of 2017-18, CIL was given the offtake target of 600 MT by Ministry of Coal. In the period 01.04.2017 to 31.12.2017, offtake of 421.41 MT (provisionally) has been achieved. In order to achieve the annual target, CIL is required to ramp up its daily production to more than 2 MT during the remaining days of the fiscal.

#### **Decline in coal import**

2142. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal import has declined by 24 per cent on a yearly basis, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian buyers have preferred not to buy any fresh fossil fuel and instead decided to wait and watch ahead of an upcoming auction, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Coal imports have fallen from 217.78 Mte in 2014-15 to 203.95 Mte. in 2015-16 and further to 190.95 Mte. in 2016-17. The trend of fall in import of coal has continued in 2017-18. As per the statistics released by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), during April-October, 2017-18, 118.86 Mte. (Provisional) of coal was imported as compared to 121.14 Mte. in the corresponding period of 2016-17 showing a decline of 1.9%.

(b) As per the current import policy, coal is kept under Open General License (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal from the source of their choice as per their contractual prices on payment of applicable duty.

Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has also taken various steps for promotion of import substitution through source rationalization with part supply from higher grade coal sources. Coal from various sources including higher grade were offered through various types of e-auction including special forward e-auction with ease-of-business initiatives like flexi tenure of lifting, reduction of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and floor price

to cater to requirement of various consumers including Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) not having Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) with CIL sources.

Further, CIL has prepared a provisional calendar for e-auction from August, 2017 to March, 2018, in which 832.3 lakh tonne of coal has been put on offer under Spot, Special Forward and exclusive e-auction.

Next schedule of Linkage Auction (Tentative) is given below:

- (i) Non-Regulated Sector- Tranche IV is planned to commence from March, 2018 onward.
- (ii) Linkage Auction for power producers / IPPs without PPAs that are either commissioned or to be commissioned, is planned to be conducted by end of January, 2018. The process has been initiated.

#### **Coal blocks in North-Eastern Region**

2143. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state whether Government has any data of the coal blocks in North-Eastern region, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): As per Geological Survey of India (GSI) Coal Inventory, coal resources are found in the North Eastern region in following States/ Coalfields:

State	Coalfield	Resource (In Million Tonnes)
1	2	3
Assam	Singrimari	14.49
	Makum	452.79
	Dilli-Jeypore	54.02
	Mikir Hills	3.71
Sikkim	Rangit Valley	101.23
Arunachal Pradesh	Namchik-Namphuk	84.23
	Miao Bum	6.00
Meghalaya	Balphakram-Pendenguru	107.03

1	2	3
Nagaland	Siju	125.00
	Mawlong-Shella	6.00
	Bapung	33.66
	Jayanti Hills	2.34
	West Daranggiri	125.00
	East Daranggiri	34.19
	Langrin	133.16
	Khasi Hills	10.10
	Borjan	10.00
	Jhanzi-Disai	97.12
	Tuen Sang	3.26
	Tiru Valley	6.60
	DGM Area	293.47

Further, the blocks/mines under North Eastern Coalfields (NEC) of Coal India Ltd. are given in table below:

Sl. No.	Coal Company	Name of Coalfield	Block/Mine
1.	NEC/CIL	Makum	Baragolai West & Tikak Opencast
2.	NEC/CIL	Makum	Tirap OCP, Tirap UG, Lachit Khani UG Block
3.	NEC/CIL	Makum	Ledo Mechanised OCP Block
4.	NEC/CIL	Makum	Lekhapani Block
5.	NEC/CIL	Makum	Tipong OC
6.	NEC/CIL	Makum	Jagun
7.	NEC/CIL	Dilli-Jeypore	Dilli Sector
8.	NEC/CIL	Dilli-Jeypore	Jeypore UG Block
9.	NEC/CIL	West Darranggiri	Simsang
10.	NEC/CIL	Namchik Namphuk	Namchik Namphuk

**Allocation of Palma and Tara coal blocks**

†2144. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation of Gare Palma and Tara coal blocks in Chhattisgarh is under consideration of the High Court; and

(b) whether Central Government would help the State by requesting the early disposal of the court case as the State Government is unable to get either the amount back or the royalty because of non-allocation of coal blocks?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Jindal Power Ltd. (JPL) had filed W.P. (C) No. 3001/2015 and W.P. (C) No. 3002/2015 before Hon'ble High Court of Delhi challenging Order dated 20.03.2015 of the Ministry of Coal, whereby, JPL was informed that it has not been declared as the Successful Bidder in respect of Gare Palma IV/2 & IV/3 and Tara coal mines. The ground for not declaring JPL as the Successful Bidder for the said coal mines was that the bid of JPL, which was the Preferred Bidder in the auction, was not found to be reflecting fair value. *Vide* common judgment dated 09.03.2017 Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has upheld the decision of Ministry of Coal and dismissed the petitions. The Hon'ble High Court further directed the Government to take a decision as to whether the Gare Palma IV/2 & IV/3 coal mines should be put to re-auction or be allotted to Coal India Limited or any other public sector corporation. However, JPL has preferred SLP Nos. 10240-10241/ 2017 before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the above common judgment of Hon'ble High Court. On 07.04.17 the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed to maintain *status quo* in the matter in respect of both the mines. The matter is *sub judice* before Hon'ble Supreme Court.

**Welfare scheme for SC/ST employees**

2145. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any welfare scheme for SC/ST employees working under the Ministry, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has considered to regularize casual workers working in the Ministry; and

(c) the number of employees regularized during the last two years?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The guidelines of the Government of India pertaining to welfare of SC/ST employees is also followed by Ministry of Coal.

(b) Ministry of Coal does not engage any casual workers.

(c) Does not arise.

**Allocation of coal mines for commercial mining**

2146. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM:

SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a panel of the Government may soon decide on the methodology for allocation of coal mines for commercial mining, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a discussion paper on the modalities for allocation of coal mines through auction route was earlier placed in the public domain for comments; and

(c) if so, the general views of the public in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Enabling provisions have been made in the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 for allocation of coal mines by way of auction and allotment for the sale of coal. The methodology for allotment of coal mines under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 to Central / State Public Sector Undertakings for sale of coal has been approved by the Government.

Further, to prepare the modalities for allocation of coal mines through auction for sale of coal by private companies, a discussion paper on auction of coal mines for commercial mining was prepared for seeking comments of public and stakeholders concerned and was placed in the public domain. The views of the public are largely related to the proposed eligibility conditions, auction methodology, basis of calculating revenue sharing, land acquisition etc. and general observations which *inter alia* included market scenario, existing legal regimes in the country's coal market, pricing, upfront payment as well as suggestions as a way forward. The methodology for auction of coal mines / blocks for sale of coal under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 is under consideration of the Government.

**Transmitting data to foreign countries by mobile phones**

2147. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of any reports of mobile phones leaking/transmitting data to foreign countries;
- (b) the list of private companies whose phones have been found transmitting data to foreign countries after the Ministry's investigation this August;
- (c) whether Government is taking any action against these companies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) There have been reports in the media on data leaks from mobile phones. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team has requested mobile manufactures to furnish details about the safety and security practices, architecture, frameworks and standards followed and implemented to ensure the security and safety of these devices.

On evaluation by the Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification unit of Ministry Electronics and Information Technology, the data being shared was found to be encrypted so it is difficult to state as to what information gets shared. Further, in the terms and conditions they had declared that the user data will be used for their internal consumption for improving performance and usability. Further, the mobile phones use applications that ask user to grant permission for sharing the data. Only when the user grants the permission the data is shared.

**Pick and drop facility of documents to post offices for MPs**

2148. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal received/ pending with the Ministry for pick and drop facility of the documents and letters from the Members of Parliament (MPs) Government residential address to the post offices; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and measures taken by Government for smooth functioning/communication between public representatives and the Government officials?



THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal received / pending with the Government for pick and drop facility of the documents and letters from the Members' of Parliament Government Residential addresses to the Post Offices.

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

#### **Floor prices for voice and data services**

2149. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some of the telcos, including BSNL, have asked TRAI to consider setting floor prices for voice and data services;

(b) whether Government has conducted a study to examine the repercussions of setting up floor prices for voice and data and its impact on the progress of Digital India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) In a meeting of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in India with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), held on 15.06.2017, among various issues related to financial health of the telecom service sector, one of the issues raised was fixation of floor price for voice and data service, which was decided to be further deliberated upon. In a further meeting of CEOs and TSPs with TRAI on 21.07.2017, the TSPs were generally in agreement that the existing policy of forbearance in telecom tariff should continue for the present. It was an agreed decision during the meeting that fixing of floor prices is not a workable idea to be pursued.

#### **Setting up of public wi-fi hotspots**

2150. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is poised to set up around 7.5 lakh public Wi-Fi hotspots, especially in semi-urban and rural areas of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of agencies responsible for carrying out the project;

- (c) the details of locations where such hotspots are being planned; and
- (d) whether the initiative would enable to achieve the goal of e-governance and digital development, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) BharatNet project is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approximately 2,50,000) in the country. As part of this project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-fi or any other suitable broadband technology is to be provided at all the GPs in the country. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), the executing agency has floated a tender on 26.12.2017 to select the Implementing Agencies for provision of last mile connectivity.

Further, the following steps have already been taken for providing broadband services through Wi-Fi hotspots:

- i. Wi-Fi Choupals are being set up in 5,000 GPs by Common Service Centre-Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC-SPV) under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
- ii. Public Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) at its 25,000 Telephone Exchanges in rural areas funded by USOF.
- iii. As a pilot project, RailTel is setting up Wi-Fi hotspots at 200 rural railway stations with fund support from USOF.

(d) The infrastructure created under BharatNet will be utilized by all service providers on non-discriminatory basis. This will enable the service providers like mobile operators, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), cable TV operators, content providers to provide internet access to citizens for various services in rural areas, such as e-health, e-education, e-governance etc.

#### **Curbing of net neutrality**

2151. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware regarding curbing of Net Neutrality in USA;
- (b) if so, the number of Indian companies affected in USA and India due to Net Neutrality in USA; and

(c) whether Government will take any precautionary measures to prevent any effect of Net Neutrality in USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is an independent federal agency of USA which is responsible for implementing and enforcing USA's communications law and regulations. Recently, on 14th December, 2017, FCC has repealed the Net Neutrality rules of 2015.

(b) and (c) Since the Net Neutrality rules have recently been repealed by FCC in USA, it is too early to have an assessment of any impact of the same affecting Indian companies.

In India, Government is committed to the fundamental principles and concept of net neutrality and strives for non-discriminatory access to Internet for all citizens of the country. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) through its regulation "Prohibition of discriminatory tariffs for data services, Regulations, 2016" dated 8th February, 2016 has, *inter-alia*, prohibited any service provider from offering or charging discriminatory tariff for data services on the basis of content.

Besides, TRAI has also submitted its recommendations on Net Neutrality to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on 28th November, 2017 recommending that Internet access services should be governed by a principle that restricts any form of discrimination or interference in the treatment of content, including practices like blocking, degrading, slowing down or granting preferential speeds or treatment to any content.

#### **Establishment of base transceiver station in villapuram, Tamil Nadu**

2152. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the details of the steps taken so far and proposed by BSNL to establish Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) in the Villapuram district in the State of Tamil Nadu to, enhance and augment mobile connectivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): At present, 231 2G BTS (Base Transceiver Station) and 55 3G Node-B of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are working in Villupuram District of Tamil Nadu State.

To enhance and augment mobile connectivity in Villupuram district, BSNL plans to establish 56 new high capacity 3G Node Bs under Phase-VIII.4 expansion project.

The Mobile coverage especially the 3G coverage in Villupuram district will be enhanced with new high capacity 3G Node Bs on implementation of Phase -VIII.4 Project.

#### **Internet shutdowns**

2153. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of internet shutdowns taken place in the country in the last three years under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), year-wise; and

(b) the details of internet shutdowns taken place under recently released Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 in August, 2017?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

#### **National wi-fi network**

2154. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY:

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to create a national Wi-Fi network in the country;

(b) if so, the deadline fixed for the completion of the project; and

(c) the funds allocated for this project and the status of the project as of 31 October, 2017?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) BharatNet project is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) approximately 2,50,000 in the country and to provide non-discriminatory access of this network to the Service Providers for provisioning of broadband services in rural areas. As part of this project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-fi or any other suitable broadband technology is to be provided at all the GPs in the country. The project is targeted to completed by March 2019.

(c) ₹ 4066 crore has been approved for providing last mile connectivity through Wi-fi or any other suitable broadband technology at all the GPs in the country under BharatNet project. The strategy to provide last mile connectivity has been approved by the Telecom Commission on 08.09.2017. The tender to select the Implementing Agency for provision of last mile connectivity has been floated on 26.12.2017 by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL).

#### Procurement centres in North-East Region

2155. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of procurement centres operational in North-Eastern Region, along with the details in regard to State specific centres thereof;
- (b) the total storage capacity in these procurement centres;
- (c) the total number of procurement centres opened by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the last two Kharif seasons, along with the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of procurement centres in the North-Eastern Region established on private support?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Assam is the only procuring state in North-East Region. The number of paddy purchase centres opened during KMS 2017-18 is as under:

State	FCI	State Govt./Agencies	Total
Assam	40	61	101

- (b) The total storage capacity of these procurement centres is 2.21 LMT.

(c) The total number of procurement centres opened by Food Corporation of India (FCI) for procurement of paddy in the last two Kharif seasons are as under:

Kharif Marketing Season (KMS)	Purchase centres opened by FCI
2015-16	29
2016-17	38

- (d) No procurement centre in the North-East Region has been established by private support.

**Implementation of NFSA in States**

2156. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Food Security Act (NFSA) has not been implemented by several States in its true letter and spirit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has taken any action to see that all the key requirements of provisions are implemented by the States in view of recent remarks of the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is being implemented in all the States/UTs and 80.72 crore persons are covered for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains as per provisions of the Act. For checking leakages and diversion in distribution of foodgrains as well as better targeting of food subsidy, the Government is implementing a scheme of 'End to end Computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System Operations'.

In the ongoing Writ Petition (Civil) No.857 filed by Swaraj Abhiyan versus Union of India & Others, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has stressed on the need for better implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), and has given certain directions which *inter-alia* include time bound implementation of provisions of NFSA by the State Governments, pertaining to appointment/ designation of District Grievance Redressal Officer (DGRO), constitution of State Food Commission (SFC), mechanism for Social Audit and functioning of Vigilance Committees. As responsibility under the Act to implement the directions of the Hon'ble Court lies with States/UTs, these directions were conveyed to them for compliance and followed up.

**Labour charges in FCI**

2157. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been found that at various depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) labourers were handling 998 to 1776 bags per day, which was unusually high against all prescribed norms, indicating proxy labourers being paid by Government agency;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether payment of ₹230 crore paid by the FCI towards labour charges were quite unusual labour cost;

(d) whether exorbitant incentives were being paid to these labourers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (e) Some instances of high handling of bags by labourers during rake loading, unloading and procurement operations process were noticed in FCI. Accordingly, the matter was investigated and disciplinary action has been taken against concerned erring officials.

Further, payment of high incentives was also noticed in some of the FCI depots. This was due to incentives norms and was taking place especially during loading and unloading of rakes when the volume of operation increases multifold. Consequently labourers have had to handle more bags than the norm prevalent at that time. The rationalization of labour in pursuant to exemption notification dated 06.07.2016 and revision of incentives norms has considerably reduced incidence of high incentives.

Further, preventive measures like installation of CCTV cameras, biometric attendance has been put in place to avoid possible use of any proxy labour.

The total payment towards labour charges made by FCI during last three years was as under:

(₹ in crore)		
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
4635.03	4052.32	3664.18

#### **Direct transfer of subsidy into bank accounts**

2158. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States in which the subsidy received under the Public Distribution System is being transferred directly into the bank accounts of consumers;

(b) the details of the action plan for direct transfer of the above subsidy into the bank accounts of all the consumers; and

(c) by when the aforesaid scheme will be implemented across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Cash transfer of food subsidy scheme is being implemented in Union Territories of Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra and Nagar Haveli. This scheme is implemented as per provisions of the Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Rules, 2015, which *inter-alia* provides that the cash transfer scheme can be taken up in identified areas, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions regarding preparedness to implement the scheme. Identified area is defined under the Rules as State or Union territory or any specified area within the State or Union territory for which there is a written consent of the State Government for implementation of the scheme. It is therefore optional for the States/UTs to implement the cash transfer scheme or continue with distribution of foodgrains as per provisions of NFSA through fair price shops.

#### **Disposal of consumer complaints**

2159. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Protection Act was enacted to provide better protection of interest of consumers, if so, to what extent it has achieved its objectives;

(b) the total expenditure during the last three years on the maintenance of consumer courts, *viz.*, NCDRC, SCDRC and District fora, including the salaries and allowance of their Members; and

(c) the number of complaints received during last three years and the number of complaints decided in favour of the complainants along with the Member/ Bench-wise disposal of cases for three years for NCDRC and SCDRCs of Delhi and Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was enacted to provide for better protection of interest of consumers. Under the provisions of the said Act, a three-tier quasi-judicial mechanism has been set up



at the District, State and National levels to provide for simple, inexpensive and speedy redressal of consumer disputes. Since inception, 49,27,159 number of consumer complaints have been filed in these Consumer Disputes Redressal Agencies and 44,97,247 number of complaints have been disposed of.

(b) A total expenditure of Rs 3405.20 lakh has been incurred by the National Commission, New Delhi towards its maintenance and salary etc. Maintenance of State Commissions and the District Fora comes under the purview of the State/UT Governments. However, the Central Government provides financial assistance to the States for construction of buildings of the Consumer Fora and also for acquiring non-building assets for the Consumer Fora. In the last three years from 2015-16, a grant of Rs 35.66 crore has been released to the State/UT Governments.

(c) The number of complaints decided in Favour of the complainants and the Member/Bench-wise disposal of cases are not maintained. The number of complaints received and the number of complaints decided in the last three years from 2015 in respect of NCDRC, the State Commission, Delhi and the State Commission, Himachal Pradesh, as per data available in the Consumer Fora Network (CONFONET) website, are given in the table below:—

#### **NCDRC**

Year	Number of complaints received	Number of complaints disposed of
2015	5943	4211
2016	7732	4067
2017	10657	2367

#### **SCDRC, Delhi**

2015	2049	1062
2016	2531	951
2017	2963	613

#### **SCDRC, Himachal Pradesh**

2015	339	337
2016	473	442
2017	414	142

**Storage facilities for PDS foodgrains**

2160. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Government run warehouse in each of the 640 districts of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, by when Government is planning to set up at least one warehouse in each district of the country for the storage of foodgrains and vegetables produced by the farmers; and

(c) the amount of budget allocated this year by Government for the maintenance of existing warehouses and for the construction of new warehouses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Majority of the revenue districts in the country have warehouses for storage of foodgrains. Requirement assessment of a revenue district is made by considering available capacities in a radius of 100 Km in plain areas and 50 Km in hilly areas. Thus, requirement of all the districts is being met from the depots in the same district or a nearby district.

(b) As far as foodgrains are considered, the total storage capacity available in the country is sufficient to stock quantities of central pool stock required for public distribution system. However, to augment capacities in specific areas, the Government has been implementing two schemes for construction of godowns, namely Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme and Central Sector Scheme with special focus on North Eastern Region.

As far as perishable horticulture produce like vegetables are considered, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for holistic development of horticulture which also provides assistance for creation of post harvest management infrastructure including setting up of cold storage.

(c) There is no allocation of budget by the Government for maintenance of warehouses. However, during 2017-18 Food Corporation of India (FCI) has catered for an amount of ₹ 365 Cr for maintenance of its warehouses. Similarly, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) has also catered for an amount of ₹ 55.22 Cr for maintenance of its warehouses and ₹ 49.04 Cr for construction of new godowns i.e. total ₹ 104.26 Cr during 2017-18. Government provides funds only for construction of new warehouses

under the Central Sector Scheme and has budgeted for 2017-18 an amount of ₹ 24.35 Cr for construction of godowns by FCI in North Eastern and some other States and ₹ 35.65 Cr for construction of godowns by State Governments of North Eastern Region.

### **Storage capacity of FCI**

2161. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of foodgrains purchased by Government from each State and the price paid to the farmers for each item, during the last six months;
- (b) whether the FCI has sufficient storage capacity to store the foodgrains purchased during every year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken to increase the storage capacity in each State, particularly in the States where there is maximum production of rice and wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The details of procurement of paddy (in terms of rice), wheat and coarsegrains during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) and Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2016-17 & 2017-18 are given in the Statement-I, II and III respectively (*See below*).

Details of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat, paddy and coarsegrains paid to the farmer during RMS/KMS 2016-17 & 2017-18 are given in the Statement-IV (*See below*).

(b) and (c) On the basis of peak stock requirement during procurement season, the overall storage capacity required in the country is about 600 Lakh MT. Against this, the total capacity available with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies for storage of foodgrains as on 30.11.2017 was 726.18 Lakh MT. Thus on the overall, there is sufficient capacity for storage of foodgrains in the country. The State-wise details are given in the Statement-V (*See below*).

(d) On the overall, there is sufficient capacity for storage of foodgrains in the country. However, to augment and modernize the storage facilities the Government is implementing the following schemes:

Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme: Under this Scheme, storage capacity is created by private parties, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Government Agencies for guaranteed hiring by FCI. A capacity of 139.92 lakh MT has already been completed as on 30.11.2017. 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 12th 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. A capacity of 4,590 MT has been completed by FCI and 4,500 MT by State Governments in the current year 2017-18 upto 30.11.2017.

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. As on 30.11.2017, tenders have been awarded for 38.50 LMT and a capacity of 6.25 LMT silos has been added under the above action plan.

