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Shrimati Darshana Vikram Jardosh

Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena

Shrimati Poonamben Hematbhai Maadam

Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato

Dr. (Prof.) Prasanna Kumar Patasani

Shri Tapas Paul

Shri Mutthamsetti Srinivasa Rao

Shri Ramsinh Rathwa

Shri Y. V. Subbareddy

Shri Konda Vishweshwar Reddy

Shri Raj Kumar Saini

Shri Rajveer Singh (Raju Bhaiya)

Shri Rameshwar Teli

Shrimati Savitri Thakur

Shrimati Dev Varma

Shri Rajan Baburao Vichare

Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice

Shri Bhupender Yadav – *Chairman*

RAJYA SABHA

Shri Swapan Das Gupta

Shri Prabhat Jha

Shri Majeed Memon

Shrimati Rajani Patil

Shri D. Raja

Dr. K. Keshava Rao

Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray

Shri Tiruchi Siva

Shri Vivek K. Tankha

LOK SABHA

Shri Tariq Anwar

Dr. Sanjeev Balyan

Shri Kalyan Banerjee

Shri Sharadkumar Maruti Bansode

Shri A. H. Khan Choudhury

Adv. Joice George

Shri Radadiya Vithalbhai Hansrajbhai

Shri Pralhad Joshi

Shri Mehboob Ali Kaiser

Adv. M. Udhaya Kumar

Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi

Shri Bhagwant Mann

Shri B. V. Naik

Shri Vincent H. Pala

Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy

Dr. A. Sampath

Shri Ram Prasad Sarmah

Shri V. Panner Selvam

Shri Varaprasad Rao Velagapalli

Adv. Anshul Verma

Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests

Shri Anand Sharma – *Chairman*

RAJYA SABHA

Shri Prasanna Acharya

Shri S. R. Balasubramoniyam

Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury

Shri Rajkumar Dhoot

Shri C. P. Narayanan

Shri Parimal Nathwani

Shri Sharad Pawar

Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy

Shri Bhupender Yadav

LOK SABHA

Maulana Badruddin Ajmal

Shri Muzaffar Hussain Baig

Shri E. T. Mohammed Basheer

Shri Pankaj Chowdhary

Shri P. P. Chauhan

Kumari Sushmita Dev

Shri Ninong Ering

Shri Laxman Giluwa

Dr. K. Gopal

Shrimati Vasanthi M.

Shri Daddan Mishra

Shri Prabhubhai Nagarbhai Vasava

Shri Chirag Paswan

Shri Shivaji A. Patil

Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao Patole

Shri Nagendra Kumar Pradhan

Shri Harinarayan Rajbhar

Shrimati Sandhya Roy

Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh

Shri Nagendra Singh

Shri Vikram Usendi

Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture

Shri Derek O'Brien — *Chairman*

RAJYA SABHA

Shri Ritabrata Banerjee

Shri La. Ganesan

Dr. Prabhakar Kore

Shri Praful Patel

Kumari Selja

Shri Rajeev Shukla

Shri Rewati Raman Singh

Shri Narendra Kumar Swain

Shri Vinay Dinu Tendulkar

LOK SABHA

Shri Subrata Bakshi

Shri Ramcharan Bohra

Shri Vinod Lakhamashi Chavda

Shri Rajeshbhai Chudasama

Ms. Arpita Ghosh

Shri Rahul Kaswan

Shri Nimmala Kristappa

Shri P. Kumar

Shri Harish Meena

Shri Ram Charitra Nishad

Shri Rajesh Pandey

Shri Rajesh Ranjan

Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy

Shri Ram Kumar Sharma

Shri Prathap Simha

Shri Dushyant Singh

Shri Kunwar Haribansh Singh

Shri Rakesh Singh

Shri Shatrughan Sinha

Shri Manoj Tiwari

Shri K. C. Venugopal

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**CABINET MINISTERS**

Shri Narendra Modi	The Prime Minister and also in-charge of: The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; The Department of Atomic Energy; The Department of Space; All important policy issues; and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.
Shri Raj Nath Singh	The Minister of Home Affairs.
Shrimati Sushma Swaraj	The Minister of External Affairs.
Shri Arun Jaitley	The Minister of Finance; and The Minister of Corporate Affairs.
Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari	The Minister of Road Transport and Highways; The Minister of Shipping and The Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
Shri Suresh Prabhu	The Minister of Commerce and Industry.
Shri D. V. Sadananda Gowda	The Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
Sushri Uma Bharati	The Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
Shri Ramvilas Paswan	The Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
Shrimati Maneka Sanjay Gandhi	The Minister of Women and Child Development.
Shri Ananthkumar	The Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers; and The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.
Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad	The Minister of Law and Justice; and The Minister of Electronics and Information Technology.
Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda	The Minister of Health and Family Welfare.

Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati	The Minister of Civil Aviation.
Shri Anant Geete	The Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur Badal	The Minister of Food Processing Industries.
Shri Narendra Singh Tomar	The Minister of Rural Development; The Minister of Panchayati Raj; and The Minister of Mines.
Shri Chaudhary Birender Singh	The Minister of Steel.
Shri Jual Oram	The Minister of Tribal Affairs.
Shri Radha Mohan Singh	The Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot	The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.
Shrimati Smriti Zubin Irani	The Minister of Textiles; and The Minister of Information and Broadcasting.
Dr. Harsh Vardhan	The Minister of Science and Technology; The Minister of Earth Sciences; and The Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
Shri Prakash Javadekar	The Minister of Human Resource Development.
Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and The Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
Shri Piyush Goyal	The Minister of Railways; and The Minister of Coal.
Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman	The Minister of Defence.
Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	The Minister of Minority Affairs.

THE MINISTERS OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

Rao Inderjit Singh	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Planning; and The Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH).
Dr. Jitendra Singh	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; The Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; The Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and The Minister of State in the Department of Space.
Dr. Mahesh Sharma	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Culture; and The Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
Shri Giriraj Singh	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
Shri Manoj Sinha	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Communications; and The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways.
Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; and The Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
Shri Raj Kumar Singh	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Power; and The Minister of State of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Shri K. J. Alphons	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Tourism; and The Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

THE MINISTERS OF STATE

Shri Vijay Goel	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; and The Minister of State in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
Shri Radhakrishnan P.	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance; and The Minister of State in the Ministry of Shipping.
Shri S. S. Ahluwalia	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
Shri Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
Shri Ramdas Athawale	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
Shri Vishnu Deo Sai	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel.
Shri Ram Kripal Yadav	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development.
Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.
Shri Haribhai Parthibhai Chaudhary	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines; and The Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal.
Shri Rajen Gohain	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways.
General (Retd.) V. K. Singh	The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs.
Shri Parshottam Rupala	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; and The Minister of State in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Shri Krishan Pal	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
Shri Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance.
Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
Shri Sudarshan Bhagat	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
Shri Upendra Kushwaha	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
Shri Kiren Rijiju	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.
Dr. Virendra Kumar	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development; and The Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
Shri Anantkumar Hegde	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
Shri M. J. Akbar	The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs.
Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
Shri Y. S. Chowdary	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Science and Technology; and The Minister of State in the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
Shri Jayant Sinha	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
Shri Babul Supriyo	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
Shri Vijay Sampla	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal	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 Ajay Tamta	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles.
Shrimati Krishna Raj	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya	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.
Shrimati Anupriya Patel	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
Shri C. R. Chaudhary	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 P. P. Chaudhary	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice; and The Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence.
Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
Dr. Satya Pal Singh	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development; and The Minister of State in the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
OFFICIAL REPORT
IN THE TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA
Commencing on the 15th December, 2017/24th Agrahayana, 1939 (Saka)

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 15th December, 2017/24th Agrahayana, 1939 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

(The National Anthem, “*Jana Gana Mana*”, was played.)

INTRODUCTION OF SECRETARY-GENERAL, RAJYA SABHA

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have great pleasure in introducing to the House the new Secretary-General, Shri Desh Deepak Verma.

Shri Verma joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1978 and held several important positions, both at the State and Central level. He served in most sensitive districts of Uttar Pradesh as District Magistrate, Almorah, Aligarh, Bareilly and Agra, and also as Divisional Commissioner in Lucknow and Allahabad. He had also served as Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India. He assumed the office of the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha in September, 2017. He is a keen sportsman and lover of music and poetry. His articles have been published in prominent English and Hindi newspapers and journals.

I welcome Shri Desh Deepak Verma and wish him good luck for his new assignment.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of **Shri Khamsum Namgyal Pulger**, **Shri S. B. Ramesh Babu**, **Shri Rishang Keishing**, former Members of this House, **Shri Arjan Singh**, Marshal of the Indian Air Force, **Shri Jayantilal Barot**, **Shri Makhan Lal Fotedar**, **Shri Gaya Singh**, **Dr. Ishwar Chandra Gupta**, **Shri Mirza Irshadbaig** and **Shri Sukomal Sen**, former Members of this House.

Shri Khamsum Namgyal Pulger passed away on the 7th of July, 2017 at the age of 91 years. Born in October, 1926 at Darjeeling in West Bengal, **Shri Pulger** was educated at the St. Roberts School, Darjeeling.

A social worker, **Shri Khamsum Namgyal Pulger** represented the State of Sikkim in this House for a brief period, from the 20th of October, 1987, to the 1st of March, 1988.

[Mr. Chairman]

Shri S. B. Ramesh Babu passed away on the 27th July, 2017, at the age of 68 years.

Born in February, 1949 at Hyderabad in Telangana, **Shri Ramesh Babu** was educated at the Badruka College of Arts and Commerce and the Law College, Osmania University at Hyderabad.

An advocate and social worker, **Shri Ramesh Babu** was active in sports and other extra curricular activities during his student days. He worked for the upliftment of the weaker and downtrodden sections of the society. He served as the President and Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Coordination Council and as President of several employees associations.

Shri S. B. Ramesh Babu represented the State of Andhra Pradesh (undivided) in this House from April, 1982 to April, 1988.

In the passing away of **Shri Ramesh Babu**, the country has lost an able parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Rishang Keishing passed away on the 22nd of August, 2017 at the age of 97 years.

Born in October 1919, at Okrul district of Manipur, **Shri Keishing** was educated at the St. Paul's Cathedral College of Kolkata.

Shri Keishing participated in the freedom struggle during his student days. As a social worker, **Shri Keishing** was instrumental in establishing several high schools and was the founder Headmaster of the first High School in Ukrul district. He established the Foundation for Management of Tribal Areas in 1998 and served as the Chairman of the Eastern Border Development Authority and the Barak Development Board.

Shri Keishing started his legislative career as a Member of the First Lok Sabha in 1952 and was also a Member of the Third Lok Sabha. He was a Member of the Manipur Territorial Council, from 1957 to 1961 and again from 1967 to 1971. **Shri Keishing** was a Member of the Manipur Legislative Assembly for a period of 29 years continuously, from 1972 to 2001. He served as a Cabinet Minister in the Government of Manipur, from 1974 to 1976 and as Opposition Leader in the Manipur Legislative Assembly, from 1976 to 1980. **Shri Keishing** was the Chief Minister of Manipur four times - from 1980 to 1985; from 1985 to February, 1988; 1994 to March, 1995 and again from 1995 to December, 1998.

Shri Rishang Keishing represented the State of Manipur in this House for two consecutive terms - from April, 2002 to April, 2008 and again from April, 2008 to April, 2014. **Shri Keishing** held the distinction of being the oldest Member of the Rajya Sabha during his tenure as well as the oldest serving parliamentarian.

In the passing away of **Shri Rishang Keishing**, the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter, a distinguished parliamentarian, an able administrator and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Arjan Singh, Marshal of the Indian Air Force passed away on the 16th of September, 2017 at the age of 98 years.

Born in April, 1919, in Lyallpur District of Punjab (now Faisalabad in Pakistan), **Shri Singh** underwent early education at Montgomery, British India (now in Pakistan). He then joined the Royal Air Force (RAF) College at Cranwell in the United Kingdom (UK) and was commissioned as a pilot officer in December, 1939.

A fearless and exceptional pilot, **Shri Singh** displayed consummate leadership of his squadron during the Arakan and Imphal Campaign in 1944 and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in recognition of his feat. He had the honour of leading the fly-past of more than a hundred Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft over the Red Fort on India's first Independence Day on the 15th of August, 1947. His astute and motivating leadership led to victory in the 1965 India-Pakistan war. In 1966, **Shri Singh** became the first officer of the Indian Air Force to be promoted to the rank of Air Chief Marshal.

After his retirement from the Indian Air Force in 1970, **Shri Arjan Singh** served as the Ambassador of India to Switzerland and Vatican, from 1971 to 1974; as the High Commissioner to Kenya, from 1974 to 1977; as a Member of the National Commission for Minorities, from 1978 to 1981; as the Chairman of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, from 1980 to 1983 and as the Lt. Governor of Delhi, from 1989 to 1990.

Shri Singh was the recipient of several medals and honours including the **Padma Vibhushan**. In 2002, he was conferred the honorary rank of Marshal, the first and only 'Five Star' Rank officer of the Indian Air Force.

In the passing away of **Marshal Arjan Singh**, the country has lost an icon of the Indian Air Force, a legendary war hero, who was a true embodiment of valour and discipline and a paradigm of military leadership.

Shri Jayantilal Barot passed away on the 23rd of September, 2017, at the age of 75 years.

[Mr. Chairman]

Born in August, 1942, at Bhandu in Mehsana District of Gujarat, **Shri Barot** was educated at the P. K. Mehta High School and the **Sarvajanik Vidyalaya**, Mehsana and the A.V.P. Technical Institute, Rajkot.

An agriculturist, **Shri Barot** was actively involved in co-operative, labour and rural development activities. He served as the Sarpanch of the Linch Gram Panchayat and as a Member of the Mehsana District Panchayat. He was the Chairman of the Gujarat Khadi and Village Industries Board from 1998 to 2002 and also of the Gujarat Backward Classes Development Corporation and the Gujarat Housing Board.

Shri Jayantilal Barot represented the State of Gujarat in this House from April, 2002 to April, 2008.

In the passing away of **Shri Jayantilal Barot**, the country has lost a dedicated social activist and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Makhan Lal Fotedar passed away on the 28th of September, 2017, at the age of 85 years.

Born in March, 1932, at Mattan in Jammu and Kashmir, **Shri Fotedar** was educated at the Amar Singh College, Srinagar and the Allahabad University.

An advocate, **Shri Fotedar** was drawn to politics right from his student days. He started his legislative career as a Member of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly in 1967 and was its Member from 1967 to 1977. He served as the Minister of State of Revenue, Irrigation, Law and Housing in the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Shri Fotedar also served as Political Aide to former Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi from 1980 to 1984, and as Political Secretary to former Congress President, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, from 1984 to 1987.

Shri Makhan Lal Fotedar represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House for two consecutive terms - from April, 1985 to April, 1990 and again from April, 1990 to April, 1996. He also served as the Minister of Steel and Mines, Labour, Energy and Health and Family Welfare in the Union Council of Ministers, during the period from July, 1987 to December, 1989 and again from June, 1991 to January, 1993.

In the passing away of **Shri Makhan Lal Fotedar**, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and an able administrator.

Shri Gaya Singh passed away on the 7th of October, 2017, at the age of 73 years.

Born in November, 1944, at Alawan village in Nalanda District of Bihar, **Shri Singh** was educated at the B. N. College, Patna University.

Shri Singh was closely associated with the All India Students' Federation and the All India Youth Federation during his student days. A champion of the rights of workers, **Shri Singh** served as the Vice-President and the President of the Trade Union International Metal (World Federation of Trade Unions); as Secretary and Working President of the All India Trade Union Congress and as President of the All India Steel Workers Federation.

Shri Gaya Singh represented the State of Bihar in this House for two consecutive terms - from July, 1992 to July, 1998 and again from July, 1998 to July, 2004.

In the passing away of **Shri Gaya Singh**, the country has lost a noted trade unionist and an able parliamentarian.

Dr. Ishwar Chandra Gupta passed away on the 4th of November, 2017, at the age of 85 years.

Born in August, 1932, at Bega Village in Sonapat, Haryana, **Dr. Gupta** was educated at the D.A.V. College, Dehradun.

A businessman, **Dr. Gupta** was actively involved with many voluntary organisations, particularly in the field of education. He was the Patron of the Jai Narain Vidya Mandir, Bareilly, and Managing Trustee of the Jai Narain Charitable Trust. He also served as the President of the Shishu Shiksha Prabandh Samiti, Uttar Pradesh; the Jugaldevi Saraswati Vidya Mandir and the Motilal Kheria Vidya Mandir, Kanpur.

Dr. Ishwar Chandra Gupta represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House, from July, 1992 to July, 1998.

In the passing away of **Dr. Ishwar Chandra Gupta**, the country has lost an able parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Mirza Irshadbaig passed away on the 15th of November, 2017, at the age of 68 years. Born in October, 1949 at Modasa in Gujarat, **Shri Irshadbaig** was educated at the Gujarat University and Sir L.A. Shah Law College, Ahmedabad.

An agriculturist, **Shri Irshadbaig** was associated with several sports and educational institutions. He served as the President of the Gujarat State NTC Run Mills Technicians and Officers Staff Union and Director of the Gujarat State Youth Board, the Gujarat State Minority Board and the Gujarat State Housing Board. He was also a Member of the Sabarkantha District Panchayat, from 1975 to 1980.

[Mr. Chairman]

Shri Mirza Irshadbaig represented the State of Gujarat in this House, from March, 1983 to April, 1984 and again from April, 1984 to April, 1990. He also served as a Member on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen.

In the passing away of **Shri Mirza Irshadbaig**, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and a noted social activist.

Shri Sukomal Sen passed away on the 22nd of November, 2017, at the age of 83 years.

Born in June, 1934, in Dacca District (now in Bangladesh), **Shri Sen** was educated at the Surendra Nath College, Kolkata and the Calcutta University.

A trade unionist, **Shri Sen** served as the General Secretary of the All India State Government Employees' Federation and Vice-President of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions. A prolific writer, he had several publications as well as articles and essays on various subjects to his credit. He was also the Editor of the monthly Journal 'Employees Forum'.

Shri Sukomal Sen represented the State of West Bengal in this House from April, 1982 to April, 1988 and again from April, 1988 to April, 1994. He was the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances, from 1988 to 1990; Committee on Subordinate Legislation, from 1990 to 1991 and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, from 1991 to 1994.

In the passing away of **Shri Sukomal Sen**, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and a noted trade union leader.

We deeply mourn the passing away of **Shri Khamsum Namgyal Pulger, Shri S.B. Ramesh Babu, Shri Rishang Keishing, Shri Arjan Singh, Shri Jayantilal Barot, Shri Makhan Lal Fotedar, Shri Gaya Singh, Dr. Ishwar Chandra Gupta, Shri Mirza Irshadbaig and Shri Sukomal Sen.**

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved families our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

REFERENCES BY THE CHAIR**Victims of a Boiler explosion in a power generation unit of NTPC at Unchahar in Rae Bareli district of Uttar Pradesh**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, you might be aware of the tragic incident of a Boiler explosion in a power generation unit of NTPC at Unchahar in Rae Bareli district of Uttar Pradesh on the 1st of November, 2017, in which 40 persons lost their lives and 39 others were injured.

Victims of Cyclone 'Ockhi' and subsequent heavy rains in the coastal areas of the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep

MR. CHAIRMAN: As you are also aware, Cyclone 'Ockhi' and subsequent heavy rains in the coastal areas of the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep on the 1st of December, 2017, resulted in loss of lives of more than 60 persons with some still missing and injury to more than 100 others. The cyclone has affected more than thirty three thousand people and caused extensive damage to the agricultural crops, livestock, property and infrastructure.

The loss of so many precious lives in these tragedies is indeed unfortunate and sad.

I am sure the whole House will join me in expressing our heartfelt sympathy and concern for the families of those who lost their near and dear ones and pray for the speedy recovery and rehabilitation of the injured and displaced.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of those who lost their lives in these tragedies.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

FELICITATIONS TO SPORTSPERSONS

श्री सभापति: माननीय सदस्यों, सम्पूर्ण सभा की ओर से और स्वयं अपनी ओर से मैं 22 अक्टूबर, 2017 को ढाका, बंगलादेश में सम्पन्न हुए एशिया कप, 2017 को जीतने के लिए भारतीय पुरुष हॉकी टीम तथा 5 नवम्बर, 2017 को काकामिगाहारा, जापान में सम्पन्न हुए एशिया कप, 2017 जीतने पर महिला हॉकी टीम को बधाई देता हूँ। मैं सम्पूर्ण सभा और स्वयं अपनी ओर से 8 नवम्बर, 2017 को हो ची मिन्ह सिटी, वियतनाम में आयोजित हुई एशियाई महिला बॉक्सिंग चैम्पियनशिप में 48 किलोग्राम वर्ग में स्वर्ण पदक जीतने के लिए मैं इस महती सभा की नामनिर्देशित सदस्य श्रीमती एम.सी. मेरी कॉम को और 29 नवम्बर, 2017 को संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका के कैलीफोर्निया में विश्व भारोत्तोलन चैम्पियनशिप में महिलाओं के 48 किलोग्राम वर्ग में स्वर्ण पदक जीतने के लिए श्रीमती सायखोम मीराबाई चानू को बधाई देता हूँ।

[श्री सभापति]

इन खिलाड़ियों ने अपनी उपलब्धियों से अनेक राष्ट्रों के समुदाय के बीच हमारे देश को गौरवान्वित किया है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मंच पर उनके इस प्रदर्शन से हमारे युवाओं और अन्य खिलाड़ियों को उनका अनुकरण करने और अपनी उपलब्धियों में सुधार करने की प्रेरणा लेनी चाहिए।

हम भविष्य में उनके सभी प्रयासों में उनकी सफलता की कामना करते हैं और आशा करते हैं कि वे भविष्य में भी कई अन्य उपलब्धियां हासिल कर देश को गौरवान्वित करेंगे। We wish them all the best on behalf of the House.

PAPERS LAID ON TABLE

Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Two Hundred and Forty-third Session of the Rajya Sabha and assented to by the President:—

1. The National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
2. The Footwear Design and Development Institute Bill, 2017.
3. The Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
4. The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2017.
5. The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public Private Partnership) Bill, 2017.
6. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
7. The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
8. The Central Goods and Services Tax (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir) Bill, 2017.
9. The Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir) Bill, 2017.
10. The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2017.
11. The Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2017.
12. The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
13. The Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Amendment Bill, 2017.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8618/16/18]

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

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री रामविलास पासवान): महोदय, मैं आधार, (वित्तीय और अन्य सहायिकियों, प्रसुविधाओं और सेवाओं का लक्षित परिदान) अधिनियम, 2016 की धारा 55 के अधीन मूल अधिसूचना में कतिपय प्रविष्टियों को प्रतिस्थापित करने के लिए अधिसूचना सं. का.आ. 371 (अ), दिनांक 8 फरवरी, 2017 का संशोधन करने वाली उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय (खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण विभाग) की अधिसूचना सं.का.आ. 3176 (अ), दिनांक 29 सितम्बर, 2017 की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ। [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7712/16/17]

I. Reports and Accounts (2016-17) of various companies and related papers**II. MoUs between the GoI and HIL and GoI and HOCL**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): 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:—

(i) (a) Sixty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL), 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 Company.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7715/16/17]

(ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited, Dibrugarh, Assam for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and 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. 7713/16/17]

(iii) (a) Fifty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL), Raigad, Maharashtra, 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. 7714/16/17]

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

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers) and the Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL), for the year 2017-18.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7717/16/17]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals) and the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL), for the year 2017-18. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7716/16/17]

Notifications of the Ministry of Communications

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

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

- (1) G.S.R. 190 (E), dated the 23rd February, 2017, publishing the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Allowances to part-time members) Amendment Rules, 2015, along with delay statement.
- (2) F.No.304-2/2016-QoS, dated the 18th August, 2017, publishing the Standards of Quality of Service of Basic Telephone Service (wire line) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2017.
- (3) F.No.10-8/2016-BB&PA, dated the 20th September, 2017, publishing the Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2017.
- (4) G.S.R. 1245 (E), dated the 12th October, 2017, publishing corrigendum to G.S.R. 190 (E), dated the 10th February, 2017.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (4) *See* No. L.T. 7768/16/17]

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

- (1) G.S.R. 998 (E), dated the 8th August, 2017, publishing the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017.

- (2) G.S.R. 1131 (E), dated the 6th September, 2017, publishing the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2017.

[Placed in Library. For (1) and (2) See No. L.T. 7769/16/17]

Ordinances

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 lay on the Table, under sub-clause (a) of clause (2) of article 123 of the Constitution, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Ordinances:—

- (1) The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Amendment Ordinance, 2017 (Ordinance No. 5 of 2017), promulgated by the President on the 2nd of September, 2017.
- (2) The Indian Forest (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 (Ordinance No. 6 of 2017), promulgated by the President on the 23rd of November, 2017.
- (3) The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 (Ordinance No.7 of 2017), promulgated by the President on the 23rd of November, 2017.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (3) See No. L.T. 7677/16/17]

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

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 (1) (b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Thirty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited (HVOC), 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) Performance Review of the above Corporation, for the year 2016-17.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7748/16/17]

Reports and Accounts (2016-17) of the ISAE, Mumbai and ISAS, New Delhi and related papers

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:—

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE), 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 Society.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7751/16/17]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics (ISAS), 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. 7750/16/17]

श्री सभापति: मंत्रियों को और अन्य सदस्यों को, जो कुछ कागज सभा पटल पर रखना चाहते हैं, उनको मेरा एक सुझाव है, यह कोई निर्देश नहीं है कि बोलते समय, don't use the word 'beg' when saying, "Sir, I beg.." You can say, "I rise to place on the Table of the House.." क्योंकि हम आज़ाद भारत में हैं, इसलिए किसी को beg करने की कोई जरूरत नहीं है, यह मेरा सुझाव है। This is my suggestion.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सभापति महोदय, हम लोग सहमत हैं।

REPORT OF THE INQUIRY COMMITTEE UNDER THE JUDGES (INQUIRY) ACT, 1968

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 4 of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 read with rules 9 and 10 of the Judges (Inquiry) Rules, 1969, the following documents:—

- (i) Report (in English and Hindi) of the Inquiry Committee appointed under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, in respect of Justice S. K. Gangele, Judge, Madhya Pradesh High Court; and
- (ii) A copy each of the evidence of witnesses tendered before the Inquiry Committee and documents exhibited during the inquiry.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7706A/16/17]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This Report is available at the publication counter. This is connected with a Madhya Pradesh High Court Judge. Earlier some charges were made against him and an Inquiry Committee was constituted. It has submitted its Report to me and today it has been placed in the House.

PANEL OF VICE-CHAIRMEN

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to inform that the Panel of Vice-Chairmen has been reconstituted with effect from 23rd October, 2017, with the following Members:—

1. Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya;
2. Shri Tiruchi Siva;
3. Shri T. K. Rangarajan;
4. Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita;
5. Shri Basawaraj Patil; and
6. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray.

RESIGNATION BY MEMBERS

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have also to inform Members that I had received letters, dated 1st September, 2017 and 11th October, 2017, from the following Members, Shri Manohar Parrikar and Shri Mukul Roy, representing the States of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, respectively resigning their seats in the Rajya Sabha. I had accepted their resignations with effect from 2nd September, 2017 and 11th October, 2017, respectively. This is for your information.

DISQUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS ON GROUND OF DEFECTION

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to make the following announcement:—

“Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, Member and Leader of the JD(U) in Rajya Sabha, the Petitioner, had filed two separate Petitions on 2nd September, 2017 under paragraph 6 of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution of India read with Rule 6 of the Members of Rajya Sabha (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 1985, praying that Shri Sharad Yadav and Shri Ali Anwar Ansari, Members of the Rajya Sabha (Respondents) be disqualified under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution for voluntarily giving up the membership of the party, JD(U), on whose tickets they were elected to the Rajya Sabha, by indulging in anti-party activities by publicly denouncing and openly criticising the collective decisions of the JD(U) and the Party President.

Both the Petitions were duly examined in accordance with the provisions of the Members of Rajya Sabha (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 1985, the procedural requirements laid down therein, and precedents.

[Mr. Chairman]

After taking into account the facts of each case, the comments of the Respondents on their respective Petitions, the comments of the Petitioner on the comments of the Respondents, the oral submissions made by both the Respondents during the oral hearing held on 8th November, 2017, the hon. Supreme Court's judgment in 1994 in the case of Ravi Naik *versus* Union of India and observations/judgments in similar anti-defection cases and precedents, it was crystal clear that by their conduct, actions and speeches, both the Respondents, Shri Sharad Yadav and Shri Ali Anwar Ansari, had voluntarily given up their membership of the political party, JD(U), by which they were set up as candidates for elections to the Rajya Sabha from the State of Bihar and elected as such Members.

I, therefore, decided and declared *vide* my Order dated 4th December, 2017, that Shri Sharad Yadav and Shri Ali Anwar Ansari, Members of JD(U), have incurred disqualification for being Members of the House, in terms of paragraph 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution of India and have thus ceased to be Members of the Rajya Sabha with effect from 4th December, 2017.

The detailed Orders issued by me in this regard have been notified in the Gazette of India on the 4th of December, 2017 and have also been re-produced in Parliamentary Bulletin Part-II of the same date and the same was communicated to the Election Commission of India."

...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय सभापति जी ...(व्यवधान)... माननीय सभापति जी ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No discussion, please. ...(Interruptions)...

**MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF THE
REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MOTOR
VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017**

डा. विनय पी. सहस्रबुद्धे (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत करता हूँ:-

कि मोटर यान (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2017 से संबंधित प्रवर समिति को सभा में अपना प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए दिया गया समय 27 दिसम्बर, 2017 तक बढ़ाया जाए।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: चेयरमैन की रूलिंग पर कोई चर्चा नहीं होती है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, हम लोग कुछ जानना चाहते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद): शरद यादव ने कोई रूल violate नहीं किया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... शरद यादव मर्यादा पर चले। ...**(व्यवधान)**... चीफ मिनिस्टर उन्हें छोड़कर चले गए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... चीफ मिनिस्टर और उनके साथियों की मेंबरशिप खत्म की जानी चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उनकी सदस्यता खत्म की जानी चाहिए न कि श्री शरद यादव की। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

† قائد حزب اختلاف (جناب غلام نبی آزاد): شرد یادو نے کوئی رول وائلیٹ نہیں کیا ہے۔۔۔**(مداخلت)**۔۔۔ شرد یادو مریادا پر چلے۔۔۔**(مداخلت)**۔۔۔ چیف منسٹر انہیں چھوڑ کر چلے گئے۔۔۔**(مداخلت)**۔۔۔ چیف منسٹر اور ان کے ساتھیوں کی ممبر شپ ختم کی جانی چاہئے۔۔۔**(مداخلت)**۔۔۔ ان کی سدسیتا ختم کی جانی چاہئے ناکہ شری شرد یادو کی۔۔۔**(مداخلت)**۔۔۔

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, announcement regarding Government Business. ...**(Interruptions)**... Shri Vijay Goel. ...**(Interruptions)**... बैठ जाइए, बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री तपन कुमार सेन (पश्चिमी बंगाल): चर्चा की बात नहीं है, clarifications पूछे जा सकते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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 rise to announce that the Government Business during the week commencing ...**(Interruptions)**... Monday, the 18th of December, 2017 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any items of Government Business carried over from today's order paper :— [it contains (i) Further consideration and passing of the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2016, as passed by Lok Sabha, Consideration and passing of (ii) the Indian Institutes of Management Bill, 2017, as passed by Lok Sabha and (iii) the Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPE) Bill, 2017, as passed by Lok Sabha.] ...**(Interruptions)**...

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

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय चेयरमैन सर, मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ आर्डर है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ आर्डर है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: बीच में प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर नहीं होता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: 2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Lok Sabha:—

- (a) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
- (b) The State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री नीरज शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: आप ऐसे आवाज मत निकालिए, प्लीज़। ...**(व्यवधान)**... This is Parliament. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: 3. Further consideration and passing of the Whistle Blowers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015, as passed by Lok Sabha.

- 4. Consideration and passing of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2013, as reported by Select Committee of Rajya Sabha.
- 5. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:—
 - (a) The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2017.
 - (b) The Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2017.
 - (c) The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill, 2017- To replace an Ordinance.
 - (d) The Indian Forest (Amendment) Bill, 2017 - To replace an Ordinance.
 - (e) The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2017- To replace an Ordinance.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: नरेश जी, प्लीज़ आप बैठ जाइए।**(व्यवधान)**.... Hon. Prime Minister to introduce the Council of new Ministers. ...**(Interruptions)**... Afterwards. ...**(Interruptions)**...

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS BY THE PRIME MINISTER

प्रधान मंत्री (श्री नरेंद्र मोदी): माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं आपकी अनुमति से, आप से और आपके माध्यम से, इस सम्मानित सदन से अपने मंत्रिपरिषद् के नवनियुक्त सहयोगियों का परिचय कराना चाहता हूँ।

कैबिनेट मंत्री

श्री धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान	पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री; तथा कौशल विकास और उद्यमशीलता मंत्री
श्री पीयूष गोयल	रेल मंत्री; तथा कोयला मंत्री
श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण	रक्षा मंत्री
श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी	अनल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्री

राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

श्री राज कुमार सिंह	विद्युत मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री; तथा नवीन और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री
श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी	आवासन और शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री
श्री के. जे. एल्फोंस	पर्यटन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री; तथा इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

राज्य मंत्री

श्री शिव प्रताप शुक्ला	वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
डा. वीरेंद्र कुमार	महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री; तथा अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
श्री अनंतकुमार हेगड़े	कौशल विकास और उद्यमशीलता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
श्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत	कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
डा. सत्य पाल सिंह	मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री; तथा जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

REGARDING DISQUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, मेरा प्वाइन्ट ऑफ आर्डर है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Naresh Agrawal, under what Rule? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, 10th शेड्यूल

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rule? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, आप 10th Schedule of Constitution देखिए। उसमें सेक्शन 1 और 2 दिए हुए हैं। श्रीमन्, अभी आपने सदन को सूचित किया कि जेडीयू के सदस्य ने या नेता ने आपको दो petitions दी हैं। सर, मैं आपकी रूलिंग को चैलेंज नहीं कर रहा हूँ, किन्तु मेरे मन में

[श्री नरेश अग्रवाल]

कुछ जिज्ञासा है, इसलिए वह जानना चाहता हूं। सर, मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जो आपने रूलिंग दी और जिसको आपने नोटिफिकेशन में जारी कर दिया, वह रूलिंग as a Vice-President, as a Chairman or as a Court दी। मैंने माननीय सुप्रीम कोर्ट की कुछ रूलिंग पढ़ी हैं। आपको सुप्रीम कोर्ट की रूलिंग में ट्रिब्यूनल माना है। आपने यह लिखा है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: यह argument का विषय नहीं है। यह चर्चा हो चुकी है। There is neither point, nor order in your point of order. Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Next, we will go to Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)...

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Opposition. ...(Interruptions)...

प्लीज बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)... प्लीज बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)... नरेश जी, मैंने आपको मौका दिया है, प्लीज बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सभापति जी, आप तो सवेरे खुद ही कह रहे थे कि सब लोग सदन चलाइए ...(व्यवधान)... हम लोग सदन चलाना चाहते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... आपका सहयोग चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: धन्यवाद। आपको सहयोग मिलेगा, आप चिंता मत कीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: सभापति जी, as a Chairman आपका जो निर्णय है, हम उसको चैलेंज नहीं करते, लेकिन जो तथ्य दिए गए हैं कि माननीय शरद यादव को इसलिए हटाया गया कि उन्हें ...(व्यवधान)...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: سبھا پتی جی، 'ایز اے چیئرمین' آپ کا جو فیصلہ ہے، ہم اس کو چیلنج نہیں کرتے، لیکن جو تھئے دئے گئے ہیں کہ مائٹے شرد یادو کو اس لئے ہٹایا گیا کہ انہیں --- (مداخلت) ---

श्री सभापति: देखिए, यह चर्चा का विषय नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: यही चर्चा का विषय है। ...(व्यवधान)... सर, यही चर्चा का विषय है। ...(व्यवधान)...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: یہی چرچا کا وشئے ہے --- (مداخلت) --- سر، یہی چرچا کا وشئے ہے --- (مداخلت) ---

श्री नीरज शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश): सभापति जी, चर्चा का विषय ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Neeraj Shekhar, please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... I have not called you. ...(Interruptions)... I have not called you. ...(Interruptions)... You are bound by the rules. ...(Interruptions)... Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... आप बैठ जाइए, ऐसे आवाज उठाने से कुछ होगा नहीं। ...(व्यवधान)... आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नीरज शेखर: सभापति जी, मैं बोलूंगा। ...(व्यवधान)... कुछ हो न हो ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नीरज शेखर: *

श्री सभापति: आप ऐसे करते रहिए। ...(व्यवधान)... आप करिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: सभापति जी, मैं आपको बताऊं कि शायद इस सदन का मैं अकेला आदमी था, जब महा गठबंधन की मीटिंग पटना में हुई थी। उस महा गठबंधन में अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से मुझे भेजा गया था। इसमें नीतीश कुमार जी थे और आरजेडी के अन्य लीडर्स भी थे। उस रैली में हमने कहा था कि महा गठबंधन के हमारे मुख्य मंत्री श्री नीतीश कुमार होंगे और जो वोट मांगे जाएंगे, वे महा गठबंधन के नाम पर मांगे जाएंगे। ...(व्यवधान)...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: سبھا پتی جی، میں آپ کو بتاؤں کہ شاید اس سدن کا میں اکیلا آدمی تھا، جب مہا گٹھ بندھن کی میٹنگ پٹنہ میں ہوئی تھی۔ اس مہا گٹھ بندھن میں اپنی پارٹی کی طرف سے مجھے بھیجا گیا تھا۔ اس میں نتیش کمار جی تھے اور آر-جے-ڈی۔ کے دیگر لیڈرس بھی تھے۔ اس ریلی میں ہم نے کہا تھا کہ مہا گٹھ بندھن کے ہمارے مکھیہ منتری شری نتیش کمار ہوں گے اور جو ووٹ مانگے جائیں گے، وہ مہا گٹھ بندھن کے نام پر مانگے جائیں گے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

श्री राम चंद्र प्रसाद सिंह (बिहार): यह कोई बात नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: आप बैठ जाइए क्योंकि आप उस मीटिंग में नहीं थे। ...(व्यवधान)...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: آپ بیٹھ جائیے کیوں کہ آپ اس میٹنگ میں نہیں تھے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

श्री राम चंद्र प्रसाद सिंह: हम थे। ...(व्यवधान)... आप महा गठबंधन की चर्चा क्यों कर रहे हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: आप अपनी बात बताइए। ...(व्यवधान)... आपको रोका किसने है? ...(व्यवधान)... आप अपनी ...(व्यवधान)... जगह बताइए। ...(व्यवधान)... आप उस स्टेट ...(व्यवधान)... पर नहीं थे। ...(व्यवधान)... जो वोट मांगा, वह महा गठबंधन के नाम पर मांगा ...(व्यवधान)... और महा गठबंधन को नीतीश कुमार जी और आप छोड़कर चले गए

*Not recorded.

†Transliteration in Urdu script.

[श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद]

हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आपको सदस्यता से इस्तीफा देना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... महा गठबंधन में ...**(व्यवधान)**... नीतीश कुमार जी और उनके जितने साथी गए हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**... वे महा गठबंधन के नाम पर चुने हुए हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**... आपको resign करना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: آپ اپنی بات بتائیے --- **(مداخلت)** --- آپ کو روکا کس نے ہے؟ --- **(مداخلت)** --- آپ اپنی جگہ پر بتائیے --- **(مداخلت)** --- آپ اس اسٹیٹ --- **(مداخلت)** --- پر نہیں تھے --- **(مداخلت)** --- جو ووٹ مانگا، وہ مہا گٹھ بندھن کے نام پر ہوگا --- **(مداخلت)** --- اور مہا گٹھ بندھن کو نیش کمار جی اور آپ چھوڑ کر چلے گئے ہیں --- **(مداخلت)** --- آپ کو سدسیٹا سے استعفی دینا چاہئے --- **(مداخلت)** --- مہا گٹھ بندھن میں --- **(مداخلت)** --- نیش کمار جی اور ان کے جتنے ساتھی گئے ہیں --- **(مداخلت)** --- وہ مہا گٹھ بندھن کے نام پر چنے ہوئے ہیں --- **(مداخلت)** --- آپ کو ریزائن کرنا چاہئے --- **(مداخلت)** ---

श्री सभापति: गुलाम नबी आज़ाद जी, यह चर्चा का विषय नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह चर्चा का विषय नहीं है। I am going to the Zero Hour. गुलाम नबी आज़ाद जी, यह चर्चा का विषय नहीं है। ...**(Interruptions)**... I am going to the Zero Hour. ...**(Interruptions)**... ...**(व्यवधान)**... Ghulam Nabi Azadji, the issue that has been decided by the Chair cannot be discussed in the House. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: मिस्टर यादव महा गठबंधन का हिस्सा हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... वे महा गठबंधन के नाम पर चुने गए हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, इनकी सदस्यता रद्द नहीं की जा सकती। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सदस्यता इनकी रद्द की जानी चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, इनकी सदस्यता रद्द की जानी चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मुख्य मंत्री को और उनके सभी एम.एल.एज. की सदस्यता ...**(व्यवधान)**... और जेडीयू में जो लोग हैं, उनकी सदस्यता रद्द कर देनी चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: مسٹر یادو مہا گٹھ بندھن کا حصہ ہیں --- **(مداخلت)** --- وہ مہا گٹھ بندھن کے نام پر چنے گئے ہیں --- **(مداخلت)** --- سر، ان کی سدسیٹا رد نہیں کی جا سکتی --- **(مداخلت)** --- سدسیٹا ان کی ختم کی جانی چاہئے --- **(مداخلت)** --- سر ان کی سدسیٹا رد کی جانی چاہئے --- **(مداخلت)** --- مکھیہ منتری کو اور ان کے سبھی ایم۔ایل۔ایز۔ کی سدسیٹا --- **(مداخلت)** --- اور جے۔ڈی۔یو۔ میں جو لوگ ہیں، ان کی سدسیٹا رد کر دینی چاہئے --- **(مداخلت)** ---

श्री राम चंद्र प्रसाद सिंह: यह चर्चा का विषय नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a political issue which you are raising. ...(Interruptions)... You discuss it outside the House. ...(Interruptions)... I have no problem. ...(Interruptions)... I am going to the Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)... Now, Shri A. Navaneethakrishnan. ...(Interruptions)... His Zero Hour matter is Ockhi Cyclone in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. ...(Interruptions)... Ockhi Cyclone एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय है। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, we have taken... ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, I am sorry.... ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Thank you hon. Chairman. ...(Interruptions)... The Tamil Nadu, especially the Kanyakumari District... ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are in the Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)... Please. ...(Interruptions)... This is Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I am on a point of order. ...(Interruptions)... My 267 notice... ...(Interruptions)... 267 notice will be raised now. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, ...(Interruptions)...

श्री सभापति: प्लीज बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)... बैठ जाइए। ...(व्यवधान)... This is a very important issue of cyclone affecting thousands of people in Kerala and Tamil Nadu ...(Interruptions)... Yes, Shri Raja has also given notice on it. ...(Interruptions)... This is a very important issue concerning the lives and properties of the people of Kerala coast and also Tamil Nadu. ...(Interruptions)... Please allow him to make his submission. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, this is also an important issue. ...(Interruptions)...

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

श्री सभापति: वह अलग बात है। ...(व्यवधान)... No, please, sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Anand Sharmaji, you are a very senior leader. ...(Interruptions)... Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... I will give a ruling on that. ...(Interruptions)... आप बैठ जाइए प्लीज। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: You have to hear that. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सभापति जी, हमारा नोटिस है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... हमारा नोटिस है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... हमारा रूल 267 के तहत नोटिस है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए प्लीज़। ...*(व्यवधान)*... नरेश जी, प्लीज़ आप बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... No, this is not allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, Shri A. Navaneethakrishnan. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, please open the Rule book... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Ockhi Cyclone in Tamil Nadu

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The entire House knows that because of the Ockhi Cyclone.... ...*(Interruptions)*... The Ockhi Cyclone has affected Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, ...*(Interruptions)*... Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu is affected very much. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Except Shri A. Navaneethakrishnan, nothing shall go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: Our hon. Chief Minister, Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami has written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister ...*(Interruptions)*... requesting the hon. Prime Minister to declare the Ockhi Cyclone as 'National Disaster' and provide all financial assistance as early as possible. ...*(Interruptions)*... She has already ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Navaneethakrishnan is saying, either on record here or on record in television also. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: Our Chief Minister has already announced a sum of ₹ 20 lakhs for those who died in sea and ₹ 10 lakhs for those who died in Kanyakumari district because of the cyclone. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Government has taken all possible steps to restore normalcy. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, I once again request the hon. Prime Minister to declare the Ockhi Cyclone affecting Kanyakumari as 'National Disaster' and provide all financial assistance as early as possible. Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI LA. GANESAN (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the Hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You want to do like this on the first day itself! ...*(Interruptions)*... You don't want to hear about cyclone. You don't want to hear people's problem.

...(Interruptions)... You don't want to...(Interruptions)... I don't appreciate this conduct of coming to the Well. ...(Interruptions)... There is a saying that ...(Interruptions)... all in Well, not well. ...(Interruptions)... Try to understand this. ...(Interruptions)... Nothing shall go on record. ...(Interruptions)... The House is adjourned to meet again at 12 o'clock.

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

The House re-assembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

REGARDING NOTICE UNDER RULE 267

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question Hour.

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद): माननीय चेयरमैन सर, ...(व्यवधान)...

†قائد حزب اختلاف (جناب غلام نبی آزاد): مانیئے چیئرمین سر، --- (مداخلت)---

MR. CHAIRMAN: बाकी लोग बैठ जाइए प्लीज़। Leader of the Opposition.

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: सर, हमने रूल 267 के तहत एक नोटिस दिया है, मैंने भी और मेरे सभी विपक्ष के साथियों ने, कि आज का जो बिजनेस है, वह suspend कर दिया जाना चाहिए और एक बहुत ही ...(व्यवधान)...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: سر، ہم نے رول 267 کے تحت ایک نوٹس دیا ہے، میں نے بھی اور میرے سبھی وپکش کے ساتھیوں نے، کہ آج کا جو بزنس ہے، وہ سسپینڈ کر دیا جانا چاہیئے اور ایک بہت ہی --- (مداخلت)---

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री; तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्री (श्री अनंत कुमार): सर, यह Question Hour है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: आप इसके बाद अपनी बात कहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: آپ اس کے بعد اپنی بات کہیئے --- (مداخلت)---

श्री अनंत कुमार: सर, यह discussion नहीं हो सकता। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: एक बहुत ही ...(व्यवधान).... माननीय पार्लियामेंटरी अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर साहब, ...(व्यवधान)...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: ایک بہت ہی --- (مداخلت)--- مانیئے پارلیمنٹری افیئرس منسٹر صاحب، --- (مداخلت)---

श्री सभापति: मैंने Leader of the Opposition को मौका दिया है, वे एक मिनट बोलेंगे।
...(व्यवधान)...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा (हिमाचल प्रदेश): सर, वे क्या कर रहे हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: यह माननीय चेयरमैन का हक है कि वे इसको reject करें या इससे agree करें और नोटिस देना हमारा Constitutional हक है, वह आप हमसे छीन नहीं सकते। ...(व्यवधान)...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: یہ مانیئے چیئرمین کا حق ہے کہ وہ اس کو reject کریں یا اس سے agree کریں اور نوٹس دینا ہمارا کانسٹی ٹیوشنل حق ہے، وہ آپ ہم سے چھین نہیں سکتے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

श्री सभापति: आप विषय पर आइए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: The Chairman has given me permission.
...(Interruptions)... It is none of the business of the hon. Members. सर, हमने संविधान के अन्दर और राज्य सभा के जो रूल्स हैं, उसके रूल 267 के तहत नोटिस दिया है। एक गम्भीर बात हुई है, जिस पर न सिर्फ सरकार ही, बल्कि विपक्ष भी उतना ही चिंतित है। एक आरोप लगा है, भूतपूर्व प्रधान मंत्री पर, भूतपूर्व उपराष्ट्रपति पर ...(व्यवधान)...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: سر، ہم نے سمودھان کے اندر اور راجیہ سبھا کے جو رولز ہیں اس کے اندر رول 267 کے تحت نوٹس دیا ہے۔ ایک گمبھیر بات ہوئی ہے، جس پر نہ صرف سرکار ہی، بلکہ ویکش بھی اتنی ہی فکرمند ہے۔ ایک ا روپ لگا ہے، سابق پردھان منتری پر، سابق اپ راشٹریتی پر۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

श्री सभापति: आप विषय पर मत जाइए। आपको जो विषय मेरे ध्यान में लाना है, बस वह बताइए, जो आपने नोटिस दिया है।

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: उन पर एक आरोप लगा है।

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: ان پر ایک ا روپ لگا ہے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

श्री सभापति: आप details में मत जाइए प्लीज़।

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: आरोप लगा है। बहुत सारे Foreign Secretaries, High Commissioner, Ambassadors, उन पर एक आरोप लगा है कि वे पाकिस्तान के साथ ...(व्यवधान)...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: ا روپ لگا ہے۔ بہت سارے فارین سکرٹیریز ہائی کمشنر امبیسڈرس، ان پر ایک ا روپ لگا ہے کہ وہ پاکستان کے ساتھ۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry Ghulam Nabiji. ...(Interruptions)... I have gone through the notices given by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Shri Anand Sharma, Shri

Naresh Agrawal, Shri Sanjiv Kumar and Shri D. Raja. I have not allowed it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: गुजरात के इलेक्शन ...*(व्यवधान)*... माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने स्वयं ...*(व्यवधान)*... 10 दिसंबर को पालनपुर, गुजरात में यह आरोप लगाया। यह आरोप साधारण आरोप नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: گجرات کے الیکشن ---*(مداخلت)*--- مائٹے پردھان منتری جی نے خود ---*(مداخلت)*--- 10 دسمبر کو پالن پور، گجرات میں یہ ا روپ لگایا۔ یہ ا روپ سادھارن ا روپ نہیں ہے۔---*(مداخلت)*---

श्री सभापति: आप लोग बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: यह साधारण आरोप नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... प्रधान मंत्री ...*(व्यवधान)*... भूतपूर्व राष्ट्रपति, उपराष्ट्रपति, सेना के चीफ ...*(व्यवधान)*...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: یہ سادھارن ا روپ نہیں ہے۔---*(مداخلت)*--- پردھان منتری ---*(مداخلت)*--- سابق راشٹریٹی، اپ راشٹریٹی، سینا کے چیف ---*(مداخلت)*---

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No.1, Shri Vivek Gupta, not present. ...*(Interruptions)*... Then, Question No.2, Dr. Subramanian Swamy, not present. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: आप ऐसे नहीं चलाएँगे। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: किसी को इस Question पर supplementary पूछना है? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: यह आरोप है और अगर ...*(व्यवधान)*...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: یہ ا روپ ہے اور اگر ---*(مداخلت)*---

श्री सभापति: यह पद्धति नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह किसी को शोभा नहीं देता है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... सदन में ऐसे सब लोग खड़े होकर ...*(व्यवधान)*... दोनों तरफ से लोग खड़े होकर ...*(व्यवधान)*... मैंने allow नहीं किया है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... मैंने उनको अनुमति दी, ...*(व्यवधान)*... Leader of the Opposition को मैंने इस विषय को मेरे ध्यान में लाने के लिए अनुमति दी, उन्होंने उसे मेरे ध्यान में लाया। ...*(व्यवधान)*... मैंने उसका पहले ही अध्ययन किया, मैंने decide किया और रूल 267 के अन्तर्गत Question Hour suspension की अनुमति नहीं दी। ...*(व्यवधान)*... जब अनुमति नहीं दी, तो हो गया। ...*(व्यवधान)*... अब हमें Question Hour पर आगे बढ़ना है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आपको Question चाहिए या नहीं चाहिए? ...*(व्यवधान)*... आपको Question चाहिए या नहीं चाहिए? ...*(व्यवधान)*... ठीक है, the House is adjourned to meet at 2.30 p.m. because it is Private Members' Business day, and Members will have an opportunity to have discussion on those issues.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Train accidents and strengthening of railway safety**

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

(a) the State-wise number of accidents of trains carrying passengers and freight that took place since 2014;

(b) whether Government has investigated into the causes of such mishaps;

(c) if so, the reasons thus ascertained for the accidents and the corrective measures taken by Government, since 2014, to redress these lapses in safety;

(d) in the above context, the proportion of Integral Coach Factory (ICF) coaches converted to Linke-Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches since 2012-13 to strengthen the passenger safety; and

(e) by when Government proposes to complete the conversion of ICF coaches to LHB coaches?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Indian Railways maintains accident data zone-wise. Number of consequential train (passenger and freight) accidents, zone-wise over Indian Railways is as follows:

Railways	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (up to 30th November, 2017)
1	2	3	4	5
Central	10	7	7	7
Eastern	4	4	7	1
East Central	19	12	17	4
East Coast	8	2	7	2
Konkan	4	1	1	1
North Central	7	4	7	4
North Eastern	14	9	3	4
North East Frontier	4	4	8	1
North Western	11	11	4	3
Northern	20	20	14	12

1	2	3	4	5
South Central	4	2	1	2
South Eastern	6	4	2	2
South East Central	1	3	5	0
South Western	11	8	3	1
Southern	2	6	8	3
West Central	3	2	2	0
Western	7	8	8	2
Metro Kolkata	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	135	107	104	49

Consequential train accidents have declined from 122 in 2012-13 to 104 in 2016-17 and further to 49 in the current year 2017-18 (upto 30th November, 2017).