***Statement-I***

*Procurement of paddy in terms of rice for central pool*

(figures in LMT)

State/UT	KMS 2016-17	KMS 2017-18*
Andaman and Nicobar Islands		
Andhra Pradesh	37.24	12.39
Telangana	35.95	11.46
Assam	0.46	
Bihar	12.34	0.66
Chandigarh	0.13	0.14
Chhattisgarh	40.22	24.45
Gujarat	0.01	0.01
Haryana	35.83	39.67
Jammu and Kashmir	0.08	0.12
Jharkhand	1.39	0.07
Kerala	3.08	0.91

State/UT	KMS 2016-17	KMS 2017-18*
Madhya Pradesh	13.14	8.05
Maharashtra	3.09	0.85
Odisha	36.3	8.38
Punjab	110.52	118.33
Tamil Nadu	1.44	
Uttar Pradesh	23.54	18.55
Uttarakhand	7.06	0.33
West Bengal	19.23	0.01
Others		
ALL INDIA TOTAL	381.05	244.38

\*As on 01.01.2018

**Statement-II***Procurement of wheat for central pool*

(Figures in LMT)

State/UT	RMS 2016-17	RMS 2017-18
Punjab	106.49	117.06
Haryana	67.52	74.32
Uttar Pradesh	7.97	36.99
Uttarakhand	0.02	0.02
Madhya Pradesh	39.92	67.25
Gujarat	0.00	0.07
Rajasthan	7.62	12.45
Delhi	0.00	
Himachal Pradesh	0.00	
Chandigarh	0.07	0.08
TOTAL	229.62	308.24

**Statement-III***Details of procurement of coarsegrains*

(Figures in Tonnes)

KMS	Commodity	Haryana	Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra	Total
2016 -17	Jowar			3733	3733
	Bajra	6341			6341
	Maize		50000	12181	62181
	Ragi				0
2017-18*	Jowar		264	1326	1590
	Bajra	31347	3789		35136
	Maize			20471	20471
	Ragi				0

\* As on 01.01.2018

**Statement-IV***MSP of Paddy, Wheat & Coarse Grain*

[₹Per Quintal]

Marketing Year	Paddy		Wheat	Jowar (Maldandi)	Jowar (Hybrid)	Bajra	Ragi	Maize
	Common	Grade 'A;						
2016-17	1470	1510	1525	1650	1625	1330	1725	1365
2017-18	1550	1590	1625	1725	1700	1425	1900	1425

**Statement-V***The State-wise details of storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government Agencies (as on 30.11.2017)*

(figures in LMT)

Sl. No.	State	Grand Total	
		Covered	Covered and Plinth
1	2	3	4
1.	Bihar	23.52	1.00
2.	Jharkhand	3.51	0.05

1	2	3	4
3.	Odisha	14.09	-
4.	West Bengal	18.35	0.51
5.	Assam	3.95	-
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.26	-
7.	Meghalaya	0.22	-
8.	Mizoram	0.93	-
9.	Tripura	0.94	-
10.	Manipur	0.32	-
11.	Nagaland	0.44	-
12.	Delhi	3.36	0.31
13.	Haryana	83.19	21.08
14.	Himachal Pradesh	0.50	-
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.69	0.10
16.	Punjab	150.86	76.86
17.	Rajasthan	18.47	2.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	53.87	5.19
19.	Uttarakhand	3.83	0.21
20.	Andhra Pradesh	26.89	1.60
21.	Telangana	22.33	1.02
22.	Kerala	6.96	0.21
23.	Karnataka	9.51	1.36
24.	Tamil Nadu	20.75	10.96
25.	Gujarat	8.63	0.27
26.	Maharashtra	33.13	1.02
27.	Goa		
28.	Madhya Pradesh	75.71	0.39
29.	Chhattisgarh	14.82	0.01
TOTAL		602.03	124.15
GRAND TOTAL			726.18

**Food subsidy**

2162. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a considerable increase in the food subsidy given by the Central Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of factors responsible for the spurt in the Central food subsidy bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) With the increase in MSP of Foodgrains and increase in cost of Incidentals related to procurement and distribution every year, the economic cost of foodgrains gets increased. Further, Central Issue Price (CIP) of wheat and rice has not been revised since 2002. As a result food subsidy, which is the gap between economic cost and CIP, has been increasing.

The details of food subsidy released during the last five years including current year is as below:

	(₹ in crore)		
	(As on 01.01.2018)		
Year	Food Subsidy Released		Total
	FCI	States	
2013-14	75500.02	14240.00	89740.02
2014-15	91995.35	21175.81	113171.16
2015-16	112000.00	22919.00	134919.00
2016-17	103334.61*	27338.35	130672.96*
2017-18	104901.15	32000.00	136901.15

\* Actual subsidy released by FC A/Cs to FCI was ₹ 103334.61 crore, as per instructions received from MoF *vide* letter No.5/5/2016-NS dated 31.03.2017, an amount of ₹25,000 crore was withdrawn and surrendered from Food Subsidy and equivalent amount was given to NSSF loan (Investment) to FCI.



**Implementation of NFSA**

2163. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR:

SHRI ANIL DESAI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Food Security Act, 2013 has achieved its objectives during the last four years of enactment, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of citizens being benefited by the Act, State-wise;
- (c) the difference in number of beneficiaries for NFSA from the existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana; and
- (d) the amount of expenditure anticipated on the constitution of National, State and District Grievance Redressal Commissions and the benefit expected from the functioning of those Commissions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), provides for coverage of 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population for receiving foodgrains at highly subsidized prices of ₹ 1/2/3 per kg. for coarse grains/wheat/rice respectively. Coverage under the Act is under two categories—households covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and remaining households as priority households. AAY is therefore a part of NFSA.

The Act is being implemented in all the States/Union Territories (UTs) and foodgrains as per provisions of the Act, are being allocated for 80.72 crore persons identified by State Governments/ UT Administrations for coverage under the Act. This includes 2.36 crore families belonging to AAY category. The State/UT-wise details of number of persons covered under NFSA are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) Under NFSA, there is no provision for any Commission at the national level or District level. The Act provides for State Food Commission (SFC) in every State/UT, for the purpose of monitoring and review of implementation of the Act. The total expenditure on SFC depends on terms and conditions of appointment of Chairperson and Members of the Commission as determined by the State Government, the staff support to the Commission, other expenditure etc. and therefore differs from State to State. Central Government provides one time Central assistance of upto ₹50 lakh for non-building assets for the State Food Commission.

***Statement***

*Number of persons identified by States/UTs for coverage under National Food Security Act, 2013*

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Number of persons identified (In lakh)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	268.23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.21
3.	Assam	251.63
4.	Bihar	857.12
5.	Chhattisgarh	200.77
6.	Delhi	72.73
7.	Goa	5.32
8.	Gujarat	382.54
9.	Haryana	126.49
10.	Himachal Pradesh	28.64
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	74.13
12.	Jharkhand	263.70
13.	Karnataka	401.93
14.	Kerala	154.80
15.	Madhya Pradesh	546.42
16.	Maharashtra	700.17
17.	Manipur	21.58
18.	Meghalaya	21.47
19.	Mizoram	6.68
20.	Nagaland	14.05
21.	Odisha	323.47
22.	Punjab	141.45
23.	Rajasthan	446.62
24.	Sikkim	3.79
25.	Tamil Nadu	357.34
26.	Telangana	191.62

1	2	3
27.	Tripura	24.83
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1499.83
29.	Uttarakhand	61.958
30.	West Bengal	601.84
31.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.54
32.	Daman and Diu	0.88
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.08
34.	Lakshadweep	0.22
35.	Chandigarh	2.77
36.	Puducherry	6.16
TOTAL		8072.00

#### Job cuts and layoffs in it companies

2164. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a serious note of job cuts and layoffs effected by major IT companies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's stand thereon;

(c) whether the management of some IT companies were engaging bouncers, counsellors to threaten the employees deprived of their jobs due to job cuts or layoffs;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total number of job cuts and layoffs effected by IT majors in the last six months; and

(e) the measures taken by Government to protect the job interests and life of IT employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) to (d) No such matter has been reported to the ministry. The IT sector is expected to continue to be a net hirer in this fiscal.

(e) The industry, both globally and in India, is witnessing unprecedented technology driven changes. These demand new sets of skills and are opening opportunities for newer job roles. The stakeholders covering industry, academia and Sector Skills Councils are working to ensure that the existing workforce is re-skilled/

up-skilled in emerging technologies and job roles. Most companies (large, medium & small) are also implementing rigorous training programs to re-skill/up-skill their existing employees in new and emerging technologies.

**Grievances redressal mechanism for digital payments**

2165. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has a grievance redressal mechanism in place for digital payments, if so, the details thereof, if not, reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government has received complaints in any form regarding discrepancies arising out in the digital payments, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by Government on the Debit Card fraud which took place in 2016 where 3.2 million debit cards of certain banks were compromised, along with the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) Grievance Redressal Mechanism for digital payments is handled by various stakeholders, as part of digital payments:

- (i) On Grievance Redressal of complaints related to BHIM, NPCI has set up a call center for redressing the complaints. Banks have individual grievance acceptance helpline /cell and Apps for redressal of complaints.
- (ii) The grievance/complaints regarding Banking can be registered on National Consumer Helpline (NCH). Most of the banks are convergence partners to the NCH.
- (iii) Under the Banking Ombudsman Scheme of RBI, the complaints related to digital payments including ATM/Debit Card, Prepaid card, Credit Card operations, etc. can be registered with 20 offices of banking ombudsman situated across the country.

(b) A total of 17,844 complaints were received in the office of Banking Ombudsman against deficiency in services of banks on grounds of Credit Card, ATM/Debit Cards & Internet Banking, prepaid card mobile and electronic banking during the period of July 01, 2017 to November 30, 2017. (Source:RBI)

(c) The specific information is not available with National Crime Records Bureau. However, details of State/UT-wise cases registered, cases charge-sheeted, cases convicted, persons arrested, persons charge-sheeted and persons convicted under Credit/Debit Card Fraud during 2014-2016 are given in the Statement.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
12.	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Kerala	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	4	2	0	2	2	0	7	2	0	4	3	0	13	1	0	1	1	0
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Odisha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Punjab	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
22.	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Telangana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2	0	0	0	0	0	10	7	0	9	7	0	5	2	0	1	2	0



**Digital transactions**

2166. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that growth in digital transactions is not picking up and in some cases, is slower than what was seen before November, 2016; and

(b) the reaction of the Ministry to experts' opinion that this fall is in urban areas and is due to high transaction fee charged at the end point and due to lack of basic physical digital devices in rural areas like swipe machines and seamless internet connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) No, Sir. On the contrary, the number of digital payment transactions has increased from 91 crore in November, 2016 to 153 crore in the October, 2017 as tabulated below:

(Number in Crores)											
Month	Dec.15	Jan.16	Feb.16	Mar.16	Apr.16	May16	Jun.16	July16	Aug.16	Sept.16	Oct.16
Digital Payments Transactions	60.7	58.9	59.7	64.8	64.3	66.5	66.6	70.5	70.5	71.2	79.0

(Number in crores)												
Month	Nov.16	Dec.16	Jan.17	Feb.17	Mar.17	Apr.17	May17	June17	July17	Aug.17	Sept.17	Oct.17
Digital Payments Transactions	91.0	132.1	124.1	109.5	129.1	146.0	141.6	138.1	141.9	144.3	144.9	153.0

Source: RBI, NPCI, 38 Banks & Closed loop PPIs (DMRC)

The average monthly growth rate during the period from Dec., 2015 to Nov., 2016 was 2.75% and whereas average monthly growth rate from November, 2016 to Oct., 2017 was 5.8%.

(b) There is no overall fall in growth of digital transactions after November, 2016. Government of India has taken initiatives to reduce transaction charges and to increase availability of Point of Sale (PoS) machines:

- (i) **Transaction charges:** Ministry of Electronics and IT, Government of India vide notification number 6(19)/2017-DPD-1 dated 28th December, 2017, has



decided to reimburse to absorb the MDR charges for all the digital transactions using debit cards, BHIM-UPI and BHIM Aadhaar Pay of value less than or equal to ₹ 2000. This subsidization will be applicable from 1st January, 2018 to 31st December, 2019.

- (ii) **On Low Availability of Point of Sale (PoS) machine :** As per RBI report on ATM PoS statistics (available at the link below), the number of PoS devices has increased from 15.11 Lakh devices in October, 2016 to 29.58 Lakh devices in October, 2017. In addition, Banks have deployed 1,70,865 BHIM Aadhaar PoS machines till 22.12.2017.
- (iii) **Alternatives of Point of Sale Devices for Rural merchants and citizens:** For rural areas, numerous payment solutions with low capital and operational cost are available, as follows:
  - (a) **Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) :** Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) can be used by citizens and merchants to accept/receive payments using feature phones where no internet connectivity is required for transactions.
  - (b) **BHIM Aadhaar pay :** BHIM Aadhaar pay can be used by merchants for accepting payments using biometric authentication of citizens having bank account seeded with Aadhaar number. The key advantage of BHIM Aadhaar Pay is customers are not required to carry debit cards and PIN.
  - (c) **BharatQR and BHIM QR Code :** BharatQR code and BHIM QR code are 'scan and pay' solutions where in customers are required to scan QR code using mobile phones for making payments to merchants.
  - (d) **Bharat Interface For Money (BHIM) - Unified Payments Interface (UPI):** BHIM-UPI platform has been developed for making real time payments using smart phones. These solutions effectively reduce the need of PoS machines.

#### **New electronics and software products policy**

2167. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is implementing any scheme for a new electronics and software products policy;

- (b) if so, the aims, objectives and salient features of the policy;
- (c) how this policy is helping in easing the negative impact of the GST on the e-Commerce and electronics manufacturing industry; and
- (d) the other steps being taken to become a \$1 trillion economy in the next seven years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) The National Policy on Electronics 2012 (NPE 2012) has been notified on 19th November, 2012 by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The NPE 2012 envisions creating a globally competitive electronics design and manufacturing industry to meet the country's needs and serve the international market. At present, there is no specific Policy in MeitY to promote software products.

(b) The mission, objectives and salient features of NPE 2012 are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Steps taken, by the Government to promote electronics manufacturing in the country are given in the Statement-II.

***Statement-I***

*Mission, objectives and salient features of NPE-2012*

**- The mission of NPE 2012 is as under:**

1. To promote indigenous manufacturing in the entire value-chain of ESDM for economic development.
2. To develop capacities for manufacture of strategic electronics within the country.
3. To promote a vibrant and sustainable ecosystem of Research and Development (R&D), design and engineering and innovation to enhance manufacturing capabilities in electronic raw materials, components, sub assemblies as well as products.
4. To develop high-quality electronic products at affordable prices for inclusive adoption and deployment to improve productivity, efficiency and ease of operations in other sectors.
5. To promote environmentally friendly global best practices in the use and disposal of electronic products.

- **The objectives of NPE-2012 are as under:**

1. To create an eco-system for a globally competitive ESDM sector in the country to achieve a turnover of about USD 400 Billion by 2020 involving investment of about USD 100 Billion and employment to around 28 Million people at various levels.
2. To build on the emerging chip design and embedded software industry to achieve global leadership in VLSI, chip design and other frontier technical areas and to achieve turnover of USD 55 Billion by 2020.
3. To build a strong supply chain of raw materials, parts and electronic components to raise the indigenous availability of these inputs from the present 20-25% to over 60% by 2020.
4. To increase the export in ESDM sector from USD 5.5 Billion to USD 80 Billion by 2020.
5. To significantly enhance availability of skilled manpower in the ESDM sector. Special focus for augmenting post graduate education and to produce about 2500 PhDs annually by 2020.
6. To create an institutional mechanism for developing and mandating standards and certification for electronic products and services to strengthen Quality Assessment infrastructure nationwide.
7. To develop an appropriate security ecosystem in ESDM for its strategic use.
8. To create long-term partnerships between ESDM and strategic and core infrastructure sectors - Defence, Atomic Energy, Space, Railways, Power, Telecommunications, etc.
9. To become a global leader in creating Intellectual Property (IP) in the ESDM sector by increasing fund flow for R&D, seed capital and venture capital for start-ups in the ESDM and nanoelectronics sectors.
10. To develop core competencies in strategic and core infrastructure sectors like Telecommunications, Automotive, Avionics, Industrial, Medical, Solar, Information and Broadcasting, Railways, Intelligent Transport Systems, etc. through/use of ESDM in these sectors.
11. To use technology to develop electronic products catering to domestic needs, including rural needs and conditions, as well as international needs at affordable price points.

12. To become a global leader in the EMS segment by promoting progressive higher value addition in manufacturing and product development.
13. To expedite adoption of best practices in e-waste management.
14. To create specialized governance structures within Government to cater to specific needs of the ESDM sector including high velocity of technological and business model changes.
15. To facilitate cost effective loans for setting up ESDM units in identified areas.
16. To source, stockpile and promote indigenous exploration and mining of Rare Earth metals required for manufacture of electronic components.

- **Salient features of NPE-2012 include:**

1. **Multi-fold growth in production, investment and employment:** The specific initiatives include:
  - (a) A Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SBPS) providing for the disabilities in manufacturing in the sector.
  - (b) Electronic Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) Scheme for clusters with world-class infrastructure.
  - (c) Preferential Market Access (PMA) for domestically manufactured electronic goods consistent with international commitments.
2. **Semiconductor chip design industry:** Building on the emerging chip design and embedded software industry to achieve global leadership.
3. **Human Resource Development:** Significantly enhancing availability of skilled manpower, in scale and scope, including in emerging technology areas, by active participation of the private sector and thrust on higher education.
4. **Standards:** Development and enforcement of standards for electronic products.
5. **R&D and Innovation:**
  - (a) Setting up of a Electronics Development Fund as a Fund of Funds
  - (b) Design and Develop India Microprocessor
  - (c) Develop electronic products catering to the domestic needs and conditions at affordable price points

6. To develop core competencies in identified sectors viz. Automotive Electronics, Avionics, LED, Industrial Electronics, Medical Electronics, Solar Photovoltaics and Information and Broadcasting.

***Statement-II***

*Steps taken by the Government to promote electronics  
manufacturing in the country*

1. Promotion of electronics hardware manufacturing is one of the pillars of Digital India campaign of the Government.
2. Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) provides financial incentives to offset disability and attract investments in the Electronics Systems Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector. The scheme was notified in July 2012. The scheme provides subsidy for investments in capital expenditure - 20% for investments in SEZs and 25% in non-SEZs. The scheme is available for both new projects and expansion projects.
3. Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) Scheme provides financial assistance for creating world-class infrastructure for electronics manufacturing units. The assistance for the projects for setting up of Greenfield Electronics Manufacturing Clusters is 50% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of ₹50 Crore for 100 acres of land. For larger areas, *pro-rata* ceiling applies. For lower extent, the extent of support would be decided by the Steering Committee for Clusters (SCC) subject to the ceiling of ₹50 Crore. For setting up of Brownfield Electronics Manufacturing Cluster, 75% of the cost of infrastructure, subject to a ceiling of ₹50 Crore is provided.
4. Foreign direct investments up-to 100% in the electronic hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.
5. For promotion of exports in the sector, Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme are available under the Foreign Trade Policy, 2015-20. MEIS offers export incentives so as to offset disabilities of manufacturing. Zero duty EPCG scheme allows import of capital goods at zero customs duty, subject to specified export obligation.
6. Tariff Structure has been rationalized to promote indigenous manufacturing of electronic goods, including, *inter-alia*, Mobile Handsets, Televisions, Electronic Components, Set Top Boxes, LED Products, Medical Electronics, Solar PV Cells and Microwave Ovens. The Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP) for cellular mobile handsets and its sub-assemblies/parts/components

manufacturing has been implemented with the objective of progressively increasing the domestic value addition for establishment of a robust Cellular mobile handsets manufacturing eco-system in the country.

7. To promote indigenous manufacturing of Televisions, baggage rules have been amended to ban duty free import of Flat Panel Television Sets w.e.f. August, 2014 under the baggage allowance.
8. Mandatory compliance to safety standards has been notified for identified Electronic Products with the objective to curb import of sub-standard and unsafe electronics goods.

#### **Promotion of Innovation and R&D**

9. Electronics Development Fund (EDF) policy has been operationalized to support Daughter Funds in the area of Electronics System Design and Manufacturing, Nano-electronics and IT. The fund is housed in Canbank Venture Capital Fund Ltd. The supported Daughter Funds will promote innovation, R&D, product development and within the country.
10. Keeping in view the huge indigenous requirement on account of roadmap for digitalization of the broadcasting sector, Conditional Access System, entitled iCAS has been developed to promote indigenous manufacturing of Set Top Boxes (STBs). The iCAS is available to domestic STB manufacturers at a price of USD 0.5 per license for a period of three years as against market price of USD 3-5 per license for other competing products. The implementation of iCAS in the cable networks is underway.
11. An Electropreneur park has set up in New Delhi for providing incubation for development of ESDM sector, which will contribute IP creation and Product Development in the sector.
12. National Centre of Excellence in Large Area Flexible Electronics (NCFLEX) has been set up in IIT-Kanpur with the objectives to promote R&D; Manufacturing; Ecosystems; Entrepreneurship; International Partnerships and Human Resources and develop prototypes in collaboration with industry for commercialization.
13. National Centre of Excellence for Technology on Internal Security (NCETIS) has been set up at IIT-Bombay with the objective to address the internal

security needs of the nation on continuous basis by delivering technology prototypes required for internal security and to promote domestic industry in internal security.

14. Centre for Excellence on Internet of Things (IoT) has been set up in Bengaluru jointly with NASSCOM.
15. An Incubation centre with focus on medical electronics has been set up at Indian Institute of Technology-Patna.

#### **ATM fraud cases**

2168. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the ATM fraud cases are increasing in the country;
- (b) if so, the cases registered, investigated and the action taken during last three years;
- (c) whether there is a policy to check such frauds; and
- (d) if not, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) and (b) Fraud cases including those of ATM Frauds are being monitored by Central Fraud Monitoring Cell (CFMC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). As per the inputs provided by Reserve Bank of India, they do not have specific information about the above mentioned question. However as per the data available with RBI on frauds related to Credit Card, ATM/ Debit Cards and Internet Banking fraud cases (amount involved  $\geq$  ₹1.00 Lakh) reported for last three years, a total of 3433 frauds cases were registered, details of which are given in the Statement-I and Statement-II, respectively (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Guidelines to protect the consumer while taking up digital transaction has been issued by RBI and CERT-In and are given in the Statement-III.