(b) Yes, Sir. All consequential train accidents on Indian Railways are inquired into either by Commissioner of Railways Safety (CRS) under Ministry of Civil Aviation or Departmental Inquiry Committee of the Railway.

(c) Major causes behind accidents are failure of railway staff, failure of other than railway staff (mainly road vehicle users) at unmanned level crossings, failure of equipment, Sabotage and Incidental factors (incidental causes include acts of nature like falling of boulders, sinking of track due to heavy rain, cattle run over, etc). Based on the findings of the accident investigation, disciplinary action is taken against the erring staff. The training curriculum is also upgraded to include the key safety learning and staff is counselled so as not to repeat the same mistakes in future. Asset replacement and maintenance is a continuous process and constant endeavour is made to improve the safety. Track renewal works are being adequately done and traffic blocks to execute these safety works are being provided. An exclusive fund called "Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh" (RRSK) with a corpus of ₹ 1 lakh crores over a period of 5 years for giving a major boost to safety related works over Indian Railways has been set up. These funds will be used for improving safety of tracks, rolling stock and proliferation of other safety technologies and training of staff. Accordingly the fund allocation for safety has been enhanced.

(d) Nil. Integral Coach Factory (ICF) coaches cannot be converted to Linke-Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches since it is not technologically feasible. From 2009-10

to 2013-14 on an average 372 LHB coaches were produced. From the year 2014-15 to 2016-17 on an average 1022 LHB coaches were produced and further during the current year 2017-18 (upto November, 2017) a total of 1347 LHB coaches have been produced.

(e) It has been decided that from 2018-19 onwards, only LHB coaches will be produced and production of ICF coaches will be stopped to progressively reduce the number of ICF coaches in Railways over the years.

Redevelopment of slums on railway land

*2. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Railway has large tracts of land in Mumbai which have slums on them;

(b) whether Kranti Nagar, Kurla, Mumbai is one such slum cluster;

(c) whether Government is aware that the State Government allows rehabilitation and redevelopment of slum colonies under the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) Schemes in Mumbai;

(d) whether slum dwellers of Kranti Nagar, Kurla have approached Railways for NOC for the redevelopment of this slum pocket; and

(e) if so, the response and stand of Railways on the issue of redevelopment of slums on railway land?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (e) Railway land, particularly in the approaches of the Station in Metros like Mumbai and other big cities, has been encroached by the slum dwellers. Kranti Nagar, Kurla is one such slum cluster in Mumbai on Central Railway land.

Railway is aware of the rehabilitation and redevelopment scheme of slum colonies under Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) of Maharashtra Government in Mumbai. Railways did not provide No Objection Certificate to the slum dwellers of Kranti Nagar, Kurla for redevelopment of slum on railway land under SRA as redevelopment of the slums on railway land is not feasible due to Railways safety constraints/operational requirements. Housing being a State Subject, the State Government or the Urban Local Body has to provide alternative sites for rehabilitation/resettlement of the slum dwellers. Entire cost of such rehabilitation/resettlement may also be borne by State Government or Urban Local Body as Railways may not be able to contribute towards cost of land or rehabilitation/resettlement.

Establishment of new railway zone at Visakhapatnam

*3. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee of Senior Officers set up to examine the feasibility of establishing a new railway zone at Visakhapatnam has not commenced its work till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time-limit was given to the Committee to submit its report; and

(d) if not, by when the Committee will submit its report and by when Government will take a decision on establishing a separate railway zone at Visakhapatnam?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Committee has already submitted its report. The same is under examination.

Fall in prices of DAP fertilizers

*4. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY.: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether average landed cost of DAP has fallen from US \$ 650 per tonne in 2011-12 to about US\$ 370 per tonne now;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the price of DAP, hovering at ₹ 20,000 per tonne (without taxes), has gone up to around ₹ 25,000 per tonne (without taxes) between 2014 and 2016;

(c) whether in spite of global prices of MOP (Muriate of Potash) falling by one-third between 2011 and 2012, the overall reduction is just 1000 per tonne; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not transferring the benefit of low prices to farmers by Government?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR):

(a) and (b) The annual average FMB prices of DAP, MRP fixed by the companies and NBS rates during the year 2011-12 to 2016-17 are given in the Statement (See below).

The Government has implemented Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy w.e.f. 1.4.2010 for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) Fertilizers. Under the policy, a fixed amount of subsidy, decided on annual basis, is provided on subsidized P&K fertilizers depending on their nutrient content. Under this policy, MRP is fixed by fertilizer companies as per market dynamics at reasonable level.

From the year 2011-12 to 2014-15, subsidy rates had been reduced by the Government with the reduction in international prices of P&K fertilizers. But, subsidy rates for the year 2015-16 were kept at the same level as of 2014-15 so that prices of P&K fertilizers could remain stable. However, the Government reduced the subsidy rates during the year 2016-17 and the fertilizer companies were encouraged to pass on the benefits of fall in international prices to the farmers in terms of reduced MRP of the P&K fertilizers. Thus the P&K fertilizer companies reduced the MRP of P&K fertilizers and the prices of DAP came down by ₹ 3,800/- per MT in the fourth quarter of 2016-17 as compared to the first quarter of 2016-17.

(c) and (d) The average FMB price of MOP during the year 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 were US\$ 360, US\$ 466 and US\$ 448 per MT respectively. Thus, it is evident that the global price of MOP had not fallen between 2010-11 and 2012-13.

Statement

*Annual Average FMB C&F Price (prices considered for fixation of NBS rates),
MRP fixed by the companies and NBS rates*

Year	DAP (US\$)/MT	MRP (₹)/MT	NBS rates (₹)/MT
2010-11	588.63	10150.00	16268.00
2011-12	651.47	15449.00	19763.00
2012-13	573.45	23048.00	14350.00
2013-14	452.69	22633.00	12350.00
2014-15	474.76	23415.00	12350.00
2015-16	406.13	24999.00	12350.00
2016-17	323.78	23213.00	8945.00

Unmanned Level Crossings

*5. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified Unmanned Level Crossings (ULCs) in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of ULCs, State-wise;

(c) the time-frame set by Government to prevent train accidents at ULCs; and

(d) the details of security and safety measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State-wise details of number of Unmanned Level Crossings (ULMCs) is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) As per Section 131 of Motor Vehicle Act and Section 161 of Indian Railway Act, the onus for safe movement over UMLC has been put entirely on the road users. However, in view of the loss of human life at UMLCs, Railways have taken proactive measures to eliminate them on Broad Gauge (BG) route through closure/merger/grade-separator/manning and retain some of the UMLCs by deployment of Gate Mitras. Elimination of UMLCs on Metre Gauge (MG)/Narrow Gauge (NG) have been planned for elimination during gauge conversion.

(d) Apart from deployment of Gate Mitra and periodic inspections, Public awareness campaigns to educate road users with the use of print and electronic media, Nukkad Natakas, organising level crossing awareness week etc. is being done to ensure safety by road users at UMLCs. Joint ambush checks along with civil police are also being carried out to counter misadventure in front of approaching trains.

Statement

State-wise Unmanned Level Crossings as on 01.04.2017

Sl. No.	States	BG (Broad Gauge) (61680 Km)	MG (Metre Gauge) (3479 Km)	NG (Narrow Gauge) (2208 Km)	Total (67367 Km)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	272	0	0	272
2.	Assam	141	0	0	141
3.	Bihar	540	269	0	809
4.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	15	0	25	40
6.	Delhi	1	0	0	1
7.	Goa	0	0	0	0
8.	Gujarat	791	601	503	1895

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Haryana	92	0	0	92
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2	0	4	6
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	0	0	1
12.	Jharkhand	113	0	0	113
13.	Karnataka	253	0	0	253
14.	Kerala	7	0	0	7
15.	Madhya Pradesh	46	29	307	382
16.	Maharashtra	76	18	174	268
17.	Manipur	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
20.	Odisha	223	0	0	223
21.	Puducherry	2	0	0	2
22.	Punjab	334	0	0	334
23.	Rajasthan	472	281	52	805
24.	Tamil Nadu	333	111	0	444
25.	Telangana	37	0	0	37
26.	Tripura	0	0	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	904	206	2	1112
28.	Uttarakhand	26	9	0	35
29.	West Bengal	262	0	167	429
TOTAL		4943	1524	1234	7701

New techniques/methods to clear stubble/crop residue

*6. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of the impact of burning of stubble/crop residue in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is planning to impart new techniques/methods to the farmers to clear their stubble/crop residue without burning them as a way of post harvest management; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) According to the assessment made by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the burning of crop residues affects soil fertility due to the loss of valuable plant nutrients namely nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulphur besides organic carbon. Crop residue burning is a potential source of emission of various gases such as methane, carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides, sulphur and other hydrocarbons to the atmosphere and can lead to episodic rise in pollution especially during adverse meteorological conditions.

(b) and (c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has recommended various technological interventions like *in-situ* incorporation of crop residue through conservation of 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. Besides, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare provide financial assistance to State Governments of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan to use rotavator, happy seeder, zero till seed drill, straw reaper, rake, paddy straw chopper, shredder, mulcher, loose straw chopper at subsidized rates under Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) for reducing crop burning. In addition, State Governments take suitable measures for creation of capacity building, organization of Kissan Goshthis and spreading awareness through electronic and print media among the farmers for reducing crop burning. The State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh utilize paddy straw in biomass based power plants.

Appointment of CEC and ECs

*7. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a prescribed law for appointment of Election Commissioners (ECs) and the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India;

(b) if not, how Government has been appointing Election Commissioners and CEC;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has also observed about the need for bringing in a law for appointment of ECs and CEC; and

(d) if so, whether Government would bring in a legislation for their appointment on the pattern of appointment of Director, CBI and Central Vigilance Commissioner, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Article 324(2) of the Constitution of India provides that the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners shall, subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf by Parliament, be made by the President. No specific law has been made by the Parliament as envisaged under Article 324(2) of the Constitution of India. Rule 8 of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 read with Sl. No. 22 of the Third Schedule to the said Rules, *inter-alia*, provides that the cases of appointment, resignation and removal of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners shall, before the issue of orders, be submitted to the Prime Minister and the President.

(c) and (d) A Writ Petition (Civil) No. 104 of 2015 filed by Shri Anoop Baranwal before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India with a prayer to issue of appropriate writ/direction to the Respondents to introduce an independent and transparent system for appointment of members of the Election Commission is pending. No direction has been received from Hon'ble Supreme Court. There is no proposal under consideration to bring a legislation for appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and the two other Election Commissioners.

Payment of insurance claims to farmers of Tamil Nadu

*8. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of crop insurance premium collected under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) during last one year, State-wise and

(b) whether it is a fact that farmers have not been paid insurance claims in Tamil Nadu for losses of their crops in recent months, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) State-wise detail of premium collected during 2016-17 under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) In Tamil Nadu, total claims of ₹ 255013 lakh have been approved during 2016-17, of which claims of ₹ 241312 lakh have been paid to 7.37 lakh farmers by the insurance companies. Claims in few notified insurance unit areas/crops are pending due to incomplete bank details of insured farmers for transfer of claim amount, further clarifications required on yield data/area sown by concerned insurance companies and decision of reinsurer on settling the claims of extended period during Rabi 2016-17.

Statement

*State-wise details of premium collected by Insurance Companies
under PMFBY/RWBCIS (2016-17)*

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Farmers' Premium	GOI Premium (share)	State Government Premium (share)	Gross Premium
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23074.02	34328.09	34328.32	91730.44
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.23	0.46	0.93	1.62
3.	Arunachal Pradesh				
4.	Assam	497.24	183.71	183.71	864.66
5.	Bihar	20391.74	60850.72	60850.72	142093.18
6.	Chhattisgarh	13705.12	9556.46	9556.46	32818.04
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli				
8.	Daman and Diu				
9.	Goa	6.77	0.33	0.33	7.42
10.	Gujarat	24938.02	98780.76	112330.86	236049.64
11.	Haryana	19652.59	6486.39	10202.49	36341.46
12.	Himachal Pradesh	3105.69	2024.29	2024.29	7154.28
13.	Jammu and Kashmir				
14.	Jharkhand	3978.78	11608.40	11608.40	27195.57
15.	Karnataka	26786.46	67857.03	67857.03	162500.52
16.	Kerala	721.91	1297.53	1297.53	3316.97
17.	Lakshadweep				
18.	Madhya Pradesh	71190.67	150766.97	150766.93	343352.49
19.	Maharashtra	69222.87	202359.70	202359.70	473942.27
20.	Manipur	73.88	142.69	142.69	359.00
21.	Meghalaya	1.34	1.36	1.36	4.05

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Mizoram				
23.	Nagaland				
24.	Odisha	14261.23	19821.06	19821.08	53903.37
25.	Puducherry	26.33	129.14	154.30	309.77
26.	Punjab				
27.	Rajasthan	36611.93	107620.77	107620.77	251853.47
28.	Sikkim	0.74	0.14	0.14	1.02
29.	Tamil Nadu	29494.29	47245.64	47310.17	124200.28
30.	Telangana	12224.02	9590.54	9590.54	31405.10
31.	Tripura	28.52	5.19	5.19	38.89
32.	Uttar Pradesh	45129.83	29340.76	29340.76	103811.35
33.	Uttarakhand	1956.06	1101.23	1101.23	4158.52
34.	West Bengal	23294.19	24067.19	25600.90	72962.28
TOTAL		440374.47	885166.55	904056.81	2200375.66

Bringing down import of coal by thermal plants

*9. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is aiming to bring down to zero the coal imports of thermal power plants of Public Sector Undertakings in the current financial year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this move would reduce the country's import bill by about ₹ 17,000 crore; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to convince private companies operating in the power sector to totally stop the import of thermal fossil fuel, if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Domestic coal availability in the power plants has improved in the country during the last 2-3 years which has resulted in decline of thermal coal import by power plants. However, thermal power plants designed on imported coal do import and will continue to import coal for power generation.

From 2015-16 onwards, Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has taken initiative for substitution of imported coal with domestic coal, and based on one-on-one interaction with power

generators has devised strategy of substitution of imported coal with domestic coal. In the last three years, the fall in thermal coal import for domestic coal based power plants is given in the table below:

Year	Import by domestic coal based power plants (in MT)	Reduction in import (in %)
2014-15	48.5	
2015-16	37.1	(-) 23.50
2016-17	19.8	(-) 46.63
2017-18 (April-Oct.)	9.6	(-) 26.71*

* reduction over the same period of 2016-17.

(c) CIL has taken many steps for promotion of import substitution through:

- Source rationalization of part linkage from higher grade coal sources;
- Offer of coal, including higher grade coal, through various types of e-auction including Special Forward e-Auction;
- Introduction of flexibility in terms of auction, e.g. flexi tenure of lifting, reduction of EMD and floor price to cater to requirement of various consumers including TPPs not having FSA with CIL sources;
- Sanction of coal linkages under provisions of SHAKTI policy of the Government for meeting the demand of various categories of power utilities including IPPs.

Extending the benefit of reduction in GST rates to consumers

†*10. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the benefit of reduction in the rates of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on almost 200 items is extended with immediate effect to the consumers;

(b) whether any action has been taken so far against any shopkeepers or companies for not extending the benefit of reduced GST rates to the consumers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) As per information available major companies are passing on the benefit of reduction in GST rates to consumers. Under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, Government has granted permission

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to affix an additional sticker or stamping or online printing for declaring the reduced MRP on the pre-packaged commodity, upto 31st December, 2017. The enforcement of Legal Metrology Laws is done by the State Governments.

Length of railway network

*11. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of railway network in the country, in kilometres, passenger and dedicated freight corridor-wise;

(b) the total length of railway network in the country which require repair, passenger and dedicated freight corridor-wise;

(c) whether major routes of Railways' network have more trains operating per day than the designated capacity currently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Ministry to remedy this?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Indian Railways presently does not have dedicated Passenger and Freight Corridors. Both Passenger and Freight Services run on the entire network of Indian Railways comprising of 67,368 Route Kilometres as on 31.03.2017.

(b) Indian Railways have both *i.e.* Passenger and Freight type of traffic on its network. As on 01.04.2017, 7546 Km. of track length on Indian Railways is sanctioned for track renewal.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. These are 7 identified trunk routes across the country which are also termed as High Density Routes *viz.* (1) Delhi–Howrah (2) Howrah–Mumbai (3) Mumbai–Delhi (4) Delhi–Guwahati (5) Delhi–Chennai (6) Chennai–Howrah and (7) Chennai–Mumbai.

A number of steps have been taken to remove bottlenecks and augment track capacity:

- (1) Railways have a large number of sanctioned projects under the plan heads of doubling, new line, gauge conversion and traffic facility works to decongest routes. These include 177 New Line works, 58 Gauge Conversion works, 256 Double Line works, 570 Traffic Facility works and 112 Electrification works.
- (2) Total outlay for New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling and Traffic Facility works for the year 2017-18 is ₹21,198 crore, ₹3,884 crore, ₹18,001 crore and ₹3,088 crore respectively.

- (3) Two Dedicated Freight Corridors – the Eastern and Western Corridors – spanning a total length of 3,360 Kilometers are under construction. The two corridors are the 1,856 route km. Eastern Corridor and 1,504 route km. Western Corridor.

**Transfer of a section of railway lines from
Thiruvananthapuram Division**

*12. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways intend to transfer a part of railway lines in Thiruvananthapuram Division to adjoining division in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether this is against the assurance given by authorities to Kerala when there was a similar move earlier; and

(c) whether Railways propose to introduce more trains along the new Palakkad-Pollachi broad gauge route as desired by passengers and businessmen in both Tamil Nadu and Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal in the Ministry of Railways to change the jurisdiction of either Madurai or Thiruvananthapuram Divisions of Southern Railway Zone.

(c) To cater to the needs of passengers of Palakkad-Pollachi section, 03 pairs of train services have been provided on the section, with effect from 01.11.2017, by extending the following trains *via*. Palakkad-Pollachi:—

- (i) 22651/22652 Chennai Central-Pollachi Express up to Palakkad.
- (ii) 16343/16344 Thiruvananthapuram-Palakkad Amritha Express up to Madurai.
- (iii) 56769/56770 Tiruchendur-Palani Passenger up to Palakkad.

Besides, introduction of trains is an on-going process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, commercial viability and availability of resources.

Committee to study demands of rural postal employees

†*13. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has constituted a Committee to study the demands of rural postal employees working in various parts of the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, when and whether the Committee has submitted its report to Government;
- (c) if so, the recommendations of the Committee that have been accepted; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) A One Man Committee was constituted to study the various demand of rural postal employees (Gramin Dak Sevak) working in various parts of the country. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government on 24.11.2016. The recommendations of the Committee have been considered by the Department and necessary approvals are being obtained in this regard.

- (d) Does not arise in view of above.

Setting up of commercial courts

*14. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to establish Commercial Courts in districts to further improve the parameters, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the specified value of commercial disputes is likely to be brought down so as to expand the scope of commercial adjudication effectively and expeditiously; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) To ensure speedy disposal of high value commercial disputes, the Government has enacted the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act, 2015. As provided in Section 3 of the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act, 2015, it is for the State Government to constitute commercial courts at District level after consulting with the concerned High Court. As per information received so far, the State Governments have notified setting up of 247 Commercial Courts in various Districts in the country.

(b) and (c) The Government endeavors to provide for adjudication of commercial disputes, of reasonable value which may also be relevant for improvement of the India's Rank in the World Bank Report on Doing Business.

Train accidents due to old and poor quality tracks

*15. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether train accidents are taking place frequently, particularly due to old and poor quality of tracks;

(b) if so, the number and details of accidents occurred during the current calendar year so far;

(c) the number of persons who lost their life and those injured in these accidents, accident-wise;

(d) whether, instead of taking up any new rail projects for development, Government has any proposal to replace all old and dilapidated tracks to ensure safe journey of passengers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Though some unfortunate accidents have occurred in the recent past but the number of consequential train accidents have been continuously decreasing from 135 in 2014-15 to 107 in 2015-16 and further 104 in 2016-17. In the current financial year, the number of consequential train accidents upto 30th November, 2017 have decreased from 85 in 2016-17 to 49 in 2017-18.

The category-wise break-up of consequential train accidents (including accidents at unmanned level crossings caused due to the negligence of road vehicle users) during 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and the current year 2017-18 up to 30th November, 2017 in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous year, is given below:-

Type of Accident	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (1st April to 30th November)
Collisions	05	03	05	3
Derailments	63	65	78	37
Manned Level Crossing Accidents	06	06	-	1
Unmanned Level Crossing Accidents	50	29	20	8
Fire in Trains	06	-	1	-
Miscellaneous	05	04	-	-
TOTAL	135	107	104	49

In the calendar year 2017, based on the findings of the inquiry committee and *prima facie* cause a total of 19 accidents were attributed to track defect out of 63 accidents in the period from 1st January, 2017 to 30th November, 2017.

(c) Number of person who lost their lives or were injured therein is given below:—

Sl. No.	Date of Accident	Type of Accident	Zonal Railway	Division	Train No	K*	G*	S*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	21.01.2017	Derailment	East Coast	Waltair	18448	39	15	23
2.	18.02.2017	@UMLC Accident	Northeast Frontier	Katihar	75720	1	0	0
3.	08.03.2017	UMLC Accident	Northeast Frontier	Katihar	12487 Dn	1	0	0
4.	16.03.2017	UMLC Accident	South Western	Mysore	56910	4	0	3
5.	26.03.2017	UMLC Accident	Northern	Delhi	19023	1	0	0
6.	30.03.2017	Derailment	North Central	Jhansi	12189	0	1	12
7.	15.04.2017	Derailment	Northern	Moradabad	22454	0	0	3
8.	22.04.2017	UMLC Accident	North Eastern	Varanasi	12334	5	0	0
9.	03.05.2017	UMLC Accident	North Central	Jhansi	59825	4	1	0
10.	03.05.2017	UMLC Accident	North Central	Jhansi	51802	2	0	0
11.	08.07.2017	UMLC Accident	East Central	Samastipur	BCN Load	2	0	0
12.	19.08.2017	Derailment	Northern	Delhi	18477 Exp	24	38	68
13.	20.08.2017	UMLC Accident	Northern	Moradabad	14010 Dn	1	0	0
14.	23.08.2017	Derailment	North Central	Allahabad	12225	0	19	31
15.	25.08.2017	Derailment	Western	Mumbai	98725 Local	0	1	5
16.	07.09.2017	Derailment	Northern	Delhi	12439	0	1	0
17.	08.10.2017	UMLC Accident	Northern	Firozpur	74971	1	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
18.	25.10.2017	MLC Accident	Northern	Moradabad	22453	Up	1	5	3
19.	29.10.2017	UMLC Accident	North Western	Jodhpur	22482		1	1	1
20.	23.11.2017	UMLC Accident	Northern	Lucknow	64282		4	2	0
21.	24.11.2017	Derailment	North Central	Jhansi	12741		3	5	4
TOTAL							94	89	153

* K-Killed, G-Grievous Injury and S-Simple Injury

@Unmanned Level Crossing (UMLC)

(d) and (e) Development of new rail project and replacement of old and dilapidated tracks is an ongoing continuous process on Indian Railways. Railway tracks are changed as and when a stretch of tracks becomes due for renewal on age-cum-condition basis, traffic carried over the track and physical condition of track etc. except meter gauge (MG) track which are due for gauge conversion. In case any stretch of track is not renewed in time due to various reasons suitable speed restriction, if necessary, is imposed to ensure safe running of trains. The target (in track kms.) for track renewal has also been increased from 2500 km. in 2015-16 to 3600 km. in 2017-18 *i.e.* an increased of 44%.

Adequate funds are provided for safety related works from time to time. The allocation for safety related works has been increased from ₹42,304 crores in 2014-15 to ₹68,797 crores in 2017-18 which is an increase of about 62%. An exclusive fund called “Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh” (RRSK) has been made with a corpus of ₹1 lakh crores over a period of 5 years for giving a major boost to safety related works over Indian Railways. These funds will be used for improving safety of tracks, rolling stock and proliferation of other safety technologies and training of staff.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Transparency in Selection Examination of Agricultural Scientists

†1. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the selection examination of Agricultural Scientists was caught in controversies and the result was declared only after the advice of the Law Ministry;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to make the selection examination of Agriculture Scientists more transparent and to select the deserving Scientists; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Production of wheat

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for wheat in the country will reach 140 million tonnes by 2050, according to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country has so far recorded huge growth in wheat production, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) Sir, at 5.25 per cent growth rate in national Gross Domestic Product (GDP), it is estimated that the demand for wheat will reach 140 million tonnes by 2050. In case of high growth rate in national GDP (at 7 per cent), the demand for wheat may go up to 150 million tonnes by 2050.

(b) There has been a significant progress in wheat production in the country during past one decade (2006-07 to 2016-17). The production of wheat increased from 75.81 million tonnes in 2006-07 to 98.38 million tonnes in 2016-17 at a compound growth rate of 2.7 per cent per annum.

Post Harvest Losses

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India is one of the top countries for the losses of agricultural commodities during post harvesting period, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the effective and concrete measures Government has taken or proposes to take to substantially reduce losses of post harvesting agri commodities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) As per Report

(2015) on “Assessment of Quantitative Harvest and Post-Harvest Losses of Major Crops and Commodities in India” prepared by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET) under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the harvest and post-harvest losses for agriculture commodities range from 4.65-5.99% for cereals, 6.36-8.41% for pulses, 3.08-9.96% for oilseeds, 6.7-15.88% for fruits and 4.58-12.44% for vegetables. The total estimated economic value of quantitative loss was found to the tune of ₹ 92651 crore at average annual prices of 2014. There is no Authentic data available on Global ranking of India as one of the top countries in terms of post-harvest losses of agricultural commodities.

(b) The Government has taken number of measures to develop the post-harvest and marketing infrastructure for cleaning, grading storage, cold chain logistics, etc. with the objectives of reducing the post-harvest losses. 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 inter mediations and thereby reducing post-harvest losses. 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 post-harvest and marketing infrastructure in the country.

Further, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Government of India is carrying out Research and Development activities towards development of machines, tools and technologies for scientific storage, post-harvest processing and development of value chain for agricultural commodities to minimize the losses. In addition to above, programmes/activities relating to capacity building in value chain and development in post-harvest engineering and technology by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and CCS National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (CCS NIAM), Jaipur aims at reducing the post-harvest losses.

Suicide by farmers

4. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether Government has any comprehensive policy to address the issue of increasing number of farmers suicide in the country; if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, in what manner Government proposes, to deal with the larger issue of farmers woes, crop loss and increasing debt burden;

(c) whether State Governments, which have announced loan waivers on repayments have demanded grants/funds from the Centre, if so, the response of Central Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to ensure higher penetration of financial institutions in rural areas and insurance coverage for farmers?

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 Lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2016-17, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the Interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount.

In order to 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 and 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.

Funds for deep sea fishing vessels

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

(a) whether Government is re-considering the project submitted by Government of Kerala requesting funds to build vessels for deep sea fishing;

(b) if so, whether any funds have been earmarked to meet the project submitted by the State; and

(c) whether any funds/permission to build such vessels have been sanctioned to other States under similar project during the last three years, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) The Government of Kerala had submitted its project proposal to the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for deep sea fishing in January, 2017. Subsequently, in March, 2017, this Department has introduced a sub-component on 'Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing' under the 'Blue Revolution Scheme' and requested the Government of Kerala to re-submit its' revised project proposal in accordance with the Guidelines of the said sub-component.

(b) Allocation of requisite funds may be considered upon submission of revised proposal by the State Government.

(c) As the sub-component on 'Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing' has been introduced in current financial year 2017-18, so far the assistance of ₹ 200 crore has been sanctioned by the Government of India to the State Government of Tamil Nadu for deep-sea fishing during current financial year.

Separate fund for welfare of fishermen

6. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of fishermen in the coastal areas of the country, as on date, State-wise;

(b) the objectives and the salient features of the National Scheme for the welfare of fishermen, and

(c) whether Government is considering to provide a special package and to establish a separate fund for the welfare of the fishermen community in the country during the current five year plan period, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) The details of the total number of marine fishermen in the coastal areas as reported by State/UT as on date State-wise are given in the Statement (*See below*). As seen therefrom total Marine fisher population as reported by respective States/UTs is 40,24,590.

(b) The National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen has been subsumed with the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries' and it is implemented as one of the components of the CSS. Under this component assistance is provided towards personal accident insurance, relief during fishing ban period, assistance for the construction of low cost houses for fishermen, provision for drinking water and community centres for fishermen.

The scheme had been implemented with the following main objectives:

- (i) Provision of basic civic amenities for fishers like drinking water and sanitation in fishers villages,
- (ii) To facilitate better living standards for fishers and their families,
- (iii) Social security for active fishers and their dependents and
- (iv) To provide economic security.

(c) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration of this Ministry at present.

Statement

*State-wise details of the total number of fishermen in the coastal areas
as reported by the coastal States/UTs*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Marine Fishers population as reported by the respective States/UTs
1	2	3
1.	Tamil Nadu	7,87,474
2.	Puducherry	35,000
3.	Karnataka	1,69,429

1	2	3
4.	Gujarat	3,69,181
5.	Daman and Diu	40,016
6.	Kerala	6,10,165
7.	Lakshadweep	34,811
8.	Maharashtra	3,86,259
9.	West Bengal	3,80,138
10.	Goa	12,501
11.	Andhra Pradesh	6,05,428
12.	Odisha	6,05,000
13.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	22,188
GRAND TOTAL		40,24,590

Sale of spurious GM cotton seeds

7. 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 Ministry that as many as 35 lakh packets of GM cotton seeds incorporating unapproved herbicide tolerance technology are being sold in the market this season;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has permitted GM varieties to grow contain 'cryIAc' and 'cry2Ab' genes to protect against bollworm insects;

(c) whether it is also a fact that sale of spurious GM cotton seeds is rampant in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(d) if so, in what manner Ministry is going to contain this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) No, Sir. None of the State Governments have reported the sale of GM cotton seeds incorporating unapproved Herbicide Tolerance Technology. Only States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have reported traces of unapproved HT cotton in some of the farmers fields. However, there have been some media reports and representations from NGOs to the concern Central Ministries and State Governments on unapproved Herbicide Tolerant Technology.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. No such report has been provided by the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

(d) 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 on containing the unapproved Herbicide Tolerant Technology.

Implementation of PMFBY

8. SHRI K. K. RAGESH:

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

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

(a) the status of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in the country, State-wise;

(b) the reaction of Government to Centre for Science and Environment's report that private insurance companies are making huge profits under this scheme; and

(c) if so, the details of premium collected and compensation paid by each of the private sector insurance company under the Yojana since its implementation, State-wise, season-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has been under implementation in the country since Kharif 2016 season. State-wise details of coverage during, 2016-17 (both Kharif 2016 and Rabi 2016-17) are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) PMFBY was implemented in 2016-17 by the then 16 empanelled General Insurance Companies including all the 5 Public Sector General Insurance Companies. In fact, Public Sector General Insurance Companies share in the total crop insurance coverage was over 50%. Further the data used by the Centre for Science and Environment in its report including on claims reported/settled was not up-to-date at that time. As a principle, insurance covers risk to crops and claims are dependent on the occurrence of natural calamities. Even though 2016-17 was a good crop year, claims over 60% of the premium collected were reported to the insurance companies.

(c) State-wise and private company-wise details of premium collected and claims paid under PMFBY during 2016-17 are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I
State-wise Status of Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) during 2016-17
(both Kharif and Rabi) in the country (tentative)

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Farmers Insured			Area Insured (Ha.)	Sum Insured	Farmers' Premium	GOI Premium (Share)	State Govt. Premium (Share)	Gross Premium	Claims Reported	Claims Paid	No. of Farmers benefitted
		Loanee		Total									
		3	4	5									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1637962	133660	1771622	1976248.61	1019807.78	23074.02	34328.09	34328.32	91730.44	89413.14	75718.34	879562
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	324	0	324	253.20	46.84	0.23	0.46	0.93	1.62	14.56	14.56	295
3.	Assam	60229	36	60265	41005.08	23559.43	497.24	183.71	183.71	864.66	501.68	501.68	23370
4.	Bihar	2672627	40551	2713178	2465249.21	1172428.36	20391.74	60850.72	60850.72	142093.18	40192.78	0.00	151526
5.	Chhattisgarh	1352433	196731	1549164	2432358.59	726900.19	13705.12	9556.46	9556.46	32818.04	15453.60	15294.59	140722
6.	Goa	757	0	757	548.14	579.82	6.77	0.33	0.33	7.42	2.68	2.68	111
7.	Gujarat	1970405	4685	1975090	2841434.96	1232288.84	24938.02	98780.76	112330.86	236049.64	100247.70	100247.70	500212
8.	Haryana	1332922	3062	1335984	2084552.93	1178293.97	19652.59	6486.39	10202.49	36341.46	29247.38	26892.79	211978
9.	Himachal Pradesh	318355	60713	379068	129343.69	89807.84	3105.69	2024.29	2024.29	7154.28	4418.21	658.48	76859
10.	Jharkhand	200855	677204	878059	375725.84	201049.49	3978.78	11608.40	11608.40	27195.57	2689.74	2023.43	45181
11.	Karnataka	1561715	1359743	2921458	2439665.36	1128805.12	26786.46	67857.03	67857.03	162500.52	110522.48	95828.71	736007

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12.	Kerala	53212	24193	77405	53105.05	33247.68	721.91	1297.53	1297.53	1297.53	1770.44	1702.57	21341
13.	Lakshadweep												
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6394845	502879	6897724	11571174.90	35222827.23	71190.67	150766.97	150766.93	343352.49	189313.39	181161.15	1207820
15.	Maharashtra	4093599	7917094	12010693	7442303.08	2462359.08	69222.87	202359.70	202359.70	473942.27	229211.81	227482.96	2881672
16.	Manipur	5928	2438	8366	9120.89	3693.96	73.88	142.69	142.69	359.00	195.91	127.25	8358
17.	Meghalaya	89	0	89	37.71	47.13	1.34	1.36	1.36	4.05	2.62	0.00	0
18.	Odisha	1787506	32616	1820122	1318616.99	726170.12	14261.23	19821.06	19821.08	53903.37	42844.74	42598.17	166888
19.	Puducherry	44	8493	8537	7978.62	3398.78	26.33	129.14	154.30	309.77	733.61	733.61	4254
20.	Rajasthan	9283835	771	9284606	10197518.45	1718158.23	36611.93	107620.77	107620.77	251853.47	131316.39	116961.57	2248265
21.	Sikkim	0	574	574	130.50	45.93	0.74	0.14	0.14	1.02	0.00	0.00	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	328505	1117575	1446080	1337063.03	626800.30	29494.29	47245.64	47310.17	124200.28	255013.00	241311.66	713872
23.	Telengana	905191	72239	977430	874628.11	550484.89	12224.02	9590.54	9590.54	31405.10	18388.99	15514.24	221349
24.	Tripura	3179	9349	12528	4916.54	2957.70	28.52	5.19	5.19	38.89	8.34	8.34	502
25.	Uttar Pradesh	6553280	17109	6570389	5662717.70	2464105.95	45129.83	29340.76	29340.76	103811.35	53185.20	52603.84	1057276
26.	Uttarakhand	228916	32657	261573	132362.70	92139.49	1956.06	1101.23	1101.23	4158.52	2747.07	2742.86	61681
27.	West Bengal	2789072	1346120	4135192	2034681.22	1234547.59	23294.19	24067.19	25600.90	72962.28	11770.19	1880.57	247140
	TOTAL	43535785	13560492	57096277	55432741.10	20214551.74	440374.47	885166.55	904056.81	2200375.66	1329205.66	1202011.74	11606241

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	1059.50	577.30	0.00	0.00	69085.55	95466.01	118385.31	12941.63	4788.65	1034.89
14.	Maharashtra	51832.27	17848.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	71849.41	30341.53	0.00	0.00	103030.84	51562.37
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Odisha	0.00	0.00	50.17	18.64	15533.60	6048.20	7581.32	2556.43	10602.99	25074.99	0.00	0.00
17.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	4727.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9200.16	0.00
18.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16268.92	38302.72	0.00	0.00
20.	Telengana	13403.17	5369.16	5677.90	161.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15108.93	8230.24	0.00	0.00
23.	Uttarakhand	0.00	0.00	1168.74	599.19	0.00	0.00	310.49	331.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	8376.14	0.00	2523.25	324.00	0.00	0.00	25240.85	0.00	28.64	0.00
TOTAL		160631.45	94465.69	29681.98	1374.77	18056.85	6372.20	298366.31	180357.65	218885.08	105552.04	139605.47	58826.82

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	RELIANCE				SBI				SRIRAM				TATA				UNIVERSAL				Private Total			
		Gross Premium	Claims Paid	Gross Premium	Claims Paid	Gross Premium	Claims Paid	Gross Premium	Claims Paid	Gross Premium	Claims Paid	Gross Premium	Claims Paid	Gross Premium	Claims Paid	Gross Premium	Claims Paid	Gross Premium	Claims Paid	Gross Premium	Claims Paid	Gross Premium	Claims Paid	Gross Premium	Claims Paid
1	2	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26												
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	65268.04	71776.85		
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.62	14.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.62	14.56		
3.	Assam	290.09	182.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	691.45	501.68		
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	22886.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	15872.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	82075.89	0.00		
5.	Chhattisgarh	6250.09	6820.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30468.63	14370.54		
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	6.36	2.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.42	2.68		
7.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	149137.12	51343.04		
8.	Haryana	11236.10	8142.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36341.46	26892.79		
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	35.67	24.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1759.04	445.64		
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	446.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	665.12	0.00		
11.	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21573.42	852.74	29129.42	42684.83	66520.87	51952.08	117223.71	95489.65												
12.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	193319.01	110019.84		
14.	Maharashtra	90365.57	20107.68	0.00	0.00	3552.81	2117.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	320630.90	121977.44		

1	2	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.05	0.00
16.	Odisha	5920.62	3866.30	13632.42	4990.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	53321.11	42555.41
17.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13927.29	0.00
18.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16268.92	38302.72
20.	Telengana	3289.13	2966.36	3110.17	3074.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25480.38	11570.87
21.	Tripura	5.10	8.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.10	8.34
22.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15108.93	8230.24
23.	Uttarakhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1479.23	931.14
24.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36168.88	324.00
TOTAL		117358.32	42108.86	39671.43	8091.91	25572.23	2970.58	45002.33	42684.83	66520.87	51952.08	1159352.30	594757.43

Schemes for traditional fishing

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

(a) whether any special schemes to support the livelihoods of traditional fishing communities living in coastal areas are under operation by Centre; and

(b) if so, the funds sanctioned for such schemes during the last three years?

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 has been implementing a Central Plan Scheme on 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries'. This scheme 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 towards sustainable 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.

(b) The central financial assistance is provided to the State Governments/UTs for onward transfer to the eligible fishermen as per the provisions of the Central Plan Scheme. The details of financial assistance provided by the DADF during the last three years under the three components of the scheme namely (a) National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen, (b) Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post-Harvest Operations, and (c) National Fisheries Development Board which have direct bearing on the livelihood activities of fishermen are given below:

Financial Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Amount released (₹ in lakh)	6153.81	6659.61	4558.80

Reforms in the Ministry

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

(a) whether Government has taken any new and specific policy initiatives after June, 2014 to achieve the overall objectives of the Ministry, if so, the details of these initiatives and their overall impact; and

(b) whether Government has introduced any major administrative reforms specifically to achieve the objectives of the Ministry, in its functioning after May, 2014, if so, the details alongwith their impact thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The strategy of the Government during the last three years is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Farm viability is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The Government is realigning its interventions to move from production-centric to farmers' income-centric platform. In order to realise net positive returns for the farmer, schemes as follows, are being promoted and implemented in a major way, viz:-

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

irrigation by harnessing rain water at micro level through 'Jal Sanchay' and 'Jal Sinchan'. Micro irrigation is also incentivized through subsidy to ensure 'Per drop-More crop'. PMKSY adopts State level planning and projectised execution that allows States to draw up their own irrigation development plans based on District Irrigation Plans and State Irrigation Plans. The target for the year 2016-17 was 8 lakh hectare under micro irrigation against which 8.39 lakh hectare has been covered. The target for the year 2017-18 has been fixed to cover 12.00 lakh hectare under micro irrigation against which 4.49 lakh hectare have been covered.

- (v) The National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM) was launched on 14.04.2016 in 8 States *viz.* Gujarat, Telangana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand covering 21 markets. The scheme envisages initiation of e-marketing platform at national level and will support creation of infrastructure to enable e-marketing in 585 regulated markets across the country by March 2018. This innovative market process is revolutionizing agri markets by ensuring better price discovery, bringing in transparency and competition to enable farmers to get improved remuneration for their produce moving towards 'One Nation One Market'. 466 markets in 13 States have been brought on board so far.
- (vi) Government has introduced Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2016 to address the risks associated with agriculture. PMFBY addresses all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and is available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. The farmers will get full insurance cover as there is no capping of sum insured and consequently the claim amount is not curtailed or reduced. This scheme provides insurance cover at all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances. It is targeted to increase the area coverage to 30% by 2016-17, 40% by 2017-18 and 50% of Gross Cropped Area (GCA) by the end of following year. The first year target has been achieved. During 2016-17 (both Kharif 2016 and Rabi 2016-17) 25 States/ Union Territories implemented PMFBY/RWBCIS. During 1st year of implementation of PMFBY/WBCIS, 571 lakh farmer applications and area of 554 lakh hectare for a sum insured of ₹ 202231 crore has been covered. Total claims for the year 2016-17 have been reported at ₹ 13248 crore.
- (vii) The Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2016-17, in order to provide relief

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

- (viii) In addition, the Government is implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.* National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- (ix) MSP is notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP). The Commission collects and analyses data on cost of cultivation and recommends MSP. To incentivise cultivation of pulses and oilseeds in the country, Government has announced bonus for Kharif 2017-18, over & above the approved MSP. Even during last year, Government had offered bonus over and above the MSP, in the case of pulses and oilseeds.
- (x) Further the Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Price Support Scheme on the request of States/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production.
- (xi) To ensure that the schemes/programmes of the Central Government and those of the Governments of the States and Union Territories are implemented in a systematic and comprehensive manner, to promote growth of agriculture and allied sectors and the welfare of the farmers, an institutional mechanism for strengthening the policy and advisory support and review and monitoring system has been devised and issued in the form of guidelines to all the States. The aim is to cover all the farmers throughout the country and ensure that the intended benefits under various schemes/programs reach them. Committees are proposed to be constituted at District/State level to work synergistically to achieve welfare of the farmers. These Committees

will also ensure speed and quality of implementation, coordination and harmonization of efforts and convergence of resources for achieving the targeted growth rates and farmers' welfare.

Imparting integrated pest management practices to farmers

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

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to impart integrated pest management practices to farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government now plans to raise the Pesticides Management Bill before the Parliament on an urgent basis; and

(c) whether Government feels the need for a high level enquiry into the nature of pesticides used across the country, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing 'Strengthening and Modernisation of Pest Management Approach' (SMPMA) Scheme, wherein, *inter alia*, Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) are organized to sensitize farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. In the last three years, a total of 1997 FFSs have been organized sensitizing 59,910 farmers on IPM approach.

(b) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is in process of re-introducing Pesticides Management Bill.

(c) The Registration Committee, constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides after considering its efficacy and safety to human beings, animals and environment. In additions, technical reviews are carried out from time to time to assess the safety of pesticides for their continued use.

Use of pesticides in the country

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

(a) whether use of pesticides in the is country approximately 76 per cent as against the world average of 44 per cent, if not, the figures as compared to other countries;

(b) whether the new registration guidelines by the registration committee governing import and manufacture of pesticides, promote further usage of fertilizers, if so, whether there were any objections made by Government; and

(c) whether Government has brought any stringent rules related to organic farming unlike promotion of fertilisers mentioned in the above mentioned guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) As per the Economic Survey 2015-16, India's pesticides usage is 0.5 kg. per hectare, which is low as compared to other countries, such as, 7.0 kg. per hectare in the USA, 2.5 kg. per hectare in Europe, 12 kg. per hectare in Japan and 6.6 kg. per hectare in Korea.

(b) The Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee (CIB&RC) has framed the guidelines to assess safety and efficacy of the insecticides before their registration for use in the country.

(c) There is no such stringent rules related to organic farming. However, under Schedule-III(A) and Schedule-IV(A) of Fertiliser Control Order (FCO), 1985, specification of Bio-fertilisers and Organic fertilisers have been notified.

Suicide by farmers

13. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an unabated increase in the farmers suicide rate in the country, particularly during the last one year, including the Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action plan to address this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These reports on suicides upto 2015 are available on its website. The Reports for the year 2016 onwards have not been published yet. As per the ADSI reports for the years 2014 and 2015, the total number of suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers in the country is given in the Statement (*See below*) and there has been an increase in the number of suicides, including in Uttar Pradesh.

Agrarian distress as manifest from a 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 to augment it. In the meanwhile, the Government is realigning its interventions to move from a production-centric to a farmers income-centric platform. The Department has, therefore, been implementing various schemes to meet this objective viz. Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Interest Subvention Scheme, Minimum Support Prices, etc.

Statement

Number of suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers

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

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

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

Suicide by farmers

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

(a) whether suicide cases of farmers are increasing in an alarming rate in the country, particularly in State of Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Supreme Court has suggested to Government to bring out a concrete National Policy to tackle farmers' suicides and to evolve reasons for their

suicides and also for proper protection of their crops from natural calamities and holistic approach for their well-being, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These reports on suicides upto 2015 are available on its website. The reports for the year 2016 onwards have not been published yet. As per the ADSI reports for the years 2014 and 2015, the total number of suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers in the country is given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to answer to USQ No.13 part (a) and (b)]. It is observed that there is an increase in suicide in agriculture sector during the year 2015 as compared to the year 2014. In the State of Maharashtra the number of suicide in agriculture sector in 2015 was 4291 compared to 4004 in 2014.

(b) No, Sir.

Benefits of use of modern technology

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

(a) whether small and marginal farmers have not fully succeeded in reaping the benefits of use of modern agriculture technology and various special schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the States/areas/sectors where the benefits could not be percolated;

(c) whether Government has identified the areas using obsolete technology, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Agricultural Institutes/Universities have played any role to rejuvenate agriculture extension schemes for the proper dissemination of information/knowledge, especially to the small and marginal farmers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, with assistance from State Governments implements various Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes which have preferential norms of assistance for small and marginal farmers or emphasize earmarking of certain

minimum percentage of resources for or beneficiaries from amongst small and marginal farmers. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms” (ATMA) propagates economically viable and proven technologies aimed at resource poor families. Further, under ATMA guidelines it is stipulated that at least 50% beneficiaries must be from Small and marginal farmers. ATMA, Mass Media and Kisan Call Centre (KCC) Schemes have been revamped and strengthened to reach all farmers (including small and marginal farmers) to disseminate relevant information and to spread adoption of appropriate technologies. A nation-wide SMS Portal for farmers has enabled all departments, office and organisations of the Government of India and State Governments (down to the Block level) to send information, provide services and give advisories to farmers in their local languages, in respect of their location and for preferences of crops/agricultural practices. Benefits of the schemes and programmes of the Government in agriculture and allied sectors have percolated to all the States. Also the various mobile apps have been developed for providing agri and allied sector information.

(c) and (d) The main extension system mandated for dissemination of technologies among farmers is operated by the State Governments. The ICAR is not operating any scheme exclusively for small and marginal farmers. However, in order to assess, refine and demonstrate agricultural technologies/products generated by the National Agricultural Research System, the ICAR has created an innovative mechanism for technology application at district level by establishing a network of 681 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) which are providing technological backstopping to the main extension system operated by State Governments and various schemes including ATMA and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes like RKVY, NHM, and NFSM etc. During the year 2016-17, the KVKs have conducted 29,805 on-farm trails and 1.29 lakh frontline demonstrations on farmer’s fields, updated knowledge and skill of 13.21 lakh farmers and 1.42 extension personnel.

Vocational training for farmers

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

(a) whether all States/UTs in the country provide vocational training in agriculture to farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of districts in a State having Krishi Vigyan Kendras, the details thereof along with the location thereof;

(c) whether any NGOs have been approved by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for organizing camps at villages for educating the farmers, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the statistics of farmers who participated in the vocational training, the details thereof along with location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The 681 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) established in all States are conducting vocational training of farmers and rural youth as part of their mandated activities. The State-wise and location-wise details of the districts having KVKs are given at in the Statement-I (*See below*).

The ICAR does not have any program of involving NGOs for organizing camps at village level. However, out of 681 KVKs, 104 KVKs have been sanctioned to NGOs which organize extension activities including camps at village level for educating the farmers. The list of NGOs having KVKs is given at in the Statement-II (*See below*).

The State/UT-wise number of vocational training programmes conducted by KVKs and participation of farmers during 2016-17 is given in the Statement-III.

Statement-I

State-wise and location-wise details of the districts with KVKs.

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of KVK	Name of districts with KVK
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3	Port Blair, Nicobar, North and Middle Andaman (Mayabunder)
2.	Andhra Pradesh	24	Ananthpur, West Godavari-1, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Kadapa, Krishna-1, Nellore-1, Prakasham-1, East Godavari-1, Chittoor-1, Kurnool-1, Visakhapatnam-1, Guntur-1, Ananthpur, Kurnool-2, East Godavari-2, West Godavari-2, Guntur-2, Prakasam-2, Chittoor-2, Krishna-2, Nellore-2 and Visakhapatnam-2.

1	2	3	4
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	15	West Siang, West Kameng, Tirap, Lower Dibang Valley, Lower Subansiri, Papumpare, Upper Siang, East Kameng, Tawang, Namsai, Upper Subansiri, East Siang, Changlang, Anjaw and Longding
4.	Assam	26	Sonitpur, Cachar, Golaghat, Kokrajhar, Sibsagar, Nalbari, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Karbi Anglong, Kamrup, North Lakhimpur, Nagaon, Tinsukia, Karimganj, Dhubri, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Darrang, Jorhat, Goalpara, Hailakandi, Udalguri, Baska, Morigaon, Bongaigaon and Dima Hassao.
5.	Bihar	39	Munger, Darbhanga, Vaishali, Begusarai, Saharsa, Nalanda, Banka, Patna, Sheikhpura, Muzaffarpur-1, Madhepura, Bhagalpur, Rohtas, Araria, Purnea, Katihar, Samastipur, Siwan, West Champaran, Jahanabad, Saran, Supaul, Gaya, Sheohar, Aurangabad, Lakhisarai, East Champaran, Kishanganj, Gopalganj, Buxar, Bhojpur, Nawadah, Kaimur, Jamui, Madhubani, Khagaria, Sitamarhi, Arwal and Muzaffarpur-2.
6.	Chhattisgarh	25	Bilaspur, Surajpur, Durg-1, Bastar, Balodabazar, Janjgir-Champa, Raipur-1, Raigarh, Dhamtari, Mahasamund, Dantewada, Koriya, Jashpur, Kanker, Kavardha, Korea, Rajnandgaon, Balrampur, Gariyaband, Narayanpur, Bijapur, Raipur-2, Durg-2, Bemetara, Mungeli and Sarguja
7.	Delhi	1	Ujwa (New Delhi)
8.	Goa	2	North Goa, South Goa

1	2	3	4
9.	Gujarat	30	Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Dahod, Anand, Ahmedabad, Dang, Tapi, Navsari, Narmada, Amreli, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Porbandar, Surendranagar, Gandhinagar, Valsad, Kheda, Panchmahal, Mehsana, Bharuch, Vadodara, Patan, Kuchchh-1, Kchchh-2, Bhavnagar, Junagadh, Surat, Rajkot, Banaskantha and Morabi.
10.	Haryana	18	Panipat, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Kurukshetra, Faridabad, Yamunanagar, Sonipat, Rohtak, Sirsa, Mahendergarh, Fatehabad, Jhajjar, Bhiwani, Karnal, Gurgaon, Ambala, Rewari
11.	Himachal Pradesh	13	Kullu, Una, Mandi, Sirmaur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Lahaul and Spiti-1, Bilaspur, Kinnaur, Chamba, Shimla, Solan and Lahaul and Spiti-2
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	21	Jammu, Rajouri, Doda, Udhampur, Poonch, Leh-1, Pulwama, Srinagar, Gandarbal, Kargil-1, Kupwara, Anantnag, Kathua, Kulgam, Shopian, Leh-2, Bandipura, Badgam, Balamula, Samba, Kargil-2
13.	Jharkhand	24	West Singhbhum, Dumka, Palamau, Pakur, Lohardanga, Giridih, Bokaro, East Singhbhum, Sahibganj, Chatra, Garwah, Dhanbad, Simdega, Latehar, Jamtara, Koderma, Deoghar, Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Gumla, Godda, Seraikela, Khunti, Ramgarh
14.	Karnataka	33	Raichur, Bellary, Haveri, Bidar, Dharwad, Koppal, Gulbarga, Bijapur, Uttara Kannada, Bagalkot, Hassan, Mandya, Shimoga, Tumkur, Udupi, Chitradurga, Chikkamagalur, Dakshina Kannada, Chamrajanagar, Kolar-1, Bangalore Rural, Kodagu, Tumkur, Mysore, Belgaum-1, Gadag, Davanagere, Ramanagram, Belgaim-2, Gulbarga, Kolar-2, Bijapur and Yadgir.

1	2	3	4
15.	Kerala	14	Palghat, Kollam, Wynad, Kottayam, Kannur, Malappuram, Thrissur, Kasaragode, Alleppey, Ernakulam, Kozhikode (Calicut), Thiruvananthapuram, Idukki, Pathanamthitta
16.	Lakshadweep	1	Kiltan Island Lakshadweep
17.	Madhya Pradesh	51	Chhindwara, Jhabua, Sidhi, Shahdol, Khandwa, Tikamgarh, Seoni, Bhind, Rajgarh, Guna, Balaghat, Betul, Panna, Dhar, Dindori, Gwalior, Rewa, Hoshangabad, Morena, Sagar, Khargone, Shajapur, Ujjain, Mandsaur, Jabalpur, Harda, Damoh, Narsinghpur, Dewas, Katni, Chhatarpur, Shivpuri, Neemuch, Mandla, Badwani, Umaria, Sheopur, Datia, Ashoknagar, Bhopal, Ratlam, Vidisha, Satna, Indore, Sehore, Raisen, Burhanpur, Annupur, Agar Malwa, Alirajpur and Singrauli
18.	Maharashtra	45	Wardha, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Yavatmal, Gondia, Godchiroli, Aurangabad, Osmanabad, Ratnagiri, Raigarh, Dhule, Nagpur, Nashik, Parbhani, Kolhapur, Buldana, Amaravathi, Nanded, Solapur, Washim, Sindhudurg, Thane, Jalgaon, Beed, Satara, Pune, Ahmednagar, Sangli, Jalna, Hingoli, Nandurbar, Latur, Pune, Jalgaon, Akola, Satara, Beed Buldana, Ahmednagar, Solapur, Nashik, Nanded, Auragabad, Yavatmal
19.	Manipur	9	Imphal West, Churachandpur, Tamenglong, Chandel, Senapati, Bishnupur, Imphal East, Thoubal, Ukhrul
20.	Meghalaya	7	West Garo Hills, Ri-bhoi, Jaintia Hills, East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, South Garo Hills and East Garo Hills

1	2	3	4
21.	Mizoram	8	Lunglei, Kolasib, Chintuipui, Lawngtlai, Mammit, Champhai, Serchhip, Aizwal
22.	Nagaland	11	Dimapur, Medziphema, Wokha, Mokokchung, Kohima, Tuensang, Mon, Zunheboto, Laongleng, Peren and Kipire
23.	Odisha	33	Koraput, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Balasore, Gnajam, Bargarh, Kandhamal (Phulbani), Kalahandi, Jaipur, Dhenkanal, Angul, Bhadrak, Nabarangpur, Sundergarh, Nayagarh, Sambalpur, Jagatsinghpur, Gajapati, Rayagada, Nuapada, Boudh, Mayurbhanj, Sonepur, Malkangiri, Cuttack, Jharsuguda, Puri, Cuttack, Khurda, Bolangir, Mayurbhanj, Ganjam, Sundergerh.
24.	Pudducherry	3	Karaikal, Pudducherry, Yanam
25.	Punjab	22	Faridkot, Gurdaspur, Ferozepur, Bathinda, Hoshiarpur, Patiala, Kapurthala, Sangrur, Nawanshahar, Roopnagar, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Muktsar, Fatehgargh Sahib, Moga, Jalandhar, Mansa, Tarantaran, Barnala, Sahaibjada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali) and Pathankot
26.	Rajasthan	42	Dausa, Jhunjhunu, Bikaner, Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Dhoulpur, Sikar, Jalore, Alwar, Bharatpur, Jaisalmer, Nagaur, Sriganganagar, Karauli, Dungarpur, Banswara, Baran, Sirohi, Chittorgarh, Kota, Bundi, Jhalawar, Rajsamand, Bhilwara, Jodhpur, Pali, Tonk, Jaipur, Udaipur, Churu, Barmer, Hanumangarh, Barmer, Nagaur, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Churu, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Alwar, Hanumangarh, Pratapgarh
27.	Sikkim	4	East Sikkim, North Sikkim, West Sikkim, South Sikkim

1	2	3	4
28.	Tamil Nadu	30	Salem, Cuddalore, Trichirappali, Perambalur, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Kanyakumari, Madurai, Villupuram, Vellore, Thiruvallur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Virudhunagar, Dharmapuri, Kancheepuram, Shivagangai, Namakkal, Dindigul, Coimbatore, Theni, Nilgiris, Tiruvannamalai, Tirunelveli, Krishnagiri, Thanjavur, Tuticorin, Karur, Ariyalur, Erode.
29.	Telangana	16	Adilabad, Karimnagar-1, Khammam-1, Mahboobnagar-1, Medak-1, Nalgonda-1, Nizamabad, Ranga Reddy, Warrengal-1, Karimnagar-2, Mahboobnagar-2, Nalgonda-2 Warangal-2, Khammam-2, Mancheriel and Medak-2.
30.	Tripura	7	West Tripura, South Tripura, Dhalai, North Tripura, Khowai, Gomati and Unakoti.
31.	Uttarakhand	13	Champavat, Tehri Garhwal, Nainital, Chamoli, Haridwar, Almora, Pauri Garhwal, Rudra Prayag, Udham Singh Nagar, Pithoragarh, Dehradun, Uttarakanshi, Bageshwar
32.	Uttar Pradesh	69	Sahajahanpur, Bijnor, Saharanpur, Badaun, Ghaziabad, Rampur, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Pilibhit, Baghpat, Moradabad, Gautam Budh Nagar, Bahraich, Ballia, Mau, Varanasi, Basti, Faizabad, Gorakhpur, Maharajganj, Sonbhadra, Siddharth Nagar, Azamgarh, Barabanki, Jaunpur, Chandauli, Balrampur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Mathura, Jhansi, Rai Bareilly, Fatehpur, Aligarh, Kanpur (Dehat), Mainpuri, Mahoba, Etawah, Kannauj,

1	2	3	4
			Firozabad, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Lakhimpur Kheri, Lalitpur, Farrukhabad, Hardoi, Lucknow, Bareilly, Kushinagar, Etah, Agra, Allahabad, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Mirzapur Bulandshahar Sultanpur, Gonda Chitrakoot, Unnao, Pratapgarh, Gazipur, Sitapur, Kaushambi, Auraiya, Deoria, Mahamayanagar, Banda, Ambedkar Nagar, Sitapur
33.	West Bengal	22	Darjeeling, Coochbehar, Malda, Dakshin Dinajpur, Uttar Dinajpur, Howrah, Hoogly, Nadia, Jalpaiguri, North 24 Parganas, Murshidabad, South 24 Parganas, West Midnapur, Purulia, Burdhan, Birbhum, Bankura, South 24 Parganas, East Midnapore, Malda, North 24 Parganas and Nadia
TOTAL		681	

Statement-II

List of NGOs having KVKs

Sl. No.	Name and address of KVK	Host Organization
Andhra Pradesh (04)		
1.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, PO. Karakambadi Vanasthali, Tirupathi, Distt. Chittoor-517501	Chairman, Rayalseema Seva Samiti, 9, Old Hazur Office Building, Tirupathi, Chittoor-517520
2.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Yagantipalli, PO. Banaganapalli, Distt. Kurnool-518124	Secretary, Shri Hanumantharaya Educational and Charitable Society, Pendekanti Public School, Kothapeta, Kurnool-518286
3.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, PO. Yellamanchili Distt. Visakhapatnam-531005	The Secretary, Bhagavatula Charitable Trust, Haripuram, Rambilli Mandal Vishakhapatnam-531061

Sl. No.	Name and address of KVK	Host Organization
4.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vinayashram, Cherukupalli Mandal Distt. Guntur-522309	Chairman, Vinayashram Cherukupalli Mandal, Guntur-522309
Assam (01)		
5.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Village Sarvagram (Jatinga Lampu), P.S. Halflong, Distt. Dima Hasao, Assam	The Chief Trustee, Keshav Smarak Nyas (NGO), Namsong Bhavan, Opp. C.I. Hall, Main Road, Halglong, Distt. Dima Hasao, Assam
Bihar (05)		
6.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sarvodya Ashram, At+PO Sokhodeora, Distt. Nawadah-805116	General secretary, Gram Nirman Mandal Ashram Sukhoderia-805106, Nawahad
7.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Adhura Distt. Kaimur (Bhabua)-821116	President, Vanvasi seva Kendra, Ward No.11 Kothi Compound (Opposite Rice Mill) Bhabua-821101
8.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sharam Bharati, Khadi Gram, Distt. Jamui-811313	Director, Sharam Bharati, Khadi Gram-811313, Distt. Jamui
9.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, S.K. Choudhary Educaitonal Trust, Basaith, Vill. Chandpura, Distt. Madhubani-847102	President-cum-Managing Truestee, S.K. Choudhary educationala Trust, 141 Sukhdev Vihar, Mathura Road, New Delhi-110025
10.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Village and PO. Chainpura via Janakpur Road, Distt. Sitamarhi-843320	Secretary, Samata Seva Kendra Vill.+PO Chainpura via. Janakpur Road, Distt. Sitamarhi-843320
Gujarat (07)		
11.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kherva, Distt. Mehsana-382711	Mehsana District Education Foundation, Khera, Mehsana
12.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Po- Chaswad, Ta.Valiya, Distt. Bharuch-393130	Chairman, Bhartiya Agro Industries Foundation, Baroda
13.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gola Gamdi, PO-Bahadarpur, Distt. Vadodara-391125	Chairman, Mangal Bharti Bahadurpur, Baroda-391125

Sl. No.	Name and address of KVK	Host Organization
14.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Samoda, Ganwada Tal. Sidhpur, Distt. Patan-384130	Director, Sarswati Gram Vidyapeeth, Samoda
15.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ta. Mundra, PO. Sadau, Distt. Kutch, Gujarat	Chairman, Rural Agro. Research and Development Society, Juhu, Bombay
16.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kodinar Taluka, Distt. Junagadh	Director, Ambuja Cement Foundation, 248, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase-III, New Delhi-110020
17.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Village Sansora, Distt. Bhavnagar	Director, Lokbharati Gramvidyapith, PO. Sansora, Taluka Sihor, Distt. Bhavnagar
Haryana (02)		
18.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Village Tepla, PO. Saha, Distt. Ambala-133104	President, Society for Creation of Heaven on Earth, R.K. Khanna Tennis Stadium, 2nd Floor, Romm No. 1&2 Africa Avenue, New Delhi-110029
19.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Shri B.B. Ashram, Rampura, Distt. Rewari-123401	Secretary, Bhagwat Bhakti Ashram, Rampura, Rewari-123401
Jharkhand (05)		
20.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sujani, PO. Ghorlash, Distt. Deoghar-814152	General Secretary, Santhal Paharia Seva Mandal Deoghar-814152
21.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, PO. Morabadi, Distt. Ranchi-834008	Secretary, Rama Krishna Mission Ashram, Divayayan Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Swami Vishuddananda Road Morabadi, Ranchi-834008
22.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Holycross, Near Kanari Hill, Distt. Hazaribagh-825301	Directress, Holycross V.T.I., Hazaribagh-825301
23.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vikas Bharati, Bishunpur, Distt. Gumla-835331	Secretary, Research and Study Centre, Gram Ayatan-19, Arogya Bhawan-1, Bariatu, Ranchi-834009, Jharkhand

Sl. No.	Name and address of KVK	Host Organization
24.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Near Sub-Divisional Agricultural Office, Godda-Pirpaiti Road (Rautara Chowk), Distt. Godda-814133	Gramin Vikas Trust, 280 Kanke Road Panijahaj Kothi, Ranchi-8
Karnataka (05)		
25.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Suttur, Nanjangud Taluk, Distt. Mysore-571129	President, JSS, Mahavidyapeeth, Ramanuj Rd, Mysore-570004
26.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tukkanatti, Tal. Gokak, Distt. Belgaum-591224	Chairman, Belgaum Integreted Rural Development Society, Naganur Belgaum-591319
27.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hulkoti, Distt. Gadag-582205	Chairman, K.H. Patil Agril. Sciences Foundation, Distt. Gadag-582205
28.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Anubhava Mantap, P.B. No.303, Distt. Davanagere-577004	Chairman, Taralabalu Rural Development Foundation (TRDF), Anubhava Mantapa, Davanagere-577004, Karnataka
29.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Distt. Belgaum, Karnataka	The President, Karnataka Lingayat Education society, College Road, Belgaun (Karnataka)
Kerala (03)		
30.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mitraniketan, Velland, Distt. Thiruvananthapuram-695543	Director, Mitraniketan, Velland-695543, Tiruvananthapuram
31.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Santhanpara, Distt. Idukki-685619	President, Bapooji Sewak Samaj, Chakkopallam, PO-Kumily-685509
32.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kolabhagon, Thadiyoor, Distt. Pathanamthitta-689545	Chairman, Christian Agency for Rural Development, Tiruvalla-689101 Pethennamthitta
Madhya Pradesh (08)		
33.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Shiksha Samiti, Kalukheda, Distt. Ratlam-457339	President, Kalukheda Shiksha Samiti, Ratlam

Sl. No.	Name and address of KVK	Host Organization
34.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sri Malwa Mahila Vikas Samiti, PO. Sirjon, Distt. Vidisha-464228	President, Malwa Mahila Vikas Samiti, 32, Niyamatpura, Shajanabad, Bhopal
35.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Majhgaon, Distt. Satna-485331	Chairman, Deen Dayal Research Institute, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi
36.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust Kasturabagram, Khandwa Road, Distt. Indore-452020	Chairman, Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Kasturva Gram, Indore
37.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, CRDE, Vill-Sewanla Ichhwar, Distt. Sehore-462043	The Chairman, Centre for Rural Dev. and Environment, Bhopal
38.	Bbhoj Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Near Village Naktara, PO. Bankhedi, NH-86 Ext., Raisen Sagar Road, Distt. Raisen-466551	Secretary, Pt. Deendayal Krishi Vikas Avam Anusandhan Samiti, E-2/291, Arera Colony, Bhopal-462016
39.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Village Paliya Papariya, Mandal-chandon, Tehsil- Bankhedi, Distt. Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh.	President/Secretary, Bhau Sahab Bhuskute Smriti Lok Nyas, Govind Nagar, Tehsil Bankhedi, Distt. Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh
40.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Village Shankarpura Khurd and Sandas Khurd, Distt. Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh	President, Lokmatas Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Social National Mission, Masjid Complex, Shanwara, Burhanpur-450331, M.P.
Maharashtra (27)		
41.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, P.B.No. 33, Jitur Road, Distt. Parbhani-431401	Chairman, Jeevan Jyoti Charitable Trust, Bhagyaxmi Nagar, Basmath Road, Parbhani-431401
42.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, PO. Talasade, Tal. Hathkangale, Distt. Kolhapur-416112	Chairman, D.Y. Patil Education Society, PO. Talashande, Tal-Hathkangle, Kolhapur-416112

Sl. No.	Name and address of KVK	Host Organization
43.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, PO. Jalgaon, Jamod, Distt. Buldana-443402	President Satpuda Edn. Society Jalgaon, Jamod, Buldana-443402
44.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, "Chirantan" Madhuban Colony, Camp, Distt. Amaravati-444602	President, Sharam Safayalya Foundation, Chirantan Madhuban Colony Camp, Amravati-444602
45.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Akola, PO. Badnera (Durgapur) Distt. Amravati-444701	President, Sharam Sadhana Trust, 57 Congress Nagar, Amravati-447602
46.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pokharni Phata Purana Road, PO. Limbgaon, Distt. Nanded-431602	Chairman, J.N. Instt. of Edn. Sci. and Tech. Research Pokharni (phata) Purna Road, PO. Limbgaon, Nanded-431602
47.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gate No: 52/1/B, At: Khed, PO. Kegaon, Barshi Road, Distt. Solapur 413001	Chairman, Shabari Krishi pratshtan, 414, North Kasba, M.G. Road, Solapur-413001
48.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, PO. Risod, Loni Road, Distt. Washim-444506	President, SUVIDE Foundation, Risod, Washim-444506
49.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, PO. Kirol, Tal. Malvan, Distt. Sindhudurg-416616	Chairman, Sindhudurg Zilla Krishi Pratishthan, PO-Kirlos, Tal-Malvan, Sindhudurg-416616
50.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, PO. Kosbad Hill, Distt. Thane-401703	President, Gokhle Edn. Society, Vidyanagar, Nashik-422005
51.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, PO. Pal, Tal. Raver Distt. Jalgaon-425508	Secretary, Satpuda Vikas Mandal PO. Pal, Raver, Jalgaon-425508
52.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Post Box No: 28, PO. Ambajogai, Distt. Beed-431517	Chairman, Deen Dayal Research Institute, Rani Jhansi Marg, Jhandewalan Ext., New Delhi
53.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, PO. Kalwade, Tal. Karada, Distt. Satara-415110	Trustee Kalayani Gorakshan Trust, Shangrila Gardens B&C Wings, First Floor, Bund Garden Road, Pune-411001

Sl. No.	Name and address of KVK	Host Organization
54.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sharda Nagar, Malegaon Colony, PO. Baramati, Distt. Pune-413115	Chairman, Agril. Development Trust, Sharda Nagar, Baramati-413115, Pune
55.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, PO Babhleshwar, Tal. Rahata, Distt. Ahmednagar-413737	President, Pravara Instt. of Res. and Edn. In Natural and Soc. Sci., Loni, Rahata PO Babhaleshwar, Ahmednagar-413737
56.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, PO. Kanchanpur, Tal. Miraj Distt. Sangli-416306	Chairman, Vasant Prakash Vikas Pratisthan, SRISAI, Madhavanagar, Sangli-416416
57.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kharpudi Post Box No: 45, Distt. Jalna-431203	Chairman, Marathwada Shethi Sahayya Mandal, P.B. No. 45, Jalna-431203
58.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tondapur, PO. Waranga, Tal. Kalamnuri, Distt. Hingoli-431701	President, Saint Namdeo Sevabhavi Sanstha, Saraswati Nagar, Akola Road, Hingoli-431701
59.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, At and PO. Kolde, Distt. Nandurbar-425412	Chairman, Dr. Hedgewar Seva Samiti, Jayant Chowk, via Dhule, Nandurbar-425412
60.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chincholirao Wadi, C/o Abhinav College, MIDC, Distt. Latur-413512	Secretary, Manjara Charitable Trust, Deshmukh Complex, Barshi Road, Latur-413512
61.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gramonnati Mandal, Village Narayangaon, Tal. Junnar, Distt. Pune-410504	Chairman, Grammonnati Mandal, Village Narayangaon. Tal, Junnar, Distt. Pune (MS)
62.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Village Sisa (Udegaon), Taluka and District Akola	The Chairman, Rural Development and Research Foundation, C/o Pristine Infocast Pvt. Ltd., Ramlata Business Center, Amravati Road, Akola, Maharashtra-444001

Sl. No.	Name and address of KVK	Host Organization
63.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vellage Vadel, Taluka Malegaon, District Nashik	The President, Richfield Agri-e-Research and Development Centre, B-27, M.I.D.C., Ambad, Nashik-422 010 (Maharashtra)
64.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, District Aurangabad, Maharashtra	The Secretray, Mahatma Gandhi Mission, N-6 CIDCO Aurangabad-431003. Maharashtra
65.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vill. Sagroli, Taluka Biloli, Distt. Nanded (Maharashtra)	The Chairman, Sanskriti Samvardhan Mandal, Shardanagar, Sagroli, Nanded-431731, (Maharashtra)
66.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dahigaon Village, Shevagaon, Distt. Ahmednagar (Maharashtra)	The President, Shri Marutrao Ghule Patil Shikshan Sanstha, Dnyaneshwarnagaer, Post-Bhenda Budruk, Taluk-Newasa, Distt. Ahmednagar
67.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vill. Sangvi (Railway) Tq. Darwha, Distt. Yavatmal, Maharashtra	The President, Navsanjivan Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, At Tq. Darwha, Yavatmal-445202

Manipur (02)

68.	Sylvan Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hengbung, PO. Kangpokpi, Distt. Senapati-795129	President, Foundation for Environment and Eco. Dev. Services, (FEEDS), Imphal
69.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bishnupur Utlou, PO. Nambol Distt. Bishnupur-785134	Uttou Joint Farming Cum Pisci Culture Coop. Society Ltd., Bishnupur

Rajasthan (04)

70.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, V.P. Tankadra, Chomu, Distt. Jaipur-303702	The Secretary, Pragati Trust, Chomu, Jaipur-303702
71.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Badgaon, Distt. Udaipur-313001	The President, Vidya Bhawan Society, Badgaon, Udaipur-313001
72.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, P. Box No.29, Danta, Distt. Barmer-334001	The Secretary, Society for Upliftment of Rural Economy, Barmer-334001

Sl. No.	Name and address of KVK	Host Organization
73.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sangaria, Distt. Hanumangarh-335063	President, Gramothan Vidya Peeth Sangaria, Hanumangarh-335065
Tamil Nadu (11)		
74.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Valikandapuram, Distt. Perambalur-621115	St John Educational Trust Perambalur, Tamil Nadu
75.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kamatchipuram, Distt. Theni-625520	Chairman, Centre for Deve. and Communication Trust, 89-1/B-3West Street Kamatchipuram S.O. Theni, Madurai-625520
76.	UPASI Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Glenview, Coonoor, Distt. Nilgiris-643101	Secretary-General, UPASI, Glenview, P.B.-11 Coonoor-643101 Nilgiri Distt.
77.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kilnelli Village, Chithathur Post Cheyyar TK, Distt. Tiruvannamalai-604410	President, Tamilnadu Board of Rural Deve., No.13/3, II Floor Crescent Park Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-500017
78.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Urmelalagian, Ayikudi, PO. Tenkasi (TK) Distt. Tirunelveli-627852	Chairman, RVS Education Trust, Karur Road RVS Nagar, Dindigul-624004
79.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mallinayanapalli (PO) Elumichangiri-635120, Distt. Krishnagiri	President, Tamilnadu Board of Rural Deve., No.13/3,II Floor Crescent Park Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-500017
80.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Usilampatti, Manyeripatti (BPO) Distt. Thanjavur-613402	President, Bhakavasalam Memorial Trust, 596, A-1 and As,TNHB Periyar Nagar, Koratur, Chennai-600080
81.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, 57, Bharathi Street, Gobichettipalayam, Distt. Erode-638452	Executive Secretary, MYRADA, No.2 Service, Domlur Layout, Banglore-560071
82.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vegaikulam, Mudivithanedal Post, Distt. Tuticorin-628102	Chairman SCAD, 2 Salai Street, Vannarpettai Tirunelveli

Sl. No.	Name and address of KVK	Host Organization
83.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pulunderi, Kulithalai, Distt. Karur-623313	Managing Trustee, Saraswati Foundation for Rural Development and Training, 12/5. Sandilya Apartments, Jagadambal Colony, Iind Street Royapettah, Chennai-600014
84.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vill. Udhayanatham, Kodalikaruppure and Chozjamadevi, Distt. Ariyalur	The Secretary, CREED, 23, Arangaanatha Nagar Chidambaram, Distt. Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu-608001

Telangana-(05)

85.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jammikunta Jayaprakashnagar, Distt. Karimnagar-505122	Chairman, Gram Nava Nirmal Samiti, Jamaikunta, Jayaprakashnagar, Hyderabad
86.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Wanaparthy Station Road, Madanapuram, Kothakota Mandal, Distt. Mahaboobnagar-509110	The Executive Director, Youth for Action, Plot # 162, H.No. 1-2-593/50, Sri Nilayam, Sri Sri Marg, Street No.-4, Lane No. 5 Near Bala Saibaba Temple Ganganmahal, Domalyuda, Hyderabad-500 029 (AP)
87.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, PO. Box No. 24, Zaheerabad, Distt. Medak-502220	Chairman, Deccan Development Society, Flat No-101, Kishan Residency, H. No1-11-242/1 Street No-5, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016
88.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gaddipalli Garedepalli Mandal, Distt. Nalgonda-508201	Secretary, Aurobindo Institute of Rural Development, Gaddipalli, Nalgonda-508201
89.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Village Tuniki, Kowdipally Mandal, Distt. Medak, Telangana	The chairman, Ekalavya Foundation (NGO), 1-8-522/7, Chikkadapally, Hyderabad-500020 (Telangana)

Tripura (01)

90.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Divyodaya, Chebri, Distt. West Tripura-799207	The General Secretary, Sri Ramkrishna Seva Kendra, 23, R.N. Mukherjee Road, Kolkata
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Sl. No.	Name and address of KVK	Host Organization
Uttar Pradesh(11)		
91.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, C/o Kamla Nehru Memorial Trust, PO. KNI, Lal Diggi Civil Lines, Distt. Sultanpur-228118	Secretary, Kamla Nehru Memorial Trust, PO. KNI, Lal Diggi Civil Lines, Sultanpur-228118
92.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jai-prabha, Gram-Gopalgram, Distt. Gonda-271125	Chairman, Deen Dayal Research Institute, 7-E, Swamy Ramtirth Nagar, Near, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi-110055
93.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Via Pahari, Ganiwan, Distt. Chitrakoot-210206	Chairman, Deen Dayal Research Institute, 7-E, Swamy Ramtirth Nagar, Near Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi-110055
94.	V.K.S. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Virandra Nagar, Dhaura, Hasanganj, Distt. Unnao-209851	Chairman, Kunwar Ram Bux Singh Edn. Society, C-11 A, Vigyan puri, Mahanagar, Lucknow-226006
95.	Raja Dinesh T Singh KVK, Avadheshpuram Campus, PO. Lala Bajar, Kalakankar, Distt. Pratapgarh-229408	Chairman, Raja Avdesh Singh Memorial Society, Ainthn (Kalaknkar), Pratapgarh
96.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, P.G. College, Ravindrapuri, Distt. Gazipur-233002	Chairman, P.G. Gollege, Gazipur-233002
97.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Amberpur, PO. Manva, Block Sidhauli, Distt. Sitapur-261303	Manav Vikas Evam Sewa Sansthan, 261, Hind Nagar Kanpur Road, Lucknow
98.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Malak Moinuddin, The Chayal, Distt. Kaushambi	Dr. Bhim Ra Ambedkar Welfare Society, 8 A/1 Elgin Road, Civil Lines, Allahabad-211012.
99.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Village Parwaha, District Auraiya	The President, Sarpanch Samaj, L-21, Mahabir Nagar New Delhi-110018
100.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Distt. Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh	The Secretary, Ranvir Rananjay Degree College Association, Amethi, Sultanpur-227405 (UP)

Sl. No.	Name and address of KVK	Host Organization
101.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Village Chaukmaafi Block Jangal Kaudia, Tehsil Camplerganj, Distt. Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh	The President, Guru Gorakshnath Seva Sansthan, Gorakhnath Mandir, Gorakhnath Road, Gorakhpur 273015 (Uttar Pradesh)
West Bengal (03)		
102.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, C/O. Sri Ramkrishna Ashram, PO. Nimpith Ashram, Distt. South 24-Parganas-743338	Chairman, Sri Ramkrishna Ashram, PO. Nimpith Ashram South 24 Parganas-743338
103.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Seva Bharati, Kapgari, Distt. West Medinipur-721505	President, Sewa Bharti, Kapgari, West Midnapur-721505
104.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kalayan, Vill-Bongabari, Vivekananda Nagar, Distt. Purulia-723147	President, Kalyan. Vill-Bongobari Vivekanand Nagar, Purulia-723147

Statement-III

State/UT-wise number of vocational training conducted by KVKs with the participation of farmers during 2016-17

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Number of vocational training organized	Number of participants
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	81	248
2.	Andhra Pradesh	54	1408
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	19	369
4.	Assam	367	2197
5.	Bihar	1262	5461
6.	Chhattisgarh	90	2700
7.	Delhi	8	203
8.	Goa	1	13
9.	Gujarat	85	2183
10.	Haryana	202	7287
11.	Himachal Pradesh	87	2355

1	2	3	4
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	72	1452
13.	Jharkhand	791	3358
14.	Karnataka	35	1035
15.	Kerala	96	2590
16.	Lakshadweep	0	0
17.	Madhya Pradesh	232	6481
18.	Maharashtra	193	5485
19.	Manipur	19	382
20.	Meghalaya	25	483
21.	Mizoram	17	314
22.	Nagaland	18	351
23.	Odisha	128	1652
24.	Pudducherry	4	97
25.	Punjab	245	6355
26.	Rajasthan	130	3739
27.	Sikkim	15	282
28.	Tamil Nadu	95	2795
29.	Telangana	32	890
30.	Tripura	5	110
31.	Uttarakhand	4	90
32.	Uttar Pradesh	192	3985
33.	West Bengal	601	2582
TOTAL		5205	68932

Expansion of seed village programme

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to develop a software to generate crop specific and site specific recommendation of fertilizers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to expand the Seed Village Programmes from existing 30,000 to 60,000 villages; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to introduce a Seed Bill for effective regulation and mandatory registration of seeds, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Government has already developed and implemented a software to generate crop specific and site specific recommendations of fertilizers. (<http://soilhealth.dac.gov.in>).

(b) Yes, Sir. To upgrade the quality of farmers saved seeds, seed village programme is in operation under Sub Mission on seeds and Planting Material (SMSP). The Government has targeted to expand seed villages from present level 30000 to 60000 during the year 2017-18.

(c) Seeds Bill, 2004 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha, in December 2004. Compulsory registration of varieties is one of the salient features of the Bill. No seed of any kind or variety shall be allowed for sowing or planting or sell unless such seed is registered. Further, no person will be allowed to carry on the business of selling or supplying any seed which is not of a registered kind of variety. Farmers are exempted from compulsory registration and registration will be for a fixed period.

Protest against anti farmer policy by farmers

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

(a) the details of the number of farmers who have committed suicide during 2017, till date, State-wise and month-wise;

(b) whether Government is aware of the huge farmers protest in Delhi during the month of November, 2017 against the anti farmer agricultural policies and callous attitude of Central Government towards farmers of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the action Government would take in this regard in response to the huge protest by farmers?

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

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Setting up of KVKs in Chhattisgarh

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

(a) whether Government has received any proposal to establish 8 Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) in various districts of Chhattisgarh, including Surajpur district, through Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has approved to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendra only in one district and the approval for the remaining kendras is awaited; and

(c) if so, whether Government has fixed any time-frame for according approval to the remaining Krishi Vigyan Kendras, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved for establishment of KVKs in 8 districts of Chhattisgarh including Balod, Sukma, Kondagaon, Raipur, Mungeli, Surajpur, Bemetara and Durg (additional KVK) districts. Out of eight districts, KVKs have been set-up in five districts including Surajpur, Mungeli, Bemetara, Durg and Raipur. The KVKs in three remaining districts shall be established during 2017-18 to 2019-20 subject to availability of land and adequate budget provisions.

Rearing of indigenous breed of cows

†20. SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is encouraging the farmers for rearing indigenous breed of cows; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the lakhs of farmers in the country are willing to rear indigenous haunch bearing breed of cow but the calves of indigenous breed like Gir, Sahiwan, Haryana-Sindhi, Tharparkar, etc. are not available in sufficient number in proportion to demand, if so, the action plan of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to complement and supplement the efforts made by the States to increase availability of germplasm of indigenous breeds like Gir, Sahiwal, Haryana, Red Sindhi, Tharparkar

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

etc. the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries is implementing following schemes:

- (i) **Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM):** RGM has been initiated for development and conservation of indigenous bovine breeds. Under the scheme all 41 breeds of cattle and 13 breeds of buffaloes are covered.
- (ii) **National Dairy Plan-I:** Under the scheme development and conservation of 6 breeds of cattle (Sahiwal, Gir, Rathi, Tharparkar, Hariana and Kankrej) and 6 breeds of buffaloes (Murrah, Nili Ravi, Mehsana, Jaffarabadi, Pandharpuri and Banni) is covered.
- (iii) **Breed Improvement Institutes:**
 - (a) **Central Cattle Breeding Farms:** 7 cattle breeding farms established in different parts of the country. Male calves of high genetic merit of indigenous breeds (Red Singhi and Tharparkar cattle breeds and Murrah and Surti buffalo breed) along with other breeds produced at these farms are being made available to the States for genetic upgradation of bovine population.
 - (b) **Central Herd Registration Scheme:** 4 Central Herd Registration units established for identification and location of elite animals of indigenous breeds (Gir, Hariana, Kankrej and Ongole cattle breeds and Murrah, Mehsani and Jaffarabadi buffalo breeds) for use in genetic upgradation programmes for bovines being implemented by the States.
 - (c) **Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute:** Semen of indigenous breeds Red Sindhi, Tharparkar and Murrah is produced at this Station and made available to the States.

Nutritious milk of indigenous haunch bearing breed of cows

†21. SHRI R.K. SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the scientific research has proved that the milk of indigenous haunch bearing breed of cow is more nutritious and bears more resistant power to fight against the incurable diseases; and
- (b) if so, the plans being formulated by Government to develop the indigenous breed of cow?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) As informed by Indian

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) no such work has been carried out under ICAR Institutes.

(b) In order to complement and supplement the efforts made by States for development and conservation of indigenous breeds the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has been implementing following schemes:

(i) Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)

- National Programme for Bovine Breeding
- Indigenous Breeds
- National Mission on Bovine Productivity

(ii) National Dairy Plan-I

(iii) Breed Improvement Institutes

- Central Cattle Breeding Farms
- Central Herd Registration Scheme
- Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute

Shortage of milk

22. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country is likely to face shortage of milk in the coming years;
- (b) if so, whether any action plan has been formulated by Government to meet the shortage of milk and ensure its sufficient availability in the country; 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) This Department has no report to suggest that country is likely to face shortage of milk in the coming years.

(b) and (c) Does not arise

Implementation of PMFBY

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

(a) the number of beneficiaries registered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the average premium paid by these beneficiaries;

- (b) the number and value of claims received and processed each month since the scheme's introduction and the average value of processed settlements;
- (c) the number of claims currently pending or dismissed;
- (d) whether Government has taken measures to oversee the processing of these claims; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (e) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has been under implementation in the country since Kharif 2016 season. As per provisions of the scheme, farmer has to pay maximum premium of 2% during Kharif season and 1.5% during Rabi season for food and oilseed crops and maximum 5% for annual commercial/horticultural crops and remaining part of the actuarial/bidded premium is shared equally by the Central and State Government.

During 2016-17 (both Kharif 2016 and Rabi 2016-17), ₹ 4403.74 crore was collected as premium from 5.71 crore farmer applicants with an average of ₹ 771.23 per farmer applicant.

As per scheme provisions claims are worked out on the basis of yield data furnished by the concerned States/Union Territories and settled by the concerned insurance companies on receipt of Central and State Government share in premium subsidy. During 2016-17, claims of about ₹ 15549 were estimated, of which ₹ 13292 crore have already been approved. Out of which ₹ 12020 crore have been paid to about 1.16 crore farmer applicants. Claims in few notified insurance unit areas/crops are pending due to reasons such as incomplete bank details of insured individual farmers for transfer of claim amount, clarifications sought on yield data/area sown by concerned insurance companies, pendency of reinsurer's decision on settling the claims of extended period during Rabi 2016-17 etc. Government is regularly monitoring the progress in the matter with concerned States and insurance companies for early settlement of the remaining claims.

Supply of quality seeds to farmers

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

- (a) the details of Government mechanisms existing for the supply of quality seeds to farmers;
- (b) the number of high yielding variety rice and wheat seeds distributed through High Yielding Variety Programme (HYVP);

(c) the details of quantity of different seeds imported during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17; and

(d) the details of total expenditure under HYVP scheme during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research and State Agricultural Universities are responsible for production of Breeder Seeds. The Foundation Seeds are produced by State Department of Agriculture through their State Seed Farms, State Agricultural Farms, State Seed Corporations, State Seed Cooperatives, National Seeds Corporation Ltd. (NSC), Krishak Bharat Cooperatives (KRIBHCO), Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL), India Farm Forestry Development Cooperative Ltd. (IFFDC) and private companies etc.

The States are primarily responsible to ensure certified/quality seed production and supply to farmers through State Department of Agriculture, State Seed Corporations, State Seed Farms, State Agricultural University Farms, State Seed Cooperatives, NSC, KRIBHCO, IFFDC, HIL, Private etc.

(b) The number of high yielding varieties rice and wheat seeds distributed under various crop development programmes viz. National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI) and seed village programme of Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Materials (SMSP) are as under:

Year	Wheat	Rice
2014-15	136	275
2015-16	139	288
2016-17	155	286

(c) Details of quantity of different seeds imported during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(d) Details of total expenditure under various crop development programme viz. NFSM, BGREI, SMSP which promote high yielding varieties are as under:

(₹ in lakh)

Year	Expenditure
2014-15	33886.819
2015-16	21112.978
2016-17	25784.62657

Statement*Import of seeds/seed sprouts for the period 2014 to 2017***I. Import of Seeds During 2014-15**

Commodity	Quantity (Wt/Nos)	Unit
Seeds		
Ageratum	0.20	Kg
Agrostis stolonifera	45.45	Kg
Alcea	0.04	Kg
Alyssum	0.02	Kg
Amaranthus caudatus	0.25	Kg
Anthium graveolens	50.50	Kg
Anthriscus	150.00	Kg
Antirrhinum majus	0.42	Kg
Apium graveolens	80.00	Kg
Araucaria	2250.00	Kg
Archonthophoenix	468.00	Kg
Ash/Wax Gourd	783.19	Kg
Asparagus	32.25	Kg
Assorted Seeds	40476.21	Kg
Aster	4.10	Kg
Banana Squash	295.30	Kg
Barley	77.00	Kg
Basil	30.35	Kg
Beans	95630.17	Kg
Beetroot	169883.36	Kg
Begonia	0.00	Kg
Bellis	0.02	Kg
Berseem and Clovers	10190.00	MTs
Bittergourd	60069.17	Kg
Blanket flower	0.25	Kg
Bottle gourd	65.60	Kg

Commodity	Quantity (Wt/Nos)	Unit
Broccoli	951.77	Kg
Brussels sprouts	12.50	Kg
Butia	150.00	Kg
Cabbage	111390.97	Kg
Calceolaria	0.05	Kg
Calendula	25.25	Kg
Candytuft	0.15	Kg
Carnation	1.81	Kg
Carrot	205940.42	Kg
Catharanthus	0.02	Kg
Cauliflower	0.60	gms
Cauliflower	73106.45	Kg
Chicory and Endive	9238.22	Kg
Chilli seed	4734.81	Kg
Chinese Cabbage	551.50	Kg
Chives	1.07	Kg
Chrysanthemum spp.	0.50	Kg
Cock's comb	23.00	Kg
Coleus	0.06	Kg
Coriander	7748942.10	Kg
Corn flower	0.55	Kg
Cosmos	326.37	Kg
Cucumber	83970.20	Kg
Cyclamen	0.16	Kg
Dahlia	4.96	Kg
Delphinium	0.58	Kg
Dimorphotheca	0.10	Kg
Eggplant/Aubergine	508.31	Kg
Fennel	4.75	Kg
Gaillardia	3.78	Kg

Commodity	Quantity (Wt/Nos)	Unit
Gazania	2.00	Kg
Geranium	1.39	Kg
Gerbera	0.11	Kg
Globe amaranth	0.05	Kg
Godetia	19.02	Kg
Hyphaene spp.	500.00	Kg
Impatiens spp	1.18	Kg
Ipomoea spp.	16.75	Kg
Italian ryegrass	313.25	MTs
Kochia	0.80	Kg
Kohlrabi	3239.00	Kg
Latania	965.50	Kg
Lawn grass	954.55	Kg
Leek	1072.50	Kg
Lettuce	486.25	Kg
Limonium	0.10	Kg
Linaria	0.10	Kg
Lucerne or Alfa alfa	100.00	Kg
Lupinus	0.40	Kg
Maize/Corn	5753.25	Kg
Mandarins	10.00	Kg
Matthiola incana	0.78	Kg
Metroxylon	6000.00	Kg
Mushroom	760.00	Kg
Muskmelon	11179.64	Kg
Mustard	1.00	Kg
Nasturtium	0.50	Kg
Okra	231.00	Kg
Onion	35890.96	Kg
Origanum	12.25	Kg

Commodity	Quantity (Wt/Nos)	Unit
Pansy	5.14	Kg
Papaya	2114.05	Kg
Pea	1152.57	MTs
Penstemon spp.	0.08	Kg
Perennial ryegrass	17325.60	Kg
Petroselinum crispum	565.00	Kg
Petunia	1.01	Kg
Phlox	0.35	Kg
Portulaca	4.00	Kg
Primula	11.36	gms
Pumpkin	9674.18	Kg
Radish	307746.03	Kg
Ranunculus	2800.00	gms
Rape/Canola	62729.00	Kg
Raphia	10252.00	Kg
Ridge gourd	29504.90	Kg
Rocolla	20.00	Kg
Sage	60.25	Kg
Salvia hispanica	700.00	Kg
Salvia splendens	8.95	Kg
Schizanthus	31.05	gms
Senecio	54.40	gms
Snakegourd	301.00	Kg
Sorghum spp.	470060.00	Kg
Sponge gourd	9.00	Kg
Straflower	0.25	Kg
Strelitzia	25.00	Kg
Summer Squash	10442.59	Kg
Sweet pea	0.10	Kg
Tagetes	3939.50	Kg

Commodity	Quantity (Wt/Nos)	Unit
Thymus vulgaris	100.80	Kg
Tomato	1478.51	Kg
Torenia spp.	0.07	Kg
Trifolium alexandriu	732.00	MTs
Turnip	26253.00	Kg
Verbena	1.61	Kg
Vinca	2.68	Kg
Wall flower	0.20	Kg
Watermelon	44006.01	Kg
Zamia	7.00	Kg
Zinnia	87.68	Kg
TOTAL	22291.29	MTs
Seed Sprouts		
Oil Palm	1000000	Nos

II. Import of Seeds During 2015-16

Commodity	Quantity	Unit
Achillea	5.75	gms
Ageratum	0.75	Kg
Agrostis stolonifera	79.54	Kg
Alcea	1.54	Kg
Alyssum	0.23	Kg
Anthium graveolens	14.75	Kg
Anthriscus	50.00	Kg
Antirrhinum	211.17	Kg
Antirrhinum majus	0.90	Kg
Apium graveolens	176.20	Kg
Araucaria	2578.00	Kg
Archonthophoenix	1.10	Kg
Artemisia annua	0.20	Kg
Ash/Wax Gourd	1259.47	Kg

Commodity	Quantity	Unit
Asparagus	92.13	Kg
Assorted Orn.Palms	3726.00	Kg
Assorted Seeds	3967.82	Kg
Aster	29.22	Kg
Banana Squash	81.49	Kg
Barley	96.00	Kg
Basil	222.16	Kg
Beans	138723.50	Kg
Beetroot	262437.14	Kg
Begonia	0.09	Kg
Bellis	0.19	Kg
Berseem and Clovers	10287.99	MT
Bittergourd	76933.18	Kg
Black pepper	25.80	Kg
Blanket flower	0.36	Kg
Bottle gourd	652.37	Kg
Broccoli	1308.57	Kg
Brussels sprouts	14.87	Kg
Cabbage	131648.62	Kg
Calceolaria	0.17	Kg
Calendula	23.50	Kg
Candytuft	0.15	Kg
Carnation	14.58	Kg
Carrot	267889.80	Kg
Cauliflower	86105.26	Kg
Chamaerops	6.50	Kg
Chicory and Endive	14815.55	Kg
Chilli	98.49	Kg
Chilli seed	1408.98	Kg
Chinese Cabbage	782.35	Kg

Commodity	Quantity	Unit
Chives	2583.65	Kg
Cleome	10.00	Kg
Cock's comb	6.07	Kg
Coleus	0.87	Kg
Coreopsis lanceolata	17.01	Kg
Coriander	9341325.40	Kg
Corn flower	3.00	Kg
Cosmos	253.61	Kg
Cowpea	2.00	Kg
Cucumber	64212.53	Kg
Cycas	1.60	Kg
Cyclamen	0.08	Kg
Daemonorops	0.10	Kg
Dahlia	9.08	Kg
Delphinium	0.90	Kg
Delphinium hybrids	0.10	Kg
Eggplant/Aubergine	619.07	Kg
Eschscholzia	13.00	Kg
Eustoma	0.03	Kg
Flowers	83.90	Kg
Gaillardia	30.73	Kg
Gazania	9.59	Kg
Geranium	1.52	Kg
Gerbera	10.71	Kg
Globe amaranth	3.52	Kg
Godetia	28.03	Kg
Hyphaene spp.	1350.26	Kg
Impatiens spp	7.80	Kg
Ipomoea spp.	35.96	Kg
Italian ryegrass	226961.20	Kg

Commodity	Quantity	Unit
Jatropha	70.00	Kg
Kochia	4.16	Kg
Kohlrabi	10895.80	Kg
Large cardamom	2000.00	Kg
Latania	45.00	Kg
Lawn grass	3700.09	Kg
Leek	330.64	Kg
Lettuce	1156.72	Kg
Licuala	0.30	Kg
Limonium	2.72	Kg
Lupinus	0.15	Kg
Lytocaryum	0.20	Kg
Maize/Corn	16589.03	Kg
Matthiola (Stock)	470.32	gms
Matthiola incana	0.26	Kg
Metroxylon	9000.00	Kg
Mimulus	0.08	Kg
Mushroom	1140.00	Kg
Muskmelon	13063.66	Kg
Mustard	25.00	Kg
Okra	149.04	Kg
Onion	12475.26	Kg
Origanum	1.35	Kg
Ornamental Palms	2115.00	Kg
Ornamental Poppy	3.27	gms
Pansy	10.39	Kg
Papaya	1690.00	Kg
Paspalam	148.00	Kg
Pea	1900961.00	Kg
Penstemon spp.	0.17	Kg

Commodity	Quantity	Unit
Pepper/Chillies	15908.03	Kg
Perennial ryegrass	8409.09	Kg
Perilla	0.20	Kg
Petroselinum crispum	1175.00	Kg
Petunia	2.32	Kg
Phlox	1.65	Kg
Portulaca	0.14	Kg
Primula	1.77	Kg
Ptychosperma	0.40	Kg
Pumpkin	10207.41	Kg
Radish	346671.85	Kg
Ranunculus	0.07	Kg
Rape/Canola	25000.00	Kg
Raphia	6000.00	Kg
Ridge gourd	35480.37	Kg
Rocolla	65.00	Kg
Rosemary	1.22	Kg
Rudraksha	1.00	Kg
Sage	13.15	Kg
Salvia hispanica	1600.00	Kg
Salvia splendens	1614.22	Kg
Senecio	0.68	Kg
Sinningia	0.03	Kg
Snakegourd	365.00	Kg
Sorghum spp.	60.00	Kg
Soybean	4.00	Kg
Straflower	2.50	Kg
Strelitzia	15.00	Kg
Summer Squash	12520.49	Kg
Sunflower	24.00	Kg

Commodity	Quantity	Unit
Sweet pea	0.35	Kg
Sweet pea	107.50	Kg
Sweet pea	5.90	Kg
Sweet pea	13.00	Kg
Tagetes	8976.41	Kg
Thunbergia	1.00	Kg
Thymus vulgaris	2.60	Kg
Tomato	2830.90	Kg
Torenia spp.	6.02	Kg
Turnip	46387.00	Kg
Verbena	14.96	Kg
Vicia faba	1000.00	Kg
Vinca	21.86	Kg
Wall flower	0.05	Kg
Watermelon	50842.34	Kg
Zamia	1.50	Kg
Zinnia	103.88	Kg
TOTAL	23476.78	Mts
Seed Sprouts		
Oil Palm	425000	Nos

III. Import of Seeds During 2016-17

Commodity	Quantity	Unit
Agrostis stolonifera	251.800	Kg
Alcea	23.500	Kg
Alyssum	103.000	Gms
Amaranthus caudatus	37.827	MT
Anchusa	30.000	Gms
Annatto	200.000	Gms
Anthium graveolens	300.000	Kg
Anthriscus	100.000	Kg

Commodity	Quantity	Unit
Antirrhinum	525.000	Gms
Antirrhinum majus	507.000	Gms
Apium graveolens	93.122	Kg
Araucaria	3.509	MT
Archonthophoenix	52.250	Kg
Ash/Wax Gourd	0.467	MT
Asparagus	22.000	Kg
Assorted Seeds	18.967	MT
Aster	35.000	Kg
Astilbe	5.000	Gms
Banana Squash	0.339	MT
Barley	54.485	MT
Basil	0.434	MT
Beans	240.959	MT
Beetroot	245.312	MT
Begonia	252.268	Kg
Bellis	106.000	Gms
Berseem and Clovers	9488.000	MT
Birds of paradise	18.000	Kg
Bittergourd	72.687	MT
Black eyed susan	1.000	Kg
Blanket flower	36.540	Kg
Borago	20.000	Kg
Bottle gourd	0.600	MT
Broccoli	1.498	MT
Brussels sprouts	3.964	Kg
Butia	118.650	Kg
Butia capitata	90.000	Kg
Cabbage	107.345	MT
Calendula	23.317	Kg

Commodity	Quantity	Unit
Carnation	16.364	Kg
Carrot	254.912	MT
Catharanthus	28.000	Gms
Cauliflower	80.908	MT
Celery seed	95.000	Kg
Chamaerops	0.500	Kg
Chicory and Endive	15.805	MT
Chilli	0.064	MT
Chilli seed	0.435	MT
Chinese Cabbage	0.523	MT
Chives	1.355	MT
Cleome	0.347	Kg
Coccothrinax	0.320	Kg
Cock's comb	0.038	MT
Coleus	299.300	Gms
Coreopsis lanceolata	14.098	Kg
Coriander	6445.672	MT
Cosmos	0.260	MT
Cosmos bipinnatus	60.000	Kg
Cotton	300.000	Gms
Cucumber	63.329	MT
Cucurbita	16.450	Kg
Cycas	4.850	Kg
Cyclamen	196.000	Gms
Dahlia	0.014	MT
Delphinium hybrids	1.482	Kg
Dianthus chinensis	6.492	Kg
Dioon	2.160	Kg
Eggplant/Aubergine	0.207	MT
Eustoma	75.100	Gms

Commodity	Quantity	Unit
Euterpe	50.000	Gms
Flowers	104.080	Kg
Gaillardia	2.652	Kg
Gazania	8.560	Kg
Geranium	.10	Kg
Gerbera	1.321	Kg
Globe amaranth	3.836	Kg
Godetia	17.590	Kg
Hibiscus spp.	22.000	Gms
Hyphaene spp.	1.300	Kg
Impatiens spp	1.419	Kg
Ipomoea spp.	52.000	Kg
Italian ryegrass	564.856	MT
Jessenia	40.000	Gms
Kidney Bean	1.000	Kg
Kohlrabi	8.339	MT
Latania	350.000	Kg
Lawn grass	7.253	MT
Leek	0.519	MT
Lettuce	0.636	MT
Leucaena	98.000	Kg
Limonium	2.882	Kg
Lytocaryum	440.000	Gms
Macrozamia	9.940	Kg
Maize/Corn	36.753	MT
Marigold	51.330	Kg
Matthiola (Stock)	2.550	Kg
Matthiola incana	0.888	Kg
Meadow fescue	227.500	Kg
Medicinal herbs	50.000	Kg

Commodity	Quantity	Unit
Mesembryanthemum	186.000	Gms
Mexican Marigold	6.500	Kg
Mimulus	280.000	Gms
Mushroom	1370.000	Kg
Muskmelon	10.469	MT
Nemesia	75.000	Gms
Nigella	2.000	Kg
Okra	1.184	MT
Onion	9.257	MT
Oreganum	35.000	Kg
Origanum	200.000	Gms
Pansy	182.000	Kg
Papaver nudicaule	20.066	Gms
Papaya	2.270	MT
Parsley	440.000	Kg
Pea	2675.760	MT
Penstemon spp.	126.000	Gms
Pepper/ Chillies	22.773	MT
Perennial ryegrass	37.343	MT
Periwinkle	5.548	Kg
Petroselinum crispum	0.441	MT
Petunia	5.703	Kg
Phlox	3.579	Kg
Phlox drummondii	1.250	g
Poppy seed	162.000	MT
Portulaca	109.000	Gms
Primula	0.301	Kg
Ptychosperma	2.940	Kg
Pumpkin	17.467	MT
Radish	209.449	MT

Commodity	Quantity	Unit
Ramie	5.000	Kg
Ranunculus	442.000	Gms
Raphia	17.779	MT
Rice	49.224	MT
Ridge gourd	33.871	MT
Rocolla	60.000	Kg
Rosemary	1.200	Kg
Round Gourd/Tinda	20.000	Kg
Sage	117.000	Kg
Salvia splendens	36.158	Kg
Senecio	450.000	gms
Sesame Seeds	2.100	Kg
Shallot	6.768	Kg
Snakegourd	737.400	Kg
Sorghum	60.000	Kg
Sorghum spp.	50.000	Kg
Soybean	42.500	Kg
Sponge gourd	34.400	Kg
Straflower	23.750	Kg
Strelitzia	50.000	Kg
Summer Squash	17.915	MT
Sweet pea	151.400	Kg
Tagetes	4.910	MT
Thunbergia	1.000	Kg
Thymus vulgaris	132.000	Kg
Tomato	3.632	MT
Torenia	0.785	Kg
Tropaelum	4.000	Kg
Tropaelum spp.	34.000	Kg
Turnip	31.159	MT

Commodity	Quantity	Unit
Verbena	5.853	Kg
Vinca	65.216	Kg
Wall flower	85.000	Gms
Watermelon	49.231	MT
Zinnia	93.223	Kg
TOTAL	21063.089	Mts
Seed sprouts		
Oil Palm	47250	Nos

Abbreviation:

MTs- Metric Tonnes

Kgs- Kilograms

Gms- Grams

Implementation of RKVY

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

(a) the details of budget allocation for Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for the last five years;

(b) the details of all projects under RKVY for the development of agriculture and allied sectors, State-wise; and

(c) the steps Government is taking to strengthen on the RKVY in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The year-wise details of budget allocated for implementation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) during the last five years is given as below:

(₹ in crore)

Year	Budget allocation
2012-13	9217.00
2013-14	9954.00
2014-15	9954.00
2015-16	4500.00
2016-17	5400.00

(b) State-wise projects approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) of the States under RKVY during the last five years are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) RKVY has been revamped with effect from 1.11.2017 as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana - Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR) with the objective of making farming a remunerative economic activity through strengthening the farmer's effort, risk mitigation and promoting agri-business entrepreneurship with focus on development of pre and post harvest infrastructure. The aim is also to promote value chain linked production and public-private partnership in agriculture.