**Statement-I**

*Details of Credit Card, ATM/ Debit Cards and Internet Banking fraud cases (amount involved >= ₹ 1.00 Lakh) reported for last three year - Statewise*

State wise	2014-15			2015-16			2016-17			Total		
	Number of frauds	Amount in Lakhs	Number of frauds where staff is involved	Number of frauds where staff is involved	Amount in Lakhs	Number of frauds where staff is involved	Amount in Lakhs	Number of frauds where staff is involved	Amount in Lakhs	Number of frauds where staff is involved	Amount in Lakhs	Number of frauds where staff is involved
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Overseas	5	1922.4		13	70.86		7	21.68		25	2014.92	0
Andhra Pradesh	14	35.18	1	35	173.26	1	31	64.17		80	272.61	2
Assam	0	0	0	1	5.98	1	3	10.63	1	4	16.61	2
Bihar	0	0		4	16.46		4	6.5		8	22.96	0
Chandigarh	3	31.22		3	16.19		7	18.88		13	66.29	0
Chhattisgarh	1	1.2	1	4	20.78	1	1	1.33	1	6	23.31	3
Delhi	35	114.27		74	226.33	1	156	343.61		265	684.21	1
Goa	3	8.43		8	62.94		0	0		11	71.37	0
Gujarat	11	275.86		26	70.83	2	16	53.32		53	400.01	2



Haryana	187	1132.2	194	684.93	1	238	827.65	1	619	2644.75	2
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	1	1.1		1	1.5		2	2.6	0
Jammu and Kashmir	2	32.53	0	0		1	9.4		3	41.93	0
Jharkhand	0	0	2	2.95		9	12.05		11	15	0
Karnataka	91	433.28	1	477.28		221	916.47		491	1827.03	1
Kerala	8	22.36	2	2.5		9	45.92		19	70.78	0
Madhya Pradesh	0	0	5	12.14		4	9.68	1	9	21.82	1
Maharashtra	255	675.13	1	1589.63	1	380	1210.51	1	1003	3475.27	3
Odisha	3	9.8	6	7.67		1	6.13		10	23.6	0
Puducherry	1	2.75	1	2.54		2	4.52		4	9.81	0
Punjab	2	7.83	3	12.52		3	26.69		8	47.04	1
Rajasthan	2	8.61	4	8.54	1	10	16.35		16	33.5	1
Sikkim	2	3.05	0	0		0	0		2	3.05	0
Tamil Nadu	175	354.26	201	373.23	1	208	438.54		584	1166.03	1
Uttar Pradesh	20	46.36	39	93.24	1	37	104.3	1	96	243.9	2
Uttaranchal	1	1	3	26.1	2	5	13.31		9	40.41	2
West Bengal	24	51.33	15	62.12		19	66.6		58	180.05	0
GRAND TOTAL	845	5169	7	4020.12	11	1373	4229.74	6	3409	13418.86	24

**Statement-II**

*Details of Credit Card, ATM/Debit Cards and Internet Banking fraud cases (amount involved  $\geq$  ₹ 1.00 Lakh) reported for last three year - Bankwise*

Bank Name	2014-15				2015-16				2016-17				Total	
	Number of frauds	Amount in Lakhs	Number of frauds where staff is involved	Number of frauds where staff is involved	Amount in Lakhs	Number of frauds where staff is involved	Number of frauds where staff is involved	Amount in Lakhs	Number of frauds where staff is involved	Amount in Lakhs	Number of frauds where staff is involved	Amount in Lakhs	Number of frauds where staff is involved	Number of frauds where staff is involved
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
American Express Banking Corp.	166	990.68		154	575.86	1	164	552.46	1	484	2119	2		
Andhra Bank	1	1.79	1	0	0		1	5.36		2	7.15	1		
Axis Bank Ltd.	46	153.34	1	86	603.63	1	64	381.25		196	1138.22	2		
Bank of Baroda	4	1840.98		13	61.77		4	103.02		21	2005.77	0		
Bank of India	1	3.36		4	37.1		1	2.11		6	42.57	0		
Bank of Maharashtra	1	1.15		1	3.57		1	1.65		3	6.37	0		
Bharatiya Mahila Bank Ltd.	0	0		0	0		1	1.17		1	1.17	0		

Canara Bank	2	62.72	1	1.12	1	453.66	4	517.5	0
Central Bank of India	6	72.19	11	64.31	1	6.09	1	142.59	2
Citibank N.A.	75	231.04	106	253.62	161	419.68	342	904.34	0
Corporation Bank	3	126.27	8	57.98	22	33.31	33	217.56	0
Dena Bank	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	3	0
Deutsche Bank (Asia)	2	15.25	1	1.5	0	0	3	16.75	0
Dhanlaxmi Bank Limited	1	2.27	0	0	0	0	1	2.27	0
Federal Bank Ltd.	1	8.84	0	0	2	27.44	3	36.28	0
Firststrand Bank	0	0	0	0	1	1.67	1	1.67	0
HDFC Bank Ltd.	152	284.27	164	350.61	140	254.66	456	889.54	0
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd.	32	95.52	35	81.03	48	99.13	115	275.68	0
ICICI Bank Ltd.	222	470.15	2	921.51	4	784.23	2	2175.89	8
IDBI Bank Limited	3	17.22	52	77.73	30	56.28	85	151.23	0
Indian Bank	6	50.62	3	6.96	28	106.85	37	164.43	0
Indian Overseas Bank	1	2.02	0	0	0	0	1	2.02	0
IndusInd Bank Ltd.	3	15.72	4	47.08	3	33.1	10	95.9	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.	1	28.07		0	0		1	9.4		2	37.47	0
Karnataka Bank Ltd.	3	10.18		0	0		0	0		3	10.18	0
Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	0	0		0	0		2	13.26		2	13.26	0
Korea Exchange Bank	0	0		0	0		1	1.28		1	1.28	0
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	16	37.98		42	416.56	2	75	143.4		133	597.94	2
Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	0	0		1	2.4		1	1.06		2	3.46	0
Oriental Bank of Commerce	0	0		5	9.34		0	0		5	9.34	0
Punjab National Bank	0	0		3	10.16		1	6.13		4	16.29	0
RBL Bank Ltd.	11	51.65		6	39.74		8	19.37		25	110.76	0
Shinhan Bank	0	0		1	1.46		0	0		1	1.46	0
South Indian Bank Ltd.	1	2		0	0		1	4.01		2	6.01	0
Standard Chartered Bank	69	172.18		122	269.88	2	314	590.73		505	1032.79	2
State Bank of India	2	82.41		5	20.13		6	29.79		13	132.33	0

State Bank of Travancore	1	1.34	0	0	2	9.16	3	10.5	0
Syndicate Bank	0	0	9	34.85	1	1.58	10	36.43	0
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.	1	19.5	1	29.5	0	0	2	49	0
The Royal Bank of Scotland N.V.	2	19.48	7	11.04	1	1	10	31.52	0
UCO Bank	0	0	0	0	2	5.31	2	5.31	0
Union Bank of India	4	249.28	6	29.68	3	25.69	2	304.65	2
Vijaya Bank	2	40.47	1	0	5	44.45	7	84.92	1
Yes Bank Ltd	3	7.06	2	0	0	0	3	7.06	2
GRAND TOTAL	845	5169	7	1191	11	4229.74	6	13418.86	24

***Statement-III******Policies/guidelines issued by RBI with a view to check frauds***

- (i) **Banking Ombudsman Scheme:** The Banking Ombudsman Scheme, released by RBI is available at the below given RBI website link: [https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/Content/PDFs/BOS2006\\_2302017.pdf](https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/Content/PDFs/BOS2006_2302017.pdf)

As per the above policy, the affected customers can approach the Banking Ombudsman and file complaints, which would be dealt with as per the provisions of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme 2006. The above scheme covers complaints related to frauds in digital payments including ATM/Debit Cards. With effect from 1st July, 2017, the above scheme has been revised to also include complaints related to Mobile and Electronic banking.

- (ii) **Limited Liability of Customers:** Guidelines on Limited liability of customers in Unauthorized Electronic Banking Transactions (RBI Circular Number DBR.No.Leg.BC.78/09.07.005/2017-18 dated 06.07.2016) are available at the RBI website link:

<https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/notification/PDFs/NOTII5D620D2C4D2CA4A33AABC928CA6204B19.pdf>

1. **RBI guidelines on Cyber Security:** RBI has issued the below mentioned guidelines on cyber security:

- (i) Guidelines pertaining to creation of cyber security framework in Banks, with section on 'Arrangement for continuous surveillance' (RBI Circular Number DBS.CO/CSITE/BC.11/33.01.001/2015-16 dated 02.06.2016) are available at the RBI website link:

[https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/notification/PDFs/NT41893F697BC1D\\_57443BB76AFC7AB56272EB.pdf](https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/notification/PDFs/NT41893F697BC1D_57443BB76AFC7AB56272EB.pdf)

- (ii) Operative guidelines for Banks on Mobile Banking Transactions in India issued by RBI on 01.07.2015 are available at RBI website link:

[https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/Notification/PDFs/65MNF052B434ED\\_3C4CE391590891B8F3BE66.pdf](https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/Notification/PDFs/65MNF052B434ED_3C4CE391590891B8F3BE66.pdf)

- (iii) Master directions on Issuance and Operation of Prepaid Payment Instruments issued by RBI on 11.10.2017 is available at RBI website link:

[https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/notification/PDFs/58PPIS11102017A\\_79E58CAEA28472A94596CFA79AIFA3F.pdf](https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/notification/PDFs/58PPIS11102017A_79E58CAEA28472A94596CFA79AIFA3F.pdf)

2. **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) Advisories on Digital Payments:** CERT-In has issued 27 focused advisories on awareness of security

aspects of digital payments, from Nov'16 to Dec' 17, that aim at creating cyber security know-how by analyzing the threat vectors and suggesting best practices for the specific area in cyber security. These advisories aim at creating know-how analyzing the threat vectors and suggesting best practices for the specific area in cyber security.

3. All authorized entities/banks issuing Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) in the country have been advised by CERT-In through the Reserve Bank of India to carry out security audit by the empanelled auditors of CERT-In on a priority basis and to take immediate steps thereafter to comply with the findings of the audit report and ensure implementation of security best practices.
4. All organisations providing digital payment services have been mandated to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In expeditiously.
5. Government has issued general guidelines for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) for securing applications and infrastructure and their key roles and responsibilities for compliance.
6. CERT-In is regularly conducting cyber security trainings for IT/cyber security professionals including CISOs of Government and critical sector organisations to give an exposure on current threat landscape and countermeasures. In addition, CERT-In has also conducted a workshop on security of digital payments for stakeholder organisations covering 110 participants.
7. Free Tools released for Citizens: CERT-In has also released free security tools which can be used by citizens to detect threats on mobile and desktops. These are USB Pratirodh, AppSamvid and M-Kavach.

#### **Cancellation of Aadhaar cards**

2169. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Aadhaar cards have been cancelled without giving any notice to the individuals, depriving them of all the benefits provided by Government;

(b) the criteria adopted by Government to cancel or deactivate the Aadhaar card and whether it is done unilaterally by Government or the individual is intimated in advance; and

(c) how does Government propose to continue providing the benefits of all the Governmental schemes to those whose Aadhaar card has been cancelled by Government unilaterally along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Omission or De-activation of Aadhaar is done by UIDAI as per provisions contained in Regulation 27, 28 and 29 of Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016. The communication to the Aadhaar number holders are done as per provisions contained in Regulation 30 of Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016.

(c) As per Section 7 of Aadhaar Act, 2016, the Central Government, or as the case may be, the State Government, may require an individual to undergo authentication, or furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number as necessary condition for receipt of certain subsidies, benefits or services. However, Section 7 of the Act also provides that **"if an Aadhaar number is not assigned to an individual, the individual shall be offered alternate and viable means of identification for delivery of the subsidy, benefit or service"**.

#### **Boost to digital transactions post-demonetisation**

†2170. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether digital transactions have got a major boost following declaration of demonetization on 8th November last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether share of black money in the economy has touched its lowest level with the promotion of digital transactions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) and (b) The digital payment transactions have got a major boost and it has increased from 91 crore in November, 2016 to 153 crore in the October, 2017 as tabulated below:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



(Number in crores)

Month	Dec.15	Jan.16	Feb.16	Mar.16	Apr.16	May16	June16	July16	Aug.16	Sept.16	Oct.16
Digital Payments Transactions	60.7	58.9	59.7	64.8	64.3	66.5	66.6	70.5	70.5	71.2	79.0

(Number in Crores)

Month	Nov.16	Dec.16	Jan.17	Feb.17	Mar.17	Apr.17	May17	June17	July17	Aug.17	Sept.17	Oct.17
Digital Payments Transactions	91.0	132.1	124.1	109.5	129.1	146.0	141.6	138.1	141.9	144.3	144.9	153.0

Source: RBI, NPCI, 38 Banks & Closed loop PPIs (DMRC)

The average monthly growth rate during the period from Dec. 2015 to Nov. 2016 was 2.75% whereas the average monthly growth rate from November, 2016 to Oct. 2017 was 5.8%.

(c) and (d) The value of digital transactions over the period from October, 2016 to October, 2017 is as follows:

#### *Growth of Value of Digital Payments*

(In ₹ Lakh cr.)

Transac- tions	Oct. '16	Nov. '16	Dec. '16	Jan. '17	Feb. '17	Mar. '17	Apr. '17	May '17	June '17	July '17	Aug. '17	Sept. '17	Oct. '17
Digital Payments Transactions Value	108.7	112.3	124.6	113.9	108.0	172.6	133.8	136.5	139.9	134.9	139.0	155.2	143.1

It is seen from above that there has been a steady rise in the value of the payment transactions that are happening through digital modes. This adds to more number of transactions being recorded and transparent thereby leading to a less cash economy. It is expected that the rising volume and value of electronic transactions will play a role in reducing black economy.

#### **Fake call centres**

2171. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of fake call centres are operating in the country;

(b) the steps taken to eradicate these fake call centres so that people are not duped of their money;

(c) whether there are any regulations in place for starting a call centre; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) As per Department of Telecommunications (DoT), no such incidents have been reported in the field units of DoT.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells register the Other Service Providers (OSPs) throughout the country in their respective jurisdiction which includes call centres also. The OSP means a company providing Application Services like call centre, Tele-banking, Tele-medicine, Tele-education, Tele-trading, e-commerce, network operation centre and other IT Enabled Services, by using Telecom Resources provided by Authorised Telecom Service Providers. The revised Terms and Conditions for the registration of the OSP were issued *vide* No.18-2/2008-CS-I Dated: 5th August, 2008. These terms and conditions and their amendments are available at <http://dot.gov.in/relatedlinks/registration-under-other-service-providers-osp-category>. The salient features of guidelines for OSP (includes call centres) are given in the Statement.

#### ***Statement***

##### ***Salient features of guidelines for OSP (includes call centres)***

- (1) Registration may be granted to any company to provide Application Services. These service providers will not infringe on the jurisdiction of other Authorised Telecom Service Providers and they will not provide switched telephony.
- (2) Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Firms registered under LLP Act, 2008 have been included in the current OSP registration Policy for registration under OSP category.
- (3) Companies registered under Indian Companies Act-2013, as amended from time to time, are also entitled for registration under OSP category, in addition to the companies registered under Indian Companies Act-1956.
- (4) A Company may apply for registration to the Telecom Enforcement and Resource Monitoring (TERM) Cell of DoT in the prescribed pro forma.

- (5) The registration is location specific, so a company may have more than one registration. Any change in the location of OSP Centre shall require amendment in the original registration.
- (6) A processing fee of ₹ 1000/- is payable along with the application for registration in the form of a demand draft from a scheduled bank in favour of the concerned Accounts Officer of registering authority.
- (7) The validity of the registration shall be 20 years from the date of issue, unless otherwise mentioned in the registration letter.
- (8) The validity of the registration may be extended, if deemed expedient, the period of registration by 10 years at one time, upon request of the OSP, if made during the 19th year of the registration period on the terms mutually agreed. The decision of the Authority shall be final in regard to the grant of extension.
- (9) The list of documents required for OSP registration is given below:

## (A) Mandatory Documents:

Sl. No.	Documents required to be submitted in case of Company	Documents required to be submitted in case of LLP
1.	Certificate of Incorporation issued by Registrar of Companies	Certificate of Incorporation issued by Registration Authority of LLPs
2.	Memorandum and Article of Association	Copy of Agreement among all the partners of LLP
3.	Board Resolution or Power of Attorney authorising the authorized signatory with attested signature	Resolution passed by designated partners or all the partners authorizing the authorized signatory with attested signature or as per provisions of LLP agreement/LLP Act
4.	A note on the nature of business/ activities of the proposed OSP	A note on the nature of business/ activities of the proposed OSP

## (B) Documents required to be submitted, if actual information is different from mandatory documents:

Sl. No.	Documents required to be submitted in case of Company	Documents required to be submitted in case of LLP
1	2	3
1.	List of present Directors of the company	List of present Designated partners and all the partners of the LLP

1	2	3
2.	Present shareholding pattern of the company indicating equity details (Indian equity and Foreign equity)	Present shareholding pattern of the LLP indicating equity/ contribution details of all the partners (Indian equity and Foreign equity)
C.	<p>(i) All the documents must be certified with seal by either company secretary or one of the Directors of the company or statutory auditors or public notary in case of company.</p> <p>(ii) All the documents must be certified with seal by either designated partners or all the partners or statutory auditors or public notary in case of LLP.</p> <p>(iii) The LLP Firm shall intimate to the Department within 30 days, if there is any change in the designated partners, authorised signatory, and/or Agreement of LLP.</p>	

### **Curbing of child pornography**

2172. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is taking any steps to curb child pornography in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has taken the following steps to Curb Child Pornography/Online Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM):—

1. Government periodically blocks the websites containing extreme child sexual abuse material based on INTERPOL'S "worst of list" received through Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). CBI is the national nodal agency for Interpol in India. As on 20th Dec., 2017, Department of Telecom (DoT) issued instructions to block 4694 number of such websites.
2. The government has issued an order to concerned Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to work out a suitable arrangement for receiving Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) list of CSAM websites/webpages on a dynamic basis and block access to child pornography webpages/websites by 31.07.2017. Major ISPs have already submitted their compliance Statement.

3. DoT has communicated to all ISPs requesting them to make suitable arrangement to spread awareness among their subscribers about the use of Parental Control filters in the end-user machines through messages of Email, invoices, SMS, website, etc.
4. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued guidelines on 18.08.2017 to schools on the safe and secure use of Internet. This circular directs schools to install effective firewalls, filtering and monitoring software mechanisms in all the computers and deploy effective security policies.
5. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is implementing a comprehensive central sector scheme, namely "Centre for Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC)" with an outlay of ₹ 195.83 crore to handle all issues related to check all cyber-crime against women and children including child pornography.
6. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has published a booklet on "Child Victims of Cyber Crime - Legal Tool Kit" as a guide for investigating officers for better understanding of the cyber crime related laws in simple language.
7. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) E-box was opened on 23.06.2017 for lodging complaints related to cyber crime targeting children. Presently it also handles issues related to cyber bullying, cyber stalking, morphing of images and child pornography. Child victims of cyber crimes can now lodge their complaints at E-box through its Mobile app available at Google/Apple Play Store. A link has also been provided at NCPCR website [www.ncpcr.gov.in](http://www.ncpcr.gov.in).

#### **Electronic manufacturing cluster in Andhra Pradesh**

2173. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government gave approval to open Electronic Manufacturing Cluster in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total amount for investment and the land area for the cluster; and
- (d) the amount of grant-in-aid sanctioned and disbursed for establishing the Cluster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India has approved three (3) Greenfield Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) over an area of 708.67 acres of land in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The details of these EMCs are given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*Details of EMCs accorded final approval in the State of Andhra Pradesh*

Sl. No.	Location of EMC	Area (Acres)	Chief Promoter/ SPV	Financial outlay (₹ in crore)		
				Project Cost	Grant-in-aid	Grant-in-aid released
1.	Village-Cherivi, Satyavedu Mandal, Chittor District	94	Sri City Pvt. Ltd.	56.75	27.34	2.78
2.	Vikruthamala Village, Yerpadu Mandal, Chittor District	501.40	Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd. (APUC)	339.80	111.42	-
3.	Renigunta and Yerpadu Mandal, Chittor District, Tirupati	113.27	Sri Venkateswara Mobile and Electronics Manufacturing Hub Private Limited	104.41	46.53	-
TOTAL		708.67		500.96	185.29	2.78

**Funds for production of cyber security products**

2174. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is embarked on providing funds for production of cyber security products;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the quantum of funds being provided under this scheme along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has no proposal for providing funds specifically for production of cyber security products. However, MeitY has sponsored several projects for development of cyber security tools under its R&D programme. Also MeitY promotes electronics and IT hardware manufacturing through the schemes of MS IPS (Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme), EDF (Electronics Development Fund) and cluster manufacturing. Some of the electronic products as covered in these schemes can also be used for cyber security.

- (c) Does not arise.

#### **Aadhaar registration for differently-abled persons**

2175. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there have been any cases where differently-abled persons have been denied Aadhaar card;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken to provide Aadhaar cards to people with neurological disabilities who are not able to sit still for the photograph or the iris scan;
- (d) whether all Aadhaar centres have disabled friendly access infrastructure; and
- (e) the steps taken to ensure that Aadhaar card registration process is made viable for differently-abled persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Every resident, including differently-abled persons, is eligible for Aadhaar.