Statement

(A) State-wise/Sector-wise Number of Projects 2012-13 as on 12.12.2017

Sl. No.	State Name	CROP	HORT	SERI	ANHB	OTHR	FISH	COOP	IPMT	SEED	FINM	AMEC	EXTN	MKRT	NONF	ITEC	AGRE	NRM	IRRI	ORFM	DDEV	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	6	4	8	0	6	0	0	3	0	14	1	3	0	0	27	1	0	1	3	78
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	12	7	2	3	2	6	0	0	0	0	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	3	5	1	51
3.	Assam	9	14	0	13	3	4	0	0	2	0	1	2	3	1	0	9	0	1	2	4	68
4.	Bihar	5	4	0	2	3	5	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	31
5.	Chhattisgarh	6	22	0	22	2	25	2	2	11	2	7	24	2	0	0	14	0	3	0	13	157
6.	Goa	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	14
7.	Gujarat	11	18	0	15	0	7	1	3	7	0	4	13	5	2	0	2	13	12	3	2	118
8.	Haryana	2	4	0	8	2	1	0	4	3	2	4	3	1	0	0	4	1	4	1	1	45
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	5	1	11	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	8	38
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	7	35	8	0	2	0	1	0	6	0	4	0	0	9	0	1	0	15	3	1	92
11.	Jharkhand	11	12	0	6	8	8	0	2	3	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	64
12.	Karnataka	2	15	7	7	5	1	0	6	4	1	3	0	6	1	3	24	2	0	2	0	89
13.	Kerala	23	21	0	16	2	9	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	3	0	8	2	4	1	10	103
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3	9	0	19	5	7	1	0	10	3	14	4	0	1	0	5	0	4	2	0	87

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
15.	Maharashtra	7	10	0	7	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	37
16.	Manipur	0	4	2	4	0	2	1	0	1	0	2	14	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	33
17.	Meghalaya	0	38	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	47
18.	Mizoram	8	11	16	16	0	11	0	3	0	0	7	12	2	0	0	0	39	8	0	1	134
19.	Nagaland	3	6	3	5	1	6	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	5	2	2	0	42
20.	Odisha	11	12	0	3	0	2	1	2	2	2	6	6	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	5	56
21.	Punjab	2	15	0	10	1	3	0	1	0	4	3	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	6	49
22.	Rajasthan	2	3	0	18	0	2	4	1	2	0	4	0	7	0	0	6	0	1	1	3	54
23.	Sikkim	1	6	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	15
24.	Tamil Nadu	17	13	0	17	1	19	5	0	3	3	11	4	12	2	4	6	0	14	3	6	140
25.	Tripura	9	4	0	10	0	8	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34
26.	Uttar Pradesh	7	5	0	10	4	7	3	2	7	2	4	2	1	0	1	3	3	1	2	3	67
27.	Uttarakhand	3	0	3	4	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	8	2	27
28.	West Bengal	0	5	10	10	1	8	5	0	2	0	0	0	4	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	49
TOTAL		166	306	56	247	44	151	30	31	72	21	104	102	55	24	9	119	75	83	41	83	1819

Total No of Projects : 1819

Crop - Crop Development; Hort - Horticulture; Seri - Sericulture; Anhb - Animal Husbandry; Othr - Innovative Programmes/Others; Fish - Fisheries;
 Coop - Cooperatives/Cooperation; I pmt - Integrated Pest Management; Seed - Seed; Finm - Fertilisers And Innm; 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 2013-14 as on 12.12.2017

Sl. No.	State Name	CROP	HORT	SERI	ANHB	OTHR	FISH	COOP	IPMT	SEED	FINM	AMEC	EXTN	MRKT	NONF	ITEC	AGRE	NRM	IRRI	ORFM	DDEV	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	13	5	18	7	5	5	0	5	0	14	0	8	0	0	43	3	1	7	3	138
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	2	1	5	3	5	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	26
3.	Assam	10	15	4	9	5	4	0	0	5	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	61
4.	Bihar	8	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
5.	Chhattisgarh	4	14	0	9	0	18	1	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	4	61
6.	Goa	2	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	13
7.	Gujarat	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	5	2	1	0	2	2	2	1	24
8.	Haryana	3	6	0	7	1	0	1	1	5	1	3	1	3	0	0	17	4	3	1	1	58
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	6	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	23
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	7	25	6	0	1	0	2	0	8	1	1	0	4	6	0	0	0	7	1	0	69
11.	Jharkhand	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	14
12.	Karnataka	10	22	9	11	5	4	0	2	7	0	2	0	4	2	0	22	4	0	3	0	107
13.	Kerala	19	14	0	10	0	5	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	6	16	0	0	4	81
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8	4	0	11	3	7	0	1	5	0	10	4	0	2	0	3	0	1	1	8	68

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
15.	Maharashtra	7	21	2	6	1	0	0	2	3	2	1	4	1	0	0	0	4	2	2	3	61
16.	Manipur	0	2	1	2	0	7	3	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	8	0	1	1	31
17.	Meghalaya	0	12	8	6	5	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	46
18.	Mizoram	9	8	1	12	0	8	0	5	0	0	8	4	5	0	0	0	21	11	1	1	94
19.	Nagaland	6	7	2	4	5	5	3	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	8	1	1	0	49
20.	Odisha	10	31	0	6	1	4	5	2	3	1	3	3	9	0	0	0	3	17	0	10	108
21.	Punjab	8	20	2	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	7	51
22.	Rajasthan	0	0	0	6	0	2	0	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	20
23.	Tamil Nadu	9	5	0	3	0	8	2	0	0	1	8	1	7	0	2	5	0	0	0	10	61
24.	Tripura	4	10	0	10	0	12	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	42
25.	Uttar Pradesh	13	6	1	12	5	8	1	2	3	2	4	1	2	0	1	6	6	4	4	4	85
26.	Uttarakhand	5	3	0	8	3	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	6	0	0	0	2	0	5	4	42
27.	West Bengal	1	11	10	4	6	11	5	1	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	58
TOTAL		160	259	53	172	53	122	36	18	59	13	78	36	66	13	5	109	92	63	34	67	1508

Total No of Projects: 1508

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, Fimm - Fertilisers And Imm; 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

(C) State-wise/Sector-wise Number of Projects 2014-15 as on 12.12.2017

Sl. No.	State Name	CROP	HORT	SERI	ANHB	OTHR	FISH	COOP	IPMT	SEED	FINM	AMEC	EXTN	MRKT	NONF	ITEC	AGRE	NRM	IRRI	ORFM	DDEV	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	26	7	11	2	6	0	5	4	4	22	4	6	0	0	15	1	0	11	9	133
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	7	4	27	18	11	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	78
3.	Assam	14	13	6	2	4	2	0	0	5	0	7	2	2	3	0	3	0	7	1	6	77
4.	Bihar	13	0	1	1	3	0	2	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	26
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	13	0	9	0	12	1	0	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	5	59
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	10
7.	Gujarat	1	7	0	6	0	2	0	1	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	29
8.	Haryana	3	8	0	6	0	3	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	25	2	4	0	3	61
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	10	1	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	1	1	2	2	35
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	4	31	6	19	11	3	2	0	3	0	9	3	6	10	0	8	3	7	3	0	128
11.	Jharkhand	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	17
12.	Karnataka	5	31	9	23	2	4	0	2	5	1	3	5	11	1	0	18	4	2	4	1	131
13.	Kerala	9	15	0	20	0	12	0	0	2	0	1	0	5	20	0	8	14	5	2	3	116
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4	4	1	4	6	2	0	1	6	0	11	3	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	48
15.	Maharashtra	17	31	2	10	2	2	0	0	3	2	0	6	6	0	0	1	5	6	1	4	98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
16.	Manipur	0	4	3	3	0	9	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	1	0	1	6	0	4	1	40
17.	Meghalaya	0	10	12	3	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	61
18.	Mizoram	15	15	6	49	2	24	0	12	1	0	9	23	4	0	0	7	34	18	1	5	225
19.	Nagaland	3	11	3	14	5	5	8	1	2	2	3	1	1	3	0	0	14	0	1	1	78
20.	Odisha	5	12	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	9	0	15	0	0	50
21.	Punjab	6	3	0	8	1	4	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3	0	4	1	12	46
22.	Rajasthan	1	17	0	42	3	7	2	1	11	3	1	16	6	2	0	5	3	9	4	2	135
23.	Sikkim	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
24.	Tamil Nadu	9	8	0	2	1	8	1	0	2	5	6	5	12	0	0	7	1	1	0	5	73
25.	Telangana	0	18	4	8	3	5	4	1	4	2	16	0	1	1	0	37	0	1	11	7	123
26.	Tripura	2	12	1	18	4	18	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	65
27.	Uttar Pradesh	8	1	1	1	4	1	1	0	3	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	1	3	3	2	35
28.	Uttarakhand	3	3	0	3	7	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	4	0	2	4	4	0	6	0	41
29.	West Bengal	4	8	10	17	13	23	7	1	6	0	2	5	10	2	0	1	3	6	0	4	122
TOTAL		144	319	79	317	91	172	37	32	79	25	110	88	81	46	9	158	99	129	58	73	2146

Total No of Projects: 2146

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; Fimm - 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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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; Anhhb - Animal Husbandry; Othr - Innovative Programmes/Others; Fish - Fisheries;
 Coop - Cooperatives/Cooperation; Ipmt - Integrated Pest Management; Seed - Seed; Finn - Fertilisers And Inni; 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

(E) State-wise/Sector-wise Number of Projects 2016-17 as on 12.12.2017

Sl. No.	State Name	CROP	HORT	SERI	ANHB	OTHR	FISH	COOP	IPMT	SEED	FINM	AMEC	EXTN	MRKT	NONF	ITEC	AGRE	NRM	IRRI	ORFM	DDEV	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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	2	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
13.	Meghalaya	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	9
14.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
15.	Nagaland	2	4	2	5	0	5	4	1	2	1	3	3	1	8	0	0	12	0	1	0	54

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
16.	Odisha	6	17	0	5	0	6	1	1	3	2	3	2	0	0	6	4	0	15	0	4	75
17.	Rajasthan	1	24	0	4	21	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	68	0	0	0	3	127
18.	Sikkim	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
19.	Tamil Nadu	11	7	0	7	0	17	2	0	2	2	2	1	7	0	1	4	2	1	1	4	71
20.	Telangana	1	12	0	4	3	4	0	1	9	4	7	0	5	0	0	29	0	0	1	5	85
21.	Tripura	2	4	0	14	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	34
22.	Uttar Pradesh	14	6	0	13	8	2	1	0	8	0	5	3	0	1	1	4	2	1	4	0	73
23.	Uttarakhand	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
24.	West Bengal	5	2	0	3	3	12	10	2	3	0	2	2	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	50
TOTAL		83	181	25	114	65	93	19	17	66	18	45	26	25	19	9	167	27	34	15	37	1085

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; Irri - Micro/Minor Irrigation; Orfm - Organic Farming/Bio Fertiliser; Ddev - Dairy Development

Production of pulses

26. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the year 2016-17 there have been record production of pulses, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the comparative per hectare yield of pulses in the country with rest of the world;

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite record production, farmers are switching to cotton farming, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government is confident that the prices of pulses will come down in 2017-18 due to record production in 2016-17, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the 4th Advance Estimates, the total production of pulses during 2016-17 is estimated at 22.95 million tonnes which is higher by 3.70 million tonnes than the previous record production of 19.25 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14. The pulses production during 2016-17 is also higher by 6.61 million tonnes than the production of 16.35 million tonnes during 2015-16.

(b) The yield of pulses in the country increased over the years from 577 kg/ha in 2004-05 to 779 kg/ha in 2016-17 (4th Advance Estimates). Given the vast differences in the levels across countries in the production, consumption, varieties of pulses, climatic conditions, irrigation intensity and size of the farms, yields of countries of the broad group of pulses are not strictly comparable. As against a global average yield of pulses of 909 kg/ha in 2014, India's yield was 764 kg/ha in 2013-14. The comparative details of yield of pulses in some of the countries in the world during 2014, as per the latest data of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), are given as under:—

Country	Yield (kg/ha)
Australia	1473
Brazil	1030
Pakistan	502
Afghanistan	752
Myanmar	1422

Country	Yield (kg/ha)
Zimbabwe	432
United Republic of Tanzania	931
United States of America	1941
China	1725

Source: FAOSTAT, FAO.

(c) The area coverage of crops including pulses and cotton depends on farmers' preferences, agro-climatic conditions, inter-crop profitability, resource availability, market prices, etc.

(d) All India average wholesale prices of pulses broadly exhibit a decline from January, 2017 to November, 2017.

Production of Wheat

†27. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat produced in the country in years 2015-16 and 2016-17;

(b) the quantum of wheat imported from April, 2016 to May, 2017 and the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantum of import duty levied on imported wheat; and

(d) the total estimated stock of wheat in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) The production of wheat in the country during 2015-16 and 2016-17 are 92.29 million tonnes and 98.38 million tonnes (as per 4th Advance Estimates), respectively.

(b) There was no import of wheat for central pool from April, 2016 to May, 2017. However, some private traders were importing wheat. The quantity of wheat imported from April, 2016 to May, 2017 is 5.97 million tonnes.

(c) Presently, import duty levied on wheat is 20%. Import duty on wheat was raised from 'zero' to 10% *vide* Notification dated 28th March, 2017 and from 10% to 20% *vide* Notification dated 8th November, 2017.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) As per Food Corporation of India, the Stock of wheat in the Central Pool as on 1st December, 2017 is 21.66 million tonnes.

Agriculture revolution

28. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has unveiled three year road-map for evergreen revolution in agriculture, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government aims to double the farmers' income by 2022, if so, the steps proposed to be taken up by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) No, Sir. However, implementation of most schemes of this Department has been approved for the period of three years *i.e.* 2017-18 to 2019-20 which is co-terminus with the period of 14th Finance Commission.

(b) Yes, Sir. In order to achieve the target of doubling of income of farmers by the year 2022, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) has constituted a Committee to examine issues relating to doubling of farmers' income by the year 2022, for the following aspects:—

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

The Committee is expected to submit it's Report soon.

Loss of lives due to toxic pesticides

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many farmers in the State of Maharashtra lost their lives due to poisoning after inhaling pesticides recently, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action State and Central Governments have taken in the matter?

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 handling of pesticides.

(b) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) constituted a team of officers from Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (DPPQ&S), Faridabad, and State Agriculture Department, Maharashtra. The team visited Yavatmal district to assess the ground situation arising out of casualties and hospitalization of farmers due to inhalation of pesticides. In addition, advisories have been issued, *inter alia*, to maintain constant vigil.

As per the information received from the State Government, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been appointed to probe pesticide Poisoning cases and to propose proactive policies and strategies to prevent incidences in future. In addition, the Government of Maharashtra has released compensation of ₹ 2 Lakhs through Chief Minister fund to affected families in Yavatmal District. Adequate awareness extension activities have been under taken for safe handling of pesticides and spraying activities. Further, actions are being taken by the State Government against the violation of the Insecticides Act, 1968.

Deaths due to pesticides poisoning

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

(a) whether deaths of farmers have been reported in Maharashtra, particularly from Vidarbha region, mostly from Yavatmal due to pesticides poisoning since July this year, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether many pesticides are currently used in the country despite ban in many countries for their toxic effects, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether an independent fact finding team of farmer rights' groups and farm experts has made a study of use of pesticides and submitted its report to the Ministry which demand ban on such pesticides, if so, Government's reaction thereto?

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, since July 2017, death of 52 farmers have been reported from the Vidarbha region due to handling of pesticides. Out of which 21 deaths are reported from Yavatmal.

(b) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) has constituted an Expert Committee in July 2013, to review 66 pesticides that are banned, restricted, withdrawn in one or more countries but continued to be registered in India. The Expert Committee, *inter alia*, recommended 13 pesticides to be completely banned, 27 pesticides to be reviewed in 2018 after completion of certain technical studies and 6 pesticides to be phased out by 2020. The Complete list is given in the Statement-I (*See below*). Considering the recommendation of Expert Committee as accorded by the Registration Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, vide its Notification S.O. 4212(E) dated 15th December, 2016, had invited objections and suggestions from the public/stakeholders on banning/phasing out of certain pesticides. The details are given in the Statement-II (*See below*). In response to the Notification S.O. 4212(E) dated 15th December, 2016, the Ministry has received various objections and suggestions. Keeping in view of which, a Committee has been constituted to review the received objections and suggestions.

(c) There is no specific study 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	2	3	4
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, Carbendazim, Carbofuran, Chlorpyrifos, Deltamethrin, Dicofol, Dimethoate, Dinocap, Diuron, 2,4-D, Malathion, Mancozeb, Methomyl, Monocrotophos, Oxyfluorfen, Pendimethalin, Quinalphos, Sulfosulfuron, Thiodicarb, Thiophanate methyl, Thiram, Zineb, Ziram

1	2	3	4
3.	III- to be phased out by 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new certificate of registration to manufacture shall be issued after December 2017 • No person shall import, manufacture or formulate <i>w.e.f.</i> 1st January 2019 • The use shall be completely banned <i>w.e.f.</i> 31st December 2020 	6	Alachlor, Dichlorvos, Phorate, Phosphamidon, Triazophos, Trichlorfon
4.	IV- ban to be continued	1	Fenitrothion
5.	V- it's use to be completely banned.	13	Benomyl, Carbaryl, DDT Diazinon, Fenarimol, Fenthion, Linuron, MEMC, Methyl Parathion, Sodium Cyanide, Thiometon, Tridemorph, Trifluralin
6.	VI- not reviewed as it is sub-judice	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

Production of wheat and pulses

31. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat output projected to be at an all time high of 97.44 million tonnes in the 2016-17 crop year due to good monsoon, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that pulses output has also been revised upward to a record 22.40 MT as against the actual output of 16.35 million tonnes last year; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that with upward revision in wheat and pulses, total foodgrain output now has been pegged at a record 2734.38 MT for 2016-17?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (c) As per the Fourth Advance Estimates for 2016-17, the production of wheat is estimated at an all time high of 98.38 million tonnes. The production of wheat during 2016-17 is higher by 2.53 million tonnes than the previous record production of 95.85 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14. The production of pulses is estimated at record level of 22.95 million tonnes in 2016-17 as against the production of 16.35 million tonnes in 2015-16. The total foodgrain production in the country during 2016-17 is estimated at record level of 275.68 million tonnes as against the previous record production of 265.04 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14.

Selling of Pesticides without labeling of adequate safety information

32. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:

PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA:

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

(a) the number of farmers reported to have died due to inhalation of pesticides since 2010, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether private and multinational companies have been selling pesticides without providing adequate safety information regarding potential pesticide poisoning; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Ministry to remedy this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Information is being collected from the States.

(b) and (c) 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.

Establishment of NIPER in Chhattisgarh

†33. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any step to establish National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) in Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has received any proposal from Government of Chhattisgarh regarding setting up of NIPER, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated to State Government by the Central Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During 2015-16, Government announced opening of NIPER at Chhattisgarh. Government of Chhattisgarh has allocated 35 acres of land in New Raipur for setting up the Institute. The possession of the land is yet to be taken by the Government.

(c) So far, no funds have been allocated to the State Government by the Central Government for the purpose.

Production cost of Urea in the country

34. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that imported urea is cheaper than that produced in the country, if so, the reasons therefor; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the steps Government has taken to make the production of urea cheaper in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The details of the quantity and weighted average C&F price of urea imported through State Trading Enterprises (STEs) during last three years and current year (upto November, 2017) is as under:—

Year	Quantity (in LMT)	Wtg. Avg C&F Price (in US \$ per MT)
2014-15	72.86	303.94
2015-16	63.96	279.02
2016-17	34.79	210.42
2017-18 (upto Nov, 17)	30.80	239.02

Further, the details of cost of production of indigenously produced urea by urea manufacturing units are given in the Statement (*See* below).

The cost of production of urea of different urea manufacturing units in the country varies due to vintage, technology, energy mix etc. With the implementation of New Urea Policy (NUP)-2015, the cost of production of these urea manufacturing units is less fluctuating. Further, the cost of production of urea in the country entirely depends upon the variation in input cost. However, the import price of urea completely depends upon the demand and supply dynamics in the international market which is volatile.

Statement

Cost of production for the indigenous Urea

(₹/MT)

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit	Cost of production Concession Price 2014-15	Cost of production Concession Price 2015-16	Cost of production Concession Price 2016-17
1	2	3	4	5
Feed-Stock : Gas				
1.	IFFCO-Aonla	16460	17865	14388
2.	INDOGULF-Jagdishpur	20582	17302	13931

1	2	3	4	5
3.	KRIBHCO-Hazira	13846	18110	14425
4.	NFL-V Pur	16497	17722	14129
5.	RCF-Trombay-V	16479	26395	21483
6.	NFCL-Kakinada	11835	19019	15426
7.	CFCL-Kota	18742	18271	14807
8.	TATA	17311	17919	14609
9.	KSFL	16141	18283	14784
10.	NFCL-Kakinada exp.	11736	19017	15469
11.	IFFCO-Aonla exp.	16613	17837	14503
12.	NFL-V Pur Exp.	15870	18063	14514
13.	IFFCO-P, PUR	28560	19630	16135
14.	KFCL-Kanpur	35702	24183	21009
15.	SFC-Kota	17603	20267	17603
16.	IFFCO-P, PUR EXP.	27840	19495	15942
17.	CFCL-II	24725	18722	15379
18.	GSFC-Baroda	15158	21464	17853
19.	IFFCO-Kalol	17953	19733	16037
20.	RCF-Thal	14552	19844	16364
21.	ZACL-Goa	42664	22686	18239
22.	GNFC-Bharuch	19892	18592	14539
23.	NFL-Nangal	29807	20633	18047
24.	NFL-Bhatinda	19369	20489	17563
25.	NFL-Panipat	31503	20633	18249
SUB TOTAL		19604	19239	15770
Feed-Stock: gas but not covered under pooling				
1.	BVFC- Namrup - III	13292	13292	14253
2.	BVFC- Namrup II	16681	16681	17141
SUB-TOTAL		14758	14758	15502
Feed-Stock: Naphtha/FO				
3.	MCFL-Mangalore	28845	28845	24351

1	2	3	4	5
4.	MFL-Madras	32049	32049	26288
5.	SPIC-Tuticorin	30132	30132	26963
	SUB-TOTAL	30431	30431	26075
	GRAND TOTAL	20250	19921	16501

Subsidy on fertilizers

35. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of subsidy given for Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers during the last five years and the current year, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that CCEA has fixed subsidy on P&K at ₹ 21,274 crores for 2016-17;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the amount fixed for 2017-18; and

(d) the total overall fertilizer subsidy fixed during the last five years and the current year, year-wise and variety-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) The details of subsidy given for Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers in the last five years and the current year, year-wise are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The per year total subsidy on P&K Fertilizers is not fixed by the CCEA. CCEA only approves the per KG subsidy rates for nutrients namely Nitrogen 'N', Phosphorous 'P', Potash 'K', and Sulphur 'S' on yearly basis.

(d) The total overall fertilizer subsidy fixed in the last five years and the current year, year-wise and variety-wise is given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

*Subsidy given for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers
in the last five years and the current year, year-wise*

(In crores)

Financial Year	Imported P&K	Indigenous P&K
2012-13	14,576.10	16,000.00
2013-14	13,926.86	15,500.00

Financial Year	Imported P&K	Indigenous P&K
2014-15	8,667.30	12,000.00
2014-15	9,968.56	11,969.00
2015-16	6,999.99	11,842.88
2017-18	5,885.21	11,648.21
(up to 30.11.2017)		

Increase in dealer margin of fertilizer retailers

36. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to increase dealer margin for fertilizer retailers, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the increase in dealer margin is likely to adversely affect farmers using fertilizers, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken to insulate farmers, especially marginal farmers in Rajasthan, from rise in fertilizer costs due to increase in dealer margin, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration of Department of Fertilizers.

Pricing of Generic Drugs

37. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is aware of the exorbitant prices levied by private pharmaceutical companies on generic drugs in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the initiatives taken by the Ministry to curb these practices by private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Both generic and branded medicines are treated alike for fixation of ceiling price under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). As per DPCO, 2013, all manufacturers of Scheduled medicines (branded or generic) have to sell their products within the ceiling price fixed by the Government. As regards non-scheduled formulations, the manufacturers are not allowed to increase the price by more than 10 % per annum.

The Government is effectively monitoring the prices of scheduled medicines and takes action against companies found overcharging the consumers based on the references received from the State Drugs Controllers / individuals, samples purchased from the open market and reports from market based data and complaints reported through the grievance redressal websites, 'Pharma Jan Samadhan' and 'Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)'.

Capping the prices of essential medicines

38. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has capped prices of 51 essential medicines, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the prices have been slashed in the range of 6 to 53 per cent; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the NPPA has fixed prices of medicines that are listed in Schedule-I of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 2013, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (c) The National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes the ceiling prices of medicines listed in the Schedule-I of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO 2013). Till November 2017, the Government has fixed the ceiling prices of 849 medicines (including 2 coronary stents) under Revised Schedule I based on National List of Essential Medicines, 2015 (NLEM 2015). The ceiling price notifications are available on the website of the NPPA.

The slab-wise reduction in the prices under NELM 2015 is as follows:

Slabwise Percentage reduction with respect to Maximum Price	No. of formulations
0<= 5%	233
5<=10%	134
10<=15%	97
15<=20%	98
20<=25%	93
25<=30%	65
30<=35%	46
35<=40%	24
Above 40%	59
TOTAL formulations in NLEM 2015	849

Dependence on China for raw materials for drugs

39. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting has been held with pharma companies to review India's dependence on China for raw materials used for drugs in the country;

(b) how prudent the move is and the alternative routes that the Indian drug companies have to get raw materials from other countries at the same price as offered by China;

(c) whether it is a fact that a second meeting was also held in the second week of November, 2017;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) to what extent the bulk drug zones in Visakhapatnam and Chennai are going to help?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) A meeting was held with pharma companies to discuss the ways and means for revival of domestic Bulk/Active Pharma Ingredients (API) industry in which the issue of current heavy dependence of Indian Pharmaceutical formulations manufacturing industry on imports were also discussed.

(b) The imports of Bulk Drug take place mainly on economic considerations. In order to reduce the dependence on Chinese imports, Indian Bulk Drug Industry has to be more competitive.

(c) and (d) In November, 2017, the Department had taken a meeting with the officers of Ministry of Commerce, Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and Ministry of Power to discuss the roadmap for revival of domestic Bulk Drug/ API industry in the country. The concerned Ministries/Departments have been requested to take further action.

(e) It is expected that the Bulk Drug industry operating in Visakhapatnam and Chennai would help in reducing the import dependence for raw materials used for drugs in the country and would also make Indian Bulk Drug Industry more competitive.

New fertilizer plant at Sindri, Jharkhand

40. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken a decision to build a new Fertilizer plant at Sindri, Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, by when it's construction is likely to commence; and
- (c) whether there is any plan to use it's land, even partially, for rehabilitating Jharia township?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Cabinet had approved on 13.07.2016 to revive closed Sindri unit by setting up a gas-based Ammonia-Urea Plant of 1.27 Million Metric ton per annum (MMTPA) capacity. Accordingly, a Joint Venture (JV) Company, namely, Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited (HURL) has been formed to take up revival of Sindri Unit. JV Company HURL is conducting pre-project activities. Commercial production from Sindri plant is likely to start by September, 2020.

(c) No, Sir. There are no plans, at present, for rehabilitation of Jharia township at FCIL land at Sindri Unit..

Capping the prices of drugs

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority capped the prices of 31 more drugs, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there are 829 drugs in the National List of Essential Medicines, 2015 and all of them will be brought under price control, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) The National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes the ceiling prices of medicines listed in the Schedule-I of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO 2013). Till November 2017, the Government has fixed the ceiling prices of 849 medicines (including 2 coronary stents) under Revised Schedule I based on National List of Essential Medicines, 2015 (NLEM 2015). The ceiling price notifications are available on the website of the NPPA.

The slab-wise reduction in the prices under NELM 2015 is as follows:—

Slabwise Percentage reduction with respect to Maximum Price	No. of formulations
0<= 5%	233
5<=10%	134
10<=15%	97
15<=20%	98
20<=25%	93
25<=30%	65
30<=35%	46
35<=40%	24
Above 40%	59
TOTAL formulations in NLEM 2015	849

Status of Generic Medicine Outlets

42. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had planned to open sales outlets for generic medicines on a large scale to make medicines available to public at much cheaper rates;
- (b) the number of such outlets opened so far in the country;
- (c) whether such outlets have been opened in Maharashtra also; and
- (d) if so, the figures of such outlets in Maharashtra, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. To make available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all, a scheme in the name of 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana' (PMBJP) is presently being implemented.

(b) As on 08.12.2017, 3,000 PMBJP Kendras are functional in 33 States/UTs across the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A District-wise list of 200 functional PMBJP Kendras in the State of Maharashtra is given in the Statement.

Statement

District-wise list of 200 functional PMBJP Kendras in the State of Maharashtra as on 08.12.2017

Sl. No.	District	Number of PMBJP Kendras
1.	Ahmednagar	5
2.	Akola	12
3.	Amravati	6
4.	Aurangabad	5
5.	Beed	12
6.	Bhandara	2
7.	Buldhana	6
8.	Chandrapur	3
9.	Dhule	8
10.	Gondia	1
11.	Hingoli	2
12.	Jalgaon	6
13.	Jalna	10
14.	Kolhapur	8
15.	Latur	23
16.	Mumbai City	6
17.	Mumbai Suburban	4
18.	Nagpur	2
19.	Nanded	5
20.	Nandurbar	2
21.	Nashik	10
22.	Osmanabad	4
23.	Parbhani	9
24.	Pune	13
25.	Raigad	2
26.	Sangli	5
27.	Satara	6

Sl. No.	District	Number of PMBJP Kendras
28.	Sindhudurg	1
29.	Solapur	4
30.	Thane	11
31.	Wardha	2
32.	Yavatmal	5
TOTAL		200

Supply of fertilizers at MRP to farmers

43. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the chemical fertilizers under the subsidy regime are made available to the farmer at the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) fixed by the Government, if so, the reason therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that the fertilizers are not being provided by the agents at the price fixed for farmers;

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide economic benefits to the farmers in the country; and

(d) whether the fertilizer companies, including the Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL), Chennai, are underperforming to their installed capacity, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Urea is provided to the farmers at a statutorily notified MRP which is at present ₹ 5360/- per MT (exclusive of Central/ State Taxes). An extra MRP of 5% is charged by fertilizer manufacturing entities on Neem Coated Urea.

However, MRP of P&K Fertilizers are not fixed by the Government under Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme.

(b) The Government of India has declared Fertilizer as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (ECA) and notified Fertilizer (Control) Order (FCO), 1985 and Fertilizer (Movement Control) Order, 1973 under the EC Act. State Governments have been adequately empowered to ensure selling of fertilizers at MRP besides stopping black marketing/smuggling of fertilizers and no state government has reported selling of fertilizers above MRP.

(c) In order to provide economic benefit to the farmers, fertilizers are made available to farmers at affordable prices. With this objective, urea is sold at statutorily notified uniform MRP, which is at present ₹ 5360/- per MT (exclusive of Central/ State Taxes).

In addition to that, P&K fertilizer companies were encouraged to reduce MRP during the year 2016-17 to pass on the benefit of lower price of P&K fertilizers in international market to the farmers in the form of lower MRP. Due to the above, farmers were directly benefitted to the tune of about ₹ 5000 crores during 2016-17.

(d) The reassessed capacity (RAC) of Madras Fertilizers Limited is 4.87 LMT. However, MFL could only produce 4.68 LMT of urea during 2016-17 owing to high cost raw material and shutdown taken by the unit due to Vardah cyclone which had hit the Eastern Coast.

While Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (BVFGL) underperformed because of unproven and obsolete technology plants and insufficient quantity of supplied gas, the main reason for low capacity utilization of Ammonium Sulphate by Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) is Direct neutralization method. Further, the financial crunch during 2015-16 faced by FACT affected procurement of essential raw materials.

The details regarding the annual reassessed capacity and indigenous production of Urea, DAP and Complex Fertilizers for the 2015-16 to 2017-18 (upto November, 2017) is given in the Statement-I to III.

Statement-I

Plant-wise Actual Production of Urea from 2015-16 to 2017-18

(Fig. in LMT)

Name of Plants	Annual Reassessed Capacity	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (upto November, 2017)
		Actual	Actual	Actual
1	2	3	4	5
Public Sector:				
NFL: Nangal-II	4.79	5.46	5.02	3.88
NFL: Bhatinda	5.12	5.48	5.68	3.61
NFL: Panipat	5.12	5.67	5.43	3.91
NFL: Vijaipur	8.65	9.90	10.58	6.85

1	2	3	4	5
NFL: Vijaipur Expn.	8.65	11.46	11.39	6.71
TOTAL (NFL):	32.31	37.98	38.10	24.97
BVFCL: Namrup-II	2.40	0.66	0.60	0.36
BVFCL: Namrup-III	3.15	2.56	2.50	1.18
TOTAL (BVFCL):	5.55	3.23	3.11	1.54
RCF: Trombay-V	3.30	4.52	4.08	2.84
RCF: Thal	17.07	20.98	21.44	14.37
TOTAL (RCF):	20.37	25.50	25.52	17.20
MFL: Chennai	4.87	4.09	4.68	2.45
TOTAL (Public Sector)	63.09	70.80	71.41	46.16
Coop. Sector:				
IFFCO: Kalol	5.45	6.01	6.02	3.84
IFFCO: Phulpur	5.51	7.58	6.32	4.63
IFFCO: Phulpur Expn.	8.65	10.54	9.92	5.60
IFFCO: Aonla	8.65	11.33	10.69	5.25
IFFCO: Aonla Expn.	8.65	11.23	10.34	5.37
TOTAL (IFFCO):	36.89	46.68	43.27	24.69
KRIBHCO: Hazira	17.29	22.68	23.53	14.76
TOTAL (Coop. Sector)	54.19	69.36	66.81	39.45
TOTAL (Pub.+Coop.)	117.28	140.15	138.21	85.61
Private Sector:				
GSFC: Vadodara	3.71	3.61	3.59	1.95
SFC: Kota	3.80	4.01	3.94	2.71
KFCL (DIL): Kanpur	7.23	7.17	7.23	4.84
ZACL: Goa	3.99	4.00	4.65	3.06
SPIC: Tuticorin	6.20	6.20	5.63	4.81
MCF: Mangalore	3.80	3.80	3.80	2.64
GNFC: Bharuch	6.37	6.91	6.90	4.21
Grasim/IGF: Jagdishpur	8.65	12.08	11.61	7.85
NFCL: Kakinada-I	5.97	6.31	7.88	5.41

1	2	3	4	5
NFCL: Kakinada-II	5.97	7.11	7.10	5.25
CFCL: Gadepan-I	8.65	10.91	9.66	7.61
CFCL: Gadepan-II	8.65	10.35	10.36	5.99
TCL: Babrala	8.65	12.31	12.14	8.61
KFL/KSFL: Shahjhanpur	8.65	9.83	9.32	5.41
Matix Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd.				0.11
TOTAL (Private Sector)	90.26	104.60	103.79	70.43
TOTAL (Pub.+Coop.+Pvt.):	207.54	244.75	242.01	156.04

Sources: mfms.nic.in as on 07.12.2017.

Statement-II

Plant-wise Actual production of DAP from 2015-16 to 2017-18 (Upto Nov.,17)

(Fig. In LMT)

Name of Plants	Installed Capacity as on 01.04.2017	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (upto November, 2017)
1	2	3	4	5
Coop. Sector:				
IFFCO: Kandla	12.00	6.20	9.18	6.16
IFFCO: Paradeep	15.00	10.53	8.69	7.83
TOTAL (Co-op Sector)	27.00	16.73	17.87	13.99
Private Sector:				
GSFC: Vadodara	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ZACL: Goa	3.30	1.36	1.51	1.58
GFL: Tuticorin	3.47	2.66	3.20	1.96
MCF: Mangalore	2.20	1.10	1.60	1.34
TCL: Haldia	6.70	0.57	1.46	0.51
GSFC: Sikka-I	3.26	2.02	1.74	3.93
GSFC: Sikka-II	3.96	1.69	2.38	
TOTAL (Sikka-I and II):	7.22	3.70	4.12	3.93

1	2	3	4	5
CIL: Kakinada	19.25	2.88	3.43	4.11
CIL: Vizag	0.00	0.00	1.17	0.00
Hindalco Indus: Dahej	4.00	3.24	3.00	1.56
PPL: Paradeep	7.20	5.62	6.28	4.26
TOTAL (Private Sector)	53.34	21.14	25.78	19.25
TOTAL (Co-op.+Pvt.):	80.34	37.87	43.65	33.23

Source: mfms as on 6.12.2017

Statement-III

*Plant-wise production of Complex Fertilizer for
the year 2015-16 to 2017-18 (upto Nov., 17)*

(Fig. in LMT)

Name of Company/Unit	Product Name	Production capacity 01.04.2017	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 upto (November, 2017)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Public Sector:					
FACT: Udyogamandal	20:20:0:13	1.49	1.20	1.65	1.31
FACT: Cochin-II	20:20:0:13	4.85	4.08	4.93	3.45
TOTAL FACT		6.34	5.28	6.58	4.76
RCF:Trombay	15:15:15	4.20	4.61	4.65	3.15
	10:26:26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RCF:Trombay-IV	20:8:20.8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	20:20:0:13	2.70	1.75	0.00	0.00
TOTAL RCF		6.90	6.36	4.65	3.15
MFL: Chennai	17:17:17	8.40	0.35	0.49	0.53
	19:19:19		0.00	0.00	
	20:20:0:13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL MFL		8.40	0.35	0.49	0.53
TOTAL (Public Sector)		21.64	12.00	11.72	8.44
Cooperative Sector:					
IFFCO: Kandla	10:26:26	5.15	6.48	7.20	4.16
	12:32:16	7.00	9.88	8.67	4.73

1	2	3	4	5	6
	20:20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL (IFFCO/Kandla):		12.15	16.36	15.87	8.89
IFFCO: Paradeep	20:20:0:13	1.00	5.92	5.79	3.07
	10:26:26	1.60	0.41	1.10	0.00
	12:32:16	1.60	0.24	0.74	0.13
TOTAL (IFFCO): Paradeep		4.20	6.58	7.62	3.19
TOTAL (IFFCO)		16.35	22.94	23.50	12.09
Private Sector					
GSFC: Vadodara	20:20:0:13	2.00	3.10	2.72	1.70
CIL: Vizag	28:28	10.00	3.46	3.94	3.14
	14:35:14		0.00	0.01	0.00
	20:20:0:13		5.85	5.86	4.01
	10:26:26		0.00	0.10	0.00
	17:17:17			0.04	0.00
	.24:24		0.12	0.11	0.22
TOTAL (CIL):		10.00	9.42	10.06	7.37
ZIL: Goa	19:19:19	3.30	0.69	0.68	0.28
	28:28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	14:35:14	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	10:26:26	0.00	3.21	3.02	2.14
	20:20:0:13	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	12:32:16	0.00	1.18	0.63	0.43
TOTAL (ZIL):		3.30	5.08	4.33	2.85
GFL: Tuticorin	20:20:0:13	2.59	2.50	2.32	1.55
	17:17:17	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL (SPIC):		2.59	2.50	2.32	1.55
MCF: Mangalore	20:20:0:13	0.40	0.93	1.02	0.52
	16:20	0.00	0.02	0.00	
	10:26:26	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL (MCF):		0.40	0.95	1.02	0.52
CIL: Ennore	16:20	3.30	1.20	0.98	0.91
	20:20:0:13		0.57	0.45	0.08

1	2	3	4	5	6
TOTAL (CIL Ennore):		3.30	1.77	1.43	0.99
GNFC: Bharuch	20:20:0:13	1.43	2.07	2.21	1.39
TOTAL (GNFC):		1.43	2.07	2.21	1.39
TCL: Haldia	12:32:16	0.00	0.44	0.00	0.31
	10:26:26	0.00	2.52	2.11	1.63
	20:20:0:13	0.00	1.18	0.00	0.00
TOTAL (TCL):		0.00	4.14	2.11	1.94
GSFC: Sikka-I	20:20:0:13	0.00	0.18	0.42	0.07
	10:26:26	0.00	0.20	0.23	0.26
	12:32:16	0.00	0.28	0.15	0.50
GSFC: Sikka-II	12:32:16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CIL: Kakinada	20:20:0:13	0.00	3.55	2.88	3.01
	14:35:14	0.00	2.68	2.44	1.97
	17:17:17	0.00	0.37	0.16	0.00
	12:32:16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	10:26:26	0.00	2.51	2.27	2.44
	14:28:14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
	.24:24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	28:28	0.00	0.79	0.29	0.63
TOTAL (CIL):		0.00	9.91	8.05	8.08
Hindalco Ind: Dahej	10:26:26	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	12:32:16	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	20:20	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Smarchem/DFPCL:Taloja	24:24/23:23	3.00	0.89	2.18	1.31
	10:26:26	0.00		0.22	1.41
	20:20	3.00		0.00	0.60
	12:32:16	0.00		0.14	0.71
	16:16:16,	0.00		0.00	0.00
TOTAL: DFPCL: Taloja		6.00	0.89	2.54	4.02
PPL: Paradeep	20:20	0.00	6.28	5.40	3.15
	28:28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	16:20	0.00	0.00	0.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6
	14:35:14	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	12:32:16	0.00	0.30	0.45	0.24
	10:26:26	0.00	1.01	1.01	0.61
	15:15:15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL (PPL):		0.00	7.58	6.86	4.00
TOTAL Private Sector:		29.02	48.07	44.44	35.23
TOTAL (Pub.+Coop.+Pvt.):		67.00	83.01	79.66	55.76

Source: mfms as on 6.12.2017

Use of water stored in open cast mines for drinking purpose.

44. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps so far to make the availability of treated safe drinking water in the mining areas of Jharkhand; and

(b) whether there is any plan to make use of huge water storage in the open cast mines for drinking water and other purpose, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Coal India Limited (CIL) has signed an MOU with the Government of Jharkhand for utilisation of mine water by the villagers situated near mines of CIL in the command area of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) in the state of Jharkhand. 88 opencast mine voids in CCL, 23 sites in BCCL and 7 sites in ECL have been identified to make water available to Government of Jharkhand.

Fall in coal imports due to surge in domestic production

45. SHRI T.RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal imports into the country are unlikely to rise because of surge in domestic coal production;

(b) whether demand for coal from new thermal power plants is likely to taper off after five years and leave some coal mine assets stranded;

(c) whether India is no longer the dynamic coal import market of yesteryears; and

(d) whether, while the domestic production would continue to expand, India's energy trajectory is becoming less coal based raising a real risk for stranded assets, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (c) 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 imports have fallen from 217.78 MT in 2014-15 to 203.95 MT in 2015-16 and further to 190.95 MT in 2016-17. The trend of fall in import of coal has continued in 2017-18. During April-Sept. 2017-18, 97.66 MT (Provisional) of coal was imported as compared to 101.35 MT in the corresponding period of 2016-17 showing a decline of 3.6%. The fall in imports is largely on account of enhanced production by CIL, due to which the country has moved from a regime of coal scarcity to a coal surplus situation. The vendible stock of CIL has increased from 53.62 MT as on 01.04.2015 to 61.92 MT as on 01.04.2017. The off-take/dispatch of coal of CIL has also increased from 488.86 MT in 2014-15 to 543.16 MT in 2016-17. The gap between demand and supply of coal cannot be bridged completely as there is insufficient domestic availability of coking coal and power plants designed on imported coal will continue to import coal for their production.

(b) and (d) The total consumption in the coal based power plant has been increasing commensurate with increase in demand of coal based generation. The total coal consumption (domestic and imported) during 2015-16 (by power plants) was 545.9 MT which has increased to 574.9 MT in 2016-17. To meet the projected energy requirement by the year 2021-22, as per the 19th Electric Power Survey of Central Electricity Authority (CEA), along with the targeted installed capacity of 175 GW of Renewable energy Sources by 2021-22, it is estimated that the domestic coal requirement for power plants is likely to be 691 MT. Hence, even with a rise in the installed capacity of renewable energy sources, there is no likelihood of coal assets being stranded in the near future.

Auction of Coal Linkages by CIL

46. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India limited (CIL) has decided to make auction of linkages to ensure dry fuel supply to non-regulated sectors like steel and cement, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether auction of coal linkages would be for non-regulated sectors, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Coal India Limited, in accordance with policy dated 15.02.2016 issued by Ministry of Coal, has been conducting auction of coal linkages for non-regulated sector since June 2016.

The sub-sectors of auctions are Sponge Iron, Cement, Captive Power Plants (CPP), Others, Steel (coking) and Others (coking).

Salient Features of the Policy of Auction of Coal Linkages to Non-Regulated Sector are as follows:

- (i) Proportion of coal allocation between power and non-power sectors to continue at the same level as average proportion of the last five years *i.e.* 75% Power and 25% Non-power. The Ministry of Coal/ CIL may review the proportion as and when required.
- (ii) All allocations of linkages/LoAs for non-regulated sector shall henceforth be auction based. The tenure of new Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs) may be as decided by Ministry of Coal/CIL, subject to a maximum of 15 years. There may not be premature termination of FSAs of non-regulated sector as of now. However, there will be no renewal of existing FSAs of non-regulated sector [except FSAs of CPSEs and Fertilizer (Urea)] which are maturing in 2015-16 onwards.
- (iii) The existing FSAs with Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) may continue to be renewed on expiry. However, in case CPSEs require linkages over and above the existing linkages, they may participate in auction of linkage.
- (iv) In the first tranche, the quantity corresponding to FSAs of non-regulated sector [except CPSEs and Fertilizer (Urea)] maturing in 2015-16 onwards and 25% of incremental CIL/SCCL (Singareni Collieries Company Limited) production during 2015-16 over 2014-15 may be put up for auction.
- (v) Separate quantities shall be earmarked for sub-sectors of non-regulated sector. The sub- sectors shall compete within themselves. The sub-sectors could be Cement, Steel/Sponge Iron, Aluminium, and Others [excluding Fertilizer (Urea) sector], including their Captive Power Plants (CPPs) etc. The Ministry of Coal may review the sub-sectors as and when required.
- (vi) CIL will allocate/earmark coal from suitable source (rail/road mode) within a subsidiary, as deemed fit. There shall be provision for third party sampling of coal supplied.
- (vii) The methodology for auction of linkages shall be non-discriminatory Ascending Clock Auction where the system increases the price on the electronic platform till demand-supply equilibrium is established. There will be an initial reserve price and auction will be conducted on this reserve price.
- (viii) If total demand is less than offered quantity, then all bidders will get coal at reserve price.

- (ix) If total demand is more than offered quantity, then the price will be increased by the system and the process will continue till the demand-supply equilibrium is established.
- (x) The price increment shall be determined based on a transparent computerized system without any manual interference.
- (xi) Maximum bid quantity by a particular bidder shall not exceed the normative requirement of the End Use Plant. CIL shall chalk out annual or 6 monthly auction calendar.
- (xii) Based on experience gained in the first tranche, the operational issues such as, the quantities, sectoral allocations and sub-sectoral earmarking, auction methodology and other operational details may also be appropriately reviewed.

The auction has been envisaged as a transparent system of linkage allocation which is based on competitive bidding. Various consumer friendly measures such as 3rd party sampling, exit option, no performance incentive, delivery from specified mine/siding, back-up mine in the event of Force Majeure, etc. have also been introduced. A total of 23.75 Mtpa was earmarked for Tranche-I out of which 22.14 Mtpa has been booked. The auction was followed by signing of Fuel Supply Agreements (FSA) for the booked quantity. The tenure of the FSA is 5 years which can be further extended by another 5 years on mutual agreement.

Three tranches of linkage auction have been conducted till now. The sub-sector-wise performance report of Tranche-I, II and III of auctions is as under:

Sub-sector	Tranche-I (Jun-Oct'16)		Tranche-II (Jan-Jun'17)		Tranche-III (Sep-Nov'17)		Total (Tranche I, II and III)	
	Quantity booked (MTPA)	% gain	Quantity booked (MTPA)	% gain	Quantity booked (MTPA)	% gain	Quantity booked (MTPA)	% gain
Sponge Iron	2.05	0.51%	4.29	10.10%	2.54	7.20%	8.88	7.55%
Cement	0.68	0.16%	0.77	0.90%	0.12	0.00%	1.57	0.56%
CPP	18.07	8.97%	8.18	14.85%	4.59	22.05%	30.84	12.68%
Others	1.34	0.76%	1.27	5.14%	0.67	10.60%	3.28	4.50%
Steel (coking)	--	--	0.22	0.00%	0.00	--	0.22	0.00%
Others (coking)	--	--	0.04	0.00%	0.36	2.97%	0.39	2.68%
TOTAL	22.14	6.95%	14.76	10.60%	8.28	13.37%	45.18	9.64%

*%gain over non-power notified price.

Allowing private players in commercial mining space

47. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether private players will be able to bid for mines with about 100 million tonnes of coal reserves in the initial phase of auctions for commercial mining rights;

(b) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) is gearing upto compete with private companies for the first time since 1973;

(c) whether allowing competition in the commercial mining space will create a positive disruption in the market;

(d) whether CIL is closing 37 unviable mines this year; and

(e) whether CIL will close several more mines in the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) 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.

(d) and (e) CIL has envisaged and action has been initiated for closing 37 unsafe underground mines in 2017-18. Risk assessment is a continuous process. As soon as a mine is declared unsafe and it is apprehended that its geomining condition is such that it is not in a position to be run safely, then the mine closure decision is taken.

NOC for coal block allocation in Southern India

48. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal block allotment for ultra mega power project is pending with Government for No Objection Certificate (NOC) and other observations in South Zone of the country;

(b) if so, the details and present status thereof; and

(c) by when Government proposes to issue approval in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) No proposal for allotment of coal block for Ultra Mega Power Project in South Zone of the country is under consideration in Ministry of Coal.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a) above.

Strike call by Coal Sector Trade Unions

49. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Trade Unions in the Coal sector threatened to go on a three day strike demanding among other things, withdrawal of the proposal of merger of the Coal Miners Provident Fund with the Employees Provident Fund, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has taken any decision to redress the grievances of the Coal sector trade unions, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Five Central Trade Unions had served a joint strike notice dated 09th May 2017, addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India as well as Chairman, Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Chairman, Singareni Coal Company Ltd. (SCCL) for three days' strike from 19th to 21st June 2017 in reference to seven (07) point Charter of Demands which contained, apart from other issues, demand of stopping merger of Coal Mines Provident Fund into Employees Provident Fund.

(b) The matter pertaining to Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation and Employees Provident Fund Organisation was discussed in the meeting held in the Ministry of Coal on 16th June, 2017 with representatives of Central Trade Unions. Other issues relating to Coal Mines Pension Scheme, Implementation of National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA-IX), early settlement of Xth (tenth) Wage Agreement, engagement of contract labour, ceiling/restriction on payment of over-time, have been deliberated in the meeting(s) of Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry (JBCCI) as well as Apex Joint Consultative Committee of Coal India Ltd. Xth Wage Agreement for Non-Executive employees of CIL and SCCL was signed on 10th October, 2017 in the 10th meeting of JBCCI, which contains provisions relating to Wage Structure, Fringe Benefits, Service Conditions, Welfare, Social Security, Coal Mines Pension Scheme (CMPS-1998), Contract Labour, etc. This Agreement is for the period from 01.07.2016 to 30.06.2021.

Business roadmap plan by CIL

50. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited (CIL) has approached a multinational consultant for a business roadmap plan-Vision 2030, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether CIL considers all options open at a time when coal demand is subdued and uncertainty looms over it in the long run; and

(c) whether the said multinational consultant has submitted any proposal or report in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes Sir, CIL has engaged M/s KPMG through open tender for formulating the Document, Draft 'Vision 2030'.

(b) As per projection of demand for coal in 2017-18, the same has been pegged at 908.40 MT CIL has set Annual Plan target of 600 MT coal production and an equal amount of coal offtake during 2017-18. For meeting future demand of coal, CIL has prepared a roadmap for achieving a coal production level of 1 Billion Tonnes by the year 2019-20. CIL has indentified mines with a production capacity of 908 MT so far.

(c) Draft 'Vision 2030' document has been submitted by the consultant.

Production, demand and supply of coal

51. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the production, demand and supply of coal by the Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries during the last three years and the current year, state-wise;

(b) whether there is shortage of coal in the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the plans to increase domestic production of coal for meeting the domestic demand; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to meet the demand supply gap for coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Demand of coal is not estimated separately for Coal India Limited (CIL). However, the subsidiary-wise and State-wise production of coal for the last three years and current year are given as under:

(in million tonnes)

Subsidiary/State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 upto Nov. 2017 (Provisional)
	Production	Production	Production	Production
1	2	3	4	5
West Bengal	20.60	21.16	23.58	14.15
Jharkhand	19.40	19.05	16.93	9.58
ECL	40.01	40.21	40.52	23.74

1	2	3	4	5
West Bengal	1.05	2.56	2.14	0.93
Jharkhand	33.47	33.30	34.90	17.82
BCCL	34.51	35.86	37.04	18.75
Jharkhand CCL	55.65	61.32	67.05	31.61
Uttar Pradesh	14.96	12.69	16.06	10.70
Madhya Pradesh	57.53	67.54	68.04	48.11
NCL	72.48	80.22	84.10	58.80
Madhya Pradesh	5.79	6.63	5.23	2.69
Maharashtra	35.35	38.19	40.41	20.34
WCL	41.15	44.82	45.63	23.04
Madhya Pradesh	13.08	13.73	11.93	7.01
Chhattisgarh	115.19	124.21	128.08	80.28
SECL	128.28	137.93	140.00	87.30
Odisha, MCL	121.38	137.90	139.21	85.82
Assam, NEC	0.78	0.49	0.60	0.24
CIL	494.24	538.75	554.14	329.30

As per Annual Plan 2017-18 of Ministry of Coal, the all India demand of coal and production and supply coal by CIL during last three years and current years is given below:-

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Total all India demand (Mte)	822.13	836.73	838.32@	908.40#
Total CIL Production (Mte)	494.23	538.75	554.14@	329.30&
Total CIL Supply (Mte)	488.86	534.08	543.16@	367.91&

@ Provisional,

Estimated,

&Upto November, 2017

State-wise demand of coal is not estimated separately.

(b) On account of enhanced production by CIL, the country has moved from a regime of coal scarcity to a coal surplus situation. The vendible stock of CIL has increased from 53.62 MT as on 01.04.2015 to 68.62 MT as on 01.04.2017. The off-take/dispatch of coal of CIL has also increased from 488.86 MT in 2014-15 to 543.16 MT in 2016-17.

(c) Production is likely to further increase due to planned enhancement in productivity and deployment of Heavy Earth Moving Machineries. Further, an exercise has been carried out by CIL to prepare a roadmap for achieving a coal production level of 1 Billion Tonnes by the year 2019-20. CIL has identified mines with a production capacity of 908 million tonnes so far.

(d) The gap between demand and supply of coal cannot be bridged completely as there is insufficient domestic availability of coking coal and power plants designed on imported coal will continue to import coal for their production. However, the focus of the Government is to increase coal production to the extent possible by facilitating Environment and Forest clearances expeditiously, pursuing with State Government for assistance in land acquisition and coordinated efforts with Railways for movement of coal.

Digitally mapping of addresses of citizens and establishments

52. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to map the addresses of the citizens and the establishments digitally, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the advantage of digital mapping envisaged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) During the 12th Five Year Plan, the Department of Posts had launched the National Address Database Management System (NADBMS) scheme to compile a database of physical addresses in the country. In view of the changing requirements, the Department has now decided to digitise such addresses. The objective is to create an enabling digital platform, which can be used to precisely locate addresses, bringing efficiencies in the delivery of mail and parcels as well as aiding faster delivery of goods and services by other government and non-government agencies.

Connecting panchayats with optical fibres

53. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) has a proposal to connect 1.5 lakh panchayats by laying of the optical fibre and high speed broadband connectivity in the country till 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the present status thereof;

(c) how many rural areas have been connected so far with optical fibre and high speed broadband connectivity; and

(d) how much of funds have been utilised for this proposal so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The BharatNet project is being executed by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) in a phased manner for providing broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. On 19.07.2017, the Union Cabinet approved a modified strategy for implementing Bharat Net in three Phases. Under phase-I, 100,000 GPs are under implementation. The remaining 1,50,000 GPs (approx.) are being implemented through an optimal mix of underground/aerial OFC, radio and satellite media, under Phase-II. The project is targeted to be completed by March 2019. As on 10.12.2017, Optical Fibre connectivity has been provided to 1,05,831 GPs by laying 2,48,233 km Optical Fibre Cable and 82,540 GPs are service ready.

(d) As on 08.12.2017, ₹ 11885.97 crore has been provided to BBNL and ₹ 10,490 crore has since been utilized.

Late arrival of Registered Post within the same district of Uttarakhand

†54. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a registered post from district headquarter in Uttarakhand takes 10 days to reach a destination within the same district, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government would take steps to ensure that registered post, within the same district, reaches its destination in three days, along with the details of such steps, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. The Department of Posts maintains Management Information System (MIS) data in its online application 'R-Net' for monitoring performance of Registered Post. As per the MIS for the months of October and November 2017, the average transit time taken for a registered article booked for delivery in the state of Uttarakhand was 4.4 days and 3.9 days respectively. However, it is possible that owing to the difficult terrain of the state and in exceptional circumstances such as landslides etc., occasional delays in mail transmission and delivery might have taken place.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Department is taking steps to continuously improve its operational efficiency for all kinds of mail including Registered Post. Under the Mail Network Optimisation Project of the Department the entire network for Registered Post has been optimised and infrastructure of the mail processing offices upgraded. The processes involved in the entire value chain of a registered mail have been redefined and the MIS developed for the various legs from booking to delivery of a registered mail is monitored at all level of administrations and corrective actions taken as required.

Benchmark for call drops by telecom operators

55. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telecom operators are adhering to the benchmark of 2 per cent for call drops, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the average rate of call drops currently and the initiatives taken by Government to ensure adherence to the benchmark;

(c) the infrastructure targets of Government to minimize call drops;

(d) the total number of cellular towers commissioned by the Ministry in Government-owned buildings and spaces, along with the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government is on its target to achieve the installation of such cellular towers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, as per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Report for quarter ending June 2017, all telecom service providers for 2G and 3G services are complying to TRAI's Call drop benchmark of $\leq 2\%$ for Licensed Service Area (LSA) as a whole. This position has been maintained on consistent basis since the quarter ending September 2016.

(b) and (c) The average rate of call drops for Licensed Service Area (LSA) as a whole for each 2G and 3G telecom service provider as given in TRAI Report for quarter ending June 2017 is given in the Statement (*See below*) for both 2G and 3G services separately. Average value of call drop rate in different License Service Areas (LSAs) is in the range from 0.03 % to 1.98 % against call drop rate benchmark of 2% on average basis for the entire LSA across 23 LSAs.

Some of the major initiatives taken by the Government are as follows:

(i) making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services including auction of 965 MHz in 2016,

- (ii) allowing Spectrum Sharing, Trading and Liberalisation of administratively allocated spectrum as per the guidelines to facilitate efficient utilisation,
- (iii) permitting sharing of active as well as passive infrastructure by the telecom service providers for achieving higher utilisation efficiency,
- (iv) notification of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 in November 2016 for regulating underground infrastructure (optical fibre) and over-ground infrastructure (mobile towers),
- (v) periodic review of expansion of mobile networks and related improvements carried out by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs)-leading to addition of around 6.35 lakh additional Base Transceiver Stations on aggregate basis for 2G/3G/4G services during the period- July 2015 to November 2017.

(d) and (e) The Department of Telecommunications is facilitating telecom service providers to get necessary site-space for installation of cellular towers and related equipments in Government Buildings and Estate. Some of the areas include New Delhi Municipal Corporation Area (NDMC), Central Secretariat Buildings/estate, Cantonment Areas under Ministry of Defence and Postal Buildings under Department of Posts for which the guidelines/policy for allotment of site-space for telecom installations have been issued. The allotted site is shared by multiple telecom service providers for 2G/3G/4G services, subject to technical feasibility.

In Delhi, 15 sites were allocated by Ministry of Urban Development out of which 13 have been commissioned. Further, in New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) Area, 04 sites have been commissioned and work is in progress for another 05 sites. As an interim solution, 22 Cell-on-wheels have also been commissioned. Further, 59 sites for installation of Cell-on-wheels have been granted recently in Delhi Cantonment Area. Similarly, 06 sites have also been allocated by the Ministry of Urban Development in Mumbai as per request by service providers.

Since the telecom towers are installed with a long-term view to serve for the license duration which is twenty years at a time, it is continuous process to roll-out new sites as per changing traffic requirements from customers' end. Hence, infrastructure targets are set by Telecom Service Providers from time to time keeping in view the additional traffic and Quality of Services Regulations.

Statement

Details of License Service Area (LSA)-wise average values of Call drop rates in 2G/3G networks of the concerned service providers as per TRAI Report for the quarter ending June 2017

LSA Name	Range of Average Call-drop rates-Mobile services (in percentage) (TRAI benchmark $\leq 2\%$)	
	for 2G services	for 3G services
Andhra Pradesh	0.10 to 0.90	0.19 to 0.47
Assam	0.48 to 1.91	0.09 to 1.77
Bihar	0.18 to 1.57	0.06 to 1.23
Chennai	0.70	1.27
Delhi	0.19 to 1.81	0.41 to 1.71
Gujarat	0.10 to 0.75	0.18 to 1.03
Haryana	0.10 to 1.28	0.13 to 0.47
Himachal Pradesh	0.03 to 1.98	0.06 to 0.86
Jammu and Kashmir	0.13 to 1.20	0.04 to 1.33
Karnataka	0.08 to 0.72	0.13 to 0.73
Kerala	0.07 to 0.74	0.15 to 0.74
Kolkata	0.12 to 1.85	0.12 to 1.23
Madhya Pradesh	0.16 to 1.18	0.05 to 0.73
Maharashtra	0.14 to 1.05	0.25 to 1.03
Mumbai	0.17 to 1.62	0.09 to 1.56
North East	0.34 to 1.92	0.04 to 1.60
Orissa	0.22 to 1.91	0.09 to 1.90
Punjab	0.09 to 1.33	0.03 to 0.36
Rajasthan	0.19 to 1.08	0.07 to 0.97
Tamil Nadu	0.09 to 1.01	0.21 to 0.49
Uttar Pradesh (East)	0.15 to 1.58	0.29 to 1.43
Uttar Pradesh (West)	0.12 to 1.37	0.16 to 0.58
West Bengal	0.07 to 1.50	0.17 to 0.78

Interconnection usage charges

56. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many telcos want Interconnection Usage Charges doubled while others were against such a hike; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Sir, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a Consultation Paper on “Review of Interconnection Usage Charges” on 05.08.2016 for stakeholders’ consultation. During the consultation process, several Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) advocated for increasing termination charge for wireless to wireless calls from ₹ 0.14 per minute. In general, they argued that the cost of terminating a voice call in their network is higher than ₹ 0.14 per minute. On the other hand, many other TSPs submitted their views in favour of decreasing the termination charge from ₹ 0.14 per minute including Bill and Keep. After examining comments of the stakeholders in the consultation process and due deliberation, TRAI issued “The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (Thirteen Amendment) Regulation, 2017 (5 of 2017)” on 19.09.2017. Through these Regulations, the termination charge for wireless to wireless local and national long distance calls has been reduced from erstwhile 14 paise per minute as follows:

- (i) Re. 0.06 (paise six only) per minute with effect from the 1st October, 2017 to the 31st December, 2019; and
- (ii) 0 (Zero) with effect from the 1st January, 2020.

Global Connectivity Index

57. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the Global Connectivity Index, India, which was at 15th rank in 2014, has slipped to 43rd rank in 2017;

(b) if so, whether Government has any plan to improve the country’s position in Global Connectivity Index; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Global Connectivity Index (GCI) is not defined either by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) or any agency of

United Nations or any global institution. This index has been designed by a private company, M/s Huawei for ranking 50 nations annually based on their performance on digital front.

As per data available on the company website, India's rankings during the last three years are as under:

Year	Rank	GCI Score
2017	43	32
2016	42	32
2015	44	29

Source: <http://www.huawei.com/minisite/gci/en>

The Government does not frame policies or take initiatives purely on the basis of reports of private entities or companies. Irrespective of findings in any such report, the Government has taken steps to substantially scale up connectivity across the country. For deeper digital penetration in rural areas, the Government is implementing the flagship BharatNet programme, in mission mode to link each of the 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats of India through Broadband optical fibre network. On its completion, BharatNet would facilitate Broadband connectivity (with a 100 Mbps of bandwidth) for over 600 million rural citizens of the country. This is the largest rural connectivity project of its kind in the world, and is the first pillar of Digital India Programme. It will facilitate the delivery of various e-Services and applications including e-health, e-education, e-governance and e-commerce in the future.

Broadband Services in Government Schools

†58. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide broadband services in all Government schools of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/ Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to connect broadband internet services to provide computer education in Government schools and make Digital India Programme a success; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The Ministry of human Resource Development runs

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) @Schools scheme under the centrally sponsored scheme Rashtriya Madhyamika Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) for Government and Government-aided schools in the country to impart computer/Information Technology (IT) based education for the students at secondary and higher secondary levels. Further, under the ICT @ Schools scheme, financial support is given for setting up of ICT labs including internet/broadband connectivity.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

4G Services by BSNL

59. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 4G spectrum has been made available to BSNL by the authorities;
- (b) if so, whether 4G connections are given by BSNL, Kerala;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether BSNL is considered only as one of the network providers and not eligible for special consideration as a Government institution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) At present, BSNL has spectrum in 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 2100 MHz and 2500 MHz bands in various Licence Service Areas (LSAs). BSNL has liberalized spectrum in 2100 MHz and 2500 MHz which can be deployed for any technology based on standards approved by International Telecommunications Union (ITU). At present BSNL has not given any 4G services in Kerala.

(d) BSNL is one of the licensee for providing mobile telecom services. The licence terms and conditions for all the licensees are same.

Unclaimed Amount in Indira Vikas Patra

60. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 16 years after the small savings scheme, Indira Vikas Patra, was discontinued over ₹ 900 crore is lying unclaimed with Government as outstanding amount, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to disburse the abovesaid unclaimed money or the decision taken by it to utilize it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The progressive outstanding balance at the end of March 2017 in respect of Indira Vikas Patra is ₹ 884.75 crore.

(b) In so far as Indira Vikas Patra is concerned, no application was necessary for its purchase and there was no provision to mention details of investors/purchasers on the Indira Vikas Patra and records, hence the amount lying unclaimed cannot be disbursed unless Indira Vikas Patra is presented at the Post Office by customers. However, a Senior Citizen Welfare Fund has been established by the Ministry of Finance to utilize the unclaimed money lying in the Post Office Small Saving Schemes.

Steps to check call drops

61. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government undertook any assertive step to check the call drop problem which is becoming a stumbling block in Government's ambitious Digital India programme, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the telecom service providers against whom highest number of call drop complaints have been received during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) In order to facilitate improvement and expansion of telecommunication services, the Government has initiated a series of measures which includes:

- (i) making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services including auction of 965 MHz in 2016,
- (ii) allowing Spectrum Sharing, Trading and liberalisation of administratively allocated spectrum as per the guidelines to facilitate efficient utilisation,
- (iii) permitting sharing of active as well as passive infrastructure by the telecom service providers for achieving higher utilisation efficiency,
- (iv) notification of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 in November 2016 for regulating underground infrastructure (optical fibre) and over-ground infrastructure (mobile towers),
- (v) periodic review of expansion of mobile networks and related improvements carried out by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs)- leading to addition

of around 6.35 lakh additional Base Transceiver Stations on aggregate basis for 2G/3G/4G services during the period- July 2015 to November 2017,

- (vi) launching of Interactive Voice Response Service (IVRS) on call drop to get direct feedback from mobile subscribers and sharing the feedback with TSPs – since its launch TSPs have resolved approximately 50,770 individual cases by taking remedial actions until 31st October 2017 and the call drops reported by individual subscribers have shown a drop of over 8% in the last 10 months.
- (vii) facilitating use of Government estate for installation of mobile towers on multiple-sharing basis,
- (viii) launching of Tarang Sanchar, a public web portal for information sharing on mobile towers and their EMF compliances, in May 2017.

As a result of the continuous efforts put-in by the Government and other stakeholders, consistent improvements have been noted in compliance to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) Quality of service benchmarks for both 2G and 3G services.

As per latest TRAI's Performance Indicator Report for the quarter, April to June 2017, all TSPs providing 2G and 3G services comply to TRAI's Call drop benchmark of $\leq 2\%$ for Licensed Service Area (LSA) as a whole. Further, compliance to another benchmark, Worst affected cells having Traffic Channel (TCH) drop rate with benchmark $\leq 3\%$ has also improved consistently. For 2G services, non-compliance in this regard has significantly decreased from 54 in quarter ending September 2015 to 14 in quarter ending June 2017. For 3G services, non-compliance in this regard has significantly decreased from 20 to 11 in the corresponding period.

In order to further improve customer- experience, TRAI has notified the amended Quality of Services (including Call drop rate) benchmarks with effect from 1st October, 2017 for 2G and 3G services and have also included 4G mobile services in its scope. As per TRAI, Call drop rate will be measured on per-Cell basis instead of existing methodology of average of all Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) in a given Licensed Service Area (LSA). It will remove the anomaly due to averaging of bad cells with good or excellent performing cells and are more stringent.

Besides, financial disincentives have been revised by TRAI to deal with cases of persistent non-compliances. While the ceiling for first time violation against a given benchmark has been enhanced from Rupees One lakh to a maximum of Rupees Five lakh per quarter. In case of repeated non-compliance, it has been raised from Rupees Two lakh to a maximum of Rupees Ten lakh per quarter.

(b) The major telecom service providers against whom highest number of Call drop/Improper Network Coverage complaints have been received in Department of Telecommunications in the last three years *i.e.* from 1st January 2015 to 6th December, 2017 include M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) – 2,622 ; M/s Bharti Airtel (Airtel) – 2,597 ; M/s Vodafone Essar (Vodafone) – 1,309 ; M/s Reliance Communications (R Com) – 1,251 ; M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm (R Jio) – 946 (services started in 2016) ; M/s Idea Cellular (Idea)- 802, M/s Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)- 473 and M/s Aircel Cellular (Aircel) – 255.

As per TRAI, major telecom service providers against whom highest number of Call drop complaints have been received in the last three years *i.e.* from 1st January 2015 to 8th December, 2017 include M/s Bharti Airtel (Airtel)– 546, M/s Vodafone Essar (Vodafone) - 346 ; M/s Idea Cellular (Idea) – 166; M/s Reliance Communications (RCom) – 157; M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited(BSNL) – 70; M/s Aircel Cellular (Aircel) – 37; M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm (RJio) – 26 (services started in 2016); M/s Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)- 19.

- (c) The remedial actions taken by the Government in this regard includes;
- (i) Close monitoring of performance of service providers, against the benchmarks for various quality of Services parameters including those for call drop rate as laid down by TRAI through periodic reports from service providers,
 - (ii) Conduct of customer surveys, independent network audit and undertaking service drive-test of mobile networks in select cities, highways, and railway routes,
 - (iii) Review meetings with service providers to evaluate the performance and action plan including for call drop parameters,
 - (iv) Imposition of financial disincentives for non-compliance with the benchmarks for quality of Services parameters, and
 - (v) TRAI benchmarks for call drop rates have been amended with effect from 1st October 2017 to help identifying local areas where Cell(s) have not performed well for many days and also to identify Day(s) on which many cells in the network of a service provider have not performed well.

5G Services

62. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a high-level forum that will evaluate and approve roadmap and action plan to bring in the latest technology in the country to roll out 5G services;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with composition of the forum; and

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry to improve the existing 3G and 4G networks in the country and to increase the access of 3G and 4G services in various areas to have a better internet experience?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted High Level Forum for 5G India 2020 on 22nd September 2017. The details of the composition of 5G forum are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) In order to facilitate improvement and expansion of networks, including existing 3G and 4G networks in the country, the Government has, *inter-alia*, initiated a series of measures, like: -

- (i) Making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services,
- (ii) Allowing Spectrum sharing, trading and liberalization of administratively allocated spectrum as per the guidelines to facilitate efficient utilization,
- (iii) Permitting sharing of active as well as passive infrastructure by the telecom service providers for achieving higher utilization of efficiency,
- (iv) Facilitating use of Government estate for installation of mobile towers on multiple-sharing basis.

Statement

Details of the composition of 5G forum

No 6-33/2017-IC

Government of India

Ministry of Communications

Department of Telecommunications

International Cooperation Division

Subject:- Constitution of High Level Forum for 5G India 2020

1. 5G is the next technological frontier. Digital Transformation through 5G will fundamentally impact other national Mission Mode projects. 5G will provide a new dimension to the Digital India, Smart Cities and Smart Village missions. 5G has potentially large contributions to Make in India and Start-Up India missions. The objective is to position India as a globally synchronised participant in the Design, Development and Manufacturing of 5G based technology, products and applications.

2. In order to steer 5G India 2020, a High Level Forum has been constituted *vide* Office Memorandum dated 22nd September 2017 with the following Members:

Sl.No.	Name/Designation	
1.	Secretary, DoT	Chairperson
2.	Secretary, MeitY	Co-Chairperson
3.	Secretary, D/o Science and Technology	Co-Chairperson
4.	Member (Technology), DoT	Member
5.	Additional Secretary, DoT	Member
6.	Sr. DDG (TEC), DoT	Member
7.	Wireless Advisor, DoT	Member
8.	Dr. A. Paulraj, Professor Emeritus, Stanford University, USA	Member
9.	Mr Gururaj Deshpande-Chairman of Sycamore Networks, Sandstone, USA	Member
10.	Prof Bhaskar Ramamurthy-Director, IIT Madras	Member
11.	Prof Abhay Karandikar-IIT Mumbai and Chairman, TSDSI	Member
12.	Prof Uday Desai-Director, IIT Hyderabad	Member
13.	Prof Anurag Kumar-Director, IISc Bengaluru	Member
14.	Prof Ramgopal Rao-Director, IIT Delhi	Member
15.	Mr. Sanjay Mashruwala-MD, Reliance Jio	Member
16.	Mr. Gopal Vittal-MD and CEO Bharti Airtel Limited and Chairman, COAI	Member
17.	Mr Ashwani K Aggarwal-Chairman, IESA	Member
18.	Mr Ananth Krishnan, CTO, TCS	Member
19.	ED, C-DoT	Member
20.	DDG (NT), DoT	Member
21.	DDG (Security-Assurance), DoT	Member
22.	DDG (IC), DoT	Member Secretary
23.	Mr. Anupam Shrivastava, CMD, BSNL	Member
24.	Mr. T. V. Ramachandran, President, Broadband India Forum	Member

* Members at Sl. No 23 and 24 included *vide* Office Memorandum dated 31st October 2017.

Chairperson may co-opt any expert as deemed necessary.

3. The Term of Reference of the High Level Forum for 5G India 2020 shall be:-
 - (a) Vision Mission and Goals for the 5G India 2020, and
 - (b) Evaluate, approve roadmaps and action plans for 5G India 2020.
4. The International Cooperation (IC) Division of DoT along with TCOE India (a PPP of Government, Academia and Industry) will service the Forum. The Forum may constitute Steering Committees of Members for various domains. The Forum shall finalise the Report on 5G Vision, Mission and Goals by March 2018.
5. This is issued with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of Communications.

Core Banking facilities in Post Offices

63. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many post offices in the country are having Core Banking facilities with various services for the customers; and

(b) whether Government is planning to facilitate more post offices with such facilities in the near future, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) There are 23463 post offices in the country having Core Banking facilities with various services for the customers. Circle wise figures of number of Post offices having Core Banking facilities are given in the Statement (See below).

(b) Yes, Sir. Government has planned to facilitate Core Banking in all 25564 departmental post offices. Migration to the CBS is an ongoing process and more and more post offices are getting migrated to CBS as and when the connectivity becomes available.

Statement

Circle-wise number of Post Offices having Core Banking Facilities as on 11.12.2017

Name of the Circle	No of Post Offices	Name of the Circle	No of Post Offices
Andhra Pradesh	1602	Delhi	407
Assam	507	Gujarat	1288
Bihar	781	Haryana	496
Chhattisgarh	301	Himachal Pradesh	423

Name of the Circle	No of Post Offices	Name of the Circle	No of Post Offices
Jammu and Kashmir	192	Punjab	765
Jharkhand	368	Rajasthan	1266
Karnataka	1727	Tamil Nadu	2528
Kerala	1501	Telangana	847
Madhya Pradesh	1017	Uttarakhand	331
Maharashtra	2161	Uttar Pradesh	2332
North East	158	West Bengal	1442
Odisha	1023	TOTAL	23463

Implementation of Quality of Services Norms

64. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom industry had urged the TRAI to consider a six month extension for implementation of new quality of services norms;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry feels that the request of the Telecom industry for extension of the deadline by six months will genuinely improve the quality of services as per the norms; and

(c) the counter measure that the Ministry proposes to put in place, in the interest of the service users, if the telecom industry fails to meet its own assurance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The telecom industry has urged Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to consider a six-month extension for implementation of the amended Quality of Service norms on 7th September 2017. These norms have been notified on 18th August 2017 and have come into effect from 1st October 2017.

(b) TRAI discussed the issue of six-months extension with the representatives of telecom service providers wherein concerns raised by the industry were discussed and explanations were provided on the issues raised to allay their misconceived fear. It was followed-up with written communications to the service providers on 29th September 2017.

(c) The Regulations have thus come into force from 1st October 2017 onwards since the extension of deadline had no relation with the quality of services.

Pension settlement of retired employees

65. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the method of pension settlement in Ministry of Communications for retired employees and how many cases are pending unsettled;
- (b) who is responsible for maintaining Service Books;
- (c) whether any cases of non-availability of Service Books and pension settlements are pending in Karnataka, the details thereof; and
- (d) if so, by when those cases would be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) (i) Pension settlement of retired employees in Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications is carried out in accordance with procedure laid down in CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 as amended from time to time and orders issued from Ministry of Personnel, PG and Pension, Department of Pension and Pensioner's Welfare.

- (ii) Number of cases pending unsettled as on 08-12-2017 in Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications is 264
- (b) Heads of Offices are responsible for maintaining service books.
- (c) There are no cases of non-availability of Service Book and pension settlement pending in Karnataka.
- (d) Not Applicable in view of (c) above.

Deployment of 5G services in the country

66. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to deploy 5G wireless technology in the country;
- (b) if so, the roadmap and the action plan that Government proposes to adopt for its deployment and whether the technical knowhow would be borrowed or be an indigenous one; and
- (c) by when Government propose to deploy the 5G wireless technology in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The radio spectrum and the telecom licenses being awarded by the Government are already technology neutral to facilitate deployment of any technology in the country, including 5G wireless technology.

(b) Government has constituted a high level forum in September 2017 to position India as a globally synchronized participant in the design, development and manufacturing of 5G based technology, products and applications.

(c) Technological innovations and deployment of latest technologies thereof is a continuous ongoing process.

Selling of stake in VSNL

67. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed to sell its stake in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the percentage of land that will be sold and money that is likely to be realised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) In pursuance of policy of disinvestment, the Government of India disinvested 25% of its share in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) in February, 2002 to a strategic partner viz. M/s Panatone Finvest Ltd. (PFL), a special purpose vehicle created by TATA Group. At present the Central Government owns 26.12% of the paid up capital of the Tata Communications Ltd. (erstwhile VSNL) only as an investor. As a part of disinvestment, the Government had decided to keep the surplus land admeasuring 773.13 acres out of the bidding process. The Surplus Land did not form a part of the bid and accordingly the Strategic Partner *i.e.* PFL did not acquire any interest in the Surplus Land. The rights of the Government on this land were protected through a scheme of arrangement incorporated in the Share Holders Agreement (SHA) and Share Purchase Agreement (SPA). As per this arrangement, PFL undertook an obligation to de-merge or hive off the surplus land into a reality company under Sections 391 to 394 of the Companies Act, 1956. PFL got incorporated a new resulting company namely "Hemisphere Properties India Limited" and Government of India's shares in the resulting company is 51.12%. At present there is no proposal to sell Government stake in the Tata Communications Ltd. (erstwhile VSNL).

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view (a) above.

Export of wheat

68. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the production of wheat and pulses in the years 2015, and 2016 along with the estimated production for 2017;

(b) the quantity of wheat and pulses procured by the FCI at Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the quantum of buffer stocks available; and

(c) the quantity of wheat and pulses exported in the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 and its value in US \$ of wheat and pulses exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The production of wheat and pulses in the crop year 2015, 2016 and the estimated production for 2017 as per First Advance estimates of Production of foodgrains for 2017-18 of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare dated 22.09.2017 is as under:—

Fig. in Lakh Metric Ton (LMT)

Crop year	Wheat	Pulses
2015-16	922.9	163.5
2016-17	983.8	229.5
2017-18 (Targets)	975.0	229.0

(b) The quantity of wheat procured by Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the last three years is as under:—

(Fig. in LMT)

RMS (Wheat)	Quantity procured by FCI
2015-16	29.84
2016-17	30.47
2017-18	36.09

Quantity of pulses procured by FCI at MSP and above during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 (Marketing Year-wise) is as follows:—

(Fig. in MT)

	FCI
KMS 2015-16	20261.94
RMS 2016-17	19529.80
KMS 2016-17	258270.96
RMS 2017-18	0.00

The stock of wheat and pulses available with FCI is as under:—

(Fig. in LMT)

Commodity	Stock with FCI
Wheat (As on 01.12.2017)	115.22
Pulses (As on 07.12.2017)	2.13

In addition to FCI, other State Government/State Government agencies also procures and maintains stocks.

(c) The details of wheat and pulses exported in the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 and its value in US \$ are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of export of wheat and pulses and their value

(Quantity in MT and values in Million USD)

Commodity	2014		2015		2016	
	Quantity	Values	Quantity	Values	Quantity	Values
Wheat	4098202	1156.52	781693	199.89	284257	70.89
Pulses	238445	210.26	218042	208.46	175493	217.31

Implementation of Price Support Scheme for farmers

69. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity of farm produces procured from farmers at MSP, State-wise, crop-wise and year-wise since 2014;

(b) the prices of the farm produces in the domestic open market, State-wise, crop-wise and year-wise since 2014;

(c) whether the prices of pulses in the open market fell below the MSP in 2016-17;

(d) if so, the reasons for failure of Government to increase procurement, despite the guaranteed offtake promised under MSP; and

(e) the measures taken by Government to compensate losses incurred by farmers from low output prices in 2016-17?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The total quantity of wheat and rice procured at Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Central Pool, State-wise and year-wise, since 2014 is given in the Statement-I and II respectively (*See below*). The quantity of oilseeds and pulses procured at MSP State-wise, year-wise, commodity-wise since 2014 is given in the Statement-III (*See below*).

(b) The prices of the farm produces in the domestic open market, commodity-wise and year-wise since 2014 are available at <http://eands.dacnet.nic.in/publications.htm> which can be seen.

(c) to (e) Government of India implements Price Support Scheme (PSS) for the procurement of pulses. This scheme is implemented at the request of the concerned State Government which agrees to exempt the procured commodities from levy of mandi tax and assist central nodal agencies in logistic arrangements, including gunny bags, working capital for state agencies, creation of revolving fund for PSS operations, etc. as required under the scheme guidelines. Procurement of these commodities are undertaken by Central agencies at MSP as per standard specification announced by the Government as and when prices fall below the MSP and compliance of State Government to PSS guidelines.

Statement-I

Wheat procurement for central pool (marketing season wise)

(Fig. in LMT)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	RMS 2014-15	RMS 2015-16	RMS 2016-17	RMS 2017-18
1.	Punjab	116.41	103.44	106.49	117.06
2.	Haryana	64.95	67.78	67.52	74.32
3.	Uttar Pradesh	6.28	22.67	7.97	36.99
4.	Madhya Pradesh	70.94	73.09	39.92	67.25
5.	Rajasthan	21.59	13.00	7.62	12.45
6.	Uttarakhand	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.02
7.	Chandigarh	0.05	0.11	0.07	0.08
8.	Delhi	-	0.02	0.00	0.00
9.	Gujarat		0.73	0.00	0.07
TOTAL		280.23	280.88	229.61	308.24

Statement-II*Rice procurement for central pool (marketing season wise)*

(Figures in LMT)

As on 11.12.2017

Sl. No.	States/UTs	KMS 2014-15	KMS 2015-16	KMS 2016-17	KMS 2017-18#
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35.96	43.36	37.24	4.26
2.	Telangana	35.04	15.79	35.96	9.22
3.	Assam	0.15	0.42	0.46	0.00
4.	Bihar	16.14	12.25	12.34	0.00
5.	Chandigarh	0.10	0.16	0.13	0.14
6.	Chhattisgarh	34.23	34.42	40.22	10.51
7.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
9.	Haryana	20.15	28.61	35.83	39.67
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	0.06	2.06	1.39	0.00
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.07	0.08	0.09
13.	Karnataka	0.88	0.55	0.00	0.00
14.	Kerala	3.74	3.82	3.08	0.79
15.	Madhya Pradesh	8.07	8.49	13.14	2.31
16.	Maharashtra	1.99	2.30	3.09	0.51
17.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Odisha	33.57	33.69	36.30	2.76
19.	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Punjab	77.86	93.50	110.52	118.03
21.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	10.51	11.92	1.44	0.00
23.	Uttar Pradesh	16.98	29.10	23.54	10.49
24.	Uttrankhand	4.65	5.98	7.06	0.27
25.	West Bengal	20.32	15.68	19.23	0.00
TOTAL		320.40	342.18	381.06	199.05

Statement-III*Details of procurement made by NAFED from 2014-15 to 2017-18 (as on 04.12.2017)*

Year	Agency	Commodities	Oilseed/Pulses/ Cotton	State	Quantity (In Mts)	MSP Per. MT (₹)	MSP Cost (In lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2014-15	NAFED	Mustard Seed Rabi 2014	Oilseed	Rajasthan	1714.82	30,500	523.02
2014-15	NAFED	Groundnut Pods Rabi 2014	Oilseed	Odisha	6229.81	40,000	2491.92
2014-15	NAFED	Sunflower Seed Rabi 2014	Oilseed	Odisha	338.75	37,000	125.34
2014-15	NAFED	Sunflower Seed Rabi 2014	Oilseed	Haryana	3814.46	37,000	1411.35
2014-15	NAFED	Gram Rabi 2014	Pulses	Maharashtra	31012.19	31,000	9613.78
2014-15	NAFED	Gram Rabi 2014	Pulses	Gujarat	3730.56	31,000	1156.47
2014-15	NAFED	Gram Rabi 2014	Pulses	Madhya Pradesh	37760.39	31,000	11705.72
2014-15	NAFED	Gram Rabi 2014	Pulses	Uttar Pradesh	2297.15	31,000	712.12
2014-15	NAFED	Gram Rabi 2014	Pulses	Rajasthan	179351.61	31,000	55599.00
2014-15	NAFED	Gram Rabi 2014	Pulses	Andhra Pradesh	45666.85	31,000	14156.72
2014-15	NAFED	Gram Rabi 2014	Pulses	Karnataka	14098.60	31,000	4370.57
2014-15	SFAC	Gram Rabi 2014	Pulses	Madhya Pradesh	7904.20	31,000	2450.30
2014-15	SFAC	Gram Rabi 2014	Pulses	Maharashtra	32141.20	31,000	9963.77
2014-15	SFAC	Gram Rabi 2014	Pulses	Rajasthan	8173.95	31,000	2533.92

2014-15	SFAC	Gram Rabi 2014	Pulses	Karnataka	1502.30	31,000	465.71
2014-15	SFAC	Gram Rabi 2014	Pulses	Gujarat	365.55	31,000	113.32
2014-15	SFAC	Gram Rabi 2014	Pulses	Andhra Pradesh	202.45	31,000	62.76
2015-16	NAFED	Sunflower Seed Rabi 2015	Oilseed	Odisha	76.02	37,500	28.51
2015-16	NAFED	Sunflower Seed Rabi 2015	Oilseed	Haryana	4165.87	37,500	1562.20
2016-17	NAFED	Sunflower Seed Rabi 2016	Oilseed	Odisha	164.56	38,000	62.53
2016-17	NAFED	Sunflower Seed Rabi 2016	Oilseed	Haryana	4784.75	38,000	1818.21
2016-17	NAFED	Milling Copra 2016	Oilseed	Tamil Nadu	1170.44	59,500	696.41
2016-17	NAFED	Milling Copra 2016	Oilseed	Andhra Pradesh	3318.50	59,500	1974.51
2016-17	NAFED	Ball Copra	Oilseed	Tamil Nadu	0.46	62,400	0.29
2016-17	NAFED	Ball Copra	Oilseed	Karnataka	1836.40	62,400	1145.91
2016-17	NAFED	Ground Nut Pods 2016	Oilseed	Gujarat	210731.16	42,200	88928.55
2016-17	NAFED	Moong K-16	Pulses	Maharashtra	6430.28	52,250	3359.82
2016-17	NAFED	Moong K-16	Pulses	Karnataka	1837.30	52,250	959.99
2016-17	NAFED	Soyabean	Oilseed	Maharashtra	162.19	27,750	45.01
2016-17	NAFED	Toor	Pulses	Gujarat	49797.10	50,500	25147.54
2016-17	NAFED	Toor	Pulses	Maharashtra	115276.03	50,500	58214.40
2016-17	NAFED	Toor	Pulses	Karnataka	30920.55	50,500	15614.88

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2016-17	SFAC	Moong Kharif 2016	Pulses	Karnataka	681.60	52,250	356.14
2016-17	SFAC	Moong Kharif 2016	Pulses	Maharashtra	547.53	52,250	286.08
2017-18	NAFED	Mustard	Oilseed	Haryana	36940.18	37,000	13667.87
2017-18	NAFED	Sunflower	Oilseed	Telangana	112.10	39,500	44.28
2017-18	NAFED	Sunflower	Oilseed	Haryana	4358.71	39,500	1721.69
2017-18	NAFED	Sunflower	Oilseed	Odisha	177.00	39,500	69.92
2017-18	NAFED	Summer Urad	Pulses	Madhya Pradesh	15747.65	50,000	7873.82
2017-18	NAFED	Summer Moong	Pulses	Madhya Pradesh	111000.00	52,250	57997.50
2017-18	NAFED	Summer Moong	Pulses	Odisha	1405.99	52,250	734.63
2017-18	NAFED	Sesamum Seed	Oilseed	West Bengal	3419.81	50,000	1709.91
2017-18	NAFED	Ground Nut	Oilseed	Odisha	947.77	42,200	399.96
2017-18	NAFED	Moong Kharif	Pulses	Telangana	3329.26	55,750	1856.06
2017-18	NAFED	Moong Kharif	Pulses	Karnataka	21902.14	55,750	12210.44
2017-18	NAFED	Moong Kharif	Pulses	Rajasthan	146395.18	55,750	81615.31
2017-18	NAFED	Moong Kharif	Pulses	Maharashtra	3607.34	55,750	2011.09
2017-18	NAFED	Moong Kharif	Pulses	Andhra Pradesh	1081.40	55,750	602.88
2017-18	NAFED	Urad Kharif	Pulses	Rajasthan	57197.82	54,000	30886.82

2017-18	NAFED	Urad Kharif	Pulses	Telangana	6680.00	54,000	3607.20
2017-18	NAFED	Urad Kharif	Pulses	Karnataka	13183.00	54,000	7118.82
2017-18	NAFED	Urad Kharif	Pulses	Maharashtra	17569.57	54,000	9487.57
2017-18	NAFED	Urad Kharif	Pulses	Gujarat	4471.90	54,000	2414.83
2017-18	NAFED	Urad Kharif	Pulses	Andhra Pradesh	3271.90	54,000	1766.83
2017-18	NAFED	Soyabean Kharif	Oilseed	Rajasthan	11339.19	30,500	3458.45
2017-18	NAFED	Soyabean Kharif	Oilseed	Telangana	31905.05	30,500	9731.04
2017-18	NAFED	Soyabean Kharif	Oilseed	Maharashtra	20265.72	30,500	6181.04
2017-18	NAFED	Ground Nut Kharif	Oilseed	Gujarat	385531.48	44,500	171561.51
2017-18	NAFED	Ground Nut Kharif	Oilseed	Rajasthan	47993.84	44,500	21357.26
2017-18	NAFED	Ground Nut Kharif	Oilseed	Andhra Pradesh	44.35	44,500	19.74

Rise in prices of daily commodities

70. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of rise in prices of daily consumable commodities during the recent months;

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

(c) the steps being taken by Government to assuage the prices of all edible items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R.CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The All India annual inflation rate (%) based on Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) brought out by M/o Statistics and Programme Implementation are as under:

Base 2012=100

Month	Inflation (%)		
	2017	2016	2015
August	1.5	5.91	2.20
September	1.2	3.96	3.88
October	1.9	3.32	5.25
November	4.42(P)	2.03	6.07

(P) Provisional

Recent rise in prices though moderate, are mainly due to increase in prices of vegetables, fruits, milk and eggs. The increase in prices are mainly on account of demand supply mismatch owing to shortfall in production due to adverse weather condition, seasonality, increase in transportation costs, supply chain constraints, etc.

(c) Government has taken various measures from time to time to stabilize prices of essential food items which, inter-alia, include appropriately utilizing trade and fiscal policy instruments like import and export duty, Minimum Export Price, export restrictions, etc. To regulate domestic availability and moderate prices; imposition of stock limits, and provision of higher Minimum Support Prices to incentivize farmers for increasing production. Besides, Government is also implementing Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) scheme to help moderate the volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities like onion.

Handling of bags by labourers at FCI depots

71. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prescribed any norms for handling of bags by labourers at the depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether as per a report, labourers at FCI's various depots were handling almost double of the bags per day, unusually high against all prescribed norms;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor;

(d) whether Government has got the matter inquired into, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by Government against officials of FCI for making excess payments towards unusual labour cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Food Corporation of India (FCI) has three types of departmentalized labours and norms for handling of bags by them are given below:

(i) Departmental Labour System:

The handling norms per labour per day for various operations in the FCI depots are fixed as under:

Description of Operations/Activity	Handling Norms for 50 kg Bags
1	2
Unloading from truck and stacking inside the godown	135
Unloading from wagon and stacking inside the godown	115
Unloading from wagon and dumping on to platform	170
Removing the bags dumped and Stacking inside the godown	180
Destacking in godown and loading into trucks	140
Destacking into godowns and loading into wagons	120
Unloading from wagons and loading into trucks	110

1	2
Standardization/Rebagging/filling bags with loose grain including weighment	55
Salvaging of damaged food grains including weighment	40
Breaking stack and restacking	180
Weighment	105

(ii) **Direct Payment Labour System:**

No fixed handling norms are prescribed under this system. These labourers are paid on piece-rate basis subject to minimum wage protection.

(iii) **No Work No Pay Labour (NWNP) System:**

Under this system also, there is no fixed handling norm. These workers are paid on piece-rate basis subject to minimum wage protection.

(b) and (c) FCI operations varies from depot to depot depending upon the workload. During rake loading and unloading operations, sometimes the labourers are required to carry out double the prescribed norms or more number of bags on the day of placement of rakes to clear the rake in time. Also, during procurement operations especially wheat and paddy, huge stock at the depots is received and in order to clear mandi, so that farmers do not suffer, a huge quantity is handled at FCI depots and labourers are required to carry more than the prescribed norms.

FCI work is of intermittent nature and not of a regular nature. Therefore, it is not found advisable to post many labours in order to reduce idle wage payment for about 20 days in a month.

In the following FCI depots, it was noticed that sometimes unusually high number of bags were handled by an individual labourer:

- (i) FSD Mayapuri under Delhi Region
- (ii) FSD Kuraghat and Basti under Uttar Pradesh Region
- (iii) FSD Borivili, Nagpur and Wardha under Maharashtra Region
- (iv) FSD Rohtak under Haryana Region
- (v) FSD Baroda under Gujarat Region
- (vi) FSD New Guwahati under Assam Region

(d) and (e) Yes, matter relating to unusually high handling by the departmental labour has got investigated and appropriate action has been taken as per rules.

Problems of rice millers in Andhra Pradesh

72. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any representation from the Federation of All India Rice Millers Association requesting redressal of grievances of rice millers with regard to increase of Custom and Milling charges along with increase of depreciation percentage and increase of Out Turn Ratio (OTR), etc. if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has taken any decision on this request, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) A representation dated 29.09.2017 has been received from the Federation of All India Rice Millers Associations. The various issues raised by the Association have been examined as per policy guidelines and the representation in question has been disposed of and communicated to the Association *vide* letter no.17(24)/2017-Py.I dated 14.12.2017.

Setting up of Central Authority for Redressal of Consumer Greivances

73. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has held First International Conference on Consumer Protection recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with theme of the Conference;

(c) the main issues discussed in the Conference along with the outcome thereof;

(d) whether Government will bring in a new law to crack down on misleading advertisements and set up a Central Authority to fast track redressal of consumer grievances, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by Government to safeguard the interests of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R.CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An international conference on consumer protection was held on 26-27 October, 2017 in New Delhi in association with UNCTAD having participation from countries in the East, South and South-East Asia. The theme of the conference was "Empowering Consumers in New Markets". The main issues discussed were United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection and their Implementation; Stakeholder Participation in Consumer Protection; Protection of Online Consumers; Fostering

Consumer Inclusion in Financial Services; Consumer Education and Empowerment; and Special Challenges in Protecting Vulnerable and Economically Disadvantaged Consumers. The Conference *inter-alia* drew conclusions such as-comprehensive implementation of the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection as a priority for Governments and stakeholders in ensuring more effective and better-coordinated protection efforts in all countries and across all areas of commerce; Protection of consumers' rights in the digital context as a key for a sustainable and inclusive development of e-commerce, which also needs to address cross-border cooperation and enforcement etc.

(d) and (e) The Government has already introduced the Consumer Protection Bill, 2015 in Parliament, which, *inter alia*, seeks to provide for establishment of an executive agency to be known as the Central Consumer Protection Authority to safeguard the interests of the consumers.

Supply of edible oil in smaller packs for rural India

74. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Food safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has suggested the Government to direct edible oil traders to make available edible oil in smaller packs for rural India;

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

(c) the response of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) To regulate distribution and sale of edible oil and to ensure availability of safe and wholesome edible oil for human consumption, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has written to all Commissioner of Food Safety of all States/UT's/all Central Licensing Authorities regarding the sale of edible oil in smaller packs through automated tamper proof vending machines while adhering to compliance as prescribed under Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011.

(c) The sale of edible oils in smaller packs is permissible under the provision of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 notified by Department of Consumer Affairs on 7th March, 2011.

Storage of foodgrains

75. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government agencies engaged in warehousing and storage activities of foodgrains;

(b) the number of multinational private agencies engaged in the above activities along with the details thereof; and

(c) the number of warehouses and storage facility centers started during the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 in Government sector, State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Following are the Government agencies engaged in warehousing and storage activities of foodgrains:-

1. Food Corporation of India (FCI)
2. Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)
3. State Warehousing Corporations of various States

(b) No multinational private agencies have been engaged in the above activities. Only Indian private agencies have been engaged so far.

(c) Number of warehouses and storage facility centers in Government sector started during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are as under:-

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
287	295	68

State-wise details are given in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of Warehouses and Storage Facility Centers started during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 in Government Sector

Zone	Region	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
North	Delhi	0	0	0
	Punjab	19	10	5
	Haryana	56	15	2
	Himachal Pradesh	2	0	1
	Jammu and Kashmir	5	2	2

Zone	Region	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
East	Uttar Pradesh	12	10	0
	Uttarakhand	0	0	0
	Rajasthan	1	0	2
	West Bengal	4	1	3
	Bihar	0	2	6
	Odisha	7	7	3
South	Jharkhand	6	2	2
	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0
	Kerala	0	0	0
	Karnataka	0	0	0
West	Tamil Nadu	1	0	1
	Maharashtra	4	4	7
	Gujarat	3	1	1
	Madhya Pradesh	158	233	31
NE (Plan Scheme)	Chhattisgarh	0	1	0
	Assam	5	3	0
	Meghalaya	1	0	0
	Tripura	0	1	0
	Nagaland	1	1	0
	Manipur	0	0	0
	Arunachal Pradesh	2	2	2
	TOTAL	287	295	68

Installation of PoS devices at ration shops

76. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that website *www.annavitran.nic*. in monitoring the sale with the help of PoS devices on ration shops, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of rations shops along with the number of shops having PoS devices, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether Government has conducted any survey regarding the time consumed in transaction before and after installation of PoS devices, if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;

(d) the details of connectivity of ration shops having PoS machines; and

(e) the details of amount incurred in installing the PoS machines in ration shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, the website www.annavitran.nic.in is functional and is used to monitor the electronic transactions happening at the Fair Price Shops for the distribution of foodgrains to NSFA beneficiaries with the help of PoS devices. As per information received from States/UTs out of total 5.27 lakh FPSs, more than 2.82 lakh FPSs have been automated so far. State/UT-wise details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The purposes of installing electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices at FPSs are—authentication of beneficiaries and electronic recording of subsidised foodgrain distribution to beneficiaries.

(d) No such survey has been conducted but as compared to earlier practice of manual record-keeping of the transactions, the ePoS based transactions have the advantage that the FPS dealers are not required to manually make separate/repetitive entries of foodgrain distribution in registers and ration cards of the beneficiaries. Connectivity to ePoS devices at FPSs is ensured by State/UT Governments. In case connectivity is not there ePoS devices can also work in offline mode.

(e) In accordance with The Food Security (Assistance to State Governments) Rules, 2015 under NFSA, GoI is providing financial assistance to States/UTs for installation of ePoS devices at the rate of ₹ 17/quintal of foodgrains distributed through ePoS devices, towards the expenditure incurred for the purchase, operations and maintenance of the ePoS devices. Such expenditure would be shared between Centre and State Governments on 75:25 basis for special category States/UTs and on 50:50 basis for General category States/UTs.