(c) to (e) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has laid down well defined processes for Aadhaar enrolment of those persons who are not able to provide some or any of their biometrics, due to any reasons, including disability, while enrolling for Aadhaar.

As per requirement, special measures are taken for Aadhaar enrolment of specific groups, including holding special enrolment camps etc. In deserving cases, household visits are also organised.

Aadhaar centres are run by Registrars/Enrolment Agencies who are required to ensure various guidelines including facilitation of residents at enrolment centres. Enrolment operations are now being shifted to post offices and branch premises of scheduled commercial banks. The Department of Posts and banks can ensure convenience of the disabled persons while providing services to them, as per their policies in this regard.

#### **Data safety in smartphones**

2176. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has issued notices to the smartphone production companies to provide the details about the safety and security standards being followed in their making;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has received any feedback from those smart phone companies about the data safety measures, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The mobile/smartphone devices are playing a crucial role in achieving the goal of Digital India, hence there is a need to ensure the security and safety of these devices. Towards this, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has requested the mobile manufactures, selling smartphones in India, for furnishing details about the safety and security practices, architecture, frameworks, guidelines/standards followed and implemented in their respective product/services provided in the country. Feedback is being received from the mobile manufacturers selling smartphones in India.

#### **Firing of IT employees using unethical process**

2177. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of employees in the private IT firms have been fired by the companies using unethical process;



- (b) whether Government has taken any measures in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) to (c) No such matter has been reported to the ministry. The IT sector is expected to continue to be a net hirer in this fiscal.

(d) The industry, both globally and in India, is witnessing unprecedented technology driven changes. These demand new sets of skills and are opening opportunities for newer job roles. The stakeholders covering industry, academia and Sector Skills Councils are working to ensure that the existing workforce is re-skilled/up-skilled in emerging technologies and job roles. Most companies (large, medium and small) are also implementing rigorous training programs to re-skill/up-skill their existing employees in new and emerging technologies.

**IT services to Members of Parliament/Legislative Assembly, etc.**

2178. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any IT services have been provided/will be provided to the Members of Parliament/Legislative Assembly/Council for Personal Office Support like Indexing/Personal Office Management/Maintenance of Social Portal Support; and
- (b) whether any such proposal is pending with the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) Yes Sir. Following IT services has been provided to the Hon'ble Members for Personal Office Support:—

- Official E-mail account is provided by National Informatics Centre (NIC) to all the Hon'ble Members of Parliament of both the Houses.
- Online portals for electronic information services delivery have been developed for Hon'ble members which can be accessed at <http://memberls.nic.in> and <https://mprs.nic.in>.
- Online portal for submission of all types of parliamentary notices electronically has been developed to facilitate the Members of Parliament.

- Facility of sending Group SMSs and electronic communication to/from Members from/to Parliament Secretariat is also provided.
  - High Speed Fiber to the Home (FTTH) Internet/Wi-Fi facility at the Members Residences at Delhi.
- (b) No, Sir.

### **National Cyber Security Coordination Centre**

2179. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of projects being implemented by National Cyber Security Coordination Centre (NCCC) under various phases;
- (b) the amount earmarked and released for NCCC in the last two years;
- (c) the number of cyber crime awareness workshops organized for police officers, judicial officers and other personnel; and
- (d) how far the coordination is effective among various stakeholders in handling cyber crimes and cyber security of the country alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) Government is implementing the National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to generate near real-time macroscopic views of the cyber security threats in the country. The Centre will scan the cyberspace in the country at meta-data level and will generate near real-time situational awareness. NCCC is a multi-stakeholder body, being implemented by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) at Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The proposed Centre will provide a structured system and facilitate coordination among different agencies by sharing with them the metadata from cyberspace for taking actions to mitigate the cyber security threats. Phase-I of NCCC has been made functional in July, 2017. The next phase is to setup a full-fledged centre.

(b) Government has approved the project to set up the National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) in April 2015 to be implemented by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) with an outlay of ₹ 770 crore for a period of five years. In the current year, an amount of ₹ 36 crores have been earmarked for NCCC, out of which an amount of approx. ₹ 21 crores have been released till December, 2017.

(c) 17 Cyber Crime Awareness workshops were organised in 17 cities namely Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Bhopal, Lucknow, Jaipur, Patna, Shimla, Shillong, Dehradun, Thrissur, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi, Nagpur, Srinagar, Raipur, Goa and Mangalore wherein 1989 police officers at various ranks participated. 35 Cyber Crime Awareness workshops were organized for judiciary in Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Kolkata and North-Eastern States wherein more than 1000 judicial officers attended the workshop.

- (d) (i) NCCC being a multi-stakeholder body, shares macroscopic view of incidents with the stakeholders for their respective actions including identification of affected systems at user-end and risk mitigation.
- (ii) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) interacts with stakeholder organisations in different sectors such as finance, defence, power, telecom etc and sends tailored alerts and advisories to Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) of such organizations on regular basis for prevention. CERT-In also interacts with stakeholder organisations and sectoral CERTs for resolution of incidents.
- (iii) CERT-In conducts cyber security mock drills in coordination with stakeholder organizations to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors.
- (iv) Government is setting up Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (IC4) to address cyber crime. The IC4, *inter alia*, will facilitate capacity building of police officers, judicial officers and other personnel. This in turn will lead to handling of cyber crime in a more effective manner.

#### **Schemes for processing of sea food in cooperative sector**

2180. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any schemes to promote processing of sea food in Cooperative sector is being considered, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether any special scheme of Government is available for subsidized loans to such units under Cooperative sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing

Industries is implementing various Schemes for development of food processing industries in the country including that of sea food, through an umbrella Central Sector Scheme "PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA" (PMKSY) with an allocation of ₹ 6000 crore for the period 2016-20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle. PMKSY provides grant-in-aid to eligible promoters for setting up of food processing industry under its following schemes:—

- (i) Mega Food Parks;
- (ii) Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure;
- (iii) Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities;
- (iv) Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters;
- (v) Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages;
- (vi) Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure; and
- (vii) Human Resources and Institutions.

The Farmers, Farmers Producers Organizations, Co-operatives, Self Help Groups, Public/Private Companies, Central/State PSUs, Proprietorship/Partnership Firms, Joint Ventures, etc. are eligible to avail financial assistance under these schemes.

In addition to above, the following schemes of The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) an autonomous body under the administrative control of Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to promote Processing of Seafood are open to Cooperative involved in exporting:—

- (i) Technology Development for specific value added products.
- (ii) Assistance for export handling units for live/chilled marine products.

#### **Provision of subsidy/loan for starting FPIs**

2181. DR. C.P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the plan of Government to boost the opening of new Food Processing Industries (FPIs);

(b) whether there is any kind of subsidy or loan provided to the individuals who want to start Food Processing Units; and

(c) the status of FPIs in the State of Bihar, particularly those being run with the support of the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) and (b) The Ministry Food Processing Industries is implementing an umbrella Central Sector Scheme "PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA" (PMKSY) with an allocation of ₹ 6,000 crore for the period 2016-20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle in order to provide a big boost to the growth of food processing sector in the country.

PMKSY provides grant-in-aid to eligible promoters for setting up of food processing industries under its following schemes:—

- (i) Mega Food Parks;
- (ii) Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure;
- (iii) Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities;
- (iv) Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters;
- (v) Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages;
- (vi) Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure; and
- (vii) Human Resources and Institutions

The Ministry provides grants-in-aid to the eligible Proprietorship/Partnership firms, Joint venture, Farmers, Cooperatives, Corporations, Self Help Groups, Farmers Producer Organizations, Central/State PSUs, Public and Private Companies etc. in accordance with guidelines of the Schemes.

Further, a Special Fund of ₹ 2000 Crore has been setup in NABARD by the Central Government to make available affordable credit at concessional rate of interest to designated food parks and agro-processing units in designated Food Parks. Loan is extended by NABARD from the Fund to various categories of promoters in food processing sector, such as Individual Entrepreneurs, State Governments, State Government Agencies, Cooperatives, Farmers Producer Organizations, Corporate, companies etc.

- (c) Status of FPIs in the State of Bihar is given in the Statement.

**Statement***Status of FPIs in the State of Bihar***(1) Scheme of Mega Food Parks**

(₹ in Crore)

Sl. No.	Project Name	Project Cost	Date of In-principle Approval	Date of Final Approval	Amount of Grant Approved	Amount of grant Released	Status
1.	Pristine Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Khagaria	127.64	21.09.2012	06.08.2014	50	14.56	Under Implemen- tation

**(2) Scheme of Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure**

(₹ in Crore)

Sl. No.	Project	Sector	Date of Approval	Project Cost	Approved Amount of grant-in-aid	Amount of Grant Released	Status
1.	Ganga Dairy Ltd. Begusarai	Dairy	27.03.2009	22.60	9.35	9.35	Commercial production started
2.	Mahua Cooperative Cold Storage Limited, Vaishali	F&V	22.05.2015	21.33	9.75	7.31	75% progress
3.	RK Agri Biz LLP, Muzaffarpur	F&V	04.05.2017	19.64	7.58	0.00	Under implemen- tation

**Regulatory framework for legal profession**

2182. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether to facilitate improvement towards securing a higher global ranking in the enforcement of business contracts, Government has finally mooted a regulatory framework for legal profession;

(b) whether there is a need to regulate professional fee and ethics which can be done by an independent body instead of the elected body of the Bar;

(c) whether a check on the lawyer's performance has also been proposed through a mechanism of feedback by clients on advocates' performance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Government has received the Report No. 266 titled The Advocates Act, 1961 (Regulation of Legal Profession) from the Law Commission of India, which is under consideration.

(c) and (d) The Bar Council of India has constituted a Committee to go into the aspect of amendments to Advocates Act, 1961. The report of the Committee is awaited.

#### **Unified Administrative Framework for Tribunals**

2183. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposal for reform of tribunals;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame for the same;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide a unified administrative framework for all tribunals, thus removing problems of different procedures being followed by different tribunals; and

(d) whether there is a time-frame within which the Government envisages to usher reforms in tribunal of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) For rationalization of the functioning of Tribunals and Uniform terms and conditions including salaries and allowances, provisions have been made in the Finance Act, 2017. Provisions of Part XIV of Chapter VI of the Finance Act, 2017, which provide for Merger of Tribunals and other Authorities and conditions of service of Chairperson, Members, etc. were brought into force *vide* Notification SO 1696(E) dated 26.05.2017. Fifteen Tribunals, Appellate Tribunals and other Authorities have been merged to reduce them to 7 by amending the respective laws. Provisions have also been made in the Finance Act, 2017 to provide Uniform Service Conditions for Chairperson, Members etc. of 19 Tribunals and Appellate Tribunals and other Authorities including 7 merged Tribunals/Appellate Tribunals. To provide Uniform Service Conditions under Section 184 of the Finance Act, 2017 the Tribunal, Appellate

Tribunal and other Authorities (Qualifications, Experience and other Conditions of Service of Members) Rules, 2017 have been notified *vide* Notification GSR 514 (E) dated 01.06.2017.

(d) Bringing reforms in the working of Tribunals is a continuous process. Therefore the question of fixing a time frame does not arise.

#### **Establishment of a bench of Odisha High Court**

2184. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the recommendation of the State Government of Odisha to establish a bench of the Odisha High Court at a suitable place in western part of Odisha;

(b) if so, the steps Central Government has initiated in this regard; and

(c) whether Government is considering initiating a legislation in the coming Budget Session of Parliament for establishing a bench of Odisha High Court, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) In accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P. (Civil) No. 379 of 2000, Bench(es) of the High Court are established after due consideration of complete proposal received from the State Government, which has to provide infrastructure and meet the expenditure, along with the consent of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, which is required to look after the day to day administration of the High Court and its Bench. The proposal should also have the consent of the Governor of the concerned State. On receipt of all requisite approvals, Central Government initiates action for issue of necessary order for establishment of Bench of High Court.

The Government of Odisha has written to the Central Government in September, 2013, for establishment of two Benches of the Orissa High Court in the Western and Southern regions of Odisha and the matter has been referred to the Chief Justice, Orissa High Court. There is no proposal to initiate any legislation for establishing a Bench of the High Court of Orissa at present.



**Pendency of cases and appointment of Judges**

2185. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that on an average around 4000 cases are pending with each subordinate court in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of courts, Judges, Judicial Officers and cases pending therewith, State-wise;
- (c) the comparative study of total posts in different categories of courts and the vacancies therein; and
- (d) the time-bound proposal of Government to appoint judges and staff against vacancies for conducting speedy trials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Data on pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and High Courts. As per information available on the web-portal of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), 2.61 crore cases were pending in various District and Subordinate Courts of the country (excluding District and Subordinate Courts in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry) as on 01.01.2018. The State/UT -wise details of sanctioned/working strength and vacancies of Judges in District and Subordinate Courts viz-a-viz State/UT - wise details of pending cases are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) In each District court apart from the posts of Judicial Officers, there are different categories of posts, namely, Assistant Sarishtadar, Stenographers, Senior and Junior clerks, Typist and Copyist/Amin. These posts may differ from one State to another.

(d) As per the Constitution, the selection and appointment of judges in subordinate courts is the responsibility of State Governments and the High Courts concerned. The Supreme Court, through a judicial order, has devised a process and time frame to be followed for the filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary. The order of January 2007 by the Supreme Court stipulates that the process for recruitment of judges in the subordinate courts would commence on March 31 of a calendar year and end by October 31 of the same year. The Supreme Court has permitted State Governments/ High Courts to seek variations in the time schedule in case of any difficulty having regard to the peculiar geographical and climatic conditions in the State or other relevant conditions.

**Statement**

*State/UT-wise details of sanctioned/working strength and vacancies of Judges in District and Subordinate Courts viz-a-viz State/UT-wise details of pending cases*

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Sanctioned Strength as on 30.11.2017\$	Working Strength as on 30.11.2017\$	Vacancies as on 30.11.2017\$	Number of Cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 01.01.2018\$\$
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**	987	873	114	9,15,410
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	28	17	11	—
3.	Assam	428	352	76	2,23,954
4.	Bihar**	1826	1001	825	16,58,292
5.	Chhattisgarh	398	335	63	2,72,888
6.	Goa	55	43	12	39,745
7.	Gujarat**	1511	1126	385	16,41,355
8.	Haryana	644	497	147	6,45,647
9.	Himachal Pradesh**	159	149	10	2,09,938
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	253	214	39	1,21,754
11.	Jharkhand**	672	421	251	3,33,494
12.	Karnataka**	1303	978	325	13,81,438
13.	Kerala**	534	461	73	11,52,056
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2021	1273	748	13,25,053
15.	Maharashtra	2096	1947	149	33,36,574
16.	Manipur	49	31	18	9,604
17.	Meghalaya	97	39	58	7,032

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Mizoram	63	30	33	3,306
19.	Nagaland	34	23	11	
20.	Odisha	862	658	204	10,22,635
21.	Punjab	674	538	136	5,68,232
22.	Rajasthan**	1223	1127	96	14,24,560
23.	Sikkim**	23	15	8	1,400
24.	Tamil Nadu*	1257	916	341	10,10,381
25.	Tripura	107	76	31	25,191
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3204	1860	1344	61,61,822
27.	Uttarakhand**	291	230	61	2,10,587
28.	West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Island**	1013	929	84	17,70,820
29.	Chandigarh	30	30	0	38,628
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	7	7	0	5,298
31.	Delhi**	799	483	316	6,07,036
32.	Lakshadweep**	3	2	1	
33.	Puducherry*	26	12	14	
TOTAL		22,677	16,693	5,984	2,61,24,130

\* Details of Judges as on 7.11.2017.

\*\* Details of Judges as on 31.10.2017.

\$ Source: High Courts.

\$\$ Source: NJDG Web portal.

Note: Data on District and Subordinate Courts in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry are not available on the web-portal of NJDG.

### Websites and portals of the ministry

2186. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of websites or portals being managed and monitored currently by the Ministry along with their URLs;

(b) the record of visitors' traffic to these websites in general and response mechanism for complaints received through these portals since 2014;

(c) the number of Twitter handles and Facebook pages, if any, being maintained by the Ministry and organisations under it; and

(d) the performance of these Twitter and Facebook accounts in general since they were opened, as also the performance monitoring mechanism, if any, of these accounts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The information is as follows:—

Sl. No.	Website along with URL	Currently managed/ monitored by	Visitor Count	Remarks
1.	<a href="http://lawmin.nic.in/legal.htm">http://lawmin.nic.in/legal.htm</a>	Department of Legal Affairs	The current website does not maintain account of visitors.	—
2.	<a href="http://lawmin.nic.in/legis.htm">http://lawmin.nic.in/legis.htm</a>	Legislative Department	The current website does not maintain account of visitors	—
3.	<a href="http://doj.gov.in">http://doj.gov.in</a>	Department of Justice	The current website does not maintain account of visitors.	
4.	<a href="http://indiacode.nic.in">http://indiacode.nic.in</a>	Legislative Department	The current website does not maintain account of visitors.	This website hosts the database of all the Central Acts.
5.	<a href="http://limbs.gov.in">http://limbs.gov.in</a>	Department of Legal Affairs	2,77,881 (Dec. 2015 to Dec. 2017)	This website hosts the database of all the court cases wherein Union of India is a party.

The complaints are received through Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), which are handled by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

(c) and (d) No official Facebook or Twitter account is being maintained by the Ministry. Hence, the question of performance thereof does not arise. In so far as the organizations under the Ministry are concerned, the information is being collected.

**Judges belonging to SC and ST category**

2187. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in different High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) the details of posts filled with Judges belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in higher Judiciary during the last three years;

(c) whether proper representation has not been given to Judges belonging to SC and ST Category in the appointment to higher Judiciary; and

(d) whether Government has devised any policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Details of the number of vacancies in Supreme Court and High Court as on 01.01.2018 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) to (d) The appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are made under Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, no caste or class wise data of Judges is maintained. The initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of India and Chief Justices of the concerned High Courts respectively.

The Government has requested 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****Number of vacancies in Supreme Court and High Court*

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Vacancies per Approved Strength
(A)	<b>Supreme Court of India</b>	06
(B)	<b>High Court</b>	
1.	Allahabad	52
2.	Telangana and Andhra Pradesh	30
3.	Bombay	24
4.	Calcutta	39
5.	Chhattisgarh	10
6.	Delhi	23
7.	Gauhati	06
8.	Gujarat	21
9.	Himachal Pradesh	05
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	06
11.	Jharkhand	11
12.	Karnataka	37
13.	Kerala	10
14.	Madhya Pradesh	19
15.	Madras	15
16.	Manipur	03
17.	Meghalaya	02
18.	Odisha	10
19.	Patna	20
20.	Punjab and Haryana	35
21.	Rajasthan	16
22.	Sikkim	0
23.	Tripura	02
24.	Uttarakhand	02
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>398</b>

**Electronic Voting Machines with printing devices**

2188. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per guidelines of the Supreme Court, Electronic Voting Machines with printing devices will be made available prior to the next General Elections;
- (b) whether coming General Elections of 2019 would be conducted with old machines or new machines with printing devices;
- (c) if so, the details of the procurement process; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) The Election Commission has informed that the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) units will be used at every polling station in General Elections to the Lok Sabha, 2019. Necessary orders for procurement of 13.95 lakh Ballot Units (BUs), 9.30 lakh Control Units (CUs) and 16.15 lakh VVPAT units have already been placed with the manufacturers to meet the requirement of EVMs and VVPAT units for the upcoming General Elections, 2019.

**Cases pending in the Punjab and Haryana High Court**

2189. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases pending at present in the Punjab and Haryana High Court; and
- (b) the steps taken to clear the pendency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Data on the pendency of cases in courts is maintained by the Supreme Court and High Courts. As per information available on the web-portal of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), 3.84 lakh cases are pending in Punjab and Haryana High Court as on 01.01.2018.

(b) During the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of the High Courts held at New Delhi in April 2015, reduction of pendency and backlog of cases in courts emerged as an area which required focused attention at the High Court level. The Chief Justices of the High Courts in the Conference held on 03rd and

04th April 2015 have resolved that each High Court shall establish an Arrears Committee, which would go into the factors responsible for the delays and prepare an action plan to clear the backlog of cases pending for more than five years. Accordingly, Arrears Committees have been established in the High Courts, including Punjab and Haryana High Court. 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.

### **Simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies**

2190. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to hold simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies in the coming days, if so, the details thereof; and

(ii) whether the State Governments are being consulted in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) The matter regarding conduct of simultaneous election for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies was examined by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice. The Committee in its 79th Report has given certain recommendations which are under consideration of the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice.

### **Online railway accident insurance scheme**

†2191. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount received from passengers so far by companies engaged in accident insurance under online railway accidents insurance scheme;

(b) the number of accident claims received during this period and the amount paid by insurance companies against them to the passengers or the families of the passengers and the number of claims still pending; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



(c) whether it is a fact that Railways are suffering losses but online railway insurance companies are earning exponential profit because of wrong policies and the profit that Railways should earn is going to these private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) An amount of ₹ 32,14.46,918/- Thirty Two Crore Fourteen Lakhs Fourty Six Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighteen Only) has been collected by three Insurance companies as insurance premium since inception of the scheme (*i.e.* 01.09.2016) to 30.11.2017.

(b) Total 131 claims have been received up to 30.11.2017. An amount of ₹ 2,47,14,275/- (₹ Two Crore Fourty Seven Lakh Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Five Only) has been paid to the passengers/family of passengers and 67 claims are pending as on 30.11.2017, mostly on account of non-submission of required documents from the claimants.

(c) No, Sir. Selling insurance policies to general public is not one of Railways' core activities. The insurance product development and marketing is a specialized job which can be handled appropriately by insurance companies. Hence, the job of insuring rail passengers has been handed over to insurance companies.

#### **Dynamic fares in select trains**

2192. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring dynamic fares, for travelling in some selected trains, when the trains are not fully booked;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this would be restricted to Shatabdi, Rajdhani and Durgam Express trains only or for all Express trains; and

(d) by when this would be introduced in Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) A Committee has been constituted to review the Flexi Fare system in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Durgam trains with a view to examining all other options and recommend the best option keeping in mind the interest of passengers and Railways.