Statement

*State/UT-wise statement showing number of Fair Price Shops
having PoS devices as on 05.12.2017*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total No. of Fair Price Shops	No. of FPSs with Operational ePoS
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28,663	28,663
2.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	482	373
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,731	0

1	2	3	4
4.	Assam	38,238	0
5.	Bihar	41,483	59
6.	Chandigarh	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	12,299	11,898
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	62	62
9.	Daman and Diu	51	51
10.	Delhi	2,260	14
11.	Goa	446	42
12.	Gujarat	17,209	17,209
13.	Haryana	9,513	9,513
14.	Himachal Pradesh	4,928	4,888
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	5,970	0
16.	Jharkhand	23,356	23,115
17.	Karnataka	20,383	14,799
18.	Kerala	14,335	0
19.	Lakshadweep	39	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	22,469	22,469
21.	Maharashtra	52,505	51,079
22.	Manipur	2,154	0
23.	Meghalaya	4,651	0
24.	Mizoram	1,247	0
25.	Nagaland	1,691	0
26.	Odisha	13,306	13,306
27.	Puducherry	0	0
28.	Punjab	16,657	0
29.	Rajasthan	25,928	25,793
30.	Sikkim	1,421	20
31.	Tamil Nadu	34,773	34,773
32.	Telangana	17,159	11,339
33.	Tripura	1,807	25

1	2	3	4
34.	Uttar Pradesh	80,457	13,186
35.	Uttarakhand	9,212	8
36.	West Bengal	20,278	0
TOTAL		5,27,163	2,82,684

Implementation of NFSA

77. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of beneficiaries identified under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), State-wise;

(b) the details of the funds released by the Centre to the States for its implementation, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in implementation of the NFSA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of number of beneficiaries identified by States/UTs for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Under NFSA, foodgrains at subsidized rates prescribed under the Act are allocated to States/UTs for distribution among eligible households. Difference between economic cost and subsidized prices is released to Food Corporation of India (FCI) as food subsidy. However, in case of States which have adopted Decentralized Procurement Scheme (DCP), food subsidy is directly released to States for quantity of foodgrains procured and distributed by them. In case of UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, which are implementing Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Scheme, the subsidy is released to the agency designated by the UT Administrations for transfer of due amounts into the bank accounts of eligible households. The details of food subsidy released to FCI and States/UTs are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

In addition, Central Government also provides assistance to States/UTs for meeting expenditure incurred on intra-State movement and handling of foodgrains and fair price shop dealers' margin and one time assistance for providing non-building assets to State Food Commission, if set up on exclusive basis, details of which are given in the Statement-III (*See below*).

(c) The Act is now being implemented in all the States/UTs. Different States/UTs however started its implementation at different points of time after completion of necessary preparatory activities required under the Act.

Statement-I

*Number of persons identified by States/UTs for coverage under
National Food Security Act, 2013*

(figures in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Number of persons identified
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

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Number of persons identified
22.	Punjab	141.45
23.	Rajasthan	446.62
24.	Sikkim	3.79
25.	Tamil Nadu	357.34
26.	Telangana	191.62
27.	Tripura	24.83
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1499.83
29.	Uttarakhand	61.958
30.	West Bengal	601.84
31.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	0.54
32.	Daman and Diu	0.88
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.08
34.	Lakshadweep	0.22
35.	Chandigarh	2.77
36.	Puduchery	6.16
TOTAL		8072.00

Statement-II*Amount of food subsidy released*

(₹ in crores)

Year	Subsidy Released to FCI	Subsidy released to States/ UTs (Under DCP and Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Scheme)	Total food subsidy released
2015-16	112000.0000	22919.0000	134919.0000
2016-17	78334.6100	27338.3500	105672.9600
2017-18 (Till 12.12.2017)	104901.1500	30410.4000	135311.5500

Statement-III*Release of funds to States/UTs*

(₹ in crores)

Sl. No.	For meeting expenditure incurred on intra-State movement and handling of foodgrains and fair price shop dealers' margin	Financial assistance for providing non-building assets to State Food Commission
2015-16	2.48	--
2016-17	2500.00	0.55
2017-18	2814.25*	--

*As on 12.12.2017

Status of National Consumer Helpline

78. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has established/planning to establish National/Zonal Consumer Helplines in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of people lodging complaints in the helpline have increased many fold every year;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the nature of complaints in general and the remedial mechanism available to redress such complaints;

(d) whether all the States in the country have been covered by the National Consumer Helpline; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has set up a National Consumer Helpline (NCH) with a toll free number (1800-11-4000 and a short code 14404) for handling consumer grievances. Six Zonal Consumer Helplines have also been set up at Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Guwahati, Jaipur, Kolkata and Patna. The number of calls received at NCH have been increasing every year as may be seen from the data for the last three years given in the table below:-

Financial Year	Calls
2015-2016	172558
2016-2017	294069
2017-18 (till Nov)	310202

Calls received at NCH relate to sectors such as E-Commerce, Banking, Insurance, Telecom, Consumer Durables/electronics, Real Estate etc. NCH provides information and guidance to consumers. The grievances received either through call centre or through on-line registration are entered in the Integrated Grievance Redress Mechanism (INGRAM) portal are referred to companies through a convergence platform which helps in fast tracking resolution of consumer grievances and to Regulators/Government Departments etc.

(d) and (e) The National Consumer Helpline and the Zonal Consumer Helplines cover the whole of country.

Allocation of foodgrains to Jharkhand

79. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there were starvation deaths in Jharkhand in recent months;

(b) whether public distribution of food-grains etc. to the State has been a reason for it;

(c) the number of people eligible for public distribution of foodgrains in that State;

(d) the amount of foodgrains due to the State so far in 2017: and

(e) the quantity of foodgrains released so far and used by the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Government of Jharkhand informed that the allegation in media reports of death due to starvation have not been substantiated.

(c) As per Targeted Public Distribution System [Control] Order, 2015, 2.16 Crores beneficiaries in Rural Areas and 47.73 Lakhs beneficiaries in Urban Area can be covered under NFSA by the State Government of Jharkhand.

(d) The monthly entitlement of foodgrain to Jharkhand for the year 2017 (upto Nov, 2017) is as under:

(In lakh tons)

Rice	Wheat	Total
1.29	0.16	1.45

(e) Allocation and Offtake of foodgrain to Jharkhand during 2017-18 (upto Nov, 2017) is as under:

Allocation			Offtake			% of Offtake against allocation		
Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
10.28	1.31	11.59	9.51	1.15	10.66	92.43	87.55	91.88

Selling of products on premium rate

80. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that many of the products are being sold on premium rate using the terms like fresh, organic and natural;

(b) if so, whether there is any mechanism to identify the claim of such products in the country; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to ban such activity, 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 (c) As informed by the Food Safety Standards Authority of India, labelling and claims on packaging of food products are prescribed under Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011. All food business operators have to comply with the provisions laid down under the said Regulations. To address the issue with reference to claims like organic on labels of packaged food articles, Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has come up with Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations which are under the process of final notification. Further, to address claims containing adjective such as fresh, natural, pure etc., FSSAI is in the process to notify (Advertisements and Claims) Regulations which stipulates the conditions for these types of claims.

Withdrawal of subsidy on Sugar under PDS in Tamil Nadu

81. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that subsidy on sugar has been withdrawn under PDS in Tamil Nadu, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the State Government would be compensated to distribute sugar on low price under PDS, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Government has reviewed the sugar subsidy scheme and has decided to continue it only for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. The review has been undertaken since the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 is now being universally implemented in the entire country and no identified category of Below Poverty Line (BPL) exists under the NFSA, 2013; whereas the AAY beneficiaries are clearly identified.

(b) Under the revised sugar subsidy scheme, the Central Government continues to reimburse a fixed subsidy of ₹ 18.50 per kg @ 1 kg per month per AAY family to participating States/UTs. The States/UTs are also allowed either to absorb the additional cost on account of handling, transportation and dealer's commission or pass it on to the consumer by adding it to the Retail Issue Price (RIP) of ₹ 13.50 per kg. under the Public Distribution System (PDS). The Government of Tamil Nadu is participating in the revised sugar subsidy scheme.

Expenditure on computerisation of TPDS

82. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that End-to-End Computerisation of TPDS Operations has involved huge expenditure from Government exchequer, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the funds spent on computerisation of TPDS, State-wise, as Central share and State-share?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) With a view to modernize the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Government is implementing a scheme on 'End-to-End Computerisation of TPDS Operations' on cost sharing basis with the States/UTs with funding requirement of ₹ 884.07 crore,

which includes Government of India's share of ₹ 489.37 crore and States/UTs share of ₹ 394.70 crore. Costs are being shared on 90:10 basis in respect on North Eastern States and on 50:50 basis with other States/UTs. Funds are sanctioned to States/UTs in installments on fulfilment of various conditions laid down by this Department. So far, financial assistance of ₹ 362.41 crore has been released to 31 States/UTs. Utilization Certificates have been received for an amount of ₹ 238.96 crore. The details of funds sanctioned by the GoI to States/UTs, matching share released by States/UTs, and Utilisation Certificates received from them are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of funds sanctioned by GoI, matching share released by States/UTs, and UCs received under Plan scheme on End-to-End Computerisation of TPDS Operations.

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Sanctioned Amount by GoI	Matching share released by States/UTs	Amount of UCs received
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18.02	18.02	18.02
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.11		
3.	Assam	31.34	2.57	14.61
4.	Bihar	17.89		14.94
5.	Chhattisgarh	5.74	5.74	3.35
6.	Daman and Diu	0.74	0.74	
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.76		
8.	Delhi	0.12		
9.	Goa	2.81	1.99	1.99
10.	Himachal Pradesh	6.36	4.24	3.27
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	6.11		2.62
12.	Kerala	10.95	7.3	7.3
13.	Jharkhand	9.47	11.71	9.47
14.	Lakshadweep	0.7	0.46	
15.	Madhya Pradesh	26.01	17.34	22.5
16.	Maharashtra	31.38	20.92	12.75

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Manipur	4.24		
18.	Meghalaya	5.51	0.61	
19.	Mizoram	7.37	0.54	4.22
20.	Nagaland	5.53		5.51
21.	Odisha	16.62	11.08	16.61
22.	Punjab	7.79		
23.	Puducherry	1.4		1.4
24.	Rajasthan	20.83	13.89	9.079
25.	Sikkim	1.15		
26.	Tamil Nadu	17.74	11.83	17.74
27.	Telangana	12.88	12.88	12.88
28.	Tripura	9.02	0.67	4.92
29.	Uttar Pradesh	48.83	30.99	37.61
30.	Uttarakhand	5.24	5.24	3
31.	West Bengal	22.75	15.17	15.17
TOTAL		362.41	193.93	238.959

Implementation of NFSA

†83. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA);

(b) the details of total budgetary allocation made to States by Centre for the Programme along with the budget demands made by the States;

(c) the details of number of ration cards that have been linked to Aadhaar and number of bogus ration cards discovered in the process; and

(d) whether State Food Commissions in States have established any mechanism for redressal of complaints related to ration distribution as per the directions of NFSA, if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Based on identification of eligible households by State Governments/UT Administrations, 80.72 crore persons are being covered for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains under National Food Security Act (NFSA).

(b) For implementation of NFSA, budgetary allocation is made in the budget of the Department of Food and Public Distribution, for being released to Food Corporation of India (FCI) and States/UTs, as per provisions of relevant Rules/Guidelines. Under NFSA, foodgrains at subsidized rates prescribed under the Act are allocated to States/UTs for distribution among eligible households. Difference between economic cost and subsidized prices is released to Food Corporation of India (FCI) as food subsidy. However, in case of States which have adopted Decentralized Procurement Scheme (DCP), food subsidy is directly released to States for quantity of foodgrains procured and distributed by them. In case of UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, which are implementing Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Scheme, the subsidy is released to the agency designated by the UT Administrations for transfer of due amounts into the bank accounts of eligible households. The details of food subsidy released to FCI and States/UTs are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

In addition, Central Government also provides assistance to States/UTs for meeting expenditure incurred on intra-State movement and handling of foodgrains and fair price shop dealers' margin and one time assistance for providing non-building assets to State Food Commission, if set up on exclusive basis. Details of which are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) As per the information received from States/UTs, out of total 23.15 crore ration cards, 18.8 crore ration cards have been seeded with Aadhar. Further, 2.75 crore ration cards have been reported to be deleted due to detection of Ghost/fraudulent/duplicate/migration/deaths etc. during the process of digitization, de-duplication, Aadhar seeding etc.

(d) NFSA provides for constitution/designation of State Food Commission (SFC) for the purpose of review and monitoring of the Act. Functions of SFC include to inquire into complaints, either *suo-motu* or on receipt, regarding violation of entitlement, which covers complaints regarding ration distribution and to hear appeals against order of the District Grievance Redressal Officer (DGRO). The Department of Food and Public Distribution has circulated model Rules on functioning of Grievance Redressal Mechanism under NFSA, for adoption by States/UTs.

Statement-I*Amount of food subsidy released*

(₹ in crores)

Year	Subsidy Released to FCI	Subsidy released to States/UTs (Under DCP and Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Scheme)	Total food subsidy released
2015-16	112000.0000	22919.0000	134919.0000
2016-17	78334.6100	27338.3500	105672.9600
2017-18 (Till 12.12.2017)	104901.1500	30410.4000	135311.5500

Statement-II*Release of funds to States/UTs*

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	For meeting expenditure incurred on intra-State movement and handling of foodgrains and fair price shop dealers' margin	Financial assistance for providing non-building assets to State Food Commission
2015-16	2.48	—
2016-17	2500.00	0.55
2017-18	2814.25*	—

*As on 12.12.2017

Wastage of agricultural produces

84. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding percentage of wastage of agricultural food produces in the country during the last three years, product-wise;

(b) the rate of wastage reduction achieved in respect of agricultural produces in the country over the said period through the schemes and programmes of the Government; and

(c) whether any new initiative is under the consideration of the Government to identify regions of high wastage due to poor infrastructure for processing of agricultural produces so as to address the issues, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), an Institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has conducted a study in 2013-14 sponsored by Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India on "Assessment of Quantitative Harvest and Post-Harvest Losses of Major Crops/Commodities in India". The study included assessment of harvest and post harvest losses of 45 crops and livestock produce like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, fruits, vegetables, plantation crops, spices, fish, eggs, poultry meat and milk. The losses have been assessed in farm operations (harvesting, collection, sorting, grading, drying, packaging and transport) and storage channels (farm, godown/cold storage, wholesaler, retailer and processing unit).

As per the study report, the harvest and post-harvest losses of cereals ranged from 4.65-5.99%, for pulses ranged from 6.36-8.41%, for major fruits ranged from 6.70 % to 15.88% and for vegetables the losses ranged from 4.58% to 12.44%. The details on crop-wise losses as assessed by the study are given in the Statement (*See below*).

No further study has been conducted to assess Quantitative Harvest and Post-Harvest Losses of Crops/Commodities to compare reduction of losses.

However, foodgrain stocks under Central Pool are issued by FCI to States/UTs as per the allocation. The quantum of foodgrains including wheat and rice damaged in Food Corporation of India (FCI) for the last four years is as under:

Year	Quantity Damage (in tons)	% of damaged foodgrains against off take from FCI
2013-14	24695.5	0.05
2014-15	18847.2	0.04
2015-16	3115.7	0.006
2016-17	8775.6	0.02

Owing to various steps taken by the Government, the foodgrains accrued as damaged/non-issuable in FCI has come down from 24695.5 tons in 2013-14 to 3115.7 tons in 2015-16 and 8775.6 tons in 2016-17.

(c) CIPHET has been working on R and D activities towards the development of tools, machines and technologies for storage, post harvest processing and value addition of agricultural commodities to minimize the losses. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing Central Sector Schemes under “Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana” for a period of 2016-20 with an allocation of ₹ 6000 crore for the promotion and development of food processing sectors in the country. The schemes are (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 Resource and Institutions.

These schemes are demand driven applicable throughout the country and are not District/Region/State specific. The Entrepreneurs, Farmers, Cooperatives, Corporations, Self Help Groups, Farmers Producer Organizations, State PSUs/Private Companies, etc. are eligible for the schemes. The major objective of implementation of these schemes is to reduce the wastage in all regions of the country.

Statement

Details on Quantitative losses of major crops at National Level

Sl. No.	Crop	Overall Total Loss (%) (Farm operation + transport + storage)
1	2	3
1.	Paddy	5.53
2.	Wheat	4.93
3.	Maize	4.65
4.	Bajra	5.23
5.	Sorghum	5.99
6.	Pigeon pea	6.36
7.	Chick pea	8.41
8.	Black gram	7.07
9.	Green gram	6.6
10.	Mustard	5.54
11.	Cotton seed	3.08
12.	Soybean	9.96
13.	Safflower	3.24

1	2	3
14.	Sunflower	5.26
15.	Groundnut	6.03
16.	Apple	10.39
17.	Banana	7.76
18.	Citrus	9.69
19.	Grapes	8.63
20.	Guava	15.88
21.	Mango	9.16
22.	Papaya	6.7
23.	Sapota	9.73
24.	Cabbage	9.37
25.	Cauliflower	9.56
26.	Green pea	7.45
27.	Mushroom	9.51
28.	Onion	8.20
29.	Potato	7.32
30.	Tomato	12.44
31.	Tapioca	4.58

Linking of Aadhaar with Ration Cards

85. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an eleven year old girl died on 28th September, 2017 at her village in Jharkhand after stoppage of subsidised foodgrains for months owing to cancellation of ration card for want of Aadhaar linkage;

(b) if so, the action Government proposes to take in the matter;

(c) the total number of ration cards not linked to their Aadhaar unique ID number, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(d) the policy of Government to provide subsidized foodgrains to BPL families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Government of Jharkhand informed that the girl Miss Santosh Kumari of Karimati village of Simdega District died owing to disease and not due to hunger. The Government of Jharkhand has further informed that the family of deceased had Priority Household Ration card which was deleted on 22.7.17. Aadhaar card of mother of deceased was submitted to Fair Price Shop [FPS] in the month of August, 2017.

Government of Jharkhand has also informed that District Grievance Redressal Officer [DGRO] Simdega passed an order to pay the food security allowance to the family for the month of August, 2017 as per provisions of National Food Security Act, 2013 and that FPS dealer concerned and Incharge Area Supply Officer [Prabhari Prakhand Aapoorti Padadhikari] were placed under suspension and a new Antyodaya Anna Yojna Ration card was issued to household.

Letter dated 24/10/17 have been issued to all State/UT Governments to strictly comply with the provisions of the Notification issued by this Department *vide* SO No.317[E] dated 8/2/17 [as amended from time to time]. The said Notification has clear provisions for distribution of the benefits of subsidized foodgrains/cash transfer of food subsidy under NFSA to those eligible beneficiaries who do not possess Aadhaar number. The notification as well as letter dated 24/10/17 have been uploaded on the official web site of this Department *i.e.* www.dfpd.nic.in.

(c) The State-wise details showing the total number of Rations cards linked/seeded with Aadhaar are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(d) After implementation of NFSA, criteria of identification of beneficiaries/households has been de-linked from BPL/APL categories and beneficiaries are identified under two categories namely;

- (i) AAY Households, and
- (ii) Priority Households

The eligible households under the above categories are required to be identified by State/UT Governments and are entitled to receive foodgrains (rice, wheat or coarsegrains or any combination thereof) under TPDS @ ₹ 3/-, ₹ 2/- and ₹ 1/- per kg. respectively with entitlements of priority households being @ 5 kgs. per person per month and AAY families getting @ 35 kg. per family per month as per the AAY scheme.

Statement*Status of Aadhaar Seeding*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total Ration Cards	No. of Ration Cards Seeded	Seeding @ (%)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	94,27,381	94,27,381	100
2.	Chandigarh	63,920	63,920	100
3.	Chhattisgarh	53,15,000	52,00,000	98
4.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	42,824	41,356	97
5.	Daman and Diu	24,157	24,221	100
6.	Gujarat	72,02,425	69,56,986	97
7.	Jharkhand	57,25,982	55,58,234	97
8.	Puducherry	1,68,781	1,68,781	100
9.	Tamil Nadu	99,49,700	99,41,077	100
10.	Haryana	29,64,309	26,23,809	89
11.	Karnataka	1,09,62,061	1,09,49,925	100
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1,15,09,814	1,05,09,015	91
13.	Maharashtra	1,48,28,050	1,29,11,973	87
14.	Odisha	86,39,233	78,15,571	90
15.	Rajasthan	99,50,016	95,56,381	96
16.	Telangana	49,27,847	49,27,847	100
17.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	12,922	12,922	100
18.	Delhi	19,44,883	19,44,883	100
19.	Goa	1,39,158	1,38,916	100
20.	Himachal Pradesh	7,14,390	6,63,049	93
21.	Punjab	36,32,158	36,28,833	100
22.	Sikkim	96,692	82,170	85
23.	Tripura	5,88,820	5,74,734	98
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3,33,27,168	2,85,29,615	86

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,76,342	78,473	45
26.	Assam	57,36,271	0	0
27.	Bihar	1,54,01,000	1,24,29,491	81
28.	Jammu and Kashmir	16,58,691	9,22,509	56
29.	Kerala	35,02,509	34,50,721	99
30.	Lakshadweep	5,110	5,005	98
31.	Manipur	5,55,528	1,69,829	31
32.	Meghalaya	4,21,548	0	0
33.	Mizoram	1,43,623	1,03,891	72
34.	Nagaland	2,84,934	92,997	33
35.	Uttarakhand	13,30,404	11,97,364	90
36.	West Bengal	6,01,85,420	3,79,30,606	63
TOTAL		23,15,59,071	18,86,32,485	81

Fake Aadhaar Network System

86. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- whether Government has information on fake Aadhaar Network System;
- if so, the details of complaints received and action taken thereon, State-wise; and
- the action taken by Government to clear false biometric documents and fingerprint therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) to (c) As per sub-section (3) of Section 4 of Aadhaar Act, 2016, “an Aadhaar number, in physical or electronic form subject to authentication and other conditions, as may be specified by regulations, may be accepted as proof of identity of the Aadhaar number holder for any purpose.” Hence, there is no question of fake Aadhaar Network System.

UIDAI has provided online authentication facility whereby any Aadhaar can be authenticated anywhere anytime. Further, an online facility has also been provided for verifying an Aadhaar, available at <https://resident.uidai.gov.in/aadhaarverification>.

Tackling the menace of harmful online games

87. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA:

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by the Ministry to prevent teenagers from falling prey to harmful online games such as Blue Whale and other such games including banning them;

(b) whether the Ministry is aware that such games are still available online;

(c) whether the Ministry has made any such list, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the existing IT Act is compatible to punish administrators of such games and the intermediaries through whom games reach the users, if so, the details thereof, if not, steps taken to amend existing law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) Government has taken various steps to prevent teenagers from falling prey to harmful online games such as Blue Whale and other such games like:

- (i) Government has directed various Internet/social media companies to identify and disable Blue Whale Challenge Game and related content on their platform, if they find any.
- (ii) Government has also published advisory/awareness materials on the websites, Newspapers, etc. regarding the dangers of Blue Whale Challenge Game.
- (iii) Government had constituted a committee to investigate all cases where suicides have been committed or attempted allegedly using 'Blue Whale Challenge Game'. The committee findings could not establish any involvement of Blue Whale Challenge Game in any of incidents reported to them.
- (iv) Government had issued Guidelines for Safe and Effective Use of Internet and Digital Technologies to all CBSE schools *vide* circular dated. 18.08.2017.
- (v) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) sent an advisory related to online dangerous games to Ministry of Women and Child Development on 7th August, 2017. The advisory contains best practices for parents and school teachers. Ministry of Electronics and IT also published an advisory related to protection of children from Blue Whale Game on

its website (<http://meity.gov.in/advisory-blue-whale-challenge-game>) on 12th September, 2017.

- (vi) Minister, Women and Child Development wrote to Principals of all schools on 31st August, 2017 to take immediate steps to protect children from Blue Whale Game Challenge.
- (vii) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Indian Computer Emergency Response Team interacted with service providers of social media regarding the steps to be taken to prevent users from falling prey to harmful online games.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Based on the analysis of cases reported, no such online games have been found.

(d) Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has adequate provisions for dealing with such crimes. Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000 requires intermediaries to follow due diligence, failing which they would be liable. The Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified under Section 79 of the Act, *inter alia*, specifies that the intermediaries shall inform the users of computer resource not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is grossly harmful, harms minor in any way; violates any law for the time being in force; etc.

Seats allocated to Tamil Nadu under India BPO Promotion Scheme

88. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that out of 2800 seats allocated to the State of Tamil Nadu under BPO Promotion Scheme, nearly 700 seats have not started their operation even after six months after the In-Principal Approval (IPA), if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of steps taken, if any, by Government to make them operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) and (b) Under India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS), for the State of Tamil Nadu, 2800 seats were allotted based on population percentage, as per Census, 2011. After four rounds of online bidding, total 2700 seats have been allocated to successful bidders to setup 19 BPO/ITeS units in the Tamil Nadu State under IBPS. As per terms and conditions of IBPS, successful bidders have to set up operations within 9 months from issuance of IPA. Till now, 16 units for a total of 2100 seats have reported commencement

of operation to Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), the implementing agency of IBPS. The remaining 3 units for a total of 600 seats are at various stages of implementation. It is obligatory on the units to start operations within the stipulated timelines of IBPS. All necessary support in respect of starting operations under the scheme is being extended to the units by STPI and State IT Departments.

Aadhaar Data Leak

89. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of Aadhaar Personal information leaks from the CIDR since 2014;

(b) whether Government is planning to set up a nodal agency to compensate victims of Aadhaar data leaks or theft or misuse of data, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that 210 websites of Central Government and State Government Departments were displaying the list of beneficiaries along with their personal information to the public, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of Government schemes where Aadhaar is mandatory for availing them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) There has been no leakage of Aadhaar data from the Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. It was found that approximately 210 websites of Central Government and State Government departments including educational institutes, were displaying the list of beneficiaries along with their name, address, other details and Aadhaar numbers for information of general public. The concerned departments were instructed to remove the Aadhaar and other personal data from the said websites.

In addition, the Central and State Governments have been advised to sensitize all Ministries/Departments to take all precautions while publishing or sharing data on their websites and ensure compliance of Aadhaar Act, 2016 and Information Technology Act, 2000.

(d) Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 enables use of Aadhaar as condition precedent for services and benefits flowing from Consolidated Fund of India, provided

no service/benefit is denied for want of Aadhaar. 395 schemes from 56 Ministries/ Departments have been on-boarded on Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) platform. Of these schemes, Aadhaar notifications under Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act have been issued in respect of 227 schemes till date. These notifications also provide mechanism to handle such cases where Aadhaar number is not assigned to an individual and instruct implementing agencies to deliver benefits on the basis of alternate identity documents.

Decline in employee strength of companies in IT Industry

90. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the headcount of the six major companies in IT industry has dropped by 4157 in the first six months of the current fiscal year against an increase of almost 60,000 in the same period last year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such a major drop in the recruitment by the IT industry this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The half yearly financial reports of 6 major IT companies indicate a decline in employment. The drop in the recruitment by the IT industry this fiscal year is due to several factors which *inter alia* include:

- Some of the less complex, standard and repetitive jobs are being automated;
- Companies are improving their employee-utilisation levels and reducing bench strength; and
- Companies are employing people with specialised skillsets in newer areas such as data science, machine learning, artificial intelligence and internet-of-things. The growth rate in these technologies and the nature of the business do not necessitate large-scale hiring.

Establishment of Software Technology Parks

91. SHRI. A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Software Technology Parks (STPs) established during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether there are adequate proposals to increase rural employment in the STPs; and

(c) if not, the remedial measures taken therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) Three new STP centres at Gurugram (Haryana), Agartala (Tripura) and Surat (Gujarat) have been set up during the last three years.

(b) The STP registered units play a significant role in employment generation at regional level and provide around 50% of total jobs in the sector.

(c) Does not arise.

Prevention of Cyber Crime

92. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is one cyber crime in the country in every 10 minutes, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to cyber experts, putting in place critical infrastructure to predict and prevent cyber crimes, is crucial, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) With the proliferation of Information Technology and related services there is a rise in instances of cyber crimes in the country like elsewhere in the world. As per the data maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), in the year 2016, a total of 12,317 cyber crime cases were registered, which amounts to one cyber crime occurring in every 42 minutes. This includes cases registered under the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and related sections of Indian Penal Code and Special and Local Laws involving computer as medium/target.

(b) A National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) was established under National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO). NCIIPC has several mechanisms to provide cyber security protection to organisation operating critical information infrastructure. This includes regular dissemination of threat intelligence, security, advisories, Standard Operating Procedures (SoP), guidelines, and security frameworks. In addition, NCIIPC also conducts sensitization and awareness workshops, besides conducting cyber security preparedness and surveys of critical information infrastructure organisations.

Hacking of Android phones

†93. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has become easy to hack all the information stored in Android phones by using very simple methods and despite being aware of the same Government has not taken any cognisance thereof;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the steps Government is going to take in this regard as it has totally compromised with the privacy of mobile phone consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Android operating system (OS) generally provides for security features such as access control using PIN, Password, Pattern recognition and/or Biometric. However, it is upto the user to use these security features. Additionally, many applications are downloaded by the user, which require explicit permission for access of mobile phone data, contacts, gallery, photos, email etc. and generally the user permit such requirements for using those applications. This may compromise the security and privacy of personal data of the user.

Government has taken various measures to check malicious applications and enable users to protect/secure their mobile phones. These include issuance of alerts and advisories about the threats and vulnerabilities affecting mobile phones, regular conduct of programs to generate information security awareness etc. Further, Government has operationalised the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (CSK) to enable detection and cleaning of malicious code including from mobile/smart phones. The CSK portal provides users with free tools for cleaning malicious code as well as tools such as M-Kavach for addressing threats that steal personal data related to Android mobile phones.

Setting up of ITIR in Visakhapatnam

94. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted a proposal for setting up of Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) in Visakhapatnam district;

(b) if so, when such proposal was received and the present status of the same;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the proposal was placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA); and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when it is likely to be placed before the CCEA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) and (b) A project proposal for setting up of Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh was received in Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on 26th August, 2014.

(c) and (d) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affair (CCEA) while considering the proposal of ITIR Bhubaneswar which was received on 13.04.2010, had directed that Information Technology Investment Region Policy Resolution, 2008 be comprehensively re-examined in light of the experience gained over time and placed before the Committee. A Note has been submitted to Cabinet Secretariat for consideration of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affair (CCEA) on amendment in ITIR policy. The proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh to set up ITIR in Visakhapatnam will be put up for the consideration of CCEA subject to the approval of amendment of ITIR Policy Resolution, 2008 by CCEA.

Jobs in IT Sector

95. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IT sector is expected to see upto 38 per cent fewer jobs this fiscal as compared to last fiscal, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country needs to take more actions to ensure high percentage of employment in IT sector, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) No, Sir. The IT Sector is expected to continue to be a net hirer in this fiscal.

(b) 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.

Justice B N Srikrishna Committee Report

96. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a draft Data Protection and Privacy law has already been provided to the Justice B.N.Srikrishna Committee by the Ministry, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Privacy Bill of 2011 has been referred to the Committee for study, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the proposed timeline for submission of report by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) to (c) The Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Justice (Retd.) Shri B N Srikrishna took note of prior legislative developments, such as the Information Technology Act, 2000 and its rules thereunder, Privacy Bill as well as international legislative developments relevant to the drafting of a data protection framework as per the Terms of Reference of the Committee. No particular enactments or reports were specifically provided by the Ministry to the Committee.

The Committee has prepared a White Paper on “Data Protection Framework for India” which has been published on Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) website soliciting public comments by 31-12-2017.

Representation for ITIR in Telangana

97. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any fresh representation from the Government of Telangana requesting for release of necessary funds for the proposed IT Investment Region in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to complete the project at an early date?

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 not received any fresh representation from the Government of Telangana regarding release of funds for the proposed IT Investment Region in the State.

(c) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had convened a meeting on 11th January 2017 at New Delhi with the Government of Telangana, Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India to expedite the implementation of ITIR project in Hyderabad.

Waiving off Farm Loan

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of small and marginal farmers, who take loan to produce their agriculture products, have incurred heavy losses due to demonetization;

(b) if so, whether Government is proposing to consider waiver of their loan borrowed from the banks or financial institutions for farming purpose;

(c) if so, the criterion adopted by Government to shortlist the farmers whose loan would be waived; and

(d) the quantum of loan amount that would be considered for waiver?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (d) Post demonetization announced on 8th November, 2016, the Government took a number of measures for ameliorating the effects on the farming sector:

- (i) Consequent to the cancellation of legal tender character of old ₹ 500/- and ₹ 1000/- notes and the resulting difficulties faced by the farmers in encashing the cheques received against sale proceeds of their Kharif produce in the mandis and also constraints regarding in adequacy of cash in carrying out rabi operations and servicing the interest of the short term crop loans, the Government granted additional grace period of 60 days for provision of prompt repayment incentive @3% to farmers whose crop loans fell due between 01.11.2016 to 31.12.2016, provided such farmers repaid the same within 60 days from the above period.
- (ii) Further, in view of the restrictions imposed on Cooperative Banks, Government approved interest waiver for a period of 2 months *i.e.* November and December, 2016 to farmers who were disbursed crop loan from Cooperative Banks between 01.04.2016 to 30.09.2016 and upfront deposit of the same in the accounts of the farmers. Towards this additional resources of ₹ 660.50 crore were provided in the financial year 2016-17.

- (iii) The Government also approved provision of additional resources in 2016-17 of ₹ 400 crore to NABARD for meeting the cost of interest subvention at 1.8% per annum and administrative cost @ 0.2% on account of short-term borrowing to be made by them at prevailing market rates of interest for a sum upto ₹ 20,000 crore for on lending to Cooperative Banks at concessional rate of 4.5%.
- (iv) For promotion of cashless transactions, post-demonetization, the Department through its organizations viz. Cooperative banks including Urban Cooperative Banks and Multi-State Cooperative Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), Krishak Bharti Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Seeds Corporation, Mother Dairy, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), Krishi Mandies, etc. organized training and awareness camps for farmers, dealers and retailers and disseminated information through posters and pamphlets in regional languages.
- (v) As per as loan waiver is concerned, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is in-principle against any loan waiver scheme as such waivers impact the credit culture of a State by incentivizing the defaulters even if they are in a position to repay the loan and create/amplify the moral hazard by discouraging those borrowers who have been regular in repaying their loans. Further, each waiver granted makes it even more difficult to reject any future similar demand.

Deactivation of Aadhaar number

†99. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the process to deactivate Aadhaar number and the number of Aadhaar numbers deactivated in last three years, the details thereof;

(b) whether the concerned person is given prior intimation before deactivating his Aadhaar number, the details thereof;

(c) the guidelines issued to investigating agencies entrusted with the investigation of deactivation of Aadhaar numbers, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the right to discontinue Aadhaar number or get it deactivated rests with the person concerned or with Government only and whether there is any guideline in this regard, if not, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) to (d) Omission or De-activation of Aadhaar is done by Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) as per instructions contained in Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016 as per Para 27, 28 and 29. There is no system of maintaining year wise record of de-activations. Residents are intimated post deactivation through SMS, registered e-mail ID, tele-calling, letter or through such means as deemed fit by UIDAI.

Access of Aadhaar Database and its Encryption

100. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Aadhaar database has been accessed by other agencies, including Central Intelligence Agency;

(b) whether Government has met its target of data encryption of all registered citizens, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) how Government plans to prevent misuse/leak of data by the Aadhaar-enabled service providers;

(d) whether Government has tested the biometric readers certified by UIDAI for liveness detection, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government has proposed the approach of dummy Aadhaar numbers to solve the security issues associated with Aadhaar, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) No, Sir. Aadhaar data has not been accessed by any unauthorised agency including Central Intelligence Agency.

(b) As on date, more than 119 crore Aadhaar numbers have been generated for Indian residents. The relevant data is stored in Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR) of UIDAI in encrypted format.

(c) The sharing of Aadhaar information is done only with authorized KYC User Agencies (KUAs)/ Authentication User Agencies (AUAs), through authorized secure applications, after following well established security procedures and protocols. No biometric data is shared by UIDAI with any agency.

The sharing of Aadhaar information is regulated in terms of the Aadhaar (Sharing of Information) Regulations, 2016, framed under the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016. There has been

restriction on sharing of identity information on the Authority as well as requesting entity, and responsibilities have also been cast upon the Agency or entity other than the requesting entity with respect to Aadhaar numbers. Restriction is also there on sharing/circulating/publishing of Aadhaar numbers.

(d) and (e) UIDAI uses “assisted mode” for performing biometric authentication. This means that the process of authentication occurs in the presence of/or supervision of AUA/KUA in the liveness mode. Further, the AUAs/KUAs are obligated by the terms of their contract, Aadhaar Act and its Regulations, circulars, guidelines, directions etc. to perform such authentication as per the UIDAI approved processes. Any violation will render them liable for action under the law of the land. Moreover, AUAs/KUAs are at liberty to use their own additional factors of authentication such as physical verification, additional passwords, their own OTPs etc to enhance their security.

Steps to check misuse of Aadhaar Information

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Aadhaar information is being misused after hacking. If so, the reason therefor; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to check hacking of Aadhaar information for ensuring privacy of citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) It is submitted that no incidents of data breach and hacking have been reported so far in respect of Aadhaar Data with Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

(b) Government is fully alive to the need to maintain highest level of data security, privacy and is deploying the necessary technology and infrastructure. The architecture of Aadhaar ecosystem has been designed to ensure non-duplication, data integrity and other related management aspects of security and privacy in Aadhaar database. Security is an integral part of the system from the initial design to the final stage. Security of Aadhaar data is monitored at all the times *i.e.* at rest, in transit and in storage. UIDAI has also been certified as per international standard, namely ISO 27001: 2013 by STQC in respect of Information Security Management System which has added another layer of IT security assurance. UIDAI-Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR) has been declared as a Protected System in pursuance of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

sub-section (1) of Section 70 of the Information Technology Act 2000 by National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre.

Additionally, various policies and procedures have been defined clearly which are reviewed and updated continually, thereby appropriately controlling and monitoring any movement of people, material and data in and out of UIDAI premises, particularly the data centres. Physical security of UIDAI Data Centres is being managed by armed CISF personnel. Further, strengthening of security of data is an ongoing process, and all possible steps are being taken in this regard. Chapter VI (Protection of Information) of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 ("The Aadhaar Act") and the Aadhaar (Data Security) Regulations, 2016 framed thereunder have been specifically drafted keeping in account the various security requirements in respect of data collected by UIDAI.

Setting up of Mega Food Parks and Integrated Cold Chain Units

102. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding number of Mega Food Parks being set up under the National Mission on Food Processing; (NMFP);

(b) whether Government proposes to set up any Mega Food Park in Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up Integrated Cold Chain Units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the amount earmarked for this purpose in the current fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) Government has sanctioned 42 Mega Food Parks (MFPs) to be set up in the country under Mega Food Park Scheme. Out of these, 36 projects have been accorded Final Approval and another 2 projects have been accorded In-Principle Approval. 9 Mega Food Parks have become functional. The project-wise details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Ministry has approved one Mega Food Parks at Rupangarh village, Ajmer District, Rajasthan on 19.02.2014, which is being implemented by M/s Greentech Mega Food Park Private Limited with a total project cost of ₹ 113.57 crore. Ministry has released grant-in-aid of ₹ 29.29 crore so far out of approved grant of ₹ 50.00 crore.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing the Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure with the objective of arresting post-harvest losses of horticulture and non-horticulture produce and providing remunerative price to farmers for their produce. Under the scheme, Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 35% for general areas and @ 50% for North East States, Himalayan States, ITDP areas and Islands for storage and transport infrastructure and @ 50% and 75% respectively for value addition and processing infrastructure subject to a maximum grant-in-aid of ₹ 10 crore for setting up integrated cold chain projects including irradiation facility without any break from the farm gate to the consumer. The integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure can be set up by individuals, groups of entrepreneurs, cooperative societies, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), NGOs, Central/State PSUs, etc. The scheme is primarily private sector driven and proposals under this scheme are invited through Expression of Interest (EOI). The scheme is available in rural and urban areas in all States/UTs. State wise funds are not allotted under the scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure. The Ministry is presently assisting 228 Integrated Cold Chain projects under the scheme. Details of funds allocated under the scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure during current fiscal year is as under:

(₹ in crore)

Year	BE	RE
2017-18	180.00	198.39

Statement*Status of Implementation of 38 Mega Food Park Projects as on 13.12.2017*

Sl. No.	Project Name	Project Cost	Date of In-principle Approval	Date of Final Approval
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh				
1.	Srini Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Chittoor	121.10	16.12.2008	30.03.2009 (Functional)
2.	Godavari Mega Aqua Park Pvt. Ltd., West Godavari	122.60	21.09.2012	16.12.2013
3.	Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC), Krishna	184.88	31.03.2015	31.12.2015

1	2	3	4	5
Assam				
4.	North East Mega Food Park Ltd., Nalbari	80.85	16.12.2008	30.03.2009 (Functional)
Bihar				
5.	Pristine Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Khagaria	127.64	21.09.2012	06.08.2014
Chhattisgarh				
6.	Indus Best Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Raipur	124.50	06.09.2012	04.06.2014
Gujarat				
7.	Gujarat Agro Infrastructure Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Surat	117.87	21.09.2012	22.05.2014
8.	Fanidhar Mega Food Park Pvt. Limited, Mehsana	165.79	03.01.2017	16.08.2017
Haryana				
9.	Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (HSIIDC), Sonipat	177.59	31.03.2015	06.11.2015
10.	Haryana State Cooperative Supply and Marketing Federation Limited (HAFED), Rohtak	165.59	03.01.2017	----
Himachal Pradesh				
11.	Cremica Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Una	99.70	21.09.2012	06.08.2014
Jammu and Kashmir				
12.	RFK Greens Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Pulwama	79.43	21.09.2012	19.02.2014
Jharkhand				
13.	Jharkhand Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Ranchi	114.74	16.12.2008	30.03.2009 (Functional)

1	2	3	4	5
Karnataka				
14.	Integrated Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Tumkur	144.33	03.08.2010	27.03.2011 (Functional)
15.	Favorich Infra Pvt. Ltd., Mandya	125.79	03.01.2017	----
Kerala				
16.	Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Limited (KSIDC), Alappuzha	129.15	31.03.2015	27.11.2015
17.	Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA), Palakkad	119.02	31.03.2015	27.11.2015
Madhya Pradesh				
18.	Indus Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Khargaoan	131.28	10.10.2011	27.08.2012 (Functional)
19.	Avantee Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Dewas	144.12	31.03.2015	31.12.2015
Maharashtra				
20.	Paithan Mega Food Park Ltd., Aurangabad	124.52	01.04.2011	08.03.2013
21.	Satara Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Satara	139.33	21.09.2012	06.08.2014
22.	Wardha Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd, Wardha	92.36	31.03.2015	13.01.2016
Mizoram				
23.	Zoram Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Aizawl	75.20	19.12.2013	10.06.2015
Nagaland				
24.	DoysAgri Resources Pvt Ltd, Dimapur	77.96	03.01.2017	16.08.2017
Odisha				
25.	MITS Mega Food Park Ltd., Rayagada	80.17	29.04.2011	16.04.2012 (Functional)

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO), Khurda	134.13	31.03.2015	06.11.2015
Punjab				
27.	International Mega Food Park Ltd., Fazilka	130.38	03.08.2010	25.05.2011 (Functional)
28.	Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Ltd., (PAIC) Ludhiana	117.61	31.03.2015	27.11.2015
29.	The Sukjhith Starch and Chemical Limited, Kapurthala	123.72	31.03.2015	06.11.2015
Rajasthan				
30.	Greentech Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Ajmer	113.57	21.09.2012	19.02.2014
Telangana				
31.	Smart Agro Industries Corporation Pvt. Ltd., Nizamabad	108.95	19.12.2013	10.06.2015
32.	Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd., Khammam	109.44	31.03.2015	05.02.2016
33.	Raaga Mayuri Agrovat Pvt. Ltd., Gadwal Jogulamba	124.15	31.03.2015	31.12.2015
34.	Basavashakti Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd, Sangareddy	162.45	03.01.2017	16.08.2017
Tripura				
35.	Sikaria Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., West Tripura	87.45	29.04.2011	30.11.2011
Uttarakhand				
36.	Patanjali Food and Herbal Park Pvt. Ltd., Haridwar	95.08	16.12.2008	30.03.2009 (Functional)

1	2	3	4	5
37.	Himalayan Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Udham Singh Nagar	98.08	21.09.2012	23.01.2014
West Bengal				
38.	Jangipur Bengal Mega Food Park Ltd., Murshidabad	132.70	16.12.2008	16.03.2010 (Functional)

All India Judicial Service

103. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has reopened the proposal to have an All India Judicial Service to appoint District Judges through a process conducted by UPSC;

(b) whether any discussions have been held inside or outside the Ministry on this subject; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) A comprehensive proposal was formulated for the constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) and the same was approved by the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2012. The proposal was discussed as an agenda item in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2013 wherein it was decided that the issue needed further deliberation and consideration. Views on the proposal have also been sought from the State Governments and High Courts.

Foreign Voters and Proxy Voting

†104. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of registered foreign voters in the country;

(b) the details of NRI and overseas voters in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to allow proxy voting for NRI and overseas voters;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented, the details thereof; and

(e) the suggestions/ideas received by Government regarding proxy voting, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Election Commission has stated that the total number of overseas electors is 24,348 as per the final electoral rolls with reference to 01.01.2017 as the qualifying date.

(b) The State-wise total number of overseas Indians, who have been enrolled as overseas Indian electors in electoral rolls is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) to (e) It is proposed to introduce a Bill in the Lok Sabha during the current Session of the Parliament to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 enabling the overseas electors to cast their votes either in person or by proxy. The proposal is based on the recommendation of the Election Commission.

Statement

Electoral Roll Data 2017

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Non Resident Indians, 2017			
		Men	Women	Third Gender	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	4	0	15
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	9	1	0	10
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	1	0	2
6.	Goa	24	11	0	35
7.	Gujarat	8	6	0	14
8.	Haryana	14	2	0	16
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2	0	4
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	3	0	0	3
12.	Karnataka	0	0	0	0
13.	Kerala	21874	1682	0	23556

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2	3	0	5
15.	Maharashtra	19	12	0	31
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	1	0	1
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
20.	Odisha	0	0	0	0
21.	Punjab	240	124	0	364
22.	Rajasthan	5	1	0	6
23.	Sikkim	1	0	0	1
24.	Tamil Nadu	36	13	0	49
25.	Telangana	3	1	0	4
26.	Tripura	0	0	0	0
27.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1	0	0	1
29.	West Bengal	11	10	0	21
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	7	4	0	11
32.	Daman and Diu	8	17	0	25
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
34.	NCT of Delhi	27	10	0	37
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	122	15	0	137
TOTAL		22428	1920	0	24348

Appointment of Additional Judges

105. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more judges are required to dispose of the cases pending at different levels in the courts in the country within appropriate time-frame;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the assessment made by Government thereon; and

(c) whether Government has fixed any time-frame for appointment of additional judges as per the requirement, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Judges of High Courts are appointed under Articles 217 (1) and 224 of the Constitution. As per the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment and transfer of Chief Justices and Judges of High Courts, the proposal for initiation of filling up of vacancies in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of concerned high Court. As per the existing MoP, the Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposal for filling up of vacancies of a Judge in a High Court six months prior to the occurrence of vacancies. However, no time frame can be fixed for appointment of Additional Judges in High Courts as filling up of vacancies is a continuous process and requires consultation and approval from various Constitution Authorities.

The issue of shortage of judges is being addressed through a two-pronged strategy. First, by filling up of existing vacancies in the subordinate judiciary and secondly, by increasing the sanctioned strength of judges. The Central Government takes up the matters of increase of strength of subordinate judiciary and filling up of vacant posts with State Governments and relevant High Courts from time to time. As a result, the sanctioned strength of Judges of District/Subordinate Courts has increased from 20,214 in the year 2014 to 22,658 in 2017.

(c) For efficiently dealing with arrears of pending cases, in addition to other actions by the Judiciary, the Government undertakes the review of the strength of the Judges in High Courts at periodic intervals. During the Joint Conference of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers held on 07.04.2013, it was *inter alia* resolved to increase the sanctioned strength of judges of the High Courts by 25%. Following this, the sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 judges in 2014 to 1079 judges as of November, 2017. Out of this, 685 judges are in position, leaving 394 vacancies of Judges in the High Courts to be filled up. During 2017, 115 fresh appointments of Judges in High Courts were made and 28 Additional Judges were made Permanent. In addition, the tenure of five Additional Judges of the High Courts was also extended. Further, eight Chief Justices of the High Courts were appointed. The sanctioned strength of the Judges in the Supreme Court (including the Chief Justice of India) is 31. As on 12.12.2017, 25 Judges are in position, and there are six vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court.

As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of judges in subordinate courts is the responsibility of State Governments and the High Courts concerned. As per information made available by the High Courts and respective State Governments, as on 31.10.2017 the sanctioned strength of Judges/Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts is 22,658 while the number of Judges in position and vacant posts are 16,704 and 5954, respectively.

Average time taken for disposal of cases

106. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that courts in the country take more time to dispose of the cases in comparison to the developed countries of the world, if so, the facts in this regard;

(b) the average time taken by the Supreme Court, High Courts, District Courts and Subordinate Courts to dispose of civil and criminal cases; and

(c) the assessment regarding the time taken for the same in USA, England, Japan, France and other European countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Courts in various countries operate in different environment on account of difference in availability of infrastructure facilities, use of technology, number of judicial officers per million of population (judge-population ratio), docket ratio (population case filing ratio), provisions of substantive laws and procedures in courts etc. However, a comparison of time taken for disposal of cases in India *vis-à-vis* developed countries may not be valid. The assessment in this regard has to be made by the respective courts. The Government does not maintain data on average time taken for disposal of cases in different courts.

CCTV cameras in District Courts

107. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn any comprehensive plan to install CCTV cameras in the District Courts across the country pursuant to the order passed by the Apex Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has earmarked any fund for this purpose for the current fiscal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) In Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 99 of 2015 (Pradyuman Bisht versus Union of India and others), the Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* order dated 14.08.2017 *inter alia* directed that it is desirable that CCTV cameras are installed in all subordinate courts in such phased manner as may be considered appropriate by the High Courts. In pursuance of the above direction of the Hon'ble Court, a copy of the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court was forwarded to Registrars General of all High Courts and Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all States/UT by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice *vide* D.O. letter No.15018/10/2015-Jus.II/e-Courts dated 28th August, 2017 for taking action to install cameras in all Subordinate Courts. The respective High Courts are to decide and take action for installation of CCTV cameras in the subordinate courts in their jurisdiction as considered appropriate by them.

(c) to (e) Funds for this purpose are to be provided by the respective State Governments.

Adherence of laid down procedures by Fast Track Courts

108. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only one out of the four Fast Track Courts was found to be adhering to the laid down procedures, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the guidelines provide that in every trial, proceeding will be held on day-to-day basis, until all the witnesses have been examined; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that according to a study, no evidence of counselling provided to survivors was found except in two of the sixteen cases recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The task of setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and their functioning is in accordance with the laid down procedures and it lies within the domain of the State Governments as per their need and resources, in consultation with the concerned High Courts. This is in accordance with the award of the 14th Finance Commission wherein States have been provided additional fiscal space for the purpose.

(b) and (c) Suitable amendments have been made to deal with cases relating to heinous crimes under FTCs in Section 309 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 which provides that, in every inquiry or trial, the proceedings shall be held as expeditiously as possible, and in particular, when the examination of witnesses has once begun, the same shall be continued on day-to-day basis until all the witnesses in attendance have been examined, unless the Court finds the adjournment of the same beyond the following day to be necessary for reasons to be recorded. Counselling is provided as per rules framed by the State Government in consultation with the concerned High Court.

Independent body to regulate ethics in the legal profession

109. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering setting up an independent body to regulate the ethics in the legal profession, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that a meeting of PMO and Ministerial heads has taken place recently and underlined the need to set up a regulatory framework for legal profession, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) No Sir. At present no specific proposal is under consideration.

(b) No Sir.

Uniform Civil Code

110. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the judiciary has been prodding successive Governments to bring forward a Uniform Civil Code as enshrined in Article 44 of the Indian Constitution for the last more than three decades;

(b) if so, the specific reasons for not bringing in the legislation on this issue; and

(c) whether Government proposes to bring forward this legislation as per recent SC Judgement on triple talaq issue and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court in its various judgments has desired to bring Uniform Civil Code. Article 44 of the Constitution provides that State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India. In view of the importance of the subject matter and sensitivity involved, and for in-depth study of the provisions of various personal laws governing different communities, the Government has requested the Law Commission of India to undertake examination of various issues relating to uniform civil code and to make recommendation thereof. Presently, there is no proposal with the Government to bring forward a legislation on Uniform Civil Code.

Courtrooms for Subordinate Judiciary

111. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of courtrooms available for lower courts in the country is less than the sanctioned strength of judges in the Subordinate Judiciary, if so, the details thereof, and

(b) the appropriate action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) As per information made available by the various High Courts as of November 2017, there were 17,836 court halls/court rooms available for District and Subordinate Courts in the country and 2,824 court halls/courtrooms were under construction. Comparing these figures with the working strength of 16,726 judges/judicial officers reported by High Courts, adequate courtrooms/court halls are available for the current strength of judicial officers.

(b) The primary responsibility for development of infrastructural facilities for judiciary in the States, including construction of court halls/courtrooms, rests with the State Governments. The Central Government augments the resources of the State Governments by providing financial assistance under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary. A sum of ₹ 6,006 crore has so far been sanctioned to State Governments/UTs under the scheme since its inception in the year 1993-94, out of which a sum of ₹ 2,562 crore has been sanctioned since the year 2014-15, which includes release of ₹ 527.90 crore in 2017-18 as on December 13, 2017.

Strength of officials of Legislative Department

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that out of total sanctioned strength of 171 personnel in the Legislative Department, only 96 were in position upto August, 2017;
- (b) if so, the number of them filled thereafter;
- (c) if not, the reasons for not filling the vacancies; and
- (d) the number of personnel presently responsible for drafting/vetting of Bills, rules, regulations etc., and how many of them are actually required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) Nine (9).
- (c) Reasons for non-filling of vacancies are:-
 - (i) Proposal pending with Recruiting Agencies - Union Public Service Commission/ Staff Selection Commission.
 - (ii) Court cases.
 - (iii) Officers have not been nominated by the Department of Personnel and Training who are the Cadre Controlling Authority for Central Secretariat Service and Central Secretariat Stenographers Service.
 - (iv) Suitable officer(s) not being available for appointment on deputation/ absorption.
 - (v) Review of Recruitment Rules.
- (d) Total sanctioned strength of officers responsible for drafting/vetting of Bills, rules, regulations, etc, is 44. At present, out of total 44 posts, 16 posts are vacant.

Timely framing of Rules by Ministries

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Ministries have to frame rules, regulations, etc., under an Act within six months of the Act being passed;
- (b) if so, the number of Acts passed during the last one year and status of rules, regulations framed thereunder in respect of these Ministries for which figures are available; and

(c) whether these figures updated on real-time basis, Ministry-wise, would be put in public domain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) As per para 11.3.1 and 11.3.2 of the Manual of Parliamentary Procedures every Ministry/Department has to frame rules and regulations etc. under an Act within a period of six months after enforcement of the Act.

(b) and (c) It is to state that total, 31 Acts (including Finance and Appropriation Acts) have been enacted by the Parliament from 1st January, 2017 to till date. Further, as per the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, the subject matter relating to framing of Rules, Regulations etc. under an Act have been allocated to various Ministries/Departments and therefore, the concerned administrative Ministry/Department has to frame the rules, regulations under an Act administered by them and updated the same on their website. Besides, the rules and regulations published by various Ministries/Departments are also available on the website <http://egazette.nic.in>.

Curtailment of Winter Session of Parliament

114. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the first time in the history of Indian Parliament, the long accepted and followed tenure of the Winter Session has been curtailed for no valid reasons;

(b) whether this curtailment has denied the Parliamentarians' rights to deliberate on issues through legislative process; and

(c) whether such curtailment of Sessions by Government adds to the backlog of issues awaiting legislation after due deliberation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) No, Sir. In the past also the Winter Session of Parliament had been held for lesser period or rescheduled as given below:—

Lok Sabha

Lok Sabha/Session	From	To	Duration	Actual sitting
5th/18th	25.10.1976	05.11.1976	12	11
9th/6th	27.12.1990	11.01.1991	16	10
10th/12th	07.12.1994	23.12.1994	17	13
15th/15th (Part-I)	05.12.2013	18.12.2013	14	10

Rajya Sabha

Session	From	To	Duration	Actual sitting
98th	03.11.1976	15.11.1976	13	09
156th	27.12.1990	11.01.1991	16	10
172nd	07.12.1994	23.12.1994	17	13
230th (Part-I)	05.12.2013	18.12.2013	14	10

This Winter Session has 14 sittings spreading over 22 days.

(b) and (c) It is the prerogative of the Government to decide about the priority of Government legislative business to be transacted in Parliament. Moreover there is no backlog of issues as such awaiting legislation. There is no question of restriction on Parliamentarians' right to deliberate on issues in Parliament.

Proliferation of Spurious LED Devices

115. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in pursuance of the mandate of Government, standards have been prescribed for LED devices by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) towards optimum energy conservation;

(b) whether according to the findings of a survey by Nielsen Market Research Group, more than 76 per cent of the LED brands in market do not adhere to prescribed standards by BIS; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to check the proliferation of spurious LED devices in the market and whether the Association of Compliant Manufacturers has sought action by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has formulated five Indian Standards for LED devices for optimum energy conservation. The list of such Indian Standards is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

In addition, BIS has also formulated eleven Indian Standards pertaining to safety requirements for LED Devices, out of which Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, has notified nine Indian Standards under 'Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirement for

Compulsory Registration) Order'. The list of the notified Indian Standards is given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Survey carried out by Nielsen Market Research Group has alleged that more than 76 per cent of the LED bulb brands across 200 electrical retail outlets in 4 cities were found to be non-compliant with consumer safety standards.

MeitY has notified the following LED related luminaire products categories under the Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirement of Compulsory Registration Order), 2012 (CRO) for compliance of Indian Standards :

- I. Self Ballasted LED Lamps
- II. Electronic control gear for LED modules
- III. Fixed General purpose LED luminaire.

It is not explicitly clear in the Nielson Compliance Study that the samples surveyed belong to which LED lighting product category.

MeitY is carrying out surveillance on the goods notified under the CRO. As per the provisions of the Order, the surveillance samples may be picked up from the manufacturer's premises or market.

Statement-I

Indian Standards on LED Devices towards optimum energy conservation

Sl.No.	IS No.	Title
1.	IS 16102(Part 2):2012	Self Ballasted LED-Lamps for General Lighting Services, Part 2 Performance Requirements
2.	IS 16103(Part 2):2012	LED Modules for General Lighting, Part 2 Performance Requirements
3.	IS 16104:2012	DC or AC Supplied Electronic Control Gear for LED Modules - Performance Requirements
4.	IS16107(Part2/Sec. 1):2012	Luminaires Performance, Part 2 Particular Requirements, Section 1: LED Luminaries
5.	IS 16107(Part 2/Sec. 2):2017	Luminaires Performance, Part 2 Particular Requirements, Section 2: LED Street Lighting Luminaire

Statement-II

Indian Standards for Safety requirements of LED devices under 'Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirement for Compulsory Registration) Order'

Sl.No.	IS No.	Title
1.	IS 16102 (Part 1): 2012	Self Ballasted LED-Lamps for General Lighting Services Part 1 Safety Requirements
2.	IS 15885 (Part 2/Sec. 13): 2012/ IEC 61347-2-13 (2006)	Lamp Control gear Part 2 Particular Requirements Section 13 D.C. or A.C. Supplied Electronic Controlgear For LED Modules
3.	IS 10322 (Part 5/Sec. 1): 2012	Luminaires - Part 5 Particular requirements Sec 1 General purpose luminaires
4.	IS 10322 (Part 5/Sec. 2): 2012*	Luminaires - Part 5 Particular Requirements - Section 2 Recessed Luminaires
5.	IS 10322 (Part 5/Sec. 3): 2012*	Luminaires - Part 5 Particular requirements -Section 3 Luminaires for Road and Street Lighting
6.	IS 10322 (Part 5/Sec. 5): 2013*	Luminaires - Part 5 Particular requirements Section 5 Flood light
7.	IS 10322 (Part 5/Sec. 6): 2013*	Luminaires - Part 5 Particular Requirements Section 6 Handlamps
8.	IS 10322 (Part 5/Sec. 7): 2013*	Luminaries - Part 5 Particular Requirements Section 7 Lighting Chains
9.	IS 10322 (Part 5/Sec. 8): 2013*	Luminaires - Part 5 Particular Requirements Section 8 Emergency Lighting

*to come into force with effect from 17 Feb 2018.

Reworking of strategy for maintenance in Railways

116. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that initiatives taken by Railways to keep railway stations, railway yards and passenger trains neat and clean have proved to be unsatisfactory as is inferred from the ground conditions, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government has taken any decision to rework the strategy to maintain cleanliness in railways at par with other developed countries, even to the extent of adopting PPP model?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. Indian Railways have taken various initiatives in improving cleanliness of stations, trains, yards and all other premises. Some of the major initiatives taken towards improvement of cleanliness are:—

- (i) Mechanized cleaning methods have been adopted in major stations.
- (ii) Regular intensive cleanliness drives are undertaken at various railway stations by Zonal Railways.
- (iii) Enforcement of Indian Railways (Penalties for activities affecting cleanliness at railway premises) Rules, 2012 has been intensified.
- (iv) Use of CCTVs has been extended for monitoring of cleanliness activities at major stations.
- (v) For better cleaning of coaches of trains, mechanized coach cleaning at Depots, On Board Housekeeping Services (OBHS) in important long distance trains, “Clean My Coach” and Clean Train Station (CTS) schemes have been provided.

This has resulted in visible improvement in cleanliness.

(b) New Standard Bid Document (SBD) has been issued recently which is being implemented for integrated housekeeping of stations and trains. This will further improve effectiveness of housekeeping contracts.

Trains between Ahmedabad and Mumbai

117. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present trains, class-wise, plying between Ahmedabad and Mumbai, their capacity, occupancy, schedule, fare slabs and revenue generated along with profit or loss to Railways since 2014 till date;

(b) the details regarding the speed of these trains along with the accidents since 2014 till date; and

(c) the details of the feasibility study for the high speed rail corridor between Ahmedabad and Mumbai which has been planned by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The details of trains operating between Ahmedabad and Mumbai alongwith their schedule, composition, carrying capacity, occupancy and speed are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

The class-wise and train-wise fare slab of various types of trains operating on Ahmedabad-Mumbai sector are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

The sector-wise data of revenue generation as also the profit and loss is not maintained.

During the period 1st April, 2014 to 30th November, 2017, there have been six consequential train accidents including the accidents at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users. All of these accidents occurred on the Ahmedabad-Mumbai section during the given period.

(c) Based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Government of India and Government of Japan in May, 2013, a joint feasibility study on co-financing basis for the High Speed Rail Corridor Project between Mumbai-Ahmedabad with primary objective of having 300-350 kmph speed was done. The study commenced in October, 2013 and report was submitted in June, 2015. Salient features of the joint feasibility report of Mumbai-Ahmedabad inter alia includes: the estimate cost of project at ₹ 98,000 crores, length of corridor as 508 kms between Mumbai and Sabarmati with 12 stations, design speed of 350 kmph and operational speed of 320 kmph, Electrical Multiple Unit (EMU) type rolling stocks, standard gauge, construction break up of 63%, 28% and 6% as embankment, *via*. duct and tunnel respectively, operation of 35 trains per day in 2023 with projected increase of 105 trains per day in 2053 daily users assessed approximately at 36,000 in 2023 with projection of 136000 by 2053.

Statement-I
Details of trains operating between Ahmedabad and Mumbai

Sl. No.	Train No.	Train Name	Schedule		Speed (km/hr)	Load	Composition*	Capacity	Annual Occupancy 2016-17%
			Dep.	Arr.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	12009	Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad Shatabdi Express	6.25	12.45	77.52	18	1A.C CC-1, 2A.C CC-14	1148	102.04
2.	12010	Ahmedabad-Mumbai Central Shatabdi Express	14.40	21.20	73.63	18			100.58
3.	12267	Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad (AC) Durgam Express	23.25	5.55	75.54	17	1A.C-1, 2A. C-3, 3A.C-11	860	93.57
4.	12268	Ahmedabad-Mumbai Central (AC) Durgam Express	23.40	6.00	77.51	17			91.6
5.	12902	Ahmedabad-Mumbai Central Gujarat Mail	22.00	6.25	58.32	22	1A.C-1, 2A.C-3, 3A.C-7, SL-7,	1436	104.69
6.	12901	Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad Gujarat Mail	22.05	6.35	57.76	22	GS-2		106.24
7.	12932	Ahmedabad-Mumbai Central AC Double Decker Express	6.00	13.00	70.13	14	2A.C DDCC-12	1440	91.12
8.	12931	Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad AC Double Decker Express	14.20	21.40	66.95	14			85.50

9.	12933	Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad Karnavati Express	13.40	21.25	63.35	20	2A.C CC-4, CC-13	1690	106.33
10.	12934	Ahmedabad-Mumbai Central Karnavati Express	4.55	12.35	64.03	20			104.41
11.	22927	Ahmedabad-Bandra (T) Lokshakti Express	19.40	4.20	55.40	24	1A.C/2A.C-1, 2A.C-1, 3A.C- 4, SL-12, GS-3, GSLR/SLRD-2	1506	104.32
12.	22928	Bandra (T)-Ahmedabad Lokshakti Express	21.10	5.50	55.39	24			109.53
13.	22953	Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad Gujarat Express	5.45	14.40	55.06	23	2A.C CC3, CC- 12, GS6, GSLR/ SLRD2	2092	119.39
14.	22954	Ahmedabad-Mumbai Central Gujarat Express	7.00	15.55	55.05	23			107.95
15.	12960	Bhuj-Dadar Express	8.30	12.00	56.11	18	2A.C1, 3A.C- 2, SL7, GS6, GSLR/SLRD2	1278	94.13
16.	12959	Dadar-Bhuj Express	00.05	17.50	55.32	18			107.79
17.	12972	Bhavnagar-Bandra (T) Express	18.35	8.40	55.24	21	2A.C1, 3A.C3, SL12, GS4, GSLR/SLRD2	1144	106.51
18.	12971	Bandra (T)-Bhavnagar Express	21.30	10.30	59.93	21			111.47

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
19.	19017 (New no. 19217)	Bandra (T)-Jamnagar Express	17.10	8.50	51.77	21	2A.C1, 3A.C3, SL12, GS4, GSLR/SLRD2	1144	112.17
20.	19028 (New no. 19218)	Jamnagar-Bandra (T) Express	5.40	51.49	21				105.42
21.	19027	Bandra (T)-Jammu Tawi Express	12.15	1.25	51.12	21	2A.C-1, 3A.C- 4, SL-8, GS-6, GSLR/SLRD-2	1478	149.89
22.	19028	Jammu Tawi-Bandra (T) Express	9.30	22.25	51.47	21			122.66
23.	19116	Bhuj-Dadar Express	22.25	13.45	55.02	23	1A.C-1, 2A.C-1, 3A.C3, SL-12, GS4, GSLR/ SLRD2	1476	113.98
24.	19115	Dadar-Bhuj Express	15.10	07.00	52.73	23			120.33
25.	19216	Porbandar-Mumbai Central Express	21.05	19.15	43.06	17	3A.C2, 1st-1, SL-3, CC-1, GS- 7, GSLR/SLRD-2	1166	119.34
26.	19215	Mumbai Central-Porbandar Express	8.20	5.35	44.96	17			118.53
27.	22903	Bandra (T)-Bhuj Express	23.45	12.30	65.77	16	1A.C-1, 2A.C-4, 3A.C9,	686	100.39
28.	22904	Bhuj-Bandra (T) Express	16.00	5.15	63.29	16			86.42
29.	22915	Bandra (T)-Hissar Express	12.55	13.25	58.21	19	2A.C/3A.C-1, 2A.C-1, 3A.C2, SL-7, GS6, GSLR/SLRD2	1334	127.69
30.	22916	Hissar-Bandra (T) Express	15.45	16.45	57.04	19			122.56

31.	22931	Bandra (T)-Jaisalmer Express	14.35	12.50	56.05	19	2A.C/3A.C-1,	1406	149.26
32.	22932	Jaisalmer-Bandra(T) Express	19.20	17.35	56.05	19	2A.C-1, 3A.C-2, SL-8, GS-6, GSLR/SLRD-2		132.49
33.	22935	Bandra (T)-Palitana Express	15.25	5.30	55.98	18	2A.C-1, 3A.C-3, SL-10, GS-3	1350	86.27
34.	22936	Palitana-Bandra (T) Express	20.05	10.20	55.25	18			78.26
35.	22945	Mumbai Central-Okha/Veraval Express	21.35	15.35	54.96	24	1A.C /2A.C-1, 2A.C-1, 3A.C-4, SL-10, GS-3, GSLR/SLRD-4	1442	119.90
36.	22946	Okha-Mumbai Central/Veraval Express	13.10	7.10	54.95	24			117.53
37.	22949	Bandra (T)-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Express	12.55	13.20	55.83	21	2A.C-1, 3A.C-4, SL8, GS-6, GSLR/SLRD-2	1478	129.99
38.	22950	Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Bandra(T) Express	16.20	16.45	55.82	21			131.94
39.	22952	Gandhidham-Bandra(T) Express	6.50	22.25	55.05	23	2A.C-1, 3A.C-6, SL-8, GS-6, GSLR/SLRD-2	1396	65.88
40.	22951	Bandra (T)-Gandhidham Express	23.55	15.30	55.05	23			102.39
41.	22955	Bandra (T)-Bhuj Express	17.45	8.50	55.60	23	1A.C-1, 2A.C-1, 3A.C-3, SL-12, GS-4, GSLR/SLRD-2	1540	124.02
42.	22956	Bhuj-Bandra (T) Express	21.05	11.25	55.29	23			124.39
43.	22964	Bhavnagar-Bandra (T) Express	17.30	7.35	55.38	23	2A.C-1, 3A.C-3, SL-14, GS-4, GSLR/SLRD-2	1666	113.16
44.	22963	Bandra (T)-Bhavnagar Express	15.25	5.20	56.13	23			73.39

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
45.	22965	Bandra (T)-Bhagat Ki Kothi Express	23.35	16.50	56.17	23	2A.C-1, 3A.C-2, SL-14, GS-3	1590	117.45
46.	22966	Bhagat Ki Kothi-Bandra (T) Express	19.40	12.45	55.62	23			119.41
47.	19029 (new no. 22989)	Bandra(T)-Mahuva Express	11.45	03.20	56.62	16	2A.C-1, 3A.C-1, SL-9, GS-3	1128	83.40**
48.	19030 (new no. 22990)	Mahuva-Bandra (T) Express	13.00	04.45	55.95	16			96.30**
49.	22991	Bandra (T)-Veraval Express	12.45	4.35	57.54	16	2A.C-1, 3A.C-1, SL-9, GS-3	1128	110.14**
50.	22992	Veraval-Bandra (T) Express	12.45	5.15	55.20	16			122.29**
51.	22993	Bandra (T)-Mahuva Express	15.25	7.10	56.02	16	2A.C1, 3A.C1, SL9, GS3	1128	86.73**
52.	22994	Mahuva-Bandra (T) Express	19.55	11.55	55.08	16			78.28**
53.	12216	Bandra (T)-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Express	12.45	12.15	61.671	21	3A-19	1938	116.70
54.	12215	Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Bandra(T) Express	9.20	8.10	63.51	21			104.06
55.	12479	Jodhpur-Bandra (T) Express	18.45	11.35	56.64	24	1 AC-1, 2AC-2, 3AC-4, SL-11, GS-4, SLR/D-2	1578	120.31
56.	12480	Bandra (T)-Jodhpur Express	13.30	06.30	56.09	24			128.22
57.	12489	Bikaner-Dadar Express	13.40	12.00	56.08	21	3AC-4, 2AC-1, SL-10, GS-4, SLR/D-2	1442	106.27
58.	12490	Dadar-Bikaner Express	14.35	13.10	55.96	21			128.46

59.	12990	Ajmer-Dadar Express	14.35	13.10	56.34	24	3AC-3, 2AC-2, SL-13, GS-4, SLR/D-2	1640	120.79
60.	12989	Dadar-Ajmer Express	14.35	08.15	56.34	24			130.35
61.	14707	Bikaner-Bandra (T) Express	09.30	09.40	50.92	23	2AC-1, 3AC-3, SL-13, GS-4, SLR/D-2	1594	103.18
62.	14708	Bandra (T)-Bikaner Express	15.05	15.35	50.23	23			130.26
63.	22473	Bikaner-Bandra (T) Express	15.50	12.45	56.15	21	2AC-1, 3AC- 4, SL-8, GS-6, SLR/D-2	1990	96.95
64.	22474	Bandra (T)-Bikaner Express	14.35	12.35	55.94	21			126.14
65.	59441	Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad Passenger	22.40	14.55	30.21	14	SL3, GS9, GSLR2	1106	109.44
66.	59442	Ahmedabad-Mumbai Central Passenger	12.40	4.35	30.84	14			66.93
67.	59439	Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad Passenger	12.15	04.00	31.17	14	SL3, GS9, GSLR2	1106	69.44
68.	59440	Ahmedabad-Mumbai Central Passenger	23.10	15.00	31.00	14			107.13

*Expansion for coach type

1AC 1st AC Tier

2AC 2nd AC-Tier

3AC 3rd AC-Tier

CC Chair Car

SL Sleeper

GS Second Class

GSLR Second class-cum-luggage and guard brake van

SLRD Second class-cum-luggage cum guard brake van with disabled friendly facility

**The occupancy figures are of the period 1st April, 2017 to 30th November, 2017 as these trains have been introduced w.e.f. 03.04.2017.

Statement-II

Base fare for different classes of about 491KM i.e. distance between ADI to BCT

(in ₹)

Class		Duronto/ Rajdhani	Duronto	Shatabdi	Jan Shatabdi	Garib Rath	Yuva Trains	Mail/ Express
491 KM (Approx.)								
1A	Peak Season	1969	-	-	-	-	-	1711
	Lean Season	1852	-	-	-	-	-	1611
2A	Peak Season	1146	-	-	-	-	-	996
	Lean Season	1105	-	-	-	-	-	963
3A		801	-	-	-	439	-	688
AC Economy		-	738	-	-	-	-	-
EC		-	-	1426	-	-	-	-
CC		-	-	638	585	369	-	545
Ist Class		-	-	-	-	-	-	807
SL		-	293	-	-	-	-	261
Non AC Chair Car		-	194	-	-	-	-	-
IIInd Class		-	-	-	172	-	-	150
Yuva Passenger		-	-	-	-	-	369	-
Non-Yuva Passenger		-	-	-	-	-	369	-

Monitoring the Release of HO Quota

118. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN:

DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether VIP references for release of HO Quota to the Minister of Railways/ Railways/Zones are not being given priority in recent times;

(b) if so, whether complaints/representations from Members of Parliament have been regularly received against officials of MR Cell for deliberate, biased and irregularities in treatment of VIP references;

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(d) whether there is an urgent need for monitoring of release of HO Quota through CCTV cameras at all Railways Board/HQ/Divisions to ensure transparency; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) In order to meet the urgent travel requirements of High Official Requisition (HOR) holders, which includes Central Government Ministers, Judges of Hon'ble Supreme Court/High Courts of various States, Members of Parliament and other emergent demands, who are on the waiting list, a limited number of berths have been earmarked as Emergency Quota in different trains and in different classes. The quota is released by the Railways in accordance with the priority as per warrant of precedence and well established practice being followed since long. At the time of allotment of berths/seats, Emergency Quota is first allotted for self travel of HOR holders/Members of Parliament, etc., strictly as per their *inter-se* seniority in warrant of precedence. Thereafter, other requisitions received from various quarters including that from Members of Parliament are considered and the remaining quota is released taking into account various factors like status of passengers travelling, nature of urgency like travelling on Government duty, bereavement in the family, sickness, job interview, etc. While the requests received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament for their self travel are complied with, in case of requests forwarded by them for other than self travel, at times, it is not feasible to accommodate all such requests when the demand exceeds the availability.

Since Emergency Quota is released by nominated officers/staff by following the prescribed procedure as mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the complaints/representations from Members of Parliament are not received regularly against officials for deliberate, biased and irregularities in treatment of VIP references. However, during peak rush periods like Diwali, Chhatth, Christmas vacations, Holi, summer vacations, when the demand exceeds availability, sometimes, it is not possible to meet all the demands from Hon'ble Members of Parliament and other VIPs, and few complaints are received. One such complaint has been received from one of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament who has raised the question for non release of Emergency Quota by this office. The request was duly forwarded to the concerned Zonal Railway *i.e.* East Central Railway. The Railway could not provide accommodation on account of availability of limited berths/seats under Emergency Quota on the said train. However, instructions have been issued to Zonal Railway to be more cautious while allotting the berths/seats out of Emergency Quota and accord due priority to the requests received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament. As far as staff handling release of Emergency Quota is concerned, it is informed that the officials whose integrity is beyond doubt and have an excellent track record are entrusted with this responsibility. In case any

mishandling is noticed, immediate action, as deemed fit, is initiated. Periodical transfer/rotation of staff is also undertaken in order to prevent development of any vested interest.

(d) and (e) Emergency Quota is released by nominated officer keeping in view the extant guidelines. For keeping a check on the misuse of emergency quota, checks are conducted by Commercial Directorate and sometimes in association with Vigilance Directorate so that malpractices do not creep in. If any specific complaint regarding misuse of this quota is brought to the notice, necessary action is taken as per extant rules after looking into the complaint. As such no proposal is under consideration to provide CCTV for monitoring the release of Emergency Quota at various levels.

Integrated Security System

119. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of implementation of Integrated Security System (ISS) at railway stations under Railways, Zone-wise;

(b) whether Close Circuit Televisions, Baggage Scanners, Under Vehicle Scanning System, Bomb Detection Equipments, etc., have been installed at all important stations across the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when all stations in urban areas in all the Zones will be covered by ISS the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Based on the recommendations of a High Level Committee, 202 railway stations have been identified as sensitive for the purpose of installation of an Integrated Security System (ISS) to strengthen surveillance mechanism at these stations. ISS includes Close Circuit Television (CCTV) Cameras, Access control, Personal and Baggage Screening System and Bomb Detection System. Contracts have already been awarded for execution of ISS works over 129 railway stations by fifteen Zonal Railways. So far, 106 railway stations have been covered with CCTV surveillance system under ISS over Central Railway, Eastern Railway, East Coast Railway, North Central Railway, North Eastern Railway, North Western Railway, Northeast Frontier Railway, Northern Railway, South Central Railway, South East Central Railway, South Eastern Railway, South Western Railway, Southern Railway and West Central Railway. In addition, 139 Baggage Scanners, 32 Under Vehicle

Scanning System (UVSS), 217 Door Frame Metal Detectors (DFMDs) and more than one thousand Hand Held Metal Detectors (HHMDs) have so far been provided under ISS. Issues concerning availability of eligible vendors, inspection of items, availability of budget, etc. were initially raised by Zonal Railways. These issues have since been addressed and all the Zonal Railways have been advised to ensure speedy implementation of ISS at all the identified sensitive stations.

Besides ISS, CCTV surveillance system is available over 288 other railway stations. In addition, 983 railway stations have also been identified for installation of CCTV cameras under Nirbhaya Fund.

Strengthening and upgradation of security infrastructure is an ongoing process. Accordingly, more stations will be brought under CCTV surveillance system alongwith other security equipment in due course.

Distress condition of railway bridges in Maharashtra

120. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) how many railway bridges in Maharashtra are in distress condition;
- (b) whether Government has taken any action to replace them; and
- (c) if so, the amount of funds provided for replacement of these bridges during the last two years in order to save the lives of people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) 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.

The information on bridges is maintained Zone-wise and not State-wise. Maharashtra is covered under Central Railway, South Central Railway, South East Central Railway, South Western Railway and Western Railway.

There is no distress bridge in Maharashtra. However, as on 01.04.2017, a total of 891 bridges in the above five zones have been sanctioned for repair/strengthening /rehabilitation/rebuilding. Funds of ₹ 106.50 crore and ₹ 118.36 crore were allocated for repair/strengthening/rehabilitation/rebuilding of bridges in the above five zones for the financial years 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively.

Vacant seats in trains

121. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a considerable number of seats in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains are going vacant after the implementation of flexi fare system;

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

(c) whether Government is considering a revision in the flexi fare system, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The demand pattern on Indian Railways is not uniform throughout the year and it varies during the peak and lean seasons. The demand for travel surges especially during the peak season like during summer holidays, festivals etc. The average occupancy of Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains during the period from 9th September, 2016 to November, 2017 is as under:—

Train type	% occupancy
Rajdhani	93.02%
Shatabdi	72.91%
Duronto	91.30%

(c) An interim review of flexi fare system has been made and the following changes have been made:—

(i) 10% rebate in basic fare on vacant berths/seats after preparation of first chart in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains.

(ii) Discounted fare has been offered for the passengers of Jaipur-Ajmer and Ajmer-Jaipur in 12015/12016 New Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi Express and for the passengers of Bengaluru City-Mysuru and Mysuru-Bengaluru City in 12007/12008 Chennai-Mysuru Shatabdi Express. Further, discounted fare

has also been offered for the passengers of New Jalpaiguri-Malda Town in 12042 New Jalpaiguri-Howrah Shatabdi Express.

- (iii) Provision of Tatkal Quota has been reduced in flexi fare trains from maximum 30% to 10% of the total available berths.

Further, a Committee to review flexi fare scheme has been constituted on 11.12.2017 to examine all options and recommend best option keeping in mind passengers and Railways interest.

Increase in train accidents

122. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of train accidents have increased in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made to find out the reasons therefor and to suggest preventive measures;

(c) the series of steps being planned by Railways to improve the safety of rail tracks and signalling services; and

(d) the other measures taken or proposed to be taken to ensure safety of train travel and to bring confidence among the travelling public, along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. Number of train accidents have been continuously decreasing from 135 in 2014-15 to 107 in 2015-16 and down to 104 in 2016-17. During the current year *i.e.* 2017-18 (from 1st April to 30th November 2017), a total of 49 consequential train accidents took place over Indian Railways in comparison to the 85 accidents in the corresponding period of the previous year, which is an improvement of 42 per cent over last year.

(b) All consequential train accidents on Indian Railways are inquired into either by Commissioner of Railways Safety (CRS) under Ministry of Civil Aviation or Departmental Inquiry Committee of the Railway. Based on the findings of the inquiry steps are taken to prevent such accidents in future. 35 train accidents have been inquired into by the Commission of Railway safety (CRS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and balance have been inquired into by the Departmental Inquiry Committees of the Zonal Railways. The CRS has submitted 30 final reports of

train accidents and 1 preliminary report of train accident on Indian Railways (IR). Departmental Inquiry Committees have also submitted their reports.

(c) and (d) Improvement in Rail safety is a continuous process and constant endeavour is made to improve the same. Safety Audits/Inspections are undertaken at regular intervals on all railway infrastructures with a view to identify weak areas in asset maintenance, safety procedure and systemic defects and to provide ways and means to prevent accidents. Besides, periodical safety drives are launched from time to time to indicate safety consciousness amongst staff and to streamline safety aspects including maintenance of assets. Apart from this, following safety measures are undertaken:—

- (i) **Steps for improving Tracks:** Railway tracks are replaced through track renewal works which is an ongoing process. Track renewal works are undertaken as and when 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. Additional funds are being provided through Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) and Mega Traffic Blocks are being arranged for executing these works.

For the year 2017-18, 3600 km. target has been kept for track renewal.

- (ii) **Digital type of machines for Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD)** testing of rails is being used which are more reliable. This technology is being extensively used in Indian Railways to detect flaws in rails and weld failures in advance and take remedial steps to avert train accidents.
- (iii) **Electronic monitoring of track geometry is carried out with Track Recording Cars (TRC) and Portable Oscillation Monitoring Systems (OMS)** to detect track geometry defects for planning maintenance. Maintenance inputs are given to track and bridges as per requirement noticed during manual inspections, TRC and OMS runs and USFD testing to keep track in safe condition.
- (iv) **Steps for improving 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. These systems have been provided at 5661 stations upto 31.10.2017.

- (v) **Complete Track Circuiting** of stations to enhance safety for verification of track occupancy by electrical means instead of human element has been completed at about 5889 stations upto 31.10.2017.
- (vi) **Axle Counter for Automatic Clearance of Block Section (BPAC)** to ensure complete arrival of train before granting line clear and to reduce human element have been provided on 4935 block sections upto 31.10.2017. Interlocking of Level Crossing Gates to protect Level Crossing Gate with signals to avoid accidents has been done at 10921 gates upto 31.10.2017. Further Railways have been introducing following new safety technology for smooth and safe running of trains.
- (vii) **Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS)** - Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS) mitigates safety risk of accidents/collisions due to loco pilot's error of signal passing at danger or over speeding. It is a proven European train protection technology and deployed extensively on World Railways.

Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS) based on this proven technology has been operationalized on 342 RKMs in following sections of Indian Railways:-

- (a) Chennai-Gummidipundi Suburban Section of Southern Railway (50 RKMs).
- (b) Dum Dum-Kavi Subhash Section of Metro Railway, Kolkata (25 RKMs).
- (c) Hazrat Nizamuddin-Agra Section of Northern/North Central Railway (200 RKMs).
- (d) Basin Bridge-Arrakkonam Section of Southern Railway (67 RKMs).
- (viii) **Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS):** TCAS is a developmental project being taken on a limited section of Lingamapalli-Vikarabad-Wadi-Bidar section (250 km.) on South Central Railway. Operational deployment of TCAS on Railways on Absolute Block Signalling sections will be takenup after successful conclusion of the extended field trials and safety certification of system by Independent Safety Assessor (ISA).

Extended field trials and safety validation of system to Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4) by an Independent Safety Assessor (ISA) is in progress.

All Diesel locomotives are turned out from maintenance sheds with proper checking and super checking by Senior Supervisors and Officers. It is also ensured that all safety devices and equipment are functioning properly on all locomotives.

Fog PASS devices are provided to crew working in fog affected areas.

It is ensured that no crew is overdue for PME, Safety training, Refresher course and any other mandatory courses.

Preventive and predictive maintenance of the Railway assets is being undertaken to ensure safe train operation. Time to time special safety drives are undertaken involving officers and supervisors.

- (ix) **Proliferation of LHB** coaches that have better safety features. It has been decided to completely switch over to the manufacture of LHB coaches from 1st April, 2018 onwards and stop the manufacture of ICF coaches. Around 3,000 LHB coaches shall be manufactured every year from 1st April, 2018 onwards as against average of 1000 LHB coaches in last 5 years. It has also been planned to retrofit around 32,000 existing ICF coaches having a life of upto 15 years and having Screw Coupling with (Centre Buffer Coupler) CBC in the next 5 years.
- (x) **UMLC (Unmanned Level Crossings):** Topmost priority for eliminating UMLC gates in a time bound manner up to December, 2018 and deployment of Gate Mitra for the interim period.

Introduction of more Tejas Express Trains

123. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as proposed, Railways have introduced two more Tejas Express trains, one from New Delhi to Amritsar and the other from Lucknow to Anand Vihar, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the above trains are likely to be put into service;

(c) whether Railways are considering any proposal to run some more Tejas Express trains, particularly to Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Odisha; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) It has been decided to introduce 22425/22426 New Delhi-Chandigarh Tejas Express (6 days a week) and 12585/12586 Lucknow-Anand Vihar (T) Tejas Express (6 days a week). Both the trains will be introduced, *inter-alia*, upon availability of rolling stock and necessary sanction of Commissioner of Railway Safety.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal for introduction of new Tejas Express, including that from Bhubaneswar, due to operational and resource constraints. However, introduction of new trains including Tejas Express is an ongoing process subject to availability of resources, traffic justification and operational feasibility.

Setting up of rail coach factory in Kazipet

124. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is committed to set up a rail coach factory in Kazipet in Telangana State as it was a promise made in the A.P. Reorganisation Act, 2014, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any initiatives are proposed to be taken up in the matter as it is a long pending wish of the people of Telangana, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to expedite the matter without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) As per Item 10 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014, Indian Railways is required to examine the feasibility of establishing a rail coach factory in the successor State of Telangana and take an expeditious decision thereon. In order to examine the feasibility of establishing the rail coach factory, a Committee of Senior Officers from Railways has been constituted by the Ministry of Railways.

(c) Rail coach factories are set up keeping in view the Railways' overall requirement of coaches *vis-à-vis* current manufacturing capacity. However, the Committee of Senior Officers set up at Railway Board has been mandated to assess the long term requirement of coaches. Decision of setting up any new factory can be taken only after the examination of the report of the Committee, once it is submitted.

Incidents of train accidents

125. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for incidents of train accidents and derailment of coaches going up in the recent past;

(b) whether there are any incidents of sabotage by anti-national elements;

(c) if not, the reasons behind each of the train accidents/derailments in the last six months, accident-wise; and

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed by the Ministry and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The number of consequential train accidents have decreased during the last six months of the current year *i.e.* from 01.06.2017 to 30.11.2017 to 35 as compared to 61 numbers during the corresponding period of last year. There has been about 42.6% decrease in accidents this year.

(b) In the last six months (from 01.06.2017 to 30.11.2017), there has been no consequential train accident attributed to sabotage.

(c) and (d) Details of accidents during the last six months of the current year are as under:—

Sl. No.	Category	Number of Accidents
1.	Derailments	26
2.	Collision	3
3.	Unmanned Level Crossings	5
4.	Manned Level Crossing	1

Each and every consequential train accident is inquired into either by the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation or by the Departmental Inquiry Committee of Railway to ascertain the actual factor responsible for such accidents. Based on the findings as contained in accident inquiry reports and/or is currently available as *prima-facie* cause, out of the 35 train accidents, 24 accidents were caused due to failure of railway staff, 7 due to failure on the part of other than Railway staff, 03 due to Incidental factors and 01 accident occurred due to combination of factors. Out of these 24 accidents caused due to failure of Railway staff, disciplinary action has been initiated against 25 Railway employees. After finalization of the disciplinary proceedings, penalties as per the prescribed Railway Board norms shall be imposed against the staff found guilty.

Electrification of Railways

126. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open railway lines to private players, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total non-electrified lines in the country and expected budget required for 100 per cent electrification of railway network; and

(c) the profit and loss statement of Railways for the last five years and budget sanctioned, in percentage, towards electrification of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Participation of private sector has been allowed in Construction and Maintenance of Railway lines under various models of Participative Policy such as Non Government Railway, Joint Venture, Built Operate and Transfer, Customer Funding and Annuity. In all these schemes, responsibility of trains operation and safety certification rest with Indian Railways.

(b) In order to achieve 100 per cent electrification of railway network by 2021-22, about 38,000 route kilometres of balance non-electrified lines to be commissioned on electric traction at an estimated cost of ₹ 32,591 crore.

(c) The profit and loss statement of the Railways for the last five years and the budget sanctioned, in percentage, towards electrification for the same period is given below:

Year	Profit (In ₹ crore)	Loss (In ₹ crore)	Budget sanctioned towards electrification in percentage terms
2012-13	8262.48	-	1.38
2013-14	3455.65	-	1.58
2014-15	7690.75	-	1.84
2015-16	9589.50	-	2.16
2016-17	4437.46	-	2.80

Stampede at railway foot overbridge in Mumbai

127. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many people lost their lives and many were injured in a stampede on an old railway foot overbridge in Mumbai recently, if so the details thereof;

(b) the action Government has taken on the incident;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed for the incident; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. 23 people lost their lives and 38 were injured (05 grievous and 33 simple) in a stampede on railway foot overbridge in Mumbai.

(b) Railway has announced an enhanced *exgratia* of ₹ 5,00,000/- to next kin of each deceased, ₹ 1,00,000/- to each of the person who sustained grievous injury and ₹ 50,000/- to each of the persons who sustained simple injury.

On the incident of stampede at Elphinstone Road Railway Station, City Police Station Dadar has registered two cases *vide* ADR No.72/2017 u/s 174 Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) on 29.09.2017 and *vide* ADR No. 73/2017 u/s 174 CrPC dated 30.09.2017. A Multidisciplinary Audit team has audited the existing infrastructure of all the stations of Mumbai Suburban and suggested short term and long term methods to improve safety of rail users. The long term measures include sanction of additional 29 Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) as out of turn work in 2017-18. Augmentation of CCTV cameras under Integrated Security System on all the suburban stations etc. has been proposed in works programme 2018-19. Contract for construction of new 12 meter wide FOB connecting Elphinstone Road station of Western Railway to Parel Station of Central Railway has been awarded on 07.11.2017. Railway has also entrusted construction of an additional FOB connecting Parel FOB to Elphinstone Road (West) to Indian Army to get immediate relief to the Railway commuters as out of turn basis in the year 2017-18.

(c) and (d) Joint Inter-departmental enquiry headed by Chief Safety Officer/Western Railway was ordered into the accident and, as per findings of the Enquiry, the tragedy was possibly triggered due to sudden downpour of heavy rains and accumulation of commuters on FOB and staircase. The situation got further aggravated when one bundle of flower of a vendor dropped followed by someone shouting that “Majha phool padla” and some commuter mistook the word “phool” for “pull”. This may have possibly triggered panic and led to stampede.

Improvement in Mumbai Suburban Rail System

128. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Anil Kakodkar Committee had warned in its February, 2012 Report that the situation is grim across Mumbai Suburban Rail System, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps that have been taken since the submission of this Report to improve the Mumbai suburban rail system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) While observing large number of casualties on the entire railway system due to unlawful trespassing, the High Level Safety Review Committee (Kakodkar Committee) in its report has *inter alia* indicated that on the Mumbai Suburban System, trespassing takes place mainly on account of lack of barricading, fencing, absence of adequate number of pedestrian over bridges, reluctance to replace pedestrian level crossings with foot over bridges etc. Lack of passenger facilities such as sufficient number of platforms, narrow platforms, escalators and elevators for physically challenged etc. and insufficient train services are the main reasons for such a heavy human toll on the Mumbai Suburban System. The Committee has recommended that a High Level Task Force involving State Government, ZRUCC and NGOs be set up to recommend constructive measures which will alleviate or eliminate this problem in the near future. Accordingly, Zonal Railways have been advised to take necessary action.

(b) It is the endeavour of the Railways to provide/augment/improve amenities at all railway stations. With a view to improving Mumbai suburban stations, passenger amenity works sanctioned since 2012-13 include provision/replacement of 15 nos. foot over bridges, raising of 154 nos. platforms, provision of covers over platforms at 7 nos. stations and extension of platform at 1 station.

Identification of routes for electrification of tracks

129. SHRI. D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are set to expedite the electrification process and make all the trains run on electricity, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways have identified the railway sections/routes which are yet to be electrified and if so, the details of such sections/routes, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to achieve the expeditious completion of electrification in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways have prepared an Action Plan to electrify 38000 Route Kilometers in five years (2017-18 to 2021-22) for 100% electrification of its Broad Gauge (BG) rail routes. Year wise details are as under:—

Year	Route Kilometer targeted for commissioning on electric traction.
2017-18	4000
2018-19	6000
2019-20	7000
2020-21	10500
2021-22	10500
TOTAL	38000

(b) Railway Electrification projects are not confined to State boundaries. State-wise route kilometers of railway lines identified for electrification and planned for inclusion in Budget 2018-19 are as under:

Sl. No.	States	Total Route Kilometers identified for electrification
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	385
2.	Assam	1448
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	12
4.	Bihar	566
5.	Chhattisgarh	76
6.	Gujarat	1088
7.	Haryana	116
8.	Himachal Pradesh	40
9.	Jharkhand	293
10.	Karnataka	1051
11.	Kerala	150
12.	Madhya Pradesh	416
13.	Maharashtra	615
14.	Mizoram	02
15.	Odisha	583
16.	Punjab	964
17.	Rajasthan	1991
18.	Telangana	301

1	2	3
19.	Tamil Nadu	1016
20.	Tripura	267
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1308
22.	Uttarakhand	185
23.	West Bengal	802
TOTAL		13675

(c) To achieve 100% electrification of Broad Gauge (BG) rail routes, pace of electrification has been increased from present average of 1700 route kilometer per Annum to 4000 Route Kilometer/Annum which will further be increased to 6000 Route Kilometers in 2018-19.

Further, to expedite electrification of railway lines in the country, various steps have been taken, which *inter alia* include award of Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contracts, better project monitoring mechanism, enhancing power of field units for award of contracts including sanction of estimates and increasing the number of executing agencies from existing three to six by entrusting electrification works to new agencies *viz.* Indian Railway Construction Company, Rail India Technical and Economic Services and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited.

Facilities for Foreign Nationals and NRIS under FTQ

130. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether zonal railways have been advised to sensitise travelling ticket examiners on the validity of passports and visas that are mandatory documents required for travel by foreigners and NRIs, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that tickets cannot be booked by travel agents under Foreign Tourists Quota (FTQ); and

(c) whether it is also a fact that if the party seeking accommodation requires more berths than what is earmarked under the FTQ, the remaining passengers would be registered and provided confirmed accommodation on the opening day of reservation of general quota, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Instructions have been issued to Zonal Railways to educate ticket checking staff about the broad features of this scheme including

checking of passport with valid visa, bonafide tourist certificate in case of passengers of Nepal/Bhutan, categories of passengers who can avail this facility, etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. It has been stipulated in the scheme that in case the party seeking berth is more than the available foreign tourist quota, the confirmed accommodation will be provided up to the limit of foreign tourist quota and the remaining passengers will be registered and provided confirmed accommodation on the opening day of reservation. However, with a view to ensuring compaction, berths/seats can be booked in this quota upto 365 days in advance and seat/berth is provided only at the time of opening of reservation as per Advance Reservation Period (ARP) subject to availability. However, fare for all such berths/seats is charged 50% extra of the base fare.

Easing of train travel for Foreign Nationals and NRIs

131. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have made train travel easy for foreign nationals and NRIs, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are offering confirmed accommodation in upper classes of all trains one year in advance for foreign nationals and NRIs, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to facilitate foreign tourists to book reserved tickets online, a facility to book tickets online upto 365 days in advance has been extended to Foreign Tourists and NRIs. Broad features of the scheme are as under:-

- (i) Facility to book reserved tickets online upto 365 days in advance available in Executive Class/1st AC/2nd AC in all trains including Shatabdi/Rajdhani/Duronto/Gatiman etc.
- (ii) Fare equivalent to 1.5 times the base fare and other charges like reservation fee, superfast charges etc. are realised. IRCTC collects enhanced charges of ₹ 200 per ticket.
- (iii) For booking the tickets, the Passport Number, Nationality and the international Mobile Number of the passengers have to be mandatorily entered.
- (iv) No concession is admissible on such tickets.
- (v) Payment is to be made only through international debit/credit cards. An SMS confirming the reservation of the ticket is sent to the registered mobile number.

- (vi) The passenger who has reserved the ticket under this category has to carry the original Passport whose details have been given at the time of booking ticket, along with valid visa as identity proof and make it available for check during the journey failing which, the passenger is treated as without ticket and charged penalty equivalent to 3 times the fare of the ticket.
- (vii) Eight berths (two cabins) per FAC, four berths (one cabin) per FACCW, Eight berths per 2A coach (two inside berth cabins) and ten berths per EC from the general quota berths available in these classes are made available for booking 365 days in advance.
- (viii) In case the party seeking berth is more than the available foreign tourist quota, the confirmed accommodation is provided up to the limit of foreign tourist quota and the remaining passengers are registered and provided confirmed accommodation on the opening day of reservation. However, with a view to ensuring compaction, berths/seats can be booked in this quota upto 365 days in advance and seat/berth is provided only at the time of opening of reservation as per Advance Reservation Period (ARP) subject to availability. However, fare for all such berths/seats is charged 50% extra of the base fare.
- (ix) In case of cancellation of the tickets booked under this facility by the passenger, flat 50% of the fare is deducted in addition to the cancellation charges applicable while refunding the amount. The time limit for granting 50% refund is as per extant rules *i.e.* upto 4 hours before scheduled departure of train, through website only.
- (x) No change of name is permissible on such tickets under any condition.

Hi-Tech system to detect track defects

132. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to use hi-tech systems for detection of defects on tracks, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that optical fiber-based rail fracture detection system is being introduced to check the defects in the railway tracks, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these safety measures will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Indian Railways is using Track Recording Cars

(TRC) and Oscillation Monitoring System (OMS) for detection of track defects in addition to manual inspection. Ultrasonic Flaw Detection is also done using Single Rail Tester (SRT) and Double Rail Tester (DRT) to check internal defects in rails. Procurement of six nos. Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing (SPURT) Car for detection of internal defects in rails is also planned. Further, it has been decided to undertake trial of Ultrasonic Broken Rail Detection (UBRD) System, Rail Fracture and Intrusion Detection System using distributed optical fiber sensing and Loco-Vision Analytics and Rail Integrity Monitor system (RIM) on some stretches for detection of broken rail.

(b) Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) based rail fracture detection system is planned on trial basis on some stretches of Northeast Frontier Railway and North Central Railway.

(c) The implementation of Ultrasonic Broken Rail Detection (UBRD) System, Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) based System and Loco-Vision Analytics and Rail Integrity Monitor system (RIM) shall be decided after successful completion of trial.

Train accidents

133. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of train accidents which occurred during August to 15th December, 2017, zone-wise and month-wise;

(b) the details of persons died and injured in those accidents, accident-wise;

(c) the details of *ex-gratia* announced and paid till date, accident-wise, during August to December, 2017;

(d) the details of compensation announced and paid till date during the year 2017, accident-wise; and

(e) the details of compensation paid to accident victims/kins of victims during the years 2015 and 2016?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) There have been 30 consequential train accidents from 1st August to 30th November, 2017 in comparison to 44 train accidents in the corresponding period of the previous year. Out of these 30 accidents, 03 were collisions, 22 were derailments, 01 at Manned Level Crossing Gate and 04 accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings.

Month-wise and Zone-wise consequential accidents from 1st August to 30th November, 2017 are given below:

(i)

Month	No. of accidents
August	08
September	08
October	08
November	06
TOTAL	30

(ii)

Zonal Railways	No. of accidents
Central	3
Eastern	0
East Central	2
East Coast	2
Konkan	1
North Central	2
North Eastern	3
Northeast Frontier	1
North Western	3
Northern	9
South Central	0
South Eastern	1
South East Central	0
South Western	0
Southern	1
West Central	0
Western	2
Metro Kolkata	0
TOTAL	30

(b) Details of persons died and injured in consequential train accidents: Accident-wise (1st August, 2017 to 30th November, 2017):

Sl. No.	Date and Time	Type	Rly	Division	Train No.	Killed	Grievous Injured	Simple Injured
1.	19.08.2017 - 17:50	Derailement	Northern	Delhi	18477 (PURI-Haridwar Exp)	24	38	68
2.	20.08.2017 - 07:35	UMLC Accident	Northern	Moradabad	14010 Dn	1	0	0
3.	23.08.2017 - 02:40	Derailement	North Central	Allahabad	12225	0	19	31
4.	25.08.2017 - 09:52	Derailement	Western	Mumbai	CAD 98725 EMU	0	1	5
5.	07.09.2017 - 11:50	Derailement	Northern	Delhi	12439	0	1	0
6.	08.10.2017 - 10:15	UMLC Accident	Northern	Firozpur	74971	1	0	0
7.	25.10.2017 - 18:25	MLC Accident	Northern	Moradabad	22453 Up	1	5	3
8.	29.10.2017 - 07:20	UMLC Accident	North Western	Jodhpur	22482	1	1	1
9.	23.11.2017 - 19:30	UMLC Accident	Northern	Lucknow	64282	4	2	0
10.	24.11.2017 - 04:18	Derailement	North Central	Jhansi	12741	3	5	4

UMLC-Unmanned Level Crossing, MLC-Manned Level Crossing, EMU-Electrical Multiple Unit

(c) The details of *ex-gratia* announced and paid till date, accident-wise during August to 11th December 2017 are as follows:

Sl. No.	Subject	Date of accident	Enhanced <i>Ex-gratia</i> announced by Hon'ble Minister of Railway (in ₹)			Amount Paid till date (in ₹)
			Death	Grievous Injury	Simple Injury	
1.	Derailment of Puri-Haridwar, Kalinga Utkal Express train No. 18477 near Khatauli, Muzaffarnagar, UP/NR.	19.08.2017	3,50,000/-	50,000/-	25,000/-	₹ 1,10,50,000/-
2.	Derailment of Vasco Da Gama-Patna Express train no. 12741 at Manikpur Station/Allahabad Division/NC Railway.	24.11.2017	5,00,000/-	1,00,000/-	50,000/-	₹ 22,00,000/-

(d) Compensation for death/injury of railway passengers in train accidents as defined in Section 124 of the Railway Act, 1989, is decided by Railways Claims Tribunal (RCT) on the basis of a claim application filed before them. Railway Administration is liable to pay compensation only when a decree is awarded by Hon'ble RCT in favour of the claimant and Railways decide to implement the decree. The scale of compensation as given in Railway Accident and Untoward Incidents (Compensation) Amendment Rules, 2016 are ₹ 08 lakh for death and ₹ 64,000/- to ₹ 08 lakh for injury depending upon the gravity of injury.