**Revenue earned through flexi fare scheme**

2193. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the revenue earned by Railways through flexi fare scheme since its inception;
- (b) whether Government is planning to tweak flexi fare scheme, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has planned this move in the wake of travellers complaining of high fares, which was also leading to several seats going vacant due to the cost; and
- (d) whether Government is planning to introduce flexi fare scheme in mail express and superfast express trains also, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Flexi fare system has been introduced in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains w.e.f. 09.09.2016. Upto November, 2017, additional earnings from the flexi fare trains in comparison to the same period of previous years is around ₹ 671 crore.

(b) to (d) A Committee has been constituted to review the flexi fare system in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains with a view to examining all other options and recommend the best option keeping in mind the interest of passengers and Railways.

**Zero-accident mission**

2194. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of accidents on railway tracks are on the rise, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Railways have launched a zero-accident mission envisaging renewal of railway tracks, more railway bridges, better signalling and rolling out of accident-proof coaches and engines, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Railways have prepared any plan to generate resources to implement the zero-accident mission, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. During the last three years, the number of consequential train accidents (including accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings) have decreased from 135 in 2014-15, to 107 in 2015-16 and further to 104 in 2016-17. In the current year (upto 15th December, 2017) the number of consequential train accidents have reduced to 52 as compared to 87 in the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) Yes, Sir. In the Railway Budget 2016-17, Mission Zero Accident was one of the missions announced, comprising the two sub-missions:—

- (i) Elimination of Unmanned Level Crossings (UMLC) over broad gauge in the next 3-4 years.
- (ii) Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) to prevent collisions and signal passing at danger by the Loco Pilot.

As far as steps taken for improving tracks is concerned, railway tracks are replaced through track renewal works which is an ongoing process. Track renewal works are undertaken as and when a stretch of track becomes due for renewal on the basis of criteria laid down in Indian Railway Permanent Way Manual on age cum condition basis viz. traffic carried in terms of gross million tonnes and incidence of rail fracture/failure, wear of rails and maintainability of track as per standards etc. In case any stretch of track is not renewed in time due to various reasons including scarcity of funds, material etc., suitable speed restrictions, if required, are imposed to ensure safe running of trains.

In order to improve signaling, electrical/electronic interlocking system with centralized operation of points and signals are being provided to eliminate human failure and to replace old mechanical systems.

Superior and safer Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) Coaches having anti-climbing features have been progressively introduced on Indian Railways to reduce the fatalities in case of accidents.

(c) In the Budget 2017-18, an exclusive fund called "Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh" (RRSK) has been made with a corpus of ₹ 1 lakh crore over a period of 5 years for giving a major boost to safety related works over Indian Railways for improving safety of tracks, rolling stock and proliferation of other safety technologies and training of staff.

**Policy for promotion of Group 'B' officials**

2195. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI VEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of policy adopted in Railways for promotion of Group 'B' officials;
- (b) whether restructuring of Group 'B' officials in Railways has taken place during last three years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether there is no career progression scheme for degree holders who joined Railways in Level-7 in the pay matrix under 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC); and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At present, all posts in Group 'B' are filled up through promotion. After completion of minimum of three years of regular service, Group 'B' officers become eligible for being considered for promotion to Jr.Scale/Group 'A' of 8 organized services. Further, they are also eligible for being placed in the higher non-functional Group 'B' grade after completion of three years of regular service.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The number of Group 'B' officers placed in the higher non-functional Group 'B' grade of ₹ 8000-13500/- (PB-3 GP 5400/- in 6th CPC) during the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 (upto 30.11.2017) is 390, 328 and 184 respectively.

(d) Career progression is available for Degree holders who join Railways in Level-7 of the 7th CPC pay matrix.

(e) Does not arise.

**Railway line between Haldwani and Ritha Sahib**

†2196. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether North Eastern Railway has assessed the possibilities of construction

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of railway line from Haldwani to Ritha Sahib via Chorgalia in Uttarakhand, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether survey for this railway line is likely to be started in future, if so, by when;

(c) whether it is also possible that fund will not be sanctioned for the construction of this railway route even after conducting survey, as happened in the case of two railway routes of Kumaun region; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) To assess the feasibility for construction of new lines from Haldwani to Ritha Sahib *via* Chorgalia, surveys for Haldwani-Ritha Sahib (60 km.) and Haldwani-Chorgalia (20 km.) have been taken up.

(c) and (d) Funds are allocated for construction of any project, once the project is sanctioned based on the merit of the survey report.

#### **Requirement and purchase of rails by Railways**

†2197. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of rails, in tonnes, required by Railways in the current financial year and the total quantity of rails in tonnes, to be supplied by SAIL;

(b) the quantity of rails in tonnes, that Railways would purchase from alternate sources other than SAIL to meet its requirements along with the details thereof; and

(c) the details of difference in prices of rails purchased from SAIL and other alternate sources during last two years including current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Requirement of rails for Indian Railways for year 2017-18 has been assessed as 14.59 Lakh MT.

SAIL as per their latest projection has given commitment to supply 9.5 Lakh MT rails during the year 2017-18.

(b) To meet the shortfall of supply of rails from SAIL, Railway has invited a global tender following 2 packet system. The Pre-Bid conference for this tender was

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

held on 21.11.2017. The technical bids (Packet-1) of tender for procurement of 4,87,000 Metric Tonnes of 60 kg. UIC rails have been opened on 22.12.2017.

(c) Indian Railways has not procured rails from any alternate source other than SAIL during the last two years including current year.

#### **Speed of trains from Amritsar to New Delhi**

2198. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to boost the speed of trains running from Amritsar to New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of maximum speed adopted by Government to boost the speed of trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Speeding up of trains is a constant endeavour and continuous process on Indian Railways and is dependent on constant optimization of the investments made by Railways in modernization of technology, high powered locos, modern coaches and better tracks. With this end in view, speed of 12013/12014 New Delhi-Amritsar Shatabdi Express has been raised upto 130 Kilometer per hour between New Delhi and Ludhiana w.e.f. 01.10.2016.

(d) Presently, the maximum speed adopted by Indian Railways is 160 Kilometer per hour of Gatiman Express running between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Agra Cantt.

#### **Meeting of energy requirement from renewable sources**

2199. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways plan to meet at least 10 per cent of its energy requirement from renewable sources;

(b) if so, the action plan by Railways;

(c) whether Railways are harnessing green energy currently;

(d) if so, the quantum of energy generated through green sources currently; and

(e) whether Railways have done energy audit and are working on more energy efficient systems and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways proposes to harness 1000 Mega Watt (MW) solar and about 200 MW wind energy.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. On date, about 30 Mega Watt (MW) solar and 37 MW wind power is being harnessed.

(e) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways regularly carries out energy audits and so far about 650 audits have been done. Various measures have improved energy utilization by about 5% in the year 2016-17 over the previous year.

#### **Change of design in rolling stock**

2200. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have started exploring a design change in its rolling stock to see if coal and other minerals can be carried in covered wagons instead of open ones to prevent coal dust from flying into the environment and also to expand the use of wagons;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways took a note of reports appeared regarding transportation of coal in open wagons and the issues concerning environmental damages; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Railways is exploring various options available for transportation of coal and other raw material in covered condition in open wagon so as to prevent fumes/dust from flying into the environment.

(b) Railways did take note of reports that appeared in the newspapers regarding transportation of coal in open wagons.

(c) For providing covers, various options are under study/trial for selection of cost effective best solution.

**Quality of meals in Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains**

‡2201. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the complaints lodged with Railways regarding the quality of meals provided in Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains during the last three years;
- (b) the details of action taken on these complaints; and
- (c) whether Railways propose to do away with the compulsory booking of meals in Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The details of total number of complaints related to quality of food served in Railways including Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains during the last three years and action taken thereon during the last three years (*i.e.* 01.04.2014 to 31.10.2017) are as under:—

Period	Total No. Complaints	Fined	Warned	Termina- tion	Suitably Advised	Not Substan- tiated	D &AR Action	Any Other	Total
2014-15	3249	1240	1289	1	300	94	36	289	3249
2015-16	3032	890	1229	0	406	229	4	274	3032
2016-17	2464	1034	747	1	301	97	4	280	2464
2017-18 till Oct.,17	1059	322	369	8	127	47	0	186	1059

- (c) Yes, Sir. Optional catering service has been introduced as a pilot project, on 32 Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto trains under the management of IRCTC w.e.f. 01.08.2017 for an initial period of 180 days.

**Survey for railway projects in Rajasthan**

2202. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have carried out any survey in Rajasthan for laying of new railway lines, gauge conversion of old lines and electrification, if so, the details thereof; and

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‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



(b) the Government's plan for the current year for laying of new lines, gauge conversion and electrification in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Surveys for 24 new line projects only have been carried out during the last three years and current year. Details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Taranga Hill-Abu Road *via* Ambaji (89.38 km.) and Nimach-Badi Sadri (48 km.) new lines and Marwar Jn.-Mavli Jn. (152 km.) gauge conversion projects have been included in the current year's Budget 2017-18 subject to requisite approval from the Government.

Also new line projects of Jaisalmer-Bhabhar (339 km.) and Parbatsar-Kishangarh (45 km.) have been included in "Capital Investment Programme 2016-17" in anticipation of State Government coming forward for cost sharing and implementation.

**Statement**

*Details of new line surveys completed during the last three years  
and current year in Rajasthan*

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Year of completion	Length in km.	Cost (₹) in crore)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Taranga-Abu Road <i>via</i> Ambaji	2014-15	89	1696
2.	Dahod-Banswara (Dahod-Nathdwara)	2014-15	123	1147
3.	Jalore-Falna	2014-15	72	527
4.	Pipar Road-Bhopalgarh-Asop-Shankwas-Mundawa Nagore	2014-15	83	293
5.	Bharatpur-Deeg-Kama-Kosi	2014-15	86	726
6.	Sikar-Nim Ka Thana	2014-15	70	809
7.	Barmer-Dhanera	2014-15	180	1081
8.	Alwar-Charkhi Dadri	2014-15	143	1034
9.	By-pass line between Salawas and Banad	2014-15	29	348
10.	Palanpur-Ambaji-Abu Road	2015-16	90	1696
11.	Gajsinghpur-Sadulpur <i>via</i> Padampur, Goluwala, Rawatsar, Taranagar, Dadrewa	2015-16	249	1381

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Sardarshahar-Sirsa	2015-16	144	872
13.	Lunkaransar-Sardarsahar	2015-16	81	491
14.	Nawalgarh-Jhajjar-Neem ka Thana	2016-17	65	665
15.	Pratapgarh-Mand Saur	2016-17	33	381
16.	Sirohi-Marwar Bagra-Pindwara	2016-17	96	1527
17.	Ratangarh-Fatehpur	2016-17	39	235
18.	Bilara-Bar	2016-17	47	368
19.	Loharu-Bhiwani	2017-18	58	529
20.	Didwana-Ringus via Khatu Shyamji	2017-18	106	508
21.	Dholpur-Sirmuttra	2017-18	62	821
22.	Sardarshahar-Suratgarh (Gajsinghpur)	2017-18	108	689
23.	Jalore-Sirohi Road-Udaipur (Marwar Bagra-Sirohi Road-Kharwa Chanda)	2017-18	267	6626
24.	Sardarshahar-Taranagar-Rajgarh	2017-18	103	697

**Empanelment of Medanta hospital**

†2203. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Medanta Medicity Super Speciality hospital of private sector has been empanelled for treatment of railway employees of some railway zones;

(b) if so, the zones where such facility is being provided to the employees and zones where no such facility is provided to employees and the reasons for this discrimination; and

(c) whether the Ministry proposes to consider providing this treatment facility for employees of all the zones?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Northern Railway and North Central Railway have empanelled Medanta Medicity Super Speciality hospital besides other private hospitals to provide medical facilities to their railway beneficiaries in case of need.

Other Zonal Railways *i.e.* (1) Central Railway, (2) Eastern Railway, (3) East Central Railway, (4) East Coast Railway, (5) North Eastern Railway, (6) Northeast Frontier Railway, (7) North Western Railway, (8) Southern Railway, (9) South Central Railway, (10) South Eastern Railway, (11) South East Central Railway, (12) South Western Railway, (13) Western Railway, (14) West Central Railway, and (15) Metro Railway, have also empanelled super speciality private hospitals in their areas as per their local needs to provide the medical services to railway beneficiaries. Further, medical services are also being provided to the railway employees by the Railways through their own network of hospitals. In case any zone requires referral of their patients to Medanta Medicity hospital, they can route through Northern Railway. There is no discrimination in any zone.

(c) Provision for Zonal Railways to empanel private hospitals for treatment of their Railway employees also exists.

#### **Private freight trains**

2204. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have taken/going to take a policy decision to permit some of the private companies to run their own freight trains;

(b) whether companies from any sector have come forward to have their own fleet, terminals, etc.; and

(c) how can Railways permit private freight trains to run on its own rails at a time when the load factor has reached more than 100 per cent of its capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, to make the freight transportation more attractive and to improve the efficiency of freight traffic, the following schemes have been

introduced by Indian Railways for procurement of wagons/rakes and construction of private freight terminal through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode:—

- Special Freight Train Operator Scheme (SFTO).
- Automobile Freight Train Operator Scheme (AFTO).
- Liberalized Wagon Investment Scheme (LWIS).
- Wagon Leasing Scheme (WLS).
- Private Freight Terminal (PFT).

(c) No, Sir. Railways does not allow private operators to run private trains over Indian Railways' network. The rakes inducted under the above schemes are operated by Indian Railways itself after due examination of operational feasibility.

#### **Sabari railway line**

2205. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the inordinate delay in finalizing the alignment of the proposed Sabari railway line covering Kottayam district has put the concerned land owners in utter confusion and has caused them untold sufferings and agony for decades;

(b) how many proposals are pending before Railways regarding the alignment of Sabari railway line, covering Kottayam district, along with the details thereof; and

(c) whether Railways have formulated a time-frame for completion of the ongoing survey works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. There were some disputes among various groups of local people about the alignment in Kottayam District. Alignment suggested by District Collector, Kottayam was approved by Government of Kerala during the meeting of Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly and other Public representatives convened by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala on 14.05.2013. Final location survey has been taken up along this alignment.

There is a group of people against the alignment and they are not allowing the field survey. They have filed a Writ Petition before Hon'ble High Court of Kerala against the approved alignment.

(b) There is only one alignment as recommended by Government of Kerala for Angamali-Sabarimala new line project in Kottayam District. This project is terminated at Azutha to avoid Periyar Tiger Reserve Forest.

(c) Final location survey as per the alignment recommended by the State Government has been taken up. However, its completion is beyond the control of the Ministry of Railways as it depends upon maintenance of law and order by State, directions arising due to court cases filed by affected local people etc.

#### **Mission Raftaar**

†2206. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the average speed of goods trains and passenger trains at present;
- (b) to what extent the average speed of trains will be increased under 'Mission Raftaar', along with the details thereof;
- (c) the names of routes identified under 'Mission Raftaar', its percentage to total railway traffic of the country, along with the details thereof; and
- (d) the capacity of manufacturing MEMU and DEMU train coaches at present and the number of MEMU and DEMU train coaches required to fulfil the 'Mission Raftaar' in prescribed time-frame, along with the details of roadmap drawn for this purpose thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The average speed of goods trains and passenger trains at present are given below:—

Type of train	Average Speed (till Nov. 2017) (in km./h)
Goods Trains	23.1
Passenger Trains	44.3

(b) to (d) With a view to increasing speed of trains in Indian Railways, 'Mission Raftaar' was announced in the Railway Budget 2016-17. The mission envisages a target of doubling of average speed of freight trains and increasing the average speed of all non-suburban passenger trains by 25 kmph in the next 5 years.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Principal routes have been identified for raising of speed under Mission Raftaar. These are six routes on Golden Quadrilateral and diagonals namely, Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Howrah, Howrah-Chennai, Chennai-Mumbai, Delhi-Chennai and Howrah-Mumbai. These six routes carry 58% of freight traffic and 52% of coaching traffic with a share of only 16% of the network.

The present installed capacity of the two coach production units involved in manufacturing of Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) and Diesel Multiple unit (DEMU) coaches are as under.

Name of the Unit	Present installed capacity (Annual)
Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai	1700 coaches
Rail Coach Factory(RCF), Kapurthala	1500 coaches

There is no specific capacity for manufacturing of DEMU and MEMU coaches. However, product mix of coaches *i.e.* DEMUs, MEMUs, other self propelled coaches and passenger coaches etc is decided in annual Production Programme as per traffic requirements. Golden Quadrilaterals and its Diagonal routes have been prioritized for replacement of loco hauled short distance passenger trains by MEMUs/DEMUs having better acceleration and deceleration characteristics for fast pickup and braking. These six routes would require about 1200 MEMU coaches and 200 DEMU coaches. DEMU/MEMU coaches to be inducted progressively on balance routes of the Indian Railways.

#### **Hi-speed network to interconnect metros**

2207. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes hi-speed network to interconnect metros of the country by the year 2020;
- (b) if so, the proposal details in this regard;
- (c) the appraisal of the NITI Aayog therefor;
- (d) the action taken by Government for maintaining time schedule and entire electrification thereof; and
- (e) the plan project of Government on blueprint of funding therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) Government has identified the following routes connecting four

major metros and growth centres of the country for feasibility studies for high speed rail: (i) Delhi-Mumbai, (ii) Delhi-Kolkata (iii) Mumbai-Chennai (iv) Delhi-Nagpur segment of Delhi-Chennai (v) Mumbai-Nagpur segment of Mumbai Kolkata and (vi) Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysuru. Execution of High Speed Rail project is dependent on technical and financial feasibility and availability of resources.

Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project has been sanctioned as a fully electrified project with technical and financial assistance from Government of Japan with a target for commissioning by the year 2022-23.

**Proposed construction at Balamau junction railway station**

2208. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1585 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28 July, 2017 and state:

(a) whether Government has allocated funds for proposed construction of platform, booking office, enquiry office and circulating area etc. on Balamau Junction railway station;

(b) if so, by when the proposed platform and other facilities will be commissioned for public use; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government will address these urgent needs as thousands of passengers face imminent danger on daily basis because of no proper entry/exit from/to the railway station on south side as confirmed by the Ministry itself in its reply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Modernisation/upgradation of amenities at station is a continuous process and works in this regard are undertaken depending upon need, volume of the passenger traffic and *inter-se* priority of works subject to availability of funds. Priority for executing the work is given to the higher category stations over lower category stations. Further, at present Foot Over Bridge is available connecting platform Number 1 and 2 for passengers. Booking office and enquiry office is available on home platform number 1.

**Electrification of railway lines in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**

2209. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are any railway lines to be electrified in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has any plan to complete the electrification of these lines in a fixed time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 01.04.17, there are 1545 Route Kilometers (RKM) and 1029 (RKM) of un-electrified Broad Gauge (BG) railway lines in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways has prepared an Action Plan to electrify all BG railway lines of Indian Railways by 2021-22 including the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

**Speed of trains on different routes in Kerala**

2210. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the maximum speed of Express and other fast trains on different routes in Kerala is substantially lower than that in other parts of the country;
- (b) whether loop line speed of 15 kilometers per hour at stations in Kerala is half of speed elsewhere;
- (c) whether steps would be taken to increase these speeds so that the time to travel from one end of State to the other end can be reduced up to 3 hours; and
- (d) whether diesel shed at Ernakulam will be converted into an electrical shed since there are only four diesel engines plying in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The average speed of trains on a section inter alia depends on the following factors:—

- (i) Track structure



- (ii) Maximum Permissible Speed of the section
- (iii) Composition/load of the train
- (iv) Number of enroute stoppages of the train.

The maximum permissible speed (MPS) of certain sections of Indian Railways located in the State of Kerala is lower than the MPS of 110 kmph.

(b) Depending on the design standard of the points at a station, the loop line speed can be 15 kmph or 30 kmph. At certain station located in the State of Kerala, the loop line speed is 15 kmph.

(c) Speeding up of trains is a constant endeavour and continuous process on Indian Railways and is dependent on constant optimization of the investments made by Railways in modernization of technology, high powered locos, modern coaches and better tracks. Accordingly, the running time of 4 Express trains *viz.* 16724 Kollam-Chennai Egmore Ananthapuri Express, 16359 Ernakulam-Patna Express, 16338 Ernakulam-Okha Express and 12977 Ernakulam-Ajmer Marusagar Express have been reduced by 20 minutes *w.e.f.* 15.10.2017.

(d) Ernakulam diesel shed has already been identified for homing electric locomotives in Phase-II. Decision in this regard will be taken as and when required. As on date, the requirement of homing of electric locos in southern region is being catered to by three electric loco sheds located at Arakonam, Erode and Royapuram.

#### **Elephants killed on railway tracks in West Bengal**

2211. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of elephants killed on railway tracks by trains in West Bengal during the last five years;
- (b) whether Railways have fixed any responsibility therefor and whether any action has been taken against any railway staff for such incidents; and
- (c) whether Railways have worked out ways to minimize such incidents in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) During the last five years and current year (2012-15 December 2017), thirty elephants were killed on railway tracks by trains in West Bengal.

(b) Some of the locations where elephants died do not fall under the list of identified corridors. In case of identified locations, adequate precautions, as per joint advisory issued by Ministry of Environment and Forest and Ministry of Railways, were taken by Railways. Hence, no responsibility was fixed and no action was taken against the railway staff.