The details of compensation paid accident wise in 2017 are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Accident	Date of incident	Compensation paid
1.	Derailment of Train no. 18448 (Hirakhand Express) accident at Kunderu Station/ECOR.	21.01.2017	₹ 2,18,05,468/-

Sl. No.	Accident	Date of incident	Compensation paid
2.	Derailment of train No. 12189 Mahakaushal Express between Mahoba-Kulphar Section of Jhansi Division of North Central Railway	30.03.2017	Nil
3.	Derailment of Train no. 18477 Kalinga-Utkal Express at Khatauli near Muzaffarnagar/ UP/NR.	17.08.2017	₹ 10,10,000/-
4.	Derailment of Vasco Da Gama- Patna Express train no. 12741 at Manikpur Station/ Allahabad Division/NC Railway.	24.11.2017	Nil

(e) The details of compensation paid to accident victims/kin of victims during the years 2015 and 2016 are as follows:

Year	Amount Paid (in Lakhs of ₹)
2015	153.36
2016	388.48

Note:-

The compensation paid in a year need not necessarily relate to the accidents/casualties in that year alone. This amount depends upon the number of cases which are finalized in a particular year irrespective of the year(s) in which the accident they pertain to, have occurred.

Building of foot overbridges of prescribed sizes

134. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General in 2015 had focused on railway foot overbridges and suggested for building foot overbridges of prescribed sizes to ensure passenger safety; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard to avoid tragedies like that of Elphinstone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG)'s Report No.13 of 2016 (Railways) has mentioned regarding non-availability of covered Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) of the prescribed size at 24 railway stations. However, no suggestion for building FOBs of prescribed sizes to ensure passengers safety could be found in the report.

(b) A work of construction of 12m wide FOB connecting Elphinstone Road Railway Station and Parel Railway Station was sanctioned in 2016-17. Agency for the work has been fixed and the work has been taken up. In addition to this, a work of construction of an additional FOB connecting Elphinstone Road Railway Station and Parel Railway Station has also been entrusted to Indian Army so as to provide immediate relief to railway passengers. This work has also been taken up.

After Elphinstone Road Railway Station incident, a multidisciplinary audit team has audited the existing infrastructure of all the stations of Mumbai Suburban. As per recommendation of multidisciplinary audit team, various short term and long term measures have been taken *viz.* a proposal has been drawn to include provision of 29 new FOBs on Out-of-Turn basis in 2017-18 and an integrated security system for providing CCTV cameras on all suburban stations in 2018-19 has also been planned.

Further, it is Railway's endeavor to provide/augment/improve amenities including foot over bridges at all railway stations as per their categories, and works in this regard are taken up as per requirement, inter-se priority and availability of funds. Corrective action is also taken for repairs/ rectification whenever deficiencies are noticed either as a result of regular inspections or through public complaints.

Categorisation of Railway Stations

135. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to categorise the railway stations for the infrastructure revamp as Grade 1, Grade 2 and so on;

(b) if so, the details of the categories;

(c) the time-limit for the completion of categories, and

(d) the benefits and background of this categorisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. For provision of the amenities in an objective manner, stations on Indian Railways have been clubbed into 3 groups *i.e.* Non-Suburban (NSG), Suburban(SG) and Halt(HG). Further, these groups have been put in grades ranging from NSG (1-6), SG (1-3) and HG (1-3) respectively. Passenger amenities are provided at Railway station based on the category of station. The categorisation of stations is done once in five years. A review has been carried out in the year 2017 based on the annual passenger earnings (reserved and unreserved) and number

of outward passengers handled at station for the year 2016-17, so that development of bigger stations with larger passenger handling can be provided with higher level of amenities commensurate with the passengers handled/earnings.

Casualties in train accidents

136. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of train accidents have increased in the last five years, if so, the details thereof, zone-wise, and the reasons therefor;

(b) the total number of casualties; and

(c) the remedial measures being adopted to curb the accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Number of Consequential train accidents have shown a declining trend during the last five years *i.e.* from 122 in the year 2012-13 to 107 in 2015-16 and further to 104 in 2016-17. In the current year also, consequential train accidents have reduced from 85 to 49 as compared to corresponding period of the last year. Zone-wise number of train accidents is given below:—

Zonal Railways	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (up to 30th November, 2017)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central	9	8	10	7	7	7
Eastern	4	5	4	4	7	1
East Central	9	12	19	12	17	4
East Coast	13	7	8	2	7	2
Konkan	1	1	4	1	1	1
North Central	7	4	7	4	7	4
North Eastern	5	6	14	9	3	4
Northeast Frontier	6	6	4	4	8	1
North Western	9	14	11	11	4	3
Northern	20	16	20	20	14	12
South Central	7	5	4	2	1	2
South Eastern	4	10	6	4	2	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
South East Central	7	7	1	3	5	0
South Western	6	5	11	8	3	1
Southern	6	4	2	6	8	3
West Central	3	2	3	2	2	0
Western	6	6	7	8	8	2
Metro Kolkata	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	122	118	135	107	104	49

The total number of casualties from 2012-13 to 2017-18 (upto 30th Nov, 2017) is as under:—

Year	Killed	Injured	Total Casualties
2012-13	204	381	585
2013-14	152	234	386
2014-15	292	457	749
2015-16	152	188	340
2016-17	238	369	607
2017-18 (up to 30th November, 2017)	48	188	236

(c) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis including upgradation of technology to aid safe running of trains. These include replacement of over-aged assets, elimination of unmanned level crossings, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems used to prevent accidents include complete track circuiting, provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Train Protection Warning Systems (TPWS), Colour Light LED Signals, Vigilance Control Device (VCD), usage of 60 kg rails and Pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers, long rail panels, better welding technology, digital types of machines for ultrasonic flaw detection (USFD), electronic monitoring of tracks using track recording cars (TRC) and portable oscillation monitoring system (OMS), progressive use of safer Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) Coaches. Existing Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Coaches are being provided with central buffer coupler to have enhanced safety features.

Other measures include training of loco pilots and other safety category staff, improvement of their working conditions including proper rest and periodic medical examinations etc. Besides, periodic safety drives, inspections as per laid down schedules, patrolling of tracks, footplate inspections and safety reviews at various levels are regularly conducted to continuously monitor and improve safety aspects of the Railways.

Stampede at Elphinstone bridge

137. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry had received any report/warning about the dangers involved with using the narrow Elphinstone bridge, Mumbai, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Ministry thereon;

(b) whether it is a fact that just a few days after the stampede incident at Elphinstone bridge, the Ministry sanctioned construction of another bridge on that station, if so, how long did it take to sanction the new bridge and why is the process of sanctioning so long; and

(c) whether the Ministry plans to conduct safety audits of existing railway infrastructure, if so, the progress thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No warning was received for any kind of danger in using the Foot Over Bridge (FOB) at Elphinstone Road Railway station.

A work of construction of 12m wide FOB connecting Elphinstone Road Railway Station and Parel Railway Station was sanctioned in 2016-17. After the necessary initial planning, an agency for the work has been fixed and the work has been taken up.

A work of construction of an additional FOB connecting Elphinstone Road Railway Station and Parel Railway Station has also been entrusted to Indian Army so as to provide immediate relief to railway passengers. This work has also been taken up.

(c) Safety department of Indian Railways conducts safety audits to ensure adherence of safe working system through an Inter-Departmental Team. This entails intra-zonal audits once in two months and inter-zonal safety audits/inspections once every six months. This is a regular exercise being conducted every year, the results of which are shared with the concerned departments for improvement.

**Repair of washable aprons at platforms
of New Delhi railway station**

138. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after a spate of accidents in recent months, rail traffic has not been restored to normalcy in and around National Capital Region with handling facilities at New Delhi railway station which was curtailed due to repair of washable aprons at many platforms;

(b) if so, whether daily commuters between New Delhi and Meerut/Aligarh/Moradabad are experiencing extreme hardships with abrupt cancellation of local trains and abnormal delay in running of suburban trains; and

(c) whether Government is aware of extent of manhours lost in Central Government establishments in the capital due to delayed running of trains carrying the workforce from suburbs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Following the derailment of train engine and power car of Train No. 12439 (Ranchi–New Delhi Rajdhani Express) on 07.09.2017, running of trains over two scissors crossovers at New Delhi Yard was suspended for undertaking repair work. This work was completed in phases and was finally restored on 25.09.2017. During this period, Northern Railway had to resort to cancellation, diversion, short termination/origination of train services as mentioned in the following table which not only affected long distance trains but also Passenger trains including commuter services:

Repercussion	Mail/Express trains	Passenger trains	Total
Cancellation	354	646	1000
Diversion	173	161	334
Short termination/origination	02	113	115
Trains delayed	493	796	1289

However, disruption in train services during September, 2017 was not due to repair of washable aprons. Repair of washable apron is presently being undertaken for Platform No. 2 for which 45 days traffic block at New Delhi Railway Station has been permitted from 24.11.2017 to 07.01.2018 with the following repercussion:

Repercussion (Average per day)	Mail/Express trains	Passenger trains
Cancellation	4	10
Diversion	Nil	1
Short termination/origination	2	2
Trains delayed (24.11.2017 to 10.12.2017)	5	1

(c) On account of cancellation/diversion/short termination of trains as above, Rail users may have experienced hardships during the period and man hours may have been lost. However, such data is not maintained.

Train derailments

139. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of train derailments have increased sharply during the last three years;

(b) the number of trains derailed during the last five years, division-wise;

(c) the reasons for increase in cases of train derailments; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent train derailments and to ensure safety of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Number of consequential train derailments which took place during the last three years *i.e.* 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 were 63, 65 and 78 respectively. However, in the current year from 1st April to 30th November, 2017, train derailments have decreased from 67 to 37 in comparison to corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) Division-wise number of consequential train derailments is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Out of 206 train derailments (from 2014-15 to 2016-17), investigations have been completed in 202 cases. Based on the findings of the accident inquiry reports, 153 accidents were caused due to failure of Railway staff, 04 were due to failure on the part of other than Railway staff, 10 due to failure of equipment, 06 due to sabotage, 24 due to the Incidental factors and 04 accidents occurred due to the combination of factors. Cause of 1 accident could not be established or none held responsible in this accident. 04 derailments are under investigation.

(d) To reduce derailments and increase safety of tracks, track renewal works are undertaken as and when 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 the year 2017-18, 3600 Km target has been kept for track renewal. Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) Coaches having better safety features are being provided. On the existing Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Coaches, better safety features are being provided by shifting to Centre Buffer Couplers. Besides, periodic safety drives, inspections as per laid down schedules, patrolling of tracks, footplate inspections and safety reviews at various levels are regularly conducted to continuously monitor and improve safety aspects of the Railways.

Statement

Division-wise Consequential Train Derailments from 2012-13 to 2017-18 (upto November, 2017)

Zonal Railways	Division	No. of Consequential Train Derailments						Total
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Central	Bhusawal		2					2
	Mumbai	4	2	9	2	4	6	27
	Nagpur		1		1			2
	Pune				3	3		6
	Solapur	1	1		1		1	4
	TOTAL	5	6	9	7	7	7	41
East Coast	Khurda Road			1		1	2	4
	Sambalpur	1		3				4
	Waltair	7	3	1	2	5		18
	TOTAL	8	3	5	2	6	2	26
East Central	Dhanbad	1	1		4	4	2	12
	Danapur	2	2	1	1	4		10
	Mughalsarai	1		1	2	2	1	7
	Sonepur	2	2	3	2	1		10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Samastipur			1		2		3
	TOTAL	6	5	6	9	13	3	42
Eastern	Asansol		1					1
	Howrah	2	2	1	1	3		9
	Malda Town	1		2	1	2		6
	Sealdah	1	1		1		1	4
	TOTAL	4	4	3	3	5	1	20
North	Agra			2	1			3
Central	Allahabad	2			1	2	1	6
	Jhansi			1	1	2	1	5
	Total	2		3	3	4	2	14
North	Varanasi		1	3	1	1	1	7
Eastern	Izzatnagar			1				1
	Lucknow Jn.	1		3	1		2	7
	TOTAL	1	1	7	2	1	3	15
Northeast	Alipurduar	1		1	2	1	1	6
Frontier	Katihar					2		2
	Lumding	1	2	1		2		6
	Rangiya							
	Tinsukia							
	TOTAL	2	2	2	2	5	1	14
Northern	Delhi	2	3	3		3	5	16
	Firozepur		1	1	1	2		5
	Lucknow	2	2	3	1	3	1	12
	Moradabad	1	2		4	2	1	10
	Ambala			1	3		1	5
	TOTAL	5	8	8	9	10	8	48
North	Ajmer			1				1
Western	Bikaner			1	1	1		3
	Jaipur		1		1			2
	Jodhpur		1	1	2	1		5
	TOTAL		2	3	4	2		11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
South Central	Vijayawada		1	1				2
	Guntoor	1						1
	Guntakal		1					1
	Hyderabad						1	1
	Nanded				1			1
	Secunderabad	2	1		1	1	1	6
	TOTAL	3	3	1	2	1	2	12
South East Central	Bilaspur	2	1		2			5
	Nagpur		3			1		4
	Raipur		1			4		5
	TOTAL	2	5		2	5		14
South Eastern	Adra		1	1				2
	Chakradharpur		2	1	1		1	5
	Kharagpur		1	1				2
	Ranchi	1	1	1				3
	TOTAL	1	5	4	1		1	12
Southern	Chennai	1	1		2	2	1	7
	Madurai							
	Palghat				1	1	1	3
	Salem		1		1	1		3
	Tiruchirapalli		1		1			2
	Trivandrum					3	1	4
	TOTAL	1	3		5	7	3	19
South Western	Mysore	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
	Bangalore	1		3	4			8
	Hubli	2		2	1			5
	TOTAL	4	1	6	6	1	1	19
West Central	Bhopal	1		2	1			4
	Jabalpur	1	1			2		4
	Kota				1			1
	TOTAL	2	1	2	2	2		9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Western	Ahmedabad	1	1	1	1			4
	Baroda	1	1		1			3
	Bhavnagar				1	1		2
	Mumbai				2	4	1	7
	Rajkot		1					1
	Ratlam					3	1	4
	TOTAL	2	3	1	5	8	2	21
	Konkan	1	1	3	1	1	1	8
Metro/Kolkata								
	GRAND TOTAL	49	53	63	65	78	37	345

Provision for Railway's fund in budget

140. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to not provide for Railway's fund in the upcoming budget, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the amount allocated and utilized for passenger safety, capital and development work, cleanliness and finance and accounting reforms in Railways in the financial year 2016-17?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The amount allocated and utilized for passenger safety, capital and development work, cleanliness and finance and accounting reforms in Railways in the financial year 2016-17 is indicated below:

(₹ in crore)

Items	Revised Estimate 2016-17	Actual Expenditure 2016-17
Passenger Safety	63063.00	55918.00
Capital and Development Work	121000.00	110015.60
Cleanliness	1080.81	1008.46
Finance & Accounting Reforms	26.68	28.22

Aims and objectives of flexi fare scheme

141. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of flexi fare scheme introduced last year;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that due to flexi fares, 30 per cent of seats remain unoccupied in the Western Railway since air fares are almost same or less than the flexi fares;

(c) if so, the status of average occupancy rate of the 42 Rajdhani, 46 Shatabdi and 54 Duronto Express trains since introduction of flexi fares, month-wise and train-wise; and

(d) whether there are any plans to remove flexi fare scheme, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) There has been substantial increase in the operating cost of passenger carrying trains over Indian Railways and passenger fare is still highly subsidized. The aims and objectives of introducing flexi fares scheme are to improve earnings in view of recurring loss in passenger business. Additional resources will help Railways to provide additional facilities/amenities to the passengers over Indian Railways.

(b) The demand pattern on Indian Railways is not uniform throughout the year and it varies during the peak and lean seasons. The demand for travel surges especially during the peak season like during summer holidays, festivals etc. The average occupancy of Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains in the Western Railway during the period from 9th September, 2016 to 30th November, 2017 is as under:

Train type	% occupancy
Rajdhani	93.92%
Shatabdi	99.08%
Duronto	86.21%

(c) Train-wise data is voluminous. However, month-wise average occupancy of Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains during the period from 9th September, 2016 to 30th November, 2017 is as under:—

Month	Occupancy (in %)		
	Rajdhani	Shatabdi	Duronto
September, 2016	78.07	66.70	80.38
October, 2016	90.50	73.17	89.04
November, 2016	95.71	74.00	94.61
December, 2016	97.07	74.54	96.45
January, 2017	90.65	71.19	91.00
February, 2017	91.47	72.36	89.82
March, 2017	91.56	72.08	87.71
April, 2017	101.55	77.75	97.55
May, 2017	110.27	81.92	108.26
June, 2017	107.06	81.72	100.58
July, 2017	84.59	67.64	81.96
August, 2017	79.02	66.23	81.57
September, 2017	83.27	67.58	81.42
October, 2017	95.42	73.24	94.17
November, 2017	93.20	71.26	91.39

(d) An interim review of Flexi fare system has been made and the following changes have been made:

- (i) 10% rebate in basic fare on vacant berths/seats after preparation of first chart in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains.
- (ii) Discounted fare has been offered for the passengers of Jaipur-Ajmer and Ajmer-Jaipur in 12015/12016 New Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi Express and for the passengers of Bengaluru City-Mysuru and Mysuru-Bengaluru City in 12007/12008 Chennai Central-Mysuru Shatabdi Express. Further discounted fare has also been offered for the passengers of New Jalpaiguri-Malda Town in 12042 New Jalpaiguri Shatabdi Express.
- (iii) Provision of Tatkal quota has been reduced in flexi fare trains from maximum 30% to 10% of the total berths availability.

Further, a Committee consisting of two Railway Members and four non-Railway Members has been constituted on 11.12.2017 to examine all options and recommend best option keeping in mind passengers and Railways interest.

Reasons for train accidents

142. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for train accidents taking place frequently, the recent one being the Vasco Da Gama–Patna Express derailment;

(b) the number of people injured/died in train accidents in the last three years and the amount of compensation paid, if any;

(c) whether any investigation has been initiated/conducted in regard to all the major accidents;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by Railways to prevent such train accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Train accidents on Indian Railways occur due to various reasons such as failure of equipment, human failure (failure of Railway staff and failure of other than Railway staff), sabotage, combination of factors etc. Inquiry at appropriate level is conducted in each consequential accident to ascertain its reasons. Accordingly, statutory inquiry into the derailment of Train No.12741 Down Vasco Da Gama -Patna Express at Manipur Station between Manikpur-Allahabad Section over Allahabad Division of North Central Railway on 24.11.2017 has been ordered to be conducted to determine the reasons of the accident by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), North Eastern Circle, Lucknow under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(b) During the last three years, as a result of train accidents, 396 persons died and 807 persons were injured. The amount of compensation given to the next of kin of the deceased and injured in train accidents during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Amount Paid (in lakhs of ₹)
2014-15	127.48
2015-16	262.96
2016-17	303.17

(c) and (d) Each and every consequential train accident on Indian Railways (IR) is inquired into either by the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation or the Departmental Inquiry Committee of Railway

to determine the causes of the train accidents. During the last three years *i.e.* 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, altogether 346 consequential train accidents (including incidents at Unmanned Level Crossings) occurred on (IR). 35 train accidents have been inquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) and balance have been inquired into by the Departmental Inquiry Committees of the Zonal Railways. The Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) has submitted 30 final reports and 1 preliminary report of train accidents occurred on Indian Railways. The causes of the accidents as established and recommendations as corrective measures to be taken, by the Commission have been accepted and implemented by the Ministry of Railways. The Departmental Inquiry Committees have also submitted their reports as per which the train accidents occurred due to failure of Railway staff, failure on the part of other than Railway Staff, sabotage, incidental factors and combination of factors.

(e) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, safety audits, greater emphasis on training of officials and safety inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Preventive and predictive maintenance of the Railway assets is undertaken to ensure safe train operation. Safety devices/systems being used to prevent accidents include track circuiting, provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Colour Light LED Signals, Train Protection and Warning Systems (TPWS), Vigilance Control Device (VCD), usage of 60 kg rails and Pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers, long rail panels, better welding technology, use of vehicular USFD for rail flaw detection, mechanized maintenance of track, progressive use of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) Coaches, Centre Buffer Coupler with Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Coaches, etc. Railway tracks are replaced on age cum condition basis through track renewal works which is an ongoing process. Other measures include training of loco pilots and other safety category staff, improvement of their working conditions including proper rest and periodic medical examination etc. Besides, periodic safety drives, patrolling of tracks, footplate inspections and safety reviews at various levels, etc are regularly conducted to continuously monitor and improve safety aspects of the Indian Railways.

New policy initiatives by Railways

143. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any new and specific policy initiative after June, 2014 to achieve the overall objectives of the Ministry, if so, the details thereof and the overall impact of these initiatives; and

(b) whether Government has introduced any major administrative reforms specifically to achieve the objectives of the Ministry in its functioning after May, 2014, if so, the details and impact thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) A number of new policy initiatives by Railways have been introduced since last few years. The details of these initiatives are as under:-

- FDI in Railways: The proposal has been cleared by Government for allowing 100 per cent FDI in Railway infrastructure, apart from operations, through automatic route.
- High-speed bullet trains : Railways has announced a Bullet Train between Ahmedabad and Mumbai with MOU between Railways and Japan.
- Policy initiatives for freight trains:-
 - Long term tariff contract (LTTC) with key freight customers at predetermined price escalation principals.
 - For the first time ever in Indian Railways, freight rates were reduced.
 - Port congestion charges dropped.
 - Busy season surcharge dropped.
 - Dual pricing policy of iron withdrawn.
 - Multi point loading introduced.
 - Siding policy liberalised .
 - Automatic freight rebate scheme in traditional empty flow direction introduced.
 - Time tabled freight services introduced.
 - Container sector opened up for more commodities.
 - Goods terminals opened up for handling containers.
 - Last mile connectivity through Roadrainers, Roll on Roll Offs Appointed Key Customer Managers to serve as single point of contact for all major freight customers.

- Structured dialogue between Railways and Customers christened 'Samvad' started.
- Electronic registration of Demand and Electronic transmission of Railway Receipts started.
- Railway land leased out for horticulture and plantation of trees
- Discharge free Railways – bio-toilets in all coaches.
- **Srestha**- New R&D organisation to serve the future technology needs of Railways.
- **Sutra** World class data analytics, simulation softwares, network optimisation and decision support systems.
- **Rail Investment and Planning Organisation** - Develop and own the corporate medium term and long term plan, identify investment opportunities, standardize economic easements of projects and propose optimal modes of financing.

(b) Following administrative reforms have been introduced to make the functioning of Railways delivery oriented:—

- In October 2017, major administrative and financial powers delegated to General Managers, Divisional Railway Managers and Chief Workshop Managers for faster decision making and execution. Model Schedule of Powers issued from Railway Board for the 1st time for uniform delegations across zones (replacing 16 different Schedule of Powers of zones).
- To support Divisional Railway Managers in efficient management of the Divisions and field working, it has been decided to post extra Additional Divisional Railway Managers; at least 2 in each Division.
- To improve station management and customer service and bring more commercial orientation to the organization, Station Directors have been posted at a number of major stations.
- Protocol during VIP and higher officers' visit/inspections have been curtailed and kept at bare minimum.
- Initiatives for employee grievance redressal :-
 - Employee charter for time-bound redressal of employee grievances has been constituted.
 - 'NIVARAN'-online grievance redressal machinery has been instituted.
- Intensive recruitment drive to fulfill safety category vacancies.

Stoppage of works by Railway Contractors

144. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that contractors have stopped works in various railway divisions of South Central Railway (SCR) demanding to apply pre-GST rates on tenders approved before July, 2017;

(b) whether the Ministry is also aware that 415 works worth nearly ₹600 crore are in limbo in six divisions of SCR;

(c) whether the Ministry is also aware that even track security related works have been stopped by contractors, thereby compromising with the security of passengers; and

(d) if so, how and when Ministry is going to take decision on applicability of GST and resume works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The contractors of both Open Line and Construction organization in South Central Railway had temporarily stopped the work after implementation of GST. However, the safety of track, wherever required, was ensured by mobilizing the available departmental resources.

(d) The Ministry of Railways have already addressed the issues arising out of GST implementation. Presently, contractors have resumed execution of works on South Central Railway.

Model Railway Stations in Karnataka

145. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 44 railway stations have been identified for development as model stations in the State of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of works undertaken on each of the 44 railway stations; and

(c) by when these stations would be fully developed as model railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) The “Model Station” scheme was in vogue between June, 1999 and November, 2008. 594 stations including 26 stations in Karnataka were identified

and have already been developed under 'Model' Station Scheme. The names of 26 stations identified in Karnataka under the Model Station Scheme are as under:

Karnataka (26) Bangalore Cantt., Bijapur, Gulbarga, Hospet Jn., Hubli (Hubballi), Mangalore (Mangaluru Jn.), Mysore, Raichur, Shimoga, Toranagallu, Kankanadi, Bidar, Yadgir, Belgaum (Belagavi), Bellary Jn. (Ballari), Yesvanthpur Jn, Alnavar, Bangalore City, Bangarpet Jn, Davangere, Dharwad, Gadag, Hassan, Krishnarajapuram, Londa Jn and Tumkur.

At present, stations are undertaken for development under "Adarsh Station Scheme" and 1253 stations, including 44 stations in Karnataka, have been identified for development under this Scheme. Out of 44 Railway stations in Karnataka 31 Stations have been developed so far and the remaining stations are planned to be developed by 2017-18. The names of 44 stations identified in Karnataka under the Adarsh Station Scheme are as under:

Karnataka (44) Almatti, Badami, Bidar, Bellary (Ballari), Chamarajanagar, Gadag, Gulbarga, Haveri, Londa, Wadi, Bagalkot, Chikballapur, Chintamani, Devanahalli, Dodballapur, Gauribidanur, Gokak Road, Hubli (Hubballi), Kabakaputtur, Kolar, Koppal, Nanjangud Town, Sambre, Sidlaghatta, Srinivasapura, Yelahanka Jn., Hole Narsipur, Belgaum (Belagavi), Kudachi, Ugar Khurd, Neralakatte, Bantawala, Subramanya Road, Bijapur, Mangalore Jn. (Mangaluru Jn.), Daroji, Mallapur, Gudgeri, Raichur, Davangere, Harihar, Tumkur, Kalas and Dharwad.

**Demand for a Railway Station for the Residents
of Dharavi in Mumbai**

146. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a demand to have a new suburban railway station for the benefit of the residents of Dharavi between Sion and Matunga on the Central Railway suburban local network in Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the action Railways have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal for opening of a halt station at Dharavi between Sion and Matunga stations over Central Railway was examined but found neither operationally feasible nor commercially viable. Besides, the proposed halt is not desirable due to

close proximity of 0.94 Kms from adjacent Matunga station and 1.65 Kms from adjacent Sion station.

Strength of Loco Pilots

147. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total sanctioned strength of Loco Pilots and the number of vacancies in each Railway Zone since 2010, year-wise;

(b) whether loco pilots have been deployed in stationary duties;

(c) if so, the details and numbers thereof;

(d) whether Government has taken any steps to reduce vacancies of Loco Pilots: and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Zone-wise statement in respect of total sanctioned strength of Loco Pilots and number of vacancies in each Railway Zone since 2010 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. 1186 Loco pilots are deployed on stationary duties within their cadre as Power Controllers, Crew Controllers etc.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Recruitments are made regularly from open market through Railway Recruitment Boards. Since 2011-12, 59,852 Assistant Loco Pilots have been recruited on the Railways.

Statement

Zone-wise details of sanctioned strength of LOCO pilots and number of vacancies

Railway	As on 01.04.2010		As on 01.04.2011	
	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancy
1	2	3	4	5
Central Railway	6942	824	6990	783
East Coast Railway	4165	1043	4693	1519
East Central Railway	6961	1183	7432	1837
Eastern Railway	5972	826	6069	1119

1	2	3	4	5
Metro Railway	150	13	314	138
North Central Railway	5685	1065	5688	1704
North Eastern Railway	2420	393	2680	508
Northeast Frontier Railway	2464	256	2613	569
Northern Railway	9921	2307	10470	2842
North Western Railway	2915	513	2801	480
South Central Railway	6224	1099	7364	2406
South East Central Railway	4725	1416	4806	1067
South Eastern Railway	5608	1111	5829	1376
Southern Railway	4078	284	4110	464
South Western Railway	2129	410	2131	410
West Central Railway	4175	862	4244	567
Western Railway	5542	785	5403	532
TOTAL	80096	14390	83637	18321
Railway	As on 01.04.2012		As on 01.04.2013	
	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancy
1	6	7	8	9
Central Railway	7453	1361	7639	1354
East Coast Railway	4786	1269	5896	2281
East Central Railway	6867	2427	7997	2115
Eastern Railway	6408	1417	470	2413
Metro Railway	314	136	284	106
North Central Railway	5918	2000	6491	2186
North Eastern Railway	2672	547	2640	486
Northeast Frontier Railway	2707	579	2695	695
Northern Railway	10138	2771	10068	1951
North Western Railway	2778	261	2862	199
South Central Railway	7685	2144	8066	2798

1	6	7	8	9
South East Central Railway	5384	1671	5392	926
South Eastern Railway	6152	1491	6152	1305
Southern Railway	4139	362	4132	374
South Western Railway	2178	415	2316	468
West Central Railway	4484	814	4484	616
Western Railway	5593	742	5863	261
TOTAL	85656	20407	90447	20564
Railway	As on 01.04.2014		As on 01.04.2015	
	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancy
1	10	11	12	13
Central Railway	7580	915	7596	955
East Coast Railway	6187	2047	6516	1820
East Central Railway	10148	3416	9489	3199
Eastern Railway	7444	1803	7598	954
Metro Railway	284	72	295	66
North Central Railway	6750	2514	7712	1893
North Eastern Railway	2765	331	3192	783
Northeast Frontier Railway	2750	735	2841	1070
Northern Railway	10521	1919	11125	2208
North Western Railway	2963	382	3056	491
South Central Railway	8516	1132	8702	1465
South East Central Railway	5943	1110	6229	1045
South Eastern Railway	6365	1174	6460	940
Southern Railway	4262	322	4262	453
South Western Railway	2357	222	2408	196
West Central Railway	4650	810	4777	484
Western Railway	6549	626	6506	840
TOTAL	96034	19540	98764	18862

Railway	As on 01.0.2016		As on 01.04.2017*	
	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancy
1	14	15	16	17
Central Railway	7684	1130	7868	1393
East Coast Railway	7198	2139	7572	1368
East Central Railway	9878	3024	9841	3550
Eastern Railway	7598	928	7484	775
Metro Railway	295	57	295	0
North Central Railway	7932	2231	8573	2437
North Eastern Railway	3385	1059	3325	694
Northeast Frontier Railway	2947	930	2588	84
Northern Railway	11501	2845	11696	1955
North Western Railway	3739	871	3465	629
South Central Railway	9327	2171	9317	1928
South East Central Railway	6939	1432	6933	838
South Eastern Railway	6505	747	7119	546
Southern Railway	4402	172	4468	218
South Western Railway	2610	259	2746	342
West Central Railway	4817	567	4911	330
Western Railway	6572	1151	6452	-30
TOTAL	103329	21713	104653	17457

* Figures are provisional

RoB near Vikhroli Railway Station in Mumbai

148. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are plans to construct a Road over Bridge (RoB) across the Central Railway line near Vikhroli railway station in Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Work for construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu

of level crossing No.14-C at km.22/11-12 near Vikhroli station was sanctioned on cost sharing basis with Government of Maharashtra. The work on Railway portion has been started. The work on approaches is yet to be started by Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM).

Allotment of top berth to a para Athlete

149. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a para athlete was allotted top berth while travelling to Delhi from Nagpur recently inspite of her mentioning about her physical disability while booking tickets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Recently, a case has been reported where a person with disability, who is also an international para-athlete, was allotted upper berth in Train no. 12611 Chennai–Nizamuddin Garib Rath Express for journey dated 10.06.2017 from Nagpur to Nizamuddin.

In Garib Rath express trains, a specially designed coach for persons with disability known as (SLRD) coach is attached where four berths – two lower berths and two upper berths—are available for travel of persons with disability. In one such coach of above mentioned train, a person with disability had booked a ticket along with an attendant whose age was 62 years. Since the attendant was senior citizen, the system allotted both lower berths—one to person with disability and second to attendant—leaving both upper berths vacant. When the next person with disability (the international para-athlete) booked accommodation ex. Nagpur in this train, the system allotted the available upper berths to her and her attendant. It was also found that at the time of booking of accommodation by the said para-athlete, there was no vacancy in general quota. However, instructions have now been issued to make a provision to invariably allot lower berth in SLRD coach to persons with disability and upper berth to their attendant.

Payment to railway contractors

150. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of railway contractors in Northern Railway have been facing a lot of difficulties on account of inordinate delay in payment of their dues for the last six months;

(b) if so, the details of outstanding dues of contractors at DRM office, Delhi at present and since when these dues are pending and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when payment is likely to be released to ease their problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) There is no inordinate delay in payment of bills in Northern Railway. At present 169 bills are pending in DRM Office, Delhi, Northern Railway. Claims for works carried out for Railways by Contractors are subject to due diligence as prescribed in General Financial Rules and are processed for payment thereafter. The bills are passed as soon as due diligence is complied with.

Vacant seats on Mumbai-Ahmedabad route

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

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 40 per cent seats on Mumbai-Ahmedabad trains and 44 per cent seats on the Ahmedabad-Mumbai route are going vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the loss incurred by Railways during the last three years on this sector due to vacant seats; and

(c) whether Government has found any reasons for vacant seats, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The demand pattern on Indian Railways is not uniform throughout the year and it varies during the peak and lean seasons. The demand for travel surges especially during the peak season like during summer holidays, festivals etc. The average occupancy of reserved trains on Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Mumbai sector during the Financial Year 2017-18 (upto November, 2017) was more than 100%.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Complaints against Flexi Fare Scheme

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

(a) whether it is a fact that right after implementation of the Flexi Fare Scheme, trains are running with a large number of vacant seats, and a large number of complaints being raised against the inordinately high prices, if so, the detailed response thereto; and

(b) whether there is any proposal/measure in place for abolishing the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Occupancy of the trains varies during peak, non-peak, festivals seasons, special occasions and weekends etc. Therefore, in some of the months, the trains run with higher occupancy (more than the berth/seats potential) as compared to same period of previous years and sometimes during non-peak times some berths/seats remain vacant.

Only about 0.35% of the total passengers carried by Indian Railways are affected due to introduction of flexi fare system in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains. There is mixed response from different quarters on the introduction of Flexi fare system. Based on the feedback received, an interim review of Flexi fare system has been made and the following changes have been made:

- (i) 10% rebate in basic fare on vacant berths/seats after preparation of first chart in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains.
- (ii) Discounted fare has been offered for the passengers of Jaipur-Ajmer and Ajmer-Jaipur in 12015/12016 New Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi Express and for the passengers of Bengaluru City-Mysuru and Mysuru-Bengaluru City in 12007/12008 Chennai Central-Mysuru Shatabdi Express. Further discounted fare has also been offered for the passengers of New Jalpaiguri-Malda Town in 12042 New Jalpaiguri Shatabdi Express.
- (iii) Provision of Tatkal quota has been reduced in flexi fare trains from maximum 30% to 10% of the total berths availability.

Further, a Committee consisting of two Railway Members and four non-Railway Members has been constituted on 11.12.2017 to examine all options and recommend best option keeping in mind passengers and Railways interest.

Agreement with Japan for Bullet Train Project

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has entered into a costly agreement with Japan to complete the Bullet train project in the country whereas China is working on a Bullet train in Thailand at many times lesser cost, if so, the reasons therefor; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if not, the basis for entering into such a costly agreement with Japan without any tender?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Cooperation has been signed between Governments of India and Japan to implement Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail corridor with technical and financial assistance of Government of Japan. Government of Japan has agreed to provide 81% of the project cost at a very concessional interest rate of 0.1% with repayment period of 50 years.

Besides Japanese Shinkansen's proven reputation for reliability and safety, the project is sanctioned on the premise of transfer of technology and Make in India.

Inter country comparisons of cost of high speed rail projects are not appropriate as projects vary in terms of speed/technical parameters (actual high speed of more than 250 kmph or semi-high speed of 160-200 kmph), period of execution, scale economies due to size of high speed network being implemented and other local/geographical conditions.

Cooperation with Japan and Japanese technology was selected because of safety record and concessional financing with technological support made available by Japan.

Intercity express from Ambikapur to Raipur

†154. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to start Intercity Express train from Ambikapur to Raipur in Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when the above train would be started for the convenience of passengers, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal for introduction of new train from Ambikapur to Raipur owing to operational and resource constraints. However, presently 18241/18242 Durg-Ambikapur Express-cum-passenger (daily) provides direct connectivity between Ambikapur and Raipur.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Signing of MOU with Government of Japan for running Bullet trains

†155. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed an MoU with Government of Japan to run Bullet trains in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, by when MoU is likely to be signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Cooperation had been signed between Government of India and Government of Japan on 12 December 2015, to implement Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor with technical and financial assistance of Japan. Government of Japan agreed to provide 81% of the project cost at a very concessional interest rate of 0.1% with repayment period of 50 years. The project is sanctioned on the premise of transfer of technology and Make in India.

Survey for Char Dham rail route

†156. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey of Char Dham rail route in Uttarakhand has been undertaken;

(b) if so, the starting point and the terminal point of the survey;

(c) the location of stations on this rail route; and

(d) by when construction work is likely to be started after completion of survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Final Location Survey (FLS) for Char Dham (Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath) has been sanctioned in 2017-18. Tender for FLS has been taken up.

(b) The details are as tabulated below:—

Dham	Starting point	Terminal point
Yamunotri	Doiwala	Uttarkashi-Palar
Gangotri	Doiwala	Uttarkashi-Maneri
Kedarnath	Karnaprayag	Saikot-Sonprayag
Badrinath	Karnaprayag	Saikot-Joshimath

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The location of station on Char Dham route is:—

Gangotri	Yamunotri	Kedarnath	Badrinath
Doiwala			
Sangatiya wala Kala		Karnaprayag	
Sarangdharwala		Saikot	
Ampata		Bareth	Thirpak
Marora		Chopta	Tartoli
Kandri		Mukkumath	Joshimath
Chinyalisour		Sonprayag	
Dunda			
Athali (Uttarkashi)			
Ladari	Palar		
Maneri			

(d) Char Dham project is not sanctioned.

Reasons for train accidents

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

(a) the number of train accidents from January, 2017 to till date along with the reasons therefor;

(b) whether one of the main reasons of train accidents is cracks in the rail tracks/old rail tracks;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to identify and replace the old rail lines; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) During the period from 1st January, 2017 to 30th November, 2017, there have been 63 consequential train accidents over Indian Railways. These include 04 collisions, 45 derailments, 01 fire in train, 01 accident at manned level crossing gate and 12 accidents at unmanned level crossings caused due to the negligence of road vehicle users.

Of these 63 consequential train accidents, 36 accidents were caused due to failure of Railway staff, 17 were due to failure on the part of other than Railway staff,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

01 due to equipment failure, 01 due to sabotage, 04 due to the Incidental factors and 01 accident occurred due to the combination of factors. Causes of 03 accidents are under investigation.

(b) Yes, Sir. Out of the above 45 consequential train derailments, 19 were attributed to track defect or rail fracture or weld failures.

(c) and (d) Railway tracks are replaced through track renewal works which is an ongoing process. Track renewal works are undertaken as and when 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.

For the year 2017-18, 3600 km target has been kept for track renewal, and additional funds are being provided through Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK).

Allocation of budget for Rail Infrastructure Development

158. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided not to seek additional budgetary allocation for rail infrastructure development during 2018-19 and raise the required financial resources on its own; and

(b) if so, the major areas through which the financial requirements are likely to be explored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Railway connectivity near Kochi international airport

159. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poor railway connectivity and lack of amenities near Kochi International Airport Limited is adversely affecting thousands of air passengers, tourists, visitors and employees of the CIAL;

(b) if so, whether Railways will consider construction of a railway station at Nedumbassery with international standards and modern facilities; and

(c) whether Railways will take urgent steps to open ticket booths at both domestic and international terminals of the Kochi International Airport Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A new train halt at Nedumbassery near Cochin International Airport between Angamali and Chovvara station in Ernakulam Jn - Trichur section has been sanctioned in 2010-11 at a cost of ₹93 lakh. The work is held up due to public opposition against closure of level crossing No. 64 at the proposed location.

(c) There is no proposal to open ticket counters at Airport. The facility of Passenger Reservation System is available at both Alwaye and Angamali (for Kaladi) stations, besides e-booking through various on-line sites and Apps is already available for reserving the tickets.

Problem of Pests and Rodents in long distance trains

160. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware that on the long distance trains, the problem of bed bugs/cockroaches, rodents and other insects/pests is a great nuisance and health hazard to the travelling public; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by Railways to eliminate this problem on a permanent basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Some complaints of this nature are reported and continuous efforts are being made to address the same.

(b) The following steps have been taken to eliminate this problem:—

(i) Contracts for regular Pests and Rodent control in coaches have been awarded to professional agencies. This includes:

- All AC, Non-AC reserved and un-reserved coaches including pantry cars.
- AC and Pantry Cars are having more frequency of attention.
- Rat pads are being provided in coaches to control the rodents.
- In addition to coaches, Rodent Control is being done in pit lines, maintenance yards and Railway stations to have full control.

- Bedbugs treatment for all the coaches is included in the Pest and Rodent Control Contracts.
- (ii) Regular monitoring is being done vigilantly by Railway Staff for proper execution of the contracts.
- (iii) Surprise inspections are carried out to ensure proper performance by the contractors and penalties are levied on detection of deficiencies.
- (iv) Recently, the eligibility criteria for selection of pest and rodent control agencies has been made stricter.

The House then adjourned at four minutes past twelve of the clock.

*The House reassembled at thirty minutes past two of the clock,
MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.*

SPECIAL COURTS FOR MPs/MLAs

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir.
...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, मेरा एक प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order? ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: मेरा कहना है कि आर्टिकल 80-81 ...(व्यवधान)... आर्टिकल 80 में
...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am going to listen to your point of order, but I have a question. This is Private Members' Business time. So, your point of order should relate to Private Members' Business.

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: No, Sir; it does not relate to Private Members' Business. It relates to all the MPs. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, he should be given an opportunity. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: श्रीमन्, मैंने यह विषय इसलिए उठाया है कि एमपी बनने के लिए संविधान में कुछ अर्हताएं दी हुई हैं। अगर हम उस अर्हता का पालन करते हैं, तभी सदन के सदस्य बनते हैं। यहां प्रश्न यह है कि क्या हमें विशेष दर्जा प्राप्त है या नहीं है? वैसे हम एक सामान्य नागरिक माने जाते हैं, लेकिन एमपी होने के नाते हमें कुछ सुविधाएं दी जाती हैं, लेकिन समाज में हमें समान दर्जा ही प्राप्त होता है।

श्रीमन्, दो-तीन दिन पहले माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में सरकार ने एक एफिडेविट दाखिल किया ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, what is your point of order?

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: श्रीमन्, मैं अभी उसी पर आ रहा हूँ। यह प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उन्होंने कहा कि एमपी/एमएलएज पर जो मुकदमे कायम हैं, उनको विशेष अदालत में सुना जाए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. It has no relevance here. ...**(Interruptions)**... It has no relevance here. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, यह हम सबसे जुड़ा हुआ है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It has no relevance in the Private Members' Business. ...**(Interruptions)**...

संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री विजय गोयल): यह मामला आप मंडे को उठाइएगा, अभी तो प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिल का टाइम है।

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री (श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत): अभी तो यह मामला सुप्रीम कोर्ट में चल रहा है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इस विषय पर अगर सुप्रीम कोर्ट में सरकार ने कोई जानकारी दी है, तो सुप्रीम कोर्ट की प्रोसीडिंग्स पर यहां चर्चा नहीं हो सकती है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद): सबसे ज्यादा केसेज आप लोगों पर ही हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

†قائد حزب اختلاف (جناب غلام نبی آزاد): سب سے زیادہ کیسز آپ لوگوں پر ہی ہیں ---**(مداخلت)**---

श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत: सुप्रीम कोर्ट की प्रोसीडिंग्स पर यहां चर्चा नहीं हो सकती है, यह नियम है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: मेरा कहना यह है कि हम राजनीतिक व्यक्ति हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: My point is only this. You cannot take it up during Private Members' Business. That is all. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: नहीं, यह बात कैसे हो सकती है? ...**(व्यवधान)**... हम प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर कभी भी उठा सकते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इससे प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिल का कोई मतलब नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री विजय गोयल: नरेश जी, वह प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर होना भी तो चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: यह प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर ही है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री विजय गोयल: नहीं, नहीं, यह प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर कहां से है? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: क्या अब यह बीजेपी को सिखाना पड़ेगा? कायदे से तो विजय गोयल जी मंत्री रह ही नहीं सकते। इनको राज्य मंत्री के इंडिपेंडेंट चार्ज से हटा कर राज्य मंत्री बना दिया गया, कोई ओथ नहीं दिलवाई गई। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: नरेश जी, अभी आप बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आपने अपनी बात कह दी है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: क्या बिना ओथ दिलवाए एक राज्य मंत्री, स्वतंत्र प्रभार का पोर्टफोलियो बदला जा सकता है? ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह प्रश्न भी उठ सकता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

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

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: श्रीमन्, पहले मुझे अपनी बात करने दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मेरा कहना यह है कि इससे पूरे देश में यह मेसेज गया है कि हम लोग अपराधी हैं। एमपी/एमएलएज के लिए विशेष अदालत गठित की जा रही है। आतंकवादी सात-सात, दस-दस सालों तक जेलों में दमाम की तरह पाले जाते हैं, उनके लिए तो विशेष अदालत नहीं है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nareshji, can you discuss a decision of the Supreme Court? ...**(Interruptions)**... Can you debate that? ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: जी सर, डिस्कशन कर सकते हैं। इस सदन में डिस्कशन हो सकता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह कहाँ लिखा हुआ है कि इस विषय पर इस सदन में डिस्कशन नहीं हो सकता?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. You cannot criticize the Supreme Court here. ...**(Interruptions)**... You cannot criticize the judiciary here. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: मैं सुप्रीम कोर्ट को नहीं, गवर्नमेंट को कह रहा हूँ। मैंने सुप्रीम कोर्ट को क्रिटिसाइज नहीं किया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के खिलाफ मैंने एक शब्द भी यहाँ नहीं कहा है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then you may raise it on some other occasion, not now. ...**(Interruptions)**..

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: एफिडेविट तो सरकार ने दिया है। क्या सरकार यह एफिडेविट दे सकती है? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: आप इसे किसी और टाइम पर रोज़ करिए, अभी तो प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिल का टाइम है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is it the same thing?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: No, Sir. I wish to be educated. He has raised a point of order, and whatever you decide would be final. But, with due respect, is it there in the rules as to at what time a point of order could be raised? ...**(Interruptions)**...

[Shri Anand Sharma]

Sir, a point of order is a point of order. Second thing is, it is not only Article 13, there are very many eminent lawyers sitting in this House, and those who have understanding of the Constitution, finally, to the hon. Minister also, with respect, I would say, this is the Book, and we can discuss anything what is there in the Constitution. Sir, I would like to draw your attention to Article 13.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is this your point of order?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Yes, Sir. It relates to the Fundamental Right because the Government has taken a position, not the Supreme Court. It says: "All laws in force in the territory of India." This is Article 13. I am referring to Article 13 and Article 14, Sir. And Article 14 is, Equality before law, which says: "The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India." Now, this is the basic structure of the Constitution. Can the Government go against the basic structure of the Constitution?

श्री विजय गोयल: सर, इसमें प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर क्या है? ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Tell me what your point of order is... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: How has the Government taken this position? He is right in raising this.

श्री विजय गोयल: सर, इसमें प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर क्या है? यहां प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर डिस्कस होना है। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Does this matter or not? Why is this Government assaulting the Fundamental Rights of the citizens? So, I think, Shri Naresh Agrawal should be heard with respect. He has raised a very important matter.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, क्या अब सरकार तय करेगी कि प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर क्या है? ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, it being Private Members' Business time, I am not allowing it. If you want, you can raise it later. I have not given any ruling. I have not ruled this out ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: That I am not commenting. I have said that, that is his point of order. As a colleague, I agreed with him.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Same is applicable to you also.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I am on a different issue. Sir, the Leader of the Opposition, myself, and other leaders in the Opposition, have given a notice, which unfortunately was not accepted. Sir, we function in a democracy, and it is immaterial

whether we are on this side or on the other side, whether we are in the Government, or, whether we are in the Opposition, all of us love our country; we are patriotic; we do our duties as elected representatives, and also, we have taken oath under the Constitution.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is the point?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: If an insidious reference is made, accusations are made against the former Prime Minister of the country... (*Interruptions*)...

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. You cannot raise it now. I am going to the Private Members' Business... (*Interruptions*)... Number one, The Labour (Welfare and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2017-- Shri Vivek Gupta. The hon. Member is not present... (*Interruptions*)... Now, I cannot allow you. Now, the Women (Empowerment and Welfare) Bill, 2017-- Shri Vivek Gupta- not present. I cannot allow it now. This is Private Members' Business... (*Interruptions*)... The Urban Areas (Equitable Development and Regulation) Bill, 2017. Shri Vivek Gupta- not present... (*Interruptions*)... The Rights of Persons Affected by Leprosy and Members of their Family (Protection Against Discrimination and Guarantee of Social Welfare) Bill, 2017. Shri K.T.S. Tulsi-- not present... (*Interruptions*)... The Educational Innovations Commission Bill, 2017. Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe. Yes, you move the Bill.

The Educational Innovations Commission Bill, 2017

DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE (Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to promote conception, experimentation and implementation of educational innovations in the country by establishing the Educational Innovations Commission and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto...(*Interruptions*)...

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Insertion of new Article 21B)

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India. ...(*Interruptions*)...

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Prevention of Enforced Disappearance Bill, 2017

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide punishment for enforced disappearance of any person by public servants or any person subjecting a person to an enforced disappearance with the consent or acquiescence of any public servant and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Prevention of Torture Bill, 2017

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide punishment for torture inflicted by public servants or any person inflicting torture with the consent or acquiescence of any public servant and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Rajkumar Dhoot to introduce the Compulsory Protection of Witnesses and Victims of Crimes Bill, 2017; he is absent. He had to introduce the Heritage Cities and Sites (Conservation and Development) Bill, 2017, and the Environment Protection Bill, 2017.

The Flood and Drought Control Bill, 2017

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a National Flood and Drought Control Board to control flood and drought and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Play Schools (Regulation) Bill, 2017

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the functioning of play schools and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Bail Bill, 2017

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY (West Bengal): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to make provisions in relation to bail in connection with criminal proceedings in the country and to ensure protection of personal liberty of the citizens and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment of Article 366)

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY (West Bengal): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Vedic Education (Compulsory Teaching in Educational Institutions) Bill, 2017

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया (राजस्थान): महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि शैक्षिक संस्थाओं में वैदिक शिक्षा के शिक्षण को अनिवार्य बनाए जाने और तत्संसक्त तथा उसके आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने के लिए विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया: महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

The Solar Power (Development, Promotion and Mandatory Use) Bill, 2017

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया (राजस्थान): महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि परंपरागत ऊर्जा को बचाने तथा पर्यावरण का संरक्षण करने के उद्देश्य से सौर ऊर्जा उत्पादन के विकास तथा संवर्द्धन एवं भवनों में सौर ऊर्जा के अनिवार्य प्रयोग तथा तत्संसक्त और उसके आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने के लिए विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया: महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

The Judicial Statistics Bill, 2017

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया (राजस्थान): महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि न्यायिक सांख्यिकी के एकत्रण और उनके प्रकाशन के लिए न्यायिक सांख्यिकी प्राधिकरणों का गठन करने तथा तत्संसक्त और उसके आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने के लिए विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया: महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is this? ... (*Interruptions*).. I have to take up the Bill for consideration. ...(*Interruptions*)... Mr. Dhoot is not there. ...(*Interruptions*)... Is Mr. Rajkumar Dhoot present? ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, हाउस ऑर्डर में नहीं है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You don't want Private Members' Business. ...(*Interruptions*)... The House is adjourned up to 3.00 p.m.

The House then adjourned at forty-six minutes past two of the clock.

The House reassembled at three of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You don't want Private Members' Bill! ...(*Interruptions*)... I have no other go but to adjourn the House. ...(*Interruptions*)... Private Members' Business is sacrosanct. ...(*Interruptions*)... The House stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. on Monday, the 18th December, 2017.

*The House then adjourned at two minutes past
three of the clock till eleven of the clock on
Monday, the 18th December, 2017.*