(c) Ministry of Environment and Forest has issued various advisories which have laid down various steps including the aspect of speed of trains. Accordingly, the Railway has taken following steps/corrective measures in pursuance of the requests received from the Ministry of Environment and Forest:—

Imposition of suitable speed restrictions in identified locations keeping advisory of Ministry of Environment and Forest and train operation requirements into consideration, provision of signage board to alert the loco pilots, training programme to sensitise train crew and Station Masters on a regular basis, deputing of staff of Forest Department in the control office, need based clearance of vegetation on the sides of the track within railway land, construction of underpasses for the movement of elephants at identified locations, construction of ramps, construction of girder bridges at the entrance of the deep cuttings, provision of fencing at isolated locations, etc.

#### **Electrification of railway tracks**

2212. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the length of the railway track which requires electrification, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Ministry has conducted any survey on these tracks for hindrances that may cause delay in the work, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor;
- (c) the details regarding the budget proposed for this entire project along with the method of calculation of budget;
- (d) whether the Ministry has conducted any study regarding the requirement of electricity for the smooth running of the trains post project completion, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor; and
- (e) details of companies/PSUs which will be involved in this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Railway electrification works are not confined to State/Union Territory boundaries. However, State/UT-wise length (Route Kilometer) of Broad Gauge (BG) railway routes of Indian Railways yet to be electrified are as under:—

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total route kilometer to be electrified.
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1545
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	12
3.	Assam	2440
4.	Bihar	2091
5.	Chhattisgarh	265
6.	Delhi	39
7.	Goa	189
8.	Gujarat	3346
9.	Haryana	1212
10.	Himachal Pradesh	28
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	127
12.	Jharkhand	925
13.	Karnataka	3197
14.	Kerala	152
15.	Madhya Pradesh	2056
16.	Maharashtra	3239
17.	Manipur	12
18.	Meghalaya	9
19.	Mizoram	2
20.	Nagaland	11
21.	Odisha	883
22.	Punjab	1680

1	2	3
23.	Puducherry	11
24.	Rajasthan	4501
25.	Telangana	1029
26.	Tamil Nadu	1928
27.	Tripura	202
28.	Uttar Pradesh	4896
29.	Uttarakhand	160
30.	West Bengal	1657
TOTAL		37844

(b) The survey of rail routes to be electrified is an ongoing process. Ministry of Railways has planned to electrify 37844 Route Kilometer of balance Broad Gauge routes of Indian Railways by the year 2021-22.

(c) The budget requirement for electrification of balance 37844 Route Kilometer of Broad Gauge routes of Indian Railways is approximately ₹ 32591 crore which is based on financial throwforward of ongoing works and abstract cost estimate for new works planned for inclusion in Budget 2018-19.

(d) Total power requirement of Indian Railways post project completion has been assessed to be about 3200 Mega Watts.

(e) Following executing agencies are involved in railway electrification works:

(i)	Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE), Allahabad	Under Ministry of Railways
(ii)	Zonal Railways	Under Ministry of Railways
(iii)	Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)	Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of Ministry of Railways
(iv)	Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON)	
(v)	Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES)	
(vi)	Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL)	Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of Ministry of Power

**Mapping of railway land**

2213. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the steps being taken by Government to locate and map railway land;
- (b) whether ISRO facilities are being utilised for this purpose;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the steps being taken for development of infrastructure on railway land, commercial utilisation and monetisation of such land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) A work costing ₹ 36.24 crore has already been sanctioned for locating and mapping of all fixed Railway assets including land on Geographical Information System (GIS) of Bhuvan Satellite Imagery of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Pilot of GIS mapping of Indian Railways network and land parcels has already been started on Delhi Division of Northern Railway.

(d) Indian Railways have about 0.51 lakh hectares of vacant land (not waste land) out of total land of 4.76 lakh hectares, which is mostly in the form of narrow strips along the tracks. The vacant land is utilized for execution of various infrastructural projects for meeting future growth needs of Railways which include projects like doubling/tripling and traffic facilities works, etc. Railways' operations also necessarily require development of ancillary logistic support/infrastructure such as bulk oil installations and oil depots, steel yards, concrete sleeper plants, coal dumps, connectivity to private sidings, connectivity to ports and other infrastructure, commercial plots, vending stalls, etc., for which land is leased/licensed. The vacant land, which is not required by Railways for its immediate operational needs, is utilized in the interim period for commercial development through Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), wherever feasible, in order to mobilize additional financial resources.

**Buxi Jagabandhu train**

2214. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways would introduce a new train, named after Buxi Jagabandhu, from Bhubaneswar/Khurda to Mumbai, as per the proposal of the Chief Minister of Odisha; and

(b) by when would Railways introduce Janashatabdi Express train service between Howrah to Nayagarh and an Intercity Express from Nayagarh to Visakhapatnam, as the Chief Minister of Odisha has requested for introduction of Express trains to the newly commissioned Nayagarh town railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present, there is no proposal to introduce direct train between Bhubaneswar/Khurda and Mumbai and between Nayagarh and Howrah/Visakhapatnam.

**Railway line from Mandir Hasaud to Kendri**

†2215. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a broad gauge railway line is being constructed from Mandir Hasaud to Kendri in Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether Railways would sanction the narrow gauge railway line service from Kendri to Dhamtari *via* Rajim in the first phase; and

(c) whether sanction would be accorded for developing Bhilai 3 (Charoda) railway station in Chhattisgarh and providing a stoppage for Express trains at this station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Kendri-Dhamtari including Abhanpur-Rajim (67.20 km.) gauge conversion project was sanctioned as material modification (II) to Raipur-Titlagarh doubling project in the year 2011-12 with 2/3 cost sharing by Government of Chhattisgarh as agreed in 2010. Now Government of Chhattisgarh has conveyed their refusal to bear the 2/3 cost of the above project.

(c) Deobaloda Charoda, a passenger halt situated at a distance of 4 km. from Bhilai, is presently being served by 1 pair of Mail/Express and 2 pairs of Passenger train services. At present, there is no proposal to provide stoppage of additional train services at this station.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Contractual staff in railways**

2216. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether contract staff are increasingly employed in Railways, for the last three years; and
- (b) if so, the details of the contract staff appointed in Railways during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the Zonal Railways and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Discount fare**

2217. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to introduce discount fare in the railway network;
- (b) if so, the plan details of Government and initiatives taken so far therein; and
- (c) the results along with comparative chart for last five years of railway earnings on base fare and high rated flexi fares?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The following discount/rebate is applicable in the passenger fare:—

- (i) 10% rebate in basic fare is given on vacant berths/seats after preparation of first chart in all trains including Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains *w.e.f.* 01.01.2017.
- (ii) Discounted fare has been offered for the passengers of Bengaluru City-Mysuru and Mysuru-Bengaluru City in 12007/12008 Chennai Central-Mysuru Shatabdi Express *w.e.f.* 20.12.2016 and for the passengers of New Jalpaiguri-Malda Town section in 12042 New Jalpaiguri-Howrah Shatabdi Express *w.e.f.* 15.11.2017. Further, review of passenger fare including increase/discount in passenger fare is an ongoing and continuous process.

(c) Earnings on base fare for all trains and flexi fare during last five years are as under:—

Financial year	Base fare earning for all trains (₹ in crore)	Base fare earning for Flexi fare trains (₹ in crore)
2013-14	17616.17	2559.31
2014-15	20694.20	2929.33
2015-16	21998.77	2989.27
2016-17	23477.98	3021.71
2017-18 (upto November 2017)	16992.59	2008.02

Flexi fare system has been introduced in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains w.e.f. 09.09.2016. Part of the month of one year is in 2016-17 and part of the month is in 2017-18. Therefore, the comparative total actual earnings (including all surcharges) for one year for the period September 2015 to August 2016 *vis a vis* September 2016 to August 2017 for flexi fare trains are as under:—

Month	Actual total earnings (₹ in crore approximately)		
	September 2015 to August 2016	September 16 to August 2017	Difference in earnings
September	274.92	286.34	11.42
October	323.59	364.56	40.97
November	336.80	380.07	43.27
December	357.45	411.72	54.27
January	334.73	395.80	61.07
February	304.11	353.75	49.64
March	342.38	392.87	50.49
April	366.79	429.14	62.36
May	410.02	498.46	88.45
June	364.53	452.80	88.27
July	330.95	355.83	24.87
August	299.80	310.89	11.09



**Integrated software for improved data analysis and usage**

2218. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways undertook a major IT initiative for an integrated software which can optimize about ₹ 50,000 crore for the national carrier over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the proposed integrated software envisages timely availability of actionable information for authorized persons at place of use and enable improved data analysis and usage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Indian Railways has implemented several IT applications in various domains viz., Ticketing and Passenger Service, Train Operations and Asset Management. With the advancement in technology, it is now feasible to integrate the various applications and reap benefits in terms of greater customer satisfaction, increased revenue, reduction in costs and improved efficiency in train operations.

In this direction, Indian Railways has embarked on the path of integration of IT applications. Some new IT projects viz., Master Data Management, Rail Cloud, Enterprise Service Bus for application integration and Enterprise Architecture have been sanctioned which will help in integration of various IT applications.

The proposed integration will help in timely availability of information for decision making.

**CCTV cameras in railway coaches**

2219. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of installation of CCTV cameras in railway coaches and how many trains have been fitted with CCTV cameras as on date;

(b) the reasons for delay in installation of CCTV cameras in all coaches to improve safety and security of passengers including women; and

(c) by when all long distance trains and Express trains would be provided with CCTV cameras in all coaches, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) CCTV cameras have been fitted in some important mainline trains. Details of fitment are given in the Statement (*See* below). CCTV cameras have also been provided in ladies compartment of 16 Diesel Electric Multiple Units (DEMU) rakes and 107 Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) coaches running in suburban section of Central Railway, Southern Railway and Western Railway.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Railways is now proposing to provide CCTV based surveillance system in passenger carrying trains using Nirbhaya Fund. Once the funding is finalized, the work for installation of CCTV cameras will be taken up.

***Statement***

*Details of fitment of CCTV cameras in mainline coaches*

Sl. No.	Zonal Railway	Number of coaches fitted with CCTV cameras	Train No.	Train Name
1	2	3	4	5
1.	North Eastern Railway	24	12595/ 12596, 12571/ 12572	Gorakhpur - Anand Vihar Humsafar Express
2.	Northeast Frontier Railway	24	12503/ 12504	Kamakhya-Bangalore Humsafar Express
3.	South Central Railway	16	22705/ 22706	Tirupati-Jammu Tawi Humsafar Express
4.	North Western Railway	21	22497/ 22498	Sriganganagar-Tiruchirappalli Humsafar Express
		5	12035/ 12036	Jaipur-Agra Fort Shatabdi Express
5.	East Coast Railway	24	22833/ 22834	Bhubaneswar-Krishnarajapuram Humsafar Express

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Western Railway	23	22919/ 22920	Ahmedabad-Chennai Humsafar Express
		23	22913/ 22914	Bandra -Patna Humsafar Express
7.	South East Central Railway	22	22867/ 22868	Durg- Nizamuddin Humsafar Express
8.	South Eastern Railway	22	22887/ 22888	Howrah-Yeshwantpur Humsafar Express
9.	Eastern Railway	10	12019/ 12020	Howrah-Ranchi Shatabdi Express
		17	12301/ 12302	Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express
		14	12313/ 12314	Sealdah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express
10.	South Western Railway	10	22691/ 22692	Bangalore-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express
11.	Northern Railway	13	22429/ 22430	Old Delhi-Pathankot Super Fast Express
12.	Central Railway	16	22119/ 22120	Mumbai - Karmali Tejas Express
		14	12025/ 12026	Pune - Secunderabad Shatabdi Express

#### Expanding the capacity of coach factory in Rae Bareli

2220. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to expand the capacity of the modern coach factory in Rae Bareli from 1,000 coaches to 5,000 coaches every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the next four to five years, the ICF coaches would become history;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Railways are considering to expand the production of LHB coaches at ICF factory in Chennai to over 6,000 coaches a year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The Ministry of Railways has constituted a Committee to assess the long term requirement of coaches and additional coaches. Planning for acquisition of the required number of coaches by various means, including ramping up of production at existing Production Units, is one of the Terms of Reference of this Committee. Any decision to expand the capacity of Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli, can be taken only once the Report of the Committee is finalised.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The plan for phasing out of the mainline coaches and examination of its physical and financial implications is also one of the Terms of Reference of the said Committee. The decision to phase out Integral Coach Factory coaches and time period for the same will be taken after receipt of the Report of the Committee.

(d) The Ministry of Railways has constituted a committee to assess long term requirement of coaches and additional coaches. The plan to acquire the required number of coaches by various means including ramping up of production at existing Production Units is one of the Terms of Reference of the Committee. The decision to expand the capacity of Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, shall be taken on receipt of the Report of the Committee.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Pending proposals received from State Government**

2221. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for railway projects received from various State Governments still pending with Railways, State-wise and project-wise;

(b) the details and the present status of proposals which have been approved during the last three years, State-wise and project-wise;

(c) the details of funds earmarked/allocated for implementation of such approved projects, State-wise and project-wise; and

(d) the time-frame set for the completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Proposals/suggestions/representations/complaints, both formal and informal regarding Railway projects are received from State Governments, Ministries of Central Government, Elected representatives, organizations/road users etc. by Railways at various levels including Railway Board, Zonal Railways, Division Office etc. As receipt of such proposals/complaints/suggestions is a continuous and dynamic process, centralized compendium of such requests is not maintained. Since Railway projects generally straddle over more than one State, these are neither surveyed nor sanctioned State-wise. Survey for new lines, gauge conversion of Meter Gauge lines to Broad Gauge and feasibility study etc. is a continuous and ongoing process of Indian Railways and is done based on demands raised by State Governments, Central Ministries, Members of Parliament, other public representatives and Railways' own requirement.

(b) and (c) Details of Railway projects included in Pink Book during the last three years *i.e.* 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017 are given in the Statement (*See* below). Many of these projects included in Pink Book are subject to requisite approvals. The projects which have received requisite clearances are in various stages of planning, estimation, tendering and land acquisition etc.

(d) The completion of railway projects requires clearances from various departments of State Government and Central Ministries like acquisition of land, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life clearances, cutting of trees, shifting of services, construction of road over bridges and road under bridges by road maintaining agencies, NOC from State Irrigation Department and Power Corporations, law & order issues like protests against compensation to land losers, public agitation over alignment, Extremism and Naxalite problems etc., which are beyond the control of Ministry of Railways. Moreover, the funds for completion of projects are allocated on yearly basis depending on the total budget outlay, progress made in each project and relative priority. Therefore, it is not feasible to fix time lines for completion of all these projects.

**Statement**

*Status of projects included in Pink Book during the last three years viz.  
2015-16, 2016-17 & 2017-18*

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Rly	State	PH	Project	Year	Total length (in km)	Latest Cost	Outlay 2017-18
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	CR	MAH	NL	Jeur-Ashti	2017-18	78	1560	10
2.	CR	MAH	NL	Phaltan to Pandharpur	2017-18	105	1149	100
3.	CR	MAH	NL	Hatkanangale-Ichalkarangi	2017-18	8	160	10
4.	ECOR	ORI	NL	Extension of Naupada-Gunupur new line upto Theruvali	2017-18	79	936	1
5.	ECR	BIH	NL	Wazerganj-Natesar via Gehlaur	2017-18	20	300	1
6.	NER	UP	NL	Padrauna-Kushinagar via Gorakhpur	2017-18	64	1345	1
7.	NER	UP	NL	Etah-Kasganj	2017-18	29	277	1
8.	NFR	NER, Assam	NL	Sibsagar-Jorhat	2017-18	62	1296	1
9.	NFR	NER, Assam	NL	Salona-khumtai	2017-18	99	5958	1
10.	NFR	NER, Assam	NL	Tezpur-Silghat	2017-18	25	2025	1
11.	NR	UP	NL	Una-Hamirpur	2017-18	50	2850	1
12.	NCR	UP	NL	Robertsganj to Mughalsarai via Madhupur, Sukrit, Ahrora	2017-18	70	1260	1
13.	NWR	RAJ, Guj	NL	Taranga Hill-Abu Road via Ambaji (89.38 Km)	2017-18	89	1696	10
14.	SCR	AP	NL	Vijayawada-Guntur via Amravati	2017-18	106	2680	1
15.	SWR	KAR	NL	Gadag-Yalvigi	2017-18	58	640	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
16.	WR	MP, Raj	NL	Nimach-Badi sadri	2017-18	48	475	1
17.	NCR	UP	GC	Mathura-Vrindavan	2017-18	11	98	1
18.	NER	UP	GC	Pilibhit-Shahjahanpur	2017-18	83	623	1
19.	NER	UP	GC	Nanpara-Nepalganj Road	2017-18	20	150	1
20.	NWR	RAJ	GC	Marwar-Mavli	2017-18	152	1597	1
21.	WR	GUJ	GC	Dabhoi-Chandod GC with extension upto Kevadiya	2017-18	50	692	1
22.	WR	GUJ	GC	Kalol-Kadi-Katosan Road	2017-18	37	279	1
23.	WR	GUJ	GC	Katosan Rd-Chanasma	2017-18	52	388	1
24.	WR	GUJ	GC	Chanasma-Ranuj	2017-18	13	96	1
25.	WR	GUJ	GC	Adraj Moti-Vijapur	2017-18	40	297	1
26.	WR	GUJ	GC	Vijapur-Ambliyan	2017-18	42	310	1
27.	WR	GUJ	GC	Khijadiya-Visavadar	2017-18	91	548	1
28.	WR	GUJ	GC	Junagarh-Visavadar	2017-18	42	254	1
29.	WR	GUJ	GC	Veraval-Talala-Visavadar	2017-18	72	460	1
30.	WR	GUJ	GC	Samni-Jambusar	2017-18	24	217	1
31.	WR	GUJ	GC	Jambusar-Vishvamitri	2017-18	48	434	1
32.	WR	GUJ	GC	Samlaya-Timba Road	2017-18	54	401	1
33.	WR	GUJ	GC	Nadiad-Petlad	2017-18	37	335	1
34.	WR	GUJ	GC	Petlad-Bhadran	2017-18	23	203	1
35.	WR	GUJ	GC	Talala-Delwada	2017-18	70	525	1
36.	WR	GUJ	GC	Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma	2017-18	55	355	1
37.	WR	GUJ	GC	Prachi Road-Kodinar	2017-18	26	193	1
38.	WR	GUJ	GC	Fatehabad Chandrawati Ganj-Ujjain	2017-18	23	245	1
39.	NCR	UP	DL	3rd Down line between Naini and Chheoki with additional Platform	2017-18	2	23	1
40.	NCR	UP	DL	4th line between Bhaupur-Panki connecting Dn Loop of Bhaupur to shunting neck of Panki.	2017-18	11	82	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
41.	NCR	UP	DL	Allahabad Division. Construction of Kanpur flyover.	2017-18	30	1790	1
42.	NER	UP	DL	Malhaur-Daliganj doubling with electrification	2017-18	13	111	1
43.	NFR	NER & Assam	DL	Saraighat Bridge	2017-18	7	888.32	1
44.	NFR	NER & Assam	DL	Kamakhya-New Guwahat Quadruppling	2017-18	10.3	3062	1
45.	NR	UP	DL	Chord line between Jaunpur Jn. & Jaunpur city.	2017-18	2	86.32	1
46.	NR	UP	DL	Janghai- Phaphamau doubling with electrification	2017-18	47	357.48	1
47.	NR	PUN	DL	Ludhiana-Kila Raipur(19 Kms) with freight line at Gill station on LDH-JHL section	2017-18	19	230.22	1
48.	NR	PUN	DL	Ludhiana-Mullanpur	2017-18	21	82.99	1
49.	NR	UP	DL	3rd & 4th Line between Barabanki-Malhaur (16.42 km)	2017-18	33	323.86	1
50.	NR	UP	DL	Third line between Varanasi- Mughalsarai (16.72 km) with substructure of two lines on Malviya Bridge.	2017-18	17	2005.15	1
51.	SER		DL	Connections of DMF-LINK "C" line with BZR Station.	2017-18	2	34.93	1
52.	SER		DL	Provision of connection of line between Radhanagar siding line of Adra Division to Barachak and Y connection to Sitaram- pur station of Asansol Division.	2017-18	10	39.93	1
53.	SR		DL	Salem-Magnesite Junction- Omalur	2017-18	11	76.43	1
54.	WR	GUJ	DL	Anand-Godhara	2017-18	79	683	1



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
55.	CR	MAH	NL	Indore-Manmad <i>via</i> Malegaon	2016-17	368	4984	150
56.	CR	MAH	NL	Pune-Nasik	2016-17	265	2425	225
57.	CR	MAH	NL	Vaibhavwadi-Kolhapur	2016-17	107	3750	250
58.	ECOR	ORI	NL	Jeypore-Malkan giri	2016-17	130	2170	79
59.	ECOR	ORI	NL	Jeypore-Nabarangpur	2016-17	38	738	275
60.	ECR	BIH	NL	Vikramshila-Katareah (Pirpainthi-Naughachia)	2016-17	18	1601	2
61.	ER	WB, JHA	NL	Chitra-Basukinath	2016-17	37	859	50.01
62.	ER	JHA	NL	Gooda-Pakur	2016-17	80	1722	50.01
63.	NER	UP	NL	Sahjanwa-Dohrighat	2016-17	70.45	743.54	10
64.	NER	UP	NL	Bahraich-Shravasti-Balrampur/ Tulsipur	2016-17	80	1600	30
65.	NFR	WB	NL	Haldibari-International Border	2016-17	3	67	30
66.	NR	UP, Har	NL	Meerut-Panipat	2016-17	104	2200	32
67.	NR	PUN	NL	Rajpura-Mohali	2016-17	24	406	2
68.	SECR	CHH	NL	Dongargarh-Kharigarh-Bilaspur	2016-17	270	2500	1.01
69.	SECR	CHH	NL	Dharamjaigarh-Korba	2016-17	63	1155	100.01
70.	SR	TN	NL	Morappur-Dharmapuri	2016-17	36	134	0.1
71.	WCR		NL	Indore-Jabalpur	2016-17	342	4320	0.5
72.	WR	GUJ	NL	Bhimnath-Dholera	2016-17	28	280	40
73.	NER	UP	GC	Indara-Dohrighat	2016-17	34	120	15
74.	NER	UP	GC	Bahraich-Mailani incl bypass at Mailani	2016-17	230	1900	17
75.	CR	MAH	DL	Daund-Manmad	2016-17	236	1875	32
76.	CR	MAH	DL	Manmad-Jalgaon 3rd line	2016-17	160	854	26
77.	CR	MAH	DL	Wardha-Nagpur 4th line	2016-17	76	912	21
78.	CR	MAH	DL	Jalgaon-Bhusawal 4th line	2016-17	24	199	25
79.	ECR	BIH	DL	Karota Patner-Mankatha surface triangle line	2016-17	10	130.9	10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
80.	ECR	BIH	DL	Sagauli-Valmikinagar	2016-17	109.7	744.04	1
81.	ECR	BIH	DL	Gaya Bypass line for Manpur	2016-17	2	12.56	10
82.	ECR	BIH	DL	Muzaffarpur-Sagauli	2016-17	100.6	731.64	2
83.	ECR	JHA	DL	Garwa Road Rail over rail	2016-17	10	48.73	1
84.	ECR	JHA	DL	Gomoh Flyover for down trains	2016-17	15	94.56	5
85.	NCR	UP	DL	Jhansi-Khairar-Manikpur & Khairar-Bhimsen	2016-17	411	3000	10
86.	NCR	UP	DL	Yamuna Br.-Agra Fort With major Br at Yamuna river	2016-17	2	107.73	10
87.	NCR	UP	DL	Iradatganj-Kunwadih - const. of flyover	2016-17	20.1	1838.75	10
88.	NCR	UP	DL	Karchana-Iradatganj - const. of flyover	2016-17	2	563.1	10
89.	NCR	UP	DL	Naini-Iradatganj - const. of flyover	2016-17	12	675.95	10
90.	NCR	UP	DL	Jeonathpur - flyover	2016-17	13	738.99	10
91.	NCR	UP	DL	Mathura-Murhesi Rampur- flyover	2016-17	11.08	210	7
92.	NCR	UP	DL	Flyover at Aligarh	2016-17	25	1457.89	7
93.	NCR	UP	DL	Lalitpur-Birari with flyover at Lalitpur	2016-17	16	260	7
94.	NER	UP	DL	Domingarh-GKP-GKP Cantt- Kusumhi	2016-17	21.15	116.72	20
95.	NER	UP	DL	Burhwal-Gonda 3rd line	2016-17	61.72	602.49	20
96.	NER	UP	DL	Shahganj-Bhatni-Phephna- Indara, Mau-Sahaganj excl Mau-Indara	2016-17	150,28	922.84	30
97.	NER	UP	DL	Bhatni-Aurnihar with RE excl Mau-Indara	2016-17	116.95	936	40
98.	NER	UP	DL	Aurnihar-Jaunpur	2016-17	68	600	39

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
99.	NFR	WB	DL	New Maynaguri-Gumanihat (remaining section)	2016-17	51.65	556.31	10
100.	NR	UP	DL	Barabanki-Akbarpur	2016-17	161	1200	5
101.	NR	UP	DL	Janghai-Pratapgarh-Amethi	2016-17	87	700	7
102.	NR	UP	DL	Jaunpur-Tanda	2016-17	94	831	1
103.	NR	UP, Del	DL	Delhi-Shamli-Tapri incl SRE bypass	2016-17	175	1500	11
104.	SCR	AP	DL	Guntur-Guntakal	2016-17	443	4000	124
105.	SER	WB, ODI	DL	Narayangarh-Bhadrak 3rd line	2016-17	155	2037.13	20
106.	SER	WB	DL	Damodar-Mohishila	2016-17	8	70.91	35
107.	SER	ODI	DL	Bondamunda-Rourkela 4th line	2016-17	9.3	83.79	45
108.	SR	Kar	DL	Netravati-Mangalore	2016-17	1.5	18.93	5
109.	SWR	KAR	DL	Birur-Shimoga	2016-17	60	500	2
110.	WCR	MP	DL	Powerkheda-Jujharpur single line flover in UP direction	2016-17	12	162.63	10
111.	WCR	MP	DL	Jukehi chord line at Katni	2016-17	0.53	6.23	2
112.	WR	MP	DL	Nagda-Ujjain - Doubling of Gambhir Bridge	2016-17	0.44	31.29	10
113.	WR	MP	DL	Indore-Dewas-Ujjain	2016-17	80	700	20
114.	CR	MAH	NL	Karad-Chiplun	2015-16	112	1200	300
115.	CR	MAH	NL	Dighi Port-Roha	2015-16	34	723.78	100
116.	NER	UP	NL	Mau-Ghazipur-Tarighat	2015-16	51	1765.92	150
117.	NWR	RAJ	NL	Ajmer-Sawai Madhopur	2015-16	165	873.77	30
118.	WR	GUJ	GC	GC of Ahmedabad-Mahesana for doubling	2015-16	70	420	128.13
119.	CR	MAH	DL	3rd line bet. Pune-Lonvala	2015-16			
120.	CR	MAH, KAR	DL	Pune-Miraj-Londa	2015-16	467	3627.47	280
121.	CR	MAH	DL	Wardha-Ballarshah 3rd line	2015-16	132	1272	65

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
122. CR	MAH, MP	DL	Itarsi- Nagpur 3rd line. Bal.	2015-16	280	2450	60	
123. CR	MP	DL	Construction of 3rd line between Dharakho and Maramjhiri Ghat section.	2015-16			0	
124. CR	MAH	DL	Construction of 3rd line between Teegaon and Chichonda Ghat section	2015-16	17	175.66	12	
125. ECoR	ORI, AP	DL	Vizianagram-Titlagarh (Sambalpur) 3rd line	2015-16	263.65	2336	90	
126. ECoR	ORI	DL	3rd & 4th line between Jarapaada- Budhapank with flyover at Talcher.	2015-16	91	702	138	
127. ECoR	ORI	DL	3rd & 4th line between line between Budhapank-Salegaon via Rajatgarh.	2015-16	170	1173	195	
128. ECoR	ORI, AP	DL	3rd line in balance section bet. Bhadrak-Vizianagram	2015-16	525	5250	150	
129. ECoR	ORI, AP	DL	Kottavalasa-Koraput	2015-16	189	2500	250	
130. ECoR	ORI	DL	Koraput-Singapur Rd.	2015-16	164	2362	220	
131. ECoR	ORI, AP	DL	Byepass at Khurda Rd., Vizianagram.	2015-16	1.61	25.22	9.45	
132. ECoR	ORI, CHH	DL	Jagdulpur-Koraput doubling	2015-16	110	1547	200	
133. ECR	JHA, UP, MP	DL	Ramna-Singrauli	2015-16	160	2436	25	
134. ECR	JHA	DL	3rd line bet. Patratu-Sonnagar (Dhanbad-Sonnagar)	2015-16	291	3406	70	
135. ECR	BIH	DL	Hajipur-Bachwara	2015-16	72	679	75	
136. ECR	BIH	DL	Samastipur - Darbhanga	2015-16	38	491	50	
137. ECR	BIH	DL	Kiul- Gaya	2015-16	124	1200	100	
138. ECR	UP	DL	Karaila Road-Mahadia section	2015-16			0	
139. ECR	JHA	DL	Ramna - Windhamganj section	2015-16			0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
140. ECR	UP	DL	Billi-Chopan (Renukut-Chopan)	2015-16	7.89	93.29	20	
141. ECR	UP	DL	Karaila Road-Shaktinagar section	2015-16	32.15	528.57	15	
142. ECR	JHA	DL	Ranchi Road-Patratu section patch doubling.	2015-16	31	348	25	
143. ECR	BIH	DL	Additional bridge and doubling between Rampur Dumra-Tal-Raj endrapul	2015-16	14	1491	120	
144. ER	WB	DL	Nimtita-Farakka (Sagardighi-Malda Town)	2015-16	25	248	20	
145. WCR	MP	DL	Satna-Rewa doubling	2015-16	50	403.49	42.68	
146. NCR	UP	DL	3rd line Mughalsarai-Allahabad	2015-16				
147. NCR	WB, JHA, UP	DL	Byepass at Sainthia, Sitarampur, Mughalsarai, Allahabad, Etawah	2015-16	35	400	1	
148. NCR	UP, MP	DL	Jhansi-Bina 3rd line	2015-16	153	2002	430.23	
149. NCR	UP, HAR	DL	Mathura-Palwal 4th line	2015-16	80	669	250	
150. NCR	UP, MP	DL	Mathura-Jhansi 3rd line	2015-16	274	3678	255.36	
151. NER	UP	DL	Rosa-Sitapur Cantt-Burwal	2015-16	180.77	1295.42	200	
152. NER	UP	DL	Ballia-Gazipur city doubling	2015-16	65.1	448	75	
153. NFR	NER & Assam	DL	Bongaigaon- Goalpara-Guwahati doubling	2015-16	176	2232.32	250	
154. NFR	NER & Assam	DL	Digarua-Hojai doubling	2015-16	102	870.96	150	
155. NR	UP	DL	Alamnagar-Utretia	2015-16	20	200	50	
156. NR	PUN	DL	Rajpura-Bhatinda	2015-16	172.64	1251.25	100	
157. NR	UP	DL	Muzaffarnagar - Tapri	2015-16	51.53	376.78	100	
158. NER	UP	DL	Varanasi-Madhosingh-Allahabad	2015-16	120	751	0	
159. NR	HAR	DL	Doubling of Rohtak-Bhiwani	2015-16			0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
160. NR	HAR	DL		Bye-Pass Ambala (Mohri-Sambhu)	2015-16			0
161. NWR	RAJ	DL		Phulera- Digana	2015-16	108.75	611.53	201
162. SCR	AP	DL		3rd line bet. Duvvada-Vijaywada	2015-16	335	3350	7.5
163. SCR	TEL, MAHA	DL		3rd line of balance section bet. Kazipet -Ballarshah	2015-16	201	2063	160
164. SCR	AP, KAR	DL		Doubling bet. Gooty-Dharmavaram-Banglore.	2015-16	90.2	636.38	75
165. SCR	AP	DL		Doubling bet. Kalluru-Guntakal	2015-16	41	323	52
166. SCR	TEL	DL		Doubling of Secunderabad-Mehboobnagar	2015-16	85	728.1	50
167. SCR	AP, KAR	DL		Byepass at Renigunta, Dharmavaram, Wadi	2015-16	21	273	10
168. SCR	AP, TEL	DL		Byepass at Vijayawada, Kazipet	2015-16	30.15	499.29	125
169. SCR	AP	DL		Vijaywada- Gudur 3rd line	2015-16	287	3246	100
170. SECR	CHH, ODI	DL		4th line bet. Jharsuguda-Bilaspur	2015-16	206	1973.64	60
171. SECR	CHH, MP	DL		3rd line bet. Pendra Road-Anuppur (Bilaspur-Anuppur)	2015-16	50.1	393.98	60
172. SECR	MP	DL		3rd line Anuppur-Katni	2015-16	165.52	1370.94	95
173. SECR	CHH	DL		Gevra Rd-Pendra Rd	2015-16	122	1450	200
174. SECR	CHH, ODI	DL		Flyover/Bye pass required in Jharsuguda-Bilaspur section 206 Km.	2015-16	10	299.65	50
175. SECR	CHH, MAH	DL		Rajnandgaon-Nagpur 3rd line	2015-16	228	1908.51	248
176. SER	ODI, JHA	DL		Bondamunda-Ranchl	2015-16	158.5	1724.2	160
177. SER	ODI	DL		Rourkela-Jharsuguda 3rd line	2015-16	101	969.83	150
178. SER	WB	DL		Kharagpur-Adityapur 3rd line	2015-16	132	1312.44	80
179. SER	WB	DL		Mohishila - Kalipahari (Link) with 1 additional loop line at MOH station	2015-16	5	42.1	27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
180.	SER	JHA	DL	CKP-GOL 3rd line (34 Km)	2015-16	34	354.54	50
181.	SR	TN, KER	DL	Trivandrum- Kanyakumari	2015-16	85	900	50
182.	SR	TN	DL	Madurai- Maniyachi-Tuticorin	2015-16	80	800	30
183.	SR	KER	DL	Turavur- Ambalapuzha	2015-16	50	1000	30
184.	SR	TN	DL	Maniyachi- Nagercoil	2015-16	170	1700	30
185.	SWR	KAR	DL	Hubli-Chikjajur	2015-16	190	1140.94	200
186.	SWR	KAR	DL	Arsikere-Tumkur	2015-16	96	578	140
187.	SWR	KAR, AP	DL	Yelahanka-Penukonda	2015-16	121	860.43	120
188.	WCR	MP	DL	3rd line between Katni and Bina	2015-16	278.7	2478.23	254
189.	WCR	MP	DL	Grade separator/Byepass at Katni.	2015-16	21.5	582.13	200
190.	WCR	MP	DL	Katni- Singrauli doubling	2015-16	261	1762.94	225
191.	WCR	MP	DL	Malkhedi-Mahadevkhedi.	2015-16	8.7	54.32	0.0001
192.	WCR	MP	DL	ET-JBP section: Patch doubling between Sontalai-Bagra tawa station.	2015-16	7	96.44	40
193.	WR	GUJ	DL	4th line Vatwa- Ahmedabad-Sabarmati	2015-16	17.9	231.43	20
194.	WR	GUJ	DL	Surendranagar-Rajkot	2015-16	116	1002.39	250.7
195.	WR	GUJ	DL	Nimach-Chittaurgarh	2015-16	56	389.98	80

NL- New Line, GC- Gauge Conversion, DL- Doubling

CR-Central Railway  
ER-Eastern Railway  
ECR-East Central Railway  
ECoR-East Coast Railway  
NR-Northern Railway  
NER-North Eastern Railway  
NCR- North Central Railway  
NFR- Northeast Frontier Railway

AP- Andhra Pradesh  
BIH- Bihar  
CHH- Chhattisgarh  
Del- Delhi  
GUJ- Gujarat  
HAR- Haryana  
HP-Himachal Pradesh  
JHA- Jharkhand  
KAR- Karnataka  
KER- Kerala  
MAH- Maharashtra

NWR-North Western Railway  
SR- Southern Railway  
SCR-South Central Railway  
SER-South Eastern Railway  
SECR-Southeast Central Railway  
SWR-South Western Railway  
WR- Western Railway  
WCR- West Central Railway

MP-Madhya Pradesh  
ORI, ODI-Odisha  
PUN- Punjab  
RAJ- Rajasthan  
TEL-Telangana  
TN- Tamil Nadu  
UP- Uttar Pradesh  
UTRA- Uttarakhand  
WB- West Bengal  
NER-North Eastern Region

**Progress of railway projects in Madhya Pradesh**

†2222. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of approvals granted and progress made with regard to construction of proposed new railway lines, under construction railway lines, construction of the railway over bridges and underpasses in the State of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): At present, 36 projects consisting of 8 New Lines, 5 Gauge Conversion and 23 Doublings falling partly or fully in the State of Madhya Pradesh are in different stages of execution. Details of these projects are as under:

(₹ in crore)				
Sl. No.	Name of Project	Length (in km)	Year of sanction	Latest anticipated cost
1	2	3	4	5
<b>New lines</b>				
1.	Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Singrauli, & Mahoba-Khajuraho	541	1997-98	3500
2.	Ramganjmandi-Bhopal	262	2000-01	2348
3.	Chhota Udepur-Dhar	158	2007-08	1825
4.	Dahod-Indore <i>via</i> Sardarpur, Jhabua & Dhar (200.97 km) including MM for change in alignment <i>via</i> Amjhera (4.82 km)	206	2007-08	1942
5.	Ratlam-Dungarpur <i>via</i> Banswara	176	2011-12	3450
6.	Indore-Jabalpur*	342	2016-17	4320
7.	Indore-Manmad <i>via</i> Malegaon*	368	2016-17	9968
8.	Nimach-Badi Sadri*	48	2017-18	475
<b>Gauge conversion</b>				
1.	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi (285 km) & MM Katangi-Tirodi New Line (15 km)	300	1996-97	1544

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



1	2	3	4	5
2.	Chhindwara-Nagpur	150	2005-06	1101
3.	Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa-Akola (472.64 km) with new MM Fatehabad-Chandrawati Ganj-Ujjain (22.96 km)	496	2008-09	2265
4.	Chhindwara-Mandla Fort	182	2010-11	816
5.	Gwalior-Sheopurkalan with extension to Kota	284	2010-11	3845
<b>Doubling</b>				
1.	Bhopal-Bina 3rd line	145	2008-09	1200
2.	Budhni-Barkhera 3rd line	33	2010-11	992
3.	Bina-Kota including MM of Malkhedi - Mahadevkhedi.	283	2011-12	1486
4.	Barkhera-Habibganj 3rd line	41	2012-13	327
5.	Itarsi-Budhni 3rd line	26	2012-13	278
6.	Anuppur-Katni 3rd line	166	2015-16	1371
7.	Bilaspur (Pendra Road)-Anuppur 3rd line	50	2015-16	394
8.	Teegaon-Chichonda Ghat section 3rd line	17	2015-16	176
9.	Itarsi-Nagpur (Balance) 3rd line with Dharakho-Maramjhiri Ghat section 3rd line	280	2015-16	2450
10.	Jhansi-Bina 3rd line	153	2015-16	2002
11.	Katni-Bina 3rd line	279	2015-16	2478
12.	Katni Grade Separator Bypass line	22	2015-16	582
13.	Katni-Singrauli	261	2015-16	1763
14.	Mathura-Jhansi 3rd line	274	2015-16	3678
15.	Nimuch-Chittaurgarh	56	2015-16	390
16.	Ramna-Singrauli	160	2015-16	2436
17.	Satna-Rewa	50	2015-16	403
18.	Sontalai-Bagratawa patch doubling	7	2015-16	96
19.	Indore-Dewas-Ujjain*	80	2016-17	700

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Jhansi-Khairar-Manickpur & Khairar Bhimsen*	411	2016-17	3000
21.	Jukehi Chord line at Katni	1	2016-17	12
22.	Nagda-Ujjain Doubling of Gambhir Bridge*	1	2016-17	28
23.	Powarkheda-Jujharpur single line flyover in up direction	12	2016-17	247

\* included in Budgets subject to requisite Government approvals.

Ongoing number of works of Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges/Subways sanctioned in the State of Madhya Pradesh as on November, 2017 are as under:

State	Road Over Bridges	Road Under Bridges/Subways
Madhya Pradesh	106	417

#### **Periodic overhauling of railway coaches**

2223. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during recent safety audits, it has been found that hundreds of railway coaches have not been overhauled or serviced periodically;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has allocated any funds for the periodic overhauling/servicing of railway coaches;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being taken in this regard;

(d) the steps taken by Government to replace the old damaged and outdated rail coaches with new ones; and

(e) the details of the rail coaches replaced in the last three years, Zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. No such information is available. All the coaches running on Indian Railways are periodically overhauled as prescribed in maintenance manuals/instructions. The Government has allocated ₹8560 crore in Budget Estimates 2017-18 for the periodic overhauling/servicing of railway coaches.

(d) and (e) Acquisition of new coaches for replacement of over-aged stock is a continuous process on Indian Railways. Coaches are replaced after attaining their prescribed codal life or prematurely in case of heavy damage to structural members.

The details of the coaches replaced in the last three years, zone-wise are as under:

Zonal Railway	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Central Railway	128	78	147
Eastern Railway	135	92	124
Northern Railway	148	219	229
North Eastern Railway	38	132	29
Northeast Frontier Railway	61	53	59
Southern Railway	217	112	270
South Central Railway	83	127	150
South Eastern Railway	56	93	84
Western Railway	90	150	157
East Central Railway	26	37	28
East Coast Railway	36	38	65
North Central Railway	18	22	33
North Western Railway	49	36	51
South East Central Railway	24	17	29
South Western Railway	64	67	103
West Central Railway	83	12	26
TOTAL	1256	1285	1584

#### Staff crunch in Railways

2224. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the month-wise details of vacancies of staff under the safety category, as of October, 2017;

(b) whether Ministry has taken any steps to fill these vacancies, if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;

(c) whether Ministry specifies optimum number of hours that employees should be working per day to ensure safety, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether railway employees have been working beyond duty hours due to staff crunch and raised this concern at the Joint Consultative Machinery, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The number of vacancies of staff under the safety category, as on 31.10.2017 over Zonal Railways is 1,41,565 (Provisional).

(b) Recruitment process in Railways for staff under safety category is being done regularly through authorized recruiting agencies, namely, Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) and Railway Recruitment Cells (RRCs). Fresh notifications for Safety-categories in Group 'C' viz. Assistant Loco Pilots and Technicians and Senior Section Engineers and Junior Engineers, respectively, are planned in 2017-18. Vacancies in Level-I are also planned to be filled in the near future.

(c) Railway Ministry does not specify the optimum number of hours that employees should be working per day to ensure safety. However, the hours of work and periods of rest of all Railway servants (including staff in safety categories) are governed by The Railways Act, 1989 (Chapter XIV) and subsidiary rules made thereunder, i.e. Railway Servants (Hours of work and periods of rest) Rules, 2005.

(d) Yes, Sir. Staff side has raised this issue in the meeting (held on 03.05.2017) of the Standing Committee (Chaired by Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training) of National Council of Joint Consultative Machinery.

#### **Purchase of train coaches**

2225. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any final decision to purchase train coaches from China; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Contract was placed in the year 2015 after inviting Global Tender and duly following Government norms.

**Cost-benefit analysis of Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train**

2226. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Thailand recently approved a 3000 kilometer Chinese bullet train to link Bangkok with China for 5.5 billion US dollars while India approved a 500 kilometer train for 17 billion US dollars;

(b) whether the Government has done a thorough cost-benefit analysis before committing itself to the Ahmedabad-Mumbai high speed link; and

(c) whether apart from China and Japan, the Ministry is exploring other options for adoption of 'bullet train' technology on other routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Government do not have confirmed information regarding the Chinese bullet train project in Thailand. The estimated cost of the 508 km Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project is ₹ 1,08,000 crore. Inter country comparison of cost of high speed rail projects is not appropriate as projects vary in terms of speed/technical parameters, period of execution, scale of economics due to size of high speed network being implemented, and other local/ geographical conditions.

(b) Cooperation with Japan and Japanese technology was decided based on the feasibility study conducted which included the financial and economic returns of the Project, safety record of Shinkansen and concessional financing and technological support made available by Japan. Besides, the project is sanctioned on the premise of transfer to technology and Make in India.

(c) Mumbai-Ahmedabad is the only High Speed Rail Project sanctioned by Government so far.

**Design contest for developing railway stations**

2227. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to conduct a design contest for redeveloping three railway stations across the country;

(b) whether Railways invited global proposals to develop these stations according to international standards;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited has been mandated with developing new railway stations and redeveloping existing ones; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC), a Joint Venture of IRCON (a Government of India Undertaking, under Ministry of Railways) and Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), a statutory authority under the Ministry of Railways, has launched an International design competition for developing the design of three railway stations namely, Baiyappanahalli (Bengaluru), Gwalior and Nagpur.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) has been mandated with developing new Railway Stations/ redeveloping the existing ones.

At present, eight (08) stations viz., Anand Vihar, Bijwasan, Chandigarh, Gandhinagar, Habibganj (Bhopal), Shivaji Nagar (Pune), Sabarmati and Surat have been entrusted to IRSDC for redevelopment.

#### **Result of RRB, Ranchi**

2228. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is aware of the long pending cases with regard to result of Railway Recruitment Board (RRB), Ranchi, if so, the reasons therefor along with the details thereof;

(b) whether stammering cases are considered against reserved vacancy, if not, the laid-down rule in this regard; and

(c) whether any such cases of stammering are pending for recruitment, if so, by when and the reasons for long pendency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) There is no pending case of result of Railway Recruitment Board (RRB), Ranchi.

(b) No, Sir. Three percent of the vacancies in case of direct recruitment to Group 'C' and 'D' posts are reserved for persons with disabilities of which one percent each are reserved for persons suffering from (i) blindness or low vision, (ii) hearing impairment and (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy in the posts identified for each disability.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Restructuring of group 'B' officers**

2229. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any policy on restructuring of Group 'B' Officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the restructuring of Group 'B' Officers of Railways has not taken place since long;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Railways thereto; and

(e) whether Railways have any proposal to review its policy to give room to Group 'B' Officers too?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Consequent to implementation of Government's decision on the recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission, Group 'B' Officers of Indian Railways have been granted non-functional scale of ₹8000-13500/- (PB-3 GP 5400/- in 6th CPC) on 80:20 ratio after completion of 3 years. The 7th CPC has recommended to grant the non-functional scale (*i.e.* Level-10) on 100% basis after completion of 4 years in Level-8 & 9 of Group 'B'.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) At present, all posts in Group 'B' are filled up through promotion. After completion of minimum of three years of regular service, the incumbents become eligible for being placed in the higher non-functional Group 'B' grade as well as for being considered for promotion to Jr.Scale/Group 'A' of 8 organized services.

**Reports of enquiry committees on train accidents**

‡2230. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the reports of enquiry committees, set up after train accidents, are never made public;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) if not, the details of reports of the enquiry committees constituted to investigate train accidents that occurred during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The brief details of the Departmental Accident Inquiry Reports of Consequential Train Accidents are being published through the Zonal Railway websites for the information of general public.

(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. However, the details of accidents enquiry committee reports are not being maintained in the Ministry.

**Global tender for procurement of rails**

2231. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways have floated a global tender to procure rails;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Railways expect annual demand for steel rails to rise to 1.5 million tonnes in the year ending March, 2017 from about 800,000 tonnes in the prior 12 month period; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

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‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



(b) Notice inviting global tender for rail procurement, following two packet system was floated on 18.10.2017. The Pre-Bid Conference for this Tender was held on 21.11.2017. The technical bids (Packet-I) of tender for procurement of 4,87,000 Metric Tonnes of 60 Kg UIC rails have been opened on 22.12.2017.

(c) and (d) Requirement of rails for the year 2016-17 was assessed as 8.25 lakh MT and for the year 2015-16 it was 8.12 lakh MT.

#### **Maintenance of quarters at road-side railway stations**

†2232. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds released during the last three years for the maintenance of quarters of railway employees, situated on road-side stations in North Eastern Railways, division-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to lack of proper maintenance, majority of railway quarters of the road-side stations are in a dilapidated condition; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Repair/maintenance and improvement to staff quarters is a continuous process and works in this regard are taken up every year in a phased manner based on availability of funds. The Division-wise details of amount spent for the maintenance of quarters of railway employees, situated on road-side stations in North Eastern Railway during the last three years are as under:

Division	Amount (₹ in crore) spent in last three years (2014-2017)
Izzatnagar	14.92
Lucknow	7.40
Varanasi	12.67
TOTAL	34.99

The majority of Railway Quarters situated on road-side Stations in North Eastern Railway are in good livable condition.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Upgradation of Nautanwa railway station**

†2233. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to upgrade Nautanwa railway station under North Eastern Railways, near Nepal border and making it a terminal; and

(b) the number of trains currently operating from this station for Delhi and Mumbai and whether there is a plan of operating more trains from there in view of the load of the passengers at this station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. The following works for upgradation of Nautanwa railway station have been planned and taken up:

- Raising of platform number 2.
- Yard remodelling work.
- Work for provision of Watering Facility.
- Work for provision of Foot Over Bridge and improvement of Circulating Area.

(b) At present, there is no direct train operating for Delhi and Mumbai from Nautanwa.

However, at present 02 pairs of Mail/Express and 06 pairs of Passenger services are originating from Nautanwa. Besides, introduction of new trains is an on-going process in Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification, availability of resources, etc.

**Hotel facilities at all major railway stations**

2234. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are going to start hotel facilities at all major railway stations in the country; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

#### **Shortage of staff in Railways**

2235. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway employees had raised safety issues long before a series of railway accidents, at a meeting of the Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) on 3 May, 2017;

(b) whether the staff side had warned Government at the meeting that the railway employees were working long beyond duty hours, amid a staff crunch forced by a ban on recruitment;

(c) whether Government had denied a ban on recruitment but admitted that the hiring process is slow; and

(d) whether no new posts are being created when a new service or train is introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. In the meeting of Standing Committee of National Council (JCM) chaired by Secretary (P), Department of Personnel and Training held on 3rd May, 2017, Staff Side conveyed their concern about shortage of staff in the Railways.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Staff side had contended that employees are working beyond duty hours. However, Chairman of Standing Committee of National Council of Joint Consultative Machinery *i.e.* Secretary (P) clarified that there is no ban on recruitment on posts in view of Department of Expenditure's clarification.

(c) Yes, Sir. There is no ban on recruitment to non-gazetted posts on the Railways from the open market. Recruitment is done through a laid down procedure involving multi stages of examination and medical examination of candidates involved. This takes some time. However, Railways have recently adopted the conduct of Computer Based Test, which will not only reduce the time gap but also bring greater transparency, objectivity and credibility.

(d) No, Sir. Creation and filling up of posts is a continuous process. Posts are created as per requirement following due procedure by Zonal Railways.

**Review of old railway bridges**

2236. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of railway bridges collapsed in last ten years till date;
- (b) the number of persons killed and injured separately as a result of bridge collapse;
- (c) whether there has been a delay in sanctioning and completion of sanctioned bridge works resulting in risk of bridge collapse, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether Government has ordered a review of old bridges in need of repair, if so, the details thereof and the timeline fixed by Railways to repair all the old railway bridges across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) During the last ten years, 12 Railway Bridges have been damaged due to heavy rains/floods etc. However, no person was killed/injured as a result of damages to these bridges.

(c) and (d) As on 01.04.2017, there are 1,44,698 Railway Bridges of varying ages on Indian Railways' network. However, the age of the bridge does not have any direct relevance on the physical condition of the bridge. There is a well established system of inspection of bridges on Indian Railways. All the bridges are inspected twice a year, one before the onset of monsoon and one detailed inspection after the monsoon. 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 age. 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.

Highest priority is accorded to the works having bearing on safety of train operations and accordingly, the works are sanctioned and executed. During the last five

years, 3675 Railway Bridges have been repaired/strengthened/rehabilitated/rebuilt. As on 01.04.2017, 3017 Railway Bridges have been sanctioned for repairing/strengthening/rehabilitation/rebuilding.

### **Increase in crimes in Railways**

2237. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report for 2016 stating that the crimes under Indian Penal Code witnessed an increase of over 34 per cent in two years from 31,609 in 2014 to 42,388 in 2016 in Indian Railways, making travelling by trains getting riskier; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the crimes registered by GRP in these two years and the action being taken to check the crimes in Railways effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/ District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP in providing better protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith.

The State-wise details of the crime registered by GRP under Indian Penal Code (IPC) in the year 2014 and 2016 as published by the National Crime Record Bureau in 'Crime in India 2014 Statistics' and 'Crime in India 2016 Statistics' are given in the Statement (*See below*).

However, following steps are being taken to check the crimes in Railways effectively:

1. On vulnerable and identified routes/sections, 2500 trains (on an average) are escorted by Railway Protection Force daily, in addition to 2200 trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States daily.
2. Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras, provided at about 394 stations over Indian Railways, to ensure safety and security of passengers.
3. Security Help Line number 182 is made operational over Indian Railways for security related assistance to passengers in distress.

4. An Integrated Security System consisting of surveillance of vulnerable stations through Close Circuit Television Camera Network, Access Control etc. has been sanctioned to improve surveillance mechanism over 202 railway stations.
5. Ladies Special trains running in Metropolitan cities are being escorted by lady RPF personnel. The train escorting parties have been briefed to keep extra vigil on the ladies coaches en route and at halting stations in long distance trains.
6. Through various social media platforms viz. Twitter, Facebook etc., Railways are in regular touch with passengers to enhance security of passengers and to address their security concern.
7. Drives are conducted from time to time against the entry of unauthorized persons in trains and railway premises.
8. Liaison is made by RPF with the State Police/GRP authorities at all levels for prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains.

***Statement***

*State-wise details of the crime registered by GRP under Indian Penal Code (IPC) in the year 2014 and 2016 as published by the National Crime Record Bureau in 'Crime in India 2014 Statistics' and 'Crime in India 2016 Statistics'*

States/UT	IPC Crime registered by GRP in year 2014	IPC Crime registered by GRP in year 2016
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	1713	1817
Assam	319	495
Bihar	2423	2287
Chhattisgarh	400	550
Gujarat	1111	1562
Haryana	1139	1570
Himachal Pradesh	9	10

1	2	3
Jammu and Kashmir	35	55
Jharkhand	553	572
Karnataka	948	1422
Kerala	508	307
Madhya Pradesh	3778	5082
Maharashtra	5585	7358
Odisha	1006	1127
Punjab	372	491
Rajasthan	1511	1336
Tamil Nadu	866	855
Telangana	860	1136
Tripura	9	8
Uttar Pradesh	5158	8293
West Bengal	1490	1749
Delhi UT	1816	4306
TOTAL	31609	42388

### Social sector subsidies of railways

2238. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are looking for ways to do away with its social sector subsidies of about ₹30,000 crore a year;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations received by Railways on segregation of the Railways' social responsibility from its operational finances;

(c) whether Railways posted its worst operating ratio in 16 years, at 96.9 in 2016-17;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to mitigate the losses; and

(e) whether the Centre has approved Railways' proposal for a sector regulator, a Rail Development Authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) There is no subsidy on passenger and freight segment. However, Indian Railways carries out certain transport activities which are uneconomic in nature and are carried out in the larger interest of the country. The tariff policy on Indian Railways has traditionally been one of restraint with regard to increase in passenger fare. Indian Railways continues to incur losses every year by performing a variety of un-remunerative service. These losses are mostly due to (a) Low ordinary second class fare, (b) Low Suburban and non-suburban season ticket, (c) Loss on essential commodities carried below cost, and (d) a variety of concessions granted on passenger ticket. Working of uneconomic branch lines, too, imposes a heavy burden on Indian Railways' finances. A gap is thus created between the revenue income generated through these service and their costs. The overall losses incurred on coaching operation services and on essential commodities carried below the cost of operation was ₹35959.59 cr. in 2015-16.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Railways' operating ratio in 2016-17 was 96.5% which was the worst since 2001-02. Railways had the operating ratio of 98.3% in 2000-01.

(d) Railways have not incurred any operating loss which is evident from the fact that operating ratio of Railways has never crossed 100%. However, the high operating ratio implies meagre surplus for supplementing Railways' capital expenditure. Hence, as an ongoing process, Railways have endeavoured to maximize their earning and minimize avoidable revenue expenditure to generate adequate surplus and also to improve operating ratio.

Indian Railways has taken the following steps to improve the operating ratio:—

- (i) For improving profitability/ minimizing losses, measures for enhancing earnings and controlling avoidable revenue expenditure are adopted.
- (ii) Revenue enhancing measures, *inter- alia*, include targeting progressively high traffic throughput, effective marketing strategies to capture more and more traffic, creation of additional capacity and optimum utilization of the existing rail infrastructure, enhancement in productivity and efficiency, improvement of passenger interface, periodic rationalisation of fare and freight rate and focus on increasing the share of non - fare revenue sources in Railways' earnings.



- (iii) Expenditure control measures include strict economy and austerity measures, improved man- power planning, better assets utilisation, inventory management and optimizing fuel consumption etc.
- (e) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to setup a Rail Development Authority.

**Purchase of train tickets by cash**

†2239. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that even now, purchase of train tickets is done directly through cash;
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to implement cashless scheme for the purchase of railway tickets; and
- (c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Train tickets can be booked at the ticket counters through cash or through credit/debit cards, Unified Payments Interface (UPI)/ Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) modes of payment. Tickets can also be booked through cash from various Railway agents like Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendra (YTSK), Jan Sadharan Ticket Booking Sevak (JTBS), Rail Travel Service Agents (RTSA) etc. For booking of tickets through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website, all modes of cashless payment are already available, viz. net banking, through credit/debit cards, cash cards, e-wallets and UPI/BHIM.

In order to further promote cashless transactions in purchase of Railway tickets, following initiatives have also been undertaken:—

- (i) For booking of tickets online through IRCTC website, service charge earlier levied has been withdrawn up to 31.03.2018.
- (ii) In case of booking of tickets across the counters through credit/debit cards, the service charge levied earlier has been withdrawn.
- (iii) Booking of tickets through mobile phone has been introduced wherein payment can be made through credit/debit cards, net banking, e-wallets etc.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (iv) Facility of renewal of season tickets through IRCTC website has been provided for Mumbai suburban train services where the payment is made through electronic mode.
- (v) Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs) have been introduced to facilitate sale of unreserved tickets, platform tickets and renewal of season tickets which have provision of payment through smart cards.
- (vi) Go-India Smart card scheme has been launched as a pilot project for booking of reserved and unreserved tickets at the counters (specified smart card counters) on New Delhi-Mumbai and New Delhi-Howrah sectors.
- (vii) 0.5% discount is given on total fare of the season ticket if the payment is made through digital means.

During the period from April, 2017 to November, 2017, approximately 65% of total reserved tickets were booked through cashless modes of payment. Improvements in the system including cashless transactions are a continuous process.

**Patti-Makhu rail link**

2240. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the expected date of commencement of work for laying of Patti-Makhu rail link;
- (b) the main reasons for the continuous delay in implementing this project; and
- (c) the details of funds sanctioned by the NITI Aayog therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The commencement of Railway projects depends on a number of factors such as land acquisition, forestry and wildlife clearances, shifting of various services, apart from availability of adequate funds. Since many of these factors are beyond the control of the Ministry of Railways, it is not feasible to give time lines for the project. For the project, Government of Punjab has given commitment to provide land free of cost.

- (c) Appraisal of this project is not required from NITI Ayog as it was costing less than ₹ 500 crore. The direct link between Patti and Makhu can be established by constructing 25 km long new railway line from Gharyala station falling on Amritsar-

**1.00 P.M.**

Khemkaran railway line to Mallanwala station on Jalandhar- Firozpur Railway line. The work of construction of new line between Firozpur and Patti (Mallanwala Khas- Gharyala) was included in Works Programme 2013-14, subject to obtaining requisite approvals. After obtaining all requisite approvals, the project has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of ₹ 299.74 crore in April, 2017.

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**MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA — *Contd.***

**The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and  
Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2018**

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

"In continuation of earlier message dated 4th January, I am to forward herewith a revised copy of the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2010, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th January, 2018, wherein the Speaker has certified that the Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution."

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

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**VALEDICTORY REMARKS**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, now we conning to the conclusion of this Session. Hon. Prime Minister, hon. Leader of the House, hon. Leader of the Opposition, hon. Members of the House, it is an opportunity for all of us to review, recall and introspect about how all of us have conducted the proceedings of the House. As Chairman, this has been the first full Session for me. At the outset, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the hon. Members for your cooperation. Though the House could transact some important Business, it could have been better than what it proved to be. We are all important participants in the polity of our country. However, all of you would agree with me that though the Parliament is a political institution, it cannot be an extension of politics in its typical sense which is marked by deep divisions and acrimony. Sometimes it happens, but at the end of the day it is the general good of the country and the people. That should prevail. Parliament is an important

institution for furthering the shared socio-economic goals of the nation which are critical to fulfilling the aspirations of the citizens who are the chief patrons of our parliamentary democracy. Our nation is steadily evolving towards realizing its immense untapped potential. I have said in my first address to this august House that time is not on our side and we need to stretch ourselves to make-up for the missed opportunities and time. The legislatures of our country including the apex Parliament need to quickly evolve in the way we conduct our proceedings so as to meet the needs of our evolving nation. Having said so, this Session of the House has had its highs and lows. The high point being that both the sides of the House have reiterated their commitment to respect and uphold the high office of the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. former Prime Minister and other dignitaries. I sincerely hope that this spirit prevails in future as well. It is unfortunate that despite discharging its responsibilities to a great extent, the august House ends up losing some degree of the esteem of the people on account of disruptions and substantial loss of functional time. Intense and passionate submissions and debates are the order of democracy, but disruptions are certainly not. I urge upon the hon. Members to seriously introspect in this regard. Another high point of this Session being the way in which all sections of the House spoke in one voice and in a restrained way regarding Shri Kulbhushan Jadhav meeting his family members in a Pakistan Jail. This has been an exemplary case of Members going beyond party-lines on larger issue of common concern. I am glad to note that the leaders of all the parties in the House and the hon. Members as well were delighted over the positive media reports of the House creating a record of taking up all the listed Starred Questions on January 2, 2018 in the beginning of the year and after 15 long years. I am happy to note that there has been a certain degree of change in the way the proceedings were held in this august House, further to this exemplary performance. The need of the hour is to carry this spirit into the future. To give the hon. Members a brief statistical summary of the Business transacted during the 13 sittings of this Session, despite some disruptions and adjournments, 9 Government Bills were passed, 19 Private Members' Bills were introduced and one Private Member's Bill was discussed at length. The House also deliberated the important issues of the state of economy and employment generation besides the high levels of air pollution in Delhi. Yesterday only we have witnessed how an in-depth analysis was made with regard to the economic situation of the country. During Short Duration Discussion, various sides of the House have made their contribution, highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of our economy and the Leader of the House has summed up the discussion and explained the actual position and the Government's stand. That should be an ideal situation for all of us

in future also to see that we discuss issues in-depth, at length, in a meaningful and a constructive manner.

During the five days when the Question Hour was taken up, 46 Starred questions were orally answered besides 51 Members making Zero Hour submissions and another 50 Members making Special Mentions on matters of public importance.

It is, however, a matter of deep discomfort that the House has lost 34 hours of valuable working time as against the period of 41 hours of Business transacted.

I am happy to inform the hon. Members that the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has brought out New Year Calendar, 2018, on a novel theme of the top leaders of various countries who had addressed the hon. Members of both Houses in the Central Hall of Parliament since 1955. The Calendar has photographs of 12 such leaders. I compliment the Secretary-General and his officers for this initiative.

Three hon. Members, namely, Dr. Karan Singh, Shri Janardan Dwivedi and Shri Parvez Hashmi, representing the National Capital Territory of Delhi would be retiring from this august House on the 27th of this month. We all would be missing their sagacious contributions to the proceedings of the House. In the morning itself we have seen how excellently they made their final contribution in this House and the entire House heard them with rapt attention and we are all in full praise for the contribution they have made to the proceedings of this House. That must really inspire us. The Parliamentarians, particularly, the youngsters should see to it that in future they also conduct themselves and get such acclamation by the House as well as the public also. I, on behalf of all the Members of this House, wish them a happy, healthy and meaningful times thereafter.

I am happy to place on record my sincere gratitude to the Leader of the House, Shri Arun Jaitley, who, from time to time, used to enlighten us and explain to us the Government's point of view and also clarify, on certain important occasions, when certain issues were raised. I would also like to thank the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Ministers of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananth Kumar and Shri Vijay Goel, the leaders of various parties and groups represented in this House for the cooperation and courtesies they have extended to me.

The Deputy Chairman has been a great source of support for me. I thank him and also the Members of the Panel of Vice-Chairmen and the officers and staff of the

Secretariat for their help and cooperation. The Deputy Chairman takes most of it in the House. You know what I mean. He has the patience and perseverance also to conduct the House.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): He should be given Padma Award for this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is too small. I wish all the Members and the people a Happy 2018, Happy Makar Sankranti, Happy Pongal, and Happy Bihu. Jai Hind.

Now, before we adjourn the House *sine die*, we will have the National song.

*(The National Song, "Vande Mataram", was then played.)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the House stands adjourned *sine die*.

*The House then adjourned sine die at ten  
minutes past one of the clock.*

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